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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-second Session • Cent trente-deuxième session • 132° período de sesiones

Rome, 18-22 June 2007
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 18-22 juin 2007
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONSEIL

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ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO

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Table of Contents

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(18 June 2007)

I. INTRODUCTION – PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION	
I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE	
I. INTRODUCCIÓN – CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO	2
1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)	
1. ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR ET DU CALENDRIER (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)	
1. APROBACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA Y EL CALENDARIO (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)	2
2. ELECTION OF THREE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, AND DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE	
2. ÉLECTION DE TROIS VICE-PRESIDENTS ET NOMINATION DU PRESIDENT ET DES MEMBRES DU COMITE DE REDACTION	
2. ELECCIÓN DE TRES VICEPRESIDENTES Y NOMBRAMIENTO DEL PRESIDENTE Y LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ DE REDACCIÓN	3
IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS	
IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES	
IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS	4
17. OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS, INCLUDING	
17. AUTRES QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES, NOTAMMENT	
17. OTROS ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS, EN PARTICULAR	4
17.1 <i>Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions</i>	
17.1 <i>Invitation d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO</i>	
17.1 <i>Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO</i>	4
II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP	
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM	
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA	5

7. REPORT OF THE 33RD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (ROME, 7-10 MAY 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

7. RAPPORT DE LA TRENTE-TROISIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (ROME, 7-10 MAI 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

7. INFORME DEL 33º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (ROMA, 7-10 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

5

3. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (ROME, 5-9 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/7)

3. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIEME SESSION DU COMITE DES PECHEES (ROME, 5-9 MARS 2007) (CL 132/7)

3. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PESCA (ROMA, 5-9 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/7)

28

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(18 June 2007)

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)	
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)	
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)	34
3. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (ROME, 5-9 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/7) (CONTINUED)	
3. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES PÊCHES (ROME, 5-9 MARS 2007) (CL 132/7) (SUITE)	
3. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PESCA (ROMA, 5-9 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/7) (CONTINUACIÓN)	34
4. REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (ROME, 13-16 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/8)	
4. RAPPORT DE LA DIX-HUITIÈME SESSION DU COMITE DES FORETS (ROME, 13-16 MARS 2007) (CL 132/8)	
4. INFORME DEL 18º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE MONTES (ROMA, 13-16 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/8)	48
5. REPORT OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (ROME, 23-25 APRIL 2007) (CL132/6)	
5. RAPPORT DE LA SOIXANTE-SIXIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES PRODUITS (ROME, 23-25 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/6)	
5. INFORME DEL 66º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PROBLEMAS DE PRODUCTOS BÁSICOS (ROMA, 23-25 DE ABRIL DE 2007 (CL 132/6)	56
6. REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (ROME, 25-28 APRIL 2007) (CL 132/9)	
6. RAPPORT DE LA VINGTIÈME SESSION DU COMITE DE L'AGRICULTURE (ROME, 25-28 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/9)	
6. INFORME DEL 20º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE AGRICULTURA (ROMA, 25-28 DE ABRIL DE 2007) (CL 132/9)	67
OTHER MATTERS	85
19. ANY OTHER MATTERS	85
19.1 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (CL 132/INF/8)	85

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(19 June 2007)

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

88

11. REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND 118TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE
COMMITTEE (ROME, 23 MAY 2007) (CL 132/4)

11. RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION CONJOINTE DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-
DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME ET DE LA
CENT DIX-HUITIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ FINANCIER
(ROME, 23 MAI 2007) (CL 132/4)

11. INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN CONJUNTA DEL 97º PERÍODO DE
SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA Y DEL 118º PERÍODO DE
SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (ROMA, 23 DE MAYO DE 2007)
(CL 132/4)

88

13. REPORTS OF THE 117TH SESSION (ROME, 24 JANUARY 2007)
AND THE 118TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
(ROME, 17-25 MAY 2007) (CL 132/13; CL 132/14)

13. RAPPORTS DE LA CENT DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION
(ROME, 24 JANVIER 2007) ET DE LA CENT DIXHUITIÈME SESSION
DU COMITE FINANCIER (ROME, 17-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/13;
CL 132/14)

13. INFORMES DEL 117º PERÍODO DE SESIONES
(ROMA, 24 DE ENERO DE 2007) Y DEL 118º PERÍODO DE SESIONES
DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (ROMA, 17-25 DE MAYO DE 2007)
(CL 132/13; CL 132/14)

90

13.1 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 132/LIM/1)

13.1 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 132/LIM/1)

13.1 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 132/LIM/1)

90

13.2 Budgetary Performance 2006

13.2 Exécution du budget 2006

13.2 Ejecución del presupuesto en 2006

90

13.3 Scale of Contributions 2008-2009

13.3 Barème des contributions 2008-2009

13.3 Escala de cuotas para 2008-2009

90

13.4 Appointment of the External Auditor

13.4 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes

13.4 Nombramiento del Auditor Externo

90

<i>13.5 Adoption of Russian as a Language of FAO (CL 132/17)</i>	
<i>13.5 Adoption du russe en tant que langue de la FAO (CL 132/17)</i>	
<i>13.5 Adopción del ruso como idioma de la FAO (CL 132/17)</i>	90
<i>13.6 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports</i>	
<i>13.6 Autres questions découlant des rapports</i>	
<i>13.6 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes</i>	90
 12. REPORT OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (ROME, 21-25 MAY 2007 (CL 132/11))	
12. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME (ROME, 21-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/11)	
12. INFORME DEL 97º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA (ROMA, 21-25 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/11)	117

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(19 June 2007)

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

120

12. REPORT OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME
COMMITTEE (ROME, 21-25 MAY 2007) (CL 132/11)

12. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU
COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME (ROME, 21-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/11)

12. INFORME DEL 97º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL
PROGRAMA (ROMA, 21-25 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/11)

120

14. INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO (CL 132/15)

125

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(20 June 2007)

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)	
III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)	
III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)	154
15. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO REFORMS (CL 132/16)	
15. RÉFORMES DE LA FAO: PROGRÈS ACCOMPLIS (CL 132/16)	
15. PROGRESOS EN LA APLICACIÓN DE LAS REFORMAS DE LA FAO (CL 132/16)	154
15.1 <i>Modalities for Implementation of a Sub-Regional Office in Central America</i>	
15.1 <i>Modalités relatives à la mise en place d'un Bureau sous-régional en Amérique centrale</i>	
15.1 <i>Modalidades de realización de una Oficina Sub-regional en América Central</i>	154
10. SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)	
10. SOMMAIRE DU PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL ET BUDGET 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)	
10. RESUMEN DEL PROGRAMA DE TRABAJO Y PRESUPUESTO PARA 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)	167

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(21 June 2007)

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP	
II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM	
II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA	182
8. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	
8. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL	
8. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS	182
8.1 <i>Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2006</i> (C 2007/INF/14)	
8.1 <i>Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2006</i> (C 2007/INF/14)	
8.1 <i>Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades del PMA en 2006</i> (C 2007/INF/14)	182
IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS	
IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES	
IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS	185
16. REPORT OF THE 81ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (ROME, 4-5 APRIL 2007) (CL 132/5)	
16. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-UNIÈME SESSION DU COMITE DES QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (ROME, 4-5 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/5)	
16. INFORME DEL 81º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (ROMA, 4-5 DE ABRIL DE 2007) (CL 132/5)	185
9. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 34TH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE	
9. PRÉPARATIFS DE LA TRENTE-QUATRIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE LA FAO	
9. PREPARATIVOS PARA EL 34º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO	200
9.1 <i>Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable</i> (CL 132/12)	
9.1 <i>Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire</i> (CL 132/12)	
9.1 <i>Preparativos para el período de sesiones y calendario provisional</i> (CL 132/12)	200

9.2 <i>Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.2 <i>Date limite de dépôt des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.2 <i>Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independient del Consejo (CL 132/12)</i>	201
9.3 <i>Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.3 <i>Désignation du Président de la Conférence et des présidents de la Commission I et de la Commission II (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.3 <i>Presentación de candidaturas para los cargos de Presidente de la Conferencia y presidentes de las comisiones I y II (CL 132/12)</i>	201
9.4 <i>Nomination of nine Members of the Credentials Committee (Countries) (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.4 <i>Désignation de neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (pays) (CL 132/12)</i>	
9.4 <i>Presentación de candidaturas para nueve miembros del Comité de Credenciales (países) (CL 132/12)</i>	201
V. OTHER MATTERS	
V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES	
V. OTROS ASUNTOS	204
18. REVISED CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS 2007-2008 (CL 132/INF/4)	
18. CALENDRIER RÉVISÉ DES SESSIONS DES ORGANES DIRECTEURS ET DES AUTRES RÉUNIONS PRINCIPALES DE LA FAO 2007-2008 (CL 132/INF/4)	
18. CALENDARIO REVISADO PARA 2007-2008 DE LOS PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DE LOS ÓRGANOS RECTORES Y DE OTRAS REUNIONES IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO (CL 132/INF/4)	204

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA

(22 June 2007)

ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)	
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)	
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)	208

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-second Session Cent trente-deuxième session 132º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-22 June 2007 Rome, 18-22 juin 2007 Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
18 June 2007

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:10 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 10
sous la présidence de Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10:10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION – PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION**I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE****I. INTRODUCCIÓN – CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO****1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)****1. ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR ET DU CALENDRIER (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)****1. APROBACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA Y EL CALENDARIO (CL 132/1; CL 132/INF/1; CL 132/INF/6)****CHAIRPERSON**

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the FAO Council to order. Before proceeding I would like to ask Ms Williams, the new Assistant Director General and the new Secretary-General of Conference and Council to make a short announcement, but before that I would welcome her to FAO and wish her a very successful term in FAO.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 2 of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the Declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in information document CL 132/INF/6, which is available at the documents desk.

I would like to draw the attention of the meeting to this Declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to welcome all of the Members of the Council and Observers to this opening meeting especially those of you who have travelled to Rome.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to new Council Members, Ethiopia, Gabon, Malaysia, Moldova, South Africa, Ukraine and Uruguay.

Before we move on to the adoption of the Agenda, allow me to extend a warm welcome to the Director General. I would now like to give the floor to the Director General.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

I would like to welcome to FAO Headquarters all the Members of the Council and the Observers and wish them a very nice stay in this beautiful city of Rome, particularly in this period of the year where the weather is most attractive. I hope it will not prevent them from being present in the Conference rooms.

I would also like to say how pleased I am with the atmosphere that exists within the Organization and in particular how pleased I am with the consultations that have been going on among the Membership informally, with a view to discuss issues and try to arrive at consensus. I am sure that it is through dialogue, exchange of ideas and through clarifications of issues leading to better understanding that we will be able, under your leadership, to steer this Organization toward the right path to achieve the goals that you have set. The Secretariat, as usual, is at your disposal to provide whatever assistance and information you may require to fulfill your duties as Members of the Council.

I also wish to bring to your kind attention that I will be requesting confirmation of the appointment of a new Deputy Director General. We had the benefit of the excellent and committed services of Mr Harcharik who has done a beautiful job in this Organization, both in relation to his established expertise in his second tour to FAO, because he started working at a much earlier time in this Organization. After having headed the FAO Forestry Department, and

brought the Organization to the mainstream of overall world attention to these serious issues and having allowed the Organization to play a key role in the UN System, dealing with Forestry issues, he accepted under pressure to become a Deputy Director-General because he preferred to stay in his Forestry Department. He has not only brought his knowledge and expertise but also his true commitment to the cause of the poor and the hungry around the world as evidence by his engagement very early in his life, as a member of the Peace Corps in Latin America to support at rural level the farming communities, but he has also shown a capacity to interact with the Membership and also to listen to staff and thus enabling us to go through very difficult transitions, including very difficult periods of budget cuts. His capacity for dialogue and listening did help me very much to get through difficult times. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and my gratitude to him. Despite, at some times, his health problems, he still was on the job until impossible hours and I can only express to him my gratitude. I am also very happy that in the period of transition under which we were dealing with both the reform of FAO itself, the Independent External Evaluation and the reform of the UN System, I could have the benefit of his vast knowledge and experience to coordinate the actions of the different departments and divisions and ensure our path towards the decision-making process of the Governing Bodies. I am convinced that, in a different form, he will continue to support us when he ends his term of office which will still go until the end of 2007. By then I hope to have the benefit of the services of Mr Jim Butler who is well known in the world as an academic member of different universities. As a Doctor in Animal Physiology, he taught in several universities in the USA, including in Texas, and became later Deputy Assistant Secretary in the US Department of Agriculture, before becoming the Deputy Director-General of the IICA, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture dealing with problems prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean. He therefore brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in academic issues in teaching and also in national policies within Ministries and now with experience of managing an International Agriculture Organization. I naturally hope that his appointment will be confirmed by the Council.

Thank you again for your kind attention and we will be at your disposal all through this week of the Council and will remain at your good willingness to work with us, to ask questions and we will do our best to serve the Council of this Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director General for your coming to talk to us and especially bringing a special Agenda Item which we will deal with later.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

2. ELECTION OF THREE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, AND DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

2. ÉLECTION DE TROIS VICE-PRESIDENTS ET NOMINATION DU PRÉSIDENT ET DES MEMBRES DU COMITÉ DE REDACTION

2. ELECCIÓN DE TRES VICEPRESIDENTES Y NOMBRAMIENTO DEL PRESIDENTE Y LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ DE REDACCIÓN

I hope that you have found this useful. We now move on to Item 2, Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and designation of the Chairperson and members of the Drafting Committee.

Following consultations amongst the regional groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-chairpersons:

Mr José Emilio Suadi Hasbún, El Salvador, Ambassador Christer Wretborn, Sweden and Dr Pinit Koseiporn, Thailand.

Do I have your endorsement of these three appointments?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I welcome the Vice-Chairpersons and two dear friends of mine to this post and hope that together we will do a good job during this week.

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mrs Ligia Maria Scherer of Brazil as Chairperson and the following countries as members:

Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Egypt, European Community, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Oman, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zambia.

Do I have your approval of these Drafting Committee members and the Chairperson?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you very much.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

17. OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS, INCLUDING

17. AUTRES QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES, NOTAMMENT

17. OTROS ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS, EN PARTICULAR

17.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

17.1 Invitation d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO

17.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO

We will now move on to Item 17. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters and to Sub-item 17.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions.

I have the following invitation to report, that was sent to Montenegro to attend the Thirty-seventh Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease which was held in Rome from 18 to 20 April 2007. I take it that Council endorses this invitation to a Non-Member Nation which is also an Applicant Member Nation. I am sure that I do have your endorsement. That concludes this Sub-item.

May I take this opportunity to call upon your cooperation in keeping to the timetable and enabling us to start our meeting on time. We have a full agenda and need to ensure that the Drafting Committee which will hold its first session tomorrow evening is provided with Draft Reports of our discussions in time to enable the final Draft Report to be presented to Council for adoption on Friday, 22 June.

Time management is particularly important at this session, which is scheduled to be held over five days rather than six days, as decided by the Council at its last session that we shorten the period of Council for the purpose of efficiency savings. I believe that savings and efficiencies in governance of this kind are feasible as long as we all bear the reduced time frame in mind during our deliberations.

I should also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for the verbatim records of this session, and the shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management. Furthermore, may I also request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting, you give a copy of the text to the Secretariat, in advance. This will allow the interpreters to interpret your work as clearly as possible, and it also adds to the efficiency. So, it is the first time that we are experiencing a five-day Council, and we have to be efficient.

I had a meeting with Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, and we agreed on two important points. One, we should be present here on time because usually there is a delay with the start of the sessions. We don't want and we can not afford to have this delay any more, if we want to finish our work in five days; actually, in four days because Friday is totally allocated to the final preparation of the Report and finalization of translation into all languages, so we have four days and a full agenda. So, please be on time because I'm going to start sharp on time, and I would like to have all of you with us in all our deliberations.

The second thing that we can do is to refrain from repeating each other. If a regional statement has been prepared and you can refer to that and not repeat it, otherwise if speakers before you have talked about something that you agree or disagree with, just refer to that. Please do not take too much time to repeat those items. I think these two agreements that we have reached in our regional meetings would greatly help us to conclude our agenda on time and with high quality, because we do not want to lose quality in order to save time.

I think this efficiency in our Council ranges between some 15 to some 20 percent savings in costs if reduced by one day and we can prove that it can be continued in the future, the saving would be considerable.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

7. REPORT OF THE 33rd SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (ROME, 7-10 MAY 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

7. RAPPORT DE LA TRENTE-TROISIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE MONDIALE (ROME, 7-10 MAI 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

7. INFORME DEL 33° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA MUNDIAL (ROMA, 7-10 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/10; CL 132/LIM/2)

Now we can move to Item 7. Report of the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Please ensure that you have the relevant documents: CL 132/10 – the Report of the Session; and CL 132/LIM/2 – the Quadrennial Report of the Progress Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The key recommendations made by the Committee are set out in paragraph 13 of the Report.

I should now like to ask Ms Margarita Flores, Secretary of the Committee on Food Security, to introduce the item.

Sra. Margarita Flores, Secretaria Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria

En el informe que se presenta a la consideración del Consejo CL 132/10, se destaca la preocupación del Comité, por la falta de progreso en la reducción del número de personas que padecen de hambre en el mundo. Al reconocer estos aspectos en los que se han logrado bases reales, el Comité solicitó que todos adopten medidas inmediatas para garantizar que los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y la del desarrollo del milenio, se alcancen siguiendo una práctica desarrollada en años recientes.

Al examinar la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, el Comité consideró un tema emergente, el de la bioenergía, y el impacto que este puede tener en la seguridad alimentaria, ya sea como oportunidad única o como una amenaza para su realización.

El Comité debatió también sobre la forma en que el creciente sector de la bioenergía podría contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria o por el contrario podría obstaculizarla. Sobre estos dos temas, al examinar el informe, el Consejo quisiera dar especial atención a las recomendaciones del Comité contenidas en el párrafo 13.

En el informe se reporta también, el cambio progresivo del programa especial para la seguridad alimentaria hacia programas de seguridad alimentaria más amplios en los que se garantiza una responsabilidad en el ámbito nacional, con la FAO jugando un papel de catalizador.

El Comité destacó la importancia de que se establecer sistemas para realizar un seguimiento y evaluación para valorar sus repercusiones. El Comité recomendó que la situación del Programa y las lecciones extraídas de los programas, sea analizada en sesiones ulteriores, cada dos años a partir del 2009. Sobre este punto el Comité formuló varias recomendaciones adicionales.

El Consejo quisiera dar especial atención a las recomendaciones contenidas en los párrafos 20 y 21. El Informe recoge también las actividades realizadas en el marco de la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre, tanto a nivel nacional como regional, así como también acoge el apoyo generoso de los Países Miembros. El Consejo desearía dar especial atención a las recomendaciones contenidas en los párrafos 27 y 28 sobre la coordinación, comunicación, promoción y refuerzo de la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre, y la necesaria movilización de recursos.

Finalmente, el Informe también recoge recomendaciones relativas a los próximos períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, como también la participación de las múltiples partes interesadas en sesiones futuras, y de la aprobación del Informe cuatrienal sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, que es el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial al Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas (ECOSOC), por conducto del Consejo de la FAO que tiene la asignatura CL 132/LIM/2.

CHAIRPERSON

And now I open the floor for your comments, and I start with the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by Germany and the United States of America.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like to welcome you warmly and thank the Secretariat for preparing this informative and useful paper regarding world food security. Iran welcomes FAO's programme in respect to food security and expresses its appreciation to FAO for all efforts which have been made so far. Agricultural development has a major role in the economy of the developing countries through its contribution to poverty alleviation, shortening the gap between the rural population's income and that of the urban dwellers, as well as increasing the income level and improving the quality of life of rural producers.

Due to its strategic importance, food security, legally, has a special position in Iran, so that the issue in the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitutional law has been emphasized as a national treaty and to better fulfil this task, the Higher Council of Health and Food Security is convened and presided by the President. On the other hand, a vast majority of substantial, infrastructural and planned measurements with the object of creating social and economically just and poverty reduction in the framework of Five-Year Development Plan, have been carried out in rural areas as agricultural centres.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, having started its fourth Five-Year Development Plan in April 2006, followed by a completed third one in March 2005, has experienced a significant growth rate in horticulture, farming, livestock and aquaculture. This has resulted in producing 100 million tons of agricultural products in the current year and self-sufficiency in strategic agricultural commodities, particularly in wheat and dairy products, while a vast majority of investment of the agricultural sector has been devoted to sustainability of agricultural production and conservation of natural resources.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's plan for the future is continuity of self-sufficient and increased agricultural production in line with the Millennium Development Goals, assistance in creation of world food security and presenting its experiences to other countries for increasing agricultural production and doing humanitarian activities for poverty reduction and hunger eradication in the world along with UN programmes.

Finally, we would like to ask FAO through preparation and presentation of appropriate technologies regarding the sustainable development of agriculture, to help the Membership in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Islamic Republic of Iran. Now I will read out my next speakers list, Germany, Japan, United States of America, Malaysia, India, China, Republic of Korea, and, if you would like to, Thailand, Mali, Brazil, Bangladesh. My secretary will take care of others if you want to speak, so I will invite Germany to take the floor, please.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

This is the first time I have the honour to address the Council of FAO. Let me say, to you and to all colleagues, how much I value the privilege of serving in this body under your distinguished leadership.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The EU endorses the report of the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

The report gives a good overview of the world food security situation. Regrettably, the reduction of food insecurity has fallen short of what would be required to reach the first Millennium Development Goal and the WFS targets by 2015, despite global positive trends in food production, which need to be sustained by more structural investments in the agricultural sector. The EU notes with concern that food emergencies persist in 34 countries worldwide, of them 26 alone in Africa, mostly affected by conflicts and instability.

The EU supports the request of the Committee to FAO to provide a more analytical overview of the variable performance amongst different regions in reducing food insecurity and better identify the causes of the positive developments and trends in some countries in Africa.

The EU also acknowledges that food aid constitutes an important instrument to address food security and humanitarian needs. We welcome therefore the report of the State of Food and Agriculture 2006 and support its recommendation that reforms are necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of food aid. We welcome the ongoing dialogue on the following issues which include: (i) the elimination of untargeted forms of food aid; (ii) the untying of food aid from domestic production and shipping requirements; (iii) the use of in-kind food aid only where food insecurity is caused by shortage of food; (iv) the use of local and regional food aid procurement where appropriate; and (v) the improvement of information systems needs analysis and monitoring to ensure that appropriate and timely interventions are undertaken.

The EU fully supports the recommendation of the Committee that FAO continues to assist national efforts towards the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

The EU agrees with the Committee that FAO should put a special focus on the issue of bioenergy, in particular in relation to its impact on food security in close collaboration with other organizations, e.g. FAC, engaged in future discussion on this matter. Bioenergy offers both opportunities and risks for food security and biodiversity, as well as environmental risks, if agricultural development is not adequately managed.

Furthermore, sustainable bioenergy production offers potential to meet increasing alternative fuel demands and to provide income to producers and export earnings for developing countries. In these matters FAO has an important task in analysis work as well as to provide policy advice.

FAO also has an indispensable role in providing guidance for governments, agricultural organizations and farmers to help them adapt to climate change. It is our position that there is a need to explore adequate measures to support member countries on how to produce bioenergy in a sustainable way and that verifiable standards for their sustainable production are developed.

The EU welcomes the recommendation that systems be put in place for monitoring and evaluating National and Regional Special Programmes on Food Security and for assessing their impact. We also think that it is important to integrate these programmes with relevant poverty reduction policies. Accordingly, we would like to underline the importance of national strategies to achieve food security which is primarily the responsibility of governments themselves. FAO should regularly report to the Committee on Food Security above all about all its food security programmes and explain how they are mutually supportive.

The EU welcomes the proposed framework for action of the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) and its key priority areas of work. We support the idea of the National Alliances to become increasingly self-financing through mobilization of new resources. We acknowledge that FAO has a role to play in facilitating the dialogue and networking between the Alliances at the national and international level. Therefore, it is our position that the concrete results can only be achieved at the country level. Therefore, we welcome the proposed framework for action and its key priority areas of work to strengthen the Alliance, especially at national and regional level.

The EU welcomes the report on the outcome of the International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security which was held here in Rome from 3 to 5 May 2007. In our view the issues dealt with during this conference can contribute also to food security and to the achievement of MDGs 1 and 7.

The EU welcomes the plans to hold the next CFS session in October 2008 in conjunction with the World Food Day. In this context, the EU would regard a general discussion about the adequate format and frequency of CFS sessions as very useful.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. I am sure that Ambassador Bettini has welcomed you to Rome, now I welcome you to the FAO Council and the fact that the start of your work is coinciding with the presidency of Germany over the European Community is a good omen; I take it as that and we are looking forward to a long term and fruitful cooperation with you.

Now I would like to invite Japan to take the floor please.

Yuji NAKAMURA (Japan)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I would also thank Ms Flores for the presentation of the informative report of the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

My delegation is ready to support the report of the Committee, but let me make comments on three points at least.

First, the general strategy on food security – regarding the world food security, Japan agrees that a twin-track approach to food security is to be pursued. Especially in this connection, I would like to stress FAO is encouraged to continue to collect accurate information on the world food situation and develop its analytical work in this area.

The second point is the food aid. Japan recognizes, I would like to stress, that food aid is indispensable to save people's lives in the case of emergency hunger caused by conflicts and natural disasters. But it is also a fact that a lot of arguments have been made on food aid. There are positive and negative aspects of this action. The merit and demerit of food aid have been studied by a number of organizations. Since FAO has abundant basic data in this field, Japan expects that this institution contribute to provide global statistics on food and agriculture to enhance food security analysis.

The third point is bioenergy, already mentioned by previous speakers, which is very important and quite an actual problem. As reported by the Secretariat at the Thirty-third Session of the CFS, the bioenergy sector is heavily influenced by policies related to environment, agriculture, energy and trade. Thus, more comprehensive analysis and development of a database on bioenergy policies are necessary.

Bioenergy is also an important matter for developed countries. Japan has been promoting the use of biomass-derived fuel based on the integrated national strategy of "Bio-mass Japan", which was revised in 2006 with great emphasis on bioenergy.

We recognize that the use of modern bioenergy has potential to contribute to agricultural and rural development in developing countries. At the same time, it is essential that adequate food supply should not be threatened as a result of the use of bioenergy.

Before concluding my statement, please allow me to speak a few words on the Special Programme for Food Security and the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH).

Japan supports some Asian countries' implementation of SPFS with their ownership, which contributes to increasing income and improvement of livelihood of rural population.

It is essential to quantitatively monitor and evaluate implementation of field projects including SPFS and also national programmes, and thus, the establishment of systems for this purpose is required.

Japan recognizes the importance of South-South Cooperation also and recently started its effort to support cooperation between developing countries through FAO.

As for the IAAH, Japan believes that what is most important is the ownership of each country and thus National Alliances should be enhanced first, followed by the support from the International Alliance.

I repeat our delegation's readiness to support the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished Representative of Japan for a concise and to the point statement, and now I invite the United States of America to take the floor. Before that, I welcome you, Mr Ambassador, to FAO Council, and I am looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with you as well. You have the floor.

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)

I would like to once again thank FAO for the assessment of the world food security situation that was presented at the Committee on World Food Security. FAO's analysis highlighted the impact of various factors, including the surge in cereal prices, the demand for biofuel production, high feed costs, crude oil prices and climate change. It also pointed out that of the 34 countries facing food emergencies, in more than half the food crisis is wholly or partially the result of current or recent civil strife or conflict and that the main factors that continue to affect the stability of food supplies are conflict, civil strife, unfavourable environmental conditions and large-scale public health challenges.

CFS reaffirmed the twin-track approach as fundamental to tackling food insecurity; bringing food to those in need of it immediately, while at the same time working to identify longer-term, sustainable solutions.

With regard to the first track, FAO's State of Food and Agriculture report on food aid provided useful perspectives and insights, but it is a nuanced analysis that deserves careful study. As we noted at the CFS, the need for food assistance far outstrips the supply. We, therefore, think it is important not to place unwarranted restrictions on food aid that could result in fewer people receiving help when they need it. It is important to maintain flexibility in food aid contributions, even as we strive to improve the efficiency and effectiveness with which it is delivered to target populations.

With regard to the second track, the work of FAO can and should be at the forefront of efforts to increase food security through economic growth. Acting collectively, we have the ability to eliminate hunger if we muster the political will and act decisively with a sense of urgency. Three quarters of the world's poor and hungry are located in rural areas. These people depend directly and indirectly on agriculture and agriculture-related activities, not only for their food, but also for their incomes. Increasing agricultural productivity must have high priority in any effort to promote rural development, reduce malnutrition, and eradicate poverty on a sustainable basis, and FAO plays a leading role in these efforts.

Last month I had the privilege of leading a weekend long media tour for international journalists to Central America, where several countries are facing serious food security challenges, made worse by recurring natural disasters. Our team travelled to indigenous communities in the remote highlands, where we met face to face with men and women who spoke movingly of their struggles and their aspirations for a better life. They, and millions like them, lead a harsh and difficult life. But we came away from that experience filled with hope, because we also saw vivid examples of how FAO and its sister agencies, working in partnership with national governments, foreign donors, NGOs and the private sector, are able to help these individuals improve their lot and I thank the Ambassadors of Honduras and Guatemala for their hospitality in supporting this visit, as well as the FAO staff in-country.

Our role as members of Council is to guide FAO so that it focuses on those activities – within its mandate and for which FAO has a unique or comparative advantage – that will contribute most effectively to achieving food security worldwide.

No country has ever become a sustainable democracy delivering stability and prosperity to its people without transforming its agricultural sector and developing its commodity and food markets. At the CFS, there was a discussion about the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. We remain convinced that, rather than focusing on a right to food, the fundamental solution to the global scourges of hunger and poverty lies in appropriate policies and concrete actions taken in the national context.

FAO was created for the purpose of raising levels of nutrition and standards of living, improving production and distribution of food and agricultural products, bettering the condition of rural population, and thereby expanding the world's economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. We want to ensure that FAO adjusts its work to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Independent External Evaluation of FAO, to be discussed later this week, will help us work together to map a way forward to better meet these challenges.

We believe the Organization should have two inter-related and overarching objectives.

The first is to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the global economy. Poverty reduction and the elimination of hunger and undernourishment will be achieved principally through economic growth, which, in many developing countries, will be driven by agriculture. There are many obstacles to fuller participation in the global economy on both the supply side and the demand side, including lack of infrastructure and technology, lack of effective market mechanisms, lack of trade capacity, and inability to implement trade-related standards. FAO should be playing a leading role in assisting countries in many of these areas.

The second overarching objective is to assist countries in addressing the emerging global challenges facing agriculture. These include transboundary pests and diseases, global environmental change, conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, and the growing demand for agriculture-based energy resources. In addressing these issues, FAO can serve as a global coordinator, a source of expertise and analysis, and a forum for countries to discuss strategies and solutions for these challenges. Avian influenza provides an example. FAO is coordinating the global response to the animal health threat, as well as providing technical assistance and policy advice to threatened and affected countries.

For FAO to have a sustainable impact, it needs a clear focus. It cannot be all things to all its Members. And it cannot try to do everything by itself; strengthened partnerships with UN and other international organizations, governments, NGOs, and the private sector will increase the effectiveness and sustainability of FAO's programmes and activities.

Mr Chairperson, the United States maintains a strong commitment to agricultural development and a strong partnership with FAO. Working together we can meet the important tasks and opportunities that are before us and we look forward to working with other FAO Members in helping the Organization achieve its objectives.

Johari BIN RAMLI (Malaysia)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. Malaysia would like to record its sincere thanks and appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for this informative document. Mr Chair, Malaysia is concerned that in spite of various actions and programs undertaken by FAO, the hungry and undernourished population still remains high. Drastic measures are needed in order to reduce the number of food-insecure people. In this regard, Mr Chair, we would like to call on FAO to come up with strategies that will have to address key elements of policy advice, capacity building and technical assistance. Actions must be taken at both the national and international levels in ensuring access to safe and nutritious food. The "twin track" approach to food security as promoted by FAO must be pursued diligently and food security is accorded priority in national development and also poverty alleviation plans and strategies. In order to accelerate rural development, it is important to get the involvement of the rural communities in the development of planning processes and decision making.

Malaysia feels that it also important for FAO to undertake various studies on bioenergy and subsequent comprehensive information is made available to Members. FAO should also provide technical advice to developing countries and guidance for governments interested in production of biomass or bioenergy in line with their specific needs, comparative advantages and within the context of food security.

Mr Chairperson, concerted and coordinated effort is needed to help the poor. Global commitments to reduce poverty and increase food production will bring about lasting change in the lives of the poor and hungry people, but this will only happen if they are accompanied by realistic implementation strategies.

P.K. MISHRA (India)

India welcomes the broader findings and conclusions arrived at by the Committee on World Food Security Session held in May, 2007. We also note the support extended by most Members to the recommendations made in the State of Food and Agriculture 2006 on food aid. We share the view that effective steps need to be taken to eliminate untargeted form of food aid. Use of in-kind food aid should be resorted to only where food security is caused by a shortage of food. At the same time, encouragement to local and regional food aid procurement, to the maximum extent possible, should be ensured, helping with the continuation and in fact, expansion of, livelihood opportunities.

Food aid during emergencies has played a crucial role in saving lives. Food aid as a component of developing initiatives like food for rehabilitation and food for work have also continued to play an important role in achieving social objectives in the field of education, health and for augmenting nutritional status, especially of children and pregnant and nursing mothers. Food component, as part of wages, has a positive impact on recognizing the important and often critical role played by women in achieving household food security. However, the economic effects of external food aid need to be recognized and continuously studied.

While emergency food aid and other social safety nets with food components do positively help surmount chronic hunger, these on their own cannot be expected to help overcome the social and economic causes of hunger and undernutrition. It is therefore necessary to encourage the creation of sustainable livelihoods for long-term impact on combating hunger. Most of the world's poor live in rural areas and are engaged in on-farm occupations and non-farm employment that have

strong interlinkages with farm-level activity and production. We would, therefore, encourage FAO to continue to provide a more analytical overview of the issues involved in country and region-specific situations, and indeed come up with models that promote inter-agency linkages both during and after emergencies. Similarly, a livelihood-based approach to food and nutrition security should inform all long term programmes.

We welcome the recognition by the Committee on World Food Security of bioenergy as "a complex new area with potential positive and negative implications for food security". We also support the need for an in-depth analysis of the multiple challenges, risks and opportunities offered by biofuels from all sources.

We note that a large number of countries see a new opportunity for their farmers in the cultivation of crops that convert to biofuels. What we will be equally concerned about is its impact on food grain prices resulting from such factors like diversion of agricultural produce and of cultivated land to production for biofuel extraction.

Subsidies and guarantees for purchase of agricultural produce for biofuels can also tilt the balance away from crops grown for consumption as food. There are likely to be other issues connected with international trade in such commodities, which would fall under the purview of the ongoing negotiations in the Doha Round, and will need to be studied.

Before I conclude, we, in short, see the emergence of biofuel and its production as an opportunity and as a challenge. This would call for better understanding of issues and acquiring skills to develop a viable strategy that addresses all aspects of agricultural production for both bioenergy and food security. On this we support the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, that the FAO develop an analytical framework for assessing the impact of bioenergy on food security situations in different contexts with particular regard to small, marginal and poor farmers.

Li ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for submitting this report. The Chinese Delegation would like to speak on the following: first of all, we commend the Committee for the strategic priorities and the programmes for developing countries for food security. Second, stable and long-term food production mechanisms should be established, which is a basic guarantee for food security. We recommend FAO focuses its attention on the stable development of food security. FAO should give technical and policy advice. Thirdly, the Chinese government attaches great importance to food security in the biofield. The basic principle of China is that there shouldn't be a competition for food as far as food security is concerned. Then the biofood field can be developed. We have a clear policy for the future which is that bioenergy should try to be produced with non-food items, including the products from forestry and also from other sources. The level of scientific research in the developing countries is rather low and the food production is also an important task. Therefore, for the developing countries, the strategic priority should consider the food production in the developing countries.

To develop bioenergy we should also pay attention to the extension and the development of a new source of energy, which should increase the input for such research.

Kim CHANG-MYUN (Republic of Korea)

First of all, the Korean Delegation would like to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for a very informative and comprehensive report.

The Korean Government recognizes and would like to show the same understanding on the importance of food security. To enhance the long-term food security and provide urgent food assistance, I would like to emphasize that countries who suffer from food shortage must establish a national and regional strategy for more food production. Also, international supply support for development should be given simultaneously.

Recently, natural disasters have been concentrated in poor countries, mainly due to ineffectiveness in speedy assistance to the affected countries. Malnutrition of children and pregnant women and hunger in those countries is getting worse.

Moreover, taking into account the decrease in stocks of major crops, it is important to maintain a certain level of stocks in countries with a food shortage by establishing the strategy for food security on a regional basis.

Mr Chairperson, taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce the Korean Government's input at the regional level.

The Korean Government will focus on the speedy provision of financial support to prevent and control transboundary animal diseases; and on capacity-building measures to respond to the problems from the long-term perspective to enhance quarantine skills, supporting related technology and nurturing more experts from developing countries.

Recently, the Korean Government held a training course to transfer Avian Influenza diagnostic technology for ASEAN members and provided rapid test kits. Also the Korean Government is providing a plant quarantine workshop by inviting Asian plant quarantine experts, and prepared another workshop for the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission. Mr Chairperson, regarding food for bioenergy, I would like to share the concern of other member countries who are highly dependent on imported agricultural products and have a growing concern over the recent trend of sharp increase in international grain prices due to the production expansion of concerned agricultural products for the purpose of making bioenergy.

The Korean Government would like to ask FAO to analyze the expected positive impact of production expansion to the environment and its inevitable impact on food supply and demand in a balanced and comprehensive way, and to offer good policy suggestions to Members.

Pinit KORSEIPORN (Thailand)

We are very pleased to see you in your capacity as Chairperson of this Council Session. We would like to extend our congratulations to the elected Vice-Chairpersons and would like to confirm our full support.

Our special thanks to the World Food Security Secretariat for the introduction of the Documents CL 132/10 and CL 132/LIM/2. In general, Thailand endorses the Report of the Thirty-Third Session of the Committee on World Food Security and wishes to highlight the issue of Bio-energy. Indeed, food security is closely linked to bioenergy. If the production of cereal and non-cereal crops for human consumption does not increase while the need for bioenergy is increasing, my delegation believes that food security in low income food deficit countries would be affected. Producers have more choices to sell their products as food or bioenergy raw materials. Those products include sugar cane, maize, soy bean, cassava, oil palm, rice and so on. The implication is that world prices of food and non-food tends to be higher and many countries may not be able to afford them. If the present situation continues, we are afraid that the goals of the World Food Summit and the MDGs will not be met by 2015.

My delegation would like to urge FAO, to be a leading agency in carrying out an in-depth study on the demand and supply of agricultural commodities, so as to avoid impacts on food security, due to the increasing prices of food crops sold as bioenergy raw materials.

FAO may also wish to conduct a study on other non-food commodities for the production of bioenergy, such as trees or the potential use of waste products from agriculture, namely rice, straw and hay which will also support the Zero Waste Product Policy.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Au nom de ma délégation et des pays membres du Groupe africain de la FAO, je souhaite exprimer nos félicitations aux trois Vice-Présidents que nous venons d'élire ainsi qu'aux membres du Comité de rédaction qui ont été nommés. Nous sommes certains que, sous votre conduite Monsieur le Président et avec leur engagement à vos côtés, nous obtiendrons les objectifs fixés et

parviendrons à des décisions et des recommandations consensuelles pertinentes et efficaces pour le futur de l'Organisation et le bénéfice de nos pays.

La FAO est véritablement à la croisée des chemins. Nous, États Membres, l'avons souvent pénalisée par nos contradictions inutiles et par nos discussions stériles. Maintenant que nous avons lancé une évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, nous osons espérer que cela nous amènera vers la FAO de nos rêves, en tous cas la FAO qu'attendent les États Membres et particulièrement les États en développement. Nous pouvons compter sur vous, Monsieur le Président, afin que les discussions au cours de ce Conseil se fassent dans la plus grande convivialité, dans la grande fraternité parce que c'est cela l'objectif de la FAO, qui n'est autre qu'un lieu de rencontre et d'échange et point un lieu de bagarre inutile. L'objectif de la FAO qui est de nourrir les populations affamées mérite que l'on s'entende.

Cela nous amène donc au Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire. Le constat posé encore une fois lors de l'analyse de la sécurité mondiale au cours de la trente-troisième Session du Comité est que l'insécurité alimentaire continue de sévir dans la plupart des pays en développement, particulièrement en Afrique subsaharienne et même dans les pays développés quoique de manière plus limitée; ceci interpelle nos consciences, nous les représentants de ces populations qui en sont victimes. Il nous interpelle d'autant plus que nous sommes censés définir les politiques et prendre des mesures appropriées tant au niveau de nos pays que dans les Organisations internationales où nous les représentons pour les sortir de cette situation d'insécurité alimentaire et de pauvreté. Le constat est d'autant moins encourageant que des pays comme l'Afrique du Nord ou l'Asie, qui jadis étaient dans une situation encourageante, voient leur situation se dégrader.

Il faut le répéter, sur 854 millions de personnes qui souffrent de la faim selon la FAO, 820 millions se trouvent dans les pays en développement. Des efforts certes ont été déployés par la majorité des pays en développement, confrontés au manque de ressources et à l'adversité représentée entre autres par les aléas climatiques, les catastrophes naturelles, les conditions géo-climatiques et écologiques difficiles comme c'est le cas pour beaucoup de pays, notamment les pays saharo-sahéliens luttant contre la désertification et la sécheresse. Nous en profitons pour saluer ici la célébration du 17 juin de la journée mondiale de lutte contre la désertification et saluer par la même voix tous ceux qui, comme l'Italie, ont à cette occasion multiplié les initiatives pour informer et sensibiliser l'opinion internationale contre cette catastrophe silencieuse qui mine bon nombre de pays. Ces efforts en partie, expliquent l'évolution positive de la situation constatée ces dernières années en Afrique.

Nous voulons aussi féliciter la Communauté internationale qui ne se contente plus de discourir mais opte pour l'action sur tous les fronts, même si c'est de façon timide. Celle-ci a enfin pris conscience de l'ampleur de la situation et des risques qu'elle fait courir au monde développé, comme en témoignent les vagues déferlantes de l'immigration et le terrorisme international qui échappent au pouvoir des médias et paralysent toute action.

Plus que jamais, la Communauté internationale doit prendre conscience que l'humanité ne peut atteindre l'objectif de développement du Millénaire No 1 en 2015 sans passer par la coopération et la solidarité internationale, base fondamentale d'un partenariat juste et équitable. C'est là que notre responsabilité se trouve engagée.

Après avoir analysé le document CL 132/10, le rapport de la cent trente-troisième session du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), nous soulignons que l'ensemble des pays africains ont pris part à la cent trente-troisième session du CSA et ont approuvé le rapport adopté à l'issue de cette session. C'est le moment où jamais de féliciter le Secrétariat pour le rapport qui nous a été présenté. Nous partageons les vues relatives à l'aide alimentaire, à l'intégration par la FAO dans ses analyses et ses politiques "des directives volontaires à l'appui de la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale" et à la bioénergie qui devrait être un facteur favorable à la sécurité alimentaire. Du moins, c'est ainsi que nous l'entendons et c'est ainsi que nous le souhaitons.

Nous sommes donc solidaires des recommandations énoncées aux paragraphes 13, 20 et 21. S'agissant de l'Alliance internationale contre la faim, nous approuvons les vues exprimées aux paragraphes 27 et 28 du document. Plus précisément, nous trouvons judicieuse l'idée d'inclure comme point permanent de l'Ordre du jour pour la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique "l'Alliance internationale contre la faim" et celle d'élaborer une stratégie de mobilisation des ressources qui rendrait l'Alliance internationale plus autonome, ce qui pourrait limiter mais sans toutefois interrompre totalement, l'appui des Institutions des Nations Unies à Rome. Dans ce contexte, il conviendra d'envisager dans quelles mesures les alliances nationales constituées au niveau des pays, pourraient bénéficier également d'appui de ces institutions. Le rôle de la FAO demeure essentiel dans l'appui à apporter aux alliances nationales. Nous souhaitons par ailleurs insister sur la constitution de réseaux des alliances internationales et nationales.

Nous approuvons le principe de la tenue de la trente-quatrième session en 2008 en liaison avec la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. L'opportunité devrait être mise à profit pour faire participer, comme ce fut le cas en 2005, des Chefs d'États de pays en développement et des pays développés en vue de rehausser la portée et l'impact des deux événements et d'aboutir à des résultats encore plus satisfaisants.

Par rapport au paragraphe 35 du document concernant l'intégration des directives volontaires dans l'ensemble des travaux de l'Organisation, et le fait de leur qualification d'obligation juridiquement sanctionnée: si nous sommes d'accord que s'agissant de directives volontaires, elles ne peuvent aucunement revêtir un caractère juridique contraignant pour qui que ce soit, S'agissant du droit fondamental consacré par la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et la Convention sur les droits économiques, socioculturels des Nations Unies, et étant à la fois fondamental pour plusieurs pays, il serait peut-être temps d'envisager la chose sous d'autres angles. Le rejet du caractère contraignant à cet égard nous amène à réfléchir profondément sur l'engagement réel de certains membres à faire respecter ce droit ou tenter d'y parvenir dans nos pays.

Nous voulons en profiter pour saluer le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, cette idée géniale de la FAO qui amène les pays du Sud à aider d'autres pays du Sud et dont les résultats sont probants. Nous remercions ici tous les pays qui, par cette coopération désintéressée, contribuent à l'élimination de l'insécurité alimentaire.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Brazil to take the floor. As Ambassador of Brazil, we have seen you in several events but this is the first time that we see you in the Council. We welcome you and are looking forward to a close working relationship.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brasil)

Gracias Presidente. Para mi también es un gran honor poder trabajar bajo su presidencia y estoy seguro que su sabiduría y sus experiencias nos conducirán a una reunión muy positiva cuyos resultados serán remarcables.

Mi Delegación, también quisiera agradecer a la Secretaria del Comité por el informe que nos ha presentado. El Gobierno de Brasil también está muy preocupado de la reducción modesta de aquellos que sufren el flagelo del hambre y de la pobreza. El papel de esta Organización es importante y contribuye en alcanzar las metas del Milenio. Mi delegación también recuerda, que hace muy pocos años se realizó una cumbre de Jefes de Estados y de Gobierno en Nueva York y las acciones que en aquella ocasión fueron acordadas para combatir el hambre y la pobreza.

Desde el punto de vista de la Delegación de Brasil es importante que exista una efectiva voluntad y determinación política para hacer frente a los desafíos del hambre y de la pobreza. Pero igualmente es indispensable la existencia de recursos financieros para financiar justamente el desarrollo. Para el Gobierno de Brasil el tema desarrollo, y en particular el desarrollo rural, es vital, ya que gran parte de las poblaciones pobres en el Mundo, viven en el campo de los países en desarrollo, y por esto una FAO más fuerte y una FAO más revitalizada tendrá mucho que contribuir, y esta es la expectativa del Gobierno de Brasil.

Quisiera también referirme al tema de la Bioenergía, Señor Presidente, esta Delegación reitera su posición con relación a la oportunidad que la producción de Bioenergía, representando un aporte positivo a la mitigación de la pobreza y a la eliminación del hambre en los países en desarrollo.

Como cualquier acción humana, la Bioenergía es un enorme desafío frente a nosotros y tenemos que tener la sabiduría de maximizar las oportunidades con un mínimo de riesgos. Lecciones y experiencias sobre la producción de Bioenergía, llevadas en varios países tienen necesariamente que ser tomadas en consideración. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria propuso la elaboración de un marco analítico a partir de una prospectiva regional, y permítame subrayar este tema, "desde una prospectiva regional", para evaluar el impacto de la Bioenergía y la situación de la seguridad alimentaria. Mi país apoya la preparación de este documento, que deberá ser elaborada con una colaboración estrecha y una coordinación con los Países Miembros.

Señor Presidente, quisiera simplemente añadir una palabra de cautela al análisis superficiales, con relación al impacto que tiene la Bioenergía en los precios de los alimentos: estas análisis superficiales y apresuradas deberían necesariamente ser evitadas. Debemos tomar en cuenta una prospectiva más amplia considerando todos los hechos.

Señor Presidente, para concluir yo quisiera manifestar, que Brasil, como otras Delegaciones, apoyan las acciones de esta Organización de seguir trabajando con los Países Miembros, para incentivar y hacer que más países adopten e implementen las directrices voluntarias del derecho a la Alimentación, y en este aspecto, el derecho a la Alimentación. Señor Presidente, no podría dejar de concluir mis palabras, sin expresar de nuevo, que la voluntad política y la determinación, son los elementos fundamentales para la solución de este flagelo que sufren los países, y principalmente aquellos en desarrollo. Por eso creemos que planes como el programa "Hambre Cero", implementado en mi país, la iniciativa "América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre 2025", son importantísimos, como compromiso de los Países para cooperar y cumplir, incluso superar, las metas del Milenio.

Una última palabra, Señor Presidente, de apoyo de Brasil al trabajo de la FAO para las "Alianzas Internacionales contra el Hambre", como de hecho ya lo hicieron otras delegaciones.

Muchas gracias.

Fazlul KARIM (Bangladesh)

Allow me to begin by extending my delegation's heartfelt congratulations on the just elected three vice chairs of the bureau and the members of the Drafting Committee.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their useful Report, and we believe that the issue of the World Food Security cannot be properly addressed without tackling the problems of rural and urban poverty and also focussing on agricultural development.

Individual countries, as well as the international community have their respective responsibilities in this regard. National strategies should be focussed on reducing poverty and increasing investment in agriculture. In this regard, Bangladesh is doing its best to reduce both rural and urban poverty through targeted programmes. We have increased positive allocations to the agricultural sector substantially; however, our efforts need to be complemented by international support both financial and technical. We need enhanced international cooperation in all the above areas that I mentioned.

FAO is strategically located and placed to facilitate and promote such cooperation both at regional and global levels. We appreciate very much the fact that the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on Food Security focussed its attention on the very topical issue of bioenergy. As my delegation stated earlier, this is an issue which needs careful study and analysis as it has implications for world food security. We feel that FAO is well placed in this regard to carry out further studies and analysis.

To conclude, I would like to say that we agree with most of the analysis provided in the Report CL 132/10 and we recommend its adoption.

Hassan ABI-AKAR (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic)

Nous remercions le Secrétariat et le Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire pour ce rapport et nous saluons les recommandations contenues dans le paragraphe 13, ainsi que celles adressées à la FAO. Nous entérinons les recommandations et le rapport en question dans son ensemble. Du moment que la plupart des collègues ont abordé la relation entre le thème de la sécurité alimentaire et la bio-énergie, j'appuie ce qui a été dit par nos collègues, notamment par la Corée, la Thaïlande et le Brésil et j'abrège mon intervention sur les points suivants: l'accélération du développement de la technologie aussi bien dans les pays développés producteurs que dans les pays producteurs de bio-énergie, de même l'augmentation des prix des produits alimentaires de base et les statistiques les plus récentes. Tout cela indique qu'il y a une relation organique entre la bio-énergie d'une part et la sécurité alimentaire d'autre part, ce qui nous amène à prêter une attention particulière à ce nouveau phénomène. Par ailleurs, nous appelons à une étude impartiale, de caractère stratégique, qui serait à même de générer les recommandations appropriées afin de ne pas rompre l'équilibre entre les impératifs de sécurité alimentaire d'une part et les nécessités de production de bio-énergie d'autre part, tenir compte des orientations et choix de la communauté internationale et des institutions internationales telles que la FAO concernant l'élimination de la faim et l'atténuation de la pauvreté et éviter d'assister à une nouvelle course aux produits alimentaires ou aux pays qui en permettent la production.

José Emilio SUADI JASBÚN (El Salvador)

Nosotros queremos aprovechar la reunión de este Consejo para agradecer el trabajo de la FAO en el tema de seguridad alimentaria, especialmente por lo que ha hecho a nivel centroamericano. En Centroamérica tratamos de trabajar como una región y, en nombre de nuestro país El Salvador, queremos aprovechar para agradecer el trabajo que se está haciendo en el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria, el PESA.

La FAO juega un papel importante para concientizar a la sociedad, de la importancia que tiene la lucha contra el hambre, la seguridad alimentaria y la lucha contra la pobreza. Quisiera mencionar que estamos conscientes de este tema y que sería necesario todavía un mensaje más profundo a las sociedades, para que realmente se compenetren más con este tema.

Después de escuchar la intervención de los países con mayores recursos, estamos seguros que ésta es una buena oportunidad para que se logre dar recursos necesarios para este tema y que a su vez se siga dando apoyo a la FAO. Quisiera aprovechar para recomendar a la Mesa de hacer un análisis más profundo del tema productivo ya que muchas veces, cuando hablamos de seguridad alimentaria, tenemos la tendencia de ver más la presencia, sobre temas más sociales que de seguridad productiva. Esto nosotros lo hemos visto repetidamente en nuestros países, cómo el apoyo a los servicios de agua potable, electricidad, etc. y no sobre la sostenibilidad al tema productivo, como es la producción agrícola sostenible. Este tema también me permite recomendar a que se haga un análisis de intervención que estamos haciendo en diferentes países, para ver cómo logramos de alguna manera incrementar o potenciar la sostenibilidad del esfuerzo que estamos haciendo.

Muchas veces llegamos nada más al nivel de lo que tiene que ver con la sobrevivencia pero no logramos darle sostenibilidad productiva a muchos productores, entonces, quisiera aprovechar este momento para hacer dos recomendaciones que considero deberían de estar más inmersas en la Mesa. Estos son temas que nosotros hemos visto en campo, que hacen la diferencia práctica para cambiar la vida a los pequeños productores. Por otro lado, en el tema de bioenergía, después de escuchar la intervención de todos los países, nos damos cuenta de que éste es un tema que está para quedarse, es un tema que va a causar muchas controversias e inclusive las está causando. Es por esto que felicitamos al Comité por sus conclusiones en este informe y queremos decir que como país nos unimos a la declaración de Brasil porque sentimos que la bioenergía es una oportunidad para cada país. Obviamente este tema debe de ser analizado y lo apoyamos definitivamente.

Este estudio puede tener impactos positivos e impactos negativos ya que considerando las diferencias que hay entre los cultivos, no es lo mismo hablar por ejemplo de caña de azúcar que hablar de maíz o hablar de otros temas que obviamente cada país tiene condiciones muy diferentes y estamos de acuerdo como país, que sea la FAO quien esté liderando este tema porque sabemos que la van a mantener dentro del marco de trabajo técnico y no político, porque es un tema que lamentablemente puede politizarse muy fácilmente y esto nos va a ayudar a orientar las medidas políticas, que como países tenemos que desarrollar para poder hacer de esto un buen uso.

Me queda mencionar que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con el Informe y cuenten con nuestra aprobación.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación desea transmitirle sus felicitaciones por verlo nuevamente, presidiendo las sesiones del Consejo. También deseamos felicitar a los restantes miembros de la Mesa y agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del Informe. Durante el debate de la Comisión de Seguridad Alimentaria nuestra delegación expresó su sincera preocupación por el escaso progreso alcanzado en la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo. La existencia aún de más de 800 millones de personas subnutridas, nos corrobora que será casi imposible cumplir con las metas trazadas en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de 1996. En aquél momento expusimos que a pesar del poco tiempo que resta para el 2015, fecha trazada como meta, estamos en condiciones de revertir la situación actual e incluso superar las metas propuestas si se adopta una verdadera voluntad política por parte de los países desarrollados para enfrentar este acuciante problema.

Nuevamente expresamos que los Estados Miembros aquí reunidos y en especial los países desarrollados, debemos trabajar por hacer realidad uno de los más viejos reclamos de los países del Tercer Mundo: eliminar la vulnerabilidad e inestabilidad de los precios en los mercados de productos básicos agrícolas. Mientras se mantengan las condiciones actuales en dichos mercados, ligadas, entre otros elementos, a los subsidios agrícolas en los países industrializados, será muy difícil garantizar que los países en desarrollo, en especial los Países de Bajos Ingresos y Déficit de Alimentos (PBIDA), importadores netos de alimentos, alcancen logros significativos en la reducción del hambre y la malnutrición.

Cuba apoya las recomendaciones realizadas por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, sin embargo queremos referirnos en especial al tema de la bioenergía. Nuestro país considera que la relación de este tema con la seguridad alimentaria es primordial.

Como todos sabemos, la situación energética en el mundo es bastante difícil, las reservas de combustibles fósiles se agotan rápidamente debido al derroche fundamentalmente de las sociedades industrializadas.

La producción de energía a través de los alimentos se ha convertido en un debate de actualidad, pensando solamente a los intereses del mundo industrializado y no a las necesidades del mundo subdesarrollado. Cuba enfatiza que no es posible aceptar que la producción de energía se realice sobre la base de sacrificar la producción de alimentos en el mundo, cuando millones de personas pasan hambre como consecuencia fundamental de las políticas impuestas por los países desarrollados en las relaciones internacionales.

Las consecuencias de políticas para producir biocombustibles ya están teniendo efectos importantes. Para nadie es un secreto, y según previsiones realizadas que por causa del aumento del precio del petróleo, se ha tenido un crecimiento vertiginoso de la producción de biocombustibles que elevará los precios del maíz de un 20 por ciento para el 2010 y de un 41 por ciento para 2020. Las semillas oleaginosas también aumentarán su precio de un 26 por ciento para el 2010 y de un 76 por ciento para el 2020.

Por esto, consideramos que esta Organización debe continuar profundizando el tema. La propuesta de crear un marco analítico para el estudio de la bioenergía, constituye un medio a través del cual la FAO y sus Estados Miembros pudiéramos avanzar para un esclarecimiento del

impacto de ésta en la seguridad alimentaria. Tal marco analítico debería ser creado sólo en estrecha coordinación con todos los Estados Miembros.

Sin embargo, nuestra principal prioridad sigue siendo la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, y esta Organización no debe apartarse de ese camino, en el cual no estamos obteniendo resultados alentadores a pesar de los innumerables compromisos acordados internacionalmente.

Ms A.I. PEPPLE (Nigeria)

The Nigerian delegation joins the other members in congratulating you in taking the Chair during this Council. We also congratulate the Vice-chairpersons and members of the Drafting Committee and wish to assure you of our support and commend the Secretariat for excellent and very informative documentation.

My delegation wishes to seize this opportunity to inform Council and congratulate Africa and the world community, in general, for a peaceful, democratic civilian to civilian transfer of power in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I bring you greetings from His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the President of Nigeria. He, like his predecessor, is committed to agricultural development as an instrument to ensuring food security, poverty alleviation and job creation and therefore will give optimum support to the FAO.

As you may be aware, Nigeria last December hosted a Summit on Food Security in Africa as part of its efforts to promote food security in the continent and ensure that Goals 1 and 7 of the Millennium Development Goals are achieved. We support the Report as presented. Food aid must be obtained to promote agricultural production. We also support the proposal for a more detailed study on bioenergy in order to address both its positive and negative impacts.

CHAIRPERSON

I invite the distinguished representative of Sweden and Vice-Chairperson of the Council to take the floor.

Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

Sweden speaks on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and I make this statement as a general statement for all agenda items 7, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and we fully align ourselves with the EU statements on these items.

This year's meetings in the CFS and in the Technical Committees were convened as we were all awaiting the final report from the IEE. In November last year, the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel presented its report and proposals for reform of the UN System – "Delivering as One". These proposals together with the Millennium Development Goals and the results of the IEE will be the framework for the work of this Organization for the coming years. The deliberations in the meetings were influenced by this, and the debates were interesting and forward-looking.

The Nordic Countries believe that FAO must, in line with this challenging framework, prioritize and assert its position as the leading global Organization in the field of agriculture and food. To this end, we suggest that FAO should focus on the following areas in the coming biennium: forestry, gender issues, genetic resources (both animal/fish and plants) and normative activities such as climate change and bioenergy, Code for Responsible Fisheries, Codex Alimentarius and IPPC.

It is important that FAO strikes the right balance between the normative activities and its more technical operations in the field, including the important element of capacity building. This is in our view one of the most important elements of FAO. That is, to represent a bridge between global normative standard setting activities and operational activities at the national level, both of which are dependent on each other. Global norms are of little value if there is unequal ability to apply them. And similarly, who better to assist in the implementation of those norms than the very same Organization which helped to bring the norms about?

The Nordic Countries also wish to underline the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. FAO's role is important in providing aid to Member States in applying the guidelines.

Gender is key in all our efforts. The Nordic Countries wish to emphasize that this, as the role of women in many developing countries is pivotal. FAO is in a unique position to encourage and assist Member States in integrating gender considerations in policy formulation for food and agriculture and how to implement these policies.

The Nordic Group also wishes to encourage FAO to continue its effort to work across sectors and departments. We cannot emphasize this enough as the challenges facing the Organization are cross-cutting by character and should be dealt with accordingly.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Nordic countries for this initiation of a holistic and integrated view to the problems which are closely related. Now I invite the distinguished representative of Mexico to take the floor.

Víctor Daniel FLORES FUENTES (México)

En primer lugar permítame felicitarlo a Usted así como a los demás miembros de la mesa.

En segundo lugar la Delegación de México desea agradecer y felicitar a la Señora Margarita Flores por la presentación del informe del 33° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Los temas analizados en el Comité dan como resultado, la falta de progreso en cuanto a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, y la necesidad de seguir movilizando los recursos suficientes para aplicar políticas y programas con el propósito de reducir la pobreza, y el número de personas que padecen hambre mediante la aplicación de acciones que contribuyan al desarrollo de los países. Es necesario redoblar esfuerzos para desarrollar una acción coordinada, que permita combatir el hambre y la pobreza, conforme a los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio. Esto a fin de no alejarse de la meta principal, es decir, de reducir el número de personas con hambre para el 2015.

México considera fundamental fortalecer los vínculos de cooperación con mejores prácticas entre los países. Combatir las debilidades estructurales y mejorar las capacidades institucionales, lo cual tendría un mejor impacto en los resultados de la colaboración de Organismos Internacionales como la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA en el proceso de desarrollo rural integral de los países en desarrollo.

Considerando que la pobreza constituye actualmente un factor determinante para el hambre y la desnutrición, es necesario alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria a través de un enfoque de vida sostenible, que a su vez contribuya al crecimiento económico, a la conservación del medio ambiente, al desarrollo humano, y a un proceso de cambio dinámico así como a un desarrollo rural integral.

Finalmente, debido a las distintas circunstancias de las diferentes regiones, y a las preocupaciones relativas a la Bionergética y a la Bioenergía, es necesario buscar formas para aumentar el uso de recursos energéticos alternativos tales como la energía solar y eólica, así como otros tipos de energías renovables.

Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like at the outset to express my gratitude and thanks to you. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the three Vice-chairpersons and would like to say that Egypt is very keen to cooperate with you in order to make this Session a success. Regarding the report under discussion, I agree with what has been said by the previous speakers regarding the importance of food security, and I think we also all agree on the fact that we have mobilized and combined all

our efforts, of developed and developing countries, in order to achieve our objectives, that is, to wipe out poverty and under-nutrition.

Egypt supports this cooperation and also supports the role played by FAO in order to achieve these objectives. Egypt has taken part in the work of the Committee of World Food Security, and we do appreciate the efforts made in order to prepare this report. We also support in general the conclusions reached by the Committee as the previous speakers have said. I would also like to say that I agree with what has been said by some of them on the importance of carefully studying the use of foods to produce biofuel. I think that using traditional crops for this purpose should be dealt with in a careful manner because there are some negative aspects. The whole matter needs more study and research.

I hope that this Session will be a success.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt for his views and being very concise and to the point. This brings me to the last speaker from members of the Council. Do I have any other requests from the floor? Yes, Indonesia.

Hasanuddin IBRAHIM (Indonesia)

Our delegation would like to express appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing a comprehensive document. Before I proceed to give my comment on the agenda, please allow me to raise our concern on some of the important issues, in particular, climate change, avian influenza and multilateral trade.

As we are all aware, climate change is already happening and it cannot be avoided, and all countries should be committed to take part to provide a solution. Many island countries like Indonesia, which have a monsoon climate, are in a very vulnerable situation with no alternative but to face the impacts and risks of it. We request FAO to mobilize resources to develop anticipative measures to climate change.

Taking this opportunity, I am pleased to inform that Indonesia will host the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bali, from 3 to 14 December 2007.

Regarding the outbreak of avian influenza, occurring since mid-2003, which has caused 80 deaths out of 100 cases up to 15 June 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization has provided support and fielded missions to help the Government of Indonesia to control the disease, and these efforts have been continued which we are very grateful for.

Again, Indonesia would like to remind the developed countries and international agencies to realize their commitments made in order to fully enforce all the resources to combat avian influenza.

The last point that I would like to draw to the attention of this Council meeting is related to the multilateral trade negotiations. Indonesia and the developing countries respect fully the Doha and Hong Kong Declarations that sets the level of ambitions and outlines what must be achieved and the flexibilities that must be extended to developing countries. Indonesia and G33, an alliance of 46 developing countries, fully recognize the most crucial of the proposed SP modality and SSM as the appropriate instruments to protect the developing countries from negative impacts of the trade liberalization process.

Back to our agenda here, my delegation share the views expressed by the Secretariat especially on the slow progress in reducing hunger to meet the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We view that food aid is an important element in the twin-track strategy in reducing hunger. However, it should be combined to lead development too, not to make beneficiaries more dependent.

We note the Committee's ambiguity in this important aspect as expressed in paragraph 6 and 7 in the document. Therefore, we request FAO to make further analysis on the relationship between food aid and development to ensure the Committee has a common view on this matter.

We are sure that the world is enough to provide food for all, but it is not enough of course, for, excuse me, one greedy man. We are sure that this is also the case for energy. The world is blessed by its diversity. So there should not be a conflict in attaining food security and providing biofuel. We request that FAO make a comprehensive study on bioenergy development in relation to food security.

On the implementation on National Alliance Against Hunger, our delegations are of the views that the implementation aspect is much more complicated than the idea. We request FAO to develop norms and guidelines in establishing National Alliance Against Hunger, including resource mobilization.

Daniel KALENGA (Zambia)

My delegation agrees with the findings and conclusions of the Committee Report on the lack of progress in reducing the number of hungry people in the world.

In recognizing the need for food aid especially in emergency situations, such as floods that some of our countries experience, we note that only a twin-track approach that tackles aspects of sustainable national development through investment in agriculture can reap real benefits in poverty reduction.

Some of the measures that the Zambian Government has undertaken to increase food production and security is through the Fertilizer Support Programme to small-scale farmers. As a result, Zambia has for the past two years registered a surplus in its maize production which is the staple food.

In addition, Zambia looks to FAO for technical expertise in irrigation technologies. This way the country will ensure self-sufficiency during periods of low rainfall or drought.

Zambia also fully supports the recommendation of the Committee in evaluation and monitoring of food security. In our country National Programme for Food Security is embedded in the Fifth National Development Plan adopted in 2006 and the monitoring mechanism is being developed.

With the leadership of FAO and the European Commission, Zambia is in the process of finalizing a multi sectoral food security strategy with a well developed monitoring mechanism.

With regard to the issue of biofuels, this has generated a lot of interest from both farmers and investors in terms of production of biofuel crops such as *Jatropha*.

Zambia is, however, cautious about the environmental impact of such crops and therefore welcomes the technical expertise of FAO on determining the dangers of *Jatropha* in the environment. Zambia further welcomes FAO's guidance on the impact of biofuel crop production on national and regional food security.

On its part Zambia has set up a National Committee to outline the implication of *Jatropha* production on indigenous people in terms of their displacement, the environmental degradation, food insecurity as well as food price increments.

CHAIRPERSON

Do I have any requests for the floor from the Members of the Council? Okay, if not, I will give the floor to the following Observers: Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Sudan and to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and I would like to ask them please follow the way that Members of the Council very efficiently contributed to this debate – short, concise and to the point.

With this I would like to add Armenia's name to my speaker list as well and ask Switzerland to take the floor.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation approuve le rapport de la trente troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. J'aimerais brièvement mettre en exergue les points suivants: la Suisse soutient la recommandation du Comité visant à fournir un examen d'ensemble plus analytique des résultats variables obtenus par les différentes régions en matière de réduction de la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi qu'à mieux identifier les causes de l'évolution et des tendances positives relevées dans certains pays d'Afrique. S'agissant de l'Alliance internationale contre la faim, nous soutenons l'idée de l'élaboration d'une stratégie de mobilisation des ressources devant contribuer à rendre cette-dite Alliance toujours plus autonome. Nous considérons cependant que la FAO doit continuer à jouer un rôle important dans le domaine de la coordination, de la communication, de la promotion et du renforcement des capacités des Alliances nationales. J'aimerais aussi rappeler l'importance que nous accordons à la mise en œuvre des directives volontaires concernant le droit à l'alimentation. Nous estimons à cet égard, que la FAO doit continuer à intégrer ces directives dans ses analyses et ses politiques relatives à la sécurité alimentaire. Nous partageons également l'avis du Comité que la FAO devrait accorder une importance particulière à l'étude de la bio-énergie, notamment en relation avec son impact sur la sécurité alimentaire et les ressources naturelles. Finalement, ma délégation soutient l'idée d'une discussion approfondie sur la structure et la fréquence des sessions du Comité au sein des organes appropriés. A cet égard, nous espérons que l'évaluation externe indépendante fournira les éléments d'appréciation.

Ambassador Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Observer for Zimbabwe)

We welcome the Word Food Security Report that has been tabled by the Secretariat and we would like to associate ourselves with statements that have been made on behalf of Africa by the many representatives of the continent in the Council and indeed to the many other statements that have suggested the way forward in which FAO can play a more meaningful role in our various Member States.

We have listened to many delegations with keen interest and we wish to contribute on the following:

On the issue of biofuels we would like to ask FAO to continue to research further into the topic so as to come out with better ways of treating the issue. We believe that biofuels present both opportunities and challenges to agriculture, but at the same time we feel that biofuels can be achieved without necessarily resorting to using food crops. My government is trying to encourage farmers to embark on biofuels, but using crops that are not necessarily linked to direct food security issues and as has been suggested by others, maybe what we want to see, is for FAO to assist us in ensuring that such crops do not have any negative environmental impacts in our countries.

On the issue of National Food Alliances, the Government of Zimbabwe recognizes the importance of such initiatives and we have been working with the FAO Country Office on this matter and as such we see it as a platform for brining together many players; a platform for releasing resources into agriculture that would not otherwise come in. Various stakeholders bringing different expertise and resources and this, in a way, helps us to achieve a higher level of expertise because we find that in the private sectors and through bilateral partners such information can be available to the small-scale farmers.

In this regard, we support the CFS recommendation that FAO has a crucial role for coordination and advocacy in capacity building in National Alliances. We hope to see FAO continuing its assistance to member governments to strengthen these National Alliances. It will make it easier for us to fill the technical gaps we may encounter in the process and to implement agreed international commitments. To this end, we envisage a strong FAO that is well-resourced to be able to assist Member States to achieve these targets

In the developing world, this may mean strengthening our institutional and field capacities. To this end, we envisage an FAO administering a strong Technical Cooperation Programme to

complement our national efforts and the efforts of the other multilateral and bilateral partners who may come in.

Finally, we hope that the results of the IEE and UN Reforms will address some of these shortcomings to enable us to participate fully in the National Food Security Programmes.

My delegation supports the lead role of FAO in the study of biofuels and in evaluating the National Food Security Programmes.

Omer ABD ALWAHAD (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation would like to congratulate you, the vice-Chairs and the members of the Drafting Committee and we wish you every success.

Some developing countries need assistance from FAO in order to gather the important information on food security in addition to building capacities and technical cooperation assistance. We do support the conclusions that local production should be given priority and that aid should not be made in kind in all cases. We also had to take into account the eating habits of the populations we are trying to help. We think we have to move from emergencies to financing sustainable development, especially in the regions which were stuck by instability and now they are becoming stable in the rural areas.

FAO could provide technical cooperation in order to help market some surplus produced in some good years when there is a very good crop in developing countries. We do support what has been referred to in the Report and we also support the International Alliance Against Hunger.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sudan. I have been informed that the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan has been speaking on this issue. I thank him for his statement and welcome him to our meeting.

I will invite Armenia to take the floor please.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Observer for Armenia)

I wish to comment on the FAO High Level External Committee on Millennium Development Goals that took place at FAO on 3-4 May 2007, the two working days immediately preceding the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on World Food Security from 7-10 May 2007. The Chairperson of this Committee, Professor M.S. Swaminathan in his summary statement expressed that "the concept of food security should be expanded to cover nutrition security with concurrent attention to balanced diet" and when reviewing the Seven Point Action Plan of India that "the time has come when we should shift the emphasis from food security at the aggregate national level to nutrition security at the level of each individual child, woman and man". This is not reflected in the CL 132/10 Report of the Thirty-third CFS, although a single item in the Report does state "ensure the inclusions of nutritional strategies in the plans and programmes on Food Security to meet people's needs". This is not sufficient and it does not embrace the concept of nutrition security, including, i.e. food quality, represented by the concept of micro nutrients as opposed to the energy derived from food. If we expect billions of people deprived of such micro nutrients to have the basic right to a sustainable healthy life, then FAO should seriously consider the recommendations mentioned above in line with its mandate to reduce malnutrition.

Armenia is one of the SPFS countries under consideration and this is a major concern to us and, I am sure, to other SPFS countries as Professor Swaminathan points out, we now need to embrace and emphasize nutrition security as a fundamental issue within the framework of food security.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite the distinguished representative of Guinea to take the floor.

Cellou DIALLO (Observateur de la Guinée)

Très brièvement, je voudrais intervenir sur les problèmes de biocarburant. Je crois que nos réunions mettent beaucoup de sonnettes d'alarme par rapport aux risques que le développement des biocarburants peut avoir sur la sécurité alimentaire, et je pense que c'est une préoccupation légitime. Mais je crois aussi qu'il faudrait dans ce domaine positiver un peu, en tenant compte du fait que tout le monde reconnaît ici que cette activité peut être un facteur puissant de lutte contre la pauvreté. Il serait donc important que la FAO, suite aux recommandations que nous avons faites, fasse des études spécifiques sur les cultures à développer et sur la manière d'intégrer ces cultures dans les systèmes agricoles, surtout dans les pays en développement. Je me souviens au début de ma carrière, quand on introduisait la culture du coton en Afrique subsaharienne, et en particulier dans les pays du Sahel, la préoccupation majeure était: "attention le coton risque de concurrencer le développement des cultures vivrières". Le résultat que nous avons obtenu a été totalement l'inverse, le coton a tiré les cultures vivrières dans cette zone du Sahel. Je pense qu'il faudrait étudier les cultures à développer et étudier la façon dont elles pourraient être intégrées dans les systèmes agricoles.

Le cas du Brésil mérite d'être étudié. J'ai souhaité intervenir uniquement parce que j'ai vu une émission avant-hier à la télévision, où l'on commence à se poser de sérieux problèmes par rapport au développement de la culture du biocarburant au Brésil, aux problèmes d'éthiques et aux problèmes de toute autre nature qui risquent de nous conduire très rapidement à l'élaboration de normes qui vont nous interdire de développer ces cultures de biocarburants. Je voudrais que l'on positive par rapport à ce biocarburant, il y a un risque par rapport à la sécurité alimentaire, la concurrence par rapport aux approvisionnements alimentaires, mais je pense que la FAO a une expérience telle, qu'elle peut entreprendre des études avec des pays qui ont déjà développé ces cultures, quelles sont les cultures qu'il faut avoir à développer, je pense au jatropha qui a disparu de l'Afrique de l'ouest alors que c'était une culture traditionnelle dans certaines de nos zones. Je pense également à d'autres cultures que l'on peut intégrer et qui non seulement ne peuvent pas être concurrentes des cultures vivrières, mais être parfois des moteurs qui permettent d'entraîner le développement d'autres cultures vivrières.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Observador de Colombia)

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente, seré breve para tener su recomendación.

En primer lugar acogemos el Informe que se ha presentado y recomendamos al Consejo su aprobación. En cuanto el tema de los eco combustibles nos parece importante apoyar la declaración de Brasil al respecto, así como lo han hecho otras delegaciones, enfatizando la necesidad que la FAO haga un estudio aprofundido de los temas críticos en esta materia. El estudio debería contener algunos elementos claves, como el tipo de productos y las alternativas más eficientes en la producción de biomasa para combustibles, donde está en buena medida la clave del éxito y las mejores oportunidades para los países.

Los modelos de producción que se deben utilizar, tendrían que garantizar beneficios para las poblaciones más necesitadas; hecho que sin duda generará nuevas oportunidades y el éxito de esto dependerá, de que en verdad lleguen los beneficios a dichas poblaciones.

En tercer lugar sería importante hacer un inventario de las medidas que se deben tomar para evitar que tengan efectos negativos a la seguridad alimentaria.

Sobre el tema nutricional nos parece importante que el Comité incorpore entre sus recomendaciones sugerencias para todas las partes al respecto, y nos parece que la declaración previamente hecha por Armenia sobre la necesidad de mayor énfasis en este tema, habría que acogerla. La nutrición en efecto es un tema crítico para la seguridad alimentaria.

Finalmente sobre el tema de la "Alianza Internacional contro el Hambre", apoyamos la recomendación acerca de que se busquen nuevos mecanismos de movilización de recursos para hacerlas.

Jean de Dieu MUTABAZI (Burundi)

Je voudrais me joindre à tous les participants pour remercier les nouveaux élus, le Président ainsi que les autres Membres du Bureau, et féliciter le Comité de rédaction pour leur élection. Je voudrais également dire combien j'apprécie la qualité du rapport de la troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et recommande personnellement qu'il soit adopté.

Je voudrais toutefois attirer l'attention de la FAO sur le fait que le Burundi est un pays qui sort de la guerre et qui figure toujours parmi les pays les plus pauvres du monde. Il est presque totalement plongé dans l'insécurité alimentaire et par conséquent je souhaiterais que la FAO l'inscrive parmi ses priorités dans le cadre de la lutte pour la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Je voudrais aussi ajouter que je soutiens l'idée de doter la FAO des moyens nécessaires à la poursuite de sa politique.

L'agriculture au Burundi est une agriculture pratiquée sous pluie. La transformation et la conservation des produits alimentaires laissent à désirer. Ce qui fait qu'à la moindre variation climatique, le Burundi tombe dans une crise alimentaire. C'est pourquoi, nous souhaitons que la FAO appuie fortement notre pays en matière de technique notamment pour la petite irrigation, pour la maîtrise de l'eau. Si nous parvenons à maîtriser l'eau, nous sommes presque sûrs de sortir de l'insécurité alimentaire.

Pour ce qui est de la bioénergie, le Burundi souhaite que la FAO puisse continuer à approfondir ces questions et nous croyons qu'elle va donner des recommandations pour chaque région. Nous restons dans l'attente donc de ces recommandations.

Par ailleurs, je souhaite vous informer que le Burundi, jusqu'à maintenant, utilise des engrais chimiques. Nous encourageons fortement l'utilisation des bio-fertilisants, qui figure aussi parmi nos priorités.

Jonas MELEWAS (Observer for the United Republic of Tanzania)

I would like my delegation to associate itself in support of what has been deliberated by Mali on behalf of the Africa Group. Secondly, I would like to highlight the threat of transboundary animal diseases, in particular Rift Valley Fever which Tanzania and neighbouring Kenya really experienced this year. It was a bit of a unique disease and, if we are not very careful, in the future it is going to cause more problems for human life and animals; the trade of animals and animal products really suffered a lot. I would like to strongly call on FAO, on its endeavour to strengthen biosecurity. Secondly, we would like to thank most of the international organizations, including WHO, UNICEF and others like USAID which assisted us in combating Rift Valley Fever. I would like to call upon these institutions to assist us in studies on the impact of Rift Valley Fever. The normal Rift Valley situation is going beyond Rift Valley Fever, and in the future, it may be a big threat to human life and animals.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I invite the International Federation of Agricultural Producers to take the floor.

Nils FÄRNERT (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, IFAP. We have more than six hundred million family farms in membership and thus we care for more than one third of the world's population. Food security is a vital question to our Organization. Of the about eight hundred and fifty million people starving everyday, fifty percent are farmers and twenty-five percent are other people in rural areas, like farmhands.

Mr Chairperson, the Director-General says in his important statement in the report "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2006" that the concentration of hunger in rural areas suggests that no sustained reduction in hunger is possible without special emphasis on agricultural and rural development, in countries and regions where hunger remains widespread.

In that context, I will refer to what our President, Mr Jack Wilkinson said in his comments on the World Bank World Development Report 2008. Mr Wilkinson said, in short, that it was urgent that more was done in assisting the poor farmers to produce and market more and better products. More help for the poor farmers was needed in organizing themselves, building cooperatives, building factories and going out into the market to compete. Mr Wilkinson also said that helping them to get favourable credit was vital.

IFAP is grateful to the Committee for its important recommendations for fighting poverty and hunger amongst the farmers and we hope that these recommendations can be put into practice as much as possible.

Mr Chairperson, IFAP is also grateful to all delegations, all distinguished delegates who in their interventions have given strong support to intensify help to poor farmers.

On the question of biofuels, I would only like to say that we have noticed all over the world a healthy increase in income for those farmers who are engaged in these activities.

We are today very active in establishing cooperation with as many parties as possible. We are always ready to collaborate where it is possible, not least with the FAO Secretariat. To the FAO Secretariat we say only, thank you very much for all your good help at all times.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, the representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. This leads me to the end of the speakers list. I believe that we had a very rich and constructive debate today and that it was well organized and up to the point. I thank you all and now I want to return the floor to Ms Flores to see if she has any comments.

You have the floor.

Sra. Margarita FLORES (Secretaria Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria)

Quisiera agradecer los comentarios tan constructivos de los delegados, hemos tomado nota debidamente para poder atender a todas las sugerencias que se han hecho.

Quisiera hacer mención de tres temas que han sido tocados, obviamente no podré contestar o hacer un nuevo comentario a todos ellos. El primero se refiere al tema del análisis de la Seguridad Alimentaria y a las observaciones hechas por varias delegaciones, sobre la necesidad de profundizar el análisis y de preparar estudios más analíticos, sobre las razones de como ha evolucionado la situación alimentaria en diferentes países y en particular en algunos países de África, tomamos debidamente nota para poder prepararlos. Estos análisis en realidad, son generalmente la combinación de estudios de diferentes sectores y departamentos de la FAO; sin embargo, recogemos como una recomendación para hacerlo de manera más integral y si bien no pueden ser presentados todos en las Sesiones del Comité, lo tendríamos que tener a disposición de los Países Miembros, como ha sido sugerido. Esta ha sido también una recomendación del Alto Comité sobre los Objetivos del Milenio al que se refirió el Embajador de Armenia.

En el tema de Bio-energía, me parece que ha sido muy debatido con una gran recepción, quisiera hacer mención a varias preguntas y comentarios sobre esfuerzos conjuntos y sobre estudios que deberían hacerse. Hay un Grupo Inter-Departamental de la FAO sobre Bioenergía al que serán remitidas todas las recomendaciones, del cual, el Departamento Económico-Social forma parte.

Quisiera hacer mención que hay por lo menos tres iniciativas dentro de la FAO: Un Proyecto sobre Bioenergía y Seguridad Alimentaria que cuenta con el financiamiento de Alemania; La Plataforma Internacional sobre Bioenergía para la cual la FAO proporciona la estrategia global; La Asociación Global sobre Bioenergía, que es una asociación de los gobiernos con el sector industrial, la sociedad civil, cuya Secretaría esta en la FAO y cuenta con el financiamiento del Gobierno de Italia.

Por supuesto, también formamos parte de un trabajo conjunto con otras Organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, que es UN Energy, estos debates se están llevando a cabo en

formas conjuntas, con las preocupaciones multi-sectoriales que tiene el tema y hay varios estudios analíticos en perspectiva de los cuales algunos se están desarrollando, que creo recogen muchas de las inquietudes que han sido expresadas por el Consejo.

En el tema del Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria, se toman claramente en cuenta todas las recomendaciones hechas y con relación a las evaluaciones, mis colegas del PESA y del Programa Nacional, me piden transmitir la seguridad de que todos los programas están siendo objeto de evaluaciones y se ha hecho una énfasis particular para construir un mecanismo apropiado de monitoreo y de evaluación de los programas a nivel nacional a los que se está trabajando.

Finalmente, con respecto a la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre, tomamos nota sobre las observaciones respecto al desarrollo a nivel nacional y sobre la movilización de recursos sobre lo que necesariamente estarán dando paso en los próximos días.

Creo que las observaciones han sido muy ricas y sería muy difícil repetirlas todas, pero efectivamente las preocupaciones sobre el mercado, los cultivos, las posibles repercusiones negativas o positivas del medio-ambiente. De este trabajo multi-sectorial es el que nos permitirá dar respuesta a las preocupaciones de los Países Miembros.

CHAIRPERSON

As I said that I do believe that we had a very constructive and efficient debate on the issue. We covered all aspects recommended by the Committee on World Food Security, assessment of world food security and the special focus on bioenergy. Almost everybody talked about it. We have covered national and regional programmes for food security and different proposals for that and recommendations. The delegates have talked about the International Alliance Against Hunger, and received support on timing, format and frequency of CFS reports and the continued engagement of multiple stakeholders. Again, a quadrennial report is under progress on the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, as Ms Flores said, lots of other issues which were raised are very pertinent and I am sure that the Secretariat has taken note of that and will be reflected in our final report. We still have time to introduce the next Item which is the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

With reference to the first Agenda Item this afternoon, I would like to ask Members to focus their attention on the proposed incoming Deputy Director-General and not on the outgoing one. The outgoing one still has six months to work. And as such, he looks forward very much to having an opportunity of saying "farewell" at one of the Council's sessions in November. In other words, I will not be making a farewell statement this afternoon and I ask that you please not do so either. There will be time for that later this year. For now it is important that you focus your attention on my successor.

3. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (ROME, 5-9 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/7)

3. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIEME SESSION DU COMITE DES PECHEES (ROME, 5-9 MARS 2007) (CL 132/7)

3. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PESCA (ROMA, 5-9 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We certainly would never want to talk about your farewell but, as you said, we do have time in the future and we have an opportunity to have you for another six months here with us.

With this we move to the next Item, which I have mentioned is the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries. The document under consideration is CL 132/7 and

Mr Nomura, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, is introducing the Item.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), held in Rome from 5 to 9 March 2007, was chaired by Mr Hettiarachchi (Sri Lanka) and Mr Karnicki (Poland), First Vice-Chairperson. The level of the participation was quite high; not only 119 members of the Committee attended in this session, but also 61 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations as observers.

In general terms, the Committee urged the Organization to continue asserting its international leadership as the only global fisheries body and agreed that it must maintain its high profile in global fishery affairs. It also stressed that continued efforts were imperative to further promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.

Concerning the Tsunami of 26 December 2004, the Committee discussed the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in fisheries and aquaculture sectors of countries affected by this natural disaster. Concerned by the higher level of fishing capacity than prior to the disaster, the Committee recognized that it called for sustainable and effective fisheries management arrangements. It also considered the issue of safety at sea in relation to the use of substandard vessels. The Committee recommended that FAO report more extensively on lessons learnt from the post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction work and widely disseminate results so as to enhance preparedness.

The Committee endorsed the report of the Tenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. In doing so, it recognized the importance of traceability for fish trade. The Committee welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The report of the Third Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was also endorsed. The Committee reaffirmed its trust in FAO to play a coordinating role in advancing the global aquaculture agenda and welcomed the recent change in the name of the Fisheries Department to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The Committee highlighted the importance of addressing socio-economic impacts of aquatic and aquaculture and other issues, such as improving planning and policy development at national and regional levels.

The Committee identified a number of areas for further work in fish trade and aquaculture, among which: (i) the elaboration of International Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Product from Inland Capture Fisheries, in combination with similar outstanding work in the guidelines for marine capture fisheries ecolabels; (ii) the preparation of Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade; (iii) the implementation of the Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture and (iv) the establishment of a special programme for aquaculture development in Africa with regular and extra-budgetary funding support.

Regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Committee noted that it remains a persistent and complex problem where some progress has been achieved but where more needs to be done. It recognized that all those involved in IUU fishing such as beneficial owners of fishing vessels, as well as of transshipment and support vessels, should be included in the scope of measures to fight against IUU fishing. Member Nations agreed to start a process leading to the adoption of a legally binding international agreement establishing control measures in ports where fish is landed, transhipped or processed. The proposed agreement will be presented to COFI for final approval at the body's next meeting in 2009. It will be based on a voluntary FAO model scheme which outlines recommended "Port State" control measures.

The Committee noted the challenges that the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries poses and identified several areas for further work by FAO, in particular in elaborating technical guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas through an expert

consultation and a technical consultation, conducting a scoping study on climate change and fisheries, and taking a lead in informing fishers and policy makers about the likely consequences of climate change for fisheries.

Concerning strengthening of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), FAO was requested to continue to provide its support. Given the global importance of tuna fishing, the Committee, focussed mainly on the report and follow-up of the joint meeting of the five RFMOs with a mandate for the management of tuna stocks, which was held in Kobe, Japan, January 2007, and the issue of the performance review processes of RFMOs and other Regional Fishery Bodies.

Concerning small-scale fisheries, the Committee highlighted the importance of this sector and welcomed the convening of a broad-based international conference focussing specifically on small-scale fisheries. Different options to give greater prominence to small-scale fisheries in the FAO's Programme of Work were presented, including the establishment of a specific programme of work supported by dedicated extra-budgetary funding.

Finally, when reviewing the Programme of Work and Budget of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the Committee noted that all the Department's activities were too important not to be undertaken. It found the level of the budget assigned to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department unsatisfactory and not commensurate with the importance of its work and the expectations of the international community, and made a strong request that the relevant FAO Governing Bodies allocate more resources to the Department.

This concludes my presentation. The Council is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the Twenty-seventh Session of COFI as recorded in its Report and to provide the appropriate guidance.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Nomura for the concise and comprehensive report of the Committee on Fisheries. Although we will not open the debate on the issue this morning, I am going to establish the speakers' list so please raise your flags so the Secretariat can take the name and establish the list of speakers. We start at five minutes to three (15 hrs) this afternoon to continue our work.

I will read the list for you so if anything is missing, please let us know. It is: Malaysia, Cameroon, India, Brazil, European Community, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Cuba, United States of America, Canada, China, Indonesia and Mali.

The meeting rose at 13:00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13:00

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-second Session Cent trente-deuxième session 132º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-22 June 2007 Rome, 18-22 juin 2007 Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
18 June 2007

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:00 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15:00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

I call the second meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the FAO Council to order and if the colleagues who are standing take their seats, we can start our work.

We start our meeting with a few minutes of delay, and this is because there was a small change in our agenda of today in the order of events and this led to a small delay. Right now we will immediately take up the item on appointment of the Deputy Director-General and after that we will return to our discussion on the Report of the Committee of Fisheries.

This morning we added an item to the agenda of this Session, namely the appointment of the Deputy Director-General. The relevant document is CL132/LIM/5 which contains the curriculum vitae of Mr Butler, the newly-appointed Deputy Director-General, and which was made available at the documents desk this afternoon.

I recommend the Director General and invite him to take the floor on this issue.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

As I mentioned this morning, I am seeking your concurrence on Mr Harcharik's successor, Mr James Butler.

You have now received his curriculum vitae, and you are therefore aware that he holds a PhD in Animal Physiology from the University of Arizona as well as an M.S. and B.S. in Animal Sciences from the Universities of New Mexico and Texas.

He has significant international experience acquired in high level management position, particularly at the Inter American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, which covers the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He held high responsibilities in the United States Department of Agriculture, and had an important academic career as a research assistant teacher and manager in various American universities specialized in Agricultural Sciences. He also has excellent field experience as developer in production agriculture including livestock and ranching. He has, therefore, a mixture of national and international expertise and experience which are needed for the responsibility of the Deputy Director-General of the Organization.

I would therefore like to invite the Council to confirm the appointment of Mr Butler as Deputy Director-General, as called for by the FAO Basic Texts, Rule XXXIX of the General Rules of the Organization, which stipulate in this regard that appointment to the post of Deputy Director-General shall be made by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council. I would like to express my full confidence in Mr Butler's ability to assume the position of Deputy Director-General and would be pleased to have the Council's confirmation of his appointment.

CHAIRPERSON

This morning we listened to Mr Harcharik, who asked us not to talk about the outgoing Deputy Director-General, but to talk about the incoming one, and I think he was very serious in that, as he is not here with us today. So I would open the floor for any comments on the newly appointed Deputy Director-General of FAO.

Aamir ASHRAF KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

Pakistan takes note of and confirms the appointment of Mr James Butler as the new Deputy Director-General of FAO starting 2008. We would at this moment, much against the wishes of Mr Harcharik, like to recognize the meritorious services rendered by the incumbent as Deputy Director-General. During his days and years at FAO, Mr Harcharik displayed an exemplary devotion to his duties despite adversity recently, and deserves nothing but high praise. We would have more occasions to bid farewell to him and wish him the best for his future. We would look forward to his successor carrying on his good work: he certainly has the right credentials and experience.

José SUADI HASBÚN (El Salvador)

Nosotros le damos toda la confianza al Director General y estamos apoyando este nombramiento, sentimos que el CV del Sr. Butler es muy digno e importante para cumplir con su misión y sabemos que va a apoyar a todos los países. Al mismo tiempo quisiéramos agradecer al Sr. Harcharik por todo el trabajo que ha hecho, sentimos que es una persona muy cercana y apoyó mucho a nuestro país. Así que nuestras palabras de apoyo al Sr. Butler

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)

The United States is delighted with the proposed appointment of Mr James Butler as Deputy Director-General of FAO. Many of you know Mr Butler who led many US Delegations to FAO Council Sessions when he was the Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the US Department of Agriculture. Mr Butler is currently the Deputy Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in Costa Rica and we believe that he will make an extraordinary contribution to FAO.

Again I join with one of my colleagues who made reference that we will have another time perhaps to convey our appreciation to David Harcharik, but since he will continue to serve as Deputy Director-General through the end of this year, we will not take this opportunity to thank him for his outstanding service but we will look forward to working with him over the next six months and then, of course, showering him with acolytes.

I.B. DAGA (Mali)

Le *Curriculum Vitae* qui nous est soumis parle de lui-même, tant la carrière de Monsieur Butler est riche mais plus que cela, je dirais simplement que c'est la confiance placée en lui par le Directeur général qui nous interpelle. Connaissant ce qu'a été et ce qu'est encore Monsieur Harcharik pour nous, jusqu'en fin d'année, je suis certain que le Directeur général ne proposerait pas au Conseil quelqu'un de moins méritant. C'est pourquoi nous faisons pleinement confiance au jugement du Directeur général et nous endossons cette proposition.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

First of all we would like to echo the comments that others have made about the outgoing Deputy Director-General, but also to say that with respect to the appointment of Mr Butler this is a person who is well known to our delegation and to our country's Agriculture Ministry, both in the context of Canada-US bilateral relations on agriculture, some of which involves some disagreements occasionally between our two Ministries and always in the course of those, Mr Butler comported himself with a great deal of integrity and interpersonal skill. We know him as well through our interactions with him on the governing bodies of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture where he also spent a great deal of management skill and we commend the Director General on this appointment.

Bandar Ben Abdel Moshin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to express our support to the appointment of Mr James Butler, as the Deputy Director-General and wish him full success and we would already wish to confirm our full support and promise of complete cooperation at the service of the interests of our Organization and its Member States and we would like to stress as well, the total and complete trust that has been placed in him by the Director-General of FAO and, in this Organization, I would just like to thank Mr Harcharik very well for everything he did so resolutely, down through his years of service, and obviously request that we have another opportunity to extend this wish to him in person.

Habib Hussain Nasser AL ABOUDI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

We too would like to express our full support to the appointment of Mr Butler. He does possess all the qualities and skills needed to successfully expedite his appointed task and we will fully support the work that he shall do in that post, and in addition, he is also a graduate from the

University of Arizona, just like myself, so I cannot really be neutral on that one, and I would like to thank Mr Harcharik very much for what he did.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We have taken a very close look at this excellent curriculum vitae of Mr Butler and we wish full success to him in assuming his functions and we are prepared, willing and able to cooperate with him in pursuing the objectives and aims of this Organization. I take this opportunity to extend our words of thanks to Mr Harcharik for everything that he did down through his years of service in order to pursue the interests of this Organization and Member Nations.

Pinit KORSEIPORN (Thailand)

We trust in the leadership of the Director-General. Thailand therefore endorses the appointment of Mr Butler for the post of Deputy Director-General of FAO.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

On behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, as we were asked not to thank Mr Harcharik at this point of time, may I welcome the appointment of Mr James Butler as new Deputy Director-General to FAO. He will join FAO at a very important time for the Organization; we therefore welcome his certainly fresh visions and wish him all the best for his start at the turn of the year. The European Community is looking forward to work together with him very closely and in trust.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to thank the Council for kindly accepting my proposal to appoint Dr. Butler. I am sure he will be able to make a good team in the service of the Governing Bodies and the Membership of the Organization, and I thank you for your confidence.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

3. REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (ROME, 5-9 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/7) (CONTINUED)

3. RAPPORT DE LA VINGT-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES PÊCHES (ROME, 5-9 MARS 2007) (CL 132/7) (SUITE)

3. INFORME DEL 27º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PESCA (ROMA, 5-9 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/7) (CONTINUACIÓN)

CHAIRPERSON

We now return to our next item which we started this morning, which is the Report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and with this I would like to invite the Ambassador of Sweden, the Vice-chair of the Council, to chair this session of the Council.

Christer Wretborn, Ambassador of Sweden, took the Chair
Christer Wretborn, Ambassadeur de Suède, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Christer Wretborn, Embajador de Suecia

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with the Agenda Item 3, which we already started this morning, The Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We have the speakers' list with the following countries: Malaysia, Cameroon, India, Brazil, European Commission, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Cuba, USA, Canada, China, Indonesia and Mali. Is there any more from the Council who would like to have the floor? If not, then we start with Malaysia

Johari BIN RAMLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia welcomes the document CL 132/7 and would like to thank the Secretariat for this informative report.

Speaking on behalf of the G77 Member Nations, we would like to concur with the Secretariat the social issues in small-scale fisheries. The G77 Member Nations wish to commend COFI at its Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Sessions in recognizing the special importance of small-scale fisheries. I would like to express our greatest appreciation to FAO and donor countries for giving greater attention to this subsector. Mr Chair, after two COFI Sessions it is now timely to seriously consider the establishment of a subsidiary body on small-scale fisheries in this Session. We now need to translate words into actions, at least with the formulation of a well coordinated global work programme to be implemented, specifically on small-scale fisheries that will help in resolving common issues affecting the fishing communities of this subsector.

The G77 Member Nations again echo the proposal of establishing a COFI Sub-Committee on small-scale fisheries, or a specific global programme of work on small-scale fisheries which will look deeply on the plight of small-scale fisheries and to address related thematic global issues that are relevant for developing countries, such as fish trade, fisheries management, information data collection, access of products to international markets, and etc. This Sub-Committee is envisaged to specifically address the issues of small-scale fisheries. In addition, it can even take the task to coordinate any proposed collaborative programme and as such, small-scale fisheries will never be marginalized and will be empowered to participate in decision making. Speaking on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, we noted the wide range of issues being deliberated during the last COFI Meeting. This reflected the importance attached to FAO's work in ensuring that global fisheries resource management is conducted in a sustainable manner through various measures such as the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) combating the IUU fishing and strengthening the role of RFMOs or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Also, at the same time recognizing the ever increasing importance of the aquaculture sector. Moreover, FAO also plays a prominent role in facilitating discussion on fish trade issues.

Malaysia wishes to stress the need for continued technical assistance from FAO to build human capacity of Member Countries in a view to successfully implementing the CCRF, possibly through fish code programmes. Building human capacity through regional fisheries bodies as to ensure that port states can be effective in combating IUU fishing. I request support from FAO on fish-trade issues, particularly in total market development, market access and necessity and quality aspects of fisheries products.

Regarding the conduct of FAO's review on progress on implementation of CCRF, Malaysia is of the view that it should be conducted every two years and has submitted the questionnaire in due course. Building on CCRF, Malaysia has taken effort to translate the document into local language. Malaysia has recently concluded a NPOA on sharks and has entered the final stage to conclude its NPOA on IUU fishing with focus to develop a practical mechanism, and being a port state, to increase country coordination among maritime agencies. Similarly, Malaysia is due to conduct a stakeholder consultation in a bid to conclude its NPOA capacity.

Malaysia appreciates the zero budget growth faced not only by FAO but by many countries, more so by some developing and less developed countries, especially where recent unforeseen disasters occurred. Such incidences will certainly affect small-scale fisheries in developing and less developed countries.

FAO should consider looking into measures of proactively resolving the challenges in small-scale fisheries by finding means on how to alleviate and even to the extent of eliminating poverty in fisheries. There is no better way than by establishing a small sub-committee of small-scale fisheries or specific global work on small-scale fisheries.

FAO should increase its efforts in securing more budgets particularly from donor countries and monitoring payment of annual contributions, failing which, the FAO Programme Committee

could prioritize in accordance with the Member Nations' needs. Malaysia views that the community based resource management built upon the integrated development of coastal fishing community can be further promoted. FAO should enhance its assistance to coastal fishing communities that are often linked to poverty and lack of access to credit facilities, lack of access to land, unskilled workers, and lack of technology innovation. In addition, Malaysia suggests that FAO explore the establishment of a Trust Fund for small-scale fisheries programme which can look into the interests of least developed and developing countries.

Malaysia wishes to commend FAO for its effort in convening the first meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariat in Rome from 12-15 March 2007. At the meeting support was given to the South East Asia Fisheries Development Centre or SEAFDEC to coordinate with other regional fisheries bodies in overseeing small-scale fisheries issues. Flagship issues that were discussed included overcapacity in small-scale fisheries. To this end SEAFDEC and other RFBs will coordinate with FAO on the planned international conference on rights-based approach for small-scale fisheries as proposed by Norway during the last COFI Session. SEAFDEC will also initiate a website for small-scale fisheries compiling works including a list of international and regional meetings related to small-scale fisheries. This will enable more dialogue among RFBs in how they can support their respective member countries better on small-scale fisheries in the next biennium.

On the fish-trade issue, Malaysia wishes to commend the FAO for successfully concluding the signing of the MOU between FAO and CITES. However, Malaysia wishes to share her concern regarding the recommendations on listing commercially exploited aquatic species between FAO and CITES. There is a need for the CITES Secretariat and FAO to work together as closely as possible on this matter. The CITES Secretariat should respect the recommendations made the FAO Expert Advisory Panel since the panel members have been selected from a list of experts of CITES issues. Malaysia would like to call on FAO to seriously reconsider consider the level of budget assigned to the Panel of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Thank you.

Michael Tabong KIMA (Cameroon)

My delegation welcomes the Report that we listened to very eloquently this morning just a few minutes before lunch on the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries which provides us with important information on the progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related international plans of action and strategy, as well as the progress in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the Tsunami in 2004.

We appreciate the work and recommendations arrived at by the Sub-Committees on fish Trade and on Aquaculture which held their second and third Sessions respectively. We endorse fully those recommendations, especially the view that traceability schemes for small-scale fisheries should be compatible with World Trade Organization rules. We welcome the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and we look forward to receiving evaluation reports on the next Conferences of the Parties. We recognize the lead role that FAO plays in the aquaculture sector, whose growing importance, notably in Africa can contribute to food security. We encourage FAO to put aquaculture in top priority in Africa with adequate funding, and we endorse the draft strategy and outline for improving information on status and trends of aquaculture.

Coming back to the issue of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related International Plans of Action and Strategy, we want to stress the importance of information sharing in this area. Countries should be requested to regularly update and make public, information concerning implementation of the Code of Conduct. FAO could work on an appropriate disclosure strategy.

We are concerned about the problem of subsidies in fisheries and we support the engagement of FAO with WTO to carry out an analysis that will allow for a better understanding of the fisheries subsidies issues, with a view to inducing informed negotiations on the matter.

We call for urgent action at local, regional and global levels, to address the issue of overcapacity, which is linked to allocations, overfishing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and which is a threat to sustainable fishing.

Last week, the Eleventh Session of the Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture adopted a multi-year programme of work, including for the fisheries and aquatic genetic resources. Africa has supported that multi-year programme of work and has requested that adequate funding, including regular budget allocations and extra-budgetary funds be secured. We are pleased to reaffirm our support to the programme and our call for funding.

With regard to progress in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in countries affected by the tsunami in 2004, we wish to express our satisfaction on the involvement of FAO and the way it coordinated activities of rehabilitation of livelihoods, but we are concerned about the situation of over-capacity which was created. We support all efforts, including FAO's participation in capacity re-dimensioning.

We support the work on the ecosystem approach to fisheries, including the technical guidelines on social, institutional and economic considerations, standards for the management of deep-sea and fisheries in the high-sea, assessment of current instruments or measures related to marine debris, creation of a global database on vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdictions and biodiversity mapping.

Sanjay VIKRAM SINGH (India)

We welcome the outcome of the deliberations at the Committee on Fisheries. The Committee deliberated on a large number of issues and we extend our broad support to the work of FAO to the matters the Committee has brought to the attention of the Council.

Among these issues, we wish to comment, in particular on the following items.

As regards moratorium on high seas bottom trawling, we are of the view that this needs to be stopped for preserving marine diversity. At the same time, we feel that an abrupt moratorium on high sea bottom trawling can throw up fresh problems in its wake and should, therefore, be implemented in a phased manner. We are also of the view that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations may not be able to effectively monitor such a moratorium.

Finally, we welcome the initiative taken by FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to prepare draft technical guidelines, including standards for the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

We would like to thank ADG Nomura for the presentation of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We fully agree with him that this year's Session was particularly productive and positive and Brazil can very much go along with the Committee's decisions and recommendations.

We agree that FAO should strengthen its international leadership as the main global fisheries body. The Organization should continue to integrate, without duplicating, the debate across the various fora dealing with fisheries and aquaculture, such as the WTO, the CBD and, of course, the UN General Assembly.

Brazil places particular importance on the following issues: (i) aquaculture development, particularly work towards the establishment of an aquaculture network in the Americas; (ii) cooperation with the WTO on the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies and assistance in the implementation of future fisheries subsidies discipline; (iii) management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas and we must recognize that Brazil together with India have pretty much taken a lead role on this issue and we shall continue to work together; (iv) combating IUU fishing and in that respect, the urgent need to develop strong port state measures.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to thank FAO for the technical assistance it has provided to Brazil, especially in the fields of institutional development and aquaculture; we certainly appreciate that.

On the question of small-scale fisheries and the strengthening of FAO's works in this area, Brazil aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the management of small-scale fisheries is a cross-cutting issue, which should be integrated at all levels of FAO's work in fisheries.

Finally, Brazil would like to highlight a decision by COFI regarding sources and utilization of extra-budgetary resources. The Committee has recommended, as a matter of course, detailed analysis on sources and uses of extra-budgetary funds to be provided at each Session. Similar decisions were taken by other thematic Committees which met during the current semester, such as COFO and COAG. Brazil supports the decision and wishes the Council to endorse it as a general practice.

In this context, my delegation would like to reiterate its concern for the increasing proportion of extra-budgetary funding in support of major activities of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and of the Organization in general. Although we clearly understand the importance of non-regular programme funding, we are convinced that the present situation is a risky departure from the multilateral nature of this Organization. The measures requested by COFI and other major Committees, regarding the provision of more detailed reporting on extra-budgetary resources, will certainly increase transparency and accountability and should be welcomed by all.

Renaud-François MOULINIER (European Community)

I speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Community is satisfied with the results of COFI, which largely met its objectives.

We welcome the large and active participation of FAO Members and the important decisions taken. The Community would like to highlight the recommendations to undertake further work to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and confirming the UN recommendations on deep sea fishing.

More particularly, the Community wishes to stress that the creation of an effective international instrument for port State control and the setting up of a register to facilitate the monitoring of vessels involved in IUU fishing will represent crucial steps in the international efforts developed to stop IUU fishing.

As concerns the environmental impact of deep sea fishing, the European Community supports the decision to convene an Expert Consultation to prepare draft technical guidelines to ensure the follow up of the UN Resolution, itself followed by a Technical Consultation. The Community wishes to be involved in the work of FAO on this issue.

The support given by the international community for the tasks mentioned above validates the Community's own strategy as one which can bring states together and as such achieve real progress in ensuring concerted action in these crucial areas.

Finally, I would also like to express our support to other important decisions adopted by COFI, such as the organization of the Technical Consultation on Responsible Fish Trade and to further work in relation to the minimum substantive requirements and criteria for inland capture fisheries ecolabels.

Hiromori KUROKI (Japan)

We support the Report of the Twenty-seven Session of the Committee on Fisheries, especially in this Committee it was agreed that FAO would develop technical guidelines including standards for the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas in accordance with Japan's proposal.

We would like to express gratitude for the Member Nations which supported it.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

My delegation would like to join the previous speakers of G-77 in supporting the intervention made by Malaysia who was speaking on behalf of G-77 to call for FAO's strong support in small-scale fisheries by establishing the Sub-Committee on this sub sector. It is noted that most small-scale fisherman are in developing countries and earn their income only from catching fish. The aim of the Sub-Committee would include measures on safety at sea, in order to reduce the risk of small-scale fisherman.

In addition, my delegation would like to support the convening of an international conference focusing on small-scale fisheries as proposed by Norway.

Due to the global concern of climate change and global warming, which have impacts on ecosystems in coastal areas, Thailand would like to urge FAO to pay special attention to the issue and to allocate more resources for the incoming biennium.

Another issue that my delegation would like to highlight is the standard and certification system of the aquaculture farms and products. At present, small-scale farmers of exporting countries have a burden to pay high fees for aquaculture certification. Thailand is of the view that FAO could play a vital role in organizing expert consultations on certification systems for fisheries in order to avoid unilateral measures imposed by importing countries. These measures will not promote fish trade in the market. On the contrary, these measures become barriers to fish trade. Therefore, Thailand welcomes to further discuss the details of aquaculture certification with FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia supports the adoption of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Committee on Fisheries which makes recommendations on a number of significant issues.

Australia supports the range of measures identified to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, particularly the recommendation that FAO convene an Expert Consultation to further develop the concept of a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels. In this regard, Australia will be making a contribution to convene the Expert Consultation.

Further, Australia would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and we endorse the Committee's request that FAO continue its work on key RFMO issues.

Australia also supports the Committee's recommendation that FAO convene an Expert Consultation to draft technical guidelines in relation to the management of deep sea fisheries and views FAO as well placed to take a leadership role on this matter.

With regard to small-scale fisheries, we note that the COFI Report points to the importance small-scale fisheries and that FAO is continuing its work in this area. However, Members of COFI did not provide unanimous support to the establishment of a separate sub-committee on small-scale fisheries.

Our delegation also believes that it would be premature to create new structures at this stage pending the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación de Cuba agradece la presentación del informe del Comité de Pesca, y apoyamos de forma general su aprobación, haciendo los siguientes comentarios: nuestro país reafirma el papel importante de la pesca en la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo. Es necesario recordar, que alrededor de 40 millones de pescadores y piscicultores en el mundo, se ganan la vida con la pesca de captura y la acuicultura y que ésta proporciona alrededor del 16 por ciento de las proteínas animales consumidas.

Sobre las propuestas realizadas en este informe, Cuba considera que la FAO debe continuar colaborando activamente con la OMC en las cuestiones relacionadas con las subvenciones a la

pesca y sus repercusiones en los países subdesarrollados, sin que esto signifique la duplicación de las funciones de la OMC. Este es un aspecto de mucha importancia, si tenemos en cuenta que según estudios de la FAO, para algunos países subdesarrollados las exportaciones pesqueras, superan en ingresos a varios productos básicos principales como el café, los plátanos y el caucho.

Una de las recomendaciones importantes de este informe se refiere a la elaboración de directrices técnicas para el comercio pesquero. Sin embargo, también es necesario, que este Consejo se pronuncie, en el sentido de que ninguna de estas directrices u otro tipo de instrumento, se conviertan en nuevas barreras técnicas para el comercio de estos productos. De igual forma, la FAO, dentro de las posibilidades que ofrece su situación financiera actual, debería prestar mayor cooperación y ayuda técnica a los países en desarrollo, para enfrentar las negociaciones con la OMC en temas de pesca, así como para las cuestiones vinculadas al desarrollo del sector acuícola.

Apoyamos plenamente las propuestas referidas a desarrollar actividades de prevención de catástrofes, las medidas de mitigación para reducir la vulnerabilidad de las comunidades pesqueras, así como apoyamos los análisis que deben realizarse acerca de las formas en que el sector pesquero puede adaptarse al cambio climático.

Por último, una de las prioridades planteadas por el Comité de Pesca y con la cual Cuba está totalmente de acuerdo, se refiere al apoyo del desarrollo de la acuicultura en África, estableciendo un programa especial con fondo de presupuesto ordinario y extrapresupuestario, destinado a prestar asistencia a estos países sobre la base de sus prioridades y el intercambio de experiencias por medio de la cooperación sur/sur. Cuba está dispuesta a cooperar en este sector con los países de África y otros que lo necesiten.

Willem BRAKEL (United States of America)

The United States of America welcomes the Report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Committee on Fisheries. We comment here on some of the key issues for future action that arise from the Report. We encourage FAO to vigorously articulate and lead implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries as called for in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Through this implementation the FAO could recapture its leadership of the sustainable fisheries debate.

We encourage Members to implement the FAO IPOAs (International Plans of Action) to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds and urge RFMOs and RFBs, that is regional fisheries management organizations and regional fisheries bodies to adopt binding conservation and management measures requiring specific mitigation techniques and data reporting.

We also encourage, we urge Members to collect and share species specific trade and scientific data on sharks and shark products as well as to urgently implement the FAO IPOA on sharks and we urge RFMOs and RFBs to adopt binding measures and prepare stock assessments.

We further urge Members to strengthen the enforcement of bans on shark finning that many RFMOs and RFBs have now adopted.

We urge Members to address threats to sea turtles, particularly the effects of incidental capture in fisheries. We strongly support the FAO guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations and urge their immediate implementation by States and RFMOs and RFBs. We also urge the adoption of binding measures requiring a specific mitigation techniques and data reporting.

Overcapacity in many domestic and international fisheries seriously undermines efforts to sustainably manage fish stocks. We encourage improvement in the management of fishing capacity through full implementation of the FAO IPOA on the management of fishing capacity and through development in implementation of capacity management plans.

With regard to IUU fishing, the United States strongly supports the FAO model scheme on port State measures to combat IUU fishing and urges its full implementation at national and regional levels. We are pleased with the decision to start negotiations on a new legally-binding global

agreement on minimum port State controls to combat IUU Fishing as this promises to affect the economics of IUU Fishing by raising the risks and costs of such activities.

We look forward to hosting the first Expert Consultation for this initiative in September of this year.

We also recognize at the value of creating a global record of all fishing vessels including transport and supply ships within the FAO.

We support further work on this issue such as through the FAO-IMO joint working group on IUU Fishing.

Fisheries management is severely constrained by lack of or incomplete data on stock status and trends. FAO has a vital role to play as the global center for fisheries data collection. We encourage FAO to consider the coordinating working party on fisheries statistics recommendation, that FAO should consolidate the catch data of RFMOs and RFBs into a single database.

With regard to deep sea fishing, we call upon Members to implement fully the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105 and adopt appropriate conservation and management measures to address destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling that has adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

We are gratified by the decision to develop technical guidelines for the management of deep sea fisheries on the high seas. We look forward to participating actively in this process.

We remain concerned about marine debris given its impact on sensitive marine ecosystems and fisheries. We encourage Member Nations and RFMOs and RFBs to adopt measures to address this problem. We also stress the importance of FAO's technical capabilities in this issue and encourage further work by FAO, including by consulting with the IMO.

Finally, we emphasize the importance of conducting transparent performance reviews of RFMOs and RFBs, and urge Members to pursue such activities in those RFMOs and RFBs in which they participate as a matter of priority.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada supports the Report of the Committee on Fisheries and we make the following specific comments.

With respect to progress in implementation of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, Canada believes that FAO needs to adopt an ever stronger voice on global fisheries and ocean governance issues, integrating the work and recommendations coming out of various other fora in order to help the global fisheries community address new and ongoing challenges.

Canada generally supports proposals to strengthen the accelerated implementation of international plans of action through guidelines or other means. We also encourage broader implementation of the Code of Conduct, including the international plans of action, as called for numerous times by the FAO and again during the CITES Conference of the Parties just recently, especially in relation to sharks. States should demonstrate definitive progress in implementing globally agreed fisheries management policies and tools. As such, FAO needs to take the lead in helping States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to meet UNGA obligations. We continue to be concerned that CITES is moving beyond its own listing criteria of significant effects by trade and urge continued cooperation under the MOU.

On combating illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, we agree with COFI results. However, Canada would like to note that agenda timeframe should be adhered to stringently in order to allow for full discussion on the many complex issues raised under this item, including port State control, flag State control, monitoring control and surveillance network, among others.

Canada also supports aggressive follow-up work on ecosystem-based management in support of commitments made in the 2006 UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution, including expert and

Technical Consultations on guidelines for deep-sea fisheries to be completed before the end of 2008, biodiversity mapping and creation of a global database in the FAO on vulnerable marine ecosystems on the high seas in cooperation with other relevant organizations.

With respect to strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, Canada would like to highlight the achievement of a broad buy-in for soon-to-be completed work on a model Regional Fisheries Management Organization. The report, which is being prepared by Chatham House, will be published at the end of June.

Finally, with respect to FAO's Programme of Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Canada and like-minded countries do not want to see the creation of a sub-committee on small scale fisheries as conservation and management tools are horizontal issues that need to be applied to both industrial and small-scale fisheries. As such, debate is best served in an integrated way in COFI.

We would also like to again express our concerns that it has been extremely difficult to predict the actual work that would be taking place after FAO Council and Conference decisions on budgets due to lack of transparency on upcoming work programmes.

Finally, Canada is looking forward to reviewing the upcoming results of the Independent External Evaluation in the context of the Fisheries Programme.

Luo MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing this Report. The Chinese Delegation supports the Committee on Fisheries to promote the effect of the social role of fisheries to put stress on the health of people. We believe that the technical support from FAO should be on the motto of aquaculture promoting the health of people and help all countries to improve the protection and development of aquaculture.

Concretely, we can think about promotion and organization of eco-system aquaculture and training in the technical techniques of this aquaculture and help countries to improve the tests and surveillance of aquaculture. Then, China would like to make its contribution to the South-South Cooperation and we can have different approaches to train technicians so we can promote advanced technologies and develop aquaculture and take logical and rational measures to improve the management and to promote techniques of transformation of fish products.

We support the Council to approve the Report of the Committee on Fisheries.

Gellwyn JUSUF (Indonesia)

Indonesia supports the Report of the Committee of Fisheries.

Regarding the need to address issues of small scale fisheries as mentioned during the Twenty-seventh Session of Committee on Fisheries, Indonesia seconds the Malaysian delegation statement which was made on behalf of the G-77 countries especially on the need for FAO to enhance its support for the small-scale fisheries by providing more capacity-building programmes and activities as well as broaden its support for provision of technical assistance.

In line with recommendations and decisions from the sub-committee on trade, two important issues have to be considered, which are CITES and international trade on fisheries products, where the ad hoc Advisory Panel Sub-Committee on Fish Trade should assist to review the species proposal included in the CITES list.

Indonesia expects that traceability and labelling will not be implemented on fishery products which are produced by mainly small-scale fishers and come from multi-species.

On the matters of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) issues, I would like to inform that on 4 May 2007, a ministerial meeting of thirteen countries was held in Indonesia. The meeting agreed on the common and collaborative approach to promote responsible fishing practices to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the region, particularly in the South China Sea, Sulawesi Sea and Arafura-Timor Seas.

With respect to the existence of a sovereignty dispute in the particular area, the meeting expressed concern over growing incidents of IUU Fishing. As a result, the ministerial meeting developed a regional plan of action as part of a global plan on the international plan of action to deal effectively with the forms of IUU Fishing.

This ministerial meeting considered a concrete action through a regional plan of action in the region which is a regional commitment to conserve and manage fisheries resources and the environment in the areas. The meeting further agreed to encourage regional and multilateral organizations such as FAO, Asia Pacific Fisheries Commissions, and IOTC etc. in continuing to support and participate through providing expertise and technical capacity in order to take necessary steps to implement conservation and management measures in the region.

I would like to appreciate the tri-lateral partnership which was initiated by the Netherlands Government together with Indonesia and Malaysia to improve market access for agricultural products such as palm oil, shrimp and tropical fruits into the global market and, in particular, to the European Market. The three lateral partnership initiative projects which have been proposed as collaborative efforts by government, private partners and seafood society organizations to implement good agricultural practices in line with international standards. In the case of shrimp products the partnership activities cover not only safety and quality aspects of the product and production, which are required by developed countries, but also social and environmental issues related to the production process.

For the next programme of work to be discussed by FAO, Indonesia would like to urge the need for FAO to provide technical advice and assistance on that shown in the tri-lateral partnership in improving market access for small scale fisheries from developing countries such as Indonesia.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Le Mali est un pays continental, sans aucun accès à la mer, pays de tradition d'élevage surtout mais aussi paradoxalement un grand pays de pêche, mais de pêche continentale. C'est pourquoi nous avons suivi avec une très grande attention les travaux du Comité des pêches qui se sont déroulés ici du 5 au 9 mars 2007. Nous voulons donner notre pleine adhésion au rapport qui nous est soumis dans la mesure où il retranscrit effectivement tous les débats qui ont eu lieu à cette époque. Nous partageons l'avis selon lequel les progrès accomplis, dans la mise en œuvre du code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et de la stratégie du plan d'action internationale connexe, par les États Membres doivent être consolidés et renforcés pour la préservation et l'exploitation rationnelle de cette richesse pour la sécurité alimentaire et aussi la lutte contre la pauvreté que constituent les produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture.

Nous partageons la conviction que la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, reste une menace grave pour la durabilité de la pêche, la préservation des ressources génétiques dans le domaine des pêches et de l'aquaculture. Elle doit être combattue par tous les moyens, notamment l'application stricte des mesures, plans et stratégies internationales déjà approuvés. La FAO doit poursuivre ses travaux pour les questions en complément bien sûr avec l'OMC, pour les questions de subventions, qui ici comme ailleurs, sont de nature à fausser les règles du jeu et pourraient contribuer à brève échéance, à faire peser des menaces sur le développement durable des pêches et de l'aquaculture. Monsieur le Président, le Tsunami, parce qu'il fut vécu et ressenti comme une catastrophe mondiale malgré sa localisation aux pays d'Asie du sud-est, appelle encore de notre part une solidarité sans faille avec les pays touchés. C'est pourquoi la remise en état et la reconstitution des moyens d'existence dans le secteur des pêches et de l'aquaculture des pays victimes de ce tsunami doivent faire l'objet de la part de la FAO d'un suivi et de rapports réguliers sur les activités menées.

Par rapport à la traçabilité pour les pêches artisanales nous voudrions insister sur le renforcement des capacités des pays en vue de leur permettre de faire appliquer les mécanismes compatibles avec ceux de l'OMC. Les pays en développement, particulièrement d'Afrique, devraient bénéficier ainsi d'une attention accrue dans ce cadre.

Nous faisons nôtres les décisions et recommandations de la troisième session du Sous-Comité de l'aquaculture du Comité des pêches. Nous nous réjouissons de voir le Département des pêches rebaptisé Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture, bien sûr avec un contenu plus conséquent. Par rapport à l'affectation du budget au département, en vue d'augmenter les ressources allouées aux activités liées à l'aquaculture, que nous approuvons, nous estimons cependant que la question doit faire l'objet d'une prise en compte et d'un examen global en fonction des priorités fixées à l'Organisation prenant en compte les programmes d'activités de tous les secteurs. Chaque secteur estimant mériter la priorité et plus d'attention, comme nous le verrons d'ailleurs quand nous examinerons les autres comités, la question pose non seulement la question de la fixation des priorités pour les secteurs d'activité, mais aussi et surtout celle de l'affectation des ressources budgétaires conséquentes, nous disons bien conséquentes, à la FAO au titre du budget ordinaire. Nous partageons les considérations d'ordre social concernant la pêche artisanale. Nous voulons partager la proposition de la Norvège à ce que la FAO envisage l'organisation d'une conférence internationale de grande envergure consacrée spécifiquement à la pêche artisanale. Les ressources de la FAO étant toutefois limitées, comme nous le savons tous, il conviendrait que les donateurs expriment au plus vite leur volonté à soutenir l'idée de cette conférence. Nous sommes d'ores et déjà convaincus que les bonnes volontés ne manqueront pas pour ce faire.

Les considérations liées à la mise en œuvre de l'approche éco-systémique des pêches sont évoquées largement dans ce document du paragraphe 73 au paragraphe 82. Le paragraphe 82 porte sur la cartographie et la biodiversité dans la mise en œuvre de l'approche. Notre délégation voudrait que le Secrétariat nous édifie par rapport à la prise en compte de la pêche continentale dans la mise en œuvre de cette approche et de la cartographie de la biodiversité.

Par rapport aux questions diverses et s'agissant de la participation des ONG au Comité des pêches, nous voulons souligner notre accord de principe pour la participation des ONG et le dialogue avec les membres. Toutefois, nous souhaiterions des éclaircissements par rapport au processus juste et équitable visant à promouvoir ce dialogue. Car il doit rester entendu, si les ONG sont invitées et peuvent participer au dialogue avec les membres, il reste entendu aussi, jusqu'à ce jour, que toute prise de décision restera du seul ressort des Membres du Comité, du moins jusqu'à votre décision.

José Emilio SUADI HASBÚN (El Salvador)

Aprovecho la ocasión para comentarles que en Centroamérica todos los temas relativos a la pesca los estamos manejando a nivel regional. Somos siete países, desde Belice a Panamá, donde los vice-ministros y los directores de pesca nos reunimos de dos a cuatro veces por año para decidir medidas de políticas y proyectos conjuntos, así como en algunas tomas de decisiones para ordenar la pesca a nivel regional. Como por ejemplo la veda del camarón, en la que en varios países de la región declaramos la veda al mismo tiempo, teniendo así un mayor impacto.

Quería también comentarles que otras medidas es de lograr incorporar en nuestras legislaciones la aplicación del Código de Conducta Responsable, lo menciono aquí especialmente, porque algunos países de la región querían saber cuales son los avances en este tema, en algunos países de la región ya lo estamos aplicando y en otros lo están incorporando.

Sentimos que en este informe se tocan temas muy importantes, nosotros también nos unimos a la aprobación de este, tal vez quisiéramos recomendar que seria importante además del tema sobre el Cambio Climático, tomar en consideración el efecto de la actividad humana en la tierra y de como este afecta negativamente el tema pesquero. Se podrían incorporar en los próximos análisis temas como el impacto de la tala de los bosques, la agricultura y la contaminación en el tema pesquero; sentimos que este se ha tratado pero ha sido de una manera bastante tímida y obviamente en esta materia la FAO tiene mucha experiencia ya que tiene los recursos humanos en otros Departamentos que podrían de alguna manera apoyarlo.

Por ultimo, sentimos que como un Organización neutral y técnica se debería estar atentos a aquellas medidas que podrían ser barreras para el comercio y de alguna manera, ser mediadores para lograr un mejor desempeño en el acceso a los mercados y beneficiar así a los pescadores del mundo en el marco de una pesca sostenible de los recursos pesqueros; y también, dada la

importancia de este tema, si creemos y nos unimos en relación al presupuesto, deberíamos ver como buscar un mayor presupuesto para el tema pesquero, obviamente sabemos que es difícil y que los presupuestos cada vez están más limitados pero creemos que se debería de hacer este esfuerzo.

Mohamed AITMID (Maroc)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Secrétariat pour le document qui nous est présenté. La délégation du Royaume du Maroc marque son adhésion à son contenu et appuie par la même occasion la déclaration faite par la Malaisie au nom du Groupe des 77, notamment pour ce qui est de l'importance de la pêche artisanale, de par sa contribution à la sécurité alimentaire. En effet cette contribution est directe, compte tenu du fait qu'elle cible des espèces de poissons riches en protéine animale et d'autres valeurs nutritionnelles. Elle est également indirecte puisqu'une partie des captures, exemple de poissons blancs et poulpes, sont valorisées avant exportation, créant des emplois à terre et contribuent à la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, des personnes employées. A notre sens la FAO devrait aider à encadrer efficacement la pêche artisanale pour mieux valoriser la ressource en accordant aux pays en développement, l'appui institutionnel et technique nécessaires, ce qui peut se décliner en octroi des micro-crédits, développement des infrastructures pour désenclaver les zones de pêches artisanales, fournitures des installations de production de glace et autres intrants, pour une meilleure conservation des produits.

Mohamed EL TAYED EL-FAKI (Sudan)

Sudan supports the statement made by the Representative of the G-77 and also the statement made by the Africa Group representative. We support the contents of the report. It is a true reflection of the deliberations and debates undertaken in the Committee in its last Session. Allow me to highlight a number of points. The growing importance of aquaculture and its development, in particular, in Africa, so that the Africa Region catches up with the others. There is growing interest in small-scale fisheries and we would like to highlight the importance of having a specific programme for small-scale fisheries, the Organization's provision of technical assistance and advice with a view to improving the access by small-scale fishery products to the markets of the developed countries. As to the eco-labelling, it is important to organize a technical consultation with a view to putting a simple plan to follow-up the small-scale fisheries activity, especially in the developing countries.

Jean de Dieu MUTABIZI (Burundi)

C'est à mon tour, au nom du Burundi, de remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du rapport qui vient d'être présenté, et recommande encore une fois son adoption. Le Burundi apprécie le rôle qui a été joué par la FAO dans le secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture et l'encourage à redoubler d'efforts pour aider au développement du secteur de la pêche artisanale qui contribue de manière substantielle à l'accroissement des ressources financières des populations pauvres, et à l'amélioration de la qualité de leur alimentation par un apport important de protéines. Dans sa politique d'intégration économique et politique dans les ensembles régionaux, le Burundi se félicite du choix qui s'est porté sur lui pour abriter le siège du Secrétariat de l'autorité du lac Tanganika, qui regroupe, en plus du Burundi, la RDC, la République-Unie de Tanzanie ainsi que la Zambie. La FAO a joué un rôle important dans l'organisation des travaux de cette Organisation sous-régionale et le Burundi serait très heureux de voir la FAO continuer à appuyer cette initiative sous-régionale de manière visible en apportant son expertise.

Carlos AMARAL (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'accorder la parole; je serai bref. Seulement pour souligner la recommandation du haut comité de pêches d'accorder une priorité élevée au développement de l'aquaculture en Afrique et d'établir un programme spécial bénéficiant des fonds budgétaires et extra budgétaires qu'apporterait une assistance spécifique aux pays africains en matière d'accès aux services financiers aux marchés, distribuer des investissements dans le domaine de l'aquaculture, l'échange de connaissances et la confrontation d'expériences, en particulier dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud.

Ma délégation souhaite que cette recommandation puisse figurer dans le rapport final du Conseil et que le Département des pêches accorde la priorité et le budget nécessaires. Les exportations du poisson sont importantes pour l'économie des pays en développement; nous rappelons que 50 pourcent des produits commercialisés dans le marché international proviennent de ces pays. La FAO devra poursuivre les activités d'assistance technique et de renforcement des capacités afin d'améliorer leur accès au marché et la qualité et la sécurité sanitaire des produits de la pêche. Toutefois, ma délégation propose que le Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson du Comité des pêches, dans sa prochaine session, analyse également les questions concernant la commercialisation interne du poisson dans les pays en développement en termes d'organisation, de stockage, de distribution et des infrastructures afin d'améliorer la qualité des produits commercialisés dans ces marchés et contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous encourageons le Département des pêches à continuer à élaborer des directives techniques qui sont en général de grande utilité pour l'application du Code et pour une conduite de pêche responsable et à faire des efforts pour introduire dans les différentes langues nationales afin de rendre possible une plus large divulgation. Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie le rapport du Département des pêches et est d'accord sur la réalisation de la Conférence internationale pour la pêche internationale.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I will try not to dwell on many things that you have just referred to, because most of the issues you referred to were included in the Report or my introductory statement, but let me very briefly summarize a couple of very outstanding things that you wanted to highlight, without prejudice to the Report itself.

Firstly, you do affirm our need for international leadership as the only global fisheries body and we completely agree. There are many other fora that do not necessarily have fisheries expertise but try to deal with fisheries, with good reason. We cannot prohibit them from doing that, but we were told very strongly by COFI that we should take the lead and we are going to do that.

We appreciate very much your support for what we are going to do, for example, with various issues which were proposed by the UN General Assembly, including deep sea fishery where we agreed on a course of action for the development of technical guidelines through expert consultation and technical consultation, biodiversity, mapping, global listing of fishing vessels. They are all requested by the General Assembly to FAO. We could not take on those issues so easily because we have different governing bodies, but our governing body, COFI and you endorsed it, so we are very pleased with that; it is very important that we do that, instead of being sidetracked by those other fora.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and international plans of action for four themes and status of trend of information improvement, are all key important issues we have to undertake. IUU Fishing and combating it continues to be the major challenge, including the new task imposed on us for a legally-binding agreement exercise on Port States Measures.

No one questioned the importance of small-scale fisheries, but I will come back on that, because how to do it, we have a different view but there is no reservation for worldwide conduct.

Eco-system to fisheries management continues to be our main task and priority, and overall we receive many requests for information, as well as indications of expected results.

Now I would like to go back to some specific points for which you probably need clarification from our side. Regarding small-scale fisheries, paragraph 61 gives two options: the establishment of a Subsidiary Body under COFI, such as the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and Sub-Committee on Fisheries. Let us make another Sub-Committee on Small-scale Fisheries as was expressed by Australia and Canada. Unfortunately not only in COFI but also here we did not get unreserved support for that, so at this time it is premature for us to aim at the establishment of that Sub-Committee by the Secretariat. However, another option which nobody challenged and I think everybody agreed on is the establishment of a Special Programme for Small-Scale Fisheries,

funded by extra-budgetary funds and, in that connection we are convinced that the Southeast Fishery Development Centre has adopted way in consultation with other regional fishery bodies and we are very much looking forward to collaborating with that initiative, including the proposal by Norway to have a Global Meeting Forecasting on Small-Scale Fishery. At this time, this is a way forward that we are looking at.

Several delegations voiced the concern about our work and our recommendation *vis-à-vis* the listing proposal by CITES. According to the instruction by the Committee on Fisheries, before the CITES Conference of the Parties, which just finished last week, but in May we had a one-week full-fledged Expert Consultation for which the terms of reference had been agreed in 2003 COFI, and we picked up experts worldwide. Experts dealt with seven proposals which we are going to put forward to the Conference of the Parties of CITES, and we were very proud of this work. It was sent to your members as well as CITES members through the CITES Secretariat. At one point, we started to have concerns because the CITES Secretariat had different views. The CITES Secretariat, under the Convention of Obligation, had to put forward their view. Of course, they are not obliged to follow our recommendation, but we are not happy, not because they differ with us, but because of the way they differ with us. We thought that our expert analysis is more robust scientifically speaking, but the CITES Secretariat did not follow our recommendation. They only agreed to two out of seven points, so as you can imagine, that was a source of concern because we spent a lot of money and a lot of human resources.

In the end, last week I was told informally that the CITES process, not the Secretariat but the CITES voting, resulted in compliance with our recommendations in all seven, so in the end we are happy, but we would like to discuss the more, why it happened that way, and the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, next year, will discuss it further in accordance with the instruction.

The Ambassador from Mali raised some questions about our association with NGOs. We have had traditionally a very open policy for NGO participants. As I said in the opening, there are sixty-one intergovernmental and non-intergovernmental organizations that attended COFI, so that tells how much they are interested, and it is a good sign. That is why, as a matter of general policy, of the Organization as well as the COFI policy, we have had an open policy. So far, it has worked well. However, since so many NGOs wanted to speak at the last COFI, the Chairperson had to rule a certain time or a certain space for NGO interventions which made some NGOs and delegations in COFI unhappy. That is the way that phrase was inserted in the Committee on Fisheries.

We would like to improve the way of handling the issue, of course, without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Member Nations, as the Ambassador of Mali stated, with whom we completely agree, to identify a better way for us to hear NGO views. So this is our task.

With regard to the particular solution from Angola about the particular subject for the next Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in terms of marketing issues, I am not sure if it fits the agenda of the Sub-Committee or if it can be better dealt with through our assistance programme in that country. But we can exchange views with the Representative of Angola on how we should approach that.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for understanding about the need for more resources for the Regular Programme funds for the Fisheries and Department. I completely agree with you that core activities basically should be dealt with by the regular budget, particularly for statistical or monitoring fishery resources because of the need for continuity, the need for maintenance of quality work and, more importantly, the need to be seen as neutral. Unfortunately, those core continuing issues are not issues which necessarily attract donors. Usually donors' attention is on more hot issues, emerging issues, so we have to have a balance. In reality, there is no possibility for us to continue on whatever normative or field activity, but core activity, without help of increased extra-budgetary funding. It is not practical.

What is very important is that you feel happy, that is important, so we are very cautious that whenever we take on a major activity using extra-budgetary funds, we try to make a detailed

record in the COFI Report. So far, we are not so bad at that. There should be some more improvement regarding the requested data, and that is one aspect of more transparency or more detailed data, where and how much we use extra-budgetary funding for a particular purpose. We will try to live up to your expectations. Please do be assured that we are very convinced of your concern about the way the extra-budgetary resources are being used, which we cannot do without, so that you know where and how they will be used.

CHAIRPERSON

Having heard what Mr Nomura has said, I ask you if there are any questions, comments or remarks from the floor?

If not, thank you Mr Nomura and I take it that the Council endorses the Report and that will conclude Item 3 on the Agenda.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Before we move to the next point on the Agenda, I would like to propose a small change in the Timetable for tomorrow. Given that Ambassador Perri, Chair of the IEE Council Committee has pressing engagements as presiding Council in London on Wednesday, I suggest that we take Item 14 the Independent External Evaluation of FAO at 14.30 hours tomorrow afternoon. Does the Council agree to this proposal? No objections? So decided.

4. REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (ROME, 13-16 MARCH 2007) (CL 132/8)

4. RAPPORT DE LA DIX-HUITIEME SESSION DU COMITE DES FORETS (ROME, 13-16 MARS 2007) (CL 132/8)

4. INFORME DEL 18° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE MONTES (ROMA, 13-16 DE MARZO DE 2007) (CL 132/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now go to Item 4 the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry. Please ensure that you have the document CL 132/8 before you. I should like to ask Mr Jan Heino, the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department to introduce the Item. Mr Heino, you have the floor.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

The Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry was highly successful with more than 600 participants representing 128 countries and 34 Organizations. All major recommendations of COFO are summarized on page 1 of the relevant Council document that our Chair just referred to.

I would like to highlight just a few of these recommendations, actually six of them, for your consideration.

Firstly, COFO asked FAO to continue to its work to bridge the gap between policies agreed at the global level and action on the ground. We feel that this is our greatest comparative advantage in Forestry. We have developed very efficient mechanisms for doing this, including the National Forest Programme Facility, National Forest Assessments and strengthening the Regional Forestry Commissions, to mention a few of the major ones.

Secondly, COFO asked FAO to lead the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and Fire Management and Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Management of Planted Forests. We were requested to finalize the Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation on Fire Management. We are including this important work in our planning for the next biennium.

Thirdly, COFO made a number of recommendations related to bioenergy. To be able to respond to these requests the Forestry Department works together with all the natural resources

departments. Additionally, the inter-departmental ongoing work in FAO was actually explained to you in the morning by Margarita Flores, Secretary of the Commodity on Food Security in her response, so I am not repeating that. The Committee requested, on specific forestry issues, that FAO assist Members to develop integrated bioenergy strategies, including wood energy, and to support Members in updating national information with respect to their energy balances and potentials. Let me also inform delegates that it is the Director-General's intention to convene a Special Event on Forests and Energy during the FAO Conference in November.

Fourth, COFO stressed the importance of FAO's collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Fifth, FAO was asked to begin work on the 2010 Global Forest Resources Assessment which promises to be the most comprehensive assessment of the world's forests, ever carried out.

Finally, sixth, the Committee welcomed a review of FAO's Strategic Plan for Forestry to be undertaken in a broad consultative process.

This Session of COFO continued to introduce innovations which helped to make COFO a more dynamic and effective forum. In particular, with the consensus support of Member Nations, we established a COFO Steering Committee which included the Chairs of the Six Regional Forestry Commissions. The Steering Committee was actively involved in the day-to-day management of COFO with each region having an opportunity to chair at least one Plenary Session. Delegates agreed that this was a very effective approach and we plan to involve the COFO Steering Committee in planning the next Session of COFO from the early stages, including the development of the Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will open the list of speakers. Who would like to have the floor?

I have a list starting with Japan, Cuba, Malaysia, Brazil, India, Germany, USA, Bolivia and Thailand. Is there anyone else who would like to have the floor? The interpreters would like to have any prepared statements. It is much easier for them to interpret texts. For those of you who have not delivered your prepared statements to the interpreters, please do so.

We start with Japan. Japan you have the floor.

Hiromori KUROKI (Japan)

We support the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry. In the recent Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forestry, the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests were adapted. Japan would like to stress that the collaborative partnership on forests should play an important role in order for the international society to implement its commitment including the four Global Objectives on Forests. In particular, Japan expects FAO as a leading agency of the partnership to make an active contribution to this initiative.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La Delegación Cubana agradece la presentación del Informe del Comité de Bosques y apoya su aprobación. Consideramos que una de las recomendaciones más importantes contenidas en éste y a la cual debemos prestar la mayor prioridad, se refiere al reforzamiento del apoyo a los países miembros para hacer frente a la creciente amenaza de los sistemas y de los eco-sistemas forestales, como consecuencia de los incendios forestales, plagas y especies invasoras. En esta misión la FAO cuenta con los análisis y el papel que pueden jugar las Comisiones Forestales Regionales para las cuales deberían instrumentarse mecanismos que permitan su fortalecimiento.

Es nuestro interés llamar la atención acerca de la reducción presupuestaria para el Departamento Forestal. Es obvio que con estas condiciones no será posible fortalecer para el futuro estas actividades importantes.

El Comité de Bosques también abordó el tema de la producción de bio-combustibles. Nuestra Delegación llama la atención acerca del uso de los bosques, como fuente para la producción

masiva de energía, teniendo en cuenta que este uso no sostenible puede incrementar el problema ya grave de la deforestación, con consecuencias negativas para el medio ambiente y acelerando el cambio climático.

Como ha sido solicitado por muchos Miembros, en el análisis de otros informes se hace necesario que en este tema, la FAO lleve a cabo también acciones que permitan esclarecer las consecuencias que en términos de deforestación, aceleración del cambio climático y seguridad alimentaria, tendría el establecimiento en masa de políticas bio-energéticas destinadas a sustituir los combustibles fósiles. En este marco es válida la afirmación que las cuestiones del cambio climático están estrechamente ligadas con las políticas energéticas, y nuestra sugerencia es que resulta urgente realizar una evaluación de la viabilidad de determinados sistemas bio-energéticos, en función de las necesidades de los países y de los recursos a su disposición.

El entorno de las políticas prevalecientes a nivel nacional, regional y mundial es hipótesis plausibles respecto a variables económicas, ambientales y de política pertinentes.

Johari BIN RAMLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia would like to put on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat in its effort and work in organizing biennial Sessions of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). Malaysia acknowledges that these biennial Sessions of the Committee have provided opportunities to bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials, to identify emerging policy and technical issues related to forestry. My delegation is confident that through exchanges of information and views among fellow forest officials during the COFO meetings would promote better understanding, appreciation of the complexity and challenges faced by many countries in managing our forest resources in a sustainable manner.

Malaysia has a long history of systemically managing its forest resources and is committed to the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), as enshrined in the Resolution of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), as well as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The formation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Malaysia, is a testament of the Government's commitment to ensure a balanced management of its natural resources, taking into consideration the need for utilization and conservation of our forest resources. While focusing on economic growth and development, Malaysia gives equal emphasis to promoting conservation of its natural resources and environment, as well as to give adequate attention to social aspects.

With regard to Regional Cooperation on Forest Fire Management, we are pleased to inform the meeting about Malaysia's continuous involvement and commitment in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiatives in formulating regional strategies and agreements to combat forest fire and the resulting haze. These include ASEAN Cooperation Plan on Transboundary Pollution (1995), the ASEAN Haze Technical Task Force (1995) and the Asian Regional Haze Action Plan. Malaysia is fully committed to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution which came into force on the 25 November 2003. This agreement contains provision for monitoring, assessing and preventing fire-generated haze; technical cooperation and scientific research; mechanisms for coordination; lines of communication; simplified customs and immigration procedures for disaster relief; and the establishment of an ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control.

Malaysia, like any other developing country, places importance on the developmental and social needs of the nation. In conclusion, to advance the implementation of sustainable forest management in developing countries. Malaysia calls on FAO to build and enhance capacity of developing countries to implement sustainable forest management, as well as continue to play a leading role through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Malaysia also believes that FAO could continue to play a better role in the efforts of research and development of forest management practices, in order to achieve the goals of sustainable forest management.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Thanks to the Assistant Director-General Heino for the presentation of the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Among many issues raised by COFO, Brazil would like to highlight the upcoming review of FAO's Strategic Plan for Forestry. In preparing the review, to take place in the next session of COFO, the Forestry Department should take into account the following elements: (i) the Four Global Objectives on Forests; (ii) the historical outcome of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as other developments either within FAO, such as the ongoing evaluation process and in the international scene, such as the UN Reform as a whole.

We particularly stress that Members and the Regional Forestry Commissions should be given the opportunity to contribute in this very important process.

My delegation would also like to recall COFO's recognition of bioenergy as a strategic multidisciplinary issue of great relevance to FAO's work in forestry.

FAO may have a role in assisting Members to develop comprehensive and integrated national bioenergy strategies.

On a related issue, Brazil also welcomes FAO's technical assistance, in collaboration with the UN Framework for the convention on Climate Change to the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including reducing emissions from deforestation.

Brazil also supports FAO's work to develop, promote and implement tools for sustainable forest management. Such work should be directed at the mainstreaming of forestry within efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and to achieve the Four Global Objectives agreed by the UNFF. In this regard, we recall that COFO recognized the importance of "information exchange, technology transfer, capacity-building, as well as the need to mobilize increased, new and additional resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management".

As a final note, it is the expectation of the Brazilian Government that the next State of the Forests can and should include the dramatic decrease of deforestation occurred in Brazil. With that, we would like to endorse the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Sanjay Vikram SINGH (India)

We welcome the outcomes of the deliberations during the meeting of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee of Forestry held in Rome, Italy during 13-16 March 2007. The Committee deliberated on a large number of issues and we would like to extend our broad support to the work of FAO in matters that the Committee has brought to the attention of the Council.

On some of these we wish to comment upon; the item that calls for dialogue on sustainable production and consumption of bioenergy. India would like to emphasize once again, that in many countries, especially developing countries, the major wood use is for firewood in order to meet the daily energy requirement. Therefore, we do not subscribe to the idea of linking firewood consumption under the umbrella of sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation.

While there is a broad agreement with the principles of sustainable forest management, we know that funding available for moving the work forward on these principles remains very small.

The United Nations Forum on Forestry has identified gaps in developing countries in key areas, like inadequate financial resources, capacity building and transfer of technology, that stand in the way of effective implementation of an SFM strategy. These gaps need to be bridged and FAO can play an effective role in this direction.

In conclusion, however, we do appreciate the lead taken by FAO Membership, particularly through the Committee on Forestry to place the practice of sustainable forestry as a key element

in promotion of sustainable livelihoods for very large populations residing in developing countries.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The first sector faces renewed calls to meet global changes, as an example, ongoing discussions on climate change have important potential implications for forests as things to be enhanced by sustainable forest management, as providers of bio-mass for energy, providers of timber as a renewable and recyclable resource that competes and replaces non-renewables and sequester carbon.

Additional attention is focussed on reducing emissions from deforestation. The increased risk posed to forests by pests and diseases as a consequent of climate change is a further challenge. The non-timber benefits, such as recreational opportunities afforded by forests, as well as the protector functions and biodiversity values of forests provide health and wellbeing to human beings and nature.

The EU welcomes the fact that the Committee on Forestry addressed some of the urgent issues at stage, like forests and energy and forest protection, including wildfires and progress towards sustainable forest management and endorses its recommendations.

Some other important issues could not be thoroughly discussed since they were still pending at the time of the COFO session, such as the Programme and Budget and the relationship between FAO and the International Arrangement on Forests.

In the meantime, the Seventh Session of UNFF agreed on the comprehensive, Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) and a multi-year programme of work for the period 2007 to 2015. The EU believes that this is a very positive outcome which needs to be reflected among others by FAO with respect to its strategic plan for forestry.

FAO should continue to take the lead within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including implementation of the NLBI. In this context, FAO's work on National Forest Programmes (NFPs), which has been once more acknowledged by COFO, gains further importance as planning and implementation tools for national level implementation of the NLBI.

Without pre-empting the outcome of FAO's Reform, the EU would like to stress that this be properly reflected in the planning for the future programme of work on the Forestry Department.

Several other important processes, for example, COP9 of the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) and COP13 of the UNFCCC will deal with aspects of sustainable forest management (SFM) in the very near future, each in connection with its specific objectives. Thus, an effective link to the NFF MYPOW needs to be established.

In the light of this, the EU would like to stress COFO's recommendation that FAO strengthen its role as a knowledge and communications centre for forestry and SFM.

Concerning the process of reform underway in FAO the EU expresses concern at the recent reductions in staff as they particularly affect the Forestry Department. We believe that the consequences of the latest reductions need to be carefully examined, not least in the light of recent decisions of UNFF and the importance, which various global processes like CBD and UNFCCC increasingly attach to forests and SFM, as well as the contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Moreover, increasing demands and pressures at all levels on forests and wood and the livelihoods based on them from different potential users, for example, conservation wood and non-wood based products and energy, especially biofuels, increase rather than diminish the need for adequate sectoral human and other resources.

Wendel DENNIS (United States of America)

We appreciate the Committee on Forestry Report and we would like to highlight a few items on the list of matters requiring attention by the Council.

Firstly, we would like to reinforce how well the new COFO format is working, as reflected in participant comments at the Eighteenth Session of COFO.

We support the recommendation of the Committee for FAO to assist Members in improving capacity to improve forest law compliance, including strengthening forest law enforcement and promoting good governance.

We continue to be impressed with FAO leadership as Chair of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF). In addition to the work on biofuels cited in the Report and continued efforts to streamline country reporting, we believe the CPF organizations, including FAO, have a critical role in assisting countries to implement measures of the new Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests which was negotiated in April 2007 by the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Similar leadership could be demonstrated in strengthening the regional forestry commissions. Interinstitutional collaboration at the regional level could improve information, available resources, activities and outcomes of the commissions, as well as contribute to the work of other organizations. For instance, there is strong potential for the commissions, such as, the United Nations Forum on Forests.

We are very pleased to join others again this year as a donor in the National Forest Programme Facility, which supports effective partnerships in forest management.

The United States notes the great interest in bioenergy and its potential to enhance the economics of forestry. We would stress that bioenergy strategies should consider socio-economic and environmental impacts and be integrated into forest management strategies – not only to improve bioenergy programmes but to enhance forest management.

We commend the Forestry Department on its preparation of the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010. The use of the seven thematic elements, and the addition of data from remote sensing, show how forest information can be integrated at all scales.

Noting the General Assembly Resolution 61/193 on the International Year of Forests, 2011, we would like to call attention to the General Assembly's invitation to FAO, as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support implementation of the Year.

Susana RIVERO GUZMÁN (Bolivia)

Como representante de la delegación de Bolivia, nos complace el informe que se ha presentado. Sin embargo, me permito hacer una reflexión respecto a la importancia que tienen los bosques para el mundo y fundamentalmente para Bolivia, porque son parte de la vida, de las costumbres, de las tradiciones de nuestros pueblos indígenas.

Bolivia cuenta con la mitad de su territorio constituido por bosques y, al mismo tiempo, la mitad de su población se autodetermina indígena originaria. Por eso las políticas agrarias, las políticas que tienen que ver con los recursos naturales, siempre tienen que estar orientadas a compatibilizar los derechos y las aspiraciones de nuestros pueblos indígenas.

En este marco, nos preocupa muchísimo las corrientes en el mundo, que están yendo por la búsqueda de energía a través de los bosques o de los alimentos. En este caso, Bolivia llama la atención y manifiesta su preocupación con estos estudios que se empezarán a trabajar en los distintos países. Está plenamente comprobado, por lo menos en Bolivia, que la deforestación y el no manejo sostenible de los bosques, tiene muchísima incidencia en los cambios climáticos y en las costumbres de sus pueblos.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

My delegation would like to briefly comment on forest protection. Currently, wildfires are increasingly a threat to forest ecosystems, economics and human health worldwide, including the Southeast Asia Region.

Thailand welcomes the collaboration between FAO and other related UN Agencies in wildfire management. We also welcome the development of voluntary guidelines on fire management, as stipulated in paragraph 29 and paragraph 30 of the document under discussion. Thailand urges FAO to provide more technical assistance and policy guidelines in fighting wildfires to Member Nations in the Southeast Asia Region.

With regard to the wildland fire network, my delegation would appreciate it if the Secretariat could provide information on the role of existing wildland fire networking in Southeast Asia. In case the network has not yet been established in the region, we would also like to request FAO to support its establishment.

José Emilio SUADI HASBÚN (El Salvador)

Brevemente quería mencionar que estamos de acuerdo con el informe y a la vez felicitarlos. Sólo me llamó la atención y tenemos una pequeña duda del porqué no vemos dentro del trabajo del Comité Forestal el tema de pago por servicios ambientales, o sea el tema de captura de carbono, quisiéramos saber porqué no se incluye y también nos gustaría ver un rol más protagónico de la FAO sobre este tema.

Deo K. RWABITA (Uganda)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report on Forestry and the support given by the Council Members.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to state that deforestation in developing countries cannot be controlled unless we get enough electricity, especially in rural areas, because people have to cook and inner areas have to use firewood for lighting their houses, yet with the increase in population in developing countries, especially Africa, which has now over 850 million people, more destruction of natural forests is on the increase and this contributes to environmental degradation.

Therefore, we would request that FAO and our partners in development contribute to the following areas to improve on forestation. One, support tree nurseries because the communities may be willing to plant trees but they don't have the necessary nurseries under recommended trees. Number two, some of the local governments need to be advised to sensitize people to plant trees especially during the rainy seasons, for example if each family planted about five trees every rainy season, within five years you would get millions of hectares covered with trees planted by those communities. Their families would have enough woodland where they can get their own firewood and even have a surplus to sell for their income. Another area that we need to improve on is production of electricity, especially hydroelectricity, solar energy, biogas and energy-saving stoves so that people can access the social power for lighting and cooking.

We also need to stop destroying forests for agricultural activities, by teaching our people to engage in more intensive agriculture, using the same land, if not less, for increased production instead of encroaching on their natural forests.

Number five, we have to control fires, especially in Africa where we have this terrible problem; in the dry season hundreds of hectares can burn and there is no way of stopping the fire. So the young trees, the old trees, are all destroyed and this was the situation.

Lastly, with the global warming which is increasing every year, deforestation will be worsened if more green cover continues to be destroyed. Therefore, reforestation and aforestation are important policies for the survival of the developing countries so that you can mitigate the adverse effects of environmental degradation through deforestation.

Jean DE DIEU MUTABAZI (Burundi)

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président, de m'accorder la parole. Encore une fois je voudrais remercier l'équipe qui a travaillé sur ce rapport parce que l'on voit que c'est un rapport d'une grande qualité parce qu'on voit qu'il a été fouillé et je profite encore une fois de l'occasion pour demander qu'il soit adopté en tenant compte bien sûr des différents avis qui ont été donnés.

Avant de poursuivre je voudrais faire mienne l'intervention de mon collègue participant de l'Ouganda parce que nous partageons le même problème qui est celui de l'énergie. Mais avant de continuer mon intervention, je voudrais rappeler que le Burundi est un petit pays de 27 834 km² qui est à cheval entre l'est et le centre de l'Afrique avec une croissance démographique de trois pour cent et la taille moyenne de l'exploitation par ménage est de 0,5 hectares et la population totale est de plus de 7,5 millions d'habitants et toute cette population doit se nourrir et des fois elle se nourrit au détriment de la forêt. Aujourd'hui, il n'y a presque plus de forêts primaires parce qu'elles ont été coupées, ce qui fait que nos montagnes sont pratiquement dénudées.

C'est pourquoi, je demande à ce que la FAO contribue encore une fois à soutenir le Burundi par sa contribution technique en nous aidant dans l'itinéraire agro-sylvo-pastoral parce que c'est cet itinéraire que nous poursuivons au Burundi pour essayer de protéger nos montagnes ainsi que les bassins versants.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

First of all, allow me to say thank you for all constructive remarks and also for the support for the Forestry Programme which you have given during this discussion. I think I would have difficulties in answering in a detailed manner all proposals or requests so let me try to respond to you by choosing your concerns topic wise. Actually I think most of what you raised in the discussion was totally or almost totally in line with our efforts and also thoughts when we talk about the next programme of work.

In my introduction, I touched upon the issue of bioenergy already and referred to the inter-departmental work which is going on and was described by Ms Flores during the morning. Let me assure you that when we approach this subject, we try to do it under the umbrella according to the principles of sustainable forest management. Indeed, it is an issue not only for developed countries but also for developing countries and we need an approach according to the circumstances, to the biology and the economy of the country concerned, and we do not want to jeopardize any other principles of sustainable forest management, of course. We try to approach this topic as a very broad concept.

Talking about sustainable forest management, I can assure you that indeed issues like the forest law compliance governance and the role of the regional forestry commissions are very well noted in our programme of work. Very important tools are of course the national forest programmes and the national forest resources assessment work under corresponding global forest resources assessment work.

Several delegations made reference to the UNFF held in New York in April and indeed FAO was invited to undertake a special role in order to implement the outcomes of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, both individually earned as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. I can just assure you that we are going to respond to this invitation as well as we can. We were specifically invited to support monitoring of progress towards sustainable forest management, including progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on the achievement of the global objectives on forests.

Many of our programme entities actually already support or can support in the future the implementation of the UNFF's multiyear programme of work under the instrument. However, increasing demand on specific tasks requested will require additional resources for us to be able to contribute in the best possible way, not only to UNFF. We also have to respond to the forestry-related requirements and programmes of the UN Framework for the Convention, Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention on Combating

Desertification, in order to effectively promote and implement the common goal of sustainable forest management.

I pretty much share the views expressed by the ADG, my colleague Mr Nomura, earlier today here, when we talked about the financial platform, so to say it would be of course a better situation if we could have more of our basic work financed through the regular programme and I just refer to what he said in this respect.

As to the financing issue at the global level, let me just point out that that issue was not solved by the UNFF seven so we will also participate in discussion on how to solve this issue. I could name a few specific areas of work that can specifically contribute to the implementation, not only to this global policy processes including, but also to the general goal that we have to implement sustainable forest management. These examples include the inputs by the FAO regional forestry commissions, the global forest resources assessment and our corresponding work at the national level, the national forestry resources assessment. Indeed NFPs, forest law enforcement, combating deforestation, on forest degradation and on forest and climate change was also referred to by a couple of delegations and this is, of course, a matter of high importance and let me try to be brief and just say that we do have many meetings, workshops, seminars planned for already, also regionally.

There was a concern about carbon sequestration. It is indeed included in to cut programme of work. There will be technical meetings in late 2008 or early 2009 on forest carbon assessments for reduced emissions from deforestation. We have included this topic in our forestry assessment work, to mention just an example of what is going on within the field of climate change which is very much connected to the issue of adaptation and forest health indeed. So this will be a standing issue for the Forestry Department.

As the last point, the review process concerning our strategic guidelines, we do try to have the overall framework in place. We use as a starting point the UN and FAO Reform, the IEE, the other developments. We do want to take the Regional Forestry Commissions with us in this work, and we will start to work with them next year when they will convene. I know that I did not touch upon all concerns and issues raised, but I wanted to try to do it by picking the topics that I could identify as aggregate of groups.

CHAIRPERSON

Is there anyone who would like to add something, comments, questions? If not, we thank Mr Heino for this and I take it that the Council endorses the report and we can conclude Item 4 on the Agenda.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

5. REPORT OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (ROME, 23-25 APRIL 2007) (CL132/6)

5. RAPPORT DE LA SOIXANTE-SIXIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES PRODUITS (ROME, 23-25 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/6)

5. INFORME DEL 66° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE PROBLEMAS DE PRODUCTOS BÁSICOS (ROMA, 23-25 DE ABRIL DE 2007 (CL 132/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Before the next point on the Agenda, I have an announcement. The Africa Group will meet tomorrow from 9.00 to 9.30 in the Malaysia Room. When I turn the page in my book in front of me, I receive a message from the Secretariat.

Before we move on to Item 5, I wish to remind you to keep your intervention as brief as possible in the interest of good time management. I think that was very sensible and timely advice from the Secretariat.

So now we move on to Item 5 – Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and please ensure you have the documents CL 132/6 before you.

David HALLAM (Secretary Committee on Commodity Problems)

I will keep my introduction very brief. You have the report before you, which includes the summary of the main points for your consideration. The Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) focused on its two core concerns, namely: to review the state of global agricultural commodity markets and secondly, to review associated policy issues. In its review of world agriculture commodity markets, the Committee paid particular attention to the implications of increased biofuel demand and implications of rapid growth in China and India. The Committee called for further analysis of the full market and food security impact of increased biofuel demand in particular, and for the results to be provided as soon as possible, so that attention could be given to their policy implications. I am pleased to inform you that there is a major cross divisional bioenergy project underway right now. Increasingly, the Secretariat's work on analyzing commodity markets is based on quantitative models and especially the cosimo model developed in collaboration with the OECD. Members of the Committee expressed their willingness and readiness to collaborate with the Secretariat to build their own capacity in analyzing commodity markets, and also in participating in the further development of that cosimo model. The CCP was of course held against the background of the resumption of the multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO, and Members were briefed on the latest developments. Members had differing aspirations for this round of talks but they did stress that the Doha round was the development round and emphasized the jewel objectives of achieving international agricultural trade, free of distortions and restrictions but while guaranteeing rural development and food security. The Committee considered a number of specific elements of the discussions going on in Geneva, which included special products, special safeguard mechanisms.

The Committee regard FAO's normative work and technical assistance in capacity-building work as useful and relevant in especially assisting developing countries to participate fully in the multilateral trade negotiations, and it was requested that these activities should continue. I can tell you that there is in fact very strong demand from Member Nations for assistance in these respects which does, unfortunately, stretch our available resources to meet this demand. Some Members also requested that FAO should provide capacity-building to developing countries to help overcome any possible adverse effects of liberalization and to help them capitalize on new trading opportunities which liberalization might throw up.

Of course, these are elements of the aid-for-trade initiative which was also discussed by the Committee. Members supported the role and work programme of FAO in relation to five aid-for-trade interventions on technology transfer, rural infrastructure, water management, technical standards and trade negotiations. And the Committee stressed the need for FAO and the Secretariat to collaborate closely with WTO and other development partners. A number of Members also called for an enhanced role for FAO in the integrated framework. Regular high-level contact has, in fact, been initiated with WTO and that working relationship is developing. There is also an Ad hoc Task Force within FAO which has been set up on aid-for-trade. And there will be a Side Event for Aid for Trade at the next Conference.

The final conclusion perhaps which I should note is that the Committee considered the case for international supply and management schemes to raise commodity prices, and there has been a revival of interest in these schemes recently. The Committee though felt that these were neither appropriate nor practical and that numerous practical problems would need to be overcome before any kind of workable scheme could be developed. I will stop now.

P.K. MISHRA (India)

We welcome the outcomes of the deliberations of the Committee on Commodity Problems. The Committee deliberated a large number of issues and we would like to extend our broad support to the work of FAO in matters that the Committee has brought to the attention of the Council. On some of these, we wish to comment upon. The item that calls for the review of the state of the

world commodity markets, including the further analysis of the market and food security impacts of increased biofuel demand is of great interest to all countries, including India. It also needs to be seen in the larger context of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those on poverty alleviation, achieving food security at the household level, and for ensuring environmental sustainability. While we support the development of cost-effective technologies producing biofuels, care should be taken to ensure that this does not, in the short and long-term, adversely effect the food supply and therefore the food security situation. Apart from corn and sugar cane, the two principal crops now used for production of ethanol, there are a number of non-edible tree crops, jatropha in India, and some other countries, for example, grown primarily on wastelands, whose production and price viability need to be assessed. FAO should help establish an initiative in this direction. Apart from promoting the research and development aspects of biofuel extraction from such crops, FAO should come up with an economic analysis of the viability of such initiatives, including the impact on livelihoods and opportunities for smallholder farmers and landless rural poor.

On the FAO's work on commodity and trade, while we applaud the keenness to engage in the work relating to international trade, we are of the view that FAO should focus its attention on assisting Member Nations develop their internal commodity markets especially through better institutional arrangements and creation of instruments that lead to better management of price and risk. More specifically, FAO can help assist developing countries in the establishment of commodity exchanges and derivative markets. It can draw upon the experience of developing countries like India and some others in this regard.

Lastly, we welcome the initiative of FAO in studying the implications for world agricultural commodity markets and food security of rapid economic growth in India and China. We shall be very happy to associate ourselves with any further studies that help us inform our own strategies for food production and value addition. In the light of changing patterns of demand, such studies will also, we hope, assist other Member Nations.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroun)

The Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity problems has touched on issues of great importance pertaining to recent developments in trade policies and world prices of agricultural commodities.

Beyond the fact that the unresolved issue of the downward trend and fluctuations of prices of major agricultural commodities produced by developing countries, has once again captured the interest of the Committee, the CCP was faced with emerging issues such as the increased demand for biofuel and the impact of fast growing economies such as India and China in the world markets and trade of agricultural products.

With regard to bioenergy, we welcome the recent publication of UN Energy on Sustainable Bioenergy: A Framework for Decision-Makers, which, after situating bioenergy in the global context, discusses a wide range of sustainability issues such as agro-industrial development and job creation, implications for gender and health, implications for the structure of agriculture for food security, for government budget, for trade, foreign exchange and energy security, for climate change, impacts on biodiversity and natural resources management and finally gives some guidance for the future. It is the first attempt to address issues of worldwide concern and for which there is still many unanswered questions, such as, will biofuel push out food crops, raise food price and exacerbate food security? Will biofuel create unexpected negative rather than positive external environmental effects? Could biofuel even exacerbate the impact on climate when the entire production chain is taken into account? How will increased investments in biofuels affect trade patterns? What would a sustainable approach to bioenergy look like? These questions are still very difficult to answer and we encourage further analysis of the bioenergy issue. The analysis to be conducted could cover, for example, the four dimensions of food security, namely availability, access, stability and utilisation. What crops could be encouraged? Do we need an international framework for bioenergy? Are local producers interested?

With regards to the issue of the impact of fast growing economies such as India and China in the world markets and trade of agricultural products, we appreciate the positive attitude adopted by both countries in recognising the soundness of the analysis made by FAO and proposing to collaborate with FAO in further work to be carried out on the matter. We are on agreement with the suggested areas for continued analysis contained in paragraph 14. It may be interesting if, after the completion of the analysis, that the findings are shared with the Membership, with the aim of inducing discussions on issues for which a global action is required. The idea of an international conference could also be examined.

The resumption of the Doha Round negotiations has generated a lot of expectations among developing countries, as we believe that it is the most appropriate forum to engage in world policy reforms that provide a fair, market oriented global trading system, in which trade distortions such as subsidies and non tariffs trade barriers could be agreed upon. This will, we hope, promote agricultural development and food security, but since the official agreement to resume the negotiations was announced, very little is happening and it looks like a disguised stalling again. We are concerned about this situation. We recognise efforts made so far by FAO to support full participation of developing countries in the Doha multilateral negotiations by way of provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and notes and we look forward to continued support.

Ms Ligia Maria SCHERER (Brazil)

First of all let me thank the Secretariat for the document before us and for its presentation. My delegation would like to underscore the high priority it gives to the ongoing trade multilateral negotiations in the WTO, especially those targeted at the liberalization of agricultural markets. Brazil and other developing countries have been for several years undertaking efforts committed to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round which can pave the way for a new international trade structure without distortions and restrictions. For that reason, Brazil and a number of other developing nations have created the G20 which looks for the elimination of unfair trade policies sustained by the developed world.

We are convinced that the liberalization of agricultural markets will improve the economic and social conditions of the populations in the developing world, particularly the rural poor whose production is still faces international trade barriers. In other words, the improvement of access to markets stands as an important tool to fight hunger and poverty.

Brazil does recognize the role played by FAO concerning the production of information, a decisive asset to combat underdevelopment as well as to improve productivity and living standards. Nevertheless, I would have to reiterate our view on the content of the document, State of the World Agricultural Market 2006 (SOCO 2006). We do believe that further research is needed regarding the impact of world trade liberalization on poor countries. The interpretation that a successful Doha Round will not benefit all developing countries and that trade liberalization may endanger the commodity domestic market of certain nations is indeed questionable.

The conclusions presented in the afore-mentioned document might lead us to overlook the positive effects resulting from market openness. It can even mislead us to the idea that the current international trade structure, still characterized by trade and non-trade barriers, is satisfactory, an absolutely misleading perception of the reality.

Furthermore, I would also have to draw the attention once again to other papers recently published by FAO, as for example, WTO Rules for Agriculture Compatible with Development, which call for further differentiations among developing countries. Neither this nor WTO organizations have any mandate to elaborate on categories other than those already consecrated in the developing world.

Finally, let me just reiterate on bioenergy what my Ambassador just commented on the other item of our agenda, the Committee on Food Security, Bioenergy is an opportunity that has to be considered in a multidisciplinary way and with wisdom that would maximise benefits and minimise risks, and that can be seen as an important tool for combating poverty and hunger.

Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

We welcome the focus at the last session of the CCP on agricultural trade liberalization. The United States is fully committed to further liberalization of agricultural trade through the Doha Development Agenda. Successful conclusion of an ambitious agreement is critical for sustained economic growth in developing countries.

We believe that assisting countries to participate more fully in the global economy through trade in agricultural and food products should be one of FAO's highest priorities. We note with satisfaction that the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems emphasizes the dual objectives of the Doha Round to achieve international agricultural trade free of distortions and restrictions and to promote rural development and food security.

The World Bank has calculated that roughly half of the global economic benefit from free trade would be enjoyed by developing countries, and more than 90 percent of their gains would come from reducing tariffs. The Peterson Institute of International Economics estimates global free trade could lift as many as 500 million people out of poverty and inject US\$200 billion annually into the economies of developing countries. The simple fact is economic growth spurred by trade liberalization can have a profound impact. Further trade capacity-building efforts and lifting of supply-side constraints will be necessary for developing countries to succeed in the global market place.

We believe that FAO is well placed to serve as a platform for a variety of initiatives within the Aid for Trade mandate. We agree in general with the analysis of supply-side constraints, as this is an area in which FAO has a unique capability to assist developing countries. As to the prioritization of specific areas of work, we would place the greatest emphasis on technical standards, as we believe work in this area would provide the most immediate benefits to developing countries. We encourage greater collaboration with the international institutions and other development partners to maximize resources and avoid duplication of effort. Partnerships with regional organizations can have particular value.

We are pleased that the Committee affirmed FAO's role in assisting developing countries in areas of technology transfer, rural infrastructure, water management, trade policy analysis and technical standards. We also see some inherent linkages between these areas. For example, biotechnology in seed crops could be applied to production practices in water stressed areas as an investment in water demand management. Or, new technologies in food processing could be implemented to better meet technical standards for export markets. In order to capitalize on these linkages, FAO initiatives would need to be more cross cutting and the composition of experts to be more interdisciplinary. We fully agree with other members that the resources of the FAO should be leveraged more with international organizations, such as the WTO, OECD, World Bank, IMF, and other UN Agencies. Much more can be achieved through collaboration and partnerships.

The CCP discussion of import surges and the appropriate use of safeguards provided some useful insights. In our view, safeguard mechanisms can be potentially disruptive to trade, and they are not a solution to fixing flaws in market structures, or addressing national trade policies and other long term causal factors which may underlie import surges. Safeguards are not a substitute for market reform, and should not be used to slow progress toward improved market access. For these reasons, safeguards should be designed to limit the frequency of their use and they should be transitional.

With regard to supply management, we remain fundamentally opposed to production controls and export restrictions and agree that the past record of supply schemes has not been successful, as the Committee Report accurately points out.

Renaud-François MOULINIER (European Community)

I speak on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this Statement.

The Secretariat's Report adequately summarizes the discussions that have taken place during the last Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and hence the European Community can endorse that Report. Therefore, we shall refrain from repeating all our comments made during that Session. However, since the document welcomes the resumption of multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO, I would like to reiterate that the European Community is fully prepared to find satisfactory solutions for specific concerns of developing countries, such as preference erosion, small and vulnerable economies, special products and special safeguard mechanisms for developing countries in agriculture.

I would also like to highlight once again the importance of FAO technical assistance activities and I thank the FAO for making it possible for the developing countries to more effectively participate in the multilateral negotiations.

Manabu YASUHARA (Japan)

We support the Report of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

We find trade-related subjects such as Special Products, Aid for Trade and Import Surges shown in the CCP are very important issues which FAO should tackle in order to achieve economical development for developing countries through trade. We believe that the challenge to these issues contributes to achieving world food security and rural development in developing countries. Therefore, we expect FAO to tackle these issues continuously in order to support developing countries.

In addition, we are interested in the influence of the increase of biofuel's demands on agriculture market and food security. Therefore, we expect FAO to collect and analyze related information and disseminate the results.

Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

The Africa Group endorses the Report which gives a good overview of the state of world agriculture markets, the situation and outlook during the reporting period, the implications of world commodity markets of rapid growth in China and India and update of developments in multilateral trade negotiations. Most of the issues raised were new to the Committee on Commodity Problems, especially with regard to biofuel.

Some efforts were made, and some discussions reached a conclusion. However, with the lack of adequate data the conclusions drawn were that they require further analysis and review. There was also mention of certification of biofuels or to charge countries producing biofuel on premium and insurance or other things. They should be free from that sort of restriction, but we note that there are some indications of the certification level. Further analysis is required and a neutral body like FAO should play a large role in that, whether it is a positive or negative issue of certification of biofuel products.

Historically, with every increase in fossil fuel, there was an increase in commodity prices, and the conclusion drawn was that during the reporting period there was an increase in commodity prices and they associated this with biofuel demand. However, a separate analysis should be made as to whether the cause was due to the fossil fuel price increasing, so the effect should be analyzed separately both for fossil fuel and biofuel demand. The Africa Group appreciates the support FAO provides to the participation of developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiation.

We also noted the interest of some of the countries of the Organization to participate, who wish to help FAO in establishing a certain modality for the analysis. We welcome them to participate and we will see if it can help FAO's analysis. FAO should not work for the country studies, they should be very careful and come to a conclusion as to whether it is positive or not. Otherwise, FAO should have its own modality, with it being a knowledge organization.

KIM CHANG-HYUN (Republic of Korea)

The Korean delegation welcomes the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems. In accordance with the recommendation of this report, the Korean delegation believes that the

negotiations should be conducted in a way to reflect diverse positions of developing countries in a balanced manner and to fully consider unique characteristics of agriculture.

To this end, FAO needs to continue to provide technical assistance. Also, it is important to set the proper target for the negotiations so that the benefits from the trade liberalization can be shared with Member Nations with different agricultural conditions.

As we are aware, it is very hard for developing countries to achieve agricultural competitiveness over a short period, and once the agricultural sector collapses, restoring it is almost unattainable.

Finally, in the process of negotiations, I would like to emphasize that a certain degree of flexibility should be given to developing countries in order to promote trade liberalization within a level they can tolerate, considering the various situations of their agriculture.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia participated in the Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and found that it provided for substantive discussion on a range of topical issues. We would, therefore, wish to reinforce a couple of the conclusions from the Meeting.

In particular, we note the Committee welcomed the resumption of the multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO, and hoped that the Doha Round could be successfully concluded by the end of 2007. In this regard Australia urges countries to support an ambitious outcome to the negotiations and agree to substantial cuts to support and greatly improve market access outcomes.

We welcome the Committee's support for further FAO normative work, technical assistance and capacity-building in assisting developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations. These remain important areas of FAO activity.

We also welcome the Committee's focus on and support for FAO analytical work on issues and instruments relevant to the WTO negotiations to assist developing countries. Australia believes that these are constructive areas for FAO work and we support many of the identified areas under these topics for further work.

Gellwyn JUSUF (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to extend our appreciation to the Committee on Commodity Problems for their excellent work as reflected in the Report of the Sixty-sixth Session submitted for approval by the Council. We notice that there are a number of achievements, covering various areas that have benefited the Member Nations especially developing countries. Therefore, my delegation would like to endorse the Report.

However, my delegation would like to underline some important issues that need attention by the Council.

Firstly, is the issue on the implementation aspect of the recommendation. We leave it to FAO to set up programmes that are needed and deemed as high priority by Member Nations, particularly the developing ones.

Secondly, are the international agriculture market issues. My delegation would like to stress the importance of FAO's role in conducting further analysis on the international demand for biofuel and its impact on food security. As for some countries, increasing demand on biofuel might lead to a worsening food security situation.

Thirdly, my delegation would also like to raise issues on the international trade negotiations, particularly on the issue of Special Products (SP) and Special Safeguard Mechanism. We request FAO to assist the Member Countries to make proper use of the SP modality. On the SSM aspect, we request FAO to extend technical assistance and capacity-building to Member Nations to develop their capacity in designing SSM to protect negative impacts of food import surge experienced by Member Nations.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Agradecemos la Secretaría por la presentación del Informe del Comité, éste aborda varias cuestiones importantes sobre las cuales hacemos los siguientes comentarios:

Con respecto a la reactivación de la Ronda de Doha, recalamos que su culminación exitosa no puede lograrse a costo que las flexibilidades en la negociación que provienen de los países en desarrollo. Antes se tendrían que imponer acciones efectivas de los países industrializados para la eliminación de los subsidios agrícolas y la reducción de los aranceles.

Sobre la iniciativa de la ayuda al comercio, tenemos preocupaciones sobre las diversas motivaciones de ésta. La disponibilidad de ayuda al comercio nunca será suficiente para hacer efectiva la dimensión del desarrollo del programa de Doha.

Esta iniciativa no puede ni podrá compensar un conjunto de medidas comerciales que pudieran ser adoptadas al final de la Ronda y que distan mucho de aportar beneficios a los países en desarrollo en término de reducción de pobreza, hambre y malnutrición.

Apoyamos la necesidad de lograr un balance adecuado junto al trabajo normativo y las actividades de asistencia técnica en este campo. Llamamos la atención acerca de que en la misma medida que se destina apoyo para aplicar las normativas de la OMC, debe priorizarse el apoyo para que los países en desarrollo participen plenamente en las negociaciones comerciales internacionales.

Apoyamos las recomendaciones relativas a los productos especiales y también a la salvaguardia especial, objeto de negociación en acceso al mercado.

Y por último, debemos fortalecer el papel de la FAO en las negociaciones del comercio multilateral. Este papel es importante para lograr el reconocimiento de las asimetrías entre los países, del trato especial y diferenciado, de la inclusividad y representatividad de todos los miembros de la OMC y de la transparencia del proceso negociador.

Sobre el tema de la bioenergía, nuestra delegación reitera su posición. Éste debe abordarse siempre y cuando se tomen en cuenta sus efectos sobre la seguridad alimentaria, y en este caso especial, la repercusión sobre los precios de los productos básicos.

Con estos comentarios apoyamos la aprobación del Informe.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

Let me start by thanking the Secretariat for introducing the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

As Thailand attended the Sixty-sixth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, we are not going to repeat what has been reported by the Secretariat. We wish to endorse particularly paragraph 23 of the document on Special Products for development. We believe that FAO could provide criteria for identifying SP in order to accelerate the conclusion of WTO ongoing agricultural negotiations.

In our view the SP should not create barriers to trade. On the contrary, it should promote North-South trade, as well as South-South trade. We do not understand the concerns of developing countries on the sensitivity of SP, but market access of agricultural products is also sensitive to a number of food-exporting countries.

You may share with my delegation that, without market access, we may not be able to ensure food security for all.

Luo MING (China)

With respect to the Report, there are two points I would like to make.

First of all, we support the FAO's studies regarding those proposals that have been made and, of course, we respect the fact that it should carry out studies on the implication of the World Commodity Markets of rapid growth in China and India.

Secondly, with respect to the special projects which are subject of negotiations in WTO and the food security of developing countries and agricultural development, we fear that FAO's work should be increased in all these areas under special products, because it is very necessary. Consequently, we would propose that with respect to the issues of special products we be flexible and that FAO step up its communications with WTO in particular with respect to agricultural commodities and with respect to the treatment for special products account needs to be taken of a certain specific treatment because these are the common goals of developing countries.

Daniel KALENGA (Zambia)

We note that demand for agricultural and non-agricultural products from China and India have been increasing. The world producers, therefore, are challenged to meet the raw materials requirements for processing the goods and services that both India and China, and indeed, the whole world need. Zambia hopes that as more and more demand for these raw material increases, prices for these products will also increase to give more Zambians higher returns for their products, and increase their production capacities.

Zambia welcomes the resumption in multilateral trade negotiations and shares the concerns for truly multilateral negotiations involving all WTO members. The benefits to be derived from securing desirable outcomes in the three pillars, namely market access, domestic support and export competition cannot be overemphasised.

We also strongly recognise the concept of Special and Differential Treatment aimed at allowing developing countries to better manage trade liberalisation. We also take note of the flexibilities in tariff reduction conceded to developing countries, the concept of Special Products and the agreement that the Special Safeguard Mechanism could apply to all developing countries. Zambia also joins those countries calling for capacity-building in market and trade policy analysis and trade negotiations among the agricultural practitioners.

We take note of the Committee's suggestions for FAO to focus on assisting developing countries to make proper use of the flexibility and policy space that are likely to be provided by the Special Product modality and the need for FAO to examine the impact of the likely SP on South-South trade.

With regard to Aid for Trade, this is very critical for Zambia as an LDC as this would address the supply side constraints. In particular the role of FAO in the five areas of Aid-for-trade interventions namely technology transfer, rural infrastructure, investment in water management, technical standards of products and trade negotiations and trade policy analysis. In this respect, Zambia is keen to receive the results and recommendations of the Secretariat study on best practices on the appropriateness of trade policies for development.

On managing supplies to raise international agricultural commodity prices, we support the possibility of using supply management arrangements as a way of raising international agricultural commodity prices. The issue of addressing tariff escalation in importing countries is, however, seen as very cardinal in addition to diversification of agricultural production. Other forms of employment for farmers and value addition, in a situation where agriculture employs more than 70 per cent of the labour force, using other forms of employment does not offer a sustainable solution.

Finally, on import surges analysis, preliminary findings and lessons learnt, Zambia agrees with the Committee on assistance for developing countries to improve their market information, trade surveillance systems and to enhance capacity to analyse the potential impacts of increases in import volumes. This will help the country to make well-informed policy and appropriate policy responses rather than crisis management.

R. GUMBO (Observer for Zimbabwe)

As this is my first Council meeting, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the Chair and to commend you on the exemplary way in which you have led our deliberations so far. My delegation also wishes to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.

My delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the excellent document that is before us.

We also wish to associate ourselves with the earlier speakers who have articulated the plight of many developing countries in general and Africa, in particular.

Zimbabwe recognises the potential benefits that can accrue from free trade and agrees with the CCP Report that such benefits are likely to be uneven if the supply-side constraints, characteristic of developing countries, are not addressed.

In this regard, Zimbabwe welcomes the recommendation in the report that FAO plays a crucial role in the context of Aid-for-Trade initiative in addressing the supply side constraints.

In our context the supply-side constraints that need to be addressed include level of mechanisation in agriculture, supply of inputs, extension service delivery, effects of recurrent droughts on yields and technical standards.

In this regard we support the recommendations by the Committee that FAO intervene in technology transfer, rural infrastructure, water management and technical standards.

The resumption of trade negotiations with the WTO is most welcome, particularly the hope of concluding the Doha Round, as the round presents an opportunity to minimise negative impacts of further global trade liberalisation on developing countries' economies.

In light of the resumption of the multilateral trade negotiations, Zimbabwe supports the Committee's recommendation for continuation of adequate funding of FAO's normative work, technical assistance and capacity-building for multilateral trade negotiations for developing countries.

Finally, my delegation appeals to FAO to increase its support for value-added activities in the agricultural sector to, among other things, create rural employment, reduce post-harvest losses, improve farmers' incomes and also increase export earnings of developing countries.

More importantly, the assistance should be directed at the entire value chain.

Nils FARNERT (International Federation Agricultural Producers)

I would like to say that we are happy with the development of the Aid-for-Trade initiative and the support it got at the CCP. It is a very important initiative for our poor farmers. We feel that it is important, that part of the Aid-for-Trade, really reaches the farmers out in the field, with the assistance of government and farmers organizations. This is a good way to rapidly fight the poverty of the poor farmers. On the bioenergy, we would like to say that the farmers should get a fair share of the income from selling energy. I would also like to repeat that our experience shows that many farmers have received a healthy increase in the income from participation in producing bioenergy.

CHAIRPERSON

I now will invite the Secretariat to address the important issue raised during the discussion here and perhaps some questions raised. Mr Sarris, you have the floor.

Alexander SARRIS (Director, Trade and Marketing Division)

The Secretariat greatly appreciates the support of the Members, both for its Report as well as for its programme of work. I will just try to address some of the issues that were brought up by the delegations. I noted that biofuels and bioenergy were some of the areas where several delegations made calls for more studies and more analysis. As Mr Hallam mentioned earlier, there is already a large project which just started a few months ago which includes various divisions within FAO to

examine some of these issues. What we hear from our staff is that things are moving too fast, we may not be able to analyse everything and there are a lot of issues. We would welcome the Members to point out the areas that they think are most important. Hence, your suggestions regarding the areas we should examine more closely are most welcome.

On the issues about the implications for global markets of the growth of China and India, we welcome very much the willingness of both of these countries to collaborate with us in looking further into these issues both from their perspective and from the perspective of the global markets and this is a collaboration that has started and will continue.

Several delegations mentioned the issue of partnerships with other organizations. The Secretariat has been pursuing several of these, as you know we have a very fruitful partnership with OECD, we are starting a deeper partnership with the WTO Secretariat. I will mention that a little bit more in the future, in the sequel. We have, of course, partnerships with the World Bank, UNCTAD and many other funding institutions, as well as many institutions in countries themselves. We are looking forward, of course, to expanding these partnerships.

On Aid-for-Trade, as Mr Hallam said, there will be a Special Event FAO is trying to provide input to this debate. It is not just a debate, but it is a debate that has to be followed by action. Of course, the action will depend very much on Members' or Donors' willingness to provide the resources. FAO is preparing and will be ready to have concrete proposals for intervention to respect the needs of countries in this field.

The Secretariat, as well as our Members, consider this a great opportunity for countries to be able to adjust to a more globalized world. FAO will be willing to support countries in their efforts in that sense.

The distinguished delegate from India mentioned the call for FAO to support countries' domestic markets to adjust and, in particular, to support the institutions. We welcome this suggestion. We have already been undertaking considerable work on risk management and the recent Inter-Governmental Group on Grains that was held in Istanbul, Turkey resulted in a lot of interesting developments, especially developments such as in India and the Secretariat is pursuing a lot of these and trying to assist countries.

This is an area where quite a bit of activity and developments are going on in not just Asia but also Africa and other parts of the world.

On standards, the Secretariat is pursuing this considerably. I would like to inform you that last Tuesday, our Director-General and the Secretary-General of WTO, Mr Lamy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling FAO to be in a better position and better placed to assist countries under the so called Standards and Trade Development Facility. This is already something that exists in the WTO and has been funded by members to the WTO.

I would like also to mention under the issue of Special Products, that yes, this is as many of know, an area of great concern and great importance for many countries. FAO has been assisting countries and will continue to do so to the extent of the resources available. This is an area which provides a lot of difficulties in WTO and FAO is taking a position which was expressed by the members in the last CCP mainly to assist the countries with the flexibilities provided under the WTO. This is the position that was expressed in the CCP.

A question was raised about some of our publications, I would just like to clarify that the point that the distinguished delegate from Brazil raised about one of our publications about further differentiation was not an FAO position but was a position expressed in one of the papers from one of the experts who participated in the meetings and of course FAO is open to all views, we don't share them necessarily, but we are open to views by all experts from all backgrounds.

On the issue of the impact of trade liberalization, which is an issue of concern to many, this is a rather difficult thing and as you know both ex ante and ex post evaluations are quite difficult but I would like to inform you that Secretary-General, Mr Lamy asked FAO to collaborate with WTO on some kind of joint methodology and joint assessment after the successful conclusion of the

Doha Round. So this is something that will be pursuing in the future with the view to inform Members in the best possible way.

Finally, I think on the special safeguard on import surges, as you know FAO has been pursuing some activities in this area, both technical work and capacity-building and my colleague Mr Hallam will give you a little bit more information about this.

In general, FAO is ready to support the Members to the extent of resources available in all these difficult areas and some of them especially difficult from the international view point.

I would like, with your permission to give the floor to Mr Hallam to elaborate on further issues.

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

Well in fact I think that Mr Sarris has covered most of the issues that are relevant, obviously as the Secretariat of the CCP we very much welcome the endorsement of our selection of Agenda items and the fact that the Members of Council share our view that the topics dealt with were the important ones at the time.

Just very briefly on the import surges and special safeguard mechanisms which a number of delegates mentioned and which Mr Sarris suggested we might elaborate on, our work in this area is continuing and there will be a series of capacity building workshops in various regions, currently we are planning two in Africa and a third in the Southwest Pacific Region. We are also bringing out, the final draft is now available, a manual on identification of import surges and corrective actions, so those will be available to the Membership in the very near future.

CHAIRPERSON

After these comments from the Secretariat, would anyone like to have the floor from the Council? Anyone else?

If not I thank the Secretariat for this and I conclude that the Council has endorsed the Report and we can therefore conclude Item 5.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

6. REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (ROME, 25-28 APRIL 2007) (CL 132/9)

6. RAPPORT DE LA VINGTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DE L'AGRICULTURE (ROME, 25-28 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/9)

6. INFORME DEL 20° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE AGRICULTURA (ROMA, 25-28 DE ABRIL DE 2007) (CL 132/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Item 6, the Report on the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and I hope that you have in front of you document CL 132/9. I would now ask Mr Habib Hussain Al Aboudi to introduce this point on the Agenda.

Habib AL ABOUDI (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

I am very pleased to present to the Council the Report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture which you have before you as document CL 132/9. It was an honour for me to have been elected to chair this session which took place here in Rome just two months ago from the 25 to 28 April 2007.

The Session had a full Agenda and Plenary and was supplemented by four side events on related topics. The Committee reviewed and provided guidance on the preliminary programme of work proposals of FAO in the Food and Agriculture Sector and on five selected international development issues of an interdisciplinary nature.

It also addressed the outcome and follow up of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development ICARRD, as referred to COAG by the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session of Council. The matters requiring attention of Council are summarized in the front section of the report and I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the main observations and recommendations of the Committee.

Throughout the Committee's deliberations, Members noted the importance of FAO's work to food security. The Committee considered the accomplishment of FAO during 2004-2005 and appreciated the achievements despite declining resources. It also considered the preliminary programme of work proposals and identified a number of items to which it gave particular priority. These priorities are given in paragraph 13 of the Report. The Committee expressed concern at the declining proportion of regular programme funding compared to extra budgetary resources could influence negatively the multilateral nature of the Organization.

A major recurring theme in the selected international development issues was the need for agricultural intensification while at the same time promoting sustainability and safeguarding human health and the environment.

The Committee considered the challenge of reconciling the primary and growing role of the livestock sector in agricultural economies, with the need to reduce the impact of livestock production on the environment.

It agreed to high level consultations, the need for FAO to assist countries upon request in designing and implementing policy frameworks and the building of guidelines, policy papers and decision support tools. In relation to agribusiness and agro-industries developments, the Committee discussed the profound changes that food and agricultural systems in many countries are currently undergoing.

It considered the expanding role of the private sector, the commercialization of smallholder farming, specialized procurement channels and private standards for food, quality and safety.

COAG recognized the growing importance of agribusiness and agro-industries in developing regions and the crucial role of agro-industries in the economic development and poverty reduction.

It recommended that FAO reinforce expertise and capacity, provide high quality information and analysis, support agro-industry and value chain programmes and establish close working relations with relevant UN and other organizations. It also welcomed the organization of a Global Agro-industry Forum. The Committee considered three major issues to agriculture and environment. Adaptation to climate change. Production of agrobiodiversity and bioenergy and a possible related conversion of land and other productive resources from food to biofuel. It generally supported the conduct of a study on possible elements of FAO strategic framework for agricultural and environmental challenges of the twenty-first century, depending the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation. It also provided detailed guidance for the study. The Committee requested that the study be submitted to the FAO Conference in 2009, through COAG. It also recalled the importance of FAO providing technical assistance to countries on complex agricultural environment issues, possibly through TCPs.

COAG discussed the importance of water resources for agriculture and food production and its role in poverty alleviation. The Committee also considered a competition for limited water resources in cities and rural areas where more and more people are leaving the countryside and moving to urban areas. It recommended that FAO strengthen its efforts to determine the consequences of climate change and water resources and the implications for the agricultural sector. It welcomed the proposal for a multi disciplinary integrated framework to address water scarcity.

The Council at its Hundred and Twenty-seventh Session discussed the follow-up to the International Conference on Agricultural Reform and Rural Development which took place in Porto Alegre in March 2006.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources, Management, Environment Department)

At its Twentieth Session, COAG recalled the importance of agrarian reform and rural development and the significant and unique role of FAO in this matter, when considering the outcome and follow-up of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. COAG requested the Secretariat to submit to the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the Council, information on the cross sectoral treatment by FAO of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, with, as you Mr Chair, have said, clearly defined functional responsibilities and points of contact. The Secretariat was also requested to submit to the Thirty-fourth Session of Conference in November 2007, an information document, providing an overview of the existing and ongoing activities of FAO on agrarian reform and rural development. This overview is to be considered by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security in 2008.

Let me now come to the requested information on the treatment of cross-cutting issues related to agrarian reform and rural development. Many technical units in FAO are actively involved in rural development. It is a core function of the Organization and it is truly interdisciplinary. It is by definition, interdepartmental. The Organization's focal point for rural development was the Rural Development Division in the Sustainable Development Department until January 2007, when that Division was reformed and its constituent parts merged into the Economic and Social Department and the Natural Resource Management and Environment Department. The new focal point for rural development is the Gender Equity and Rural Employment Division in the ES Department. Let me please repeat: the new focal point for rural development is the Gender Equity and Rural Employment Division. The gross cutting work of technical units in other departments will be facilitated and coordinated through an interdepartmental mechanism.

FAO has a long standing commitment to enhancing access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor through agrarian reform and other measures. Land tenure, including agrarian reform, is one of a number of constituent technical elements of the broader responsibilities of rural development. Secure access to land and to other natural resources is a direct factor in the alleviation of hunger and rural poverty and promotes land use practices that protect and enhance the environment. Responsibility for agrarian reform and other aspects of land tenure, remains with the Land Tenure and Management Unit under the Natural Resource Management in Environment Department. So concluding, the new focal point is the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, but responsibility for agrarian reform and other aspects of land tenure remains within the land tenure and management unit in my Department.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Thanks to the Secretariat for providing such a comprehensive and useful document in this respect. Let me, on behalf of the Near East Group, comment on this very important subject at this moment. They have discussed it so much, I mean the energy issue. While, on behalf of the Near East group, I welcome the Secretariat's proposal and recommendation on this subject, due to the positive and negative impacts of the bioenergy, environment and food security, as stated in the para. 30 and 36 in this document, and to protect against the negative impact of this issue on the environment as well as food security, I would like to ask FAO to continue precisely the further study on this issue, taking into account, the different circumstances and conditions and situations of different regions regarding the issue, particularly the Near East Region. Solar and wind energy and any other energy resources can be taken into consideration accordingly, rather than focus mainly on bioenergy, which may have an inappropriate impact on agriculture production which is needed more for the people in this area from the food security point of view.

And finally, my delegation supports fully the issue of the agrarian reform to be taken into consideration as an important factor in sustainable development.

Ms Swantje HEIBING (Germany)

Again, I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes the report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We generally support the list of matters identified as requiring the attention of the Council.

We endorse the position of Committee towards the Programme Implementation Report 2004-2005. The EU would like to reassert its request of a more results-based approach to the programme implementation report, including quantitative analysis of outputs produced and the results of auto-evaluations. We would also like to underline that we see a need for more information on partnerships, in particular between the Rome-based UN Agencies and express our concern about the fragmentation of FAO's programme into too many activities with thinly spread resources as a consequence.

We agree with the Committee that the Preliminary Programme of Work Proposals for 2008-2009 has to be seen in the light of the ongoing Independent External Evaluation (IEE). Therefore, we would like to underline the need for some degree of flexibility giving the possibility to re-examine the programme proposals at a later stage.

The EU would like to reaffirm its support for the Committee's general recommendations on managing livestock taking into account the environment interactions. However, the EU would like to add to this list, especially for large intensive livestock farms. Recommendations should include the issuance and monitoring of operating permits designed to control pollution and use of animal waste as well as the development and use of best available techniques. These have to be adapted to the local and regional context and respect the objectives of sustainable development.

The EU generally supports the Committee's views and recommendations on agribusiness and agro-industry on economic and social development. We would like to stress that vulnerable groups in rural areas have to benefit from developing and supporting agribusiness and agro-industry with the goal to create the value added for small farmers and offer them opportunities to go beyond subsistence farming.

The EU welcomes the Committee on Agriculture's considerations of interactions between key environmental challenges and the agricultural sector. The report rightly draws attention to the linkage between agricultural development and climate change as well as to the importance of biodiversity and bioenergy to environmental sustainability and food security. The EU supports the proposed conduct of a study to identify possible elements of a Strategic Framework for Agriculture and Environmental Challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

The EU agrees with the Committee on the importance of water resources for agriculture and food productions and its significant role in poverty reduction. We also acknowledge the importance of increasing water-use efficiency. Therefore we support the idea to discuss a multidisciplinary integrated framework to address water scarcity.

Regarding the follow-up process to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICAARD), the EU is looking forward to obtaining information on FAO's cross-sectoral treatment as well as on ongoing activities and programmes, including Technical Cooperation Programmes on the matter of agrarian reform and rural development, with clearly defined functional responsibilities and points of contact as requested by COAG.

We believe that boundary definitions for FAO interventions related to agrarian reform and rural development have to be discussed and agreed. In this respect we believe it is helpful to start reflecting on issues such as FAO experiences, strengths and weaknesses in providing policy advice and technical assistance to countries in land related issues. The agreed FAO stocktaking exercise/overview to be carried out by the FAO Secretariat on the matter is a good starting point and should help in clarifying FAO functions, roles and capacities in this domain. Another useful

question to be raised in this context is how the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food can be efficiently implemented.

The EU remains convinced that a cautious approach to the subject is essential, particularly in the light of the ongoing FAO reform process that should lead FAO to refocusing on its priorities within its core mandate.

P.K. MISHRA (India)

We welcome the outcome of the deliberations of the Committee on Agriculture and endorse the decisions of the Member States to facilitate FAO's work in cross-sectoral work that can have an impact on world agriculture.

The importance of biodiversity and bioenergy on environmental sustainability and food security need no emphasis, the interest of agriculture are inextricably linked to the larger issues of environment. Developing countries and indeed all of us as well are concerned with the likely long-term impact of climate change on agriculture, livelihood and food security. Outcomes of various studies, especially those accepted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change point to the need for conducting deeper regional and country-specific studies that can mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture and in fact help Member Nations initiate policy action in the right way.

FAO should simultaneously and in close collaboration with Member Nations work towards facilitating this by incorporating suitable components in its programme entities for policy and free level initiatives. In this context, it is mentioned most probably that these needs to be some more focus on the agricultural risk, because even though agriculture has become in some scenarios, more profitable because of improved technology, the risk has also increased and in the 1990s, FAO focussed and paid a lot of attention on how to address agricultural risk. FAO studies on agricultural insurance, helped many of the countries but probably during the last decade or one and a half decade the focus is no longer on agricultural risk and maybe this needs more attention by FAO, how to help farmers, particularly small farmers, to cope with the increased risk of agriculture and which is much more relevant in the context of climate change.

In a similar way we also extend support to the item contained in the Report of the Committee that calls for a programmatic approach to water use efficiency and agricultural productivity. There are worldwide concerns on the continued availability of water for agriculture. Economic development, organisation and increasing affordability lead to changing lifestyles that result in increased per capita demand for water. In developing countries, especially those with a large population dependent on agriculture for livelihood, the larger share of water resources have gone for crop and animal husbandry.

In the light of increasing intersectoral competition for available water resources, there is a need to calibrate a long-term approach. Water use efficiency and demand management initiatives should be studied along with issues of equity and entitlement and access to water for food production, for such an exercise to be meaningful and helpful to farmers in the developing countries, especially so in the case of smallholder farmers.

We welcome the recognition being given to study the challenges of agri-business and growing industries development. There is a need for development of a comprehensive policy framework that promotes a regular trade environment and encourages private sector involvement in the valid chain and ensures a gainful participation by small growers and offers opportunity to link them with the larger markets. It is only recognition to agriculture produce that can enable developing country producers to be price competitive and be able to keep pace with changes in consumer preferences both in the domestic and international markets.

India has offered to host the global agro-industries forum organized by the FAO and the UNIDO to help facilitate the development of such a policy framework. We are happy to note that the members of the Committee on Agriculture welcomed our initiative and will spare no efforts to see that this becomes a successful venture.

As has already been noted in interventions by other Member Nations, the report of the Independent External Evaluation will be available to us during the later half of the year; it is awaited with great deal of anticipation on how the Organization should be restructured to deliver the programme that addresses the new challenges more effectively, this is in spite of the fact that the work on the core challenges identified in the Millennium Development Goals remain incomplete. At this moment, we would therefore like to emphasize that the Organization, through the reforms that are likely to be ushered in the near future, should address itself to the core issues of improving agricultural productivity and agroprocessing and agrobusiness in developing countries and linking farmers in these countries with world markets, in addition to combating poverty and ensuring food security to the poor in the largest numbers as envisioned in the Millennium Development Goals.

Manabu YASUHARA (Japan)

We support the Report of Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We have concerns especially on the following fields, such as FAOSTAT, International Standards and environmental issues such as climate change, biofuel and biodiversity, and control of transboundary animal diseases. We would like to expect FAO to tackle these issues effectively with high priorities, especially strict priority setting on all programmes based on the comparative advantage of FAO, this is indispensable for preparation of the PWB. In addition, regarding the study on possible elements of the FAO strategic, framework for agriculture and environmental challenges of the Twenty-first Century, we expect FAO to inform the Member Nations of the progress, on occasion.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je me réfère à la déclaration que notre Ministre d'État avait faite lors de la vingtième session du Comité de l'agriculture. Monsieur le Président, la présentation du Conseil de la FAO se tient dans un contexte particulier pour notre Organisation. En effet, depuis la session de la Conférence de 2005, elle a entrepris un grand effort qui, à travers la place qui est donnée à la décentralisation, a pour ambition de l'adapter à la demande d'un très grand nombre de pays, notamment les pays en développement qui demandent un dit développement de proximité et j'insiste sur ce mot proximité.

En août la réforme de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies qui prône l'unité dans l'action lui impose sans doute de nouvelles manières d'opérer au niveau des pays. Sur un tout autre plan, l'évaluation externe qui est en cours, devrait lui permettre de recentrer son action. Le monde d'aujourd'hui qui est en mutation perpétuelle et les défis extraordinaires dans le cadre de la réalisation des OMD, notamment celui de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté pour les plus de 1,1 milliard de personnes vivant dans l'extrême pauvreté et la réponse collective sur le plan international n'est pas encore à la hauteur des enjeux, ce que nous déplorons.

Au-delà des problèmes de l'insécurité alimentaire viennent se greffer les questions liées aux changements climatiques, aux déficits hydriques, à la dégradation de l'environnement, aux énergies renouvelables, aux pandémies, comme celle du virus du SIDA, aux catastrophes naturelles, aux fléaux destructeurs des cultures, à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments et bien d'autres encore. Toutes ces questions ont été abordées dans le cadre de la vingtième session du Comité de l'agriculture dont nous examinons présentement le rapport. Le Cameroun soutient donc les conclusions et les recommandations de ce rapport.

De même, Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions le rapport verbal qui vient de nous être dressé par M. Muller sur les traitements transversaux des questions relatives à la réforme agraire et du développement rural. Nous soutenons l'idée d'un point focal situé dans la Division de l'équité des genres et de l'emploi rural. Monsieur le Président, s'il est compris que les défis en matière de sécurité alimentaire sont connus de tous, la manière de les aborder sur le plan local évolue en fonction des outils d'analyse dont disposent les gouvernements pour garantir que les interventions par eux envisagées, sont fondées sur les besoins réels et que les stratégies qui en découlent sont appropriées.

L'effort des gouvernements n'étant pas parfaitement suffisant, l'assistance technique des institutions internationales, telles que la FAO qui est un centre de savoir par excellence, devient appréciable pour s'assurer que la sécurité sanitaire est prise en compte dans toutes ses dimensions dans les stratégies de développement des pays. Connaissant la situation des ressources de l'Organisation, Monsieur le Président, dont la diminution en valeur absolue se fait de plus en plus importante d'années en années, nous avons été frappés par les résultats obtenus dont le Comité s'en est d'ailleurs félicité. Il n'y a donc pas d'autres moyens de se convaincre de l'importante contribution de la FAO à la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Comité de l'agriculture a recommandé qu'un équilibre soit maintenu en matière de priorité entre les activités normatives et les activités opérationnelles. Le Cameroun soutient ce point de vue car nous estimons que les activités sont complémentaires et font de la FAO une agence des Nations Unies particulière dont le savoir faire technique rencontre les préoccupations du plus grand nombre de membres. Permettez-moi aussi de dire qu'en matière de budgétisation des activités, la priorité doit être donnée au budget ordinaire. Nous nous rangeons du côté du Comité qui s'est inquiété du déséquilibre croissant entre les ressources du budget ordinaire et les contributions extra-budgétaires en défaveur des ressources ordinaires. Nous convenons donc que les contributions extraordinaires, qui sont pour l'ensemble volontaires, ne sont pas privilégiées par les pays Membres. Ceci peut porter une entrave à l'équilibre des activités au sein de l'Organisation.

En reconnaissant que la promotion des aspects réglementaires et politiques, l'établissement, l'élaboration et l'adoption des normes pour la protection des végétaux, dans la cadre de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux, et pour la santé du consommateur dans le cadre du Codex Alimentarius, sont des aspects importants pour le travail de la FAO. Nous voulons souligner notre intérêt à ne voir qu'une grande priorité à donner au renforcement des capacités locales en matière de la gestion des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans leur ensemble. Des techniques de production adaptées, le soutien aux systèmes nationaux de recherche et de vulgarisation agricole, à la promotion des activités agricoles commerciales et compétitives.

Nous sommes aussi en faveur d'une grande priorité accordée à l'appui, à la participation des pays en développement aux négociations commerciales multilatérales dans le cadre de sécurité de Doha. C'est donc dire ici la grande importance que nous attachons aux programmes de terrain qui sont bâtis sur les savoirs et les réalisations locales. Il nous faut plus de programmes de coopération technique dont l'objectif premier est de mettre en place des projets pilotes qui peuvent servir de test pour une application à plus grande échelle.

Monsieur le Président, le développement des industries de transformation des produits agricoles, dans les pays en développement, y compris le mien le Cameroun, est un défi majeur. Les enjeux, pour la diversification des productions exportables, ne sont plus à rappeler. Au Cameroun, comme dans beaucoup de pays en développement, le secteur de l'agro-alimentaire commence à se développer. Même si le rythme n'est pas le même partout, la matière première pour les industries transformables, les fruits, les légumes, la viande, le poisson est disponible et il y a du potentiel pour se faire, même si quelquefois le tissu industriel reste défaillant. Le cadre réglementaire existe mais il faut assurer un soutien plus fort à l'effort du Gouvernement à la matière, à travers le renforcement des capacités dans le domaine de l'analyse des marchés, des produits et de l'identification des débouchés commerciaux. C'est l'orientation la plus à même de sécuriser une participation accrue de nos pays au commerce international des produits agricoles. Pour faire avancer la réflexion sur cette question, nous soutenons la candidature de l'Inde à héberger un forum mondial des agro-industries pourvu que, et là nous mettons une condition, que la participation des moyennes industries, parce que nos pays ont essentiellement des moyennes industries, qui sont détenues par les nationaux de ces pays, soit assurée.

En revanche, la question oh combien essentielle pour les agriculteurs et les éleveurs, de l'accès à la terre pour lutter contre la pauvreté et la faim, et de promouvoir un développement durable, je voudrais apprécier toutes les recommandations retenues dans la déclaration finale de la

Conférence internationale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et durable, et retenir l'importance de l'intensification d'un partenariat international sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et du rôle que devrait jouer la FAO en collaboration avec le Comité de l'agriculture dans la mise en œuvre de la déclaration du CIRAD. Il n'existe pas de modèle unique et transposable pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Ces questions peuvent être mieux appréhendées à l'échelon local et peut-être même régional et l'idée d'inclure les thèses s'y rapportant aux conférences régionales nous paraît acceptable et nous la soutenons.

Susana RIVERO GUZMÁN (Bolivia)

A nombre de mi país, nos complace el Informe que se presenta en esta ocasión. Sin embargo quisiéramos hacer algunas reflexiones a propósito de la experiencia que estamos viviendo.

Bolivia está atravesando un proceso de transformación democrática y cultural, y en este marco ha reconducido su reforma agraria que se estaba dirigiendo por el camino del mercado, y ahora la reforma agraria en Bolivia pretende eliminar el latifundio improductivo, redistribuir la tierra, garantizando sobre todo la seguridad y la soberanía alimentaria.

Todas las tierras fiscales que sean recuperadas, aquellas que no estén trabajando, o no estén produciendo, van a ser redistribuidas con exclusividad a los pueblos indígenas y a las comunidades campesinas. Este es un planteamiento que quisiéramos exponerles. La FAO debería seguir impulsando las diferentes modalidades de reforma agraria.

Nosotros no nos oponemos a las otras experiencias de los países, ni las cuestionamos, ni las criticamos, pero consideramos que nuestra reforma agraria con este altísimo componente social requiere del apoyo, y que va más allá, del apoyo en asesoramiento.

Por otro lado consideramos importante, que para trabajar sobre los cambios climáticos y preparar a nuestros pueblos para enfrentarlos, debemos recuperar y encontrar entre todos, iniciativas que nos puedan ayudar a nivel de comunicación.

El mundo ha crecido tanto, las tecnologías han avanzado tanto, sin embargo nuestros pueblos, los pueblos indígenas, requieren de iniciativas diferenciadas con las que puedan desarrollar sus capacidades para enfrentar los cambios climáticos que no son parte ni de su cultura ni de sus costumbres.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brasil)

Bienvenido Presidente del Comité de Agricultura, es siempre un placer verlo entre nosotros y recordamos con mucho agrado su conducción del Comité de Agricultura de hace casi dos meses.

Hoy el binomio Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria es fundamental, especialmente para países que se proponen un nuevo camino hacia el desarrollo ambientalmente sostenible y que contribuyan en la superación de las desigualdades sociales y económicas.

La Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, realizada en Porto Alegre en marzo del 2006, ha llamado a la atención del mundo de la necesidad de intentar de transformar un cuadro de hambre y pobreza rural que constituye un factor limitante del desarrollo. El seguimiento de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural ha sido tratado en el 32º Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y por el Consejo del 2006. Hace poco más de dos meses asistimos a una negociación, como lo indico el presidente del Comité de Agricultura fue una negociación bastante difícil, pero alcanzamos un resultado y consenso que refleja el compromiso de los Miembros con el tema del seguimiento de la Conferencia de Porto Alegre, y del reconocimiento que la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural son, de hecho los pilares centrales del trabajo de la FAO.

En ese sentido, aguardamos con mucha ansiedad lo que se había solicitado a la Secretaría, de presentarnos a nosotros la definición clara de los puntos focales y las responsabilidades funcionales dentro de esta. Acabamos de escuchar la propuesta que nos hace la Secretaría, a partir de la intervención del Sr. Muller.

Lo que nos gustaría es de tener en cuenta y de subrayar que no es simplemente un hecho de atribuir algún sector o responsabilidad a la Secretaría, pero dar a este sector la capacidad efectiva de actuar como propuesto; lo que quiero decir, es que es indispensable que el punto focal del Secretariado este capacitado para operar y pueda efectivamente constituir un anillo y una relación entre las demandas de los estados y la Secretaría, porque entiendo muy bien, como mencionado por el Sr. Muller, que este será un trabajo Inter-departamental, vista la naturaleza Inter-disciplinaria del tema.

Mi delegación estará bastante atenta, sobre el funcionamiento de este sistema, así como propuesto por el representante de la Secretaría. Y también aguardamos los trabajos futuros que se nos darán a conocer a finales de año durante las sesiones de noviembre próximo.

Mi delegación insiste, como insistió en varias ocasiones durante el COAG, que el proceso de reformas de la FAO de ninguna manera debe debilitar su rol con respecto a la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural; es importante que la Organización mantenga su capacidad institucional y sus estructuras administrativas adecuadas, para seguir brindando a sus Estados Miembros los conocimientos, los programas de capacitación y de cooperación técnica en el campo de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

Otro punto importante para mi delegación, con relación a la labor de la última sesión del COAG, es la propuesta hecha, para que la Secretaría organice consultas para determinar la naturaleza y la amplitud de la interacción entre la ganadería y el medio ambiente, teniendo en cuenta las particularidades regionales e identificar las áreas prioritarias para el desarrollo de políticas e intervenciones técnicas.

Respecto al mencionado mecanismo de consultas, esperamos que estén sean suficientemente amplias, en manera de abarcar todas la dimensiones de la ganadería, incluso su competitividad y su realismo económico. En esta relación tenemos que tener muy en cuenta y Brasil lo sostiene que se debe evitar análisis superficiales, con perjuicios con relación al tema. Creo que se deben explorar también los posibles impactos positivos de la ganadería sobre el medio ambiente y la consideración del hecho que la ganadería representa el único medio de vida para un grande numero de habitantes de los países en desarrollo.

Igualmente el Comité aprobó una propuesta que se llevará a cabo un estudio sobre posibles componentes de un marco estratégico que interrelacione la agricultura y los desafíos ambientales del siglo XXI. Es recomendable que este estudio sea hecho con amplias consultas con los Países Miembros. En ese sentido, mi delegación hace hincapié de la decisión del COAG, según la cual este estudio debe ser realizado por el Departamento de Medio Ambiente y Manejo de Recursos Naturales preferiblemente con recursos del Presupuesto Regular.

Como ultimo punto quisiera como también otros colegas que han hecho uso de la palabra, mencionar nuestra preocupación con relación al uso indiscriminado y no transparente de los Recursos Extra-presupuestarios de esta Organización. Mi delegación quiere que estos elementos sean planteados en las decisiones finales de este Consejo. Con tales comentarios mi delegación esta en condiciones de aprobar el Informe del cuadro.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

Australia participated in the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and endorses the Report. The Committee provided valuable discussion on a range of issues. In particular, Australia welcomed the Committee's significant engagement on a range of environmental issues including water scarcity, climate change, bioenergy and livestock production. We endorse the Meeting's conclusion that the FAO has a key role to play in regard to the environmental implications of agricultural production, and the proposed areas of follow-up identified in paragraph 17, calling for a high level consultation on livestock environmental interactions, and in paragraph 47, calling for an integrated framework to address water scarcity.

Australia welcomes the preliminary identification of programme of work proposals for 2008-2009 as outlined in paragraph 13, but we would also echo the views expressed by Members in

paragraph 11 of the Report that it is premature to agree on new programme thrusts and settle on a final programme until the IEE process has been completed. Furthermore, the Programme Committee recently recommended that current priorities as well new challenges of the FAO, such as climate change and bioenergy, be taken into account in developing the full Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009.

We would also like to draw attention to two other points in this Report. Australia would wish to echo the concerns identified in paragraph 20 that the FAO should not explore international certification schemes for sustainable livestock production as these might be used as non-tariff trade barriers. Australia agrees with the Committee at paragraph 26 that there must be careful consideration of the risks associated with the proliferation of industry, develop standards and quality requirements before the FAO engages in work in this area.

Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

We appreciate the focus of the Committee on Agriculture this year on how to enhance and diversify agricultural production while at the same time preserving and protecting natural resources and ecosystems. COAG held fruitful discussions of livestock-environment interactions; environment and the agricultural food chain; agriculture and water scarcity; and agribusiness and agro-industry development. We particularly welcomed the analysis and discussion of the rapidly developing bioenergy sector, which has the potential, if properly managed, to contribute positively to food security, farm incomes and to the environment.

We participated with interest in the Committee's discussions, and will not repeat our statements here again. Suffice it to say that we broadly support the Committee on Agriculture's conclusions as reported in the document currently before us.

We do wish to highlight, however, the issue of climate, which took on increased prominence recently with the G-8 Summit at Heiligendamm. In their joint declaration, the G-8 leaders recognized the importance of confronting global climate change and its consequences for biodiversity and ecosystems, including water and food supply. The leaders committed to taking strong and early action to tackle climate change, inviting the major emerging economies to join in this endeavour. As noted at the Committee on Agriculture, we believe that FAO can make an important contribution in the analyses and discussions of the interactions between climate and agricultural systems, in the context of the developing Strategic Framework for Agriculture and Environmental Challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

We also should highlight the Committee on Agriculture's discussions regarding diversifying agricultural production, in particular the actual and potential contributions of new technologies to complement existing systems and practices, and the promising developments in bioenergy.

In April, the Committee on Agriculture also reviewed the FAO's Programme of Work in Agriculture, and members agreed on the key thrusts for future work, while recognizing that detailed consideration will depend in part on broader discussions of the Organization's future direction, including input from the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

There was also broad consensus on the importance of rural development. However, we look forward to the Report on ongoing activities in agrarian reform and rural development that the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare.

Luo MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report prepared. The Chinese delegation supports the recommendations made in this report and would like to make the following comments. Firstly, with respect to the Programme Budget for 2008 and 2009, as adjustments have to be made therefore, we have to identify the sequence of work in the COAG so that within our limited resources we can accomplish our important work.

Secondly, with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget for the human development in developing countries we expect not to have any reductions in this area, and, in particular, we have

to help developing countries to develop agro-industries and to develop and raise their level of agricultural production as well as for their technology development.

Thirdly, with respect to bioenergy and its development, bioenergy development and utilization is relevant to agriculture. It also has something to do with forestry as well. Therefore, FAO should strengthen the exchange of information with respect to bioenergy development and utilization among countries so that we can have a comprehensive view of bioenergy utilization and development and at the same time protect agricultural, forestry development and the environment.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

My delegation would like to thank the Chairperson of COAG and the Secretary of COAG for their informative presentations of the Report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, with the highlight on matters requiring special attention of the Council.

My delegation would like to stress that climate change has quickly and increasingly caused serious droughts and floods in many parts of the world. Moreover, water resources can also be the cause of conflicts among water users in agricultural and industrial sectors.

In order to cope with this climate change, as well as to manage water resources efficiently, FAO must strengthen its work by securing more resources as well as providing more technical assistance on water resource management to Member Nations.

With regard to ICAARD Declaration, Thailand endorsed paragraph 49 in requesting FAO to provide the existing and ongoing activities of FAO, including the Regional Office on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Thailand also supports the issue of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and ICAARD follow-up to be included in the agendas of Regional Conference at the coming session.

Daniel KALENGA (Zambia)

The Zambian delegation would like to join other Council Members in commending the Chairperson for the quality of the Report tabled before the Council.

Zambia supports most of the recommendations of the Committee, in particular, recommendation 42 to the Report which emphasizes the need to efficiently utilize water in agriculture production. In this respect Zambia welcomes FAO's efforts in determining the consequences of climatic changes on water resources and for the agriculture sector. Zambia has abundant underground and surface water resources which, if not utilized efficiently, could be depleted. There is need, therefore, to strengthen institutions that regulate the use of water resources.

Given the many challenges that Zambia and other African nations are facing the area of agribusiness and agro-industry development, Zambia supports the recommendation that FAO give priority to responding to the challenges of agribusiness and agro-industry development, particularly in the areas of value chain analysis, as well as in providing capacity for value addition.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Agradecemos la presentación del Informe y lo apoyamos. Apoyamos también las intervenciones que han hecho Bolivia y las claras apreciaciones realizadas por el distinguido representante de Brasil. Acogemos las prioridades definidas por el Comité, en especial las relacionadas con las enfermedades y plagas de los animales, las plantas, los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, la gestión sostenible de los recursos naturales y el apoyo a los países para que participen en las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales.

Expresamos nuestra preocupación por la tendencia hacia la disminución de los recursos del Programa Ordinario en comparación con los recursos extrapresupuestarios, especial importancia tiene, que ninguna de las actividades definidas como prioritarias deben ser detenidas en espera de los resultados de la evaluación externa independiente.

Es necesario también mantener el balance adecuado entre actividades normativas y operacionales, y un mayor apoyo a los Países Miembros en el enfrentamiento de las consecuencias del cambio climático en la actividad agropecuaria. De igual forma, cualquier sistema de certificación de la producción ganadera no debe convertirse en una nueva barrera técnica al comercio. El marco estratégico propuesto para afrontar los retos agrícolas y medioambientales, debe contener propuestas concretas acerca de cómo y con cuáles recursos se puede apoyar a los Países Miembros en el desarrollo del sector sobre bases sostenibles. La introducción del tema de bioenergía en este marco, debe realizarse siempre y cuando se tengan en cuenta los impactos que ésta tiene sobre la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente.

Por último, la cuestión de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, amerita la mayor prioridad y seguimiento por parte de la FAO y los Estados Miembros. La consolidación de un centro de atención a este tema en la FAO es imprescindible para su adecuado seguimiento. Sólo con verdaderas y profundas transformaciones en las formas de producción agrícola podrá potenciarse el desarrollo rural y eliminar el latifundio.

Gellwyn JUSUF (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to acknowledge the work of the Committee as it is reflected in the Report of the Twentieth Session submitted to the Council for its approval. In general, Indonesia fully supports the Report of the Committee, with particular points that need to be emphasized on the technical assistance to the countries on complex issues regarding location-specific energy crops, adaptation to climate change, managing the environment-livestock interface and the provision of knowledge tools and advice possible through the TCPs. These are the most recent critical and fragile problems encountered by the developing countries in supporting to develop agriculture.

The other priority is related to the importance of water resources for agriculture and food production to alleviate the level of poverty. It is expected that FAO must play its significant role in strengthening its efforts to determine various consequences of the climate change on water resources especially for agriculture sector as the highest water consumer.

We believe that the implementation of agrarian reform is an obligation in developing agricultural and rural development, as well as poverty alleviation in developing countries. It is, therefore, that FAO has to consider it as one of the priority programmes due to its direct and/or indirect benefits to the member countries.

Johan RAMLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia wishes to commend the Secretariat for this informative report as in document CL 132/9.

My delegation recognizes the growing importance of agribusiness and agro-industries in developing regions and the crucial role of agro industries in economic development and poverty reduction. Hence, re-balancing of policies, efficiencies and services to focus on agribusiness and agro industries development is therefore required.

We would like to inform the Session that in implementing Malaysia's Nine Plan for Agriculture for the period of 2006 to 2010, our focus will be on developing on what we call the "new agriculture". This will entail further expansion of large-scale commercial farming and venturing into high quality and value added activities as well as unlocking the potential in biotechnology.

Our overall policy thrusts will focus on the agriculture sectors reorientation towards greater commercialization and the creation of high income farmers as well as promotion of greater private sector investments, including foreign investments.

In this regard, the agriculture policy thrusts in Malaysia are as follows.

Firstly, agriculture production will be increased through greater utilization of high yielding clones and birds, farm mechanization and Good Agriculture Practice towards a sustainable productivity improvement of quality and safe produce.

Secondly, as pending agrobased processing activities and product diversification are reducing the cost of production.

Thirdly, strengthening marketing and global networking through improving efficiencies in marketing, deliveries resource and strengthening strategic alliances.

These targets, specific policies and strategies are expected to expedite the transformation of Malaysia's agriculture sector into a modern, dynamic and competitive sector, particularly to the smallholders, farmers and fishermen. For these policy targets to be fully implemented, strong policy advice, technical assistance and support from FAO is crucial.

My delegation also noted the relevancy of some of the emerging issues to the programmes thrusts that we are implementing, in particular, on the possibility that the changes moving towards the development of an agribusiness and agro-industry environment which we foresee would increase our effectiveness in domestic and international markets and the increasing cooperativeness faced by the small-scale producers and processes against the large-scale food policies and manufacturers. These need to be addressed when policies and strategies are formulated towards developing and transforming the agriculture sector into an agricultural agribusiness environment.

Particular attention is also given to strengthening public sector cooperation, strong private sector participation and drive is crucial to achieve a faster pace of development towards an agribusiness and agro-industry sector.

In this regard, Malaysia is increasingly embarking on programmes involving small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs in large-scale policies, processes and exporters acting as anchor companies.

My delegation further wishes to emphasize on the subject of standards and quality requirements. Although, internationally most certification programmes are private sector driven in Malaysia, however, the government plays a major role in developing and implementing certification programmes on standards and requirements to meet the demands of major buyers and manufacturers for quality and safe products produced in a sustainable manner, with an agriculture production system that is not only safe to the environment but also safe to the workers. These products need to be ensured that they are produced conforming to standards of Good Agriculture Practice and Good Manufacturing Practice.

At present, my country is implementing several certification programmes relating to conventional farming systems, organic farming systems, livestock farming and aquaculture farming. These certification programmes are developed collectively involving both the public and private sectors. They were modelled after international organization certification programmes.

My delegation wishes to support the call for FAO to reinforce expertise and capacity to respond to the challenges mentioned above and a call for agro-industry evolution programmes and enhanced public sector cooperation to support agribusiness and agro-industries development. We wish to welcome the organization of a Global Agro-industry Forum.

Managing livestock environmental interaction requires application of new technologies, standards, procedures and systems. Intensification of livestock production should also be based on a minimum resource requirement using improved indigenous technology. The use of technology, including biotechnology in livestock farming may provide better solutions in managing livestock environmental interactions besides enhancing productivity. However, there may not be one best method for all countries due to variance in resources and eco-systems. In view of this, the recommendation to development international certification schemes for sustainable livestock production need to be reconsidered.

Malaysia supports the proposals for FAO to organize high level consultations to assess the scope of livestock environmental interaction and to identify priority areas for policy improvement and technical interventions. In designing and implementing policy frameworks my delegation also supports the proposal for FAO to assist countries through effective dissemination of information, decision support tools and capacity building for sustainable livestock production.

With that Malaysia would like to endorse the Report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Agriculture as in document CL 132/9.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Mon pays, tout en soutenant la liste des activités jugées prioritaires par le Comité, accorde une importance toute particulière aux thèmes suivants: la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, notamment dans les zones défavorisées comme les régions de montagne, les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture qui sont étroitement liées à la gestion durable; nous sommes également très intéressés à la question de la nutrition et la protection des consommateurs, à la question de la gestion de l'eau; à cet égard nous nous félicitons de la proposition visant à mettre en place un cadre pluridisciplinaire intégré concernant la pénurie de l'eau; un autre sujet qui nous intéresse aussi sont les maladies et ravageurs des animaux et des plantes ainsi que la mise en œuvre de directives complémentaires concernant le droit à l'alimentation.

La Suisse soutient également les efforts de la FAO en matière d'agriculture et développement rural durable en région de montagne et souhaite vivement qu'une plus grande importance soit accordée à cette problématique avec une attribution claire des compétences. Ma délégation accueille également de manière favorable la proposition du Secrétariat d'effectuer une étude des éléments envisageables pour établir un cadre stratégique pour les enjeux agricoles et environnementaux du 21^{ème} siècle, sans pour autant préjuger des conclusions de l'évaluation externe indépendante. Mon pays souhaite également que dans les rapports sur l'exécution du programme, l'accent soit davantage mis sur une approche basée sur le résultat avec une analyse quantitative des résultats obtenus et des conclusions des auto-évaluations. Nous souhaitons également obtenir à l'avenir davantage d'informations sur les différents types de partenariats dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement rural ainsi que sur les possibilités de nouveaux partenariats, en particulier avec les autres agences du système onusien. S'agissant du programme de travail et budget 2008-09, nous partageons l'avis du Comité qu'il convient d'approcher cette question en tenant compte de l'évaluation externe indépendante actuellement en cours. Nous sommes d'avis qu'il y a lieu à ce stade de faire preuve d'une certaine flexibilité en la matière.

Jean Du Dieu MUTABAZI (Observateur du Burundi)

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'accorder une nouvelle fois la parole. Je saisis l'occasion pour vous féliciter à mon tour de votre manière de conduire les débats. Je remercie et félicite aussi l'équipe qui a rédigé ce rapport qu'il faut adopter moyennant les avis et remarques pertinents qui ont été soulevés par les participants qui ont pris la parole avant moi.

Je ne veux pas revenir sur les caractéristiques de l'agriculture burundaise, vous les connaissez déjà ou vous pouvez les avoir sur Internet ou ailleurs; je voudrais juste vous informer que la sécurité alimentaire durable, la gestion durable de l'espace et des ressources naturelles, la promotion d'une agriculture de marché et l'appui à la planification, la vulgarisation et la recherche, ces quatre points constituent pour le gouvernement quatre programmes prioritaires.

Pour ce qui est de la sécurité alimentaire durable, la stratégie au Burundi est le repeuplement du cheptel qui a été fortement décimé par la guerre civile de quinze ans. Toutefois, nous avons pris comme option au niveau du gouvernement le gros bétail ou le cheptel bovin, non seulement pour les produits alimentaires qu'il peut fournir en grande quantité, comme la viande ou le lait, mais également pour le fumier qu'il peut donner en grande quantité, plus que le petit bétail.

Je voudrais également Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les participants vous informer que le Burundi n'a presque pas de laboratoires vétérinaires; le seul qui existe est délabré. C'est pourquoi je demande que la FAO appuie les programmes ci-après: la réhabilitation et l'équipement du seul laboratoire dont dispose le Burundi, le renforcement des capacités par la formation d'un personnel vétérinaire de qualité et enfin, l'appui à la recherche au niveau des ressources zoo-génétiques dont nous disposons.

Rugare GUMBO (Observer for Zimbabwe)

My delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for the excellent document CL 132/9 before us. In its report the Committee on Agriculture flags out issues pertinent to development of agriculture, particularly in Africa. In Zimbabwe. The Government is pursuing efforts to capacitate the farmers to enhance agriculture productivity in production and some of these efforts include agrarian reforms, livestock and crop inputs schemes for the smallholder sector, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, mechanization of the agricultural sector, improving farmer extension worker ratio, concessionary credit facilities for the farmers and price incentives for food security crops.

The capacity of developing economies to fully support agriculture, as we are all aware, are limited, and, as such, Zimbabwe welcomes recommendations by the Committee for FAO to work on the following: agriculture extension and research; agrarian reform and rural development; knowledge exchange and capacity building; sustainable natural resource management; and policy analysis and advice.

In Zimbabwe the livestock sector plays a crucial role in agriculture as it is both a source of income and provides critical inputs to the sector. It is a source of organic fertilizers and draught power. Like the cropping sector, the growth of the livestock sector has also been affected by recurrent droughts and the Government has embarked on a cattle restocking exercise.

We take note of issues raised by the report on managing livestock environment interactions and welcome the Committee's endorsement for FAO to assist countries in designing and implementing policy frameworks to address environmental issues with regard livestock and agriculture in general.

On the issue of bioenergy, Zimbabwe appreciates the benefits of energy security that can be realized from agriculture's contribution to biomass that can be used as feedstock for this energy. It also notes that there are challenges to food security posed by competitive use of crops for food security and bioenergy, and as such, uses *Jatropha*, a non-food crop in its bioenergy programme.

My delegation welcomes calls for further examination of the complex interface of bioenergy and food security.

Whilst still on the floor, may I take this opportunity to make a public acknowledgement and appreciation of the support and cooperation given to my country by FAO and WFP during the 2007 crop assessment. The exercise was done in an open, transparent and honest manner. Although we have not yet received the official report, we hope it will outline our strengths and weaknesses and hopefully develop a roadmap for the participation of all our international partners.

Niels FARNET (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

Firstly, I would like to say that IFAP appreciates very much the efforts of the Secretariat on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The report given by Dr Müller was promising words for us to hear.

Many of the other interventions by the distinguished delegates are also very helpful and promising to us.

We would have liked to have had the Avian Influenza on the Agenda of the Council. It is true that this problem is mainly under the responsibility of the WHO, but for many farmers loss of poultry and heavy decline in poultry prices is already a tough reality.

For the COAG, the Secretariat produced an excellent paper on this subject. The threat of the outbreak of pandemic Avian Influenza human to human is especially frightening for the developing countries. The WHO estimates that 95 percent of the 60 million people who would die in a pandemic would live in the developing countries. It would mean a catastrophe for many poor areas already hit by poverty, hunger and disease. Agriculture would be severely hit, and a great many of our farmers would be involved.

An important fact is that the risk for a pandemic of Avian Influenza human to human has not diminished since the Avian Influenza broke out amongst birds in 2004.

The IFAP has an important issue on this matter. The farmers who have had to cull infected poultry should have a fair compensation. This is an important part of combating the spread of the influenza amongst poultry.

Finally, we strongly support the intervention of Ambassador Malek of Armenia influenced by India on micronutrient deficiency as lack of vitamins and minerals. It is terrifying that perhaps 2.5 billion people suffer from such deficiencies, of them a great many of our farmers, creating blindness and other terrible diseases.

This question is not given enough weight in a nutrition debate. Perhaps COAG could give this matter more attention in the future.

José María SUMPSI (Asistente del Director General, Departamento de Agricultura)

Con placer he escuchado las intervenciones y es motivo de satisfacción el comprobar que hay un alto grado de acuerdo con las conclusiones y recomendaciones de COAG. Algunos aspectos que han sido subrayados, en primer lugar respecto a la interacción entre ganadería y medio ambiente, distintos países han planteado la necesidad de que los trabajos que sigan y que acordaron en el COAG tengan en cuenta no solamente los aspectos negativos ambientales, sino también los aspectos positivos que la ganadería puede tener sobre el medio ambiente, y sobretodo sobre la economía de muchas pequeñas economías familiares en el medio rural, en muchos países. Creo que este equilibrio es necesario que sea preservado en los análisis y los trabajos que van a continuar.

También se ha planteado la necesidad de mejorar y reforzar el proceso de consultas con todos los países, al objeto de que estos análisis tengan en cuenta la gran diversidad de sistemas de producción ganaderos, de condiciones climáticas, de condiciones sociales que realmente existen en los distintos lugares del mundo. Creo que éste es un tema también importante y el Secretariado tomará las medidas para que efectivamente se refuercen mejor esos procesos de consulta con todos los Países Miembros.

Igualmente también en el caso del marco estratégico, sobre la agricultura y los retos en el medio ambiente del siglo XXI, es también aplicable lo que acabo de comentar, la importancia de las consultas a todos los países para tener en cuenta las distintas condiciones y tener conclusiones equilibradas. En ese sentido, quiero comentar que el Secretariado, teniendo en cuenta la pluridisciplinalidad de este tema del marco estratégico de relación agricultura/medio ambiente, procederá efectivamente con una visión multidisciplinar y la responsabilidad será del Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente, los demás departamentos estaremos fuertemente involucrados en estos trabajos y análisis.

Se ha comentado el tema del cambio climático. Estados Unidos ha insistido en la importancia y yo concuerdo, de analizar el cambio climático y las interacciones de este fenómeno con los sistemas de producción agrario.

Creo que éste es un tema enormemente importante y también que abarca distintas perspectivas. En el caso del Departamento de Agricultura se está trabajando ya, a partir de todo el tema de la preservación y uso de los recursos genéticos animales y de plantas para utilizar este potencial genético con el fin de adaptar los sistemas de producción, tanto plantas como animales, a las nuevas condiciones que sin duda el cambio climático va a plantear a las producciones agrícolas y ganaderas.

En este sentido, creo que es importante también el tema del riesgo que ha planteado en concreto la delegación de India. Creo que efectivamente en un escenario de cambio climático y de mayor problema en cuanto a la disponibilidad de agua, creo que el riesgo de la actividad agraria va a ser mayor en los próximos tiempos, y quizás es importante reforzar el análisis de riesgo en la agricultura de los instrumentos que son múltiples y variados, tanto públicos como privados, para

afrontar y tener este instrumento por parte de los agricultores, especialmente los pequeños agricultores.

Actualmente, en el Departamento de Agricultura se llevan a cabo una serie de análisis, en cuanto al tema de sistemas de seguros agrarios innovadores, en cuanto a capacidades en los agricultores y organizaciones de pequeños agricultores, y también en cuanto a distintas alternativas o estrategias que los pequeños agricultores puedan adoptar para tratar con el riesgo y afrontar y gestionar el mismo que cada vez es mayor en las actividades agrarias.

Ha habido también enorme consenso en el tema de la importancia de la agroindustria del desarrollo agroindustrial. Creo que este es un poderoso instrumento para generar valor agregado y aumentar la renta de los agricultores, y especialmente de los pequeños agricultores.

Hay unanimidad en el papel de la agroindustria y la necesidad de incorporar en las políticas públicas y también en los ámbitos institucionales una importancia creciente al tema del desarrollo de la agroindustria. Creo que es un tema general que ya se vio en el COAG una gran concordancia con esta cuestión.

En este sentido, tengo la satisfacción de informar al Consejo que hoy mismo, reunido con la delegación de India, hemos avanzado y hemos reforzado los pasos para la celebración en la India el próximo abril de 2008, el Foro Global de Desarrollo de la Agroindustria, que puede ser un evento de enorme importancia y que fue unánimemente aprobado por COAG.

Por último, también se ha comentado en algunas intervenciones la importancia de la nueva amenaza que suponen las enfermedades de plantas y animales transfronterizas.

En un mundo global, cada vez es más importante el riesgo de esa movilidad de mercancías, de personas, y eso influye evidentemente en el riesgo de estas crisis transfronterizas tanto de plagas de los cultivos como de enfermedades de animales.

En ese sentido, quiero decidir también que el Secretariado es muy consciente de esta situación y está haciendo enormes esfuerzos. Creo que se está consiguiendo una mejora importante en los mecanismos y estructuras que la FAO tiene en este momento actuando en distintas crisis, especialmente en el caso de la Gripe Aviaria. No solamente FAO, sino también los esfuerzos de coordinación con otras agencias como la Organización Mundial de la Salud, la Organización Internacional de la Sanidad Animal y también a la generosa ayuda y apoyo de un amplio grupo de países donantes, que han contribuido con importantes fondos para realmente poder tener una estructura operativa importante para abordar este tipo de nuevas amenazas que suponen estas plagas y enfermedades transfronterizas.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

First of all, I would like to thank all distinguished delegates for their support, for their contributions, for their remarks and also for their announcement that they will closely monitor FAO's progress on the concerned issues. So I will continue with what my colleague, José Maria Sumzi said. We are really committed and we are looking forward to do our best, especially in preparing the requested information on FAO's work on agrarian reform and rural development, as discussed very intensively in the group Friend of the Chair, COAG.

Let me start to answer the questions and I will try to organize it into seven different areas of work because I have made 25 small pages of notes of all of your remarks and questions. So I will try to organize it seven areas.

Let me start with agrarian reform and rural development. As I said, we will present the requested information as discussed in COAG, but let me please draw your attention to FAO's work of the Land Tenure and Management Unit. Here we try to respond within the available resources in our planned work programme to rapidly increasing demand for FAO's technical and policy advice. In order to respond effectively to the increasing demand, and to ensure appropriate and balanced advice, we are increasingly entering into partnerships with other international organizations to

undertake joint activities, for example, together with UN Habitat, World Bank, UNDP, UNCHR and other international agencies. This is an increasing area of work in FAO and we are looking forward to preparing and submitting the required information document. Some distinguished delegates said FAO should collaborate better with other UN Agencies. I want to take this example of the collaboration of our Land Tenure and Management Unit with other UN Agencies to ensure you that we are really looking for partnerships, but I have to admit sometimes these partnerships create additional workload, especially in the areas where FAO has a comparative advantage. We should be very proud and we try to collaborate, but this does not mean that the workload is decreasing, it is sometimes increasing, and this is what I wanted to mention to you. Agrarian reform and rural development is a cross-cutting issue. This agrarian reform and rural development also has to deal with new challenges.

Climate change, water scarcity, and I want to thank all distinguished delegates who have informed us about their national programmes of agrarian reform in order to overcome social, inequality and to improve the access to national resources. This is and this will be one of the major areas of work of FAO as a cross-cutting issue.

Let me come to item two: energy, especially bioenergy. I want to thank all delegations who have mentioned that we need more studies. Bioenergy is a really complex issue and if we analyze the situation in the regions, we will find out that there are real success stories of countries who, over the last 30 to 40 years made a lot of investment in promoting renewable energies, but in other regions of the world, we will have a close interface with food security. FAO wants to provide additional information to our member countries so that they can make informed decisions on the opportunities and the constraints of bioenergy. Let me say to the request of the distinguished delegate of the United States. We are very proud that the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm has mentioned our global bioenergy partnership in the final declaration and has asked this global bioenergy partnership hosted here in FAO to continue its work on the sustainable production of bioenergy, in order to be able to really contribute to the exchange of information, which is absolutely necessary.

My item three is: environment and agriculture, dealing with natural resources, with ecosystem approach, with genetic resources, with biodiversity. I think my colleague has mentioned all the areas and has promised that we will closely collaborate with our Member Nations, especially when it comes to this study, environment and agriculture, but let me reassure you that this area also needs close collaboration with other UN Agencies. Environmental concerns and agriculture are closely linked. But on the other hand, we know that, for example, UNEP, can only be successful if they take into account the necessities of agricultural production. So this is another area where we have to produce a good partnership and I want to inform you that in February 2008, the next technical body of the CBD, the Convention on Biological Diversity, will hold its meeting here in Rome in order to discuss agro biodiversity – a very important issue for ensuring food security for the future.

The next item is water: water scarcity in all its dimensions. We know that we have to deal with physical water shortage. There is no water in the region. We have to deal with problems in access to water and we have to improve management of water, especially in irrigation schemes as mentioned by some distinguished delegates. There is a clear need to improve the efficiency of irrigation systems for water. Water is today the biggest user of renewable resources. Seventy percent of all withdrawn water resources are used by agriculture and there is an increasing competition with the use for the cities and for industry. To give you a rough figure, the amount of water which is used for agriculture every year, you have to imagine a canal, 10 metres deep and 100 metres broad and this canal has to be 7.1 million kilometres long. This is the amount of water used every year for agriculture. And if the population increases by an additional 3 billion people until the year 2050, we have to add about 5 million kilometres to this canal. So you see the challenge and I have not mentioned the impact of climate change. We all know that climate change will have an impact on water resources, very different in the regions. In some areas we will have floods, in other areas we will have increased droughts. This is a huge challenge and we have to really deal with it. I have mentioned the issue of climate change. You have said FAO has

to work on mitigation and adaptation. We need regional studies. The outcome of the IPPC clearly explains that climate change will have different impacts in different regions. For example, this increase of the average temperature will have the effect of really lowering the yields in some regions of sub-Saharan Africa. In other regions of the world, the average temperature rise will allow, for example in northern Europe, some countries to produce wine where today it is not possible. So you see, some countries will partially benefit and other countries will really suffer. The IPPC said the poorer countries will suffer the most in terms of decreasing yields, in disasters, so we have new challenges and this has severe consequences for our agriculture in FAO, which in close collaboration with other UN Agencies, has to face these challenges.

Let me come to an area which was mentioned by several delegations, especially from developing countries: the need for improving national research systems, extension systems and support in capacity building. We heard examples that laboratories have to be improved. There is the need for technical support but also for training of the people working in the laboratories. FAO, as a knowledge organization, can provide assistance to these countries, and there is a clear need to link international research systems to the national agricultural research systems. This will be addressed in our collaboration with the CGIAR centres and in our contribution to the national research systems. Some delegations mentioned the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation. We do not know what will be the outcome, so we are waiting for the report, but also mention that the ongoing UN reform has implications for FAO. And one implication is very clear: in some countries we started with the pilot projects, the UN System delivering as one. And I think if we look forward to all the challenges we have from bioenergy, water scarcity and, let us not forget, the hunger in the world, there is a clear need for the UN System to deliver as one and I think that FAO, as you have seen in our report, is committed to that. I hope I have not forgotten any of the major areas you have raised but I have my notes here.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender Equity and Rural Employment Division)

In response to some of the concerns raised by our Member Nations, I would just like to reiterate that we entirely agree that rural development needs an interdisciplinary approach and indeed we believe that numerous units throughout the house, if not most of the technical units, either directly or indirectly, contribute to rural development. Naturally, we believe that we have to address this issue from that perspective and in that sense, we welcome the call from Brazil to provide the focal point with adequate resources to be able to exercise this function adequately.

We also believe that rural development needs to be approached within the framework of the reduction of social and economic inequalities and also given due account to the different sorts of vulnerabilities that rural people suffer and specifically to those living in mountain areas or other vulnerable ecosystems.

Finally, we take note of the call made by several Member Nations and the European Union in order to wait for the results of the Independent Evaluation to sort out the final programme thrust and the details of these arrangements.

CHAIRPERSON

Having heard the Secretariat is there anyone who would like to request the floor, any comments or if not then I think that we can conclude that the Council endorses the Report and that means also that we conclude Item 6 on the Agenda. It is so decided.

V. OTHER MATTERS

19. ANY OTHER MATTERS

19.1 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (CL 132/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

I know that it has been a long day and that we are all are tired, but in order to maximise the interpretation time available, I would like you to consent to discuss Sub-item 19.1 under Item 19, Any Other Matters, Margarita Lizzarraga Medal. Are there any objections? No objections.

The relevant document is CL 132/INF/8 and please note that in paragraph 6 of the document, the list of current Member States of the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) should include Lao People's Democratic Republic. The centre of paragraph 6 should therefore read as follows, "the current member states are Brunei, Dar-es-Salaam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam."

The Margarita Lizzarraga Medal is awarded biennially by the Conference, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or an organization that has served with distinction in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The medal pays tribute to the late Dr Margarita Sancedo Lizzarraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer.

I now give the floor to Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, who will introduce this agenda item.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The FAO Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session, in November in 1997, by Resolution 18/97, instituted that the Margarita Lizzarraga Medal be awarded biennially by the Conference, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or an organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

For the 2006-2007 Award, the Selection Committee in accordance with the Director-General Bulletin number 2006/22, received three candidates which had been drawn from eight nominations received from both inside and outside of FAO. The Selection Committee unanimously agreed to award that Margarita Lizzarraga Medal to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre, (SEAFDEC). As you know the Delegate of Malaysia referred to that Organization when we discussed the Report of the Committee on Fisheries.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre is an intergovernmental agency established in 1967 with the mandate for promoting fisheries development in Southeast Asia. The ultimate goal of SEAFDEC is to assist Member Nations to develop fishery potential for the improvement of food supply in the region through trading, research and information programmes and services.

SEAFDEC has been devoting itself to the regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This process of regionalization was completed in 2005, for Regional Guidelines were published, respectively on Responsible Fishing Operation in 1999, Responsible Aquaculture in 2001, Responsible Fisheries Management in 2003 and Responsible Post Harvest Practices and Trade in 2005. SEAFDEC also prepared a supplementary guidelines on co-management with a process of regionalization and those regional guidelines produced as outcomes SEAFDEC has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct; its achievement is an outstanding and practical hands-on contribution to the application of the Code.

Mr Chairperson, you may wish to invite the Council to endorse the nomination of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre and propose that the Medal be presented to its representative by the Director-General as part of the proceedings of the next session of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

This conclude the debate today.

The meeting rose at 21:00 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 21:00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-second Session
Cent trente-deuxième session
132º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 18-22 June 2007
Rome, 18-22 juin 2007
Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

19 June 2007

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:40 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 09:40 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, I call the third meeting of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Session of Council to order.

We have a very full morning before us, and we clearly need to make the best use of the time available. As you can see on the Order of the Day, we will be examining the Reports of the Programme Committee, Item 12; Finance Committee, Item 13; as well as the joint meeting Report to Council, Item 11.

Please assure you have the documents CL 132/4, CL 132/11, CL 132/13 and CL 132/14 before you, so there is 4, 11, 13 and 14.

Ladies and gentlemen, before we begin our discussion on these reports, please note that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009, which is document CL 132/3, will be discussed separately under Item 10 of the Council Agenda, which has been scheduled for this afternoon.

Please refrain from addressing the SPWB until we reach this specific Agenda Item. I am emphasizing this because there are references in different reports to Summary Plan of Work and Budget. I would again repeat my request to refrain from speaking on the Summary Plan of Work and Budget until this afternoon.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

11. REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND 118TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME, 23 MAY 2007) (CL 132/4)

11. RAPPORT DE LA RÉUNION CONJOINTE DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME ET DE LA CENT DIX-HUITIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ FINANCIER (ROME, 23 MAI 2007) (CL 132/4)

11. INFORME DE LA REUNIÓN CONJUNTA DEL 97º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA Y DEL 118º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (ROMA, 23 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/4)

We start with the Report on the Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees. This Report is on the Joint Meeting of the 97th Session of the Programme Committee and the 118th Session of the Finance Committee, which was held in Rome, in May 2007 and the relevant document is CL 132/4.

Allow me now to hand the floor over to Mr Khawaja, Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to introduce the Report of the May Session, withholding comments on the Summary Plan of Work and Budget until this afternoon.

Mr Khawaja, you have the floor.

Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees)

I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Report of May 2007, Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This Report is submitted to the Council as document CL 132/4. In my introduction, I would like to highlight those points not covered elsewhere on the Agenda that are of general interest to and/or which require action by the Council.

The only item that I am going to introduce is Collaboration on Administrative and Processing Work between FAO, WFP and IFAD.

In the Joint Meeting the Finance and Programme Committees commended the three Rome based institutions for progress made thus far and for identifying areas for further collaboration. The Committees endorsed the Inter-Institutional Coordination Committee as a mechanism to move forward on existing proposals and requested periodic progress on this item.

The Committees requested opportunities for further discussion on this item and the submission of an expanded report for its May 2008 Session, including other areas of coordination described in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009, as well as additional information on savings and financial implications of this collaboration.

Details of the Committees' discussion on this item may be found in documents CL 132/4, paragraphs 9 and 10.

CHAIRPERSON

So it is clear that under this item we are discussing only the issue of collaboration among the three agencies in Rome, which are FAO, IFAD and WFP, and now the floor is open for your interventions.

It seems everybody is happy with the Report. No comments on that?

If not, I can take that the Council endorses the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committee.

We are discussing the Joint Committees' Report now, the Finance Committee will be discussed later.

Any comment on the Joint Report?

I will take it that the Council endorses the Report of the May Session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, and we will move to the next item, it is so decided.

The next item will be the Report of 97th Session of the Programme Committee, which was held in Rome in May 2007. The Chairperson of the Programme Committee is still not with us. We expect him to introduce the document.

13. REPORTS OF THE 117TH SESSION (ROME, 24 JANUARY 2007) AND THE 118TH SESSION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (ROME, 17-25 MAY 2007) (CL 132/13; CL 132/14)

13. RAPPORTS DE LA CENT DIX-SEPTIEME SESSION (ROME, 24 JANVIER 2007) ET DE LA CENT DIXHUITIEME SESSION DU COMITE FINANCIER (ROME, 17-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/13; CL 132/14)

13. INFORMES DEL 117º PERÍODO DE SESIONES (ROMA, 24 DE ENERO DE 2007) Y DEL 118º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS (ROMA, 17-25 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/13; CL 132/14)

13.1 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 132/LIM/1)

13.1 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 132/LIM/1)

13.1 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 132/LIM/1)

13.2 Budgetary Performance 2006

13.2 Exécution du budget 2006

13.2 Ejecución del presupuesto en 2006

13.3 Scale of Contributions 2008-2009

13.3 Barème des contributions 2008-2009

13.3 Escala de cuotas para 2008-2009

13.4 Appointment of the External Auditor

13.4 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes

13.4 Nombramiento del Auditor Externo

13.5 Adoption of Russian as a Language of FAO (CL 132/17)

13.5 Adoption du russe en tant que langue de la FAO (CL 132/17)

13.5 Adopción del ruso como idioma de la FAO (CL 132/17)

13.6 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

13.6 Autres questions découlant des rapports

13.6 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes

CHAIRPERSON

We can reverse the order of the Report on the Programme and Finance Committee since we do have the Chairperson of the Finance Committee with us, let us move to Item 13 which is Report of the 117th Session which reports on two Sessions of the Finance Committee, one was in January 2007 and the 118th Session which was in May 2007, of the Finance Committee. The relevant documents are CL 132/13, CL 132/14 and CL 132/17, and as you see, we have six Sub-items under this item.

The 117th Session of the Finance Committee was a special session convened to deal with WFP matters, whereas the 118th Session dealt with both FAO and WFP issues. I was happy to be able to attend part of the Finance Committee's meeting in May. We have four Sub-items under Item 13, Sub-item 13.1 regarding the Status of Contribution and Arrears, you can also see document CL 132/LIM/1 on this issue. In this connection the Report on the 118th Session of the Finance Committee deals with the contribution position of the Organization at 17 May 2007. As I said, the latest document is CL 132/LIM/1, which has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide the Council with an update on this position as at 15 June 2007.

Sub-item 13.2 regards the Budgetary Performance 2006 Sub-item 13.3, regards the Scale of Contributions for 2008 and 2009; Sub-item 13.4 regards, the Appointment of the External Auditor; and Sub-item 13.5, regards the Adoption of Russian as a language of FAO – with the relevant document CL 132/17, and finally, Sub-item 13.6, regards Other Matters Arising out of the Report of the Finance Committee.

Before inviting Mr Khawaja, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce the Report of the Committee, I would like to draw your attention to the Draft Council Resolution on the appointment of the External Auditor, which is stated in paragraph 32.

The following Draft Resolutions for transmittal to the 34th Session of FAO Conference in November this year, which Mr Khawaja will certainly refer to in his introduction, one is a Scale of Contributions of 2008-2009 which is in paragraph 41 and Annex 2 of the Report and two, Draft Resolutions regarding Measures to Encourage Timely Payment of Contributions, which is in paragraph 57.

The first concerns discontinuation of the practice of automatically restoring voting rights for Member Nations that have more than two years of arrears in their Assessed Contributions.

The second resolution concerns the acceptance of non-freely convertible local currencies in settlement of Assessed Contributions and their specific conditions.

Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General, a.i., of the Administration and Finance Department and other members of the Secretariat may also make remarks on these sub-items.

Mr Khawaja, you have the floor to introduce the Report.

Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Reports of the last two sessions of the Finance Committee. These Reports are submitted to Council in documents CL 132/13 and CL 132/14, respectively. It may be noted that the 117th Session was a special session convened to deal exclusively with WFP issues, whereas the 118th Session dealt both with FAO and WFP issues. Our reports on WFP matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration.

The agenda of the 118th session of the Finance Committee covered a wide range of budgetary, financial and administrative matters affecting the overall situation of the Organization. I would like to highlight those points not covered elsewhere in our agenda that are of general interest to and/or which require action by the Council.

I would start with Status of Contributions and Arrears.

At its 118th Session, the Committee reviewed the results of operations as at 31 December 2006 and the financial situation of the Organization at mid-point of the biennium. The Committee also reviewed a working paper on the status of Assessed Contributions as at 17 May 2007.

The Committee was informed that General Fund liquidity would continue to be under pressure due to delays in receipt of contributions and the persistently high level of arrears. Borrowing had already begun in early 2007 and, unless important contributions were paid earlier than in the past, would continue throughout 2007 with an expected peak of over US\$100 million in October this year. Cumulative interest costs on external borrowing were expected to amount to between US\$2.5 million and US\$3.0 million for 2007.

The Committee expressed serious concern about the liquidity shortage and the increasing deficit. The Committee again noted the magnitude of the accumulated General Fund deficit of US\$95.6 million and the extent of external borrowing. The Committee once again strongly appealed to Member Nations to fulfil their responsibilities towards the Organization in ensuring prompt payment of their outstanding contributions.

The Committee's detailed deliberations regarding the financial situation of the Organization are recorded in CL 131/14, paragraphs 10-18. Document CL 132/LIM/1 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the Status of Contributions and Arrears as at 15 June 2007.

I would now go to the second item I am going to introduce and it relates to the budgetary performance 2006.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers. This report is reproduced in CL 132/14, Annex I, and details of the Committee's deliberations on this item are recorded in CL 132/14, paragraphs 4-9.

The Committee took note of substantial under-budgeted items affecting the 2006-07 Regular Programme performance and appreciated that, in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1, they were being managed within the Regular Programme appropriation approved by the Conference.

The Finance Committee took note of the tentative forecast transfers between budgetary chapters for the biennium and noted that a formal request for transfers would be submitted at its next session in September 2007, based on updated information.

The Committee also discussed two additional items where expenditures in 2006-07 would exceed the amounts budgeted, namely terminal payments in an amount of US\$6.8 million and a portion of current service costs of After-Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) in an amount of US\$14.2 million. The Secretariat had presented two options for handling these costs in 2006-07. On a balance, the Finance Committee felt that the underbudgeted portion of service costs of After-Service Medical Coverage should be charged to the General Fund. Council's guidance on this course of action would be welcome.

As for the excess terminal payments, the Finance Committee on a balance, proposed to charge to RP resulting in programme reductions as it would entail immediate cash requirements. Accordingly, the Secretariat was requested to review, and report to the September 2007 Session of the Finance Committee, on the viability of alternative solutions for funding the excess terminal payments from within the RP appropriations, while protecting the Technical Cooperation Programme. Council guidance on this proposal from the Finance Committee would be welcome.

I would now go to the third item I would like to introduce, which relates to the Scale of Contributions for the next biennium, 2008-09.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the proposed Scale of Contributions for the biennium 2008-09, which, as in the past, was derived from the United Nations Scale of Assessments, subject to adaptation for the different Membership of FAO. The Committee endorsed the requisite draft resolution for transmittal to Council and Conference.

The Committee's discussion on this item and the draft resolution appear in CL 132/14, paragraph 41.

The fourth item that I would like to introduce to you relates to the appointment of the External Auditor.

The Committee noted that, although all Member Nations had been invited to bid for External Auditor, only six responses had been received. Prior to the session, a working group of Finance Committee members reviewed the six bids and drew up a shortlist of the best proposals.

Members observed that the proposals made by the two shortlisted bidders were both of very high quality. The Committee considered aspects of the proposals such as independence, qualifications of officials and staff, training and experience, audit approach and strategy, audit reports and costs. The Committee also took into consideration the opportunity for rotation. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council for its consideration the proposal submitted by the Commission on Audit of the Philippines.

The Committee paid tribute to the incumbent External Auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and complimented him for the excellent reports and services provided to the Committee during the past three biennia.

Details of the Committee's deliberations on this item are recorded in CL 132/14, paragraphs 26-32.

I would now like to go on to the fifth item that I would like to introduce and this relates to the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO.

The Committee noted that the costs of the adoption of Russian amounted to US\$5.2 million in the biennium 2008-09 comprising of US\$4.6 million in recurring costs, and US\$0.6 million in one-time costs. Members of the Committee forewarned that, without additional resources or extra-budgetary funds, the adoption of Russian could impact unfavourably on programme delivery or the availability of documentation in other languages. The Committee underlined the need for further information on various modalities for providing Russian language services, so that the Governing Bodies could make an informed decision.

Details of the Finance Committee's discussion on this Item may be found in CL 132/14, paragraphs 76-78.

I would now like to introduce to you some other matters arising out of the Reports.

First I would like to touch on the After-Service Medical Coverage funding in 2008-09.

The Committee noted that based on the 2006 actuarial valuation, the After-Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) past service liability at 31 December 2006 amounted to US\$526.3 million. The Committee also noted that the ASMC past service funding necessary for the 2008-09 biennium amounted to US\$45.0 million, which represented an increase of US\$31 million from the currently approved biennial funding level.

The Committee decided to formulate its recommendation to Council for ASMC funding for the next biennium at its September 2007 session.

Further details of the Committee's deliberations on this Item are recorded in CL 132/14, paragraphs 42-44.

With regard to measures to improve the Organization's cash shortage situation, the Committee agreed that the Regular Programme liquidity situation of the Organization was critical and would only be improved through timely payment of assessed contributions by the Member Nations. Accordingly, the Committee supported all measures currently in place to enhance payments by Member Nations. In addition, the Committee agreed to propose through the Council to the Conference three measures that all Committee members supported at this time, as follows:

firstly, approval of a derogation of Financial Regulation 5.6 to allow contributions in non-freely convertible local currencies under certain conditions;

secondly, requirement for Member Nations in arrears of more than the amount due for the two preceding years to submit an instalment plan to the Finance Committee for review and subsequent approval by the Conference; and thirdly, discontinuation of the practice of automatically restoring voting rights for all Member Nations on the first day of the Conference.

Further details of the Committee's deliberations on this item and the relevant draft resolutions may be found in CL 132/14, paragraphs 50-57.

On the B.R. Sen Award, which was a Proposal for Prize Increase, the Committee considered the Secretariat's proposal to increase the amount of the cash prize of the B.R. Sen Award to US\$10 000, which had been submitted through the Finance Committee for endorsement to the Council for approval. The Committee noted that the prize had remained unchanged at US\$5 000 since 1983.

Given, however, the financial situation faced by the Organization during this biennium, the Committee did not support the proposal for increasing the prize, although it was willing to reconsider the matter in the future. Further details of the Committee's deliberations on this item may be found in CL 132/14, paragraphs 79-80.

In conclusion, the sessions of the Finance Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important financial and budgetary matters facing the Organization. On behalf of Members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us this opportunity to further the important work of the

Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may wish to have regarding our Reports.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Chairperson of the Finance Committee for a comprehensive introduction of the documents on the Meeting of the Finance Committee.

Secretariat, do you have anything to add to that?

Mr Mehboob, you have the floor.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

The Chair of the Finance Committee has comprehensively reported on all the important issues which were dealt with by the Finance Committee. I would just like to emphasize and highlight one item which he also referred to and that is the receipt of contributions in a timely manner. The situation of the Organization at the moment is very grave in terms of its liquidity. The total amount outstanding, if we combine the euro and the dollar figures is US\$372 million which results in the Organization resorting to external borrowing. Normally we have had situations of borrowing towards the latter part of every year. This time round, we have started borrowing in January and we are continuing to borrow. So, I would draw particular attention to the measures which the Finance Committee is suggesting for encouraging members to pay on time.

The Chair of the Finance Committee has comprehensively reported on all the important issues which were dealt with by the Finance Committee. I would just like to emphasize and highlight one item which he also referred to and that is the receipt of contributions in a timely manner. The situation of the Organization at the moment is very grave in terms of its liquidity. The total amount outstanding, if we combine the euro and the dollar figures is US\$372 million which results in the Organization resorting to external borrowing. Normally we have had situations of borrowing towards the latter part of every year. This time round, we have started borrowing in January and we are continuing to borrow. So, I would draw particular attention to the measures which the Finance Committee is suggesting for encouraging Members to pay on time.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Mehboob, for emphasizing your very important point. And now the floor is open for your contributions.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan is strongly concerned with the deteriorating financial conditions of FAO. According to the document, CL 132/LIM/1 mentioned by the Chairperson, as of June 15 this year, there are 62 Member Nations in arrears and the total amount of these arrears is as much as US\$84 million. Furthermore, the excess of expenditure over income for the year 2006 is reported as being much as US\$18.7 million, and external borrowing reached a peak of US\$104 million in November 2006. Therefore, Japan, as the second largest contributor to FAO, is still unsatisfied with the financial situation of the Organization. Against such background, the Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee, as introduced by the Chair of the Finance Committee, agreed to forward the proposals to the Conference, through the Council, that Member Nations in arrears of more than the amount of the contribution due from them for the two preceding calendar years, be required to submit an instalment plan to the Finance Committee for review and subsequent approval by the Conference, and that the practice of automatically restoring voting rights for all Member Nation on the first day of the Conference be immediately discontinued. In this regard, Japan understands that a part of the rules for the Member Nation in arrears is now clarified for improvement of the financial conditions. Further, following the Director-General's letters to the Heads of Member Nations in arrears, last October, Japan urged almost all the Member Nations in arrears through the Japanese Embassies, to fully pay their arrears or immediately submit an instalment plan for the payment of those arrears this February and May. As a result, six Member Nations almost cleared their arrears and a tens of the Member Nations agreed to take the

necessary action for the payment of their arrears, for the submission of instalment plans. Taking into consideration these developments, Japan initiated a process to make payment of half of its assessed contribution for this year - more than US\$38 million, on the condition that the Council would agree to forward the proposals for the submission of an instrument plan to the Conference and discontinuation of the practice of automatically restoring voting rights. Therefore, Japan strongly expects that the Council agrees to forward to the Conference, the proposals on the submission of instalment plan and the discontinuation of the practice of automatically restoring voting rights. Japan encourages all Member Nations in arrears to pay their arrears or immediately submit an instalment plan for the payment of those arrears.

Regarding the budgetary performance in 2006, it is regretted that according to the Secretariat, the excess of expenditure over income for the year 2006 is reported as much as US\$18.7 million due to the large amount of unbudgeted costs. Japan has to say that the Secretariat does not fulfil its financial responsibility because the Secretariat implemented all the approved programs while recognizing that such implementation could result in expenditure exceeding the income. It seems to us that FAO assumed that all the approved programmes should be implemented regardless of its financial consequence. Japan understands that the approved budget means just the upper limit of expenditure, not the minimum requirement. Therefore, Japan considers that if expenditure is anticipated to exceed the income, the Secretariat should scale back approved programmes. In this connection, Japan has to point out that the Secretariat insists on page 4 of FC118/5, that the Secretariat cannot unilaterally scale back the approved programmes in the biennium in order to align to receipt of contributions, in its response to the recommendation from External Auditor. Therefore, Japan would like to ask the Secretariat to prepare a draft mechanism for consideration by the Member Nations to regulate the delivery of programmes which ensures appropriate adjustment of delivery in case of expected shortage of cash availability.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, I would like to mention the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO. Japan recognizes that Russian is already an official language of the United Nations. However, Japan has to express strong concern with the financial implication of the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO. According to CL 132/17, additional costs to the Organization are estimated as US\$5.2 million of which US\$4.6 million are recurring and US\$ 0.6 million are one time costs. Given the severe financial conditions of FAO, such additional costs cannot be absorbed in the Regular Programme. Therefore, Japan insists that adoption of Russian as a language of FAO should be frozen, at least for the moment, because it will necessitate a huge amount of funding, not only for one time costs, but also recurring costs. Japan also considers that case of Arabic should not be applied to the case of Russian because the financial condition of FAO is totally different from that of the time when Arabic was adopted as a language of FAO.

Before concluding my intervention, I'd like to reiterate again, Japan strongly expects that the Council would agree to forward to the Conference, the proposals on the submission of an instrument plan and elimination of the practice of automatically restoring voting rights.

Ms Oksana DRAMARETSKA (Ukraine)

On this occasion, I would like to deliver this statement on behalf of my delegation a bit later and I would appreciate if you can give the floor to the delegation of the Russian Federation.

Eugeny UTKJN (Observer for Russian Federation)

I would like to attract your attention to the very important issue for the Russian Federation. It is about the introduction of the Russian language as an official language of FAO. First of all, I would like to remind that Russian is one of the five regional primary official languages of the United Nations since the moment of its foundation. Russian is an official language of the United Nations Security Council. It acts equally with all other languages of G8. It is the language of the largest world financial institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Global Environment of Facility and Global Fund against HIV/AIDS. It is used in the negotiation process of Russia with World Trade Organization, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation, the European Community, and with many

other international structures. As far as many of you know, the Russian Federation is one of the founding countries of FAO, in 1943, and full member of the Organization since April 2006. FAO, having the status of a UN Specialized Agency, should have Russian in its arsenal. This requirement, even more strengthened by the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/266, on 17 May of this year, in which next, 2008 year was proclaimed as International Year of Languages and the intention was paid to necessity of encouragement of languages, diversity in the world, with a special accent, to ensure a quality of six official UN languages. So, it has formed the basis of the official request of the Russian Federation to the FAO Director-General, to initiate the procedure to give official status to the Russian language inside the Organization. It is paradoxical that FAO is alone among the Specialized Agencies, programmes, conventions, financial institutions, funds, etc. of the UN System, which does not yet have it. Russia has supported the introduction of Russian since the 1 January 2008. It will allow for all Russian-speaking countries of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, to be integrated in FAO. That will provide both adequate feedback for the Organization and get for these States, experience accumulated by FAO, and the knowledge necessary for development of fruitful cooperation of all Member Nations of the Organization. 170 million persons for whom Russian is a native language and 350 million persons more who understand it, could get acquainted with the problems and expectations of FAO through the fourth widespread language in the world. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that Russia is becoming a more and more significant donor on the world scene.

We provide assistance in the framework of the World Food Programme in the volume of US\$11 million annually since 2007, Russia has doubled the payment up to sum of US\$14 million in global fund on the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Our contribution has increased to the budget of UN Habitat, United Nations Programme of Human Settlements etc.

Our help to developing countries will be also increasing in the framework of FAO, but only under the conditions of full understanding of the process occurring in these states and in the Organization by our Russian experts. We divide multilingual principles and we are ready to support any country which would like to introduce its native language in FAO, whether it be Italy, Germany, Japan or Brazil and be ready to bear full financial responsibility for it.

They could do it but on their own expenses, however, our principle position in all Organizations of the UN System is, and FAO cannot be among this exception, that Russian as one of the fifth primary languages of the United Nations, a language of Security Council and broadly widespread in many countries of the central and eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and also in the Baltic Countries, should be financed out of the regular budget.

At the same time, Russia is ready to render feasible assistance and to listen to any constructive recommendations which would allow to lower budgetary expenditures for the introduction of the Russian language. Legal validity as given to Russian of the formal status of the Organization language has been confirmed by the FAO Committee on Legal and Constitutional questions, which has offered two projects of resolutions and entering corresponding amendments into FAO constitution and FAO General Rules for consideration by the Council and Conference. Everyone knows that the law should be observed *dura lex, sed lex* especially taking into consideration that 14 Member Nations of the Organization have expressed their interest to have in documents in Russian.

Regarding the financial part of the matter, our main imperative that the introduction of Russian in FAO should neither cause infringement of programme activity of the Organization, especially in respect of the priorities of developing countries, nor other languages of the Organization. In this connection from our point of view the arguments contained in paragraphs 77 and 78 of the Report of Hundred-eighteenth Session of the Financial Committee should not be considered by the Council and should be changed or at least deleted from the decision of the FAO Council.

The Russian Federation is in favour of not reducing but optimization of FAO programme activities, efficient use and reallocation of resources, abolishment of outdated and ineffective programmes and financial savings. It is strongly recommended to get rid of activities in which

FAO has obviously no comparative advantages, comparing with the other UN System Organizations, NGO's or private sector.

For instance we stand for minimizing only strategic coordination and technical assistance FAO activities, since the field of emergency is being addressed by WFP a leading humanitarian UN Agency with a strategic platform, effective management and sufficient financial resources to fulfill its mandate in this sphere. Meanwhile, for the next biennial budget, the proposed allocations for FAO activities remains unchanged at a very high level, it is totally more than US\$30 million.

Referring to the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/266, which reaffirms a full support to multilingualism and seeks UN official languages, we would like to propose the following. Recognizes the necessity and vital importance of the Russian language to be adopted in the FAO from 2008 and recognizing the financial difficulties of the Organization to cover these costs, wishes to address the UN Secretary General both on behalf of the Director-General and the FAO Membership for guidance and assistance including financial support in promoting Russian language in FAO.

It would be a great assistance to Russian language if an additional resolution with these contexts could be adopted as a Thirty-first Session of FAO Conference.

We believe that the estimates of substantive costs for the adoption of Russian, as per document CL 132/17 are tentative and could be reduced, for example partial transfer of Russian language services, activities to regions, such as the European Regional Office in Budapest or in Moscow.

We could use an electronic exchange of translations involving Russian experts for the introduction of the Cyrillic alphabet and enhance the FAO Website. Technical and informational assistance would be available from the Government of the Russian Federation. Use of the terminology data base on Food and Agriculture could be provided by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, instead of creating a new one.

The Russian Federation will accept any constructive recommendations which would result in reducing budgetary costs for the adoption of the Russian language. The proposed idea with a trust fund similar to the one established by the League of Arab States, will also be carefully studied by the Russian Government.

We could alternatively establish a Special Trust Fund in FAO to support language services, not for Russian language, but for example for English. A few words on the substance of this proposal. Firstly, obviously the English language is the most frequently used and the most expensive language in FAO. It is used most of all FAO's documentation and the English-speaking community is the largest. Most representatives are healthy from the financial point of view and could contribute to support the largest FAO language in order to maintain financial stability of the Organization. Alternatively to this proposal, we could consider the establishment of a Trust Fund for supporting the whole language service in FAO.

This Voluntary Trust Fund could support all languages, because we need to have almost simultaneous the papers and documents on all languages, not only in English or Russian. Our specialists to understand the situation, the events in the Organization require to have this information at the same time, not first in English as an original one. The costs of the Russian language would be relatively modest, US\$2,3 million per one year in comparison with serious financial failures in FAO, this cannot be considered as a challenge to stability of work of the Organization.

Allow me to assure all the Members and Observers of the Council that budgetary shortage is hardly to be administered in two or four or even six years, a part of this budgetary shortage is not phenomenal for FAO only. Similar situations today exists practically in all International Organizations of the UN System, and out of which but nobody in no entity would propose an idea to provide costs savings to the detriment of principles of multilingualism and diversity of languages.

Any delay or postponement in decision on Russian language in FAO, at least for two years, could impact unfavourably on the Organization which will lose much more dividends, our suggestion is to request the Secretariat to prepare and to submit it to the next Session of the Finance Committee in September 2007. The so called alternative budget of direct costs in case of the negative decision on adoption of Russian language as the forthcoming FAO Conference.

In this connection, we find it necessary to draw your attention to cater for inevitable costs, including considerable expenses for translations from Russian of a huge scope of FAO information from Russian speaking countries, national reports on various aspects positional materials, statistical data base etc., consequently a part of the Russian delegation will require additional time for studying understanding of all details of submitted documents, especially those concerning complicated issues of strategy and policy of the Organization as for international standards, Codex, technical budgetary and legal documentation etc. This will inevitably lead to significant cost increases, to play a growing role in international donor community and attaching great importance to the consolidations of global efforts to promote a stable and predictable development financing primarily for the achieving of Millennium Development Goals.

The Russian Federation could also contribute efficiently to FAO programmes for developing countries, but under the condition if at least the most strategic FAO documentation becomes available in our native language.

We hope that the above stated resolution of the UN which prescribes the Secretary General of the United Nations to guarantee that all language services, the will be carried out and each provided equally favourable conditions and the resources will find reflection and decision of FAO Council in its attitude towards Russian and other languages.

We hope that other countries especially the Russian speaking countries would support our point of view on this matter, besides we think that expenditures on the Russian language should not be included in the article of incremental costs, they should be in the main budget of the Organization equally with other languages of the FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Russian Federation for your very comprehensive statement and I am sure that the Secretariat has taken notes of your proposals.

I again appeal to allow the delegates, we do have a heavy agenda in front of us, please be short, down to the point and not repeat what has been said by others, so we can finalize our deliberation on time today and not going to extra time like yesterday. With this I would like to invite Germany to take the floor.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

Regarding the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, I would like to refer to our statement on Item 10 of the Council's Agenda. We note with concern FAO's fragile financial situation, even though some slight improvements were reported in the areas of arrears, main financial issues facing the Organization have remained very similar to those faced during the last biennium.

There are several factors undermining the financial health of the Organization such as the high amount of outstanding contributions only 31.5 percent of current year assessments have been received by the 17 May 2007, and arrears entity pleaded reserves just to mention some of them. As a consequence, the liquidity position is extremely weak leading to external borrowing, the costs of which continue to rise, although we are aware of the impact of some elements that are beyond FAO's control, such as exchange rate effects, we urge management to make all possible efforts to contain the rise of costs for efficiency gains and savings.

Against this background, we fully support as a first step to improve the Organization's cash shortage situation by the recommendations of the IEE as we know are still pending, the draft

Conference Resolutions recommended by the Committee. Firstly, immediately discontinuing the practice of automatically restoring voting rights, secondly, introducing the requirement to submit instalment plans, thirdly, allowing the Secretariat under certain conditions to accept contributions in non freely convertible local currencies. Furthermore, we welcome the decision of the Committee to formulate its recommendations to the Council for IMSC funding for 2008-2009 at its September 2007 Session when the IEE Report will be available.

The EU takes note of the Committee's discussion on the proposed adoption of Russian as a language of FAO. Considering the notable costs implications of a certain language and the present precarious financial situation of the Organization, we understand the Committee underlined the need for further information on various models for providing Russian language services and funding modalities for the incremental services involved so that the relevant Governing Bodies could make an informed decision.

For these reasons, we propose to reconsider the matter at a later stage, after the discussions in the Finance Committee. We support the Committee's endorsement of the proposed Scale of Contributions for the biennium 2008-2009 set out in document FC 118/10, Corrigendum 1.

Finally we support the procedure and the criteria adopted by the Committee to select the External Auditor. We endorse the Committee's recommendation to point the Commission on audit of the Republic of the Philippines as External Auditor of the Organization for a period of four years commencing with the year 2008 on the appointment of the External Auditor.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Germany speaking on behalf of the EU for being concise and down to the point, and I would like to give the floor to Pakistan.

Malik ZAHIOOR AHMAD (Pakistan)

Pakistan would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his Report of the Hundred-eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee. We would in particular, like to highlight the following aspects of the Report.

The liquidity shortage is becoming an increasing concern for the Organization, forcing FAO to borrow more and earlier for the last two years. The costs of borrowing reached a US\$1 million in 2006 and may increase to US\$3 million during the current year. This does not work well for the financial health of the Organization. The Membership would have to play its role in rescuing the Organization at this junction. One of the most unsavoury effects of this liquidity crunch has been the slowing down of the TCP by management, and at the present rate the TCP execution is likely only half of the allocation, something that goes against the spirit of the last Conference, which protected the TCP against budgetary cuts. The slow delivery of TCP has had adverse effects on the ability of the Organization to support the Membership in its development efforts.

Pakistan is concerned over this development and invites the management to present a plan to ensure that TCP delivery improves over the rest of this biennium and in the future biennia.

TCP certainly cannot and should not be a convenient source of addressing the liquidity crunch from the very beginning of the biennium as has been in the case in the present biennium, where TCP delivery was deliberately slowed down right from January 2006. In this regard, Pakistan supports the three measures proposed by the Finance Committee to improve the cash shortage situation of the Organization, that is to prudently allow contributions in non-freely convertible local currencies, submission of an instalment plan by those Member Nations who are in arrears to the Finance Committee for the review and subsequent approval by the Conference and discontinuation of the practice of automatically restoring the voting rights for all Member Nations on the first day of the Conference.

Pakistan endorses paragraph 8 of the Report of the Finance Committee, whereby it disagrees to any cut in the TCP in finance terminal payments deficit of US\$ 6.8 million in the present

biennium. Such a measure would contravene the decision of the last Conference to protect this fee allocation.

Pakistan endorses the proposed Scale of Contributions for 2008-2009 for approval by the Conference.

Pakistan would like to thank the incumbent External Auditor, the Controller, the Auditor General of India for all their good work over the last five and half years.

Pakistan would like to welcome the new External Auditor from the Philippines and looks forward to it coming up to the high standard set by the incumbent.

Dato'Idris ZULKIFLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia's concern over the high level of outstanding current assessment in arrears noting that 60 member nations still have arrears outstanding from 2005 and previous years and 27 Member Nations owed arrears in such amounts that would prejudice their right vote in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution.

My delegation is concerned with regard to the worsening financial situation. A large amount of unbudgeted costs, unfunded and unrecorded liabilities pending increasing general fund deficits in particular to the liquidity shortage caused by delays in payments by Members in arrears.

It is also noted that the deterioration in the cash flow situation is critical, as all reserves have been exhausted, forcing the Organization to resort to external borrowing for longer periods to meet cash disbursements obligations and in incurring high interest cost of more than US\$ 1 million for the year 2006.

While recognizing the often difficult financial situation of some countries, Malaysia would like to urge all member states, both large and small contributors, to pay their contributions in full and on time to enable the Organization to continue to fulfill its mandate.

My delegation noted the decision taken by the FAO Conference in the year 2005 that any past recommendations that voting rights be restored for all Member Nations on the first day of the Conference or upon submission of a letter to that effect, should not be regarded as preventing the Conference from taking a different position in the future.

The 2005 Conference had also recommended that in future, the normal course of action in respect to Member Nations in arrears should actively encourage them to submit and instalment plan for the settlement of such arrears as a condition for the restoration of their voting rights.

My delegation would like to commend the efforts taken by the Finance Committee to come up with a proposal to improve the financial condition of FAO shown under paragraph 57 of document CL 132/14 which is in line with the decision taken at the Conference in 2005.

Malaysia also wishes to commend the Secretariat for providing the informative document CL 132/17. This document had examined the financial implications and the related changes affecting the working environment in FAO if the Russian language is adopted as a language of the Organization.

Malaysia is aware that the Russian language is an official language of the UN and to many international organizations and agencies. The language is being used in 14 FAO Member Nations. As shown in the document, somewhat more than US\$ 5.1 million per biennium would be required for the full implementation of the Russian language as an additional language in FAO and would mean significant investment. Due to the financial constraints and absence of additional resources, the adoption of a sixth language would therefore require reductions in the programmes of the Organization. Therefore, my delegation encourages the Member Nations to provide voluntary contributions and possibly set up a trust fund to cover the additional costs.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read the speakers list for your information. It is: Nigeria, Zambia, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Ukraine, Bangladesh and Mali.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed HOSNI (Egypt)

The Egyptian delegation would like to commend the thorough Report submitted by the Finance Committee as pointed out in the published documents CL 132/13 and CL 132/14. As pointed out in the financial highlight of the Report, CL 132/14 item 12(d), Egypt is concerned over the slowdown in the rate of TCP expenditure. This is rather alarming since it clearly limits the capability of the Organization to respond to the needs of its Members and fulfill its obligations in the developing countries. It is vital that the TCP programme should be protected, I repeat it is vital that the TCP programme should be protected in line with the spirit with the 2005 Conference Report as pointed out in Item 8 of this Report.

The Egyptian delegation echoes what has been mentioned by the distinguished delegation of Pakistan, and we support the measures proposed by the Finance Committee to improve the cash shortage situation of the Organization, and, here, I am referring to the three measures in detail in Items 50 and onwards of that Report until 57.

All in all, Egypt supports and endorses the Report of the Finance Committee as it is.

Ms A.I. PEPPLER (Nigeria)

I believe that one of us is going to make a statement on behalf of the African Group, but I just would like to make a quick comment on draw attention to the status of Nigeria's contribution. We do appreciate the problems that FAO faces as a result of non-payment of contributions by Member Nations.

Having said that, Nigeria wishes to state that it has paid the €56 371.21 indicated against her in document CL 132/LIM/1 as part of the 2006 contribution, and we have provided evidence to that effect even before 15 June. It is only our 2007 contribution that is outstanding, and this a result of late receipt of the demand note. I wish to urge the Secretariat to endeavour the despatch demand notes in December, of the year preceding the due year to enable Member Nations commence early processing of payment.

Lucy Munzoma MUNGOMA (Zambia)

I would like to make my comment later but for now with your permission, could I invite the distinguished Ambassador for Zimbabwe, who will now speak on behalf of Africa.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Observer for Zimbabwe)

Allow me to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on this matter. We fully endorse the statement that has been made by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and other delegates that have spoken on behalf of developing countries.

The Report before us paints a very bleak picture of the financial situation of FAO. It clearly points out that the cash flow problems of the Organization have reached monstrous proportions. With the Organization borrowing US\$ 100 million in 2006 at a cost of US\$ 1 million. Projections are that, unless this pattern of payment of Assessed Contributions improves, the situation will be much worse this year with the cost of borrowing rising three-fold at a cost of US\$ 3 million.

This has a negative impact on the delivery of many programmes, in particular that of the TCP Programme, and this has been felt most in the developing countries, which are at the frontline of the fight against hunger and poverty and which depend heavily on the Technical Cooperation Programme to realize benefits in the normative programmes that are introduced by this Organization.

In the face of the liquidity crunch, FAO has had to slow down the delivery of TCP to half, that is to about US\$2.7 million per month instead of US\$5.6 as in the past biennium and of the US\$103 million allocated for the programmes, this year we are only likely to spend just under half.

The Africa Group recall that the TCP budget was protected by the Conference in its Resolutions of 1993 and 2005. We also observe that the programmes helping developing countries build capacities to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The importance of the TCPs to Africa

cannot be over-emphasized. In view of this reality, we now oppose to any cuts of the TCP budget and advise against the future slowing down of TCP as a solution to the liquidity problems of FAO.

We have to address the financial mechanisms of FAO concretely, and in this we duly endorse paragraph 8 which speaks against the cuts being proposed for the TCP. We appreciate and endorse the innovative measures proposed by the Finance Committee to improve the cash flow of the Organization. These measures could help developing countries in making timely payments of their assessed contributions to FAO. In the same way we would like to ask the more able Members to make timely payments in order to prevent the Organization to be dependent on overdrafts. Unpaid contributions from Member Nations stood at US\$ 110 million as of 31 December 2006. Although this represents a substantial decline from the figure of US\$ 179 million in December 2005, the level of Arrears remains still too high and uncomfortable.

On the issue of the External Auditor, in terms of the paragraphs 26 to 32, Africa supports the appointment of the Philippines as the new External Auditor, and in the same way Africa pays tribute to the immense contribution that was made by India during the last two biennia.

To contribute to the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 against the background of the prevailing situation of the UN Reforms and the IEE, whose report will be out soon, Africa feels that these developments will influence the programme of FAO, but for clarity purposes for now we propose a budget which clearly outlines the needs of the Organization and which, therefore, should not be constrained by the many scenarios, so as to enable us to focus on the resources the Organization needs to do what it must do in this point in time and just to maintain the capacity that we had hoped it would have in the last biennium.

It would also be a much clearer document that allows us to analyse the proposals again as intended delivery capacity.

We welcome the intention to initiate in the full Programme of Work and Budget a more integrated presentation of the regular budget in the extra-budgetary resources so that the extra budgetary resources can contribute to the Regular Programme of the Organization in a less restricted fashion. This would also facilitate opportunities for extra-budgetary support to meet critical funding gaps affecting priorities and programmes agreed to by the Membership.

As regards the After-Service Medical Coverage for 2008-2009, we support the Finance Committee Report in paragraph 44. We suggest that we should work on the actual evaluations.

On the introduction of Russian as a language of FAO, we do recognize that Russian is an official UN language. Also important to note at this point in time is the fact that the introduction of the sixth language has cost implications, in that this is coming again as the background of this bleak financial situation which we have just made reference to. The Finance Committee Report examined the issue in detail, and we believe that, to avoid any programme cuts when the Russian language is being introduced, alternative funding modalities should be explored and discussed in detail. We welcome some of the suggestions that the Russian delegation has hinted to, but we believe that this is a matter that still needs to go back to the Finance Committee for thorough consideration and so we would like to see that matter discussed a bit further before the Membership can reach any final solution.

We would like to end by indicating that the maintenance budget that is being proposed by the Secretariat should help the Organization to provide the same level of services as approved by the Conference in 2005, and we feel that at this point in time any measured shift in priorities would be arbitrary. We would rather priorities be determined when we have the full information from the IEE and when we have incorporated and looked at the details of the UN Reforms.

So, for the Africa Group, we feel that prioritization should be done in a transparent and all inclusive manner, to ensure that the needs of all regions are taken on board. We would prefer that any decision on the prioritization of programmes be arrived at Conference level and not at Committee level, because not all of us are represented at Committee level.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Zimbabwe speaking on behalf of the African Regional Group.

Let me remind you that I appeal to you to please refrain from commenting on the Summary Plan for the Programme of Work and Budget, because this will be discussed under a separate item, Item 10 this afternoon. So please, if there are some references to SPWB in these documents, please do not discuss them; keep your notes for this afternoon and only discuss the other issues which were introduced by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Secretariat.

With this I will ask the Islamic Republic of Iran to take the floor please.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Let me first of all thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for providing such a document. Sharing the same concerns of many delegates regarding the TCP and some other works of this Organization, and observing your recommendation to be as brief as possible, it is, however, a very heavy document to mention here. Fortunately, distinguished delegate from Zimbabwe, Ambassador Muchada, said most of the things that I wanted to say.

To be brief, let me on behalf of the Near East Group fully support document CL 132/14, which has been summarized by Mr Khawaja, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, particularly regarding maintaining budget and urge all Members to pay their arrears as indicated by the document.

We favour all suggestions and proposals which would lead to restoring the financial situation of the Organization, hoping that FAO will be able to continue its ongoing works as appropriately as possible.

Finally, the Near East Group is open to discuss all proposals, including the Japan proposal.

PANG YULIANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would first of all like to thank Mr Khawaja, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for having submitted his report to Council.

The Chinese delegation believes that the financial situation of our Organization is a very important matter, and we are very concerned about the worsening financial situation of FAO. We have noted that the main reason underlying this financial situation is that the Member Nations have not been in a position to pay their assessed contributions and their arrears on time. The worsening financial situation of FAO has really been a cause of great concern within the Asia Group, including China. We held a special meeting of the Asia Group to discuss the situation and the proposal submitted to the Finance Committee by Japan.

The delegation of China believes that the three proposals submitted by the Finance Committee will contribute to an improvement of the treasury and cash flow situation of FAO and will strengthen the financial position of the Organization. It will also make sure that the financial mechanisms are more transparent, and we are therefore in favour of the proposals submitted by the Finance Committee.

Sra. Isabel CADIMA PAZ (Bolivia)

En primera instancia permítame agradecer la presentación del Informe del Comité de Finanzas, que resalta por su estructuración y la facilidad de comprensión para los Estados Miembros.

Bolivia desea expresar su preocupación sobre la disminución de la asignación del presupuesto para los TCPs, que consideramos sea el mecanismo más directo con el cual la Organización cuenta para ayudar a resolver las necesidades más urgentes y básicas de los Estados Miembros.

Me complace anunciar que Bolivia se ha puesto al día con sus contribuciones en la FAO, y en este anuncio nos gustaría apoyar lo expresado por la delegación de Nigeria, solicitando que los recordatorios que envía la FAO a los países se realicen en diciembre, previo a la celebración de la Conferencia para asegurar una reacción adecuada de los estados.

Permítame también expresar que no estamos de acuerdo con la medida de establecer un mecanismo más rígido, propuesto por algunos de los Estados Miembros en la otorgación del derecho a voto para los estados, que tengan retrasos en sus cuotas. Creemos en la necesidad de concientizar a los países para ponerse al día con sus pagos. También es oportuno recordar que una buena parte de las deudas de esta Organización proviene de los países desarrollados.

En relación al tema del idioma ruso, mi país está de acuerdo en que es una lengua oficial de las Naciones Unidas, pero debo manifestar que también nos preocupa el costo de su implementación. Sugerimos que este tema sea congelado hasta que la FAO mejore su situación económica, que es de gran preocupación para todos los Estados Miembros. Sin embargo, deseo expresar que mi delegación está dispuesta a analizar las propuestas para ver la mejor manera de incorporar este idioma en nuestros trabajos.

Finalmente, mi delegación desea saludar el nombramiento del nuevo Auditor Externo.

Bandar Ben Abdal Moshim AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I will be brief. I think what I wanted to say has mainly be said by others. Let me therefore say that I entirely agree with what Japan has just proposed.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the presentation of the report.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the G77, but we would like to also raise a few points here in this very interesting discussion and important to the view of my delegation.

As other speakers, we are very much concerned with the financial situation of FAO. We are seriously concerned about the administration's decision to slow down the delivery of TCPs, as has been raised by other delegation. We recall, as has been made by previous speakers as well, that TCP allocation is an area protected by the Conference, and it represents one of the main areas for interest for Members, especially developing countries. We hope that TCP expenditure will improve in the rest of the biennium and that in the future other alternatives will be sought to respond to liquidity shortages of the Organization. We believe also that under-budgeted costs be covered from within the Regular Programme appropriate and the TCP should be protected by all means.

When we discuss the PWB, as you have directed us to, we will be discussing also the situation of the freeze in hiring in the Organization and our concern that this, together with the TCP freeze, is hindering the Organization to best implement its mandate. We are also very concerned about, and we shall also be discussing this in the PWB, the situation of extra-budgetary and regular contributions.

Regarding other measures proposed by the Finance Committee to improve the cash shortage situation of the Organization, we see the merit in these proposals although we are prepared to work with other delegations so as to include language that will take into account the specific situation of developing countries.

The second point that my delegation would like to see included in that text is the fact that not only the bleak situation of the Organization is not due only to arrears for more than two years but, also and very much indeed, for late payment of contributions in the same current year. So we would like to have language addressing also that situation.

We would like to also mention the issue of the Russian language and certainly we recognize the fact that Russian is an official language and we sympathize with the request made by the Russian Federation, but we consider that more information is required for the Membership to be able to take a final position on the issue for the budgetary implications that it will have.

As a note, I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation with the generosity of the Russian Federation proposal when the statement was made. The Russian Federation was kind enough to suggest that languages, as my own, Portuguese be included as an official language. The

only difference, the generosity of the Russian Federation went so far as to suggest that the case of the Russian language be funded by regular budget appropriations, but other languages, as Portuguese, be funded by voluntary contributions.

The last comment that I would like to make is a statement made by some previous delegations, and I would like to express the great concern that we have on statements that we heard at the beginning of the Session, in which some Member Nations were imposing or at least aligning conditionalities for them to meet their dues and their obligations with the Organization. This is a departure from the multilateral aspect of this Organization. We need to respect all countries, as they are, and the commitments and obligations we have with this Organization should not be imposed by conditionalities. We need to meet them and we need to fulfil our obligations without conditionalities.

Nasrin AKHTER (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh speaks on behalf of the Asia Region. Allow me at the outset to express our sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and all the Members of this Committee for highlighting some thought-provoking issues and come up with smart proposals related FAO finance and programmes.

Bangladesh shares the comments and concerns expressed by previous speakers from my region and from others, especially on the issue of liquidity shortage and slowing of delivery of the TCPs.

Our region discussed and supported the issues of three measures proposed by the Finance Committee to improve the cash shortage situation of the Organization.

With regard to introducing the Russian language, our region also, in principle, agreed to support it, but the region also expressed their concerns on the financial constraints of the Organization, and I would like to point out, paragraph 27 of the paper CL 132/17, and I support the proposal made by our Zimbabwe colleague on behalf of the Africa Group, for examining this issue - in terms of reduction of the programmes and the organization to accommodate this language - further in depth and come up with a proposal in future.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Nous tenons d'abord à remercier le Comité financier et son Président pour l'excellent rapport qui nous a été présenté, un rapport des plus clairs et des plus pertinents.

Monsieur le Président, nous voulons dire que nul ne peut être insensible à la situation préoccupante de la FAO au jour d'aujourd'hui et, hélas, cela ne date pas d'aujourd'hui. Depuis quelques temps, à chaque réunion nous constatons que notre Organisation s'affaiblit sur le plan financier. Nous avons la naïveté de croire que les raisons sont diverses et, peut-être indépendantes de la volonté des pays. Je dis bien, nous avons la naïveté de le croire!

Il est préoccupant de constater, effectivement, non seulement l'importance des arriérés, que je voudrais signaler en me référant aux documents que l'on nous a fourni, que cinq États Membres à eux seuls concourent pour plus de 90 pourcent des arriérés, mais aussi mentionner le problème des contributions. Nous l'avons toujours dit, être Membre d'une Organisation, c'est adhérer aux principes fondamentaux de cette Organisation. On est fier d'être membre quand on a payé ses cotisations ou ses contributions. On ne peut pas se taper sur la poitrine et dire je suis Membre de la FAO, je suis Membre de la FAO, quand on ne fait pas face à la première des obligations. La FAO n'est pas une Organisation caritative. C'est une Organisation de services que nous avons voulu créer et maintenir. Cela nous engage et nous devons tout simplement faire appel au sens des responsabilités des uns et des autres. Je dirais, entre parenthèse, que mon pays "le Mali" pour ceux qui lisent les publications du PNUD, figure parmi les pays les plus pauvres de cette terre mais nous faisons l'effort de payer nos contributions au niveau des Organisations, ce qui me semble vital pour le développement de notre pays. Ceci simplement parce que nous avons, non seulement le cœur, mais surtout la volonté politique. Nous appelons donc tous les pays à faire preuve de volonté politique pour mériter leur adhésion à la FAO.

J'en profite pour féliciter le Représentant du Japon pour son excellente initiative qu'il faut à tout prix saluer, c'est un bon ami mais cela fait longtemps qu'il n'a pas reçu mes félicitations en public. Nous pensons que les autres Membres du G8 peuvent aussi prendre ce genre d'initiative. Cela veut dire qu'on a soucis effectivement du rétablissement des équilibres financiers fondamentaux de cette Organisation et nous croyons que le Japon ne nous demande pas de suspendre toutes ces sanctions énumérées, ce n'est vraiment pas pour empêcher quelques pays de voter. Je crois que c'est davantage pour sensibiliser et pousser les uns et les autres à remplir leurs obligations. Nous appuyons fortement la proposition du Japon en émettant toutefois une petite réserve. Notre réserve va au niveau de la réduction du Programme. Nous disons que la FAO sans Programme n'est pas une FAO. Nous disons que les Programmes que le Secrétariat exécutent sont des Programmes qui sont arrêtés par nous les États Membres. Nous ne pouvons pas vouloir d'une chose et faire son contraire. Par conséquent, tous les efforts devraient être faits pour que le Programme de la FAO soit couvert. Pour nous, c'est essentiel que la FAO puisse être dotée de moyens conséquents pour remplir sa mission. Nous faisons donc appel aux uns et aux autres pour comprendre ceci, pour permettre à cette Organisation à laquelle nous tenons vraiment, d'accomplir sa mission, une des obligations premières ou premières Propositions du Sommet du Millénaire pour lutter contre la pauvreté.

Je voudrais enfin dire Monsieur le Président, combien nous sommes sensibles à l'introduction du russe comme langue de travail. Je dirai simplement que le Représentant de la Russie a parlé dans un anglais tellement clair et tellement agréable à entendre que l'on ne serait pas trop tenté qu'il est perdu ici à la FAO. Cela fait longtemps que nous cohabitons ici dans cette langue mais il est un droit des pays participant à la FAO d'entendre leur langue. Le russe est une langue fondamentale. Beaucoup de choses ont changé après les années quatre-vingt-six, il n'en demeure pas moins que la Russie reste un grand pays. La Russie et les pays qui partagent la langue russe ont droit effectivement de s'exprimer, au niveau de la FAO, dans cette langue. Bien que le français ne soit pas ma langue maternelle, j'ai toujours crié contre l'hégémonie de l'anglais, mais que voulez-vous, je dirai toujours à mes frères des pays africains, des pays anglophones, qu'ils ont eu la chance peut-être d'être colonisés par l'Angleterre plutôt que par la France parce qu'ils sont aujourd'hui dominants mais ceci dit, nous devons reconnaître à la Russie son droit d'entendre sa langue parlée au niveau de nos travaux. Seulement, je dirai aussi qu'être Membre d'une Organisation, revient à s'infuser en elle, prendre conscience de sa position, de sa situation. Actuellement, compte tenu de la situation financière de la FAO, je ne pense pas qu'il soit raisonnable d'introduire des changements et de prendre une telle décision pendant ce Conseil à savoir, introduire la langue russe comme langue de travail de la FAO.

Cependant, nous saluons la proposition faite par le Représentant de la Russie et nous croyons que le Secrétariat peut les étudier aujourd'hui. Cela mérite un intérêt afin que satisfaction puisse peut-être, ou certainement d'ailleurs, être donnée. Je crois que la FAO est belle quand tout le monde se comprend, la FAO est belle quand tout le monde s'entend. C'est cela, Monsieur le Président, que nous voulons donner comme modeste contribution au niveau de ces débats.

Lee BRUDVIG (United States of America)

I'll be very brief because many of the points that the United States had wanted to make have already been made by other Members, and very eloquently. But I did want first and foremost thank the Secretariat for its work during the last year of putting together some very fine financial documents. I have now been in Rome for one year and have experienced a number of Finance Committee meetings. This is my second Council meeting, and I must say that during the time that I have been here the Secretariat, and in particular, Manoj Juneja and his team, have been extraordinarily responsive in providing information which assured that when the budget decisions are made they will be a political decision, but they will be a fully-informed political decision on the basis of all available financial considerations.

I would also like to thank the External Auditor of India in the various reports who has also helped to illuminate FAO's financial situation and to bring to the forefront a number of critical decisions.

The situation in FAO is very dire but it is not entirely negative. FAO has moved ahead of many other organizations in dealing with After-Service Medical Care and termination payments, and setting up reserves which other organizations have not. That having been said, FAO is in a very critical liquidity crisis right now. That will determine how we move ahead in many critical decisions about programming and financing the structure of the Organization, illuminated by the IEE.

I would like to call all Members' attention to one simple chart, which I think captures very well the situation of FAO. It is located in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It is in that document that it actually relates to the discussions today as well. I will not get into a discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, but it is on page 34, Annex 2, and what it presents is one simple document, an outline of the reserve position of the Organization for the past eight years. In 1998, 31 December 1997 to be precise, the Organization had reserves of US\$ 27.4 million, as deposited reserves. During the subsequent eight years, those reserves fell by US\$ 110 million, and we are now in a situation where we have negative reserves of US\$ 83.2 million. You can get into a long discussion on why that took place – unbudgeted, unforeseen, other costs – but it is interesting to note the one element of the reserve situation, the only element which has actually improved are the Contributions. That means the payment structure has, in the last eight years, actually improved rather than deteriorated. There are some extraordinary reasons for that, including the United States payment of a large amount, but I make note as well, that in 2006, the increased depletion of reserves from other expenditures, was US\$ 19.2 million, and I think that what this reflects is structural imbalance between expenditures and income.

Looking forward, the United States does not believe it makes sense to restore reserves, only to continue to deplete them in the longer term. Many of our Members have spoken about this problem.

The United States agrees with Japan. There needs to be a mechanism looking forward in accordance with the External Auditor recommendations, to assure that expenditures and income are held in close balance, to avoid a continuous depletion of reserves.

That having been said, I have four specific topics I would like to comment on, firstly the Scale of Contributions. The US Delegation can support the Draft Resolution in CL 132/14 on the Appointment of the External Auditor. The US also supports the Draft Resolution appointing the Philippines as the External Auditor, and we welcome the Philippines in this position. We would also like to go on record looking forward in suggesting that FAO investigate the possibility of adopting a single six-year non-reducible term for the External Auditors.

On the adoption of the Russian language, this was an issue that was discussed in great length in the Finance Committee. While the US strongly support the inclusion of Russian language, I believe that the financial situation right now is not such that it can be done entirely through a regular budget financing. This would entail the further cutting of a very important programme, so it needs to be weighed very carefully in terms of a cost-benefit analysis. We do, however, support the introduction of Russian if it can be done through Voluntary Contributions.

Finally, on measures to improve the Organization's cash shortage situation, the US strongly supports the Draft Resolution in paragraph 57. While we support the recommendation, in particular the sanction calling for the loss of voting rights for Member Nations, that are two years in arrears to FAO. We do not believe that this privilege should be automatically renewed to Member Nations without either the full payment of arrears or of an approved payment instalment plan that explains how payment will be made. We hope that Member Nations who have lost their vote are carefully and seriously consider an instalment plan to make outstanding payments. In turn, we hope that the Conference also takes seriously its responsibilities and does not automatically approve any instalment plan submitted to the Finance Committee without further review and discussion. That having been said, the US would also like to thank Japan for its very constructive suggestions in this area.

Ms Oksana DRAMARETSKA (Ukraine)

I will leave it to myself to commence on some items 13.5. On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, I would like to support the request of the Russian Federation to adopt the Russian language as a language of FAO. At its First Session, the FAO Conference resolved that the rules of the FAO governing the use of languages in its proceedings and documents shall be thus adopted by the United Nations Organization. As we all know, the Russian language is an official language of the UN.

We consider this to be a sufficient argument for the FAO Membership to reaffirm its commitment to the decisions taken at the first FAO Conference. I would like to point out that the introduction of the Russian language will considerably facilitate work with the FAO documentation as well as participation of delegations in the sessions of its bodies, not only for the Russian Federation, but also for Ukraine and a number of other FAO Members from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We recognize that the adoption of the Russian language will require certain allocations from the regular budget of the Organization. We do believe that this could and should be adequately reflected in the FAO budget for the following years.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

First of all we would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the presentation of the Report of the Finance Committee. In short, Thailand strongly supports the measures to encourage member countries to pay their contributions and arrears on time, as suggested by the Finance Committee. Thailand also joins the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of Asia Group on this issue.

With regard to the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO, the document CL 132/17 clearly explained financial implications if the Russian language is adopted as a language of FAO. Thailand understands that FAO must apply the same criteria for the adoption of an official language in the Organization, I refer particularly to the latest adopted official languages of FAO, namely Chinese and Arabic languages. In this connection, the Russian language should be treated equally as other languages of FAO. With the current financial situation, Thailand would like to propose that the FAO management team may consider to further discuss on the conditions of the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO with the Government of the Russian Federation. The result of the discussion then can be reviewed again by the Finance Committee.

Victor Daniel FLORES FUENTES (México)

La contribución de México a las Organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas se ha duplicado desde 2001 hasta la fecha. Esto constituye el incremento más importante que ha registrado cualquier Estado durante este período. Dicho incremento representa una carga adicional considerable para las finanzas públicas de mi país.

No obstante, México toma con toda seriedad el pago de sus contribuciones a la FAO, por esto, mi país ha hecho esfuerzos importantes en reducir el monto de sus contribuciones pendientes, con miras de estar pronto en condiciones de cubrir sus contribuciones en su totalidad, tal y cómo lo reflejan los informes que tenemos frente a nosotros.

Por lo que se refiere a la ampliación de los idiomas oficiales de la Organización, aceptamos con beneplácito la intención de llevar a cabo un estudio sobre la forma más adecuada para financiar los costos adicionales que se generen con esta medida. Creemos que existen precedentes que podrían ser utilizados para esta finalidad, así como lo muestra el informe del Comité de Finanzas. También creemos que ésta podría constituir una excelente oportunidad de encontrar formas para lograr un manejo más eficiente de los servicios de traducción e interpretación de la Organización.

Por último, mi delegación quisiera unirse a las felicitaciones para el nuevo Auditor Externo.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mexico especially for the good news of settling the arrears, and I will go to my last speaker Panama.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Permítame antes que nada agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por su magnífica presentación. El nos tiene acostumbrado a estas cosas.

En este contexto quisiera también apoyar anticipadamente las declaraciones del G-77.

Nosotros, como la mayoría de los países que hasta este momento han hablado, tenemos grandes preocupaciones por la situación financiera de la Organización. Sin embargo, no creíamos que se iba a reducir el PCT, que es uno de los instrumentos más importantes que tenemos los países en desarrollo, por lo cual nos oponemos a cualquier cambio en el mismo. Hay una confinación presupuestaria que está establecida por ley, para que el PCT tenga un porcentaje en el presupuesto.

También creemos que todos los países tienen que pagar sus atrasos, todos, sin excepción. Mi país ha tenido un pequeño atraso respecto a su cuota en euros, sin embargo, en este momento no tenemos ningún pago pendiente. Además, hemos pagado un poquito más de lo que debíamos haber pagado, por lo tanto estamos perfectamente al día. Esto naturalmente nos cuesta muchísimo trabajo, pero comprendemos que tenemos obligaciones con la FAO y con los demás Países Miembros.

Yo creo que las propuestas de Japón deberían ser consideradas. Nos parece justo que todo el mundo deba pagar su cuota.

En relación al tema del idioma ruso, que es una lengua oficial de las Naciones Unidas, no tenemos ninguna oposición, pero en este momento la situación financiera de la Organización nos impide su implementación. Sólo queremos pedirle que se trate el tema más adelante cuando la situación financiera de la Organización mejore, y sobretodo también queremos subrayar que cualquier decisión que se tome, no afecte de ninguna manera los otros idiomas de la Organización.

Por último, al igual que las otras instituciones, me refiero a las intervenciones anteriores, quisiera manifestar el apoyo de mi delegación a las propuestas del Comité de Finanzas sobre la situación financiera de la FAO. Sin embargo, creemos que tal texto debe ser ajustado para prever: 1) la situación específica de los países en desarrollo, y 2) la situación de los retrasos en los pagos y en las contribuciones durante el mismo año.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

Australia would also like to add its voice to comments on the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO. If the full funding of the Russian language will be provided through Voluntary Contributions, we could not object. However, against the background of the serious budget situation and prior to a decision on a budget for 2008-2009, it would be premature to have the cost funded through the regular budget.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Seré breve. La delegación cubana acoge los informes correspondientes a las reuniones de los Comités de Programa y Finanzas. Toma nota de las consideraciones que se hicieron sobre el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2008-2009, en el Tema 10 nos referiremos con más detalles.

Sobre la introducción del idioma ruso en la Organización, nuestro país desea apoyar esta solicitud de la Federación Rusa, y lógicamente consideramos que los Estados Miembros de la FAO debemos continuar estudiando este tema para encontrar la solución más idónea para que esta solicitud se haga realidad.

Sobre la propuesta del Comité de Finanzas de establecer medidas más rígidas para garantizar el pago de las cuotas, debemos, sobre la base de una propuesta de Japón, considerar que éstas medidas no deben ser instrumentadas sobre la base de reducir o de limitar la participación de los países en desarrollo en la toma de decisiones de la Organización. En particular quiero apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Brasil referente a este mismo tema y proponemos que se incorpore en esta propuesta la mención a la situación específica y financiera de los distintos países en desarrollo. Es necesario que este tema quede recogido dentro de la propuesta mencionada.

Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEPÚ (Uruguay)

Seré muy breve. Quiero referirme a este informe del Comité de Finanzas y agradecer la calidad del documento que nos ha permitido tener una idea generalizada de la situación financiera de la FAO.

Al igual que otras delegaciones, estamos bastante preocupados por el estado financiero de la Organización. Quiero resaltar que hemos hecho, como país pequeño y con una situación económica difícil, un esfuerzo grande para ponernos al día con las cuotas, en la medida de nuestras posibilidades; hemos pagado recientemente el año 2006.

Quería hacer una breve referencia a algunas iniciativas, fundamentalmente a la iniciativa de la delegación de Japón, para que la Organización sea más cuidadosa al revisar el derecho de las delegaciones de los países en desarrollo a participar a la Conferencia, y a votar en la misma.

Creemos que está bien que se exhorte a los países a ponerse al día con sus cuotas, es una obligación de todos, pero nos unimos en ese sentido a lo expresado por la Delegación de Brasil y por la delegación de Cuba, en el sentido de que se tenga cuidado al establecer este mecanismo, que no sea un mecanismo automático, y que se analice cuidadosamente la situación económica de los países deudores y de las especiales dificultades que puedan tener para no estar al día con las cuotas.

Renaud-François MOULINIER (European Community)¹

I am speaking on behalf of the European community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

Regarding the Summary Programme of Work and budget, I would like to refer to our previous statement on that item on the Council's Agenda.

The EU regrets that the meetings in the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee as well as the Joint Meetings between the two Committees are not open to observers. This has been regarded by many members of the Organization as lack of transparency.

We endorse the Joint Meeting's appreciation of the document prepared by the Secretariat on Collaboration on Administrative and Processing work between FAO, WFP and IFAD, and welcomes the establishment of Inter-Institutional Coordination Committee for the purpose to improve the cooperation among the three Rome-based institutions.

We believe that several additional areas of collaboration among the three Rome-based institutions can be identified. In this regard, we very much welcome the Joint Meeting's request to submit an expanded report which would include other areas of cooperation as the administrative and processing work as well as additional information on the savings and financial implications of this collaboration. But we would also like to underline that in the framework of one-UN, FAO has to collaborate with all UN Organizations.

However, we think this expanded report should be submitted as early as possible and not only in one year's time as requested by the Joint Meeting. We think this Report, in any case at least a progress report, should be made available already for the next Session in September 2007.

¹ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

In this context we would like to remind you that the issue of strengthening the cooperation among the three Rome-based institutions (which incidentally is a recommendation of the High-Level Panel on UN- System-Wide Coherence in order to build long-term food security and break the cycle of recurring famines), was thoroughly discussed over the past nine months here in Rome in four informal open-ended meetings. A large number of Member States participated in these meetings and representatives of the Secretariats of these three institutions attended the last two meetings. The deliberations produced an abundance of pertinent information which is available to the Membership and the FAO Secretariat. We encourage the Secretariat to seize this opportunity and carefully examine this information when preparing the aforementioned report.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any other requests for the floor from Council Members? I see none so I will go to Observers and I would like to remind you that it is only 12 noon and we have only half an hour and a major item on the Agenda is not dealt with yet, so I would ask you please to be very brief, and with this I will invite Belarus to take the floor.

Dimitry JARMOLVNIK (Observer for Belarus)

I will restrict my intervention to Item 13.5 on today's Agenda, and I would like to first of all to commend the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Finance Committee for presenting their competent opinions on the issue of Russian as an official FAO language.

I also thank the Secretariat for preparing an estimate of potential financial implications of the matters. In the wake of accession to FAO by all 12 former USSR countries, the Organization's activity extends over territory with a population of more than 200 million. These people are in vast majority native speakers or at least users of the Russian language. I would like to emphasize, therefore, as highly relevant and urgent the idea to formalize the use of Russian in FAO as its official working language, the way it was done by the UN at its very inception, and subsequently by all major UN System Agencies. Oddly enough, our Organization remains one of the few, if not the only UN institution, where Russian-speaking delegates cannot freely use that language they are used to.

From my country's brief experience as an FAO Member, I can tell that this remains a major constraint for effective participation of our experts in the work of the Organization, hampering the smooth flow of information and the exchange of expertise between Belarus and FAO. On more than one occasion, there were prolonged delays in despatch of materials urgently requested from us, simply because they were not available in any other languages officially used here in this building. On more than one occasion, our delegates found it difficult to contribute to the work of various FAO Bodies, simply because their language widely used in the UN System of organizations, is not yet recognized here. Multiplied by the number of Member Nations where Russian is commonly spoken, the problem actually presents itself as a serious communication and performance challenge to the Organization. This very much limits its capacity to avail itself of the wealth of information and expert resources that countries like myself are ready to put at its disposal.

We understand the concerns raised by the Finance Committee over the possible consequences that adoption of another official language may have for FAO's already lack-lustre financial situation. We took careful note of the related costs calculation proposed in the document CL 132/17. These figures may seem uncomfortable but they should encourage us to look for more economical and generally acceptable solutions. I am confident that should this Council come up with a positive recommendation on the issue for the forthcoming Conference, such solutions can be found without compromising FAO programme delivery and its operational capability in areas of interest for the majority of its members. On the contrary, by failing to meet the legitimate expectations of the countries concerned, and putting them in a disadvantage *vis-à-vis* the other UN recognized language groups, the Organization would almost certainly find itself operating under its potential capacities that could otherwise be put to good use for the accomplishment of its important mission worldwide.

Belarus stands ready to explore different ways of addressing the issue at stake together with relevant FAO Services and other interested countries making, if necessary, its own language professionals available to the Organization.

I call on the Council to recommend to the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, to draft a resolution on the subject as proposed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in Appendix 2 to its Eighty-first Session Report, document CL 132/2, with one slight amendment in its second paragraph. The second paragraph, according to our position, should read as follows:

Considering that the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation became Member Nations of the Organization in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

I consider necessary the mention of my country in this paragraph since it is one of the countries where the Russian language is adopted as an official language of the country.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Belarus. Would you please hand over your proposal to the Secretariat in writing?

I now invite the Dominican Republic to take the floor.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observador de la República Dominicana)

Todos los países de esta Organización debemos pagar nuestras cuotas, esto es así por una razón muy simple: todos pagamos lo mismo, la cuota de cada país es igual al tamaño de su economía nacional respecto a la economía global. Por ese motivo, no hay excusas para atrasarnos con el pago de nuestras contribuciones obligatorias. En este sentido, la República Dominicana apoya las medidas propuestas por el Comité de Finanzas para fomentar el pago puntual de las contribuciones, especialmente en lo que se refiere al pago en moneda local en determinadas circunstancias. Esto deberá ser decidido por la Conferencia.

Naturalmente, entendemos que la interrupción de la práctica de restablecimiento automático del derecho al voto en la Conferencia, esto no significa que no se vaya a realizar un estudio caso por caso. Mi país, luego de la 33ª Conferencia en el 2005, pagó su cuota en dólares de 2006 y recogió al mismo tiempo seis años de atrasos.

Debemos tener en cuenta, y esto lo han dicho mucho distinguidos miembros del Consejo, que la Conferencia es el único foro de esta Organización donde se aplica el principio esencial del multilateralismo de un país/un voto. Es oportuno señalar al Consejo que, en efecto, hay una larga lista de 62 países que están en situación de atrasos, incluyendo el mío. Ahora bien, 15 de ellos deben una suma global de 22 mil dólares, y cinco de ellos deben el 94 por ciento de los atrasos.

Deseo llamar la atención sobre la última página del documento CL 132/LIM/1, en esa última página aparece un cuadro con las contribuciones al Programa Ordinario de los 25 mayores contribuyentes, y subrayo: los 25 mayores contribuyentes en términos absolutos.

El 90.2 por ciento de todos los atrasos corresponden a esos 25 países, entre los cuales hay 21 países desarrollados y cuatro en desarrollo.

En apoyo por lo dicho por el distinguido Embajador de Brasil, el 96 por ciento de todos esos atrasos corresponden al año en curso. En otras palabras, cuando los 25 principales contribuyentes se atrasan sólo por unos meses, esto representa el 96 por ciento de los atrasos de la Organización, y obviamente tiene consecuencias más graves para la salud financiera que largos años de atrasos de otros países menos ricos.

El Consejo debe entonces reflexionar cuidadosamente sobre decisiones que, aún fundadas sobre razones inapelables, podrían marginar a los países en desarrollo de ese foro que es la Conferencia, donde es el único en el cual vamos al voto, un país-un voto. Especialmente, cuando los atrasos de los países en desarrollo que son injustificados, de dos años o más, representan menos del 10 por ciento de la suma total de los atrasos. No estoy justificando nada, estoy llamando la atención sobre una realidad aritmética.

En conclusión, mi delegación invita a los distinguidos Miembros del Consejo a apoyar las dos medidas que sugiere el Comité de Finanzas, en especial la que será sometida a la Conferencia sobre el pago en moneda local en determinadas circunstancias, con la reserva expresada por Brasil, Cuba, Panamá, Uruguay y otros países, de examinar caso por caso, detenidamente, la realidad que le acabo de exponer, con los porcentajes que provienen de los documentos que ha preparado el Secretariado. Esta propuesta debe ser apoyada por sus méritos y no porque un país haya anunciado que supeditará al pago de su cuota a que el Consejo adopte una determinada decisión sobre ese tema.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Observer for Armenia)

I carefully read the Council document CL 132/17, as well as all documents related to the Finance Committee. I listened attentively to the Russian Federation Representative giving very logical arguments based both on principle and also on a feasible and necessary need.

The arguments given by other delegations are also convincing, especially the ones that recommend to look at other models to cover the costs of the introduction of the Russian language. But, principles and rights are fundamental to our Organization. Justifying the delay for introducing the Russian language by referring to the weak financial position of FAO is not convincing at all.

Conference after Conference, reference was made to the status of the financial situation, and close to a total of US\$300 million in uncollected arrears. The crucial question to ask is where are we really putting our focus? Disregarding the need for more efficiency and effectiveness at the expense of principles and rights? Or making a major issue for a mere US\$5 million necessary expenditure to allow close to 500 million people in 14 countries who use Russian as either their first language or as a second language, such as scientists, technicians, farmer organizations, the media, and which my Belarus colleague justifiably spoke about in not being able to communicate FAO's publications, documents, and anything we publish including TeleFood material.

Armenia arranged to pay its incredible assessment of US\$1.7 million from the Soviet times, in a plan of over 14 years. Many others followed suit. What about the others who owe FAO US\$300 million in arrears? Let us get down to earth and make decisions, otherwise there is no need to postpone again the issue and burden the Finance Committee to analyze it further. They have done their best. What more can they discuss? Perhaps they can find substitute cuts, not programmes, but seriously look at efficiencies in the overhead costs in FAO.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Avant tout, ma délégation félicite le nouveau Commissaire aux comptes des Philippines et rend hommage au Commissaire sortant de l'Inde.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes d'accord avec les interventions de la délégation du Zimbabwe, qui s'est prononcée au nom du Groupe africain et de la délégation du Pakistan qui s'est prononcée au nom du Groupe des 77. Même dans une situation difficile de déficit, nous devons protéger le Programme de coopération technique (PCT), comme l'ont dit plusieurs délégations ici et qui a été approuvé par la Conférence de la FAO. Les projets PCT ne sont pas d'un montant significatif mais aident les pays en termes de formation et en particulier dans la mise en œuvre des principaux instruments normatifs internationaux approuvés dans cette salle de la FAO. Nous voulons manifester notre préoccupation sur les niveaux élevés des arriérés qui causent des problèmes de trésorerie, qui obligent à recourir aux ressources externes avec des coûts supplémentaires. Ma délégation lance un appel aux pays afin de régulariser les contributions et aider l'Organisation à améliorer la situation financière critique à laquelle elle se trouve confrontée.

Monsieur le Président, dans le rapport de la cent dix-huitième session du Comité financier, ma délégation note que les barèmes de contribution pour le biennium 2008-2009 prévoit une augmentation pour l'Angola. Nous pouvons assurer que nous nous efforcerons d'honorer nos obligations, comme nous l'avons toujours fait jusqu'à présent.

Th. M. Cellou DIALLO (Observateur de Guinée)

Evidemment je m'associe aux déclarations qui ont été faites par le représentant du Zimbabwe au nom du Groupe africain et au représentant du Pakistan au nom du Groupe des 77. Je voudrais juste exprimer une petite inquiétude. Il y a eu une proposition du Comité financier, de sanction, à laquelle j'adhère par principe, par rapport à la suppression du droit de vote des pays qui sont en arriéré chronique de paiement, mais je voudrais exprimer une petite inquiétude que je veux partager avec l'ensemble des délégués, c'est que la prochaine Conférence générale va aborder les résultats de l'exercice d'évaluation indépendante de l'Organisation. Un certain nombre d'orientations nouvelles par rapport à notre Organisation va être envisagé, j'ai quelque peu peur que, au cours de cette Conférence, un certain nombre de pays, tout simplement parce qu'ils sont pauvres, ne puissent pas dire ce qu'ils pensent et quel doit être le mandat de l'Organisation dans les années à venir.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished Representative of Guinea.

The Russian Federation is for the second time asking for the floor. I give you the floor, now you had a long discussion before, so please try to be very brief this time.

Eugeny UTKYN (Russian Federation)

Very briefly, I would like to say thanks to the representative of the Ukraine who gave a possibility to give the floor to the Russian Federation and all other Representatives of the countries who supported our proposals.

We would like to make a request for the Council to give a possibility for the Russian Federation to be presented as an independent observer at the meeting of the Finance Committee because we have many more proposals concerning the introduction of the Russian language, and they could be taken into account by the Finance Committee of FAO. In particular, it might be reasonable to look at the Russian contributions in FAO. We pay more than US\$7 million per year, and have no outstanding arrears for the budget and for this money, to some extent partially, we pay for the use of other languages in the Organization. Maybe we could reserve some of this money for the provision of the Russian language for all countries in the Organization.

So thank you everybody for the support of our proposals and for the further consideration of this matter.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Now we have had a very rich and deep debate on all items and six Sub-items that were discussed. It took a whole morning and my understanding is that the debate – if we want to summarize it – everybody supported the recommendations of the Finance Committee. We do not have any new recommendations as I understand, so I want to have your comments on that and answer to questions, if any.

Mr Chairperson, you have the floor.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I must express my very deep gratitude to honourable Members of the Council for a very extensive and detailed discussion of what we were able to discuss within the Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee, and I am also grateful for the unanimous support to all the recommendations of the Finance Committee flowing out of that Session.

In particular, I did notice four themes that came out of the discussions of the Council, and I would just like to lay them out for everyone.

The Council extensively and on many occasions, almost all the Members referred to the adverse financial situation of the Organization and the related aspect of the outstanding assessed contribution arrears that the Member Nations owe to the Organization.

Now, these outstanding arrears still remain the largest contributing factor for the adverse financial situation that the Organization is facing and this realization I saw clearly from the discussion in this house. Related to this, there was unanimous support for the proposed three measures from the Finance Committee to improve the cash shortage situation of the Organization; so these two are indeed related themes.

Then we had a very long discussion about the adoption of the Russian language by the Organization and the principles as realized, the stark realities, the liquidity crunch that the Organization is facing and the Finance Committee in accordance with the wishes of the Council would be very happy to come back to this issue in its next Session in September and see as to how we can further our recommendations to the Council in the future Session.

Finally, there was a universal concern about the slowing down of the TCP and a feeling coming out of this house that TCP allocation needs to be protected and also some sentiments that this slowdown in the TCP delivery needs to be addressed during the rest of this biennium, as well as in the future.

So those, for me, were some of the crosscutting themes.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Khawaja, Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I know that some members of the Secretariat want also to raise some comments or answer some questions.

Mr Juneja.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme Budget and Evaluation)

Allow me to acknowledge with gratitude the appreciation of the representative of the United States of America. It certainly motivates us to deepen our efforts in our service to the Governing Bodies.

I should like to address two areas: the first is to clarify FAO's financial management and liquidity during the present biennium and the second to address an action point under your discussions on the annual report on budgetary performance.

On the first point, the representative of Japan observed the shortage of income over expenditure in the 2006 interim accounts of over US\$18 million and questioned the fulfilment of the Secretariat's financial management responsibilities. I should like to assure the Council that under Financial Regulation 4.1 the Director-General is obliged to maintain expenditure within the appropriation. Accordingly, under-budgeted items are managed within the appropriation approved by Conference and this is also reflected in paragraph 5 of the Finance Committee's Report.

The amounts that are managed in this way are provided in Table 2 of the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance, which you have as Annex 1 of the Finance Committee's Report.

However, in 2006-2007, there are other costs being incurred outside the appropriation. They have been highlighted to the Membership. They include, in particular, the excess expenditure on Terminal Payments Fund and the under-funded portion of the After-Service Medical Costs, the current portion. In these cases, options have been put to the Governing Bodies and they are reflected in paragraphs 29-35 of Annex 1.

I should say that these options have been put forward despite some past acquiescence by the Governing Bodies and despite some past practices which might point to essentially overlooking the problem, and here I think that the observation made by the representative of the United States of America, wherein he pointed to Annex 2 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, Table 3, in particular, of that Annex is quite pertinent. It is pertinent because the two captions, the two rubrics that we are referring to for 2006-2007, namely the After-Service Medical Coverage

and the excess expenditure on Terminal Payments Fund are also part of the ongoing story of the structural imbalances that the representative of the United States of America referred to.

Now, of course, we are in your hands in terms of trying to find a solution for 2006/07 and certainly in trying to find longer term solutions to ensure that the structural imbalances do not continue.

Let me assure the Council that the Secretariat is fully committed to ensuring that the financial management of the Organization can be improved in these areas, and it is, in fact, in that genuine spirit that the Director-General has so openly made these proposals in the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance.

There were also observations about the liquidity situation and, of course, the manner in which FAO manages its regular budget is a matter for members to agree through FAO's regulations and practices. Do we seek, as best as we can, to implement the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference, or after the Conference should we regulate monthly delivery based on the timing of payments of obligations that sovereign Member States owe to the Organization?

I am confident that the IEE will provide an opinion in this regard, which should serve then as a basis for further discussion.

I should like to turn to the second point, which is an action point on the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance. When presenting Option 2 to cover the excess terminal payments in 2006-2007 from within the Regular Programme appropriation, the Secretariat had indicated that hitherto protected programmes, in particular the TCP and high-priority normative activities, would have to be identified for programme reductions.

Many members of the Finance Committee asked the Secretariat to propose programme reductions while according full protection to the Technical Cooperation Programme and this, of course, has been echoed by several speakers in Council today.

I should like to clarify that in paragraph 9 the Finance Committee Report requests the Secretariat to review the viability of such an alternative proposal, an alternative proposal that would protect the TCP.

I should also alert you that it will not be easy to come up with a viable alternative proposal since 18 months into the biennium most activities are fully programmed. However, the viability of an alternative proposal would also have to be determined in a Report that the Secretariat would submit to the September Session of the Finance Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your clarifications and answers.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

I don't believe there are any other questions left to answer. There were a lot of comments which we have taken note of, and we will see how we will address them.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his deliberations, for presenting the paper and answering the questions and comments.

As I mentioned and it was also emphasized by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the Council endorses all the proposals by the Finance Committee. One point some Members brought to my attention is that although they endorsed the Resolutions which should go to the Conference, they would like to talk to you on the language of the proposals. It is not definite, so the interested delegations will come to you with the language proposals which might go to the Conference.

With this, I only have to thank the External Auditor of India for his excellent work for the past few years for our Organization, and conclude this meeting by saying again that all the proposals contained in the Reports of the Finance Committee were endorsed by the Council.

Thank you very much. It was a very lengthy, but very deep and useful debate.

**12. REPORT OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
(ROME, 21-25 MAY 2007 (CL 132/11))**

**12. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ
DU PROGRAMME (ROME, 21-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/11)**

**12. INFORME DEL 97º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL
PROGRAMA (ROMA, 21-25 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/11)**

CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the Programme Committee says the introduction of the document of the Programme Committee will only take three minutes.

Let him introduce the document, establish the List of Speakers, and so this afternoon we can immediately go to speakers and you can manage your time better.

You have the floor, Mr Heard.

Victor HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I can indeed be brief. Document CL 132/11, the Report of the 97th Session of the Programme Committee, contains only two points requiring discussion or decision by the Council: Item 3, on SPWB will be discussed at a later time, and the Item in paragraph 4(f) on financing evaluations funded from extra-budgetary sources is a fairly minor item.

I will touch very briefly on three items from the rest of the Report which are ready for the information of the Council, rather than for discussion.

Taking the first of the points- the only one other point we are going to discuss now for the attention of the Council, this is a comparatively minor issue in paragraph 4(f) of our Report. It concerns extra- budgetary-funded activities and their evaluation.

Many activities carried out by FAO are financed by extra-budgetary funds. Because their financing sources did not always provide resources for evaluation, they have not been systematically evaluated, some have, some have not. We approved the Evaluation Department's proposal for mandatory budget line in all extra budgetary funded work. The scale of funds required would vary depending on the size of the project and evaluation of projects costing less than US\$ 4 million would be clustered. We regard this as a minor but sensible piece of housekeeping to help us monitor the quality of extra-budgetary-funded work.

Of the other points, I will refer to three issues connected with the evaluations that we considered. These are to illustrate the sort of issues that are locked up in the full report of the Committee.

Firstly, the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami. We agreed with the evaluators over the high quality of the impact and the methods of FAO's rehabilitation work following the Tsunami. However, it also served to convince us still further of the need to focus on building disaster prevention capacity. Major emergencies generate large sums for humanitarian relief, but when there is not emergency many governments find it difficult to give priority to establishing disaster preparedness capacity to cope with the next disaster. We felt FAO had a role in this and we encourage it to take one within its sector. As you will see from our report also, we were concerned about operational bottlenecks within FAO and felt these should be addressed using the lessons of the Tsunami.

The second point I would like to raise concerns the Desert Locust Evaluation. This was an excellent evaluation and the management response was encouraging. One of our main concerns was to ensure that the international community should not lose sight of the fact that this is not an evaluation of FAO. It covered FAO, but it also covered other organizations, the affected countries and the donors. It has messages for all of us. FAO responding to the recommendations for which it has responsibility is probably the simplest part of what now needs to be done. It will be more

difficult to get the same response from all players. We have therefore, recommended that FAO should take a lead with all parties to ensure that all of us are prepared next time there is a major locust emergency. We believe this role falls naturally to FAO.

We also touch briefly in the context of that evaluation on the issue of locusts in the food chain. It is easily forgotten that when they are not a plague they contribute significantly to the human diet in many countries. This raises issues including pesticide toxicity, which FAO should consider.

Finally, we noted in the Locust Evaluation similar operational problems to those affecting the Tsunami work. We therefore requested the evaluation service to examine the problems with the Office of the Inspector-General and make recommendations on how to overcome them.

On behalf of the Committee members I would like to thank the Secretariat for the enormous support they provided, including a series of short, but very illuminating, presentations provided at the start of the meeting.

I would also like to thank my Programme Committee colleagues for their forbearance and their good humour during what was quite a long meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the brief introduction of the document.

Now we will establish the List of Speakers. Those of you who want to speak this afternoon on this item, please raise your flag.

While you are doing that, I read a statement that Germany on behalf of the European Community has submitted a written statement on Item 11, Report on the Joint Meeting of the 97th Session of the Programme Committee and 118th Session of the Finance Committee, for insertion in the verbatim record of this item. We will do that and I encourage others to follow suit. This is a very good way of having your say and saving time.

So if you want to speak on the issue of the Programme Committee, please raise your flag and I will write down your names for this afternoon.

Zambia, Germany, Nigeria, Brazil, Mali.

I think we do have enough names to start with, so have a nice lunch, and we will see you at 2.30 sharp this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12:40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:40 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-second Session Cent trente-deuxième session 132º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-22 June 2007 Rome, 18-22 juin 2007 Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 June 2007

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:00 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de M Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la Cuarta Sesión Plenaria a las 15:00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

12. REPORT OF THE 97TH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (ROME, 21-25 MAY 2007) (CL 132/11)

12. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-DIX-SEPTIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DU PROGRAMME (ROME, 21-25 MAI 2007) (CL 132/11)

12. INFORME DEL 97º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DEL PROGRAMA (ROMA, 21-25 DE MAYO DE 2007) (CL 132/11)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 12 on our Agenda – Report of the Ninety-seventh Session of the Programme Committee and the reference document is CL 132/11.

Please note that we will be discussing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget separately and Agenda Item 10 later this afternoon and, therefore, we will not discuss it here in this session.

Before opening the list of speakers I should like to point out that we have one item on which the Programme Committee has asked specifically for Council endorsement - all proposals for the conduct and resourcing of the Evaluation of the Extra-budgetary Work. You can see this in paragraph 39 of the Report.

Members may also wish to comment on the conclusions of the Programme Committee, with respect to the evaluation of the work programme and specifically the evaluations and the management responses to the evaluations which were: Commodities and Trade; A Response to the Tsunami; Telefood, and the 2003-2005 Desert Locust Campaign.

With this and with the introduction that the Chairperson of the Programme Committee made this morning, I now open the floor for your discussion.

We do have a List of Speakers which reads, Brazil, Zambia, Nigeria, Mali and Germany (which was third). If you wish to speak on this item, the Secretariat will write down your name. The floor is now open, and I invite the Ambassador of Brazil to take the floor.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Thank you Mr Chairperson and through you I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for introducing the documentation.

I will try to be very brief.

Brazil would like to put on record that we very much welcome the arrangements for conduct and resourcing of the Independent Evaluation of Extra-Budgetary Work. As a general principle, Brazil favours the increasing integration of extra-budgetary resources in a transparent and predictable manner into the general programme of work of FAO. We, therefore, see as a very positive step the institutionalization and wider coverage of the evaluation of extra-budgetary activities.

My delegation also endorses the Programme Committee's decision regarding the rolling plan of work for evaluation in the period 2006-2009. We particularly welcome the inclusion of middle-income countries in future country evaluations as well as the contribution of the FAO Evaluation Service to the UN System-Wide evaluation work.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this Statement.

We regret that three major documents submitted to the Programme Committee were not available in French before the Sessions. Notably, PC 97/4c, PC 97/4d and PC 97/4a Supplement 1. As we have already dealt with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget in a separate statement, we will do this under Agenda Item 10 of the Council. Our comments on the Report of the last Session of the Programme Committee will focus on the Item on Evaluation, only.

The Programme Committee considered a number of evaluations and we have read their comments with interest. In particular, concerning the Desert Locust Evaluation, the EU notes that the evaluation covered the activities of all players, not just FAO. There are messages in it for donor countries, affected countries and other international bodies. We would like to emphasize the important recommendations for flexibility and funding in recognition of the transboundary nature of the problem in order to ensure a better performance in the future.

Many emergencies, locust invasions in particular, do not respect national boundaries, and resources may need to be redeployed rapidly to where they can be most effective.

We also agree with the recommendation that FAO should champion and support, where possible, the implementation of all the recommendations, not just those directed at FAO itself.

We will not comment in detail on all recommendations, although we are pleased to see the positive comments in the Report on the Tsunami Evaluation on the use of SFERA and the integration of a livelihood approach.

We also note the Committee's recommendations on the more general evaluation issues. For example, the proposed mandatory evaluation element in extra-budgetary-funded activities is sound. Many major donor agencies adopt this principle.

We also hope that the evaluation of FAO's systems, proposed by the Committee to help identify and overcome implementation bottlenecks, will help FAO increase its operational effectiveness.

Related administrative problems have emerged in a number of recent evaluations and it is appropriate that they should be addressed. This is especially important since, as noted by the Programme Committee, the IEE will not address such issues.

We regret, however, that the evaluations are not discussed in a broader context of the whole membership.

Yaya OHANIRAN (Nigeria)

On behalf of the Africa Group, I am presenting this Statement.

The Programme of Work of FAO that is comprehensively presented is well appreciated. The FAO paper on Desert Locusts described activities over five decades, honestly showing the flaws and highlights of research and applications. The Africa Group fully supports FAO's livelihood approach to its work on Desert Locusts. We understand that the Programme Committee had a robust and intense discussion on this subject.

A new scenario emerged and FAO was requested to have a detailed study on the use of Desert Locusts as food and as an instrument of food, nutrition and employment security. In addition, wider use of bio-pesticides is advocated. The African Group, therefore, fully supports paragraphs 32 and 33 of CL 132/11.

On the Tsunami intervention, we also support the comparative advantage of FAO in technical matters during the Tsunami. The logistical problems which arose could be improved upon at a later date, if it occurs again. We encourage FAO to continue to lead in the area of technical and capacity building of nations and the regions. The transition from the emergency phase to the

development phase could be greyish. However, complete needs assessment can make a difference to the success of interventions and mitigation measures.

Therefore, the Africa Group supports the recommendations of the Programme Committee as proposed and admonishes the Council to endorse it.

The Africa Group supports the attempt to restore financial health to FAO by clearly indicating the resource for "maintenance budget" for the next biennium while appreciating the substantive priorities already endorsed by Member Nations.

It is our opinion that all FAO priority projects must be financed from the regular fund not from extra-budgetary allocations.

We agree with the Programme Committee, that FAO's Programme of Work reflects current challenges like climate change and bioenergy and at the same time sticks to the strategic objective of attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For effectiveness of results, FAO's knowledge management and communication strategies must lead to capacity building of institutions and staff at national and regional levels.

The need for Member Nations to pay up their contributions has been emphasized and is bearing force here, and they should pay as and when due, as this will certainly improve the financial health of FAO, a unique organization that has a comparative advantage all over the world. We all owe it a duty to ensure its total health.

The IEE's recommendation may have far-reaching implications on the content and priorities of work. If viewed positively and transparently, it could open a window of opportunities to correct systemic problems and have a new healthy thrust for the fulfillment of the strategic objectives of the founding fathers of FAO.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Je voudrais dire que nous soutenons fermement la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe africain par mon prédécesseur, l'illustre délégué du Nigéria.

Je voudrais tout de même, faire un petit commentaire sur un point, à savoir la lutte anti-acridienne. C'est une nouvelle approche que nous découvrons et nous croyons que ça mérite effectivement que la FAO soit encouragée et nantie de moyens adéquats pour mener à bien cette lutte parce que, figurez-vous que pour mon pays comme pour tant d'autres, le criquet représente une catastrophe naturelle. Une part importante de nos productions vivrières sont consommées par ces insectes au lieu des populations locales.

Maintenant que nous apprenons, et qu'on le dit officiellement, qu'il existe des consommateurs intéressés par ces criquets, alors peut-être y-a-t-il une autre façon de voir le problème. Il faut savoir maintenant à quel stade le consommateur les veut, tout à fait en début de croissance ou en fin de croissance, sachant que c'est lorsqu'ils sont en pleine croissance qu'ils commettent des dégâts chez nous.

Mais en tout cas il serait bon que la FAO dispose de moyens adéquats pour nous en débarrasser en premier lieu, et en second lieu le mettre sur le marché pour les consommateurs.

Johari RAMLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia welcomes the document CL 132/11. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for this informative report.

My delegation concurs with FAO that the summary of the Programme Work and Budget for the year 2008-2009 is aimed primarily in restoring the financial health of the Organization and also recognises that the expression "maintenance" budget used in the document is reporting the resource level required to continue the present programme of work, taking into account anticipated cost increases and implications for incremental costs while awaiting the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the UN Reform reports.

However, we wish to share our concern with regard to the early indication of the increase of between 26 to 34 percent in assessments for the coming biennium 2008-2009 over the current biennium as proposed by the Secretariat. This would certainly put more constraints on some Member Nations. Hence, we would like to concur with the Programme Committee's decision to refrain for making changes to the programme entities and would like the Organization to continue with the 2006 programme entities until the Programme Committee is able to review the draft IEE final report and a full Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 document in September this year.

Even though, there are some emerging issues that need to be addressed such as climate change and biofuel

Johannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

Because I support the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, personally I attend the Desert Locust Meeting and we went through and discussed the evaluation conducted on the West African countries.

As you know, in 2005 there was a plague of desert locust and many countries were affected. So it was decided on evaluation needed to be undertaken and the evaluation showed that cooperation of regional organizations of different desert locust and the cooperation among member countries was more effective. And the evaluation, when it talked about the environment which is conducive for desert locust breeding, it is when there is good rain, otherwise there will not be breeding. It can wait for two or three seasons or years, then when there is a good season or adequate rain with good vegetative cover, then the desert locust starts to hatch out from the eggs.

The evaluation raised the question that, if it responds to the good environmental condition it requested, there must be some positive results of the desert locust threats environments and nobody has done any study. How did this happen? So, more study should be undertaken on that aspect.

The other issues are, as to people eating. Personally I attended that meeting, I did see as a big point, but how it slipped out of the report before, is not offensive or is not a good appetite, but it depends on the tradition of people, how they go, but to consider it as a big appetite or as a nutritional or alternative mechanism is a very minor issue and FAO should not indulge in such an issue.

I remember, in 2006, in the Financial Times or New York Times there was in the magazine how different countries eat different things as a coping mechanism in times of difficulty, and among them was mentioned the desert locust. So, this as an alternative food is not an issue, and it should not be taken otherwise. You do not have to go to different countries to look at eating different insects. It is the culture, for some people eat even pet animals. A goat, for example, in some countries is a pet animal, but for others, a goat is the best meat compared to lamb.

What I want to say is do not make it an issue and it is not FAO's interest to go to different cultures and the evaluation did not make that recommendation and how the Programme Committee came out with this one is a very minor slip of statement, but not as a big issue. If I am wrong, I can be corrected, and the office dealing with desert locusts can come and address this issue.

Lee BRUDWIG (United States of America)

I have one item I would like to go on record in recording and that is in the Programme Report, Item F, this relates to the inclusion of a mandatory budget line for evaluation of extra-budgetary projects on a published scale.

While the United States strongly supports the concept of evaluation of these projects, the mandatory nature would cause difficulties from a legislation stand point. So, I would just like to recall for the record that the disparity between a voluntary contribution and a mandatory budget line does need to be addressed a bit more in the fact that if it is voluntary it can not really be

mandatory, and from our stand point that the goal is laudable but it needs to be nuanced in a way that captures out legislative requirements.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

No questions were raised I think, a part perhaps from one. I think from Eritrea. I thank everyone who was speaking in support of one or two things which were done by the Committee and I thank you very much for that and the interest taken in their report.

I am particularly interested and pleased to hear references to SFERA and the livelihoods approach which were things that we and the Programme Committee thought were extremely useful innovations within FAO which could go a long way to furthering aspects of their operation activities and improving some aspects of their work. Almost everyone has spoken about the locust evaluation. It was indeed a good evaluation and I cannot agree too strongly with the distinguished Ambassador of Mali, when he says we need innovation, we need a new approach, we need to do something about this. It has been with us as long as mankind has farmed, we have had problems with locusts I imagine. So, it is about time we did something about it and this innovative approach is within the hands, within the scope of FAO.

I was interested to hear the distinguished Representative of Eritrea's comments upon the issue of locusts in the food chain because we think this is a concern that FAO should deal with. It is an issue when we have spent most of our time trying to kill them and focus on that, but actually something happens to them when they are dead. People eat them. We should possibly worry about what sort of insecticides we are using to kill them with. So, I think this is certainly valid area for FAO to get involved with, although the Secretariat may have other comments on that.

Thank you Mr Chairperson, I think there were very few comments, there are extremely helpful and constructive comments and I am very grateful for the attention of the Council to our Report.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to say that we consider the evaluation also timely and very, very useful. It promises to increase the efficiency of FAO to serve the Member Nations better but as one delegate pointed out, that the recommendations were not all aimed at FAO; they were also aimed at many other partners and I think it is also going to improve their efficiency to address the problem of locust in the future.

As you well know, we have accepted practically all of the recommendations made in the report to FAO and we also want you to know that we stand ready to help others implement the recommendations and aimed at them, just as evaluation team has recommended.

The issue of locust in the food chain has been discussed here and, to some extent, I think it should be recognised that locusts are already used in many parts as food, but as long as they are in the desert, just next to the village, they are food. You can go and catch them in small amounts and fry them or boil them or do whatever and eat them. As soon as their numbers build up to the extent that they can leave the desert and come to the village they are no longer food. Instead they are using your food as their food and destroying your livelihood. So, there is a limit to how much you can use locusts as food. I am happy to report that, using biopesticides is going to facilitate, to some extent, use of locust as food. I am happy to report to you that almost every day we are making significant progress with biopesticides to control locusts. We don't have to use chemical pesticides in every situation. There is a crisis right now as we all know with locust migratoria in Indonesia, in Timor and with assistance from Australia and SFERA, we just imported US\$ 115 000 to buy pesticide to control migratory locust in that part quite successfully. Bio pesticides are still not as effective as the chemical pesticides but if you use them in a timely manner, in the right way, they do reduce significantly the loss of the crop and they do control the locusts and, if you use biopesticides you also have practically no risk if you want to use the locust as food later on.

So, some of these things are being still scheduled, we do not have all the answers, but we are very happy with the progress being achieved by the global community in the use of biopesticides to control desert locust.

Shivaji PANDEY (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division)

FAO is very pleased with the Locust Evaluation Report and agreed with the members that it will improve the efficiency of the Organization in managing future locust outbreaks in a more effective manner. We especially welcome the application of the livelihoods approach to locust management.

FAO has accepted almost all the recommendations made by the evaluation team to the Organization and stands ready to help others who were also the targets of recommendations to implement their parts.

Significant advances are being made with the use of biopesticides in control of locust, both in terms of its formulation, effectiveness and application. With the assistance of the Government of Australia, we just recently procured US\$150 000 worth of biopesticides applied successfully in East Timor and under consideration by Indonesia. While progress with biopesticides is being made, we are not at the stage where we can discontinue conventional pesticides. With biopesticides, risk to human health when the treated locust is tremendously reduced.

Locusts have been used as food in many countries and in many ways. As long as they are in the desert, the nearby dwellers capture them and use them as food. The problem arises when the locust multiply and move in as swarms destroying the crops and livelihoods of the farmers. This is the reason for national locust control strategies, contingency planning, and campaigns.

CHAIRPERSON

Although biopesticides and chemicals could be two issues which might be important in this evaluation, using the locust as an element in the food chain, it is not necessary to mention them, especially if some colleagues are not happy about that.

A point was raised by the United States of America that the language should be rectified so that it does not create any difficulty.

With these two considerations, Council has endorsed the recommendation of the Programme Committee and thank you for your good work and report.

It is so decided.

14. INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO (CL 132/15)

Now we are moving toward the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO. The relevant document is CL 132/15 and please ensure that you have the document before you.

It gives me pleasure to open this item and our joint endeavour to Members to evaluate and strengthen the work of our Organization. I am very pleased to see how the work of the IEE is proceeding on schedule and the budgetary difficulties are largely resolved.

As you know, I convened the First Meeting of Friends of the Chair on Friday, which was charged with agreeing on the next steps following the IEE in the context of the reform introduced by the Director-General and the overall United Nations Reform.

My *Aide Memoire* of that meeting is now available. You will see from the *Aide Memoire* that we arrived at some conclusions for discussion by the Council on our roadmap for future consideration of the IEE and its implications for the Organization.

This included de-linking a discussion on a maintenance budget from the IEE follow-up and the desirability of a Special Session of the Conference in 2008 to consider a detailed implementation plan and a schedule of costs and savings.

It gives me great pleasure to invite our old friend Ambassador Perri to introduce the Report of the Council Committee for the IEE.

Ambassador, you have the floor.

Flavio PERRI (Chairperson, Independent External Evaluation)

It is good to be here again. As many of you know, I am now in London carrying out completely different duties, but I am very happy with mother communications which allowed me to have the pleasure and honour to go on sharing the CC-IEE here.

I am sure that together with the entire membership of the Committee, we are all looking forward to bringing the IEE to conclusion with the presentation, after the final report of the team to the CC-IEE in mid-October, and our presentation of the Report to the November Council.

Let me thank you all who have been working with me in the Council Committee for the IEE, in helping to make this such a collegiate and a constructive process.

Many of you attend our meetings, and as you can see from the Report, we are satisfied that work on the IEE is being continued with full independence and in accordance with the terms of reference and quality assurance standards.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our team leader, Leif Christoffersen and to thank also our former team leader, Keith Bezanson. Mr Christoffersen is with us today and we have appreciated his presence in Rome and his openness to all of us over the last weeks. We also appreciated the opportunity provided by the Emerging Issues Paper for Constructive Debate which can only enrich the evaluation. This paper, which is an Annex to our Report, was not a preview of the team's findings and recommendations but an opportunity for us to be better aware of the issues with which we are grappling.

Let me go further in my personal note thanking John Markie for his superb work. He is, I would say, the firm grounds over whose efforts we work all the time.

The budget and financial situation of the IEE has improved markedly since our last meeting and as you will see from my next report, only two countries have pledges outstanding and the shortfall on the budget of some US\$8,000.00 is manageable.

It was particularly gratifying that 34 countries have so far contributed to the IEE, including some of the poorest. As Members were informed in my letter of 12 June emailed to you all, there has been some slight slippage in the delivery of the Draft Report. This arose as the team has had to digest the huge quantity of information and material which it received, and also considered information which has been provided by Members and the Secretariat following the issue of the Emerging Issues Paper.

Be assured that the evaluation remains essentially on schedule but there are some minor changes in the timetable for the CC-IEE as set out in paragraph 12 of our Report. This is in view of a slight delay and our desire that in line with the terms of reference and the inception report, there should be every opportunity for members to provide information publicly as well as in informal discussions with the team.

Formal receipt of the draft report remains unchanged at the end of August. There will not be any time for preliminary discussions before that and the CC-IEE will organize an open seminar immediately following its receipt on 30 August for members to discuss with representatives of the Evaluation Team.

Depending on the outcome of the first seminar, we may then organize a second informal seminar in mid-September. The Evaluation Team has made clear that they will value the observations of delegations to improve on their first drafts. We expect to formally receive the final report from the team on 19 October. September will be an opportunity for only an informal exchange of views. It is not a negotiating occasion. It will only be an opportunity for delegations to give their impressions on the draft prepared by the team. But prior to the end of October, possibly on Friday

26th, we will then complete our Report to the Council on the evaluation process and its quality. As you know, the CC-IEE does not deal with the substance of the findings and the recommendations or the actions which the Governing Bodies should take. The Council has put a separate Friends of the Chair process in place for that under the brilliant Chairpersonship of our friend Ambassador Noori-Naeini.

The final section of our Report deals with a roadmap for future consideration of the IEE. Our Independent Chairperson of the Council has touched on that in his introduction as he noted that the matter was taken up further by the Friends of the Chair at their meeting last Friday.

The Council may wish to reflect in its Report, the IEE timetable and the conclusions of the roadmap as developed in the Friends of the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador for a very short history and summary of excellent work that has been done, and now the floor is open for your comments and questions and I start with Bangladesh.

Nasrin AKHTER (Bangladesh)

I would like to request you to kindly allow His Excellency Ambassador Mario Arvelo Caamaño of Dominican Republic to speak on the IEE as he is the coordinator of the G77.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observer for Dominican Republic)

As the distinguished representative of Bangladesh has told you, I am speaking on this matter on behalf of the G77. I also received instructions on this from our Chairperson, the distinguished Representative from Kuwait.

The G77 wishes to reiterate its categorical support for the IEE process. As you well know, the developing countries have stood behind it ever since the earliest notion of an IEE was first projected, and we continue to support it by providing financial resources to its voluntary fund, and a priceless measure of political capital.

We agreed to this course of action in the understanding that the IEE would embark on a comprehensive assessment of FAO's work, in order to supply the Membership with a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening the Organization for the benefit of all.

The intense, profound, and serious work undertaken so far is commendable. We have confidence in Mr Christoffersen and his team of evaluators, in Ambassador Perri, who is at the helm of the special Council Committee, and in you, Mr Chairperson, as the informal mechanism of the Friends of the Independent Chair of the Council has begun working a few days ago.

As we move forward, the G77 wishes to reiterate its commitment to the IEE. We are looking forward to the Draft and Final Reports, as well as to the appropriate management response.

Needless to say, because it has already been agreed, all final decisions on the findings of the IEE will be made by the Membership at the Conference. The Member Nations, in their sovereign wisdom, will choose which recommendations will be adopted and implemented.

At this point in time, the G77 wishes to emphasize certain aspects regarding the IEE. This enumeration is merely informative, as it reflects only a handful of items that the developing countries have expressed in various *fora* by themselves, or through their respective regional leaders, the G77 Chair, and this Coordinator: the mandate of FAO is an area beyond the scope of the IEE; the one country-one vote arrangement is essential to the governance within the Organization, and is, indeed, the backbone of the multilateral system; there should be an emphasis upon protecting FAO's comparative advantages, especially in promoting capacity-building – through the field programme – at national, regional, and subregional level in the areas of its mandate, giving prominence to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; FAO has been, and shall continue to be, a global tool for helping its Member Nations achieve food security; and FAO should have the human and financial capacity to carry out its commitments.

In light of the new timetable of IEE products, that Ambassador Perri just referred to, namely an announced delay in the issuing of the Draft Report, the G77 believes that at the present moment it would be premature to engage in a debate about what kind of mechanism could be put in place for facilitating our discussions beyond the Thirty-fourth Conference. This is so because we do not yet know the scope and dimension of the findings and recommendations of the IEE, nor will we know them for some time.

This refers particularly to one of the proposals contained in paragraph 14 of CL 132/15. This is something that has been coordinated in the past few hours because of the nature of the delay that was announced just a few days ago and we were conducting consultations on this up till a few minute ago.

In concluding, the Friends of the Chair is an arrangement that has just been launched under your able leadership. In the run-up to the November Conference, we will have the benefit of seeing how this method advances our work, so that we can make more informed decisions, by the One hundred and thirty-third Session of the Council, on how to proceed with the implementation of IEE reforms in 2008 and beyond.

Willem BRAKEL (United States of America)

In the terms of reference of the IEE, we as Members of FAO described the objectives of the evaluation as follows:

"the evaluation is expected to be forward-looking and to emphasize findings, conclusions and targeted recommendations that would allow the Membership, the Director-General and the Secretariat of the Organization to chart the way forward, to better meet the challenges of the future in an evolving global environment, including newly-emerging needs of Member Nations, and to position FAO, based on its strengths and comparative advantages. Consequently, the evaluation has the potential of becoming a milestone for FAO, reinforcing its role in a reformed UN system and the emerging new multilateral architecture. It should help to strengthen the sense of unity and purpose among the Membership of the Organization, and to make FAO fit for the twenty-first century and the challenges ahead."

This is the spirit in which we launched this evaluation, and it is in this spirit that we want to continue working together. The CC-IEE report before us today indicates that we are indeed on the right track.

Our reading of the Emerging Issues document is that the evaluators have begun grappling seriously with the issues before FAO at this crucial time in its history. It is clear that they have been listening to a wide array of stakeholders, including Member Nations, FAO senior management and professional staff, international organizations, academics, non-governmental organizations and others.

It is already evident that the Core Team is proceeding independently, willing to make frank judgements, praising the areas of FAO's work where it excels, but not being reluctant to criticize bluntly where it sees room for improvement. This is a good and hopeful sign.

It seems to us that the evaluation team has identified a number of key issues that together form a valuable initial diagnosis. Following the terms of reference, they are well on their way toward completing a comprehensive evaluation that will encompass the four major components we asked them to study: FAO's technical work; management and organization of FAO; FAO governance; and FAO's role in the multilateral system. The quality assurance advisers, who we hired to help us ensure that the IEE is a fully independent and professional undertaking that uses state of the art evaluation methodologies, also tell us that we are on track.

So we wish to that Dr Christoffersen and other Core Team members for their excellent work thus far. We eagerly look forward to their draft report, to be released in August.

We are pleased to note that funding for the IEE has now been just about fully assured, with pledges and contributions from 35 Member Nations in all seven geographical regions, and

including several low and middle income countries, as well as the traditional donors. This is a very encouraging sign, namely that the evaluation really belongs to all of us.

We appreciate the foresight of the CC-IEE Chairperson, Ambassador Perri and other members of the Committee in laying out a timetable and roadmap through November for follow-up to the IEE. The IEE started as an independent initiative of the Member Nations, conceived and funded by Members. But now that the evaluation results are nearly ready, we need to find a way to merge the outputs and recommendations of the IEE with the regular, ongoing processes of the FAO Governing Bodies in their discussions with the Secretariat and in their eventual decisions for the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium and beyond.

We thank the Independent Chair of the Council, Professor Noori, for seizing the opportunity to convene a preliminary meeting of the Friends of the Chair last Friday. This meeting helped us sort out various procedural and timing issues, and one thing that clearly emerged is that you have many friends and many people want to be your friend, so that is a good sign for that process.

At this point we think it is premature for the Council to try to spell in detail how we will organize our discussion of IEE follow-up in November 2007 and thereafter and so we echo the point made by Ambassador Caamaño speaking for the G77. For now, we believe that the presumption should be that formal Governing Body discussions should take place within the calendar of regularly scheduled meetings.

The United States is pleased to welcome and endorse the report of the CC-IEE, with the minor refinements to the timetable that have already discussed and agreed here. We again wish to express our appreciation to the Core Team for their excellent work thus far and we look forward to their draft final report in August, and to engaging seriously with other Members and with the Secretariat, to analyse and utilize the insights and recommendations of the IEE in a way to build a stronger, more efficient and more effective FAO.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

Pakistan would like to associate itself with the statement made by the Dominican Republic on behalf of G77.

Pakistan thanks the Chairperson of the Council Committee for IEE of FAO for presenting his report. We take note of the progress made since the last report Two Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council.

Pakistan also thanks the IEE team for submitting the Emerging Issues paper and looks forward to receiving the report of the IEE.

Pakistan would also like to thank the Independent Chairperson of the Council for starting off the process of the Friends of the Chair and we look forward to continuing a positive engagement in the process.

Pakistan notes that the report of the IEE has been slightly delayed, as announced recently, necessitating some changes in the timetable given in paragraph 12 of the Report.

More importantly, we note that due to this delay in presentation of the report, the PWB 2008-09 and the IEE are now firmly set as twin-tracks that will not meet during 2007. Both have to follow their own respective timelines.

Pakistan recognizes that any cost implication of the implementation of those recommendations of the IEE agreed to by the Membership would not form part of the PWB document. While it will be premature to comment on this further pending the receipt and consideration of the Report of the IEE, a clear indication of additional costs being necessary and provided for has already been given in the Emerging Issues paper. We understand that it will not be possible for the evaluators to provide a provisional cost structure before the final report, which will only become available in October. The Secretariat will then firm up the costs along with a formal implementation plan during 2008. The Conference in 2007 will have to take a decision on the future course of action in this regard.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Au nom du Groupe africain j'endosse entièrement les propos tenus par notre ami et représentant Mario Arvelo au nom du G-77. Monsieur le Président, nous avons déjà signalé hier que ce point de l'ordre du jour méritait d'être traité dans un climat de sérénité, d'apaisement et c'est vraiment tout le sens de la contribution du Groupe africain à ce débat. Après plus d'un demi-siècle quand même de bons services rendus à l'humanité toute entière, il était certainement heureux que l'on ait l'idée de procéder à une évaluation nous permettant de tenir compte et de voir la place que la FAO occupe dans le monde. Son rôle, son évolution, compte tenu des nouveaux besoins exprimés, parce que le monde a beaucoup changé. J'étais né déjà avant la FAO, mais beaucoup de gens ici n'étaient pas encore nés.

En un demi siècle, l'humanité a connu plus qu'une révolution donc il est bon depuis que nous réfléchissons et procédons à cette évaluation. Pour être honnête, nous l'avions pris avec beaucoup d'appréhension au début parce que c'était tombé comme un cheveu dans la soupe, bon nombre de pays ne s'y était pas préparé ou ne s'y attendait pas. Nous étions dans nos petites bagarres, au quotidien, pour donner les moyens quand même à la FAO de remplir son devoir et ses obligations, peut-être que d'autres avaient d'autres vues en disant que cela ne servait à rien de donner des moyens parce que pour eux peut-être que la FAO ne répondait plus à leurs besoins, et je crois que dans l'ensemble, en acceptant cette évaluation, nous avons eu une conviction commune, à savoir que si la FAO n'existait pas il aurait fallu la créer et qu'il est important de se mettre au chevet de la FAO afin qu'elle puisse évoluer pour des services encore plus importants pour l'humanité.

J'aimerais donc féliciter, Monsieur le Président, mon ami, notre ami Perri, Président du Comité de l'évaluation externe indépendante, de même que tous les membres qui ont participé jusque là aux travaux de cette évaluation. Nous pensons qu'elle est en bonne voie, nous attendons donc impatiemment le rapport qui en sera issu. C'est le lieu aussi de féliciter naturellement l'équipe d'évaluation, que nous avons peut-être maltraité au début parce que nous les enjoignons à être indépendants, véritablement indépendants. Il faut dire la vérité, nous avons peur que cette équipe ne soit l'otage de tel ou de tel groupe. Il nous plaît au jour d'aujourd'hui de dire que nous constatons avec bonheur qu'ils ont été le plus indépendant qu'on le peut. Ils méritent donc d'en être félicités. Des échanges informels ont eu lieu sur l'insistance, il faut le rappeler, des Membres du G-77 avec l'équipe d'évaluation, qui avait reconnu d'ailleurs par la suite tout l'intérêt. Ces échanges ont permis à l'équipe d'approfondir, nous le pensons, son étude et l'analyse en cours. Nous pensons cependant qu'au jour d'aujourd'hui, pour des raisons qui ont été tantôt évoquées par le Président du Comité du Conseil et par le porte parole du G-77, qu'il n'est point important d'ouvrir des débats sur le contenu ni d'en connaître les conclusions ou les recommandations de cette évaluation qui d'ailleurs ne sont pas disponibles, ceci afin d'éviter les risques évoqués par l'équipe d'évaluation dans les documents à son Annexe II. Il convient donc d'attendre la mise à disposition du projet du rapport, nous pensons qu'il ne saurait tarder et nous apprécions le fait qu'on ait décidé de prendre quelque retard s'il le faut afin qu'il soit digeste pour l'ensemble des Membres de la FAO, à savoir traduit dans toutes les langues de travail.

Nous saluons cette initiative. Nous voulons donc, Monsieur le Président, saluer fortement votre engagement personnel en tant que Président du Conseil, vous qui avez su vous faire entourer d'amis, comme vous savez souvent le faire. Nous reconnaissons les effets bénéfiques de ce Groupe des Amis du Président. Nous en sommes membres, nous sommes fiers d'en être membres. Je voudrais donc pour terminer, au nom du Groupe africain toujours, remercier vivement tous les généreux donateurs. Malgré l'intérêt certain que tous nous attachons à sa mise en œuvre, comprenez simplement pour les pays qui n'ont pas pu contribuer, que ce n'est que pour des raisons conjoncturelles. Tous, tant nous sommes, avons apprécié l'intérêt de cette évaluation et avec le même intérêt, nous attendons aussi les résultats et les recommandations. Il ne sert à rien aujourd'hui de vouloir s'agiter dans la mesure où c'est nous-mêmes qui avons engagé cette étude, qui la recevrons, qui l'analyserons. Nous espérons que nous échangerons le moment venu, en amis nos points de vues et tirer ce qu'il y a de mieux de ce rapport pour l'intérêt de la FAO et l'intérêt des pays bénéficiaires.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

Australia is satisfied with the progress of the Independent External Evaluation and considers it is well on track to meet the timetable that Members themselves have set. Australia wishes to express support for the Timetable as amended by the Chair of the Council Committee for the IEE and in the roadmap outlined in the Friends of the Chair Meeting last Friday.

Australia supports the process to take the IEE through to the FAO Conference, especially the Friends of the Chair Process. It will be important to build confidence amongst the Membership in responding to the IEE.

We look forward to working constructively and efficiently with FAO Members in the lead up to the FAO Conference and Council, with the objective of improving the effectiveness and the impact of FAO.

Manabu MIYAGAWA (Japan)

Japan appreciates the IEE core team for the recent development of the evaluation and looks forward to the final Report of the Evaluation.

We do recognize the importance of the IEE for the efficient and effective management of the Organization and therefore contributed US\$300 000 to the Evaluation in January 2007. Japan expects that this Evaluation will lead to the streamlining of the Organization, through the strict review of its activities from the perspective of its comparative advantages in the international community.

Rajiv DOGRA (India)

It is always a pleasure to respond to you and it is good to see you in this position because seeing you there we are assured that we will have maturity and balance in deliberations.

I appreciate all the work that is being done by the IEE and I appreciate it in the full belief and confidence that the work that is being done will lead to the good of the Organization and would also lead to the good in terms of the challenges that we all face in times to come.

There have been a lot of congratulatory noises; I think it is all premature. Congratulations should come when the meal is ready. Let us not congratulate ourselves on a half cooked meal because then the stomach will complain.

Let me take you back in time to 2004, or even earlier, when this Membership felt that there was a real need to have an External Evaluation. I will not go into the reasons, but it was a consensus decision and it was a deeply felt decision. Let us see the need for having taken that decision in 2004, whether that has changed, and I will quote from some of the reports that the IEE has produced so far.

The Inception Report in May 2006 mentions the following: "A, deep and widely shared concerns also seem evident for the Organization's wellbeing, the deterioration of its financial health, directions it is taken and its future prospects. B, over the last 6 years for example, only 20 corporate evaluations have been reported to the Governing Bodies. C, a comparative study conducted in 2005 by DFID, of bilateral organizations assigned FAO to a 23rd position out of 24 organizations in its application of RBM, result based management".

One year later we get the report of IEE again, this is in April 2007. The report is titled "Emerging Issues Paper". In paragraph 82, it more or less repeats what the IEE had said in its Inception Report, one year earlier. Paragraph 82 mentions, that there is a strong and broad consensus among FAO management, staff, Members and partner organizations, expressed especially in private organizations, that there is a crisis with regard to the future of FAO. Someone expressed this as a loss of confidence in the Organization and even as resignation that the downward spiral is now irreversible. Many others have also confided their view that this Evaluation is the last hope for FAO.

Clearly, it is premature to congratulate ourselves. There are a lot of hopes on the IEE, and it is my delegation's hope that among other things, the IEE will also address, as was envisaged originally, a forward looking approach, an all comprehensive approach, an approach that starts from the very basics as to the level, for example, of this meeting. Meetings on various bodies. The frequency of these sessions, the functions and composition of various bodies, are they representative enough for today's world realities? The need for FAO to maintain so many offices outside, after all it has a direct consequence on the finances of FAO and with it some of the functions cannot be outsourced, in an age of outsourcing, why must you have a regular employee for every function?

I will now turn to some of the other issues. The IEE was not the only channel available for reforms. When the IEE was set up, when Friends of the Chair was set up, there was an expectation that there would be a parallel track, there would be something which is going on from within the Organization just like there is another track which is going on at the international level, the UN Reform. Even the Report of the High Level Experts had only two sentences on Rome based organizations, but whatever decision they take is going to have some impact also on these organizations. So there were 3 parallel tracks which are going on, which were supposed to go on.

Now as far as the Director-General's reform proposals are concerned, they are going to be dealt with in a separate Agenda Item, so I will not touch upon them in any major way but I thought since we are talking of evaluation and we are talking of these three tracks, then we should also bring in the highlights of that proposal, after all it is part of the documentation.

Now I notice from documentation CL 132/16 that there are five proposals for reforms which are being presented to this Council. Out of these five proposals, four are for setting up offices. The first one is titled, "Implementation of progressive changes to the Organization structure". So this is the reform proposal and when I look the proposal one of the reforms is that the Fisheries Department has been renamed as Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The second reform is that the Economic and Social Department has been renamed as Economic and Social Development Department. The third reform is that the Policy Assistance Division has been renamed as Policy Assistant Resource Mobilization Division. So there are changes to the names of various organizations.

There is clearly a need for a very, very serious and a very deep look at this entire exercise of reforms because the world is not going to wait for us. We will not have the luxury of another IEE, this is the only chance we have. For the next 60 years we may not get any other chance. So we owe it to the world; we owe it to the future challenges that we look at this exercise with all seriousness, and we hope that the three tracks which were initiated in the beginning do culminate in something which is long-lasting, which endures and which is visionary. It is in that spirit that I support what was said by my colleague on behalf of the G77 but let us not think beyond the next Council and next Conference. Let us first wait for the report of the IEE. The Membership may decide not to accept any of the elements of the IEE, but I am confident that we will accept a majority of those elements because of the seriousness with which it is being approached. At that time, at that stage, the Membership can decide on how to proceed thereafter.

I think it is premature for us to think of special sessions, to think in terms of continuity beyond November of some body or the other. Let us concentrate on the task at hand. Let us see what the report contains. Let us give our best recommendations to the forthcoming Council and thereafter to the Conference meeting. That is the time to think of the future, if there is any future, but I hope there will be a future.

Seo HAE-DONG (Republic of Korea)

I will be very brief. The Korean delegation would like to thank the IEE Core Team for your hard work.

We hope that you will continue to do your job in a transparent, neutral, orderly and timely manner.

We are looking forward to seeing a bold and comprehensive result so that FAO could be reshuffled as a more cost-effective and responsive knowledge organization based on the IEE findings and recommendations.

Swantja HEILBING (Germany)

As you know I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We thank the Council Committee for the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CE-IEE) for its excellent report. It gives a comprehensive overview of all relevant information.

The European Community has supported the IEE from the very beginning because we are convinced that it offers a unique opportunity to improve FAO's capacity to face the current and upcoming challenges for the benefit of the whole Membership.

We commend the Evaluation Team for the copious work carried out so far. While recognizing its provisional nature, we feel reassured by the "Emerging Issues Paper" annexed to this report. It shows that the IEE team has, in line with its terms of reference, looked very deeply into all relevant matters. However, we understand from the team's explanations that a huge amount of work was still to be undertaken to have the necessary evidence base at hand eventually. We have full confidence in the team's independence, objectivity and professionalism. On this note, we are very much looking forward to receiving the draft final report of the IEE.

What matters today, is to establish an appropriate procedure for the next steps from now to the Conference in November 2007.

We think that policy discussion on the findings and recommendations of the IEE and on how to proceed should take place, as suggested in the report, in the Friends of the Chair Group, in the Council and in the Conference. The Friends of the Chair Group duly supported by the Secretariat, should have a crucial role in the preparation for the Council and Conference Sessions in November 2007. We appreciate that the Friends of the Chair met last week to discuss procedures and a timetable of the Friends of the Chair as well as a roadmap for consideration of the IEE.

Unfortunately, the IEE'S core-team leader has informed us that the draft report has been delayed and cannot be delivered for translation before the end of July. This is regrettable and means that we have to work even harder in the Group of the Friends of the Chair, in order to reach an agreed plan on how to proceed with the findings and the recommendations of the IEE for further Council and Conference deliberations and decisions in November this year. In our view this will be possible even if the draft report is delayed by couple of weeks.

Nevertheless, we think it is necessary to come up with precise proposals for decision in time before these sessions. In this regard, it is of particular importance that the Director-General provides as soon as possible his management response in principle, to the final response to the IEE and a preliminary implementation plan to the Friends of the Chair, the Hundred and Thirty-third Session of the Council and the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference.

Considering the ample scope of the IEE, we recognize that the preparation of informed decisions regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the IEE needs efficient time. Therefore, we support the idea of a continuation of an appropriate governing body mechanism such as the Friends of the Chair in the first part of 2008 to elaborate on any follow-up to the IEE.

In the same way, we support the idea of convening a special session of the Council or the Conference in mid-2008 to take any further decisions, on the implementations of the recommendations of the IEE and on potential changes required in the Programme of Work and Budget.

We think the CC-IEE Report to the Council, in paragraphs 12 to 14, all in all, addresses the aforementioned issues in an appropriate manner.

From what I have just heard, I am not sure, however, whether the Report has been modified already, regarding the letter of the Team Leader of 12 June and the new timetable.

The EU can, therefore, endorse the Report if so modified.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Brazil also recognizes the statement made on its behalf by the Coordinator of the G77, but we would like to put on record the following points:

Firstly, a word of gratitude to you for your leadership. The magnificent work undertaken by Ambassador Perri. Thank you very much indeed. We are also very grateful for the work so far undertaken by the team leader and we do not fail to recognize the presence of the Deputy Director-General here with us this afternoon. I think his presence along with the support of the Secretariat is a very clear message that not only the Member Nations are involved in this process but also the Secretariat is very much involved in this process.

Secondly, I would like to mention is that so far, like others have already expressed, we are very satisfied with the independent character of the IEE team. Such independence, it is the view of my delegation, must be preserved at all costs.

Thirdly, as much as the independence character of this process, transparency is also a very important issue. My delegation, at this point in time, is concerned with how the process is going to evolve from the time of the presentation of the draft report and the time and the nature of the final report. My delegation has heard mention, by various delegations, of confidence-building. We indeed share their point of view. In this period between the draft and the final report, it will be crucial to have the independence character of the team of evaluators for the confidence-building of the entire process. I would also like to mention that my delegation is fully committed to this process with the view of improving the FAO and to how best equip this organization to fulfil its important mandate to centre at alleviating poverty and eliminating hunger.

The membership having the final report and the Secretariat being in a position to consider which recommendations will be taken on board, which recommendations, when and how they will be implemented. Finally, I would like to also recognize having made these points, that the Report from the CC-IEE presented to us is acceptable.

Ms Amal I. PEPPLÉ (Nigeria)

The Nigerian delegation wishes to align itself with the position of the African Group as presented by our spoke person. We wish to commend the IEE Team and the Secretariat for the quality of these reports, most especially the methodology deployed in carrying out the assignments.

The report gives a good overview of the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and the threats to FAO as an organization of the United Nations *vis-à-vis* its mandate. I would not bother you with the objectives of the IEE since the report effectively covers them, but permit me to remind us that the IEE was commissioned among other things, to find answers to these four questions, as summarized in the reports. Where does FAO fit today? What should be its response? What is its comparative advantage? What should be our strategic priorities? Chairperson and Council Members, I am shocked. I will never agree with the small minority which has argued that if the FAO were to disappear tomorrow, no one would notice. I am however happy to note that the preliminary report indicate that an international consensus confirms that the FAO is needed and that for many of its activities, there is no institutional alternative. For example, the report says: "that if the FAO were to disappear tomorrow, the global community will need to reinvent a very substantial part of it." There is therefore, a need for the IEE team to address some of the questions raised earlier in this statement to which we need answers. Answers that will help us to face the challenges of the future and make us more efficient and effective in a reformed global system.

For these reasons my delegations wishes to request the Committee on the IEE to provide more analytical overview in order to address some of these unanswered questions with a view to guiding the FAO Members and managers alike on the way forward, since the IEE report is due in

September and should also be ready for presentation and consideration by the Conference in November this year.

Finally, the Nigerian delegation, supports the recommendation that the IEE team should explore the way forward and on the basis of the discussions of this draft report, provide the key elements of the road map through which the FAO could strengthen its services for the benefits of its members.

Hasanuddin IBRAHIM (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to extend its utmost appreciation for the CC-IEE for the progress report on the evaluation of the Organization. The IEE has provided an excellent work in providing an emerging issues paper as a brief summary of some of the main issues that are emerging from the evaluation.

Indonesia is on the view that further work in finalizing the evaluation report is critical in the context of FAO Reform process. In the meantime, whilst the report has provided the Council with a sense of direction in which the IEE analysis is leading, it is important to be aware that IEE final report would not provide an ultimate solution on the on going FAO Reform, but it would be an important contribution for the reform itself. Indonesia reiterates the decision by the Thirty-third Session of FAO Conference that the IEE and the Reform should be mutually-supportive.

Having said that, Indonesia emphasize that further reforms, should be initiated with consultation with all members, taking into account the IEE findings and ongoing wider UN Reform, including the High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Iran also recognizes the work that has been done so far by the IEE, and thanks them all, particularly, Ambassador Perri, the Chair of this Team. Although one welcomes your initiative of the Friends of the Chair in this regard, and while I fully support the presentation made by his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of the G77, the taking into account the recommendation made by my dear colleague, his Excellency, Ambassador of India, will be appreciated.

Luo MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation welcomes the positive progress of the IEE. We would like to thank the core team for its hard work. We would like to support the intervention of the Ambassador of Dominican Republic on behalf of the G 77.

We would like to talk about the starting points of the IEE report. In this document, it talks about emerging issues. In paragraph 18 and paragraph 40, they mention that if FAO were to disappear tomorrow, it would need to be invented or re-invented. This hypothesis, Mr Chairperson, although a hypothesis it is, it indisputably shows the importance status of FAO. We need FAO, and we need it to be better and better and to play a greater and greater role. Therefore, we believe that we would like to use the IEE to set up an FAO which is richer in resources, more efficient, more competent, more capable and more outstanding, so as to help our Member Nations to face up to the challenges.

We listened to the intervention by the Ambassador of Brazil. He talked about the transparency of the IEE. We support his points of view. Considering that the results of the IEE, the findings of the IEE will influence the work of 2008 and 2009, we should ensure that IEE should be independent and, at the same time, it should be transparent.

China supports that the Friends of Chair should play active role with the work of the IEE. China will actively participate in the work of the Friends of the Chair. We would like to support this report.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Deseo apoyar la declaración del Representante de la República Dominicana, a nombre del Grupo de los 77, nos parecen muy importantes los temas básicos expresados por él, que consideramos importantes para este Grupo.

Deseamos también reconocer el trabajo profesional desarrollado por el equipo evaluador, así como también el rol jugado por varios países, y especialmente por el Embajador de Brasil y por el Sr. Perri, esperamos que la Evaluación Externa Independiente pueda continuar por buenos caminos y que los resultados finales de la misma nos permitan hacer más eficiente la labor de la Organización, así como lo habíamos propuesto.

Compartimos las propuestas relativas a reafirmar el papel de los Amigos del Presidente, en la preparación de las decisiones del Consejo y la Conferencia. Destacamos además, la importancia del carácter independiente de los evaluadores de este equipo, así como lo han dicho otras delegaciones que me han precedido.

Es muy importante que se mantenga como hasta ahora se ha hecho, la transparencia en todo el proceso, con todo lo logrado hasta aquí, sobretudo en la etapa final de este.

Mi país espera con muchos deseos conocer el informe definitivo que la EEI va a presentar, tendríamos también que conocer las opiniones de los órganos de gobiernos de la FAO y a partir de allí presentarlo a los Estados Miembros en la próxima Conferencia para tomar las decisiones finales.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

J'aimerais tout d'abord rappeler que la Suisse est intéressée à collaborer avec une FAO plus forte, plus efficace, occupant la place qui lui revient dans l'architecture internationale; une FAO agissant comme une organisation moderne, capable de relever les défis du futur, tout en répondant aux besoins des pays membres. Mon pays a dès le départ accordé une grande importance à l'évaluation externe indépendante et a apporté son soutien à celle-ci.

J'aimerais ici remercier l'équipe d'évaluation pour l'excellent travail qu'elle a réalisé jusqu'ici. Nous considérons que le document sur les nouveaux enjeux est un bon diagnostic de la situation dans l'Organisation et nous partageons dans une large mesure ce diagnostic et les préoccupations dont il fait état. Sans vouloir rentrer ici dans une discussion de substance, il nous apparaît que la FAO, si elle veut comme nous le souhaitons jouer un rôle important à l'avenir, va devoir subir une réforme profonde: réforme qui devra être mise en œuvre le plus rapidement possible. Il conviendra de préparer cette nouvelle orientation de la meilleure manière possible en tenant compte notamment de la réforme du système des Nations Unies. Dans cette tâche, le Groupe des Amis du Président jouera sans aucun doute un rôle clé et nous saluons à cet égard les mesures déjà prises, notamment l'établissement d'un calendrier de travail.

Mon pays est favorable à l'idée de la poursuite de l'activité de ce Groupe ou de tout autre organe approprié après la Conférence de novembre 2007, dans le contexte du suivi des décisions qui auront été prises. La Suisse est également favorable à la tenue d'une session spéciale de la Conférence ou du Conseil en 2008 pour décider toutes mesures de mise en œuvre des recommandations de l'EEI, y compris les changements qui devront être apportés au Programme de travail et budget.

Pour terminer, je tiens à confirmer que la Suisse est disposée à contribuer de manière constructive au processus de réforme qui résultera de l'évaluation externe indépendante et des décisions prises par les organes directeurs à ce sujet.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Switzerland, this brings us to the last speaker on this item, and now I would like to come back to Ambassador Perri and Mr Christoffersen see if they do have anything to add. Ambassador, you have the floor.

Flavio PERRI (Chairperson, Independent External Evaluation)

I will be very brief. The point I have to make is something which comes from my memory. We started this exercise three years ago, we started with a great deal of confidence, but there was no such support for its development, and what I see today is exactly the support for the exercise together with the confidence and the way it was carried out and so when I talk about the transparency, we are talking about work which was done with all the honesty and precise way, which was possible for an independent team, and of course we are willing to receive the draft report, not the final one in August, in order to discuss a little bit more the findings of the Core Team in an open session, not an negotiating one but a kind of seminar where people should express their views on what was written by the Core Team. That is for the sake of transparency. And so I do think that we have done, and the team has done, very good work, and so I congratulate you, I am happy with this session and I only hope that Ambassador Noori will have the opportunity, and I am sure that he will have it, to bring FAO to a new era of achievements, after having heard the Membership and that they have received all the information the Core Team should have prepared for this particular purpose.

Leif CHRISTOFFERSEN (Team Leader, Independent External Evaluation)

I do not have much to add other than three points. Firstly, I have been very gratified by the excellent responses and thoughtful feedback that members individually or in groups have provided to me and the team since the issuing of the Emerging Issues paper. It has been very helpful, I have tried to have an open door for all of you and I do think, to the best of my knowledge, I have ever denied any of you access because I have been eager to seek your advice and I have definitely valued it.

Secondly, I wish to express my thanks particularly to the Deputy Director-General and up to the Director-General for their strong support for the team. It is a very important thing that the institution itself is open to information and does not hide information and I would say that so far we have actually we have had excellent cooperation all the way from the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General to the Management elsewhere in the Organization and to staff. We have always been responded to as promptly as possible, and we always felt that they had done their best to provide the facts and evidence that we so desperately need to make a good report.

The final point is this, that we have a lot of information now and our job is to sort through that and make sure that it is fully evidence based and the facts are solid and the evidence is rooted in, and I will continue to assure you that the independence of this team will be assured to the best of my ability and I can assure you that it will be, because that is the way we started it and that is definitely also the way we will finish this job.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would simply like to assure the membership that the Secretariat is optimistic, hopeful, enthusiastic and very supportive of this exercise. I very much appreciate the comments of Mr Christoffersen because I think coming from him it means more to you than if you hear me tell you that we have been cooperating.

Let me assure you that the Organization has lent its full support, first to the Council Committee under the Chairpersonship of Ambassador Perri, who has done an absolutely superb job. Those of you who were here a couple of years ago, and if you look back as to how this initiative got underway, there were some rocky difficult days, and I think that it was certainly much to the credit of Ambassador Perri that we have come a long, long way. I think only an individual who is so widely respected for his intellect, his openness, his commitment to the Organization, his ability to negotiate and perhaps more than anything, his fairness, could have done this job. Ambassador Perri, thank you so much for bringing us to where we are now. I realize that we do not have a product yet, as India has so rightly mentioned, but we have come a long way down the road of producing that product.

The Secretariat will continue to support the work of the Friends of the Chair, under the very able Chairpersonship of the Independent Chair of the Council. We will support them to the extent that they want our support. As Mr Christoffersen has mentioned, we have tried to make our staff available to the Core Team and their many consultants. We have logistically supported them. The Director-General and the Senior Management has been available, and we have provided them with all the information that they have requested and perhaps sometimes even a bit more. We will continue to collaborate with this effort. We will provide Mr Christoffersen with our comments on his draft report, and we will provide the Membership our views on the final report.

Let me close by repeating what I said at the outset. There is only one way to look at this effort now, and that is with a great deal of optimism. We have a rare almost unique opportunity to make this Organization better. We have an unusual opportunity to bring the Membership together, and there is a need for that. Obviously, some good debate, differences of opinion can be healthy, but when you have a divided house, it is extremely difficult to go forward with some of the major programmes. I think that too often we have had one group of countries that wants one thing from FAO, and another group that want something else. If the IEE can help bring the Membership together, we will all be stronger and better because of that.

The Secretariat wants to serve the interests of the Membership better. We are very hopeful that the IEE will give us a good list of recommendations as to how we can do that.

CHAIRPERSON

It is a pleasure for me to see the spirit of unity and solidarity and cooperation which prevails not only among the Council Members, but among the whole Membership of FAO. Listening to your rich debate, I think there is lots of hope and enthusiasm for the outcome of the IEE for an Organization which fits the Twenty-first Century.

There is strong support and admiration for the Chairperson of the IEE, Ambassador Perri, for the Team Leader, Mr Christoffersen, for the Team Members, for the quality advisers and for the independence and transparency of the work under process, and we all hope that this will be continued and preserved.

The membership supports the Friends of the Chair mechanism to continue with the process of transforming the final report of IEE to implementation recommendations which go to the Governing Bodies of FAO for decisions to be implemented, but it is premature to talk about timetable and future activities beyond the Conference of 2007, and before a careful analysis of the final report of the IEE. I congratulate you all for this work which has been done and look forward to the final report and a transparent and efficient process of the work to reach the final outcome with the implementation of these reports and crystallization of the results into actions which create an FAO fit for Twenty-first Century.

Thank you very much for a very rich debate.

We have to go back to figures and calculations.

We now move to Item 10, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009. We have time for a deep breath until the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees come to the Podium.

Please take your seats to start our work.

The Council is called upon to consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, in order to provide guidance for the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget to be submitted to the Conference. The main document is the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, CL 132/3.

I would like to invite Mr Juneja, Director of Programme, Budget and Evaluation to introduce this Item.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 is a *discussion* document, providing the Council an opportunity to give its guidance before the Director-General presents the full PWB later this year. Council's directions this week will allow the Secretariat to prepare a full PWB that facilitates an informed decision by Conference in November 2007.

The programme of work and budget is being prepared under a unique set of circumstances. I will highlight, in particular, two, that will prevail also when the full PWB is reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees in September and decided upon by the Conference in November:

The first circumstance concerns the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE). A possible timetable for reviewing the IEE findings up to November was discussed by Council earlier today. A matter that will affect your guidance on the possible scope and content of the full PWB is the timing of the IEE findings. The draft report of the IEE will be issued *after* the PWB is finalized next month. Thereafter, the final IEE report will be available barely four weeks before the start of the November Council and Conference.

The second circumstance concerns the Organization's very serious financial challenges for the next biennium and in the longer term, as repeatedly noted by the Finance Committee and Council.

In view of these circumstances, the Summary PWB has been prepared with two requirements in mind: first, to neither undermine nor anticipate the ongoing IEE and second, to respond to Council's explicit request for a concise document that focuses on a comprehensive financial plan to restore the financial health and long-term sustainability of the Organization.

This has been done by articulating the SPWB along two distinct elements.

The first element concerns the presentation of a "maintenance budget" for 2008-2009 so as to continue work at the current level. The "maintenance budget" proposals do not foresee new or reduced programmes, nor any novel organizational proposals beyond those already approved by the Governing Bodies. This approach - of not substantially redirecting resources - is consistent with the need to not prejudice the recommendations of the IEE on FAO's programmes or organization.

At the same time, the rising cost of inputs needed to implement the regular programme of work at the current "maintenance budget" level are quantified in the SPWB – that is, incremental resources required for cost increases, to preserve purchasing power. These are very high, at an unprecedented level of \$101 million. They are largely the consequence of the full biennial impact of increases in staff costs that have already occurred or are expected to occur in the current biennium. In fact, the Secretariat has previously drawn your attention to many of these costs. They are listed in the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance, which is provided to Council as part of the Finance Committee's Report, in Annex 1 of document CL 132/14 which we considered this morning. One example is a largely unforeseen 12.2 percent General Service salary increase in Rome, which Council endorsed last year. Another example is the foreseen increase in the current service costs of After Service Medical Coverage, which was made known to Members in September 2005.

To continue the current programme of work, some incremental requirements, amounting to US\$24 million, are identified and quantified in a "maintenance budget". They relate to initiatives that have already been reported to or endorsed by Members in the course of the current biennium. These include the request of the Russian Federation that Russian be adopted as a language of the Organization, and the budgetary requirements arising from FAO's planned implementation of IPSAS – International Public Sector Accounting Standards – which was endorsed, without corresponding funding, by the governing bodies last year.

So, the aggregate additional resource requirements for a "maintenance budget" reach US\$125 million, representing a 16.3% increase over present levels. The Governing Bodies have

highlighted critical programme gaps in the present programme of work. They would persist under a “maintenance budget”.

The second element in the document contains proposals aimed at restoring the financial health of the Organization. They seek to address the significant borrowing due to cash shortfalls, the depletion of reserves and the unfunded long-term liabilities. Normally, such proposals would not feature in a Programme of Work and Budget, as these are not budgetary provisions required to implement the programme of work for the next biennium. However, in light of the precarious financial health of the Organization, the Council requested that a comprehensive financial plan be included in the SPWB, and the Director-General has responded accordingly.

The Secretariat has estimated that the amount needed to restore the financial health of the Organization ranges from US\$71 to US\$134 million. Of this, US\$40 million are recurring costs to fund the After Service Medical Coverage and Terminal Payments Fund, past service liability by instalments over several biennia. In addition, one-time costs ranging from US\$31 million to US\$94 million relate to the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and an increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund. The range of estimates reflects the option of deferring part of the one-time requirements for increasing the Organization’s reserves.

Overall, taking both elements I have just described – that is, a “maintenance budget” and proposals aimed at restoring the financial health of the Organization - the SPWB provides a stark diagnosis of a US\$201 million to US\$264 million increase in assessments (or 26 to 34 percent). This is summarized in paragraphs 100 through 108 of the document.

In concluding my introduction, I re-emphasize that the purpose of this SPWB is essentially twofold: to seek the Council’s guidance on the Director-General’s diagnosis following your request for a comprehensive financial plan; and your directions on the scope and content of the full PWB 2008-09 to be finalized in July. This will facilitate preparation of a full PWB that meets your collective expectations and the attainment of an informed decision by the Conference on the budget and programmes. The Programme and Finance Committees have reviewed the financial proposals in the SPWB and have provided some specific suggestions on what areas the Director-General might elaborate on in the full PWB, as well as some reflections on what adjustments might be considered, as will be reported by the Chairs.

CHAIRPERSON

We also need to be informed about the discussions of the Programme and Finance Committee on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-9. Please note that these are contained in the Reports of these Committee Meetings in documents CL 132/4, CL 132/11 and CL 132/14.

I now ask the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and of the May 2007 Joint Meeting, Mr Khawaja, to take the floor. He will be followed by Mr Heard.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

The Finance Committee recognized that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget (SPWB) 2008-2009 responded to the November 2006 Council request for “a comprehensive financial plan.” The Committee focussed its deliberations on the financial and budgetary aspects of the SPWB, specifically on the “maintenance budget” to continue the programme of work at the level approved for 2006-07, adjusted to include subsequent cost increases, as well as incremental requirements reported to, or endorsed by, the Membership, and proposals to restore the financial health of the Organization.

The Committee appreciated the concise yet comprehensive information in the SPWB 2008-2009, which provided a useful basis for discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. On budget levels, various views were expressed but it was agreed that it was premature to enter into a detailed discussion on budget levels.

The Committee discussed the estimated US\$100.9 million cost increases for the 2008-2009 biennium, recognizing that these resulted mainly from the adjustment in 2006-2007 to reflect the

full impact of increases in costs of personnel services that had already occurred in the current biennium and were projected for the full 24 months of the next biennium.

In this regard, the Committee looked forward to receiving information notes, to be prepared by the Secretariat, for the purposes of greater collaboration and clarification.

The Committee recommended that the two distinct themes elaborated in the SPWB continue to be elaborated in the full Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2008-2009, that is a single "maintenance budget" proposal, including further analysis of cost increases, efficiency saving and gains, and capital expenditure requirements in 2008-2009; and proposals on restoring the financial health of the Organization.

In light of the magnitude of the increases quantified in these two areas, some Members ascribed greater priority to the programme budget - despite the vital importance they attached to addressing the financial health and liquidity situation - suggesting that resources to restore the financial health of the Organization could be phased over a longer period.

The Committee acknowledged that significant reallocation of resources could not take place at this juncture within a 'maintenance budget', given the expected time frame of the IEE's recommendations on programme prioritization. The Committee did, however, request that the full PWB include a clear presentation of the proposed programme of work, including programme implementation at the field level, as well as adequate reflections of major challenges such as climate change and bioenergy.

Details of the Finance Committee's deliberations on this item are recorded in CL 132/14, paragraphs 58 to 65.

Victor C. D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I was brief earlier today, I can be almost as brief now if not briefer, because although the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was the most important item on our agenda requiring Council action, you will have noted from the bulk of our reports, it is diverted to evaluations, and not to that. The reason for this is that we recognize that, at this stage, the issues related to the SPWB were mainly for the Finance Committee. Indeed, as our report indicates, we did not feel it was appropriate at this moment to suggest to the Council changes in priorities agreed earlier, although it was agreed by the recent technical meetings.

This is in keeping with the presentation by the Director-General of a 'maintenance' budget and the imminent arrival of the Draft Report of the IEE. The latter will provide the best basis for prioritization, we believe. However, we did propose that the Programme of Work and Budget reflects emerging cross-cutting challenges, climate change and bioenergy in the course of targeting the MDGs. The importance of these issues is borne out by the attention many FAO Members gave them yesterday.

Apart from giving the Secretariat the difficult task of achieving this within the "maintenance budget", and suggesting that they had freedom to move resources to do so, we have offered less guidance than perhaps has been the case in previous years, for the reasons I have given.

However, one aspect of our discussion of the SPWB that should interest Council may not come across in our report. Paragraph 10 refers to the IEE offering the Membership of FAO an excellent opportunity to reshape FAO's orientation.

In fact, I think that all of us agreed that this is a very optimistic time for FAO. The resource constraints to which a number of our Committee members referred and which are recorded in the report, remain, and will not disappear overnight, but we felt we were at the turning point.

Our discussion therefore was against the background that, if all goes well, the position may change for the better within a foreseeable future.

I said I could be brief, and that is all I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON

Before opening the floor, I wanted to remind you that the opportunity caused our sitting here and discussing the Programme of Work and Budget is going and participating in that music outside. So the more efficient we are, there is the more possibility of benefitting from this opportunity. With this, I will open the list of speakers.

Ramalingan PARASURAM (India)

India welcomes the presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget by the Director General. We have appreciated the work done in presenting a concise and clear document that tries to capture programme elements as approved by the Governing Bodies, and at the same time, recognizes the important thematic areas that had been receiving the attention of the Member States during the last several months. And indeed having discussed at the various Technical Committees, like the Committee on Agriculture, on Commodity Problems, on Food Security and others.

We noted that the Director-General has sought to protect the investment levels under various programme entities by requesting cost increases, or and above, the appropriations for 2006-2007, so that the programmes do not suffer due to erosion of purchasing power. This element of cost increase is appreciated. However, it must be recognized that there will be a tangible element of investment cost attributable to the implementation of agreed outcomes of the IEE - a scenario which will unfold before us only during the latter part of the year.

This in all likelihood shall necessitate the restructuring of, and provisioning, within the programme and projects. We would definitely emphasize on the need to streamline programme design and increase the efficiency in delivery to maximize impact both at the policy and field levels.

We also note that the DG has called this exercise "the preparation of a maintenance budget", and thought to include provisions for funding staff-related liabilities, and for one-time the Replenishment of Reserves, to address issues of financial health, liquidity and reserves.

Both the Programme and the Finance Committees in their deliberation on the SPWB have refrained from commenting on the increase sought on budget levels, mainly due to the changes that are expected to be necessitated from the IEE recommendations. While we would also like to go along with this approach, it does cause us concern, that even without any increase in allocations arising from IEE recommendations, the Director-General has sought an increase in the order of, or ranging from 26 to 34 percent of the Assessed Contributions.

We find it difficult to accept such an increase from one biennium to another. In our view, the Member States should have a close look at the investments the Organization makes for programmes, both at the policy and field levels, as also at the cost that such work entails.

The concerns of the developing countries in this direction are genuine. We would like the Organization to continue to remain an effective stakeholder in our collective endeavour to remove poverty and achieve food security, especially at the household level.

Therefore, what goes as additional funds into the PWB, should subserve this border objective. We would strongly recommend to all Member Nations and to the Director-General that as part as our discussions on IEE recommendations, we should discuss and determine an efficient organizational structure and processes that are cost-effective. This will have sufficient time as now we have virtually accepted that the PWB 2008-2009 and IEE outcomes, shall not convert, at least not until much later after the Conference of 2007, and only if so decided. The Membership should prioritize the issues that are dealt with by the FAO, and emphasize investments in areas that are within its core expertise.

In some areas, greater collaborative arrangements and partnerships with other UN Agencies should reduce risk of duplication, which in any case is the intended purpose of UN Reforms. In

some of the remaining areas, there should be no hesitancy in allowing other Agencies a primary role.

As part of the exercise, we would also like to emphasize the need for the Organization to increasingly drop on the emerging talented pool of Professionals from the developing countries, and facilitate their joining in increasing numbers, both as permanent staff and as consultants.

We would place particular emphasis on a larger number of persons from these countries being positioned at the senior and policy making levels in the Organization.

Preparation of the detailed Programme of Work and Budget during the last part of the year should, in our view, be informed by these underlying themes.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this Statement.

We thank the Secretariat for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 (SPWB) covering both the Programme of Work and a plan to restore the financial health of the Organization. We agree with the Committees that the level of detail and clarity of the SPWB documentation provided by the Secretariat was very helpful.

We welcomed the proposed concept of a so called “maintenance budget” as the basis of a realistic stop gap measure while the longer term future of FAO is discussed by Members. Whilst reserving our position on a concrete budget level, we need to have a detailed discussion on the additional US\$100.9 million requested by the Secretariat for implementing the Programme of Work. Furthermore, we recognize that a significant amount, about 40 percent, of the incremental requirements put by the Secretariat at US\$23.9 million are not yet endorsed by the Membership.

In this context we would like to highlight that there seems to be general recognition of the need to allow the IEE discussions to go ahead through a separate agreed process while at the same time ensuring that the future full PWB would be compatible with both the conclusions the Governing Bodies would draw from their consideration of the IEE recommendations and FAO's immediate needs. We think this is the most appropriate approach at this stage.

We agree with the decision recorded in the report of the Programme Committee, after thorough consideration of existing priorities and those suggested by the Technical Committees, that there should be no changes in priorities at present. We also recognize that, as did the Programme Committee, the new challenges to FAO from climate change and the issues surrounding bioenergy are cross-cutting and will affect much of FAO's work. We encourage FAO to gather its strengths in order to be able to actively take part in these issues, according to its mandate and comparative advantages. It is more realistic, therefore, to handle them as aspects of existing areas of FAO's work rather than to suggest specific new activities. Nevertheless, particular importance should be given to the strengthening of training programmes and education by FAO as an essential tool to address old and new challenges. However, all of these issues should be revisited in the light of the IEE recommendations when they emerge.

As to the proposals to restore the financial health of the Organization, we commend the Secretariat for providing a comprehensive picture without glossing over the rather worrying overall financial situation. However, we think that resources to restore the financial health of the Organization do not have to be raised in one go but could be phased over a longer period. In any case, many questions remain concerning the necessity of the measures proposed by the Secretariat at large.

That said, we are looking forward to a more comprehensive PWB, with more detailed information and justifications on cost increases, expected efficiency gains and savings including their impact on the budget. In this regard, we welcome the Secretariat's offer to prepare respective information notes.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for the presentations they made and also to Mr Juneja for the very comprehensive and lucid presentation he made.

I would like, at the outset, to quote the Director-General on the statement he made on the introduction to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget; the comment that he made regarding the IEE process that we are all engaged in and about which we had a very fruitful discussion at the previous item and I quote:

"The outcome of the ongoing UN Reform initiatives, and I stress, and the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE), may have considerable implications on future work, but cannot be assessed at this juncture. They will have to be reflected in our programme of work in due time".

I am very much concerned about the statements that I have heard during this Council that we are dangerously putting this Organization on hold on the expectation of the results of the IEE. I think that to the best of my understanding, the discussions that we just held very much pointed that it is going to be a process that will take due time – nobody knows how long it will take – and we do not know in which direction, hopefully for the best, but we do not know what the recommendations are and we do not know what considerations the Membership will make of the recommendations that will come. So, to be very simple and clear, to be putting the Organization on hold, just on waiting what the IEE process will result in is a very dangerous move and my delegation cannot go along with this position.

We certainly have commended, and I personally have done it, the Secretariat for the very thoughtful idea of a "maintenance PWB", but my delegation has, in private, and I make it public now, mentioned that we could go along with the maintenance budget provided that it would not constitute an excuse for an *ex post facto* approval by the Membership of initiatives to cope with the financial crunch, and I mean the freezing of TCPs, the freezing of hiring and the filling of vacancies.

Maintenance, understood by my delegation is fulfilling totally, and I stress that, with the budgetary decisions of the current biennium, including, as I mention again, all the implementation of all TCPs approved, and filling of vacancies, both in Headquarters and in the Regional Offices and National Offices, and fully implementing Field Programmes.

Maintenance, could certainly be better understood by the Membership if we had an analysis, an evaluation of the Committees that are Subsidiary Bodies of this Council and of the Conference on the level of the implementation of programmes. How much has been accomplished? Which programmes need to be reinforced? Which programmes have been completed? That information we do not have and it is very difficult at this point in time just to say, yes for "maintenance" because the Membership will be signing a blank cheque without knowing what we are actually deciding.

We have also heard, that many programmes underfunded, am I to expect that that situation will be solved by a "maintenance budget"? My best guess, educated guess would certainly be a "yes". It will be resolved because we will have enough funds to fund the programmes that have been decided in the previous biennium, which will be maintained. These things will need to be clarified. We do not at this point understand if they were underfunded in the current biennium, how we are going to square the circle in the next biennium. If we just increase the budget only by adjusting costs of inflation and we do not know how much this would reflect in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization.

We have so far maintained this position in various Agenda Items that we have dealt with, that we do not know and do not have the information. We expect this will be provided to the Membership through the Programme and the Finance Committees on the use of extra-budgetary funding by

this Organization in supporting Regular Programme activities. At this point in time, we are lacking information on this very important and vital item.

We also would like to put a note of caution in the proposal made by the Secretariat in terms of restoring, as I understood from Mr Juneja, taking the necessary steps to restore the financial health of this Organization. My question would be, whether we would have to do a one shot deal in one instalment or we could do it along various years or different biennia, diverting and dedicating the budget increases for the implementation of programmes and not necessarily just to replenish the capital funds.

The last issue I would like to mention that at this point, we have five substantive committees meeting this year and many decisions were taken, by these substantive committees. We do not understand how these decisions will be reflected in the next biennium programme. I would like to have a better understanding on cross-cutting issues. We understand the concept of cross-cutting issues, in the fact that they do not belong to just one or another Session within the Secretariat, but it must be dealt with as an inter-departmental or inter-divisional method. What I am concerned about is that by indicating cross-cutting issues, we will be approving, in inserting, new programmes in the Programme of Work for the next biennium with prejudice of other programmes which will be and which will not be incorporated in the “maintenance budget”.

Michael Tabong KIMA (Cameroon)

My delegation welcomes this document CL 132/3 and we congratulate the Secretariat for efforts put into producing it. We also thank the Programme and Finance Committees for the guidance provided to induce a debate, which hopefully will be fruitful at this session of the Council, so as to provide the Secretariat with clear indications on the future draft Programme of Work and Budget to be discussed.

The preparation process of a PWB in FAO has proven to be a very lengthy one, and the experience of the past two PWBs whereby the budget appropriations were adopted six months inside the biennium has brought in the limelight, the weaknesses of such a process. Despite efforts put in the present PWB to reduce the length and the number of possible appropriation scenarios, we are still not very convinced that, once again, the process will not spill over and encroach into the biennium 2008-2009. The financial situation of FAO does not allow for further delays in the budgetary process. My delegation therefore, calls for our collective responsibility, to make sure that the budget is adopted in November 2007.

Concerning the reporting on the progress in the implementation of reforms approved by the Governing Bodies, allow us to give a *satisfecit* to the Secretariat in the restructuring of the Headquarters and the new configuration of the Shared Services Centre. We are happy with the progress in setting up Sub-regional Offices, particularly in the Africa Region, including the Sub-regional Office for Central Africa. This gives me the opportunity to recognise efforts put in by the Gabonese Government in assisting to make it operational. It is indeed a big challenge. Permit me therefore, on behalf of my Government to congratulate the Government of Gabon for that, and assure FAO and all other countries covered by that office, of our indefectible support. As per the Sub-regional Office in Central America, we encourage the Secretariat to finalise negotiations with Panama.

We welcome information provided in the document, on FAO's involvement in the UN Reforms, its work at country level and on the ongoing cooperation among the Rome-based UN Organizations working in the area of food security. We encourage FAO to go ahead in building stronger partnerships with its other two sister organizations based in Rome, especially at country level.

We acknowledge the benefits and the added value of extra-budgetary contributions, which by nature are voluntary, to the work of FAO and we have no problem in seeing that FAO can continue to rely on them, but we suggest that generous donors consider the possibility of making them flexible and united to the fullest extent possible.

The development architecture is faced today with emerging challenges such as climate change, rapid technological changes, erosion of fossil resources, increasing competition on land and water resources, changing and evolving development cooperation, context, transboundary diseases and pests etc.

FAO's consideration of these new challenges in its PWB, is therefore, a matter of realism, and we support it. We see logic in aligning these challenges to the main thematic areas outlined in paragraph 44 of the document. We wish also to reiterate our continuous plea for increased interdisciplinary actions, particularly in the area of gender and women empowerment and HIV/AIDS. It may sound like a repetition of a *déjà vu* or a *déjà entendu*. If we continue to express our support as a priority to programme entities that have a direct impact in Africa's agriculture such as innovative pilot programmes susceptible to be scaled, capacity-building and other special programmes. It is our view that these programme entities best respond to the needs of African countries today. We cannot minimize the work of IPPC, CODEX and other units working in the normative work. We need both normative and field activities. A proper and adequate balance among them is of utmost importance.

We are deeply concerned with the increased financial imbalance and critical deficits facing the Organization. We concur with the Secretariat that the General Fund deficit, the deteriorating cash flow situation, the under-budgeted costs and the unfunded liabilities need to be adequately addressed. The proposed maintenance budget to that effect, is acceptable to us, within the context of the expected outcome of the Independent External Evaluation. It is obvious that incremental and supplementary funds are needed to bridge the financial imbalance gap of the Organization; else we will contribute to plunge FAO into a vicious cycle of structural deficits.

In addressing some of the above mentioned critical issues, Members should consider paying on time their Assessed Contributions. To that effect, I wish to inform the Council that I have indications from my Government that an amount of approximately US\$ 100 thousand is in the pipeline to be paid to FAO by the middle of the second quarter of 2007. This contribution does not represent our Assessed Contributions for 2006-2007, which have already been paid, but it is a special authorised payment. The Embassy will enter into discussions with the Secretariat as soon as the money is made available into FAO's account to determine the best appropriate allocation. As you can see, this is a concrete action which we expect can be emulated. This shows my Government's intention to support FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Ambassador, please keep this pipeline very active. Now I invite Japan to take the floor please.

Manabu MIYAGAWA (Japan)

In the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the Secretariat proposes the increase of total assessments for next biennium by US\$ 201 million to US\$ 264 million, or 26 to 34 per cent. Japan considers such an increase of Assessments could be unrealistic and unacceptable for most of Member Nations. Although the SPWB assumes the maintenance of all the current activities, it would be impossible to maintain all the current activities while tackling financial problems. If we would like to talk about the financial problems, we would have to cut the current activities, taking into consideration their comparative advantages in the international community before waiting for the final report of the Independent External Evaluation.

Since the cost for the follow-up of the IEE are expected to be assessed some time after the Conference, the total amount for the programme implementation and financial challenges for the next biennium should be kept below the Zero Nominal Growth level. Further, since the follow-up plan of the Independent External Evaluation will be developed some time after the Conference, it would be unreasonable to assume that all the activities are maintained for two years. Therefore, the Secretariat, we hope, would develop a tentative Programme of Work and Budget for a shorter period of time. That is for less than two years, depending on the expected time for the development of the follow-up plan of the IEE.

Now let me make a couple of points, a specific point on the Summary Programme of the Work and Budget 2008-2009. The first three regard the cost increases. The Secretariat explains that 92 per cent of the total cost increases were US\$ 92.5 million out of US\$ 100.9 million are attributed to personnel services. We consider that if the cost for personnel services increases, the first thing the Secretariat has to consider is the reduction of the number of staff.

Further, the Secretariat also proposes to eliminate the lapse factor practice. Japan considers that such an arbitrary treatment of lapse factor is unreasonable. We insist that the Secretariat should apply the lapse factor which correctly reflects the current situation of the Organization.

Secondly, regarding the capital budgeting, the Secretariat proposes to invest in the Human Resource Management System, upgrading telephone and shared data services, introducing international public sector accounting standards, IPSAS and other information technology projects. Japan doubts if all of these capital investments are really necessary and inevitable for the next biennium. In particular, the cost for the introduction of the IPSAS should be limited to the minimum. Japan cannot accept unnecessary procurement of computer and other facilities in the name of IPSAS.

Further, regarding the adoption of the Russian language, we have already made a statement this morning, so we just do look forward to further productive discussions on this topic through this year.

Fourth, regarding the funding of After Service Medical Coverage, post service liability, Japan does not find any necessity to increase funding from US\$14.1 million because the United Nations General Assembly did not reach any conclusion to fund for after service health insurance benefit in the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly this March.

Fifth, regarding the Working Capital Fund, we oppose obligatory contributions by Member Nations to the Working Capital Fund. Given the large amount of arrears, the Secretariat should collect accumulated arrears from the Member Nations in arrears before asking Member Nations to contribute to the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat should study an alternative measure, for example, to replenish the Working Capital Fund with the arrears paid from Member Nations.

Finally, as regards the Special Reserve Account, the Special Reserve Account was substantially depleted in order to meet the General Service salary increase, which was decided in the last Council meeting.

Since Japan was opposed to the proposal to deplete the Special Reserve Account in the last Council meeting, we cannot accept the proposal to replenish the depleted Special Reserve Account in the next biennium.

All in all, Japan strongly hopes that the Secretariat proposes a realistic and acceptable budget proposal level for Member Nations for the next biennium.

Malik Zahoor AHMAD (Pakistan)

Pakistan welcomes the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008 – 2009 and the guidance available on this document from the Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee, the Ninety-seventh Session of the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. Pakistan would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees for providing us with the deliberations in the respective Committees.

Pakistan notes that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget has been presented without the three or four scenarios as in the past focussing, instead on the needs of the Organization. We recognize that a critical decision on the budget level would be eventually taken by the Conference, and we endorse this approach, our presentation of budget on the basis of needs, rather than different budget scenarios. This makes the budget document more focused and easy to read.

Pakistan takes note of major increase and budget due to cost increases of the present biennium. Inflation, additional capital budget needs for the next biennium are identified in the Medium-

Term Plan and major restore the financial health of the Organization. While it would be premature to express an opinion and a proposed increase in budget without looking at the full Programme of Work and Budget in the next Council session, Pakistan endorses the approach and spirit representing a “maintenance budget” which maintains the capacity of the Organization to deliver the same level of services for the next biennium as approved by the Conference in 2005 for delivery in 2006-2007.

Pakistan also endorses the point of view that any major re-preposition may not be practical at this time, pending the consideration of the report of the Independent External Evaluation.

Pakistan recognizes that costs have increased substantially over the present biennium and that there is also a strong case for restoring the financial health of the Organization. The Membership will be called upon to take an informed, responsible political decision under the budget of the Organization in the latter part of this year. Pakistan would support a decision that will enable the Organization to be more effective and more efficient in discharging its obligations to all its Members.

Pakistan also notes that pending receipts of the final report of the Independent External Evaluation, the Membership would possibly need to provide additional resources for implementing any agreed recommendations from the report of the next biennium. Pakistan recognizes that the cost of implementing a recommendation would not be part of the Programme of Work and Budget document due to a delay in the draft report of the IEE. We shall wait for the developments in this regard.

Johari RAMLI (Malaysia)

Just a brief intervention. Malaysia welcomes the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the year 2008 – 2009 document and would like to thank the Secretariat, particularly, Mr Juneja, for this informative report. My delegation is aware on the ongoing IEE and UN Reform process and recognizes that adjustments in the Programme of Work and Budget for the year 2008 and 2009 may be required. Hence, my delegation wishes to concur with the FAO Programme Committee and FAO Finance Committee in refraining to discuss the programme entities and also the Organization's budgetary level for biennium 2008-2009 any further. My delegation supports that the programme entities must remain as programme entities 2006-2007, at this time until the Programme Committee is able to review the IEE final report and a full PWB 2008-2009 documents in the September Session, even though there may be many emerging issues that need to be taken into account, such as climate change, and bioenergy.

There is a need to maintain an adequate balance between normative and operational activities, as well as the importance of linking both governance with the implementation at country level and field levels to capacity-building must be emphasized such as: the work on diseases and pest of animals and plants; crisis management, nutrition and consumer protection; Codex Alimentarius; food quality and safety, genetic resources for food, agriculture and animal; sustainable natural resources management, climate change and environmental degradation; capacity building in multilateral trade negotiations; agro-business, agro-industries, biotechnology, extension research, agrarian reform and rural development; policy analysis and advice, knowledge exchange and as well as information and statistics. My delegation wishes all those issues mentioned above will be addressed at the forthcoming Programme Committee Session in September this year. And by that time, we hope that both Committees will be able to review the proposals made by the IEE Team.

Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

Sweden speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. We commend the Secretariat for having presented this document, showing important internal and external elements for the financial situation of FAO, affecting the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and the key financial budgetary issues to be decided at the Conference in 2007.

The presentation of the document CL 132/3 – Summary Programme of Work and Programme 2008-2009 depicts a rather precarious situation for the Organization. As a consequence, the scenario presented in the Secretariat's proposal for the “maintenance budget” describes what resources are needed in order to implement decisions already taken or endorsed by Members. It also includes necessary increases related to general price and cost increases. Why do the Nordic Countries find a “maintenance budget” a good basis for further discussions at a time when we are all still awaiting the outcome of the IEE? We still have questions to the figures in the document, and hope the Secretariat will provide further information in this regard. However, the situation may be even more serious. The Organization has, because of the weak financial situation, to refrain from implementing Conference decisions on important areas, since there is no liquid capital for current business. Deviation from the Conference decisions primarily concerns the Technical Cooperation Programmes. Important programmes cannot be carried out because resources are needed for salaries to employees and other running expenses. This is obviously not satisfactory.

The difficult financial situation of FAO is not surprising. Member Nations have for many years called for reductions and savings without the correspondent cuts in programme activities, which have resulted in this unstable situation.

Since 1994, FAO's budget has been in real terms been reduced by 25 per cent. Neither Member Nations nor the FAO Secretariat has been able to adjust to these realities. In the Inception Report of May 2006, the IEE Core Team states that since 1994, the financial conditions of FAO have deteriorated consistently and seriously.

The Nordic Countries share the assessment of the IEE in its Emerging Issues that FAO cannot fulfil the expectation of its Members, exploit its competitive advantages or preserve its core competences with further budget reductions. However, the Emerging Issues paper made it also very clear that FAO's problem cannot only be solved solely through the budget increases.

The demands of the FAO have continued to increase. The Technical Committees have placed serious requirements for activities by FAO. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which met last week in this building, needs increased resources to continue the work in the genetic area. There was concern that due to lack of financial resources, FAO's responsibility for implementation of important international agreements cannot be maintained. The situation also underlined the need to introduce more efficient mechanisms for prioritization at governance level.

It seems clear, however, that Member Nations do not regard FAO's work unimportant or obsolete. According to the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget, extra-budgetary contributions are steadily increasing, and a record level was experienced in 2006. This is an expression by donors of the importance of FAO's mandate.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

As a member of the Programme Committee, Australia wishes to record the cooperative spirit of the members of the Programme Committee and also the Finance Committee in their joint meeting, in their deliberation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009.

In particular, we congratulate the Chair of the Programme Committee for his capable leadership. We support his summary that he just provided at the commence of this meeting. We also extend our appreciation to the Secretariat, and Mr Juneja in particular, for his clear presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We are also pleased to associate ourselves with the reports of the Joint Meeting in CL 132/4 and of the Programme Committee in CL 132/11.

The Programme Committee, in considering the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009, recognizes the challenges facing the Organization, including climate change and bioenergy, which have already been discussed at this Council meeting. The report also indicated that in developing the full Programme of Work and Budget, the critical funding gaps which had

been previously identified, should be addressed and also should include the guidance from the Technical Committees.

We highlight some of these priorities as follows: Codex, IPPC, Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, IUU fishing, strengthening of RFMOs, capacity-building for trade negotiations. We are also pleased that for the first time, the full Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009 will contain a presentation for regular and extra-budgetary resources. The transparency and capacity to take more strategic considerations have been raised at the Council this week.

The Committee, cognisant of the imminent IEE outcome, did not recommend major changes at this stage. We endorse this conclusion.

Finally, we recognized that further consideration will need to be given to the merits or otherwise of the so-called "maintenance budget" and proposal for restoring the financial health of the Organization. It is therefore premature for any conclusions, at this stage, on the budget level ahead of a fully-elaborated Programme of Work and Budget and its consideration by the FAO Conference in November.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada would like to acknowledge the useful work that has gone into the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the improvement in the planning process that its succinctness represents.

The Finance and Programme Committees have undertaken some useful analysis of this document. Among other things, they have reflected on the eventual importance of prioritisation as we proceed to a full Programme of Work and Budget.

Japan has also asked what kind of mechanism the Secretariat might suggest so that the 2008-2009 Programme of Work and Budget is scalable to the budget level that is eventually approved by the Conference in November of this year. From my prospective, some effort at differentiating between elements of the PWB will be necessary so that it can eventually be shaped to conform when they approve the budget which we frankly would not expect to amount to the 26 to 34 percent increase proposed in the SPWB.

The Secretariat has, in the past, provided useful direction on prioritization efforts, including the Director-General's Reform Proposals. The Programme Committee has also given guidance when adjusting the 2006-2007 PWB under a delegation from Conference.

We look forward, therefore, to an indication from the Secretariat of how they could use past and emerging guidance to introduce scalability into the 2007-2008 PWB exercise.

On some specific points with respect to After Service Medical Coverage, we understand that after service medical coverage presents a significant liability for FAO. Our delegation is of the view that any additional cost associated with the ASMC should be kept separate from the FAO Regular Budget. We are willing to work with FAO and other Members to find a solution to this problem leading up to the November 2007 Conference.

With respect to the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account, we note that the Working Capital Fund is under strain because Members are not paying their Assessed Contributions on time. Our view is that FAO should work with Member Nations to encourage early payment.

With respect to the Special Reserve Account, during the last fiscal year, it was used to offset US\$6.4 million of unforeseen budget costs. It is our expectation that FAO will replenish the Special Reserve Account from its existing resource base in respect of that amount.

Lee BRUDWIG (United States of America)

The USA is hoping that by taking a bit of a prospective and looking at the situation, we can illuminate some of the challenges ahead of us and I think a few simple recognitions will help to do that.

First of all, one point we have to realize is that this financial situation we are in did not happen overnight—we created it—and it took us almost a decade to do that. Fundamentally, it is not only a matter of payments, it is a matter that many of the Members here have talked about, which is the depletion of the reserves and an Organization which has no reserves has very little flexibility in adjusting programmes and its work and setting strategic objectives to meet its financial situation. In a situation of depletion of reserves, any extraordinary costs drop directly down to programmes, and I think that is the point we are in right now.

That having been said, recognizing that it took us a decade to reach this point, I think it would be unrealistic to think that we can dig out of it in one or two, three or four years. We suspect that this will take as long to correct as it did to create. So the focus should be on a point that a number of Members of this meeting, including Canada, find a mode on how to gradually replenish the reserves through the resources of the Organization.

As a result of the depletion of reserves and the financial situation, however, I think, one very beneficial thing has happened, and that is we are looking much more closely now at the financial constraints. We are very pleased to see a paradigm shift. One of looking at programmes from a normative wish list approach, to one which is very firmly grounded in the financial abilities and capabilities of the Organization. That is the beginning of a process, and I believe the maintenance budget has also illuminated some of the challenges, some of the requirements to gradually rebuild the Organization, rebuild the strength as well as assure the financial sustainability of FAO.

That having been said, any time an organization is in a situation like FAO right now, it is an obvious reality whatever the reforms are, the requirements they must be politically sailable. From that same point the USA approach two recurrent budget discussions is that of a Zero Nominal Growth budget, is a beginning of place. That having been said, there is a positive light in the horizon in the IEE, the challenges before us is to take the IEE and merge it with the budget process, in a way, that highlights the self interest of all the Members in rebuilding our confidence in FAO which will then precipitate the dedication of the political will as well the financial resources to deliver our results.

We also have to realize, however, the organizations in transition face very large upfront costs. With the Director-General's Decentralization Reform Programme, we have seen that already. During this PWB, this biennium, we have put up US\$ 11million of upfront investment in the Reform process. The "maintenance budget" contains an additional US\$ 5 million in upfront costs. We have yet to see a clear indication of any of the benefits but this is typical of an organization which is going through transformation or change; the costs come up front and the benefits come down the road at some point. The challenge is not to bite off more that we can chew, not to take on more upfront costs now than the Organization can bear, especially giving the depletion of reserves that we face. So the challenge is not to simply pile on all your additional costs without looking at very careful cost-benefit analysis, what can be prioritized, what are the core programmes and what can be trimmed.

In the end, if this process is going to lead to a reinvigorated sustainable, healthy and strategic FAO that delivers on the Millennium Development Goals, all the Members must pursue their own self-interest in reviving the Organization.

The last point that USA would very much like to see when the IEE comes out, very clear costing analysis, what the IEE will cost, and then a political decision can be made as to what elements can be implemented early on, and which elements may have to wait until later on.

The USA would also very much like to see within the proposed PWB for 2008-2009 a clear presentation of implementation at the field level. The proof is in what we deliver and what we deliver is programmes. One of the issues we have on the maintenance budget is virtually all the costs which are going for overhead, and very little is going for new programmes.

We would also like to see in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget a clearer presentation of the cost savings from the initial stages of Decentralization and Reform. I referred already to the

US\$ 11 million invested. Thus far, the Summary PWB does not contain a projection of what the costs savings are from those investments.

But to sum it up, I think we made a great deal of progress in looking at these issues from a very clear prospective, looking at the financial challenges ahead, as well as the political challenges that we will have to face collectively.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen we have gone beyond the time available to us today, so we have to stop here. May I remind you that, according to timetable, we will continue this debate tomorrow morning.

Before I close the meeting, I wish to announce that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will commence directly after this meeting in the Lebanon Room, Building D-209. The Drafting Committee members are kindly requested to make their way to the Lebanon Room now. May I also draw your attention to a Side Event on Decentralized Cooperation and Sustainable Mountain Development scheduled to take place tomorrow, Wednesday, in the Iran Room at 13.00. All the Council participants are invited to attend this side event.

I would like to propose that before returning to Item 10, Summary PWB tomorrow morning we take as the first item on the Order of the Day, Item 15 – Progress in the Implementation of FAO Reforms and its sub-item on Modalities for implementation of Sub-Regional Offices Central America. I am making this proposal to enable the Distinguished Minister of Agriculture of Panama to be present when Item 15 is discussed at 9.30 a.m.. We would then continue our deliberation on the Summary PWB.

Can I take that the Council accepts this amendment to the Timetable?

Mali, you have the floor.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Pouvons-nous avoir la liste des orateurs inscrits pour demain matin, selon l'ordre de passage; cela nous permettra de savoir si nous pouvons prendre place dans le premier train ou le second.

CHAIRPERSON

Council has accepted my proposal on the changes. Tomorrow morning after Item 15 we come back to item 10 – PWB and we start with Zambia, Cuba, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Mali, China, Thailand, and Gabon. You still have time to decide tonight and to speak tomorrow and here is the observer of Switzerland who will speak tomorrow.

With this the meeting is adjourned, and I wish all a good evening. The Council will meet tomorrow morning at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 18:15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18:15 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-second Session
Cent trente-deuxième session
132º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 18-22 June 2007
Rome, 18-22 juin 2007
Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

20 June 2007

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:45 hours
Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9:45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

15. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FAO REFORMS (CL 132/16)

15. RÉFORMES DE LA FAO: PROGRÈS ACCOMPLIS (CL 132/16)

15. PROGRESOS EN LA APLICACIÓN DE LAS REFORMAS DE LA FAO (CL 132/16)

15.1 Modalities for Implementation of a Sub-Regional Office in Central America

15.1 Modalités relatives à la mise en place d'un Bureau sous-régional en Amérique centrale

15.1 Modalidades de realización de una Oficina Sub-regional en América Central

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Fifth Meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before proceeding with item 10 which we had begun discussing at our last meeting yesterday, we start with item 15 – Progress in the Implementation of FAO Reforms, together with subitem 15.1 – Modalities for Implementation of a Subregional Office in Central America.

Please ensure that you have document CL 132/16 before you.

Council will recall that at our last Session in November 2006, the establishment of a new Sub-regional Office in Central America was approved, in principle.

Since the time that the decision was taken, the modalities of implementation have been addressed by a working group comprising the interested countries.

The Council is now called to make a final decision on where to establish the Sub-regional Office.

I would like to give the floor to the Deputy Director-General, Mr Harcharik, to introduce this paper.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Since this paper focuses on one very specific decision item, and that is the country that would host the Subregional Office for Central America, I do not think that I need to summarize all of the elements of FAO Reform. I think it is better that we zero right in on this specific item and for that I would like to turn the floor over to my colleague, the Director of OCD, Mr Basharat Ali.

Basharat ALI (Director, Office of Coordination of Normative, Operational/Decentralized Activities, OCD)

As mentioned, during the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council held in November 2006, the Council approved, in principle, the establishment of a new Sub-regional Office in Central America.

The Council indicated that the modalities of implementation should be addressed by a Working Group to be convened by the Secretariat with the participation of interested countries.

As a follow-up to this decision, a Working Group was, indeed, established by the Secretariat with the participation of the six countries of the Sub-region which were represented in Rome: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

In order to facilitate the process, the GRULAC nominated His Excellency Mr José Roberto Andino Salazar, Ambassador of El Salvador, as coordinator of the Working Group.

Following a number of working sessions in which all the different aspects were reviewed, the Working Group selected Panama as the first choice for hosting the new office. In fact, Annex 2 of this document CL 132/16, is the Final Report of the Working Group on the establishment of the new FAO Sub-regional Office for Central America which says in paragraph 43; *following discussions, the Working Group reached a consensus for ranking the candidate countries as follow:: and Panama is number one.*

As a result of this decision by the Working Group, a mission was fielded to Panama and it has been confirmed that the country is in a position to meet all the legal, technical and resource commitments required for the finalization of the Host Country Agreement and for the establishment of the new Sub-regional Office for Central America.

Lee BRUDVIG (United States of America)

The United States of America would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on Progress on Implementation of FAO Reforms.

Our Government has applauded the Director-General's efforts to think creatively and constructively about reforming FAO and strengthening the Organization's ability to carry out its mandate. We have, in general, supported the guiding principles that underlie his Reform proposals, and we have strongly encouraged initiatives for streamlining and enhancing efficiency. The world is changing rapidly, and FAO must change with it.

Our overriding concern, however, has been that substantial and far-reaching changes to the Organization be carried out after broad and deep consultations, with the benefit of independent expert advice, with careful preparation, with due regard for financial implications, and in synergy with ongoing processes such as the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Reform.

Reform of FAO in our view is necessary and important, and because it is so important, it has to be done right.

Frankly, it has been our view that we were pushed to do too much, too soon, with too little information and too little preparation, particularly with regard to the implementation of an ambitious and potentially exciting, but untested, decentralization model in multiple Sub-regions. We have, therefore, emphasized in previous sessions of this Council that we consider the initial phase of Decentralization Reforms to be a *pilot exercise* that will require further and thorough evaluation. This remains our view, and we very much look forward to detailed reporting to subsequent sessions of the Council on the effectiveness and impact of the newly-created Sub-regional offices.

The Council, at its meeting in November 2006, approved, in principle, the establishment of a new Sub-regional Office in Central America, with the modalities of implementation to be addressed by a Working Group. These modalities were to be submitted for a final decision by the Council sometime this year. Furthermore, the Hundred and Thirty-first Council stipulated that implementation of its decisions regarding further reforms take place *"within the approved budget and in the context of a financial plan"*.

Annex 2 of the document contains the Final Report of the Working Group. It is evident that the countries of the Sub-region have really taken ownership of the Sub-regional Office proposal and carefully weighed various alternatives for the location of the new office. We appreciate the factors that the Working Group took into account in making its recommendation, particularly the desire

to locate the FAO Sub-regional Office in the same city as the regional offices of a number of other UN Organizations.

However, the United States believes that, before the Council approves the establishment of this Sub-regional Office, it would need to receive from the Secretariat a report on the total one-time and recurring costs to the Organization.

We have heard various reports of the costs, and indications that the costs may be fairly minimal, but it is important to have a detailed accounting in order to make an informed decision. Given the financial situation of FAO, we believe it would be wise to see what impact the new Sub-regional Office will have on the overall budget. Moreover, modalities of implementation of a new Sub-regional Office encompass more than just a decision of where it will be located. The Council will also need information on how the new Sub-regional Office will be staffed and how it will function. Only then will it be able to make an informed and responsible decision.

We would also be interested in receiving more information on the financial consequences of reforms adopted thus far, especially projected future cost savings associated with the US\$11 million that FAO has invested in Decentralization and Reform thus far. We also request more detailed accounting of the US\$5 million that it is contained in the "maintenance budget" for one-time and transition costs for further FAO Reforms.

Finally, we appreciate the update on the Shared Services Centre (SSC) and its three Hubs, and we are pleased to learn that the SSC Hub in Budapest is expected to commence full operations in January 2008.

Aamir ASHRAF KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

Pakistan takes note of information provided in document CL 132/16.

We are pleased to note implementation of the new organizational structure for Headquarters, as approved by the Council in November 2006.

Pakistan also takes note of progress and establishment of Sub-regional Offices in Africa and Central Asia and three Hubs of the Shared Services Centre.

Finally, Pakistan notes and endorses the conclusion of the Working Group of the six Central American countries, ranking Panama as first choice to host the Sub-regional Office for Central America.

We appreciate that the offer from Panama is at par with other locations for Sub-regional offices, and the presence of Regional and Sub-regional structures of ten other UN entities makes it an ideal choice for the FAO Sub-regional Office.

Mme Pauline OYANE-ONDO (Gabon)

Ma délégation remercie le Secrétariat de la FAO pour l'élaboration et la présentation du document CL132/16 que nous approuvons entièrement. Sur la décentralisation des services de la FAO et en référence à l'intervention faite hier après-midi par la délégation du Cameroun concernant la mise en place du bureau sous-régional pour l'Afrique centrale que mon pays le Gabon a l'honneur d'accueillir, je tiens tout d'abord à remercier ces pays frères pour les aimables paroles tenues à l'endroit du Gabon. Cela exprimé, je réitère ici et vivement la reconnaissance du Gabon envers la FAO et son Directeur général M. Jacques Diouf pour le choix porté sur mon pays afin d'accueillir cette importante structure en Afrique centrale. Il convient en effet de préciser que le bureau sous-régional est un relais essentiel de la FAO; il couvre toute la zone de la communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale. L'accord du Siège a été signé en mai 2006 ici à Rome; quant à la structure administrative, elle s'est mise en place progressivement et a été rendue effective par l'arrivée et l'établissement du Représentant sous-régional à Libreville en août 2006. L'inauguration officielle de cette structure est prévue pour la fin du mois de juillet de cette année.

Il faut reconnaître que le bureau sous-régional constitue une grande opportunité pour les pays de l'Afrique centrale, dans la mesure où certains d'entre eux comme le Gabon viennent de développer

une réflexion et élaborer un cadre stratégique de réduction de la pauvreté. Dans cette optique, le Gabon est en train de mettre en place une nouvelle politique agricole qui permettra notamment de fixer les populations rurales, de contribuer à leur autonomisation et à terme améliorer leurs conditions de vie. Pour atteindre cet objectif qui est un véritable *challenge*, la présence du bureau sous-régional est un atout dont le Gabon compte se saisir aussi bien pour le renforcement de ses capacités que pour l'assistance dans l'exécution de sa politique agricole.

Je terminerai mon propos en disant ceci: dans la mesure où l'on est conscient des possibilités que peut offrir la décentralisation des services de la FAO, il est souhaitable que d'autres régions du monde puissent en bénéficier; aussi, au nom du Groupe africain, j'appuie doré-et-déjà l'ouverture du bureau sous-régional pour l'Amérique centrale au Panama.

Hans Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We do thank the Secretariat for the Report on Progress on the Implementation of FAO Reforms even though it was circulated very late before the beginning of this session.

From the Report we understand that the implementation of the approved changes in the Organization's structure at Headquarters and regarding the Decentralization are well under way.

We do take note that the Working Group on the establishment of the new FAO subregional office for Central America has successfully finalized its work, as can be found in the Annex to the Progress Report.

We generally welcome concise documents however, as to the financial aspects of the implementation of FAO reforms, we think this Report is a little bit too concise. In this regard we would like to recall that the Council during its One Hundred Thirty-first Session looked forward to progress in the implementation and I quote "*within the approved budget and in the context of a financial plan*".

Furthermore, we would also like to recall Conference Resolution 6/2005 where it reads that the Director-General – and I quote again – "*intended to seek extra-budgetary support to meet part of the transition costs*". We would have appreciated more comprehensive and detailed information on the respective financial aspects. Bearing this in mind, and for the sake of transparency, we would like to kindly request the Secretariat to provide the Membership as soon as possible with a full picture, including a complete record of the financial implications, including cost savings related to the implementation of FAO Reforms.

In conclusion, I am pleased to inform you that in the European Union, the reform process of FAO has drawn attention at the highest political level just this week. On Monday, the Council of Ministers adopted conclusions on the FAO Reform process, which you might find in a document outside of this room. If I may, I would like to just read out one key phrase of this statement so that you do not have to bear with me much longer, but I believe this sentence is very important, and I am allowed to quote from the Council of Ministers. It says "*the European Community and its Member States reconfirmed their readiness to engage constructively in the expected FAO Reform process as a result of the IEE and as a part of the overall UN Reform with FAO management and with all Regional Groups*".

Abdulhamid Abulfatah KAZIM (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this document.

It is my pleasure on behalf of my delegation, the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, to congratulate Panama, which will be hosting this Sub-regional Office for Central America. We wish Panama every success in this respect.

Paragraph 9 of the document refers to the Office for the Sub-region for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen. Negotiations are underway in order to determine the location of this Subregional Office and we will be submitting a concrete proposal on this subject in due time.

The Gulf Cooperation Council States have agreed, in principle, to choose the United Arab Emirates as a Host Country for this new office.

Said ALBADAAE (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretariat for the way they have prepared the document, which is the SPWB, and we would like to express our full support for Pakistan's statement on that document. We would also like to express support for the proposal made by the United Arab Emirates with respect to that document.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Nous nous réjouissons de la déclaration de la délégation du Gabon que nous appuyons fortement au nom de notre délégation et des autres Pays Membres du Groupe Afrique. Nous nous réjouissons parce que nous nous rendons compte effectivement que le continent africain fait beaucoup d'efforts afin pour la réussite de la Décentralisation. Faudrait-il rappeler que la décentralisation de la FAO a fait déjà l'objet d'une évaluation et d'une approbation par les Organes directeurs de notre Organisation. Faut-il rappeler aussi qu'en lançant l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, il a été demandé qu'elle se renforce mutuellement avec les Réformes engagées. C'est pourquoi nous saluons ce document qui nous fait le point aujourd'hui des réformes par les informations précises et détaillées qui nous sont données. La nouvelle structure organisationnelle du Siège semble à priori beaucoup plus appropriée pour la prise en compte des priorités, plusieurs fois réitérées ici même par les Membres s'agissant de la gestion des ressources naturelles de l'environnement, la gestion des connaissances et la communication pour donner plus de visibilité aux actions de la FAO.

Nous nous réjouissons des résultats du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental sur le Bureau sous-régional en Afrique centrale, ainsi que des membres de cette sous-région pour la résolution consensuelle de la question relative à la place qu'occuperait un bureau tel que celui-ci dans cette région et nous félicitons Panama pour le choix porté sur lui.

Nous voulons rappeler qu'en ce qui concerne le Centre des services communs, dont il est question ici, nous constatons que cela va nous conduire finalement à la réduction d'au moins quinze postes. Ceci est de nature peut-être à rassurer les pays qui veulent que l'on diminue toujours le personnel. Cela prouve surtout que le Secrétariat de la FAO gère avec beaucoup de responsabilité la gestion des ressources humaines. Nous voulons dire que la Décentralisation est nécessaire, on ne peut pas de Rome tout faire surtout s'agissant d'une Organisation comme la FAO qui doit assister les pays pour une plus grande production et une meilleure productivité. Je disais donc que tout ceci ne peut pas se faire du Siège dont la Décentralisation est incontournable et nous nous réjouissons de cette philosophie qui est arrêtée.

Nous voulons dire enfin qu'au niveau de notre conseil il faudrait peut-être que l'on se souvienne toujours, qu'on ait à l'esprit, que le Conseil a pour vocation de tracer des lignes directrices, la politique. Il faudrait que nous apprenions à éviter de rentrer dans la micro-gestion sinon nous serons autant de membres que de directeurs généraux de la FAO, autant de membres que de directeurs des finances de la FAO, autant de Membres, etc. La Direction a une mission, le Conseil a une mission. En tant que Membres du Conseil, notre rôle est vraiment de tracer la voie, de donner des directives.

A partir de ce moment, je crois que nous sommes simplement en droit d'attendre les résultats qui nous seront amenés par la Direction, d'apprécier les résultats, et que je sache jusque là, nous n'avons jamais eu à nous plaindre du travail des hommes et des femmes qui dirigent cette Organisation. Faisons l'effort sur nous d'avoir plus d'humilité et d'éviter à chaque fois au Conseil de dire que la Direction devrait faire ceci ou qu'elle devrait faire cela, ça c'est de la micro-gestion et ce n'est pas productif pour une Organisation aussi importante que la FAO.

José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brasil)

Entiendo que en esta Sesión del Consejo, el Tema que estamos tratando es el 15.1, y no el resto del punto 15, cuya presentación será hecha posteriormente, una vez que tratemos el tema en su amplitud total. Por eso haré mis comentarios únicamente con relación al tema de la Oficina Sub-regional de la FAO en Centroamérica.

Mi delegación agradece a la Secretaría por la presentación del informe contenido en el documento CL 132/16, en el cual la delegación de Brasil ha estado desde el principio muy conforme en las discusiones y apoyando totalmente la creación de la Oficina Sub-regional. Nos unimos a nuestros amigos de Centroamérica en las labores realizadas por el Grupo de Trabajo, que nos han mantenido al tanto de la evolución de las tratativas con respecto a la instalación de la nueva oficina.

Mi delegación esta en condición de apoyar totalmente el informe del Grupo de Trabajo y somete al Consejo que evidentemente se apruebe la creación de la Oficina Sub-regional, y que se tomen las medidas necesarias para la efectiva implementación de una tal decisión.

Quisiera dar la bienvenida al Ministro de Panamá, aquí presente entre nosotros, que significa una prueba cabal de la demostración de apoyo político del Gobierno de Panamá a la Oficina Sub-regional y a la FAO en general. Nosotros entendemos lo mucho que el Gobierno de Panamá ofrece para la instalación de ésta, lo que demuestra un firme compromiso político de aquel gobierno y de toda la Sub-región centroamericana con la Organización.

CHAIRPERSON

Before calling the next speaker I would like to remind you that we do not have any other opportunity to come back to this item, although you were right, this is only Item 15.1, but we will not be back in this item as a whole.

Jolari BIN RAMLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia wishes to support the Secretariat on the proposed modalities for the establishment of a new Sub-regional office for Central America in Panama, since the country has met all the relative requirements set up by the Secretariat.

My delegation would like to congratulate Panama.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Queremos en primer lugar agradecer el informe presentado sobre los progresos en la ejecución de las reformas de la FAO, informe que respaldamos plenamente.

Con relación al proceso de descentralización, y en particular con respecto al establecimiento de una oficina subregional en Centro América, deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por su apoyo, por su asistencia en los trabajos que realizó el grupo de trabajo el cual, como se indicó aquí, estuvo coordinado por el Embajador de El Salvador.

Este grupo de trabajo se ocupó de examinar las modalidades de ejecución para el establecimiento de esta oficina, así como tomó la decisión de proponer a este Consejo, que dicha oficina esté ubicada en Panamá.

Como se señala en el Informe que estamos examinando, este país, Panamá, ha confirmado plenamente su capacidad para cumplir con todos los compromisos jurídicos, técnicos y de recursos necesarios para su financiamiento y su funcionamiento. Como señaló hace un momento el distinguido Embajador de Brasil, la presencia en esta sala, en este Consejo, del Ministro de Agricultura de Panamá, demuestra el respaldo político y económico que dicho país está dando para la abertura de esta Oficina Sub-regional.

Confiamos en que este Consejo apruebe la creación de esta Oficina Sub-regional a efecto de que la misma pueda iniciar, lo más pronto posible, sus actividades en beneficio principalmente, pero no sólo, de los seis países de nuestra Sub-región, en cuyo nombre me dirijo a este Consejo.

Alidel Aziz HOSNI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to express support for the contents of document CL 132/16, concerning the implementation of FAO reforms. In paragraph 7 of the document mention is made to the progress made so far by the working group, entrusted with the task of setting up a new Sub-regional Office in Central America.

We would like to compliment Panama, that has been chosen as Headquarters for that new Sub-regional office.

We are very interested in the outcome of the negotiations underway amongst the Gulf Cooperation Council States, and we await, the outcome of these negotiations for the establishment up of an office in this Sub-region.

Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEPÚ (Uruguay)

Quisiera brevemente agradecer el documento 132/16, para expresar nuestro apoyo al establecimiento de una oficina subregional para América Central y también para dar nuestro apoyo a Panamá como sede de la misma.

Creemos que es un país que tiene toda las condiciones para albergar la oficina, que a su vez ha ofrecido muchas facilidades que hacen mucho mejor esta tarea, y que ya alberga con éxito otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas.

Reiteramos entonces nuestro apoyo a Panamá, y nos sumamos a la bienvenida del Señor Ministro de la Agricultura de este país, que ha venido en esta ocasión para recibir esta distinción por parte de la FAO.

Pirit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

The document CL 132/16 provides us with an overview of the implementation of the reform process which started in 2005.

Thailand strongly supports the reforms of FAO. In our view, Reforms mean more efficiency, more saving, more service and so on. With regard to the Decentralization programme, the document briefly explained the progress in Africa, Europe, Central Asia, Central America and the Near East Regions. Thailand fully understands the intention of the document and wishes to inform the Council of that.

In a decision at the last Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific, many countries of the region emphasized further Reforms by FAO, beyond those approved by the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference, should be initiated after careful assessment of the initial Reforms and further consultation with Member Nations, taking into account the findings of the IEE, and the undergoing wider United Nations reforms, including the High-Level Panel Report on UN System-Wide Coherence.

Thailand's position is in line with the result of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. In this connection, modalities for the implementation of a Sub-regional Office in Central America, Europe would be the lessons to be learned by the Asia and Pacific Region.

Thailand endorses the request of Panama to host the Sub-regional Office and Thailand congratulates the Government of Panama for this offer.

Antonio BAYAS (Chile)

En primer lugar quiero agradecer y felicitar a la Secretaría por este documento dónde nos explica los avances importantes de la reforma actualmente en curso de la FAO.

Simplemente, quería referirme a la Oficina Sub-regional para América Central, y dar el apoyo de mi Delegación a Panamá. En este sentido, me uno a las palabras del distinguido delegado de Brasil, en darle la más amplia bienvenida al Señor Ministro de Agricultura de Panamá, y esperar que esta nueva Oficina Sub-regional mantenga un gran contacto con la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe situada en Santiago.

Para concluir, doy la bienvenida a Panamá para esa Oficina.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Esta declaración que hago a continuación es a nombre del Grupo Latino-americano, de los países de América Latina y el Caribe.

En primer lugar deseamos agradecer el informe presentado por la Secretaría, y dar nuestro grupo apoyo para la creación de la Oficina Sub-regional para Centro América. Esta oficina nos parece muy importante para los países de la Sub-región, y también como parte del proceso de Descentralización que lleva a cabo la FAO.

Deseamos además agradecer los compromisos políticos asumidos por el Gobierno de Panamá para acoger esta sede, y así también como los ofrecimientos tan generosos de logística y facilidades que ha dado para el buen desarrollo de esta Oficina. Consideramos además que Panamá tiene una experiencia y una situación muy favorable para esta Oficina.

Creo que también, como ya se ha dicho, la presencia del Ministro de Agricultura de Panamá es una muestra de la responsabilidad y del deseo político de Panamá, de ocupar este centro Sub-regional.

Por lo tanto, en nombre del grupo latino-americano, pedimos que la creación de esta Oficina se apruebe, ya que hay todas las condiciones necesarias para que se pueda llevar a cabo este proceso.

Niklas SCHULZE ICKING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associates themselves with this Statement.

The EU considers effective multilateralism with a strong UN at its heart to be a central element of its external action. In order to achieve this in concrete terms, the EU believes that more is to be done to enable the UN System as whole to effectively deliver on the agreed goals and objectives and respond to new and growing challenges.

The EU therefore, welcomes the ongoing Reform process and the decision of FAO to actively contribute to it. This process may also offer important opportunities to further increase cooperation between the three Rome-based UN entities.

The EU considers FAO to be the key partner and reference point in the UN System for all its Member Nations within its mandate. Within the UN System a stronger and more efficient FAO will be essential to meet existing and potential challenges within the area of food and agriculture. The launch of the internal reform process consisting of an Independent External Evaluation, and first reform proposal tabled by the Director-General could be an important step towards more effective management of food security and agricultural issues in the multilateral system.

The EU welcomes the Report by the UN High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence and the Secretary-General's comments on it.

The EU concurs with the Panel's assumption that the UN operational activities need to be further strengthened and better coordinated and with the vision of the UN delivering as one.

It is important to bring together the UN's normative, analytical and operational expertise at country level to improve the overall effectiveness of UN operational activities and to generate substantial gains for aid recipient countries.

This reform, will be a challenge for UN organizations, recipient and donor countries alike, that the EU believes that it is worthwhile to meet this challenge.

The EU welcomes the progress towards the establishment of the One UN Country Pilots which should generate lessons for further reform process. The EU has called on UN Agencies, funds and programmes to participate actively in the pilot activities.

The EU therefore, welcomes the decision of FAO to participate in the pilots and the concrete steps taken by the FAO Secretariat in this area, such as the consultations in Rome in January 2007 with a number of pilots to examine possible implications for FAO.

Together, with the other Rome based Agencies, FAO should continue to be proactively engaged in the country-level and wider UN System-Wide Coherence reform process. The EU considers it important to engage all UN Member States and other stakeholders in the transparent, constructive and open discussion of the report's recommendations. In this context, the EU agrees with the Secretary-General that the proposals of the Report should be considered and taken forward with ongoing reform processes for example using the forthcoming Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System.

In this regard the EU welcomes the decision of FAO to implement the Reforms contained in the General Assembly Resolution 59/250, as called for by the FAO Conference Resolution 13/2005. A Report thereon will be presented to the FAO Conference in November 2007.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Iran welcomes the FAO Reforms and wishes every success to the Director-General and his colleagues to implement this very important task, as appropriately as possible. On behalf of the Near East Group, I would like to support the establishment of the Sub-regional Office in the United Arab Emirates, as well as in Panama.

Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

Sweden speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic Countries had traditionally been very strong supporters of the United Nations. We recognize the importance of a global organization, particularly for smaller nations, whose well-being and security are considerably dependent on their relations with the rest of the world.

The US 2005 World Summit has brought into even sharper focus the actions needed to achieving internationally-agreed goals, in particular, the overarching MD1, which explicitly recognize the inter-relationship between hunger and poverty, and the imperative of reducing both. This message was at the core of the two world food summits FAO has held in the past decade.

The High-level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence in the area of development, humanitarian assistance and environment established by the UN Secretary-General, provided a number of recommendations, in which one United Nations approach is being tested. We are convinced that the UN Reforms being piloted in a number of countries – will show the potential of a joint approach for the broader UN family in terms of greater impact and reducing costs.

We commend the Secretariat for having presented document CL 132/2/INF/9, which shows that FAO has reflected seriously on and responded accordingly to the situation in which the System finds itself, in the face of pressing calls for reforming in order to eliminate overlap and duplication in mandates and to ensure a strong System-Wide Coherence and Effectiveness. The document shows FAO's involvement in the reform taking place across the UN System. This process would require strong leadership and a different way of doing business for the Organization, and it deserves support from Member Nations.

The Nordic Countries appreciate FAO's commitment to participate in the pilot projects in eight countries. However, we are concerned about signals indicating there is a lack of participation of FAO and other Specialized Agencies in the pilot project in Viet Nam. If this is the case, we would like the Secretariat to give us information and clarify the situation. We welcome necessary steps taken by the Secretariat to get the process back on track in Viet Nam, as Viet Nam is a country which has prioritized economic development and development of the agricultural sector.

Alongside with the general UN Reform process, steps have been taken for a similar process of reform in FAO in order to make it stronger and more efficient. However, more needs to be done to harmonize FAO's activities, both at Headquarters and at field level, with other players, in

particular the two Rome-based UN organizations. Furthermore, FAO should in all countries work with Governments and other parts of the UN System, the World Bank and bilateral partners, to ensure that policies for enhanced agriculture sector improve food security and are reflected in national plans and strategies.

The Nordic Countries consider FAO to be the key partner and the reference point in the UN System for all its Member Nations within its mandate. We are looking forward to the outcome of the IEE and hope that this will show the way forward to FAO. We encourage Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat to work constructively with the recommendations of the IEE in order to achieve this.

Hasanuddin IBRAHIM (Indonesia)²

In line with the spirit of efficiency as an important aspect of FAO Reform, I will be as brief as possible.

Indonesia is pleased to learn that the progress has been done in the FAO Reform, which includes organizational restructuring, strengthened decentralization, and establishment of Shared Services Centre, as decided at the 33rd Session of the Conference and the 131st Session of the Council.

Indonesia also congratulates FAO's engagement in the One UN Programme Pilots. The programme is the crucial steps in UN Reform, as well as in FAO Reform in order to seek greater coherence among UN Agencies. Greater coherence is not only necessary among the agencies of the UN System, but also between the UN Agencies and the Governments of the Member Nations.

One UN System aims to simplify the programme activities of UN's institutions. It will reduce duplication of mandates between different bodies and financial constraints so that it will not impede the implementation of programme activities in the development fields. Bearing in mind the financial constraint faced by FAO, as well as by other UN Agencies, the successful FAO participation in the UN Programme to deliver budget-efficient programme, is also an important contribution for the implementation of FAO Reform itself.

Ms Lucy Mungoma MUNGOMA (Zambia)

With your permission, I would like to invite the Chairperson of the G77 to make some comments on this Agenda Item.

Ms Pamela ALVAREZ (Chairperson, G77)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of G77 and China. The group met last week and we supported the establishment of a Sub-regional Office in Panama. Mr Chairperson, listening to the interventions from my colleagues from the OECD Countries, we are surprised that the financial situation of that Sub-regional Office was not discussed in the Finance Committee and the Secretariat did not provide that. Panama is providing both financial and human resources support to their Sub-regional Office. That is why the G77 supported the establishment of that Sub-Region.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the distinguished Chairperson of G77. Is there any other request for the floor? I do not see any, although we had very strong support for Item 15.1 but some questions and comments were raised in general under Item 15. I want to draw your attention to the information paper which is CL 132/INF/9, which was referred to by the Ambassador of Sweden, which is the status of FAO's engagement in the UN System reforms, which provides more information on that aspect, but with that, I would like to come back to the Secretariat for their comments or answers to the general questions and specific questions which were raised.

² *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

Basharat ALI (Director, Office of Coordination of Normative, Operational and Decentralized Activities, OCD)

Firstly, I would like to thank all delegations for the kind comments they had made on this item. As highlighted in the document itself, and as it was pointed out specifically by the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil, the Central American countries have shown their absolute commitment to the establishment of a Sub-regional Office in their Sub-region. This commitment is also reflected in the active participation in the Working Group, as well as the very generous offer made not only by Panama, but by both candidate countries from the Sub-region.

This offer to support the establishment of a new Sub-regional Office in the Central American Region has been noted. The offer that has come from Panama is to support this office fully, in all its aspects, to make this Office fully functional with minimum financial input from the Organization itself. And this very generous offer is as generous as the offers and support provided by the Host Countries of other Sub-regional Offices in the Africa Region and the European and East Asia Regions.

I would just like to mention briefly the kind of offer that has been made by the Government of Panama. There are also one-time expenses that they have undertaken to incur, as well as running costs on an annual basis. These include provision of premises, an independent building to house the Sub-regional Office, a substantial amount of capital expenditure that is needed as a one-time cost to cover fully all security requirements as required by the United Nations security system, and also cover the computer connection costs. In addition, in the area of running costs, the Government has kindly offered to provide junior technical experts for assisting the international experts who will be located in the multi-disciplinary team in the Sub-regional Office. In addition to this, the Government of Panama has kindly offered to provide General Service staff; a good number of General Service staff and a good number of Junior Technical Experts will be provided by the Government. In addition to this, a very substantial amount of non-staff resources have been offered on an annual basis as an annual running cost for the establishment and running of the Subregional office in Panama.

CHAIRPERSON

I call on Mr Juneja to see if he has anything to add to this costing of the Sub-regional Office.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Programme Budget and Evaluation)

I should like to address in particular some matters raised by the Representatives of the United States of America and Germany, speaking on behalf of the EC.

Let me underline at the outset that there is nothing in this document nor in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009, that is beyond what the Council has already approved or agreed in principle. I should also like to confirm that all the proposals and actions are being managed within the financial plan that was articulated in the annual report on budgetary performance for 2006 that was discussed by the Finance Committee and considered by the Council yesterday.

I would also confirm that the full PWB, as requested by the Committees and by Council yesterday, will provide more information on the US\$ 5 million one-time cost that have been included in the "maintenance budget" of the SPWB. However, I can anticipate that those US\$ 5 million of costs mainly relate to the establishment of the Shared Service Centre where, as you can see from the Progress Report, more than forty posts would be established in Budapest by the beginning of 2008, which would have corresponding implications from 2008 on staffing at Headquarters. So for example, as far as the proposed Sub-regional Office for Central America is concerned, we estimate only approximately US\$70,000 in one-time cost to be incurred by FAO for establishing that Office. The other one-time costs, covering aspects that Mr Ali just described, would be covered by the Host Country. The staffing for the Office would be largely obtained

through internal transfers, as has been the case so far with the establishment of the other Sub-regional Office, which in turn mitigates the cost of establishing these Offices.

Turning more generally to the information on cost savings that was mentioned by both the United States and Germany, this was provided in the documentation that was submitted to the November 2006 Council, that is document CL 131/18, Implementation of Conference Decisions and Proposals from the Director-General. I regret that you do not have that document in front of you, but I think it is worth recalling some of the figures that were mentioned in that document in Table 21, immediately after paragraph 296. The full scale implementation of the Shared Services Centre would yield biennial savings of US\$ 8 million; streamlining and efficiency measures - biennial saving of US\$ 3.5 million and as you know, the Director-General is fully committed to continue these efforts for the next biennium and here again more information would be provided in the full PWB as you have requested; net decrease and Director-level posts and associated General Service posts at Headquarters – US\$10 million per biennium; favourable cost differentials for the establishment of the multidisciplinary teams in the Sub-regional Offices – US\$5.2 million; provision of in-kind assistance, very much along the lines that Mr Ali mentioned – US\$17.3 million per biennium; favourable cost differentials with respect to the transfer of the Regional Office for Europe to Budapest – US\$ 740,000 per biennium. I have not listed all the items and there are some more in the Table, which you could refer to.

The point I would like to make is that the order of magnitude of these figures remains valid. Those numbers are still basically correct, and therefore, if one were to compare them either to the one-time cost with respect to the specific proposal that you have before you and more generally to the reform efforts of the Director-General, one can see that there is an excellent return on investment.

I should also like to turn to the observation made on the need to assess the impact of Decentralization. The reforms started only this biennium and kicking off the Decentralization took a few months thereafter. Some of the new Offices are operational only from 2007. The assessment of the impact will take some time because, as Members have themselves mentioned in other discussions this week, the benefits take some time to flow through. The evaluation workplan considered by the Programme Committee foresaw country evaluations in the next biennium - that is noted in paragraph 36(a) of their report. It will provide an opportunity for a review of the effectiveness of the new structure. In the next biennium, the Secretariat will also provide a follow-up on the management response to the 2004 Decentralization Evaluation, which also provides a reporting opportunity. Certainly, from the Secretariat's point of view, it is in the nature of the exercise to learn from experience and to adjust on the basis of future guidance from the Governing Bodies.

Finally, Sir, a question was raised on extra-budgetary contributions *vis-à-vis* the 2005 Conference Resolution which foresaw that part of the costs of Reforms could be funded from extra-budgetary contributions. I am pleased to say that contributions from Host Governments have provided substantial funding for the implementation of the Director-General's Reforms. On top of that, there have been cash contributions from other Members that have so far exceeded US\$2 million, to implement the approved reforms.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Juneja. I had a request for the floor from Colombia that we did not see. Now I will invite Colombia to take the floor.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Observador de Colombia)

Pido disculpas por intervenir a esta altura del debate, cuando ya la Secretaría está ofreciendo algunas respuestas, pero este es un tema que es importante para nuestro país, no sólo porque Centroamérica es cercano geográficamente a Colombia, sino porque son países muy importantes para nosotros en nuestras relaciones internacionales.

Queríamos simplemente agradecer la presentación del documento CL 132/16 por medio del cual se propone la apertura de la oficina de la FAO con carácter subregional para Centroamérica.

La Región Centroamericana es el área de América Latina y el Caribe en la que se concentra la mayor actividad de las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma y gracias a la marcha ejemplar del proceso de integración dentro de los países que la conforman, ha sido posible alcanzar una mayor efectividad en el apoyo a los esfuerzos para cumplir sus objetivos nacionales y los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio.

La apertura de una oficina que atienda esta Sub-región, es entre otras razones, no sólo la mejor expresión del proceso de Reforma y Descentralización en que se había comprometido esta Organización por iniciativa del Director General, sino es en buena medida un asunto de sentido común. En tanto, los seis países han juntado esfuerzos para coordinar políticas. La respuesta del sistema de Naciones Unidas debe ser efectivamente la de acercar sus organizaciones a las regiones donde deben prestar sus servicios.

La selección de Panamá, como sede de esta Oficina Sub-regional, es una excelente opción en la medida en que esta ciudad tiene una posición geográfica privilegiada sino que además su experiencia como sede de otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas, específicamente en el caso del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, garantiza la generación de sinergias, mayores niveles de coordinación y sobretodo un servicio más efectivo para las poblaciones que lo necesitan.

Deseamos destacar también la forma como el Grupo de Trabajo, encargado de terminar la implementación, ha realizado la selección de la ciudad Panamá como sede de esta Oficina. América Central ha sido un motor esencial en el avance de la iniciativa de América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre 2025, en el cual están comprometidos todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe y ha contribuido también de manera efectiva por el estudio recientemente concluido por el PMA y la CEPAL para determinar el costo del hambre en la Región.

La Oficina Sub-regional de la FAO sin duda contribuirá a que esas iniciativas se conviertan en medidas efectivas para eliminar el hambre y la desnutrición entre las poblaciones más vulnerables.

Nuestra delegación desea expresar su satisfacción por la apertura de esta Oficina Sub-regional, recomienda al Consejo su aprobación y espera que los resultados de este proyecto piloto sean la base para que la FAO continúe el proceso de Descentralización para llevar sus servicios a otras áreas de nuestra Región.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the final speaker. Listening to the rich debate or extensive debate on the Reform in general and on the location of the Sub-regional Office for Central America in particular, can I take it that Council endorses Panama as the location of the Sub-regional Office for Central America?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you very much. I congratulate Panama for being considered as the location for the Sub-regional Office for Central America, and I welcome the Minister of Agriculture of Panama to our meeting, and we are looking forward to an efficient and effective Sub-regional Office in that Region, benefiting not only the countries of the Sub-region, but FAO as a whole. Minister you have the floor.

Guillermo SALAZAR NICOLAU (Panamá)

La Región Centroamericana es un área reconocida internacionalmente por su aporte en materia de la biodiversidad, tanto de su flora como de su fauna y aporta éstas a la humanidad, manteniendo y preservando esta riqueza para todos.

Esta Región tiene grandes posibilidades para la producción de alimentos, mientras que es una zona importadora neta de hidrocarburos y dependiente de las energías derivadas de ellos.

Hoy se potencia para aportar los resultados de dicha capacidad productiva a la oferta tanto de alimentos como de biocombustibles, generando beneficios para su población y combatir así la pobreza existente.

Décadas atrás, nuestra región era zona de conflictos bélicos con sus consecuencias de muertes y desplazados, hoy es una zona productora de alimentos para la humanidad.

Esta producción de alimentos se puede ampliar en la medida en que se vayan corrigiendo las subvaloraciones que se daban en el mercado de cereales como un ejemplo, y como consecuencia de las aplicaciones de ayudas internas que distorsionan el comercio de los mismos.

El pueblo y el Gobierno de la República de Panamá han convertido un área y sus instalaciones, que antes se dedicaban a la guerra, en una ciudad que impulsa la generación del conocimiento, la investigación, la producción y la paz, por lo que la hemos denominado "Ciudad del Saber", la que será la sede de esta iniciativa de la FAO para nuestra Región.

Agradecemos al Consejo la adopción de esta iniciativa para crear una sede Sub-regional de la FAO en nuestro país, reiteramos el beneplácito por acoger tan importante esfuerzo.

A usted Sr. Presidente, a la Secretaría y a todos los honorables delegados muchas gracias y los acompañaremos en ese esfuerzo por la descentralización de tan importante organismo.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me take this opportunity also to thank the Working Group who worked so efficiently for the realization of this issue. With this, we conclude our discussion on this item. In a few minutes, we will continue our discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009.

The meeting was suspended from 10.50 to 11.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 50 à 11 h 00

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.50 a las 11.00 horas

10. SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)

10. SOMMAIRE DU PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL ET BUDGET 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)

10. RESUMEN DEL PROGRAMA DE TRABAJO Y PRESUPUESTO PARA 2008-2009 (CL 132/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now return to Item 10, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009. Please ensure that you have document CL 132/3 before you.

We will now continue with the list of speakers, and I start with Cuba.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

El documento del resumen del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto que nos presenta la Secretaría es bastante conciso y concentrado en las principales preocupaciones sugeridas por este Consejo en sesiones anteriores. Tal esfuerzo de parte de la Secretaría merece el reconocimiento de nuestra delegación.

El documento parte de la consideración que el resultado de las iniciativas en curso de la reforma de las Naciones Unidas y de la evaluación externa independiente de la FAO, tendrá repercusiones importantes en el futuro de la Organización. Sin embargo, estas repercusiones no es posible valorarlas en este momento. Nuestra delegación concuerda en que estos procesos tendrán que valorarse y reflejarse en el Programa de Trabajo cuando corresponda y en ese momento los Estados Miembros debemos dar las indicaciones necesarias a los Órganos de Gobierno de la FAO.

Las actividades y acciones identificadas y priorizadas por los Estados Miembros deben continuar siendo atendidas en el presente Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto. La delegación cubana toma nota del resto de los factores identificados en el contexto general de este Programa, en especial llamamos la atención sobre la tendencia al aumento de los fondos extra-presupuestarios para el financiamiento del Programa de Trabajo.

No pocas veces varias delegaciones hemos hecho hincapié acerca de que esa realidad, si bien evidencia la capacidad de organización para gestionar fondos, al mismo tiempo reafirma la necesidad de fortalecer el Programa Ordinario como principal fuente de financiación, ya que únicamente de ese modo podemos salvaguardar los principios de la universalidad y la multilateralidad sobre los cuales esta Organización fue creada.

Con respecto a los objetivos interrelacionados, establecidos en el Marco Estratégico 2000-2015, estos deben continuar orientando el trabajo de la FAO en toda su extensión. Las áreas temáticas concebidas en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto son adecuadas y están acordes con el trabajo que realiza la FAO, por lo que todas estas deberían ser atendidas en el futuro.

Las acciones multidisciplinarias deben continuar teniendo un lugar importante en el trabajo de la FAO y se deben continuar buscando ahorros manteniendo la eficiencia siempre y cuando no afectando la calidad de la labor de la Organización.

Nuestra delegación también expresa su profunda preocupación por la difícil situación financiera de la FAO ya que se extiende para varios bienios. En ese contexto, la presentación de una sola hipótesis de presupuesto es adecuada y garantiza una mayor comprensión de la situación financiera y las opciones presupuestarias para el próximo bienio.

En concreto, la propuesta de un presupuesto de mantenimiento presenta la misma contradicción que nos han estado presentando en los dos últimos PLP, la cual se concentra en la necesidad de otorgar suficiente financiación a los programas y prioridades establecidas por los Países Miembros y la realidad es que los presupuestos aprobados no garantizan preservar el nivel de actividad de la Organización. Todo ello tiene lugar en un contexto general, en el cual las necesidades de los Estados Miembros aumentan con rapidez.

Sin embargo, no podemos olvidar que en varias reuniones se observó que el hambre y la malnutrición en vez de disminuir han aumentado en algunas regiones y países, lo que implica un peligro para el cumplimiento de los objetivos del CMA y el malograrse de todos los esfuerzos de esta Organización que es patrimonio de todos los Estados Miembros.

Si bien la propuesta de un “presupuesto de mantenimiento” es una consecuencia directa de la situación de la Organización que se ha presentado durante los dos últimos PLP, nuestra delegación desea hacer presente la necesidad de concebir un aumento de presupuesto en términos reales que nos permita atender de forma más eficiente las prioridades señaladas y de prestar mayor cooperación entre los Países Miembros, para así contribuir a sanear la salud financiera de la Organización.

En especial, consideramos que al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) debería otorgársele una protección adecuada en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto. Este programa es el más importante patrimonio que tiene la Organización. Sería difícil y casi imposible imaginar a la FAO sin su Programa de Cooperación Técnica porque en una situación como esta, perdería el sentido, la identidad y las ventajas comparativas. De igual forma, el nuevo PCT deberá lograr un adecuado balance entre actividades normativas y actividades de campo.

Nuestra delegación considera que el documento que se nos ha presentado es una buena base para el examen de las alternativas que tenemos en términos presupuestarios. En ese sentido, el PTP completo debería ampliar los análisis e informaciones presentadas en este resumen. El escenario que nos plantea el resumen del PTP pone ante nosotros el reto de continuar trabajando entre todos los Estados Miembros para lograr al final de la próxima Conferencia disponer de una mejor opción presupuestaria, que permita a la FAO cumplir con la misión de los Estados Miembros, encomiendas que pedimos durante la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Ms Lucy Mungoma MUNGOMA (Zambia)

The Africa Group welcomes the Report of the Secretariat presented yesterday by Mr Juneja and the additional verbal briefing by the two Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committees.

We are contributing to this discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium against a background of what Mr Juneja appropriately referred to as "unique circumstances" related to the IEE process whose outcome and recommendations are yet to be known, the ongoing UN System-Wide Reforms and the challenges of persisting reserve constraints that call for sound future financial planning.

We are aware, as many have already insinuated, that these circumstances are likely to reshape the way FAO does business, including by defining the Organization's niche in the multilateral system.

The circumstances will invariably greatly influence both the programme content and the budget of FAO, as the Organization at the same time grapples with the various emerging issues, such as the challenges involving climatic change and the threat of transboundary pests and diseases, among others.

We are, therefore, of the view that a budget which clearly outlines the needs of the Organization, and which should not be constrained, is desirable. Such a budget would focus on what resources the Organization needs to implement its programmes. It will also be a much more succinct document that allows Member Nations to analyse the proposals against intended delivery capacity.

We, to this extent, welcome the intention to initiate in the full Programme of Work and Budget a more integrated presentation of the regular budget and extra-budgetary measures. This could also facilitate opportunities for extra-budgetary support to meet critical funding gaps affecting priorities and programmes agreed upon by the Membership.

On the question of the maintenance budget, the Africa Group considers this as an acceptable and expected stop-gap measure for an Organization in a transitional period. We welcome the fact that it is proposed to maintain the capacity of FAO to provide the same level of services as approved by Conference in 2005, for delivery in the 2006-2007 biennium.

We feel that any major shift in priorities at this stage would be arbitrary in the absence of the IEE report recommendations. However, if there should be any prioritization at all, this should be done in a transparent and all-inclusive manner to ensure that the needs of all are taken on board.

Finally, with regard to the need to restore the financial health of FAO, the Africa Group would like to state that the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserves Account were established for very good and necessary reasons. Therefore, while acknowledging that the continuous depletion of resources in these accounts may be symptomatic of the poor state of the General Fund for reasons well stated by many since Monday, the reverse could be indicative of the insufficiency of the levels of funding in the accounts, measured against increasing resource demands and rising unforeseen costs.

Whichever of the two scenarios rings more true, we would like to propose that for the future, this matter should be given deep reflection by Council and the two Committees.

Kim CHANG-HYUN (Republic of Korea)

My delegation understands the FAO Secretariat's effort to restore the financial health and long-term sustainability of FAO.

Also, our delegation would like to share our concern over the current financial state of FAO, as previous speakers raised.

While all Member Nations are looking forward to being informed on the outcome of the IEE, how it would be reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget also needs to be discussed.

It seems to me that it would be premature to discuss the level of budget at this moment. The FAO Secretariat has proposed a higher budget of approximately 16 to 34 percent compared to the current biennium.

With regard to the scale of contribution of the Republic of Korea, our Government is dedicated to increasing our share of contribution.

Our 2008-2009 rate of contribution is almost 20 percent higher than in the previous biennium, comparable to those of China and Mexico.

In addition, my Government is trying to expand our Trust Fund as extra-budgetary source of funding to enhance cooperation with FAO.

However, the delegation of the Republic of Korea feels that it is high time for the Organization to set a cost efficient system by setting prioritization of all current projects reviewed thoroughly.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea emphasizes that the Organization should still have room to save costs and enhance efficiency, such as reduction of publication material and unfruitful projects, by periodic review.

Finally, our delegation would like to ask the Secretariat to prepare and provide more cost efficient budget scenarios (including Zero Nominal Growth) for discussion at the next session.

Víctor Daniel FLORES FUENTES (México)

Quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para formular una pregunta a la Secretaría. El día de ayer los distinguidos representantes de Brasil y Japón se refirieron al problema que enfrentamos por el monto generado por las obligaciones incumplidas, relacionadas con la cobertura médica después de la separación del servicio. Si bien se ha reconocido que cada Organización del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas solucionará esta cuestión y teniendo presente la diferente situación que enfrenta.

Es cierto también, como lo ha señalado el Representante de Japón, que la Resolución 61/264 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas pospuso la decisión sobre este tema hasta que el Secretario General presente a la Asamblea General, propuestas para reducir el monto de las obligaciones, así como, diferentes posibilidades para financiar dichas obligaciones.

Por tal motivo, quisiera preguntar a la Secretaria de la FAO si ha estado en contacto con sus contra partes en Nueva York para intercambiar puntos de vista, sobre la mejor manera de hacer frente a este problema. Creemos que el Director General de la Organización o algún otro alto funcionario podrían aprovechar de los diferentes mecanismos inter agenciales de consulta para intercambiar experiencias de esta materia.

En consecuencia, nos preguntamos, si no sería más prudente posponer la decisión sobre este tema hasta que estemos en condiciones de dar una solución sostenible y definitiva al problema, evitando que se convierta en un problema recurrente. Estamos convencidos que la FAO se podría beneficiar de las experiencias existentes y las mejores practicas identificadas en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Nous voulons dire combien nous soutenons la déclaration de la Zambie faite au nom du Groupe africain. Qu'il me soit permis donc de féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document que nous avons en examen qui prend en compte les observations du Comité du programme et du Comité financier émises lors de la session de mai 2007. Il exprime aussi les préoccupations du Secrétariat qui réalise des prouesses afin de satisfaire les multiples exigences tant des Pays Membres que des fonctionnaires de l'Organisation. Mais, comme on dit, à force de tirer ne risque-t-on pas de casser la corde? Les augmentations de coût mentionnées dans le rapport me semble incontournables. Nous pensons que quand on demande au Secrétariat d'exécuter un programme de travail, on doit avoir le sens de la responsabilité de l'endosser. Du reste, les rapports des auditeurs sont là pour nous rappeler avec quelle intelligence et quelle efficacité le Secrétariat gère le maigre budget mis à sa disposition depuis bon nombre de biennium. Nous ne pouvons pas demander au Secrétariat de

réduire son Programme de travail quand on sait par ailleurs qu'au contraire le Programme devrait être plus ambitieux eu égard aux nombreux défis lancés tous les jours. Pour l'heure, Monsieur le Président, nous avons engagé une évaluation externe indépendante, tout le monde attend avec intérêt les recommandations qui seront faites. Mais avant que ces recommandations ne fassent l'objet d'approbations, la FAO n'a pas le droit de se croiser les bras.

Autant comme dirait un de mes prédécesseurs, on ne peut résoudre tous les problèmes de la FAO uniquement avec de l'argent injecté, encore moins les résoudre en la privant des ressources financières adéquates. Ce n'est pas non plus en cherchant toujours de nouveaux arguments pour ne pas faire face aux obligations que l'on résoudra les problèmes qui pourtant se posent de plus en plus avec la plus grande acuité. Si nous ne demandons pas à la FAO de revoir, pour de bonnes raisons, à la baisse tout ce qu'elle fait concernant les aspects normatifs, c'est parce que nous pensons que ceci est utile pour améliorer les échanges dans notre monde, nous ne pouvons pas non plus porter atteinte aux programmes de terrain car c'est là même que réside une des raisons d'être fondamentale de cette Organisation. Il faudrait garder la tête sur les épaules, et penser tout d'abord à ces millions d'êtres humains qui attendent que la FAO puisse répondre à sa vocation.

Aussi, c'est à juste titre que le Directeur, dans son introduction du document, nous appelle à assumer nos responsabilités lorsqu'il dit, je le cite: "l'Organisation ne peut continuer à fonctionner de manière satisfaisante et répondre aux attentes des Membres si les Membres eux-mêmes n'envisagent pas de solutions durables et n'appuient pas leur application". La FAO est à la croisée des chemins disions-nous, les premiers indices rassemblés par l'évaluation externe indépendante, disent qu'elle n'est pas loin d'être au bord du gouffre. Il nous appartient de décider si nous voulons l'y précipiter ou l'en éloigner pour toujours afin qu'elle continue d'assumer la mission que nous lui avons confiée et à laquelle nous ne sommes pas prêts de renoncer.

Donnons donc à la FAO les moyens de travailler aujourd'hui en attendant de consolider, voire renforcer ses moyens au regard des résultats qui nous parviendront de l'IEE. C'est pourquoi nous voulons fermement marquer notre soutien sans ambiguïté aux propositions du Secrétariat présentées dans le sommaire du PTB 2008-2009, qui nous est soumis pour un budget consolidé de maintenance qui permettra à l'Organisation de souffler tant soit peu après tant d'années d'asphyxie. En nous associant à bon nombre d'orateurs avant nous, nous demandons au Conseil, non seulement d'approuver ce PTB 2008-2009 mais aussi de faire à l'exemple du Cameroun pour ceux qui le peuvent d'aider l'Organisation par des fonds extra-budgétaires. Nous pensons notamment à bon nombre de nos pays qui grâce à la manne pétrolière, ces dernières années, ont eu tellement d'argent qu'ils ne savent pas quoi en faire. La FAO en a besoin.

LOU MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

Considering the fact that this session of the Council only deliberates on the PWB 2008-2009 no decision will be made, and plus the IEE is still going on. Therefore, the Chinese delegation will put forward their specific comments in the future. Although the IEE can provide important guidance on the formulation of PWB 2008-2009, we believe that before the IEE's results can be reflected into the Programme of Work and Budget, FAO must have the necessary funds to maintain its operations, especially in some key areas. They need financial guarantees besides the PWB.

The Chinese delegation pays great attention to the increase of extra-budgetary resources. In paragraph 3 of the Director-General's Introduction it is said that in 2006, the extra-budgetary resources in support of FAO field programmes reached US\$290 million. It is estimated that in 2007 they will reach US\$300 million. If the funds are obtained, the extra budget of 2006-2007 will reach an historical height.

The Chinese delegation welcomes that countries with financial capacity provide the financial support as extra-budgetary funds. This is very helpful to some of the activities of FAO. However, we believe that there are two points that we should pay attention to.

Firstly, it is the potential influence of the increase of extra-budgetary funds on FAO Programme of Work, because in recent years the Regular Programme budget of FAO has been maintained at a

nominal level, but it has decreased in real terms. However, on the other hand, the extra-budgetary funds have been rapidly increasing. These two trends are contradictory. On the one hand, it shows that the budgetary increase in this aspect still has a lot of potential and room for manoeuvre.

On the other hand, the shortage of resources and funds of FAO and its financial health are deteriorating.

How to integrate the extra-budgetary resources into the Regular Programme budget of FAO is an important issue. Yesterday, the delegation of Japan put forward three proposals – one is to emphasize the importance of the management of extra-budgetary resources from the perspective of financial health. We are more concerned about how the extra-budgetary resources can be effectively integrated into the Regular Programme budget of FAO.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document CL 132/3, Summary of Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009.

My delegation wishes to express our views on four main points, as follows:

Firstly, on the changes of the scale of contributions for 2008-09, Thailand welcomes FAO's new scale of contributions that will be derived from the triennium United Nations Scale of Assessments established for 2008-2009 as stated in paragraph 33.

Thailand is committed to pay assessed contributions in time and would encourage Member Nations to do so to improve the critical financial situation of the Organization.

Secondly, we understand that both the ongoing reform and the incoming IEE recommendations aim at enhancing operations and cost-effectiveness of the Organization, which will contribute to a cost saving as in the case of the establishment of the Shared Services Centre.

My delegation would like to seek information on when the operational cost savings resulting from the ongoing reform implementations can help alleviate the financial shortfall of the Organization. We wonder if the savings can somehow contribute to a lower budget level required in the next biennium.

Thirdly, my delegation understands that Member Nations have asked FAO to implement so many programmes in each Technical Committee meeting held during the past three months in spite of the limited level of resources. We are quite convinced that FAO can carry out parts of them in the next biennium as the priorities have repeatedly been given with the ultimate goal of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Fourthly, the proposal of the maintenance budget seems to be reasonable as it tends to preserve the purchasing power at the same level of the current biennium and includes the incremental requirements that have been reported to, or endorsed by, Members in 2006-2007 for implementation in 2008-2009. However, the SPWB does not yet give a clear picture of what Technical programmes FAO will carry out in the next biennium, according to the new priorities set.

It mentions only about operational costs increase, which is not related to technical programme implementation, so we expect to have that information in the PWB.

Thailand is willing to go along with the final decision that will be made on appropriate budget levels on the condition that FAO should maintain its capacity as the single international organization in food and agriculture and make use of its comparative advantages to cope with poverty and hunger alleviation.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed HOSNI (Egypt)

The Egyptian delegation appreciates the comprehensive and all-inclusive report on the SPWB 2008-2009 in the published document, CL 132/3, which is quite impressive indeed with its 137 paragraphs and 42 pages. It could be concluded from paragraph 65 that the estimated increases in the budgetary requirements seem to be justifiable and valid because not only do they address cost

increments to execute the 2008-2009 programme of work, but also because they address the urge and desire to restore the long-term financial health of the Organization.

The anticipated cost increases are well explained and well founded, as far as the methodology and context are concerned, as pointed out in paragraphs 67-70, based on actual cost adjustments, costs projections over the planning horizon, biennialization and inflation. Therefore, the idea of the "maintenance budget" is, in fact, appealing and more appropriate for the next biennium which Egypt supports on the basis that it means the Organization would retain its capacity and capability to continue to provide more or less the same level of services.

The Egyptian delegation supports and approves the PWB for 2008-2009 as is presented.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Voy a ser muy breve. Creo que la situación que atraviesa la FAO, y que viene atravesando desde hace mucho tiempo, no se lo merece. Nosotros necesitamos implementar una FAO más fuerte, y creemos que con un presupuesto así tan bajo, todo esto no se puede realizar.

Desde hace muchos períodos presupuestarios que la FAO viene sufriendo recortes. Yo creo que aquí deberíamos pedir a gran voz, al menos un Crecimiento del Presupuesto a Nivel Real.

Nosotros también apoyamos fuertemente los programas de cooperación técnica, PCTs. De estos programas ya otros delegados han hablado subrayando la grande importancia que estos tienen. Esta importancia es básica para los países en desarrollo.

También notamos el problema de los fondos de reserva, que se están agotando. Y no fue un capricho de la FAO utilizarlos. Estos fondos se han agotado para poder hacer frente a sus necesidades, lo que precisamente ha procurado este nivel de presupuestos.

Por lo tanto creemos firmemente que se debería comenzar nuevamente a pensar a estos fondos de reserva, que son vitales para el mantenimiento de esta Organización.

Hasanuddin IBRAHIM (Indonesia)³

Before taking up the issues that need to be address in the agenda, let me take this opportunity to express our gratitude for FAO program and activities in Indonesia, particularly in assisting the country during rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas affected by tsunami, earthquake and avian influenza. We do hope that the continuing FAO program in these areas will contribute significantly to the country effort to the betterment of the affected communities in terms of food and livelihood security.

My Delegation would like to thank the Chairperson of the Program Committee for presenting the report and appreciates the good effort in preparing the proposed Program of Work and Budget 2008-2009 despite the financial difficulties faced by the Organization.

My Delegation is also pleased that the Committee responded to the most Member request with the inclusion of climate change and bio-energy into the next FAO Program of Work. We understand that these issues are not new for all of us here, but it certainly will offer a new challenge to the organization and we believe that with the organization capability as a centre of knowledge, we could accomplish the objective that has been set.

Having said that, Indonesia, an archipelagic country that certainly will be greatly affected by climate change, is willing to fully engage in the program activities related to the climate change. Indonesia also would like to look forward to co-operate in the area of bio-energy.

Mr Chairperson, bearing in mind the great number of cross-cutting issues in this globalized world, Indonesia welcomes Program of Work's continuing support to developing countries in multilateral trade negotiations in order to achieve food security, livelihood security and rural development.

³ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

We underline the importance of FAO's high priority program in plant and animal genetic resources, food safety, agricultural water management, GIEWS and fisheries.

However, Indonesia takes note with concern of the facts that there is a significant reduction of budget allocation to the technical cooperation program. In this regard, we believe that despite the financial difficulties facing FAO, priority should be given to this program, as we know that TCP is one of the major characteristics of the FAO program that have a direct benefit to developing countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Do I have any other requests for the floor from the Council Members; if not I will give the floor to Switzerland, an Observer.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Ma délégation souhaite d'abord remercier le Secrétariat du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 2008-2009 dont le contenu est révélateur de la situation difficile à laquelle la FAO doit faire face sur le plan financier. Nous constatons que le budget de maintenance proposé pour l'exercice biennal 2008-2009 prévoit de substantielles augmentations de contributions par rapport à l'exercice biennal actuel. A ce stade, la Suisse entend réserver sa position quant au niveau du budget 2008-2009.

Le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget fait état de gain d'efficacité et rationalisation. Nous regrettons toutefois qu'il ne fournisse aucune indication chiffrée en la matière.

Nous sommes également d'avis qu'il convient à ce stade de maintenir séparées les discussions relatives à l'évaluation externe indépendante de celles concernant le Programme de travail et budget. Il y aura lieu cependant le moment venu d'assurer que le Programme de travail et budget soit conforme aux décisions que les organes directeurs prendront au sujet des recommandations de l'EEI.

Nous sommes également d'avis qu'il ne faut pas à ce stade décider des changements dans la priorité avant de disposer des résultats de l'évaluation externe indépendante.

Teblekou COKOU (Observateur du Bénin)

Au nom de la délégation de mon pays le Bénin, nous voudrions aussi nous joindre à la déclaration du Groupe Africain pour remercier à l'instar des autres pays, le Secrétariat pour la préparation du document CL 132/3.

Au sujet de ce Programme de travail, qui est nécessairement lié à un budget, quelques inquiétudes ont été exprimées depuis hier quant à son maintien effectif au niveau de celui de 2006-2007. Nous voudrions nous rassurer que les priorités établies par cette prévision ne comportent pas effectivement de nouvelles activités.

Si nous prenons le cas du paragraphe 61, du point D, intitulé Aspects critiques de l'insuffisance des ressources propres à un budget de "maintenance", il est dit clairement qu'il y a des activités programmées mais considérées comme des domaines de fonds sous-financés.

Il nous paraît inquiétant que le Secrétariat dit n'avoir pas fourni des propositions de ressources détaillées et définitives concernant ces besoins non satisfaits. Il attend en retour, les recommandations de l'Évaluation externe indépendante et des Organes dirigeants. Nous nous demandons si cela est vraiment sécurisant à ce stade du processus. Il serait certainement plus judicieux de proposer la source des financements de toutes activités programmées si l'on veut les voir exécutées.

Au même moment, au point 3, intitulé "Principales questions budgétaires et financières" au paragraphes 63 et 64, il est dit avoir tenu compte de la demande de la cent trente-et-unième session du Conseil concernant une proposition financière pour la période 2008-2009 visant à restaurer la santé financière et la viabilité à long terme de l'Organisation.

Il nous semble nécessaire de mettre en adéquation ces deux visions du document de Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 2008-2009.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI (El Salvador)

Quería sólo señalar dos breves cuestiones. El Salvador desea en este tema expresar su respaldo al documento que estamos examinando, relativo al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de la FAO para el bienio 2008-2009. Consideramos muy acertadas las áreas temáticas que se indican en este documento, y en particular quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre el relativo incremento de la productividad de los sistemas de producción de los agricultores en pequeña escala y al fomento del apoyo que la FAO debe dar a estos.

Nuestra delegación estima que estos temas son fundamentales y requieren una mayor atención por parte de esta Organización. Por otro lugar, compartimos las preocupaciones expresadas sobre la disminución del nivel de presupuesto y sobre la necesidad de dotar a la FAO de los recursos suficientes, como expresó hace un momento el delegado de Panamá.

Damos también nuestro respaldo al programa de cooperación técnica, válido instrumento de apoyo a las actividades de la FAO en los países.

Omer ABD ALWAHAB (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We support the content of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and we have some observations to make on this subject.

In our view the Independent External Evaluation is a very important operation, which will allow us to determine the path to follow for the future of the Organization.

At the same time, this Evaluation should not be an obstacle, which paralyses the activities of the Organization and ourselves, whilst awaiting the outcome of this Evaluation. Why do we not endeavour to seek a solution to our financial problems, focus on that, rather than maintaining a position or a status quo which will result in this financial problem continuing?

We should undertake a study to determine why countries did not pay their Assessed Contributions at the appropriate time. This would help us solve the financial problems of the Organization.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Observer for Zimbabwe)

Allow me to associate myself with statements that have been made on behalf of Africa. We support them.

Further, we support the many other suggestions that have been aired by other delegations during the debate on the 2008-2009 biennium.

While acknowledging the current situation, we still have some very important events we have to take note of: that is the outcome of the IEE, whose recommendations will naturally influence the work of the Organization and that the Organization has to implement the Reforms it has designed for itself as well as the Reforms that have been set up in the context of the UN Reform Process.

All these do require consideration regarding financing. We are satisfied that the Secretariat has given enough justification to remember them to undertake this business without necessarily increasing the menu.

The Secretariat has justified with the figures on biennialization the effect of inflation and indeed other cost increases that arise from the shortfalls of the previous biennia.

To this extent, we feel as Members, we have to take cognizance of this and enable due diligence. Many have spoken of building a strong FAO but this cannot be achieved by continuing to weaken programme implementation. Let us at least enable FAO to maintain the operational capacity that we envisaged in 2005.

Another item that we would like to contribute to is the issue of extra-budgetary resources. We feel that extra-budgetary resources have got a great potential in enhancing implementation of the regular programmes. We therefore believe that it is pertinent to ensure that the value that it adds

to FAO's programme be maximized through proper integration between the two. Just like we are trying to maximize the contribution of the UN at country level by ensuring that they marry activities with our local poverty reduction strategies.

We would like to request our partners to do the same, to marry their contribution to the Organization through the regular programme, which will have been discussed and agreed to by the full Membership.

We therefore would support further discussion to ensure this integration becomes a reality.

CHAIRPERSON

Do I have any other requests from Observers?

I think we have had a very good and rich debate on this issue.

I now invite Mr Juneja to respond to the issues raised during the debate.

Manoj JUNEJA (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

My colleagues and I have listened carefully to the views of Members and those speaking on behalf of groups on the possible content of the full PWB and the financial proposals in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We seek to ensure that the full PWB will be consistent with your collective wishes as expressed in the debate yesterday and today.

The Council's discussion on the SPWB is an interim step. For certain the full PWB will form the basis of a decision by the November 2007 Conference. That said, for two successive biennia, the full PWB did not constitute an approved Programme of Work for the biennium - it had to be redone during the biennium. It is also clear from the IEE discussion and from the SPWB discussion we have had yesterday and today that more information and adjustments will need to be made in due course. More documentation will be required to be produced by the Secretariat after the full PWB is decided upon by the November Conference.

Members have, in fact, observed that the PWB and IEE convergence will be from 2008 at the earliest. The Representative of the United States questioned at what stage the IEE or the Secretariat might provide some costing of recommendations. As you are aware, the IEE intends to provide some indicative costings in its final report, and management should have the opportunity to review them and possibly adjust them on the basis of any eventual Governing Body decisions in the coming months.

Now, despite these limitations in the scope of the PWB, it is worth recalling what was mentioned by the IEE team leader at the Friends of the Chair Meeting last week, that the time period for the possible implementation of the IEE recommendations would be up to 6 years. The Representative of the United States noted yesterday that the quicker the transformation, the higher the up-front costs and this is a factor that could inevitably extend the timeline for transformation.

I say this to emphasize that despite the IEE, the PWB will have to form the basis for operations in the next biennium, because neither the IEE, nor our available resources will provide the footing for major changes overnight.

Many observations were made about a "maintenance budget" and, in fact the Representative of Brazil said that such a budget should not simply put the Organization on hold. In fact, many "maintenance" programmes are new because the programme entities that form the basis for operations in 2006-2007 are new - they were formulated in May 2006, and they are more focused. The biennium ahead provides, as some Members have stated, an opportunity for needed consolidation of these efforts.

The full PWB would include an articulation of cross-cutting areas such as knowledge management and capacity building, which were among the guiding principles of the Director-General's reforms. It will also provide details on climate change and bioenergy, which incidentally is not something new. These were previously Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIA's), that were approved by the Governing Bodies themselves and which are being

somewhat reformulated in the current biennium. They will be developed within the limits of the present programme entities.

We will also take account of follow-up on evaluations and auto-evaluations as well as the guidance provided by the technical committees to the extent this is possible within available resources.

On comments made about partnerships and networks, collaboration with other Agencies, especially Rome-based ones, I would emphasize that these were part of the guiding principles of the Director-General's reforms and would therefore be pursued with full vigour.

The PWB is also not intended to be a blank cheque. Many requests have been made for additional information, and the Secretariat welcomes this. It is a useful process of accountability and of governance. I should therefore like to confirm that the full PWB will address all the requests made by the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Meeting which have also been stressed by many Members during this debate. They include further information on cost increases, more details on efficiency gains and savings, more justification of capital expenditure requirements and a more integrated presentation of Regular Programme budget and extra-budgetary resources. We will also articulate programme content, including implementation at the field level and provide information notes. You will therefore appreciate that there is plenty for the Secretariat to do in the next four weeks.

Now, not all this information will be perfect. By way of simple illustration, the question of an integrated presentation of the Regular Programme budget and extra-budgetary resources is one where the Secretariat would make a start. The IEE itself was requested by the Governing Bodies to make specific proposals and we are ready to make further adjustments as may be agreed in the future.

The mindset as far as the Secretariat's approach to extra-budgetary resources is concerned, is that of seeing it as an opportunity, especially if donors can pursue their declarations for a strategic programmatic support towards the achievement of this Organization and other multilateral organizations strategic objectives. That in a sense is a precondition for successful integration. We have taken due note of the comments made by the Representative of Zambia speaking on behalf of Africa and of China, amongst others forewarning of the downside risk and the undesirable influence of extra-budgetary resources on the Organization's Programme of Work.

Regarding a question raised by Brazil as to many programmes being underfunded and whether they would be fully funded in a "maintenance" budget, I should mention that the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance indicated the overall consequences of US\$39 million of unbudgeted costs. These would be funded in a "maintenance" budget. The Technical Cooperation Programme has also slowed down in the present biennium, and it is fair to say that is essentially due to the liquidity difficulties of the Organization. We would anticipate that would be fully funded and also implementable in the next biennium. However, successive budget reductions have meant that some programmes are structurally underfunded, and those critical resource gaps are articulated in paragraphs 56 to 61 of the SPWB. I am afraid they would continue in a "maintenance" budget. In order to address them between now and the full PWB, some decisions would otherwise have to be taken on reprioritization, and as many Members have said, it might be premature to take such major decisions before the IEE findings have been discussed by the Governing Bodies.

I should also like to draw attention to another area that was briefly mentioned by the Representative of Japan, concerning the lapse factor. It creates US\$17 million in unfunded costs from the viewpoint of programme implementation. The problem is described in paragraphs 76 through 79 of the SPWB. I would like to assure the Representative of Japan that it is not the Secretariat's intention to pursue that aspect in the full PWB 2008-2009, largely on the grounds, we cannot resolve all problems in one go as has been emphasized by Members. But I do believe that the members and the Secretariat have a common goal of addressing structural imbalances. And by structural imbalances, I mean not simply those that are apparent in table 3 of Annex 2 of the SPWB – that is, not only the financial imbalances that are visible through the analysis of reserves

in that table. I would therefore urge the Membership to revisit this matter on the lapse factor at some stage in the future.

Many members have mentioned the stark increase between 26% and 34% in Assessments. As you know from the analysis presented in section III of the SPWB, 16.3% is due to a "maintenance" budget. The remaining 10% to 18% is due to proposals concerning the restoration of the financial health of the Organization. These proposals, to address depleted reserves and unfunded long-term liabilities, are a range of estimates because two alternatives are proposed in the SPWB to face them. From what we have heard, clearly we need to revisit this matter and perhaps defer some of the proposals even further. We will seek to revise these proposals in the full PWB. However, we need to review each of the elements on its merits. For example, the Special Reserve Account, may need to be reviewed on the basis of the decisions that have been taken on its use during the current biennium. Regarding the After Service Medical Coverage (ASMC), we need to review the history of discussions on this subject and the explicit guidance that has been previously provided by the Council. Of course in the end it is a matter for Members to decide. The Secretariat can merely lay down the facts and the figures which we will do in the full PWB. However, it is also the Secretariat's hope that a final decision is an informed one and is closer to best practice and not perhaps one that follows the worst examples that we can select from within the UN System.

This brings me to the question raised by the Representative of Mexico in this regard, this is specifically regarding the After Service Medical Coverage and contact with the UN. In the case of FAO, the question of After Service Medical Coverage has been discussed with the Governing Bodies since 1997. That is a decade. In the case of the United Nations in New York, the issue was only formally raised last year. There has been contact between FAO and the United Nations and in this particular case, it was the United Nations that came to FAO, specifically to our Finance Division, because we started early to address the problem and have more experience to offer in this regard. The problems at the United Nations are far greater. At the same time however, the UN have some funding options from unencumbered balances in peacekeeping missions. The ASMC comparison of the FAO situation with the rest of the UN is provided in a Finance Committee document that you might be interested in, that is FC 118/11. Paragraph 8, in particular, refers to the situation at the United Nations in New York. However, we are not optimistic of a solution for FAO being available via New York. FAO needs to fund the After Service Medical Coverage liability for past services on the basis of its own case and the merits that are put to the Governing Bodies of FAO.

Mr Chairperson, there was also an observation made by the Representative of Canada amongst others to replenish our Reserves from the resource base. I should clarify that the available resources are extremely limited. Aside from special assessments of Members, we don't have, as perhaps some other UN Organizations might have, dormant reserves or dormant equity balances that can be used for this purpose. We can either reduce programmes, which need to be agreed by the Membership in order to fund reserves, which would be a rather exceptional course of action, or we would require special assessments to replenish reserves.

Finally, two Members raised the possibility of the presentation of a Zero Nominal Growth budget. As has been mentioned by some speakers, the budget level is ultimately a political decision. On my part, I would like to echo what the Director-General has stated in his introduction to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that scenarios have not served a useful purpose for reaching an informed decision. Scenarios based on our past practice have, proved to be, I quote, "unhelpful". This is especially so with the IEE findings around the corner. Any scenario other than a "maintenance" scenario in the full Programme of Work and Budget, in particular a Zero Nominal Growth scenario, would require decisions to be taken on reprioritization. I might suggest that these decisions would have no foundations, and may even prove to be divisive.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me come to the Chairpersons of Finance and Programme Committees.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank the Council for a very rich debate on the Summary Programme of Work and budget. We have heard a range of views on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. These views range from an outright approval of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to this being a useful basis for continuing discussions, to concerns on an increase in the budget from 26 to 34 percent and a need for greater efficiencies. We have also heard views about the long-term financial health of the Organization being something desirable and necessary, but there are different opinions on how to achieve this and what is the optimum time period to get there. We have also heard concerns relating to the increasing extra-budgetary programme of FAO, and the need for a greater integration of extra-budgetary programme with the Regular Programme. We have also heard different views about the possibility and desirability of immediately aligning the Programme of Work and Budget with the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. We shall have to see what is practicable and possible.

Finally, let me assure the Council, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that we shall keep all available guidance from the Council in mind while considering the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 at the September session of the Finance Committee, in accordance with the reports of the Hundred and Eighteenth Session of the Finance Committee and the Report of the Joint Meeting of Finance and Programme Committees in May 2007.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I know the Programme Committee would like me to thank the Council also for the depth and the richness of the debate that we have had. It has been fascinating viewed from up here and I have really nothing to add to the summary that was provided by the Chair of the Finance Committee. There is just one point that I would like to refer to.

The Chair of the Finance Committee referred quite rightly to the amount of attention that has been paid in people's statements to the need to integrate extra-budgetary-funded activities with the Regular Programme, and this was an issue that was discussed at some length in the Programme Committee.

We also touched upon a point that was raised by the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil, who was concerned about the level of implementation of programmes and felt that we needed to see this. We felt that too.

I think that if you glance at paragraph 9 of our report, you will see that we have asked the Secretariat be innovative and to produce some sort of table that would show this but also would cover, bring together, extra-budgetary-funded activities and Regular Programme activities. So this may be a step in that direction, I sincerely hope so, but there is a lot more to be done beyond that small step. That is all that I had to say.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me express my feelings about this very rich debate that we had yesterday and today. I think that the Council agreed major reprioritization effort would not have been warranted at this stage, so as not to prejudge eventual recommendations of the IEE and the substance of FAO's work. The Council noted that the estimate for cost increases was rather high. It was satisfied that as usual, the basis for this estimate had been thoroughly reviewed by the Finance Committee and looked forward to receiving further details in the full Programme of Work and Budget. Several Members have stressed that the figures to restore the financial health are unrealistic. There was a general feeling that a phased approach to the handling of reserves and long-term liabilities was preferable to a one-time shot. Given the added uncertainties in assessing the potential budgetary impact of the recommendations of the IEE, the Council concurred that it would be premature for Members to express firm views on budget levels at this stage.

The Council agreed that the proposals for a maintenance budget provided a good basis for further development in the full Programme of Work and Budget. The Council looked forward to more

detailed information and justifications in the full PWB. Expanding on the analysis presented in the Summary to this end, it singled out, in particular, cost increases, efficiency gains and savings, capital expenditure requirements and a more integrated presentation of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, to facilitate informed decision-making by the Conference. The Council concurred with the advice of the Programme and Finance Committee asking that the full PWB better articulate programmatic content, including implementation at a field level. It also agreed that the PWB expand on the implications of important challenges such as climate change and bioenergy as well as cross-cutting thrusts such as capacity-building. With the answers provided by the Secretariat and the use of the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committee and a few comments which are made, I think that we can conclude Item 10 and bring us to the end of this morning's meeting. It is so decided.

May I have your attention please? The meeting has not been finished yet. Please be seated. We had quite a few changes in our Agenda during this Session of the Council.

The meeting is not yet finished, please be seated. We have quite a few changes in our agenda and during this session of the Council. This is because we are having the first experience of a five day Council, and we are looking for better time management and efficiency savings. Now, after completing Item 10, we have two items left on the Order of the Day for this afternoon, that is, Item 16, CCLM Report and Item 9, Preparations for the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference.

Our consultations show that there is still need for more consultations among the Membership in order to have short and efficient regular sessions, so we have to do some informal negotiations. Given that the Secretariat has yet to receive all the nominations for Officers of the Conference, may I suggest that we consider Item 16 and Item 9 tomorrow morning, together with Item 8, World Food Programme?

This means that there will not be a Plenary meeting this afternoon, and it provides the opportunity for the Drafting Committee to meet this afternoon. They will reconvene at 15:30 hours in the Lebanon Room.

Please remember that the Side Event on Decentralized Cooperation and Sustainable Mountain Development will be held at 13:00 today in the Iran Room, Ground Floor, Building B. All Council participants are encouraged to attend.

Another announcement that I have to make is that the Africa Group will meet in this room immediately after the Plenary meeting is over. Do I have your agreement on the change in our agenda? It is so decided, we will meet tomorrow morning at 9:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:20 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:20 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-second Session
Cent trente-deuxième session
132º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 18-22 June 2007
Rome, 18-22 juin 2007
Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

21 June 2007

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:40 hours
Mr Pinit Korsieporn,
Independent Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de Pinit Korsieporn,
Vice-président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9:40 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Pinit Korsieporn,
Vicepresidente Independiente del Consejo

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

8. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

8. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL

8. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

8.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2006 (C 2007/INF/14)

8.1 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2006 (C 2007/INF/14)

8.1 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre las actividades del PMA en 2006 (C 2007/INF/14)

CHAIRPERSON

By I now declare open the Sixth Meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the FAO Council.

The first Item on our Agenda this morning is Item 8, World Food Programme, Item 8.1, Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2006 set out in document C 2007/INF/14.

Please note that the Council is required to endorse the proposed revisions of the General Regulations contained in CL 132/LIM/3 and to forward them to the Conference for approval.

I should like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Jean Jacques Graisse, Senior Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme and invite him to introduce the Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board.

Mr Graisse, you have the floor.

Jean-Jacques GRAISSE (Deputy Executive Director, WFP)

I am happy to present to you the Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2006 which was approved by the WFP Executive Board at its First Regular Session in February 2007.

The Report tells the coherent story of WFP's progress in meeting UN System-Wide cooperation and partnership objectives. Given the greater intergovernmental and inter-agency attention to UN reform, this year the Report provides more information on WFP's moving forward in implementing UN reform and the challenges the programme perceives in making further headway on this agenda. Thus, the Report will provide a useful contribution to Member Nations' deliberations for the next Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review Resolution, which will be under consideration at the UN General Assembly in 2007.

This Report focuses on WFP's major achievements and challenges in working in the United Nations inter-agency cooperation as follows: 1) Leadership of the Humanitarian Logistics Cluster and co-leadership of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster under which the principles governing relationships among UN and inter-agency logistics bodies were reviewed to increase their effectiveness and clarity. 2) WFP was the largest appealing agency in the 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) accounting for 42 percent of all requirements. WFP received 88 percent of requirements against appeals. 3) WFP intensified its participation in joint programmes in 27 countries on HIV/AIDS, education, the MDGs, nutrition, disaster management and the environment. 4) Collaboration among the Rome Agencies ensured that food security, hunger reduction, rural and social development and safety nets became focus areas in the United Nations Development Group Action Plan for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Rome-based agencies were co-founders of the International Alliance Against Hunger, and continued their support of the national alliances to advocate at the country level.

The Heads of the Rome-based Agencies have worked together in raising awareness on hunger and rural development issues. They visited Ghana in December 2006 to reaffirm their determination to strengthen joint efforts to reduce hunger and poverty in Ghana's food-insecure northern regions.

The Report is in accordance with streamlined corporate reporting to the Board and WFP parent bodies. It is consistent with the United Nations Economic and Social Council format for annual reporting by United Nations Agencies, based on provisions of the 2004 General Assembly Resolution on the TCPR of operational activities for development.

The timing for submitting the Report to the Board's First Regular Session of 2007 does not allow inclusion of complete statistical information for all of 2006. Partnership statistical data in Section 4 referred to 2005 because 2006 data were not yet available. Complete statistical information is now available in the 2006 Annual Performance Report which was submitted to the Board's Annual Session.

The Report also has an addendum which answers General Assembly and ECOSOC Resolutions, which specifically mention WFP as a follow-up Agency as well as salient points raised at the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference.

In approving this Report, the Board suggested producing a paper that took stock of current Rome-based agencies collaboration. This issue was introduced to the Board during the Annual Session which took place earlier this month and which endorsed the proposal. Thus, the WFP Secretariat will present to its Board at its Second Regular Session in October 2007, a paper on Rome-based Agencies' cooperation, which we hope will reflect a common view by all the three Agencies.

Our goal is for a stronger, purpose-driven cooperation that makes a real difference in the lives of hungry people.

On behalf of WFP, I look forward to expanding our close collaboration with both FAO and IFAD.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The Annual Report has already been extensively discussed in the First Regular Session of the WFP Board in February 2007. There are no issues that need to be specifically discussed by the Council.

We therefore propose the Council takes note of the Report.

Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun)

La délégation du Cameroun remercie le Directeur exécutif agricole du PAM pour la brillante et concise présentation qu'il vient de nous faire du rapport du Conseil d'administration du PAM au Conseil de la FAO sur ses activités au cours de l'exercice 2006.

L'examen de ce rapport est certainement l'occasion idoine de vérifier avec un œil extérieur si, dans le cadre de son mandat, le PAM a bien rempli ses missions dont la principale, nous le savons, est de sauver des vies en donnant immédiatement à manger à ceux qui autrement risqueraient de mourir. Il s'agit bien sûr d'une mission hautement noble; mais au fil des années cette mission, à la demande de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, des conférences successives de la FAO, des sommets mondiaux de l'alimentation, du Sommet du Millénaire, s'est vue élargir à celle de contribuer à l'atteinte d'un certain nombre d'objectifs de développement. Les instances du PAM, en l'occurrence son Conseil d'administration, se sont engagées à répondre à ces différentes sollicitations et à relever les nombreux défis auxquels il doit faire face, grâce aux moyens qui sont mis à sa disposition par les généreux donateurs.

Il est loisible de constater que le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition ne fait qu'augmenter, que les catastrophes naturelles sont toujours plus nombreuses et plus dévastatrices, que les conflits armés et autres, entraînant des déplacements massifs de populations,

naissent régulièrement parfois là où on les attend le moins, pour comprendre l'importance du rôle que le PAM joue avec efficacité, très souvent dans des conditions très difficiles.

Il y a lieu de féliciter les responsables du PAM à tous les niveaux, pour le travail accompli au cours de l'exercice 2006, tel que reflété dans le rapport. Mais au-delà de ce constat, notre délégation voudrait attirer tout particulièrement l'attention du Conseil sur l'importance du rôle du PAM en matière de développement, une bonne façon de prévenir la faim notamment dans le secteur de l'éducation, à travers les cantines scolaires grâce auxquelles dans certains pays, l'école est devenue la porte d'entrée du développement. En tous cas, mon pays s'est engagé dans ce cadre et tout récemment, à travers son projet de programmes de pays qui a été approuvé par le Conseil d'administration du PAM, à œuvrer dans cette voie. En effet, lorsqu'on réussit à promouvoir avec succès la production agricole locale grâce à l'existence d'une cantine scolaire, l'expérience a montré qu'on résout par là plusieurs autres problèmes importants tels que la lutte contre la pauvreté et la sous-alimentation.

Notre délégation encourage le PAM à intensifier ce genre d'activités, en partenariat avec les gouvernements, les ONG et les autres acteurs de développement, partenaires bilatéraux ou multilatéraux car c'est là une façon bien concrète de traduire dans les faits les engagements pris dans le cadre du plan d'action des sommets mondiaux de l'alimentation organisés par la FAO. Il en va de même de l'impact des achats locaux des denrées alimentaires effectués par le PAM.

Notre délégation saisit cette occasion pour remercier et encourager les donateurs à privilégier les dons en espèces qui facilitent ce genre d'actions et qui permettent par ailleurs au PAM d'agir plus vite dans certaines situations d'urgence. Pour toutes ces raisons et d'autres sur lesquelles nous aurions pu nous étendre, notre délégation invite le Conseil à prendre note et adopter le rapport soumis à son examen, y compris la proposition de modification du statut général et du règlement général de cette institution. Cette proposition est en annexe.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for this report and its focus on UN Reform measures. 2006 was a banner year with major decisions taken by the WFP Executive Board on, for example, ensuring that targeting in emergencies is an integral component in all stages of the planning cycle and mainstreaming economic analyses throughout the Organization, all with the aim of improving the effectiveness of WFP programmes.

We appreciate the statistical information and description of WFP's participation in joint programmes and its collaboration with partners in 2006, and particularly for the record number of partnerships with NGOs in 2005.

On the issue of cooperation with Rome-based Agencies, we would like to express our support for the Informal Steering Committee that is focusing on improving coordination among Rome-based Agencies. We believe that an increased cooperation will enhance coherence, increase efficiency and lower costs.

We look forward to the continuing collaboration on the twin-track approach to food security, on needs assessments, on emergency responses and the provision of agricultural inputs and on nutrition.

Ms Vangile TITI (South Africa)

The South African delegation commends the WFP for the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 2006. We are particularly pleased with the reflection in the Report of the collaboration of WFP with FAO in the emergency response, rehabilitation and development activities. We are also pleased that WFP is reflecting on the work of the Comprehensive African Agriculture and Development Programme as well as engaging in food security measures in the region. We support this report.

CHAIRPERSON

Do I see any more speakers? So it seems all delegates agreed to adopt the Report. I now turn the floor to Deputy Executive Director. So you may have the floor.

Jean-Jacques GRAISSE (Deputy Executive Director, WFP)

The silence of the Council is just a reflection of the fact that very much the same people have approved this Report in our Executive Board in February, so we see familiar faces here who did give their approval in February, so we do not take this as anything else but an expression of confidence in the work of the Executive Board. Thank you Mr Chairperson and thank you to the delegations which intervened to give us some friendly remarks on our cooperation particularly, particularly our cooperation with FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Is there any country that would like to speak? If not, may I invite observers? I see none. Can I take it that the Council endorses the amendments to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme set out in CL 132/LIM/3 and wishes to forward them to the Conference for approval.

We are waiting for the Chairperson and while we are waiting for the Chairperson, can we take a break for some minutes? And then we will resume again. Thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 10.00 to 10.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10.00 à 10 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.00 a las 10.20 horas

Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Independent Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair

Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

**16. REPORT OF THE 81ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (ROME, 4-5 APRIL 2007)
(CL 132/5)**

**16. RAPPORT DE LA QUATRE-VINGT-UNIÈME SESSION DU COMITÉ DES
QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (ROME,
4-5 AVRIL 2007) (CL 132/5)**

**16. INFORME DEL 81º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DEL COMITÉ DE ASUNTOS
CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (ROMA, 4-5 DE ABRIL DE 2007)
(CL 132/5)**

CHAIRPERSON

Gentlemen, good morning, I am sorry for being a bit late between two discussions but from 8.00 a.m. this morning I was doing some behind the scenes negotiations in order to make our sessions easier. That is the reason why I am a bit late here. I hope that it has been useful. We now turn our attention to Item 16, which is the Report of the 81st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Please ensure that you have documents CL 132/5 and CL 132/LIM/4 before you. The report of the CCLM covers the following matters: adoption of Russian as a language of FAO; change in status of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; financial disclosure requirements for designated staff members of the Organization; personal status for purposes of staff entitlement; representation of the Near East region in the Finance Committee; and, finally, access by Members to reports of the Office of the Inspector-General.

I would like to invite Mr D'Elzius, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to introduce the item. You have the floor, Mr Chairperson.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Je commencerai donc par traiter le point touchant à l'amendement à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation, donc l'adoption du russe comme langue de l'Organisation.

Le Comité a examiné les amendements qui devraient être apportés à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général de l'Organisation afin que la langue russe puisse devenir une langue de l'Organisation. Sous réserve des incidences de la proposition sur le programme et sur le budget, le Comité a recommandé que le Conseil propose à la Conférence d'adopter un texte russe de l'Acte constitutif faisant foi, ainsi qu'un amendement à l'Article XXII de l'Acte constitutif tel que présenté dans le Projet de résolution de la Conférence jointe à l'Annexe I du rapport du Comité.

Le Comité a également recommandé au Conseil d'envisager de proposer un amendement à l'Article XLVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation selon les termes du Projet de résolution de la Conférence, jointe au rapport du Comité à l'Annexe II.

Il est pris bonne note d'une proposition d'amendement au troisième paragraphe des projets de résolution, qui se lirait comme suit: "considérant que la Biélorussie et la Fédération de Russie sont devenues Membres de l'Organisation en 2005 et 2006 respectivement". En demandant au Conseil de transmettre à la Conférence les deux projets de résolution, il est important de souligner deux points. D'abord, selon l'Article XX, paragraphe 4 de l'Acte constitutif, les propositions d'amendement à l'Acte constitutif doivent être notifiées par le Directeur général aux États Membres, cent vingt jours au plus tard avant l'ouverture de la session de la Conférence au cours de laquelle elles sont examinées. Ceci doit donc être fait dans le courant de la troisième semaine de juillet. Ensuite, en proposant les amendements et transmettant les projets de résolution à la Conférence, le Conseil tient uniquement compte de considérations procédurales et de forme juridique mais il faut souligner que cette transmission des projets de résolution ne constitue pas un quelconque engagement politique de la part du Conseil ou une prise de position sur les incidences financières ou budgétaires puisqu'il s'agit d'une question qui relève uniquement de la compétence de la Conférence à la lumière de toutes les considérations pertinentes.

J'en ai terminé pour ce premier point de l'ordre du jour.

CHAIRPERSON

With due regard to the two last points that were emphasized by Mr Chairperson of CCLM, each proposal should be sent to Member Nations 120 days before the Conference so we have to decide in this Council whether we approve it, because there won't be time if we postpone it. The second point is that it excludes any prejudgement or any political decision on the part of financial aspects that we had discussed the other day and would appear in the report of the drafting committee as well. With this, please indicate your statements and I will open the floor for discussion and I start with Ukraine.

Ms Oksana DRAMARETSKA (Ukraine)

I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters for presenting the part of the Report on the Eighty-third Session of the CCLM. I would also like to thank all members of the CCLM for the result of the work. We welcome the Report and generally support recommendations made by the CCLM within its mandate. In particular, we support the recommendation that the Council should propose to the Conference, the adoption of an authentic Russian text of the Constitution as well as an amendment to Article XXII of the Constitution as per draft Conference Resolution attached to the report as Appendix 1. We also support the recommendation regarding the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization as per the Draft Conference Resolution attached to the Report as Appendix II.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement. We thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for his comprehensive report to which we would like to make the following, at this time, very brief comment. We note that the CCLM's recommendation concerning the adoption of Russian as a language of the Organization was discussed at the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Eighteenth Session. We recognize that the Finance Committee, due to a lack of information, expressed concerns as to the financial implications. Although the EU shares these concerns, it supports the CCLM recommendation to put this Item on the Agenda of the Conference in November this year.

Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEYÚ (Uruguay)

Tengo el honor de hablar en nombre del GRULAC, quisiera referirme al 3er punto del Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, que trata sobre el procedimiento para cambiar la naturaleza de un cuerpo estatutario de FAO, establecido bajo el Artículo XIV de la Constitución a un cuerpo fuera del marco de la FAO.

El cambio de status de la Comisión del Atún (intervención postporgada para tratar otro tema)

CHAIRPERSON

I am sorry, we are only discussing the sending of these resolutions concerning the Russian language to the Conference. This is an issue which we will discuss later. Ok? Thank you. I will invite Egypt to take the floor please.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed HOSNI (Egypt)

The Egyptian delegation is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. First of all, we would like to compliment the Report of the CCLM, disclosed in document CL 132/5. On Item 2, in the Table of Contents, paragraphs 2 to 6, Egypt supports in principal the adoption of the Russian language as a language of the Organization. As far as the financial arrangements are concerned, we ask the Finance Committee to further study the matter. In addition, we welcome any further suggestions from the Russian Federation and other Russian-speaking countries in this regard.

Bandar Ben Abdel Moshin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for his sound presentation, and we would like to endorse the submission of this recommendation, namely the adoption of the Russian language, to the Conference in order to be adopted as one of the languages of the Organization.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Thank you for the presentation on the CCLM and for this Report. Regarding the adoption of the Russian language as a language of FAO, we had a lengthy discussion on this matter under the Item of the Finance Committee's Report. We share the concern expressed by the Finance Committee.

Japan insists that the adoption of Russian as a language of FAO should be frozen at this moment, taking into consideration the very difficult financial situation of the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Excuse me, on that financial situation we have discussed it. I would like to have your views on the sending out these amendments to the Conference as well.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan insists that any discussion regarding adoption of the Russian language should be frozen at this moment.

Hassane ABI-AKAR (Liban) (Original language Arabic)

Le russe devrait être présenté comme point à étudier à la Conférence générale lors de sa prochaine session. Nous pensons que l'obstacle financier ne doit pas être le seul facteur à prendre en compte, parce que d'après nous, l'Organisation souffre d'un déficit et l'adoption de cette recommandation n'aura pas une incidence trop négative. Je pense qu'officiellement et juridiquement la langue russe est une langue officielle des Nations Unies et en tant qu'État Membre, ils ont le droit de l'obtenir. Je pense qu'après la Conférence générale, l'Organisation devra se mettre d'accord avec la Fédération de Russie.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Antes que nada, permítame agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por su presentación.

Apoyamos la recomendación hecha por el Comité. Se ha hablado muy claramente que no hay en este momento repercusiones de tipo político y tampoco de tipo presupuestario. Remandamos todo a la Conferencia para la aprobación, y apoyamos plenamente las recomendaciones.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Au nom du Groupe africain, nous voudrions remercier le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour ce rapport concis, mais précis, sur le problème dont nous avons à discuter.

Il vous reviendra que nous avons énormément discuté de cette question dans les précédents ordres du jour et nous pensons que déjà un quasi consensus, je ne dirais pas un consensus puisque il y en a quand même qui veulent le geler, mais un quasi consensus qui s'est prononcé pour accorder la plus grande importance à cette question.

Il est légitime que les pays membres de cette Organisation veuillent que leur langue soit retenue, ceci d'autant plus que ce n'est pas n'importe quelle langue, c'est une des principales langues de ce monde depuis la création des Nations Unies. Seulement nous avons dit qu'il fallait tenir compte effectivement de la conjoncture que traverse notre Organisation, c'est pourquoi nous avons demandé à ce que cela fasse l'objet d'une étude approfondie, d'une concertation afin de trouver la solution la plus idoine.

Nous soutenons donc tous les propos qui ont été tenus ici, à part ceux qui veulent les geler, et nous estimons que nous devons avancer et d'ici la Conférence mûrir cette question au niveau de tout un chacun et nous trouverons certainement une solution. Mais, répétons les, c'est le droit le plus élémentaire des nations comme la Russie, que de vouloir se faire entendre à partir du moment où elle est pleinement Membre de cette Organisation.

Ms Nasrin AKHTER (Bangladesh)

I would also like to share with our previous colleagues who supported that, in principle, we did agree that we could include the Russian language into FAO as it is in other UN Agencies using it. Regarding the Finance Committee's Report, we also express our views that we need some sort of financial implications on how we could solve this problem. So here again we would like to reiterate that the same view actually on the Committee of Constitutional Legal Matters expressed. Why could we not have a financial support or budgetary and programme aspects the same course of action could be taken in respect of the Russian text of the Constitution. Taking this matter or amendment to the Conference, I fully endorse the views that the distinguished Ambassador of Mali has expressed just now. Perhaps by then, we may have come to some sort of proposal from the Finance Committee. There is no harm to propose or adopt the decision, and we can take this amendment proposal to the Conference, having received the positive views or proposal from the Finance Committee.

I would like to say that I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Region.

CHAIRPERSON

Other requests for the floor from Members of the Council? We do have a request from the Russian Federation and Belarus among the Observers.

Russian Federation you have the floor.

Eugeny UTKJN (Observer for Russian Federation)

The Russian Federation fully supports the Report of the Eighty-first Session of the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Welcoming and highlighting the importance of the recommendations of the CCLM in relation to adopt the Russian language as an official language of FAO, we find it necessary to emphasize that there is an absolute legitimacy and validity of the request to introduce the Russian language in FAO confirmed by this respected FAO Governing Body.

In this context we are grateful to the Committee for the high professionalism and efficiency, as well as to the Secretariat for operational and qualified role.

Russia conducted negotiations at intergovernmental level with all FAO Council Members and many Observers. The key outcome of these talks is that no one raised an objection against granting the official status to the Russian language in FAO. These consultations are in progress and we are still receiving new positive responses from different parts of the world. By the way, this morning we have been informed that the Russian Embassy in Lusaka had received an official note from the Government of Zambia, which fully supported the Russian language in FAO.

Meantime, we clearly understand that there is also another side of this complex, rather complicated issue. The financial aspects of adoption of Russian in FAO. We wish to stress in this regard that preliminary estimated substantive costs of adopting Russian can be essentially reduced. We mentioned it at the previous Session. The way is to use fully the potential of the Russian Federation, its technical and informational assistance, as well as some other schemes of minimizing costs.

We are in favour to find them mutually-acceptable model of adoption of the Russian language in FAO. We would like to repeat again mutually-acceptable, which means for us, first of all, a special attention to be paid to the priorities of developing countries.

Any cutbacks in their programme activities, especially in the Technical Cooperation Programme, are unacceptable. We are ready to facilitate and to start wide format and detailed consultation with FAO Secretariat in this regard in order to find an optimal solution.

Finally, the Russian Federation wants to stress that the Russian language for FAO is a long-term investment with clear benefits in future. Let me assure all the Members of the Organization that Russian would not only reach the Constitution of FAO but also be a great contribution of all Russian-speaking regions. Its scientific and technical potential in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, genetic resources, etc. to daily activities of the Organization and especially to the efforts in achieving our main goal: to eliminate hunger and improve the food security situation in the world, and we have such potential in Russia. For example, not mentioning other countries, as you know, we have 20 percent of forests, 20 percent of water, 10 percent of soil, so we have a potential to make our contributions to the global goals and in this context the last and not the least, taking into account the above-mentioned, we call the FAO Council to adopt the recommendations of the Committee and forward them for the consideration overall by the Conference of FAO.

Dimitry YARMOLYUK (Observer for Belarus)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for presenting the Report. I would like to express my support for the Report, and particularly reiterate our approval of the Draft Conference Resolution amending the General Rules of FAO in wording proposed by the Committee's Chairperson.

Belarus also supports, including the respective item on the upcoming Conference Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished representative of Belarus. Are there any requests for the floor? I do not see any, so I can take it that Council endorses the Report of the CCLM on the Russian language as a language of FAO and as was mentioned by the Chairperson, these decisions excludes any financial or political implication which it might have. Do I have your support? So decided.

Now I will invite the Chairperson to introduce the second item which is the status of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Je souhaiterais informer le Conseil que ce point doit être examiné à la lumière du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques mais aussi du document CL 132/LIM/4 contenant des informations complémentaires sur des développements intervenus depuis la réunion du Comité. Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a pris note d'une présentation détaillée par le Secrétariat de la FAO du document CCLM/80/3 intitulé: "Processus à suivre pour la transformation d'un organe statutaire de la FAO", établi en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif en un organe extérieur à l'Organisation (modifications du statut de la Commission des thons de l'Océan indien). Le Comité a pris aussi acte d'une présentation détaillée de la position de la Commission des thons de l'Océan indien faite par le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en sa qualité de représentant de la Belgique. Le Comité a estimé que la situation, sans précédent, était complexe et que par conséquent il était indispensable d'étudier en profondeur tous les aspects de la question en tenant compte de toutes les incidences de chaque solution proposée, notamment le fait que toute décision prise à cet égard créera un précédent en droit international qui pourrait avoir un impact sur d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Afin d'être en mesure d'étudier la question et de présenter une recommandation au Conseil, le Comité a demandé que la question soit étudiée par un groupe informel de juristes, de tous les Membres de la CTOI, les Membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et de représentants des Organisations des Nations Unies selon qu'il conviendra. Le Comité examinerait les conclusions de ce groupe informel et transmettra son avis au Conseil. Le Comité a demandé que le groupe informel se réunisse le plus tôt possible, en tenant compte du calendrier des organes directeurs de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

The issue is clear and I will open the floor for your discussion starting with Germany, then Oman, Gabon, Lebanon, Australia, Iran, India, Uruguay, China, and Malaysia.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am again speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We thank the Chairperson of the CCLM also for this part of his comprehensive report.

Concerning part 3 of the CCLM Report relating to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the European Union would like to point out that the IOTC members have unanimously expressed their political role to make the IOTC work more effectively and efficiently in order to attain its basic objectives.

The main IOTC objective is the sustainable management of the Indian Ocean Tuna and Tuna-like species, and it requires a pragmatic, and more importantly, a short-term solution in order to guarantee the participation of all stakeholders to the fishing activities in the area of competence of the IOTC.

It is the intention of IOTC Members to apply the rules foreseen in the main international legal instruments, and notably in the previous Resolution 61/105 on sustainable fisheries adopted in

November 2006 which requires Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to perform and implement sound management for the conservation of fisheries resources and ask for an assessment of the RFMO's performances in order to achieve the basic IOTC objectives.

The European Union asks for the full support of FAO in facilitating the process of strengthening of IOTC for a rapid process in order to safeguard the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries resources in the area which, under the current conditions, are subject to serious manners of depletion, with primarily negative consequences for the coastal states in the area.

To this end, and with regard to the proposal of the CCLM to create an informal legal experts group on the procedure to follow to separate the IOTC from FAO, the European Union would be grateful to the Secretariat to give detailed information on the membership of the group, its mandate and meeting timetable.

Soud AL BADAAE (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairperson for your able leadership of the deliberations of this Council Meeting.

I speak on behalf of the G77, and China. I should like to refer you to document CL 132/5 concerning the Report of the Eighty-first Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee as well as the Secretariat for the work.

I should like to refer to part 3 of the document, namely, the process for a change in the nature of the statutory body of FAO established under Article 14 of the Constitution, in order transform it into a body outside the framework of FAO. That means the changed status of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

We do support and stress the importance of the recommendations set out in this document, namely paragraphs 9 and 10, that the Commission called for the Organization to establish an informal legal expert group made up of representatives of organizations and/or relevant stakeholders in order to come up with recommendations to be submitted to the Council Meeting.

We believe that this is a unique case, a *su generis* case. I believe that UN Agencies should take part in this process.

Mme Paulette OYANE-ONDO (Gabon)

Je sollicite que la parole soit donnée à la délégation de l'île Maurice qui s'exprimera sur ce point au nom du Groupe africain.

Denis CANGY (Observer for Mauritius)

The Africa Group would like first to thank the Chairperson and the CCLM for the very comprehensive report. The Africa Group associates itself with the G77 intervention just made.

The Africa Group took note of the Report of the first Special Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission held in Goa on 17 to 19 May 2006 whereat the members reached consensus on a set of amendments to change the nature of that Commission from a Statutory Body of FAO in to an independent body outside the Organization.

The Africa Group also noted that despite the consensus reached in Goa some countries present at the Eleventh Session of IOTC held in Mauritius, from 13 to 18 May 2007, were not in favour of a change in the status of IOTC as a Statutory Body of FAO and would advocate other options which could still be studied by the Organization for an effective and efficient functioning of the Commission.

In recognizing that the decision as to whether the IOTC as a Statutory Body of FAO established by the Plenipotentiaries of the Member Nations should be removed from the framework of FAO to become an independent body is the entire competence of the Government of each Member Nations of IOTC, the Africa Group further observed that most of the Members preferred the change to be made in accordance with the FAO Constitution.

The Africa Group agrees with the CCLM that the situation was complex, unprecedented and that it was therefore essential to make a complete review of the matter since any decision in this respect may establish a precedent in international law which may have an impact upon other Organizations of the UN System.

The Africa Group, therefore, fully endorses the findings in Section III of the Report of the CCLM particularly paragraphs 9 and 10 as well as the processes described in document CL 132/LIM/4 requesting that an informal group of legal experts of all the IOTC Members, CCLM members, as well as representatives of relevant organizations of the UN should examine the matter.

Finally, in acknowledging that the main purpose of the IOTC Agreement is that of ensuring the long-term management of tuna in the Indian Ocean and without prejudice to whatever decision the IOTC Members may take, the Africa Group requests the Director-General of the Organization to explore other options of involving in its work a fishing entity accounting for a substantial part of tuna catches in the Region as reported in paragraph 8 of the Report of the Eighty-first Session of the CCLM, so that the IOTC may be more efficient and effective.

Hassane ABI-AKAR (Liban) (Original language Arabic)

Nous voudrions saluer la sagesse qui a marqué la manière avec laquelle le CQCG a abordé cette question notamment en tenant compte de ses implications à long terme, tant sur le plan international que sur le plan du droit.

Nous félicitons le Comité pour sa recommandation et nous l'approuvons, notamment compte tenu des circonstances par lesquelles passe la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

We thank the FAO Secretariat for its useful paper outlining the outcomes from the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) meeting that considered the legal issues behind the separation of the IOTC from the FAO framework and the most recent IOTC Session, which adopted by consensus a statement concerning actions being taken to achieve a more effective and efficient Commission.

Australia fully supports the statement adopted by the IOTC. The Commission seeks a resolution of concerns on this matter as soon as possible so that the IOTC can consider the proposed amendments to the IOTC agreement at its next Session in 2008 with a view to the finalization of this matter.

As representatives would be aware, the notion of separating the IOTC from the FAO has been around for many years and has been the subject of exhaustive and comprehensive discussions within the IOTC and between Members.

It has long been recognized by all members of the IOTC and civil society more broadly, that the IOTC has been able to fulfil its objective of ensuring the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species of the Indian Ocean. These valuable resources need the best conservation management possible. The threat of overfishing is a real risk to the ongoing sustainability of the stocks in the region, an eventuality that will particularly harm the coastal states in the Indian Ocean that depend on, and share in, the control over these scarce resources.

It is for this reason that Australia supports making the IOTC more effective and efficient at fulfilling its mandate; a mandate and objective shared by FAO itself. Only by separating the IOTC from the FAO framework will it be possible to ensure the Commission is capable of properly conserving and managing the resources under its control.

This move is no reflection on FAO itself, which will always continue to have a central role in global fisheries conservation and management. The IOTC, even though formally separating from FAO, would continue to recognize the important contribution FAO has made to the Region and the IOTC itself.

We would also note that the other four tuna RFMOs operate successfully outside the framework of FAO, which has promoted a sufficiently flexible and inclusive approach to fisheries management. The unanimous view of Members of the IOTC at the Third Special Session in Goa in 2006 was that the separation of the Commission from FAO was necessary to make the IOTC a more effective and efficient body.

The IOTC unanimously settled on a set of amendments that would simply and easily achieve this outcome, but unfortunately, the Commission was not able to consider them substantially at this year's session.

We note the CCLM's recommendation that a group of legal experts meet to discuss the separation of the IOTC from FAO. Australia plans on participating actively in that discussion. We look forward to exploring in detail the issues in a cooperative spirit with other interested Members with the aim of delivering a clear outcome for the IOTC to act upon at its next session.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the distinguished representative of Australia and invite India to take the floor please.

R. PARASURAM (India)

We speak on behalf of Asia Group G77.

We welcome the outcomes of the deliberations at the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The Committee deliberated at great length on this crucial issue and we would like to extend our support to the proposal the Committee has brought to the attention of the Council. We are not in favour of the proposal for delinking of IOTC from FAO framework in a hurried manner and support the CCLM's proposal to establish an informal group of legal experts to examine the matter and to report to the FAO Council.

Tarad Shakhs TOVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

First of all, let me thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for his brief and useful presentation and we welcome that.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has already emphasized maintaining the relationship between IOTC and FAO in a written form, and at the moment, on behalf of the Near East Group, I would like to fully support the statement presented by the distinguished delegation of the Sultanate of Oman.

Tabaré BOCALANDRO YAPEYÚ (Uruguay)

Hablo en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, GRULAC. En primer lugar queremos agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por la presentación de este Informe respecto al punto del Informe que trata sobre el procedimiento para cambiar la naturaleza de un cuerpo estatutario de la FAO, establecido en el Artículo XIV de la Constitución, a un cuerpo fuera del marco de la FAO. Sobre el cambio de estatus de la Comisión del Atún del Océano Índico, en tal sentido endosamos lo ya expresado por Omán a nombre del Grupo de los 77.

Asimismo, queremos hacer presente que no existe, como lo estableció el Comité, procedimiento alguno previsto para extrapolar un cuerpo estatutario del marco de la FAO, para que siga operando fuera de la Organización, ni en los Textos Fundamentales ni en lo establecido por la Conferencia o el Consejo.

Debido a que esta situación puede llegar a afectar un número de otros convenios o acuerdos estableciendo un precedente, consideramos de suma importancia que la materia sea tratada de forma jurídicamente correcta, en interés del futuro de la Comisión y de las partes interesadas. Además de marcar los procedimientos adecuados que eliminen cualquier incertidumbre y eximan de responsabilidad legal a la FAO y sus Miembros.

Por lo tanto, el GRULAC apoya las recomendaciones propuestas en el párrafo 7, último punto del documento 132/5, que recoge el Informe del Comité. El GRULAC, además desea expresar que el tema es de interés para todos los Estados, ya que cualquier decisión establecerá un precedente en

derecho internacional que podría tener una repercusión en otras organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En consecuencia, apoyo la propuesta del Comité de realizar una consulta de expertos legales para estudiar la situación, sujeto ello a la existencia de fondos disponibles por parte de la FAO.

LUO MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

Considering the fact that this item on the change in the status of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, IOTC – a very complex and unprecedented situation, as we have been told by the Chairperson of the CCLM. Therefore, we do feel that it is necessary to proceed to a complete and detailed examination of all the aspects of the said issue.

At the same time, and in line with the report of the CCLM now before us, it would be necessary to take into consideration the whole range of options proposed and decisions made in that area, because we do know that a final decision will set a precedent in international law and, as other speakers have said, could have implications or an impact on other organizations of the UN System. Therefore, the Chinese delegation would like to voice its support to what was said by our colleague from the Sultanate of Oman on behalf of the G77.

Johan BINRAHLI (Malaysia)

Malaysia wishes to commend the Chairperson of the CCLM for providing the comprehensive document.

My delegation wishes to support the intervention made by Mauritius, speaking on behalf of the G77 Member Nations.

My delegation would also like to concur with the CCLM decision taken in its Eighty-first Session in requesting the establishment of an informal group of legal experts of all IOTC Members, CCLM members as well as representatives of relevant organizations of the United Nations to further examine the matter. The report from the informal group will be reviewed by the CCLM which will then provide its advice to the forthcoming Hundred and Thirty-third Session of the FAO Council for decision.

Other than the legal matters, my delegation wishes to express our concern regarding the interest of the developing countries in the IOTC. At present, the developed countries' interests in the IOTC have been taken care of by FAO where FAO is able to balance the requirements, needs and interests between both developing and developed countries. Hence, my delegation expresses its concern once IOTC has been withdrawn from FAO.

My delegation very much appreciates the intention of the IOTC management to withdraw the body from FAO, that is, to control the IUU fishing problem, particularly in tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean. However, there are so many other fisheries management tools and measures that the body could take to overcome such a problem, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Port State Measures, International Plan of Action on IUU, and others.

My delegation is also concerned with regard to the welfare of the IOTC's staff and officials once IOTC is taken out from FAO. They will also lose all their UN benefits and privileges that they once enjoyed.

My delegation wishes to endorse the CCLM's report regarding the IOTC issue, i.e. in establishing an informal group of legal experts to further examine the matters. The report will be reviewed by CCLM, which will then provide advice to the forthcoming Hundred and Thirty-third Session of the FAO Council.

Johannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I would like to join all those who support the statements made by the G77 and Mauritius on behalf of Africa and all those who supported the due process of legal matters should be followed and, of course, we welcome the analysis made in the report by the CCLM on documents CL 132/5 and CL 132/LIM/4.

It is my belief that FAO is not an obstacle for IOTC to be a more effective and efficient Commission. It has been very supportive of the good management and it is the effort of FAO which has helped Member Nations to establish this IOTC organization.

Eritrea is a Member. Personally, I was involved in the negotiations in 1996, and I have been closely following the tendency I noticed at that time. The tendency is for different objectives to be created, to put the Indian Ocean under few countries' control. So as I said, FAO is not an obstacle to the effective and efficient management system to be established in the IOTC.

The FAO International Plan of Action Preventing, Deterring and Eliminating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing calls on states to take measures to discourage Member Nations subject to their jurisdiction from supporting and engaging in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures. That answers some of the statement. So, what I said is that the tendency is not to provide for better effectiveness and efficiency, since this is the call of FAO.

As regards the process for change and the nature of the Statutory Body of FAO established under Article 14 of the Constitution into a body outside the framework of FAO, the wishes of Members should be taken into account. FAO should take a proactive approach towards the process within its own rules.

This is a new development to FAO. The withdrawal of a Statutory Body should not be a good example or a bad example to several other Statutory Bodies. The matter could potentially concern a number of other Conventions or Agreements. FAO depository, even the Secretary-General, and other international conventions will be involved in the undertaking.

Just in conclusion, in the last meeting in Goa, in India, the Commission's resolution of adapting, of changing and taking the status is unacceptable and didn't follow the process. The Members who attended the meeting were mainly technical experts, but not legally-qualified participants, and all Member Nations should be informed. Therefore, it is essential that the matter be addressed in a legal, correct manner, and I support the recommendations of the CCLM set out in document CL 131/5 paragraph 9 and 10, i.e. that the situation was complex and required review in-depth and that this could be done by a group of legal experts all from the IOTC Member Nations, FAO, CCLM and other international organizations.

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Observer for Kuwait)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf G77 and China.

We do not object to the process recommended by the CCLM, according to which, an informal group of legal experts of all the IOTC Members, CCLM Members, as well as representatives of relevant organizations of the UN would examine the matter.

This would be without any prejudice to our position that we do not want IOTC to separate from FAO. However, we take fully into account the concerns expressed regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of IOTC, which are the stated reasons for the process under way.

The Group of 77 and China propose that such concerns and reasons should be addressed as a matter of priority through discussions between the FAO Secretariat and all IOTC Members concerned. The Secretariat could report on the outcome of such discussions to the CCLM and any other relevant Governing Bodies.

Hasanthi DISSANAYAKE (Observer for Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka wishes to endorse what the G77 and China have stated and, in addition, wishes to highlight the fact that Eritrea mentioned, that the presence of the technical people at the GOA meeting probably could have been one reason for these consequences, and, by looking at the proposed legal experts group, to look at all options. Again I wish to emphasize that we go along with the G77 and China's position.

Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Les problèmes à l'analyse sur la Commission des thons nous semblent complexes, comme le signale le paragraphe 7 du document du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. L'Acte constitutif de la Commission des thons de l'Océan indien a été négocié par divers organes directeurs de la FAO et par l'intermédiaire de ceux-ci, l'ensemble des Membres de l'Organisation. Les solutions pour changer le Statut de la Commission des thons de l'Océan indien doivent avoir l'avis de la FAO.

D'autre part, nous avons écouté avec attention qu'il y a des délégations qui font partie de la Commission des thons de l'Océan indien qui ne sont pas d'accord sur la création d'une nouvelle organisation en dehors de la FAO. Pour cette raison, ma délégation est d'accord avec l'intervention du délégué de l'Île Maurice, qui a parlé au nom du Groupe africain, sur la nécessité d'étudier en profondeur tous les aspects de l'action et sa proposition, qui est aussi celle du Groupe des 77 et d'autres délégations, de créer un groupe informel de juristes des Pays Membres de la Commission des thons avec l'assistance de la FAO pour analyser et donner leur avis sur cette matière.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any requests from the floor, so I come back to the Chairperson of CLLM who has any comments or decisions.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président et je vous laisserai bien sûr le soin, ce sont vos prérogatives, de tirer les conclusions de cette discussion. Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier les délégués qui ont eu des paroles aimables pour le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, remerciements qui s'adressent évidemment aussi au Secrétariat de la FAO.

Ce que je retire du débat, c'est que j'ai pris note de la position des différents pays. Je retire du débat qu'effectivement la situation est complexe, qu'il y a un besoin d'étudier plus avant la question et qu'il y a un soutien ou un consensus, en tous cas, pour cette proposition contenue dans le rapport, de créer un groupe informel de juristes qui étudieraient la question.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, je me limiterai à ces quelques points pour mon intervention et je vous laisserai le soin de tirer les conclusions.

LEGAL COUNSEL

There were some questions from Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Community relating to the Membership, mandate and timetable of the Informal Legal Experts Group.

The membership would be as reflected in the CCLM Report, meaning legal experts from all IOTC members and from CCLM Members. We will also invite the UN Agencies which have treaties and conventions similar to those envisaged under Article XIV of FAO Constitution such as WIPO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and IMO, it is hoped they will participate. We will do our best to have them with us as mentioned by the CCLM, since this issue would set a precedent for the entire UN System and it is important that everybody is given the possibility to express themselves.

The mandate is as provided in the CCLM Report where the two positions are reflected: the position expressed by IOTC and the position expressed by the FAO Legal Office. Of course other legal aspects could be examined and perhaps other options are available. These are the two that we were able to identify, however the discussion may bring other possible solutions, nevertheless taking into account the need to have something which is workable.

The timeframe is a bit more difficult in that we have already requested to postpone the CCLM Session. The idea is to have the informal meeting back-to-back with the CCLM to contain budget

costs. It is expected that the CCLM may draw its conclusion prior to the end of October 2007 and report to the next Council.

CHAIRPERSON

By carefully listening to your statement, I think that mostly Council seeks for more effectiveness and efficiency and a process of strengthening the IOTC. I think that Council agrees to establish an informal legal expert group to study all aspects of the issue and report to the CCLM which then comes with recommendations to the next Session of Council.

Do I have your approval on that?

Denis CANGY (Observer for Mauritius)

The Mauritius delegation approves, in fact, your conclusion. However, I think we should also, I believe take into consideration the proposition made by Kuwait on behalf of the G77 and China.

Kuwait made the proposition that FAO should also have a proactive role, the FAO Secretariat in order that they should address this complex and unprecedented issue by contacting various stakeholders, the IOTC, the CCLM, the Regional Groups and other Governing Bodies of FAO. This, as pointed out quite clearly by Kuwait, also acting as the G77 and China, without prejudice to the setting up of the informal legal group of experts, with which we all agree.

CHAIRPERSON

My assumption is that FAO should have always been very proactive, in all the issues we have discussed here, so there is no need to mention it. On the second one, in my summing up, I mentioned all aspects which I think takes care of that proposal as well.

I think that Council endorses the Report of the CCLM on this issue as I summed it up.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

J'en viens maintenant au point traitant de l'obligation de déclaration de la situation financière pour des fonctionnaires spécifiques de l'Organisation, dont un amendement au Statut du personnel.

Le Comité a pris note, que dans le cadre des efforts qu'elle déploie pour maintenir les niveaux les plus élevés d'intégrité et éviter ou prévenir des conflits d'intérêt, l'Organisation des Nations Unies a institué une obligation de déclaration financière pour des fonctionnaires désignés.

Le Comité a recommandé au Conseil d'approuver une proposition d'amendement à l'Article I du Statut du personnel intitulé: "Devoir, obligations et privilèges" dont le texte est présenté dans le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Il importe de rappeler que le Statut du personnel de la FAO s'applique au personnel du Programme et que le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) a demandé au Directeur général que ces dispositions soient adoptées.

S'agissant de la mise en œuvre du système, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a noté que celles-ci impliqueraient l'examen immédiat d'au moins deux cent formulaires de déclarations de situations financières par an dans des conditions de confidentialité stricte.

Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a souscrit à une proposition de l'Organisation relative à l'adoption d'une approche pragmatique de la mise en œuvre du régime, compte tenu du Règlement du personnel, qui permet déjà l'application d'un système plus simple de déclaration d'intérêt, comme c'est déjà le cas dans d'autres institutions spécialisées. Dans un premier temps, ce système plus simple serait appliqué compte tenu de toutes les circonstances et contraintes pertinentes, et notamment de nature budgétaire. La déclaration d'intérêt serait remplie au moment de la prise de fonction, puis à intervalle régulier, défini par l'Organisation.

Le régime serait réexaminé par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en 2008 sur la base d'informations présentées par le Secrétariat. Il serait décidé alors, si, compte tenu de l'expérience acquise au sein de la FAO ainsi que dans toutes les Organisations du système, un régime complet devrait être adopté.

Le CQCJ a également noté que pendant cette période la FAO ferait rapport au Comité sur toute question de nature juridique ou institutionnelle susceptible de mériter un examen par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for this part of his Report.

The EU supports the general objective of a system of financial disclosure requirements for designated staff members of the Organization. Considering the financial implications, such a system entails, we appreciate the pragmatic approach towards the implementation, for example, the proposed gradual implementation of the system.

CHAIRPERSON

I can take it Council endorses the Report of the CCLM on this issue?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

J'en viens au statut personnel des fonctionnaires aux fins du versement des prestations. Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a reçu des informations détaillées sur un jugement rendu en février 2007 par le Tribunal administratif de l'Organisation internationale du travail, ordonnant à la FAO de verser des prestations au conjoint du requérant, fonctionnaire de l'Organisation, avec lequel il avait contracté mariage.

Le Comité a noté que la FAO était juridiquement tenue d'appliquer le jugement et appliquerait désormais ces conclusions au fonctionnaire se trouvant dans les mêmes conditions de fait et de droit.

En outre, Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a été informé qu'un recours avait été introduit par un fonctionnaire contre une décision de refus de versement d'une indemnité pour personne à charge, à son partenaire avec lequel il avait conclu un pacte civil de solidarité.

Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a souscrit à la position selon laquelle la FAO devrait attendre l'issue des procédures en cours pour déterminer sa position à l'égard des partenariats domestiques ou contrats d'union, enregistrés et observé que la FAO appliquerait les conclusions de ce jugement à tout autre membre de son personnel qui se trouverait dans la même situation de fait et de droit que le requérant.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries of Croatia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement. We thank the Chairperson of the CCLM again for his comprehensive report to which we, this time, would like to make the following comment.

As to the matter concerning the personal status for the purposes of staff entitlements, we take note that the Organization executes the respective judgement of the Administrative Tribunal and would apply it to any other staff member and the same conditions of fact and law as the complainant, and has the intention to do so with any upcoming judgement of the Administrative Tribunal in the

future. However, we think it would be more appropriate to bring the pertinent rules of the Organization in line with the general principles of the afore-mentioned and relevant judgements, so as to create legal certainty and avoid additional financial burdens related to the losing of potential future lawsuits.

Hassane ABI-AKAR (Liban) (Original language Arabic)

Nous sommes d'accord avec les conclusions du Comité à ce sujet. A notre avis, il y a un certain nombre de pays qui prend cette question au sérieux et nous ne voudrions pas renoncer au système juridique qui a été appliqué jusqu'à présent dans l'Organisation.

Il faudrait tenir compte de tous les systèmes juridiques qui sont appliqués au sein des Nations Unies. Car si nous adoptons des règlements différents, ceci pourrait avoir un effet néfaste sur l'opinion que porte certains pays sur l'Organisation.

CHAIRPERSON

Do we have any other speakers on this issue? I do not see any, so can I take that Council endorses the Report of the CCLM on this Sub-item? So decided. Mr Chairperson, congratulations, please go to the next matter.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

À propos de la représentation de la région du Proche-Orient au Comité financier, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a été informé par son membre du Proche-Orient que la région souhaitait avoir deux sièges au Comité financier mais que des consultations informelles étaient encore en cours.

Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques examinera la question à sa prochaine session à la lumière du résultat de ces consultations.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

May I state that every region has two chairs in the Finance Committee. The Near East Group is requesting equal treatment to have another chair in this Committee, if possible.

Abdel Aziz Mohamed HOSNI (Egypt)

The Egyptian delegation would like to express its appreciation again to the CCLM Report disclosed in document CL 132/5. Referring to Item 6 in the Table of Contents, paragraph 21, the Egyptian delegation aligns itself with the position embraced by all Members of the Near East Group, by expressing the desire to have an additional seat in the Finance Committee to become two seats like all other Regional Groups, which we totally put our weight behind and approve. We believe also that this matter should be taken into consideration in the nearest future and dealt with seriously and in a more adamant manner.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Creo que las aspiraciones del Medio Oriente son justas, todas las regiones tienen dos puestos en el Comité de Finanzas, sería injusto mantener este status.

Por lo cual, apoyamos firmemente a que se le conceda otro puesto a la región del Medio Oriente.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other request for the floor? I don't see any. So I sum up that Council noted the request of the Near East Group and endorses the decision of the CCLM that this would be further examined in the next session of the CCLM and would be reported to us. Do I have your endorsement? It is so decided. Mr Chairperson, please move to the next item, which is the last item.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Accès des membres au rapport du bureau de l'Inspecteur général: Le Conseil, à sa session de novembre 2006, avait demandé que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques réexamine cette question. Le Comité a été informé qu'entre temps la question avait été débattue à la session de mars 2007 du Comité de haut niveau chargé des questions de gestion du Conseil des Chefs de secrétariat des Organismes des Nations Unies pour la coordination qui a confirmé sa conclusion que les rapports de vérification internes étaient un outil important de gestion pour les chefs de secrétariat et devaient donc rester confidentiels.

Le Comité de haut niveau a décidé que son réseau finance et budget, en accord avec les responsables du contrôle interne des organisations, ainsi qu'avec les vérificateurs extérieurs des comptes et l'institut des auditeurs internes des comptes devrait préparer, pour le Comité de haut niveau chargé des questions de gestion, un rapport de situation sur lequel il fonderait l'examen de ce point par les chefs de secrétariat à la prochaine session du Conseil des Chefs de secrétariat des Organismes des Nations Unies. Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a décidé de remettre l'examen de la question à sa prochaine session pour tirer partie des conclusions du Conseil des Chefs de secrétariat des Organismes des Nations Unies pour la coordination.

Víctor Daniel FLORES FUENTES (México)

Para mi delegación, la transparencia en la rendición de cuentas es de fundamental importancia. Creemos que la Resolución 59/272 de la Asamblea General ha establecido un muy buen sistema para mejorar la rendición de cuentas entre la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y los Estados Miembros. En ese sentido, por su conducto, quisiera pedir al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos que tomaran en cuenta el sistema establecido por la Resolución 59/272 y la experiencia positiva que se ha generado en estos dos años, desde su adopción y en sus próximas deliberaciones.

John CORNET D'ELZIUS (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)

Je prends note de l'intervention du Mexique et comme je le signalais, on discutera à nouveau de cette question lors de la prochaine réunion du CCLM. Le message est passé.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Chairperson. So I take that Council endorses the Report of CCLM on this Sub-item. It is so decided. I think you have concluded all the debates on this item with six Sub-items, and I greatly thank Mr Cornet D'Elzius for the fine work that you have done and for all Members of the CCLM and look forward to seeing you again at the next Council, if not before.

9. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 34TH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE

9. PRÉPARATIFS DE LA TRENTE-QUATRIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE LA FAO

9. PREPARATIVOS PARA EL 34º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO

9.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable (CL 132/12)

9.1 Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire (CL 132/12)

9.1 Preparativos para el período de sesiones y calendario provisional (CL 132/12)

9.2 Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council (CL 132/12)

9.2 Date limite de dépôt des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil (CL 132/12)

9.2 Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo (CL 132/12)

9.3 Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II (CL 132/12)

9.3 Désignation du Président de la Conférence et des présidents de la Commission I et de la Commission II (CL 132/12)

9.3 Presentación de candidaturas para los cargos de Presidente de la Conferencia y presidentes de las comisiones I y II (CL 132/12)

9.4 Nomination of nine Members of the Credentials Committee (Countries) (CL 132/12)

9.4 Désignation de neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (pays) (CL 132/12)

9.4 Presentación de candidaturas para nueve miembros del Comité de Credenciales (países) (CL 132/12)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, we will now proceed with Item 9: Preparation for the 34th Session of the FAO Conference. The relevant document for this item is CL 132/12-Rev. 1. The Sub-items under this item are: Sub-item 1 – Sub-item 9.1 – Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable; Sub-item 2, Deadline for nomination for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council; Sub-item 3, Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference and of the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II; and Sub-item 4, Nomination of members of the Credentials Committee.

Ms Williams, Secretary-General of the Conference and Council, will introduce this item. Ms Williams, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Documents CL 132/12-Rev.1 contains proposals on the conduct of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference, including a Provisional Agenda and Tentative Timetable.

The Council may wish to note that the five High-Level Special Events will be held during the Conference Session. The first Special Event is on the "Role of Aquaculture and Sustainable Development" and scheduled to be held in the afternoon of Monday, 19 November 2007; the Second Event on "Forest and Energy" will take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 20 November 2007; the Third Event, "Financing of Agriculture", to be held in the evening of Tuesday, 20 November 2007; the Fourth Event on "Food Quality and Safety" to be held in the morning of Wednesday, 21 November 2007; and the Fifth Event on "Aid for Trade" is scheduled to take place in the afternoon of Wednesday, 21 November 2007.

Mr Chairperson, the Conference will vote on the following matters: the Admission of the Applicant Members, of which to date there are two: Andorra and Montenegro. The Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the election of the Council Members, and the budget level for the next biennium. Your attention is drawn in particular to the draft decisions set out in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the document.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan appreciates the Secretariat's efforts for the preparation of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference which will be held in November this year.

On this occasion Japan would like to remind the Member Nations of paragraph 32 of the Report of the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference in November 2005, which reads, "The Conference ... held the view that any past recommendation that Voting Rights be restored to all Member Nations on the first day of the Conference... should not be regarded as preventing the Conference from taking a different position in future ... (and) ... the Conference recommended that in future the normal course of action in respect of Members Nations in arrears should consist in actively encouraging them to submit an Instalment Plan for the settlement of such arrears, as a condition for the restoration of their voting rights. "

Therefore, Japan insists that in the next Session of the Conference, the submission of an Instalment Plan should be strictly enforced as a condition of the restoration of Voting Rights for Member Nations in arrears, and a due examination should be implemented by the General Committee before the Conference decides the restoration of Voting Rights.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor? I do not see any, so may I take it that the Council adopts the Provisional Agenda for the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference as contained in Annex A of the document CL 132/12-Rev. 1? It is so decided.

Now we will move to the next Sub-item, which is Item 9.2, Deadline for nomination for the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council. It is proposed in paragraph 10 of the document CL 132/12-Rev.1 that the deadline for the submission of nominations for the appointment of Independent Chairperson of the Council be set at 12:00 on Friday, 7 September 2007, and that Friday, 14 September 2007 be set as the date by which such nominations are circulated by the Secretary General. The floor is open for your comments.

I see Kuwait asking for the floor?

Ms Lamya Ahmed AL-SAQQAF (Observer for Kuwait)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of the G77 and China. The Independent Chair of the Council is a member of the Group Member Nations, Professor Mohammed Saeid Naeini is well known to all of us.

He has worked here in Rome as an Ambassador for eleven years, as a Permanent Representative to FAO. He has Chaired the Commission on the Right to Adequate Food, the Group of 77 Rome Chapter, the Inter-governmental Groups on Grain, Rice and Red Meat, and so many other Committees. Last week, in his capacity as Independent Chair of the Council, he established the Friends of the Chair for the Independent External Evaluation.

During his dedicated labour, he has embodied neutrality and has proven to be a great leader while working with different regional groups. He has established himself as an extremely capable individual without ever losing his integrity.

The Member Nations elected him in 2005 to be our Independent Chair of the Council. It is the practice for an Independent Chair to be re-elected for a second term of office. On behalf of the G77 and China, we would like the customary procedure to be observed.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your kind words Kuwait I have Iran and then Saudi Arabia.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I have carefully listened to the statement read by the distinguished Chairperson of the Group of 77, the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to FAO. As always, I found many words of wisdom in her proposal.

In support of her proposal, I am honoured to inform the Members of the FAO Council that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to present the candidacy of Professor Mohammed Saeid Noori Naeini for re-election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council of FAO for the term of office which runs from November 2007 to November 2009.

I would therefore request the support of all FAO Member Nations in this respect. Of course, a more formal nomination of Professor Noori Naeini will be made in due course.

I thank you for your kind attention and for your valuable support.

Bandar Ben Abdel Moshin AL SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, I should like to endorse what has been said by the distinguished delegate of Kuwait, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. This is also a reflection of the position of the Group for the Near East.

I should also like to endorse what has been said by the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We would like to see Mr Noori Naeini, Chairperson of the Council for a second time. It is a custom in this Organization to let the Independent Chairperson occupy this post for two mandates.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia. I do not see any other requests for the floor, so I take it that the deadline for the submission of nomination for the appointment as the Independent Chairperson of the Council be set 12:00 on Friday, 7 September 2007, and the Friday, 14 September 2007 to be set as the date by which such nominations are circulated by the Secretary General. Do I have your approval?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

We now move on to Sub-item 9.3, Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference and the Chairperson of Commission I and Commission II. After consultations with the Regional Groups, it has been proposed that a Representative from Ecuador be nominated to the post of Chairperson of the Conference. Are there any objections? I do not see any so we endorse this nomination.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

The Council will endorse the nomination during its Hundred and Thirty-third Session, in order to submit it to the Conference.

With regard to nomination of the Chairperson of Commission I of the Conference, I am told that the Representative from one country which has not yet been identified will be proposed. Do I have the name because I still do not have a name of the country?

Victor C.D. HEARD (United Kingdom)

This is a matter that is still under some discussion. We conclude that there will certainly be one nominee, and it has been agreed within the OECD Group that this should be an ERG nominee. I say that in the absence of the Chair of the OECD who is not present at the moment, but this has been discussed. We will provide a single nominee in due time as a Representative of the ERG to Chair Commission I.

CHAIRPERSON

I take it that Council agrees with the nomination which would be provided by OECD?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

Finally with regard to the nomination of the Chairperson of Commission II of the Conference, it is proposed that a Representative from the Dominican Republic be elected to this post. Do I have your endorsement?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

We now move on to Sub-item 9.4, Nomination of Nine Members of the Credentials Committee. After consultations with the Regional Groups the following countries have been nominated as members of the Credentials Committee: Australia, Canada, El Salvador, Gabon, Malaysia, San Marino, Ukraine, Zambia and Oman. Do I have your endorsement on these nominations?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

As regards the seven members of the Resolutions Committee mentioned in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document CL 132/12-Rev. 1, the following nominations have been received: Canada, Egypt, Italy, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines and one member from South-west Pacific, which has not yet been identified. Do I have the name of the country? Do you agree with these nominations?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

18. REVISED CALENDAR OF FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND OTHER MAIN SESSIONS 2007-2008 (CL 132/INF/4)

18. CALENDRIER REVISE DES SESSIONS DES ORGANES DIRECTEURS ET DES AUTRES REUNIONS PRINCIPALES DE LA FAO 2007-2008 (CL 132/INF/4)

18. CALENDARIO REVISADO PARA 2007-2008 DE LOS PERÍODOS DE SESIONES DE LOS ÓRGANOS RECTORES Y DE OTRAS REUNIONES IMPORTANTES DE LA FAO (CL 132/INF/4)

Now we come to Item 18, which is our final Item for today. Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 2007-2008, as contained in document CL 132/INF/4. Sessions already held during the biennium are listed so as to enable the Council to have a complete picture of the pattern of sessions for the biennium. Changes to Appendix E to the final Report of the

Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council are marked with an asterix. Are there any comments on that? So we adopt that.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Now, I will encourage you to give me your views on the five-day Council format we are experiencing at this Session. We have had efficiency savings by cutting the Council by one day from seven to six days, and from seven to five days. I would like to have your views on that for the future sessions of the Council, and if we do have favourite views we will continue to practice the same in the future.

José Emilio SUADI HASBÚN (El Salvador)

Quisiera comentar dos cosas: en primer lugar que estamos de acuerdo con el formato, pensamos que se ha tomado una buena decisión, y en segundo lugar quisiera aprovechar el momento para comentarles que sobre esto podríamos muchos de nosotros estar de acuerdo, y que tal vez debería ser la forma justa para llevar el Consejo. Hemos visto como la FAO está haciendo su reestructuración, creo que se debería buscar una manera en la cual las intervenciones de los diferentes países pudieran ser más eficientes, y ver cómo podríamos hacerlo, porque la FAO está buscando reformarse, pero también nosotros tenemos que reformarnos.

El Consejo también debería ser parte de esta reforma por la cual creo que podríamos buscar un modo para que nuestras intervenciones fueran más cortas, más directas y más eficientes para los temas. Tal vez podríamos poner un límite de tiempo, o buscar algún tipo de mecanismo que ya haya sido implementado en otros organismos similares; como por ejemplo, el Consejo, en vez de durar cinco días, en su total pudiera ser un número menor.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your comments. We will be considering that.

Ibrahim BOCAR DAGA (Mali)

Effectivement, cette première expérience nous semble concluante et je voudrais vous dire que si vous nous aviez donné dix jours, on serait resté dix jours; vous nous auriez donné deux ou trois jours en s'en serait contenté. Je crois que ce qui est important, c'est surtout, la leçon que nous tirons, c'est vraiment la sagesse, la maturité des participants.

L'ordre du jour était important mais je crois que nous sommes arrivés à un point où tout le monde est fatigué des très longues réunions, des très longues et diverses contradictions et l'Évaluation externe indépendante n'est pas pour rien dans cela.

Nous savons que nous allons vraiment, en fin d'année, avoir à prendre des décisions très importantes pour l'avenir et le devenir de cette Organisation. Je crois que c'est pourquoi, les uns et les autres nous avons su raison garder, pour nous contenir dans le temps qui nous était imparti.

Ce Conseil n'a rien perdu de sa substance par rapport à ses mots. On nous gardait ici des heures et des heures mais je crois vraiment qu'il faut simplement que l'on s'en félicite. Donc, cela veut dire que l'on sait tous se tenir dans les délais du présent Conseil et il faut faire simplement appel aux uns et aux autres.

Ce qui n'est pas moins important de ce que je veux dire c'est aussi la manière dont nos travaux sont menés, Monsieur le Président. Beaucoup de délégués sont déjà prêts à vous élire comme futur Président, rassurez-vous, vous avez tellement d'amis ici que tout le monde ne pouvait pas prendre la parole, le moment voulu on le fera, mais pour l'heure il faut vraiment vous féliciter pour la manière dont vous dirigez vos travaux et on vous en félicite pour cela.

Ms Swantje HELBING (Germany)

You placed a very important issue here, and if I may I would like to propose to come back to this question, perhaps tomorrow, when we are here in the Plenary to adopt the Report. So before adopting the Report, perhaps we could reopen this Agenda Item and talk about the Council format for next Sessions, if this is possible.

CHAIRPERSON

This was not an Agenda Item, it was my own initiative to seek your views on that and increase efficiency in Council Sessions, of course without losing any quality. That is the most important thing. Of course, I would be very happy to allocate some time to this issue, if anyone comes with new comments and proposals.

You will have noted in Appendix A that the Hundred Thirty-third Session of the Council will be held from 14 to 16 November 2007, immediately before the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, which has been scheduled to take place from 17 to 24 November 2007. This is only a reminder.

This brings us now to the end of Item 18, and to our proceedings for today.

The Drafting Committee will be holding its Third Meeting in the Lebanon Room, D209, at 15.30 hours this afternoon.

We wish the Members of the Drafting Committee a fruitful session, and we look forward to the final Draft Report to be adopted at our next meeting, tomorrow evening at 19.00 hours. It may seem a bit late, but the common practice of coming at 16.00 or 17.00 hours, and the Report not being ready, would be a waste of time. So, we decided to schedule it at 19.00 hours tomorrow afternoon, so that you will be sure that Reports are ready and translated into all languages, and you don't waste your time.

Any comments on that?

So, tomorrow at 19.00 hours in the afternoon. Of course, we could be here at 18.30 hours in order to accommodate Germany's proposal to talk about how to gain efficiency in our Sessions of the Council. We are starting at 18.30 hours tomorrow. Of course, this part would be informal, if you have proposals. I think it would be good for everyone to be here to listen and have an exchange of views on this because it is an important issue. Then at 19.00 hours we shall start adopting the final Report of the Council.

Please note that the Side Event hosted by the Government of the Netherlands on Public and Private Partnerships between the Netherlands and Developing Countries will commence at 13.00 hours in the Iran Room today. All Council participants are invited to attend this meeting.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow at 18.30 hours.

India is asking for the floor.

R. PARASURAM (India)

This is to request you to, in turn, request the Members of List B of World Food Programme Member Nations to stay behind for a small meeting soon after this Session is over.

CHAIRPERSON

Members on List B will be staying here immediately and all others will leave.

We will see each other tomorrow at 18.30 hours in the afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12:20 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:20 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-second Session Cent trente-deuxième session 132º período de sesiones
Rome, 18-22 June 2007 Rome, 18-22 juin 2007 Roma, 18-22 de junio de 2007
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 June 2007

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 19:10 hours
Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 19 h 10
sous la présidence de Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la septima sesión plenaria a las 19:10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 132/REP/1 – CL 132/REP/19)

CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the Seventh and final meeting of the Hundred Thirty-Second Session of the FAO Council.

We will now proceed with the Adoption of the Report.

Please ensure that you have the relevant documents before you. Documents are CL132/REP/1 which contains the reports of Items one to eleven; CL132/REP/12 which contains the report of the Items 12 through 15; and CL132/REP/16 which contains Items 16 to 19.

Now I invite Ms Ligia Maria Scherer from Brazil, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the Report. You have the floor Madame.

Ms Ligia Maria SCHERER, Brazil (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

We worked during lengthy sessions in the Drafting Committee, always in a spirit of openness and with the aim of reaching common and agreeable language. Many of the issues we discussed in the Council were difficult, and there were different and, at times, opposing views, but we endeavoured to reflect all the deliberations of the Council as accurately as possible. With the very constructive help of the Members of the Drafting Committee and with the drafting skills of many Members of the Drafting Committee, I believe we have produced an accurate Report.

I would have to call your attention to two small amendments that were not incorporated in the printed versions before you. I would please invite you to refer to CL 132/REP/13.5. This draft concerns the Report of the 117th and 118th Sessions of the Finance Committee, and the item is the Adoption of Russian as a Language of FAO. In paragraph 2, the second line on page 2, where it says "alternative funding" it should read "appropriate funding."

The other small amendment would be on paragraph 3 of the same document, the second line to the last. Instead of "with Russian-speaking countries", we should have "with interested countries".

With those two small amendments, I would submit to the Council to consider adopting the Report *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to you, Madam Chair and to the Members of the Drafting Committee, for the good work done during the course of the week.

With the two amendments proposed by the Chair of the Drafting Committee, does Council wish to adopt the Report of this Session *en bloc*. If it does, any observation raised will be contained in the Verbatim Records of the Session. Of course, remember if there are typing errors and differences between translations from English to other languages, you can always contact the Secretariat and they would correct it, so do not raise this and do not spend too much time on that.

With these notes, can I take it that you endorse this report *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you very much. With this you endorse the good work done by the Drafting Committee and again, make further steps towards making efficiency savings.

Soud AL BADAAE (Oman)

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for the good steering of the proceedings of the Council. We wish you all success and we also wish all the best to the Members of the Secretariat and we thank them for their cooperation in helping overcome all the difficulties. I should also extend my thanks to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for her patience and for her distinguished role, as well as to the Secretariat for all their appreciated efforts.

In addition, I give thanks to all my colleagues in the Drafting Committee for the efforts made in order to reach the decision by this Council and, with the end of this Session, I wish all delegations a good return and a safe journey back home.

CHAIRPERSON

I welcome the Director-General to our last meeting of this Council and invite him to take the floor, and to see if he has any advice or comments for us.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I am told when people have worked so long, the only thing they want is to go home. So I promise just to be short and express my gratitude to you for the excellent work that has been done and for the very very clear guidance that you have provided us that would allow us to try to respond to your expectations in the months ahead.

I would, in particular, indicate how pleased we are with the excellent atmosphere during all the discussions of the different issues and which shows really that we have a united Organization trying to find the right solutions so that we are up to the challenges of our times.

Therefore, thank you all very much, and for those who are returning home, I wish you a safe trip back to your families.

And thank you Mr Chairperson, for having, as usual, conducted not only the debates adequately, but also all the back-door negotiations to achieve the results we have.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Director-General. Thank you for coming to thank the Council Members. Let me thank all the Council Members for a great job done, for a rich debate that you brought to all Items for consultation and for all the observers who participated actively in our discussion. For those of you going back home, I wish you a safe trip and for those of you who staying in Rome, I envy you.

I also would like to thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and the Members of the Drafting Committee for the excellent job that was done. The result was demonstrated here in the Adoption of the Report *en bloc*. I appreciate and I thank the Secretariat, especially the KC Department, Assistant Director-General, Assistant Secretary-General, and all others who have worked behind the scenes to make this Session of the Council a successful one.

I would like especially to thank our dear interpreters who have been with us all the time, either with us or with the Drafting Committee. They are full-time workers, they have done an excellent job and I thank them. The messengers through their work, have facilitated our communications. We thank all of you and for all of those that are working behind the scenes, and we do not see them and we do not mention them, we thank all of them.

Thank you again. Have a nice evening and then a nice weekend and I hope to see you soon in our next meeting.

The Hundred and Thirty-second Session of Council is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 19:25 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:25 horas

