



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

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-fifth (Special) Session • Trente-cinquième session (session  
extraordinaire) • 35° período (extraordinario) de sesiones**

**Rome, 18-21 November 2008  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 18-21 novembre 2008  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES  
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 18-21 de noviembre de 2008  
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS  
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(continued)

**II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO (suite)**

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**(21 November 2008)**

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# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session Trente-cinquième session (Session extraordinaire) 35° período (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18-21 November 2008 Rome, 18-21 novembre 2008 Roma, 18-21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>18 November 2008</b>

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:10 hours  
Mr Lee Brudvig  
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 10  
sous la présidence de Mr Lee Brudvig  
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 15:10 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Lee Brudvig  
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**I. INTRODUCTION**  
**I. INTRODUCTION**  
**I. INTRODUCCIÓN**

**1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2008/2)**

**1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2008/2)**

**1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 2008/2)**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Mr Independent Independent Chairperson of the Council, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome you to FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-fifth Special Session of the FAO Conference.

I am glad to welcome you all to your Organization, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

The first item on the agenda of this Special Session of Conference is the election of the Chairperson. At its Hundred Thirty-fifth Session which concluded yesterday, the Council proposed that His Excellency Mauri Pekkarinen, Minister for Economic Affairs of Finland, preside over this Conference Session.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and, if so, can it confirm this by acclamation?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

Given that His Excellency Mauri Pekkarinen will not be able to chair the Conference until tomorrow morning, I propose we move on to the second part of Agenda Item 1 and elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the Report of the Council, shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

I shall read the proposal of the Hundred Thirty-fifth Session of the Council regarding the nominations of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

They are as follows:

- His Excellency Guillermo Salazar, Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama;
- His Excellency El Zubair Bashir Taha, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan; and
- Mr Lee A. Brudvig, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, can I take it that the Conference approves these names and, if so, can I see it expressed by acclamation?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I would now like to invite Mr Lee A. Brudvig to come forward and chair this opening meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Mr Director-General.

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honour for me to have been elected as Vice-Chairperson of this Conference and I wish to thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

As you know, this Special Session has been convened principally to allow the entire membership to come together to decide upon the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal prepared by the Conference Committee established at our last Session in November 2007.

As you will all appreciate, we have limited time to discuss the Immediate Plan of Action, hence the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons will rely on your cooperation and understanding to ensure we make the very best use of the time available.

That having been said let us turn straight away to the second item on the Provisional Agenda, and that is the Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee.

**2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 2008/2)**

**2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2008/2)**

**2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 2008/2)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, the Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee as submitted by the Hundred Thirty-fifth Session of the Council, which concluded its work yesterday.

The nominations are as follows: Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, France, Jordan and New Zealand.

Are there any objections to these nominations?

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Member Nations elected to serve on the General Committee. The Committee will hold its first meeting in Lebanon Room immediately after this first meeting ends.

I would now like to read the nominations for the nine members of the Credentials Committee, made further to consultations among the Rome-based Regional Groups, the names are: Angola, Estonia, Hungary, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, San Marino, and United States of America. Does the Conference wish to endorse this list?

So I ask for your endorsement by applause.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

Thank you very much. I would like to congratulate the countries endorsed as members of the Credentials Committee. This completes Item 2 of our Provisional Agenda.

At this point, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take a moment to pay a tribute to FAO Goodwill Ambassador Miriam Makeba, who passed away, as you know, last week. I was personally grieved by Ms Makeba's passing because I spent several tours in Africa and I

personally witnessed the tremendous inspirational role that she played in Africa, she is a great loss.

I would now like to pass the floor to the Director-General who will deliver a message of tribute to this great woman.

### **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Miriam Makeba, Mama Africa, one of the most celebrated singers of our time, an outstanding human being, a committed activist, was silenced a few days ago. But this is the Twenty-first Century and no one disappears, particularly if they leave a legacy as rich and as varied as Mama's.

Her sudden death has claimed the voice of one of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' most dedicated advocates. For nearly a decade, FAO Goodwill Ambassador Miriam Makeba was a strong supporter of the Organization's fight to end hunger and improve the livelihoods of the world's poorest people, using her amazing talents to raise awareness towards the issues that constitute the United Nations' and FAO's mandate.

Mama Africa tirelessly spoke out against the violence, inequality and disease that kept many people, especially women and children, living in conditions of extreme poverty.

I, and everybody in FAO, will remember Miriam as a unique artist, an extremely generous woman and a friend.

She made music an instrument for life and against injustice and apartheid. Her voice stirred hopes of freedom among millions in her country with music. As she herself wrote in 1987, "I kept my culture. I kept the music of my roots. Through my music I became the voice and image of Africa, and the people, without even realizing".

Miriam had a big heart and that generosity was transformed to her voice- and when we heard her voice, all of us were richer. She will always be remembered for her extraordinary efforts to help reach those whose aspirations for a better life were always denied by poverty and disease.

If music is all about emotions made supreme, Miriam was a master and her voice was the ultimate instrument for it.

Her demise is an irreparable loss of a truly unique and irreplaceable human being. Now, it is hard to imagine a world without Mama in it. The world, now, is a poorer place.

Let me finish with some words that Mama tirelessly used to repeat on behalf of FAO.

"You sing about those things that surround you. In every community, in every nation, people are doing little and big things to help make a better world. Think of what has been accomplished to-date: space exploration; satellite communications; heart transplants. Today, we have managed to do what previous generations never dreamed of. But, you see, today, around the world, 923 million people still don't have enough to eat. And it doesn't have to be this way".

Thank you, Mama Africa. FAO salutes you.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us now stand for one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the late Miriam Makeba.

**Minute of silence**

**Minute de silence**

**Minuto de silencio**

*Video Clip as a Tribute to Ms Miriam Makeba, Goodwill Ambassador to FAO*

*Présentation vidéo, hommage à Madame Miriam Makeba, en tant qu'Ambassadrice de la FAO*

*Videopresentación de homenaje a la Sra. Miriam Makeba, Embajadora de la FAO*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, before closing the meeting, may I remind the members of the General Committee, elected earlier and my fellow Vice-Chairpersons to make their way to the Lebanon Room, on the second floor, Building D, room number D 209 for the first meeting of the General Committee. I would also like to remind other participants that this Special Session of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall at 9.30 hours tomorrow morning. I wish you all a pleasant evening and the meeting is now closed.

*The meeting rose at 15:35 hours*

*La séance est levée à 15 h 35*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 15:35 horas*





# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire) 35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008 Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008 Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>19 November 2008</b>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:47 hours

Mr Mauri Pekkarinen

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 47

sous la présidence de M. Mauri Pekkarinen

Président de la Conférnce

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 09.47 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mauri Pekkarinen

Presidente de la Conferencia

## CHAIRPERSON

I call the Plenary Session of the 35<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Conference to order.

I would like to thank the Conference for the trust given to me and the Vice-Chairpersons when electing us to these positions. The topic of this Conference is an extremely important one and I am confident that we will reach an agreement in a spirit of cooperation. May I also thank the Vice-Chairperson, Lee A. Brudvig of the United States of America, for chairing the opening meeting of the Conference and General Committee yesterday afternoon.

Before proceeding further I shall give the floor to the Secretary General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Community.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 Article II 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 C 2008/INF/4, which is available at the documents desk.

I would like to draw your attention to that statement.

### I. INTRODUCTION (continued)

### I. INTRODUCTION (suite)

### I. INTRODUCCIÓN (continuación)

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda (C 2008/1; C 2008/2)

### 3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour (C 2008/1; C 2008/2)

### 3. Aprobación del programa (C 2008/1; C 2008/2)

### 4. Adoption of the Timetable and other Arrangements for the Session (C 2008/2; C 2008/6; C 2008/INF/1; C 2008/INF/4)

### 4. Adoption du calendrier et organisation de la session (C 2008/2; C 2008/6; C 2008/INF/1; C 2008/INF/4)

### 4. Aprobación del calendario y organización del período de sesiones (C 2008/2; C 2008/6; C 2008/INF/1; C 2008/INF/4)

## CHAIRPERSON

Regarding Item 3, "Adoption of the Agenda" and Item 4, "Adoption of the Timetable and other Arrangements for the Session", the General Committee met yesterday afternoon and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and allocation of Agenda items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

Please ensure that you have the First Report of the General Committee before you. The Report is set out in document C 2008/LIM/1.

I would like to propose that the First Report of the General Committee be adopted in block. Are there any objections?

Jordan please.

### Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

With regards to the Report of the General Committee, in paragraph 11 there is a reference to the official languages of the United Nations. We have agreed that the text or the digital text presented

should be one that adopts one of the official languages. However, when I took note of the documents, I found that this happened with regards to the English language while it is not mentioned in the other languages. I hope that we make the related corrections, in conformity with what is mentioned in the document in English.

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL**

We have taken good note of the comment and the correction will be made.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now I understand that the Report has been adopted.

Before moving to Item 5, I propose that we adopt the First Report of the Credentials Committee. I should like to give the floor to Ms Daniela Rotondaro, Chairperson, Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

#### **Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)**

Mr Chairperson, the Credentials Committee held two meetings on 13 and 18 November 2008 to examine the credentials received. In accordance with Rule III.4 and XXI.4 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Credentials Committee reviewed the information received by the Director-General regarding the composition of delegations.

List A includes one hundred and eleven Member Nations and List B includes forty-one Member Nations of which credentials were received in due form by 18 November 2008. Three Members informed the Director-General of their intention not to attend the Conference and thirty-seven Members have not provided any information on their participation or representation in the Conference session.

This information complimented document C 2008/LIM/2 and it will be published shortly.

Are there any comments on the Report. If there are none, I declare the Report adopted.

Many thanks to the Chairperson and other members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out before and during this session of the Conference.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

#### **5. Statement by the Director-General (C 2008/INF/5)**

#### **5 Allocution du Directeur général (C 2008/INF/5)**

#### **5. Declaración del Director General (C 2008/INF/5)**

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We will now move to Agenda Item 5. The Director-General will now deliver his statement to the Conference.

#### **DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL**

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Cette session extraordinaire de la Conférence a été convoquée pour accélérer la mise en œuvre des décisions prises par les Etats Membres à la suite des recommandations de l'Evaluation externe indépendante de la FAO.

Les États Membres, la Direction et le personnel de l'Organisation partagent la vision d'un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition. L'alimentation et l'agriculture doivent contribuer à améliorer le niveau de vie de tous et, en particulier, des plus pauvres et à assurer un développement économique durable. Dans un contexte économique et climatique chaque jour plus difficile, la FAO doit donc s'adapter pour répondre aux attentes de ses États Membres. Nous devons pour cela construire une « nouvelle FAO ». Cela exige de notre part à tous, dévouement, détermination, bonne foi, confiance réciproque et travail acharné.

La FAO a eu le privilège de bénéficier d'un examen indépendant approfondi de sa gouvernance, de ses programmes et priorités, ainsi que de ses systèmes de gestion, de son administration et de sa structure organisationnelle. Ce travail a été effectué sous la supervision des Organes directeurs et avec le financement direct des États Membres. Comme l'indique l'Évaluation, le monde est confronté en permanence à de « *nouveaux défis que seule une organisation à vocation mondiale, disposant du mandat et de l'expérience de la FAO peut relever avec autorité et en toute légitimité* ». Nous devons aujourd'hui redoubler d'efforts pour relever les défis qui sont devant nous. Je suis reconnaissant aux Pays Membres pour leur engagement exceptionnel dans l'élaboration du Rapport du Comité de la Conférence. Je voudrais remercier en particulier le Président du Comité de la Conférence, Monsieur Noori-Naeini et les Vice-Présidents Madame Van Ardenne et Monsieur Ngirwa. Ils ont conduit à bonne fin ce processus difficile qui a nécessité 90 réunions officielles cette année. Je voudrais saluer les efforts inlassables des Présidents, Co-Présidents et Vice-Présidents des groupes de travail. Je voudrais enfin vous remercier, vous tous, Représentants des États Membres, pour tout ce travail réalisé dans la concorde. Ce que vous avez fait est unique dans l'histoire des Nations Unies et je suis fier de voir la FAO devenir ainsi une référence sur la voie de l'excellence.

Ces efforts intensifs, au cours de cette année, ont abouti à la préparation d'un Plan d'action immédiate et représente une feuille de route ambitieuse pour le renouveau de la FAO. Ce Plan a établi une vision de la FAO, de ses priorités et ses programmes. Il définit sa gouvernance et ses systèmes administratifs. Il conduit à un changement de culture et à une restructuration organisationnelle. Le personnel de la FAO a participé de façon active à tout ce processus. Je voudrais donc remercier toutes celles et tous ceux qui, au sein du Secrétariat, ont permis par leurs efforts et leur persévérance d'arriver à ce résultat positif.

Dès la publication du rapport de l'Évaluation, j'avais pris des mesures de mise en œuvre des recommandations relevant de mes pouvoirs. Dans la gestion administrative, des délégations d'autorité ont été faites au Siège et dans les bureaux décentralisés, et des procédures ont été simplifiées. Il s'agissait aussi de dégager 22 millions de dollars E.U. de gains d'efficacité dans le Programme de travail et de budget pour 2008-09, conformément aux conclusions de la dernière Conférence. Ensuite, je me suis engagé à réduire d'un tiers en 2008, 2009 et 2010 les postes permanents de la catégorie des Directeurs, qui étaient au nombre de 120 au début janvier 2008. Dans le cadre de la "Réforme avec croissance", l'essentiel des économies dégagées grâce à cette rationalisation sera réinvesti dans les programmes techniques. Enfin, en réponse à l'accent mis sur les aspects psychologiques, une Équipe composée de fonctionnaires de tous niveaux, au Siège et dans les régions, a été chargée de promouvoir le changement de culture.

Après cette session extraordinaire de la Conférence, il faudra engager résolument la mise en œuvre, au cours des années 2009, 2010 et 2011, du Plan d'action immédiate. Je suis certain que pendant cette période, nous serons à même de mieux cerner nos objectifs stratégiques et de mieux cibler nos priorités et programmes. J'ai la conviction que ce Plan permettra également d'améliorer la gouvernance et le contrôle par les États Membres, assurant ainsi la transparence dans le fonctionnement de l'Organisation et la compréhension mutuelle.

En outre, ce Plan d'action immédiate prévoit une véritable refonte du fonctionnement de la FAO, notamment par une réforme de ses processus financiers, une réorganisation de ses structures au Siège et dans les bureaux décentralisés. Il va nécessiter des modifications dans les liens hiérarchiques et la gestion des ressources humaines. L'année 2009 sera consacrée aux travaux préparatoires d'exécution des activités du prochain exercice biennal. En outre, le rapport final de

l'Examen détaillé actuellement mené par des consultants externes doit être prêt au cours du premier semestre de 2009.

L'Evaluation a rappelé que l'un des principaux obstacles à la réussite de la réforme tient souvent au "*décalage entre les ressources disponibles et des objectifs trop ambitieux*". Pour mettre en œuvre le Plan d'action immédiate, des investissements sont nécessaires dans les domaines de la gouvernance, des ressources humaines, des procédures administratives, de la gestion et de la programmation, tant dans les structures du Siège que dans les bureaux décentralisés. Les fonds nécessaires pour conduire les changements de 2009 s'élèvent à 21,8 millions de dollars E.U. Il faut donc éviter de perdre du temps. Les différentes actions doivent pouvoir commencer dès la fin de cette Conférence. J'espère que les États Membres manifesteront leur volonté politique et leur appui ferme à cette réforme en faisant en sorte que les contributions volontaires soient disponibles le plus rapidement possible. Personne ne doit douter de l'ampleur de la tâche qui se trouve devant nous.

Un fonds fiduciaire a été établi pour recevoir les contributions extrabudgétaires indispensables à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate en 2009.

Je voudrais vous assurer de mon engagement personnel et de celui de tout le personnel de la FAO, à conduire les changements prévus et à soutenir la "réforme dans la croissance" que vous avez décidée.

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, mais cette trente-cinquième session de cette Conférence se tient aussi à un moment où le monde connaît des perturbations importantes: crise financière, crise économique et crise alimentaire. Face à ces enjeux majeurs, nous devons prendre des décisions importantes pour permettre à la FAO de remplir convenablement son mandat.

#### État de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde

Ces trois dernières années ont été marquées par une augmentation rapide des cours des produits alimentaires. L'indice FAO des prix des denrées alimentaires a d'abord augmenté de 9 pour cent entre 2005 et 2006, puis de 24 pour cent l'année suivante, et enfin de 40 pour cent pendant les premiers mois de 2008. En juillet, les bonnes perspectives mondiales de production ont entraîné un tassement des prix des principales céréales. Les prix des aliments ont certes amorcé une tendance à la baisse de 14 pour cent. On constate cependant que l'indice des prix des aliments en septembre 2008 restait toujours en hausse de 51 pour cent par rapport à sa valeur en septembre 2006. Les prix des intrants ont doublé, voire triplé et sont devenus inaccessibles aux petits producteurs agricoles.

La baisse des prix des produits alimentaires ne doit pas être interprétée comme la fin de la crise. Elle est davantage le résultat d'une baisse de la demande liée au ralentissement économique global que d'une augmentation suffisante de l'offre. Les stocks de céréales doivent en effet être reconstitués. Avec seulement 433 millions de tonnes à l'ouverture, le ratio « stocks-utilisation » de céréales est à son deuxième niveau le plus bas depuis 30 ans. En plus, le fléchissement des prix pourrait entraîner une baisse de la production alimentaire en 2009-10, ce qui aboutirait à une autre crise alimentaire.

En réponse à des prix plus incitatifs, les pays développés, qui ont une plus forte élasticité de leur offre par rapport à la demande, ont ainsi augmenté de 11 pour cent leur production de céréales. Les pays en développement par contre n'ont enregistré qu'une croissance de 0,9 pour cent. En fait, si on ne prend pas en compte la Chine, l'Inde et le Brésil, on constate que la production de ces pays a en réalité baissé de 1,6 pour cent.

Les importations totales de produits alimentaires ont atteint 827 milliards de dollars E.U. en 2007, et pourraient s'élever à 1 020 milliards en 2008. Cela représente une augmentation des coûts des importations de 23 pour cent au niveau mondial et de 35 pour cent pour les pays en développement.

Les conséquences de la crise alimentaire sont dramatiques, notamment pour les ménages pauvres et même pour les petits producteurs qui n'arrivent pas à assurer leur alimentation avec leur propre production. A la fin de 2007 et au début de 2008, des émeutes de la faim ont provoqué des troubles socio-politiques dans 20 pays sur tous les continents.

Les données les plus récentes de la FAO concernant l'insécurité alimentaire révèlent qu'en 2007, principalement à cause de la hausse des prix, le nombre des affamés dans le monde a augmenté de 75 millions au lieu de diminuer de 43 millions afin d'atteindre l'engagement du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996.

En octobre 2008, on recensait 36 pays en situation de crise alimentaire grave nécessitant une aide d'urgence. Parmi ces pays, 21 se trouvent en Afrique, 12 en Asie et 3 en Amérique latine.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

#### Programmes et initiatives

Pour relever ces défis, il faut non seulement éliminer la faim que subissent 923 millions d'affamés dans le monde, mais aussi doubler la production alimentaire. Il faut, en effet, nourrir une population actuelle de 6,5 milliards et qui atteindra 9 milliards en 2050.

Les plans, les programmes et les projets existent pour régler le problème de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde, même s'ils sont encore susceptibles d'amélioration et d'actualisation.

Nous avons organisé du 3 au 5 juin dernier la Conférence de haut niveau pour faire face à la crise alimentaire mondiale. Ainsi, les délégués de 181 pays – dont 43 Chefs d'État et de gouvernement et plus de 100 Ministres – ont réaffirmé la nécessité de produire plus, en particulier dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. La déclaration de la Conférence, approuvée par acclamation, a clairement indiqué que l'investissement dans la production agricole était à la base de toute solution durable à la crise alimentaire et que des ressources appropriées étaient nécessaires à cet effet.

Le Sommet du G8 à Hokkaido et la Session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York ont permis de continuer les échanges de vues sur les causes et les réponses à la crise.

La FAO a mené différentes actions dans le cadre de son initiative de lutte contre la flambée des prix des aliments, lancée le 17 décembre 2007. L'Organisation a ainsi reçu de 79 pays des demandes de participation à ce programme. La distribution de semences et d'engrais ont déjà commencé ou sont programmés dans 76 d'entre-eux. Ce type d'activité n'est d'ailleurs pas nouveau pour l'Organisation puisqu'au cours des 10 dernières années, elle a mis en œuvre 1 022 projets de distribution d'intrants pour un montant global de 931 millions de dollars E.U.

Mais je dois dire que, face aux attentes de ces pays, les moyens financiers pour intervenir sont loin d'être à la hauteur des besoins. En dépit de l'enthousiasme des discours et des engagements financiers annoncés par de nombreux pays, une infime partie de ce qui a été promis en juin dernier a été versée. Seulement 10 pour cent des 22 milliards de dollars annoncés ont été reçus et sont allés essentiellement à l'aide alimentaire d'urgence.

#### Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La crise financière récente a fait voler en éclat les certitudes triomphantes de la dérégulation des systèmes internationaux de gestion économique. Il n'était donc pas étonnant qu'à l'initiative du Président Nicolas Sarkozy, les plus hautes autorités politiques du monde aient appelé à une refondation du système financier international. C'est dans ce cadre qu'un Sommet du Groupe des 20 s'est réuni la semaine dernière aux États-Unis.

La crise alimentaire n'en requiert pas moins le même degré d'attention. En effet, au-delà de ses dimensions économiques, sociales et éthiques, elle a été un révélateur édifiant des risques graves qu'elle constitue pour la paix et la sécurité du monde.

C'est pourquoi, j'ai proposé l'organisation d'un Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire au cours du premier semestre de 2009 afin de dégager un consensus large pour l'élimination définitive et rapide de la faim dans le monde.

J'ai lancé cette idée au cours de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation célébrée à New York le 23 octobre dernier en présence du Président Clinton et du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies. Je viens de faire la proposition au Président nouvellement élu des États-Unis, Barack Obama, dans mon message de félicitations. Et je l'ai soumise à la considération des Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des États Membres.

Le Sommet devrait assurer une plus grande cohérence dans la gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Il devrait jeter les bases d'un nouveau système d'échanges agricoles offrant aux agriculteurs des pays développés comme à ceux des pays en développement la possibilité de gagner dignement leur vie. Ils doivent en effet avoir des revenus comparables à ceux des travailleurs des secteurs secondaire et tertiaire de leurs pays respectifs pour rester dans les activités rurales. Il s'agit de revoir le système agricole international que le Président Roosevelt et les pères fondateurs avaient voulu plus juste et plus soucieux des mal nourris en créant la FAO. A cet effet, nous devons avoir l'intelligence et l'imagination de concevoir des politiques de développement agricole, ainsi que des règles et mécanismes assurant un commerce international non seulement libre mais aussi équitable.

Ce Sommet devrait en outre trouver 30 milliards de dollars E.U. par an pour créer des infrastructures rurales et accroître la productivité agricole du monde en développement. Il faut sauver l'humanité de la faim dans un monde où 365 milliards de dollars E.U. ont été consacrés en 2007 au soutien de l'agriculture dans les pays de l'OCDE; où l'on dépense 1 340 milliards de dollars E.U. par an pour les armements; et où l'on a pu trouver en quelques semaines plus de 3000 milliards de dollars E.U. pour tenter de juguler la crise financière mondiale. Dans l'immédiat, un "Fonds d'intervention d'urgence" devrait aussi être envisagé pour avoir une capacité de relance de la production dans les pays à faible revenu et fortement importateurs d'aliments. Il convient d'éviter les situations où, malgré les alertes répétées de la FAO sur la baisse des investissements agricoles en 2002 et la hausse des prix des aliments et des intrants en 2007 notamment, les moyens de réaction rapide pour faire face à ces problèmes n'existaient et n'existent toujours pas.

Pour sa part, la FAO est prête à tout mettre en œuvre pour collaborer à la préparation, à l'organisation et à la réussite d'un tel Sommet qui doit permettre à tous les peuples de la Terre de bénéficier du "Droit à l'alimentation", qui est le plus fondamental des droits humains.

#### Gouvernance

Il faut en effet corriger le système actuel qui génère une insécurité alimentaire mondiale à cause des distorsions d'un marché international provoquées par les soutiens à l'agriculture, les droits de douane, les barrières techniques au commerce, mais aussi par une allocation déséquilibrée des ressources de l'aide publique au développement.

Il faut aussi renforcer au niveau international la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire en s'appuyant sur les structures et les programmes déjà en place. Il faut pouvoir concevoir un système mondial mieux adapté aux nouveaux défis de la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), qui a été établi après la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de 1974 sert de forum pour l'examen et le suivi des politiques et programmes concernant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Chargé directement du suivi de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, le Comité examine aussi les principaux problèmes et questions affectant la situation alimentaire mondiale, surveille les initiatives prises par les parties concernées et propose les mesures nécessaires pour promouvoir l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Mécanisme inter-gouvernemental, le CSA a un caractère universel. Il est ouvert à tous les États Membres de la FAO et des Nations Unies et aux représentants d'autres institutions internationales, d'ONG, de la société civile et du secteur privé.

Cependant, pour pouvoir remplir complètement le rôle qui lui a été dévolu, le CSA doit être amélioré en tant que système de gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Ses capacités d'expertise et d'intervention doivent être renforcées.

Ainsi, la mise en place d'un réseau mondial d'experts de haut niveau sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture devrait répondre au besoin de renforcement de la capacité d'expertise du CSA en fournissant une analyse scientifique mettant en lumière les besoins et les risques futurs. Ce réseau, réunissant 400 à 500 experts du monde entier, peut être mis en place au cours de l'année 2009 selon des modalités pratiques de fonctionnement comparables à celles du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC).

En le renforçant avec le "Partenariat global pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale", le CSA gagnera en crédibilité et en efficacité et sera mieux reconnu car plus opérationnel. Pour cela, il doit être doté de prérogatives nouvelles et de capacités réelles d'action, justifiant de la part des États Membres un soutien politique renforcé.

Le CSA doit devenir un lieu de synthèse et d'orientation pour la définition et la mise en œuvre de politiques agricoles et de sécurité alimentaire aux niveaux national, régional et international. Il doit aussi être le lieu de débats pour assurer la cohérence du système mondial de sécurité alimentaire: production pour une demande solvable croissante et pour la lutte contre la faim, productivité face au changement climatique et à l'exigence de conservation de l'environnement, filières de production et de sécurité sanitaire des aliments, marché international équitable et revenus rémunérateurs pour tous les agriculteurs, allocation des ressources financières de l'aide publique au développement, de l'investissement étranger direct et des budgets nationaux pour l'agriculture.

#### Conclusion

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

il s'agit donc de réformer la FAO pour qu'elle joue un rôle efficace dans la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Mais il est aussi indispensable, plus de 60 ans après, de créer un nouveau système de sécurité alimentaire mondial.

Un consensus politique international est donc nécessaire, non seulement pour trouver et appliquer les solutions techniques et économiques appropriées aux défis de la faim et de l'alimentation du monde, mais aussi pour rénover, renforcer et harmoniser des structures de réflexion et de décision, disposant de pouvoirs et de moyens pour l'action.

Je sais que cette Conférence extraordinaire saura nous guider sur la voie du renouveau pour éliminer la faim sur notre planète et créer les bases d'une agriculture de conservation pour l'alimentation de l'Humanité.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.



**II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO**  
**II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO**  
**II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO**

- 6. Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action (C 2008/4)**  
**6. Examen du rapport du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO – Plan d'action immédiate (C 2008/4)**  
**6. Consideración del informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el seguimiento de la Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO: Plan inmediato de acción (C 2008/4)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Mr Director-General for your insightful statement which provided us with guidance for our work next year. We now proceed to agenda Item 6, Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, Immediate Plan of Action. Please ensure that you have document C 2008/LIM/3 which contains the draft resolution for the proposed adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, including the draft of the Immediate Plan of Action. I should like to invite Professor Mr Mohamed Saied Noori-Naeini, Chairperson of the Conference Committee on the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO to introduce this item. Please, Professor.

**Mohammed Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Chairperson of Council)**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Members of the Conference, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the great honour to present to you today the report of the Conference Committee for Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO which I had the privilege to be appointed by you to chair. Together with the report, I present to you the Draft Resolution for Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO for Renewal. As you know, all your Representatives unanimously agreed in our Conference Committee to propose this Draft Resolution, including the Immediate Plan of Action, for your approval. As I said in my foreword to our Conference Committee Report, at your session in November last year you set us a demanding task. In less than a year, on the basis of the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, we were to chart the future course of the organization - a course of FAO renewal. It is my belief that we have responded to that challenge. Members and management have worked closely together to formulate what is probably the most far-reaching reform ever contemplated of a major United Nations agency. I thank the Membership for their tireless and invaluable contribution to all aspects of our work. My special appreciation is extended to the Vice-Chairs of the Conference Committee for IEE follow-up. The Chairs, Vice Chairs, and spokespersons and members of the working groups, the members of the Bureau of Conference Committee Secretariat and to the FAO Senior Management. I refrain to mention any name because there is a long list of names, but you can find those names in the last Annex to the Report which is in front of you. Without the unstinting support and long hours of work by all concerned, this comprehensive Immediate Plan of Action would not have been produced. The Independent External Evaluation gave its principal conclusion in three words: Reform with Growth. Now our Immediate Plan of Action to achieve this goal in the service of all FAO Members must be pragmatically implemented, adjusting as necessary and going further where possible. Some work remains to be completed by the membership to bring the Plan to full solution and to facilitate decisions at the 2009 Session of the Conference next November. In addition to further development of the concept of "reform with growth", this includes applying (a) the new integrated results-based framework to full development of the new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan for 2010-2013 and the Programme of Work and Budget, 2010-2011; (b) any desirable change in the size and regional representation of the membership of the Council; (c) further

reform of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring including follow-up to the Report of the Root-and-Branch Review by management and a strengthened human resource management; and finally, necessary changes in the Basic Texts as provided for in the Immediate Plan of Action. The Resolution thus includes provisions for a time-bound Conference Committee to complete this work. It also provides for the Council to undertake monitoring, thus helping to ensure the effective implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action over its three-year life 2009-2011.

We also need to be aware of and guard against the risks, thus strengthening our optimism with realism. If the improvements foreseen are to be realized without loss of momentum, resources must be available to kick-start the process. For 2009, this will need to come primarily from voluntary extra-budgetary contributions. If the voluntary funding is not forthcoming or is delayed, the start of the reform will be pushed back. Actions will fall out of sequence and the Membership, the management and the staff may start to lose confidence. The Resolution provides for voluntary funding of US\$ 21.8 million for immediate implementation in 2009. I cannot overemphasize the importance of quickly ensuring the availability of this sum, and I appeal to all Members to contribute according to their means in the same spirit that has dominated all our work – a spirit of joint effort and ownership in our shared interests.

Major challenges face the world, not least those directly impacting on the poor and hungry. The ongoing financial crisis and the world economic downturn affect the poorest the most and the remaining scarce resources may be diverted from those most in need. We cannot allow that to happen. Indeed, a stable and broad-based economic recovery depends not just on re-energizing developed economies, but on reducing the marginalization and instability occurring in parts of the developing world, as was greatly emphasized by the Director-General.

The Independent External Evaluation concluded that the world needed FAO, but a reformed FAO to address the challenges our planet faces. Both the challenges and the opportunity grew as it was appreciated that we were facing high and volatile food prices with potentials for agriculture and trades to adequate food for all consumers. Again, it was very well-described by the Director-General in his statement.

Only FAO provides the global forum on food and agriculture and brings together the full range of disciplines to integrate the technical and policy response in addressing agriculture's challenges in the Twenty-first Century - the challenge of sustainably providing affordable food to a world population increased by fifty percent by 2050 and of lifting small farmers and agricultural labourers out of poverty. While trying to tackle these problems, the Membership and the management should not let their attention slip from the agenda of FAO renewal - the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. Continued concentration of managers at all levels is required and the consistent commitment of FAO Governing Bodies and partnerships from others – not only one-way partnership from FAO. Our Organization, FAO, is urgently needed as a reformed, efficient and effective partner in the multilateral system, assisting the world in addressing these issues, not only in the short-term, but also towards a lasting better future.

Moreover, FAO does not act in isolation. In addition to our national efforts, many international organizations have a role to play. Here I recall the vision for FAO that we are proposing for your approval in the Immediate Plan of Action, and I quote: "A vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest in an economically, socially - and environmentally - sustainable manner".

Reform and renewal for coherent and effective international action cannot stop with FAO. Many of the key players have now had comprehensive evaluations, including in addition to FAO, IFAD and CGIAR system of international agriculture research centres. Several fora are examining how to move forward coherently. The United Nations Secretary-General's Food Crisis Task Force of senior officials in the UN System and Bretton Woods Institutes has completed its initial work.

The Rome-based Agencies are developing a common strategy and the General Assembly is also examining the issue.

At country level, the concept of Delivering as One in the United Nations system is being pursued. Most of the basic architecture is in place. FAO provides a global forum and supports the countries in policy development, capacity-building and technology transfer, as well as providing the basic data and analysis. The World Bank undertakes analysis of the macro-environment. The World Food Programme is meeting food requirements in emergencies and chronic deficits, as well as institutionalizing safety nets. IFAD assists the poorest of the poor through proper investment. The CGIAR system provides the research which cannot be met by the private sector and national public sectors.

There are an ever-expanding number of interfaces with the environment, including on climate change. But despite the best effort of all, the recent evaluations demonstrated that the international system - our international system - is not working as a coherent whole. All showed room for improvement. In the individual organizations there were gaps in the architecture, especially as regarded funding and overall analysis, and there were failures to pursue possibilities for increased effectiveness, especially by joint actions. The number of the world's poor and hungry continues to grow instead of decreasing in line with the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals. Thus my call to you now, in the interests of all, but particularly those poor and hungry, is to endorse and follow through on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal, ensuring the early availability of resources from voluntary contributions for implementation in 2009.

Let me conclude by quoting a sentence from the late leader of India, Mahatma Ghandi, who said, and I quote, "to the millions who have to go without two meals a day, God can only appear as bread". Let us act now to make that bread more likely. Let us make renewal of the multilateral system happen, and let us act to ensure the role of a reformed FAO within that.

I present the Report and Resolution and Annex to you for approval of the Conference. Thank you very much, and may God bless all of us.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Professor Noori-Naeini, for your introduction.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have all heard Professor Noori-Naeini's call that the Conference endorse and follow through the Immediate Plan of Action.

The Draft Resolution on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal is contained in document C 2008/LIM/3.

May I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the Resolution and if so that the Resolution and the Immediate Plan of Action for Renewal be adopted in block, by acclamation.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. The Resolution contained in document C 2008/LIM/3 and the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal has thus been adopted.

In order to keep us up to the timetable, I would now like to give the floor to Mr Luca Zaia, Minister of Agriculture of Italy.

#### **Luca ZAIA (Italy)**

It is an honour for me to speak as Minister, Agricultural Policy, Food and Forestry of Italy at the Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference.

A few months ago, in this same room, we discussed with Heads of State the global food crisis, and in this room, once again, on 16 October, we celebrated the World Food Day. On that occasion, we noted what is clear to all, and that is that hunger and poverty in the world are very far from being defeated. Rather, the number of poor and undernourished people continues to

increase, 850 million people who are undernourished in the world and more than 3 million who are dying of hunger.

It is necessary to renew a feeling of responsibility. We should dictate a political agenda for the coming years which is also the basis of what I am going to share with you today. That is why I feel it is important to insist that the increase in food prices is leading to very serious consequences in many countries - particularly in developing ones - and I say this and address my comments to Governments, to those of you who are present and to the multinationals. We are in the midst of a global economic crisis which means we need to establish our policies honestly and to do it in a manner that is free from prejudice or ideology; looking at the future with courage and pragmatism within the framework of a virtuous liberalism that is based on rules shared and respected by all, and that do not exclude either the use of intelligent measures to safeguard local products, such as duties, and a range of activities to promote agricultural growth in developing countries which is properly focused. We can see that these are also within the framework of the first steps taken by the newly-elected President of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

Our goal, as FAO has pointed out, our work is with FAO and we agree with what Al Fuoero said that we must teach people how to fish and not simply give them a fish. We have to find a solution that is one that does not only clear our conscience today and place the problem on the shoulders of our children. We have to promote economic growth among all developing countries. The problems of rising consumer prices and of the scarcity of supply of raw materials, just to mention a few, show how important it is for us to have an agricultural production which is strong and competitive.

During this phase of recession some tension has reigned in the markets, but we must not fix our gaze on a horizon which is limited simply to one government mandate but look at the future and the commitment which we, FAO, the governments themselves and international agencies, particularly the UN, must make so that we can really turn the page. Turn the page means that we have to focus on agricultural production. What we need to do is to be consistent with what Mr Diouf has just said and that is to feed six million people in the world each day we would have to double agricultural production. Therefore, what we need is to ensure that the volume of production is equal to the need and we therefore have to sustain what I would call the multinational of small farmers, of agricultural production in general and we need to sow the seeds for our future. As Fontana Ashiva said, we have to invest in the true bank - which is that of land - a bank that conserves our identity and history. Europe in the coming days will be deciding which direction to take and where we will be sowing for the future. In a few moments I will have to leave you because I have been called to also be present at the negotiations within the EU and to close the marathon of negotiations regarding the Common Agricultural Policy for the EU. We are going there with an awareness that Europe has to take a look at its own models once again, and we have to realize that Europe has made errors in its programmes and that we have always talked about excess of supply in the past and now we are faced with scarcity. The European Union has a deficit of millions of tonnes of milk and of meat, as well as of cereal and this shows that the Common Agricultural Policy has to be reviewed and based on agricultural production as its main focus.

Today, we need to support the various firms through aid that does not lead to a destruction of the global markets. However, I would like to emphasize the fact that we have not always identified Europe as an ideal partner, and that we have to look beyond global values and also focus on enhancing the local level. It is, I think, the role of an international organization, such as FAO, where we can develop new policy models that can lead to a recovery of production, as well as productivity. It is now time for FAO and for us to show that we can respond to a civil society that is tired of international Roundtables and Summits, that we can find concrete answers to the problems that we are facing today, starting with the horrific poverty in which many rural areas find themselves in countries throughout the world. Eight percent of the world population lives with less than a dollar a day. FAO, along with the other organizations of the Roman pole of the United Nations, need to be the focus of our struggle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. I think FAO can make an important contribution in facing with energy and appropriate strategic

vision, the important challenges before us. However, this organization must have the necessary tools so that it can be an effective, concrete and strong one.

I have read with attention the results of the Immediate Plan of Action for the Reform of FAO and I feel that the analysis and suggestions it contains are optimal, and we have to get the plan up and moving as quickly as possible. This is if we are going to respond to the call for change coming from most of the Member Nations and from people throughout the world.

I would also like to express my own personal appreciation, that of Government, to all members of the Committee of the Conference for FAO Reform that have made a concrete contribution to the final agreement. According to their analysis, it is necessary to develop a new Strategic Framework to define clearly FAO's priority, to eliminate those activities where it does not hold a comparative advantage and to establish all possible operative synergies with other UN Agencies. We fully agree with this.

Optimizing and making the actions more effective and efficient is obviously what we and I would like to support. We think the measures to improve the governance and greater control of the Membership of the Organization is necessary to ensure the proper functioning of its Governing Bodies. Thus, we can focus our attention on global and regional policies, increase the participation of Member Nations in the decision-making processes and in the control of the Organization's activities, avoid duplication and define in greater detail the responsibilities and the division of work between Conference, Council and Technical Committees.

As far as we are concerned, we would certainly encourage the rationalization of the Organization's structure to ensure greater operative efficiency in the administrative processes. The changes in management culture and organizational structures are also necessary in effectively contributing to improving the efficiency of this Organization.

These, as well as other efforts made to rationalize the daily work of FAO, will contribute to bring it closer to the people of the world and to eliminate that image of a huge bureaucratic structure that has been created in people's minds over the years.

Allow me to also emphasize, once again, the need to strengthen the partnerships between international organizations of the Roman pole of the UN, so as to improve the efficiency and at the same time to avoid useless duplication, which can also be costly.

Amongst the UN initiatives, focusing on the same direction that were discussed at the High Level Conference 3-5 June 2008 on the world food crisis, we should focus on the Task Force established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, which highlights the role of FAO, IFAD and WFP. Italy certainly expects this to lead to a new way of seeing and thinking about what can be done in the most vulnerable areas.

For our part, we will do what is possible to change what needs to be changed. That is why, on the agenda for the next Italian Presidency of the G-8 – in April 2009 – a summit of the Ministers of Agriculture will take place to deal with the food crisis. We will be promoting an extended G-8 meeting with FAO and other international organizations and certain countries, including the UN Agencies of the Roman pole and the World Bank.

I, therefore, hope there will be a greater involvement in the project of the various international organizations and FAO, more specifically, so as to accelerate the peace process in the Mediterranean area. Only by agreeing together on a common approach can we go from words to action. We cannot wait any further.

We owe this to our fathers but even more to our own children, who have learned before we did how true it was what Willy Brandt, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, said some 30 years ago – "we must not forget that hunger is also a type of war".

## CHAIRPERSON

Before going any further I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Professor Noori Naeini for his skillful, constructive and forward-looking work as Chairperson of the Conference Committee on the IEE over the past year.

I also wish to express the appreciation of the Conference for the work put in by all those who represented their countries in the Conference Committee and its working groups, the Vice Chairs of the Conference Committee and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Working Groups, not to mention the Conference Committee Secretariat and the major inputs from Management.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall now give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who requested speaking time in advance. In view of the large number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to respect the seven-minute limit.

I shall now call upon the second speaker, His Excellency Jean Nkuéte, to come to the podium to address the Conference. He is Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, from Cameroon.

### **Jean KUÉTE (Cameroun)**

C'est un réel plaisir pour moi de me retrouver dans cette belle cité éternelle de Rome et de prendre la parole devant cette illustre Assemblée de la Trente-cinquième Session spéciale de la Conférence de notre Organisation au nom de la délégation que je conduit.

Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier chaleureusement le Gouvernement italien pour son accueil et les facilités mises à notre disposition depuis notre arrivée.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre brillante élection et de vous assurer du soutien inconditionnel du Cameroun à l'exercice de votre mandat en tant que Président de la Conférence. Il en est de même pour les Vice-présidents qui ont été élus avec vous. L'année dernière, pendant la même période, lors de la Trente-quatrième Session de la Conférence, nous avons adopté la Résolution 5/2007 sur le Suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO. Nous nous étions alors donné pour défi, dans la logique des recommandations de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, d'élaborer un Plan d'action immédiat et un cadre stratégique pour le renouveau de la FAO. C'était une tâche immense que nous nous sommes assignée et aujourd'hui nous devons en rendre compte.

Il me plaît de dire que le Cameroun qui était sur tous les fronts et qui a participé de manière assidue aux travaux du Comité de la Conférence que nous avons établi à cet égard, se réjouit des résultats atteints. Le Comité de la Conférence nous présente à cette S

ession spéciale un Rapport contenant le Plan d'action immédiat qui constitue aussi bien pour la Direction de la FAO que pour les États Membres une feuille de route pour 2009-2011.

Qu'il me soit donc permis de féliciter l'ensemble dudit Comité, présidée par le Professeur Noori, pour cet immense travail. Il est clair que la volonté et l'abnégation ont été les maîtres mots dans l'accomplissement de cette tâche. Cela va sans dire que lorsque les États Membres le veulent, ils peuvent exercer une gouvernance coordonnée et négocier des textes dans un esprit constructif, extirpé des clivages régionaux. Il faut aussi reconnaître que l'implication directe du Directeur général de la FAO et de toute son équipe a été déterminante pour le succès du processus. À cet égard, un hommage bien mérité leur est destiné.

Le Plan d'action immédiat que nous avons devant nous est à tous égards, un document de très grande qualité, et, je ne doute pas un seul instant qu'après son adoption, il serve d'outil de travail qui guidera notre action dans les trois prochaines années. Seulement, un plan est une chose et sa mise en œuvre en est une autre. La disponibilité des ressources financières reste par conséquent un élément essentiel pour boucler avec succès le processus. La création d'un fonds fiduciaire est, de notre point de vue, le mode idoine de mobilisation des fonds. Nous en appelons donc à tous les États Membres de contribuer à ce fonds. Le Cameroun va, quant à lui, agir dans cette direction.

S'il est acquis que le fonds fiduciaire servira à financer le Plan d'action immédiat au cours de l'année 2009, il nous importe de recommander à la structure du suivi que nous mettons en place au cours de cette Conférence de rester flexible quant au mode de financement pour 2010-2011.

Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais continuer mon propos sans m'arrêter un instant sur les grands problèmes globaux du moment, notamment la flambée des prix toujours élevés des produits agricoles et la crise financière mondiale. Il est vrai que sur le plan chronologique la manifestation de la crise financière est postérieure à celle de la flambée des prix des produits agricoles. La réponse à ces crises qui sont diversement organisés d'un pays à l'autre nonobstant les réflexions globales déjà engagées. Pour ce qui concerne mon pays, le Cameroun, la flambée des prix des produits agricoles nous a durement frappés à tel point que nous avons été appelés à prendre des mesures d'urgences pour calmer les mouvements d'humains de la rue que nous avons connus en février 2008.

Le Gouvernement a pris des mesures diverses sur le plan salarial, de régularisation réglementaire, de contrôle des prix, etc. Un Plan d'urgence de près de 100 millions de dollars E.-U. par an a même été développé. L'efficacité de ces mesures a été reconnue par la Banque mondiale lors de sa revue du Programme triennal en septembre 2008. Cependant, cette efficacité restera limitée dans le temps tant que ces mesures ne seront pas soutenues par un effort sur le plan international car il s'agit là d'une question globale qui appelle une réponse globale.

Le Cameroun souhaite que les engagements déjà pris dans les Fora internationaux, notamment la Conférence de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire en juin 2008, le Sommet du G-8 ou alors les conclusions du G-20 du week-end dernier à Washington, les propositions du Groupe de travail sur la crise alimentaire mis en place par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, l'initiative de la FAO sur la flambée des prix des produits agricoles, etc. soient respectés et que des systèmes de suivi de leur mise en œuvre soient développés.

Le risque probable et dont nous anticipons aujourd'hui la portée, est que ces crises aboutissent à une nouvelle bipolarisation de notre monde avec le pôle des pays en développement qui doivent se battre face à la crise alimentaire, elle oppose des pays développés, préoccupés par la crise financière. La course vers des solutions de court terme, avec des mises en œuvre faites de manière éparpillée tels que les plans de sauvetage, les 'bailouts', les refinancements et les recapitalisations, peut, en fait, détourner l'attention de la communauté internationale hors du secteur agricole. L'ordre des priorités en matière de développement serait alors inversé. Chaque pays se comporte encore comme s'il porte en soi la solution du problème pour ses finances et pour sa population. En fait, compte tenu des montants en jeu – nous réfléchissons en termes de milliers de milliards de dollars E.-U. – il y a une forte probabilité que les engagement financiers, en terme d'aide publique au développement, ou de financement de développement tout court, ne soient plus tenus, et que la réaction globale pour juguler la crise alimentaire soit reléguée au second plan. Un tel scénario serait hautement dommageable pour les questions de développement et de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Au-delà des aspects pervers que générerait l'orientation prioritaire des ressources pour résoudre la crise financière, à travers des actions d'éclat, au coup par coup, et qui donneraient l'impression d'un 'soutage' ou 'quick fix' nous courons également le risque de démolir tout le tissu social. Avons-nous besoin d'un monde où les instincts grégaires feront surface où l'égoïsme des États Membres naît de ses cendres, de où les États se préoccupent d'abord de leur propre survie avant de réfléchir sur la solidarité internationale. Si nous réussissons à coups d'injections de milliards à juguler la crise financière dans les pays développés, serons nous prêts à payer le prix d'une déflagration dans les pays en développement si le nombre des affamés s'y accroît de manière exponentielle comme conséquence de la crise alimentaire et si les recettes publiques sont fortement réduites ou alors si le secteur privé devient non opérationnel parce que son bras séculier qui est la banque devient non liquide. En toute logique, le monde ne saurait, aujourd'hui se contenter de solutions polarisées pour résoudre des problèmes à l'échelle planétaire.

Dans ce contexte les éléments du communiqué du G-20 reconnaissant la nécessité de rejeter le protectionnisme on se donna douze mois au cours desquels il n'y aura aucune nouvelle barrière à

l'investissement ou au commerce des biens et services ou encore s'engageant à conclure des négociations du cycle de droits cette année portant tout leur pesant.

En nous inspirant des faits historiques, notamment les réactions égoïstes des États Membres à la grande récession de l'après première guerre mondiale, sur laquelle John Maynard Keynes et d'autres économistes ont amplement écrit, et qui ont entraîné la seconde guerre mondiale, nous avons intérêt à œuvrer pour que les mêmes causes ne fassent pas les mêmes effets. Il nous faut alors nous attaquer ensemble aux sources des crises de manière concertée, méthodique, déterminée et énergique pour que le développement des Nations soit toujours au centre de nos préoccupations. À ce titre, l'engagement de la communauté internationale pour un investissement accru en agriculture devrait être réitéré et suivi d'effets. Ceci demande à la communauté internationale d'être plus imaginative et concrète dans son action.

Nous avons hâte de voir la communauté internationale apporter des financements plus importants pour l'accroissement de la production agricole mondiale, notamment dans les pays en développement, où il est prouvé que les opportunités offertes par la hausse des prix des produits agricoles, ne se sont pas traduites par une hausse commensurable de la production agricole.

Nous avons également hâte de voir se concrétiser l'initiative du Président français, Nicholas Sarkozy, annoncée ici même, dans cette salle, en juin dernier, lors de la Conférence de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire, concernant le développement d'un partenariat mondial pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture', qui serait soutenu par une facilité de financement. Autant nous supportons cette initiative, autant nous considérons le pôle romain des Nations Unies comme étant à même d'assurer le leadership de cette initiative, au regard de son expérience et de son avantage comparatif en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture.

Nous saluons la décision groupe de la Banque mondiale de la semaine dernière, de prendre de nouveaux engagements pour les pays en développement à concurrence de 100 millions E.-U. pour les trois prochaines années, avec pour objectif d'atténuer l'effet de la crise financière sur les populations les plus pauvres qui sont les plus durement touchées.

Monsieur le Président, pour terminer mon propos je voudrais réitérer la confiance du Cameroun dans le travail de la FAO comme institution génératrice de savoir dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement rural et en ses capacités à remplir son mandat en collaboration avec les autres institutions internationales, notamment le FIDA et le PAM, dans un partenariat stratégique et réaffirmer notre soutien au processus de réforme engagée il y a plus de trois ans. Donc nous pensons qu'elle va dans la bonne direction et pourra faire tâche due dans l'ensemble du Système des Nations Unies.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to be polite and I appeal to you to respect the seven-minute limit and now Bangladesh, the Honourable Chowdhury Sajjadul Karim, Minister for Agriculture, please take the floor.

### **Chowdhury SAJJADUL KARIM (Bangladesh)**

At the outset, kindly allow me to extend my heartiest congratulations on your election. My delegation pledges full support to you and others in the bureau in conducting the business of this Conference. I would also like to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General, for his leadership to FAO activities, which are providing valuable supports to agricultural development around the globe.

We commend and congratulate Professor Mohammed Saeid Noori Naeni for successfully facilitating the process of reform. I would also like to recall with great satisfaction the hard work of the Chairs of the three Working Groups for steering the intense negotiations. The active participation of the Member Nations throughout the process helped make the entire exercise a truly membership driven and inclusive endeavour, thereby ensuring its acceptance.



In recent past, we in Bangladesh made substantial progress in enhancing food security by increasing production of rice, wheat, maize and potato, improving infrastructure, disseminating technology to the farmers, making food delivery to the poor more efficient and liberalizing agriculture input trade. Even then, natural disasters continue to frustrate our aims to attain sustainable food security and to reduce poverty.

As many of you would recall, last year we experienced two major floods and a devastating cyclone called Sida within a span of three months, which had wiped out substantial parts of our standing crops, thrice. This coincided with the global food crisis. It was becoming increasingly difficult to access food from the international market. The pre-green revolution scarcity was looming on the horizon. We were staring at the harsh realities of hunger and poverty.

But with the resilience of our farmers and timely intervention of the government we staged a remarkable turnaround with bumper production of a few crops and managed to ease the adverse impact of high food prices. In less than a year since then smiles have come back to the faces of the farmers. It has been possible to build the National Food Stock to a reasonably satisfactory level. Access of the vulnerable groups to food has been improved by introducing a variety of social safety net programmes, including an innovative one on hundred days guaranteed employment. We value the support of our developed partners and appreciate their contribution in mitigating the damages caused by the disasters last year.

We recently decided to dedicate a particular day of the year as the National Agriculture Day. A few days back, on 15 November we had observed this day for the first time. This was a huge event, when we officially recognized the bravery and heroic efforts of the farmers in attaining food security.

The FAO Country Office in Bangladesh has been very supportive during our most difficult times as well as in sharing our hopes and aspirations. This partnership was demonstrated during the recent celebrations on the occasion of World Food Day and the National Agriculture Day which received nationwide coverage with mass participation. In this context, I would like to express my appreciation to the FAO team in Dhaka.

Looking back, the disasters last year in Bangladesh are the manifestations of wake-up calls. With Climate Change, such events would appear in diversified ways with the intensity and frequency multiplying significantly. One can have the satisfaction that the international community now accepts without reservation the threats of climate change. We also believe that consensus on reducing global emission of greenhouses gases in phases will be attained. This is, however, a question of time. Meanwhile, some of the changes in low lying countries such as Bangladesh would have been irreversible. In that context inaction cannot be an option for us. Catastrophic climatic events like floods, cyclones, droughts and salinity would thwart our development initiatives. Even if for a moment we forget about the vulnerabilities to housing, access to water and all other facets of livelihood and poverty for a the fundamental need of sustainable food security will be stretched to a level hitherto unknown. We have to find answers to such stresses and make the agriculture system tolerant and responsive to three vulnerabilities. We understand many other countries will face similar or even worse stresses of Climate Change.

I must confess, in the present context of the stress to global food security, the need for reform in FAO assumes inordinate significance. Thus, as a Member Nation, we welcome the reform proposals which are a major milestone for the Organization's sixty-year history. We understand that this is the first time such a comprehensive reform exercise has been undertaken in one of the most important organs of the UN with its unique mandate. The indepth analytical work on the findings of IEE is a solid basis for our discussions and I am confident that at the end of the day we will be set on course, in transforming our Organization, better and stronger.

We have to realize that the commendable work done by FAO and the achievements of the Green Revolution of the past had given us a hope in ensuring food security. As seen in the wake of the food and energy crisis during the last few months, our dreams could easily be wiped out. Time has come to open a new chapter of Green Revolution capable of ensuring sustainable global food

security resilient to stresses, including those of climate change. It assures us that a reformed and revitalized FAO will be in a better position to take prompt actions that would help its Member Nations in successfully meeting the challenges of the future. Adaptation strategies and programmes that have been initiated in some countries including Bangladesh need constant nurturing. With the support of the international community FAO can play a catalytic role in bolstering these efforts through more pro-active and result-oriented, stand-alone or regional programmes. The support of the delivery of services have to be innovative and implemented on a fast-track. I hope the new planning framework under the reform package will facilitate such effort levels.

However, while we tackle one set of challenges, new ones keep cropping up like the most recent global financial meltdown. This demonstrates once again that no country can address the challenges of food security alone, specially during these difficult times. We, therefore, stand committed to work with FAO towards the realization of the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition. At the same time we must not lose sight of the complex challenges of volatile energy prices, fertilizer availability, and the issue of biofuels.

In this context it would be most appropriate to establish a high level panel of experts on food security, FAO could take the lead considering the liabilities that confront us now and more importantly what awaits us in the future.

We are pleased to learn that an Immediate Plan of Action will provide a firm basis for FAO to significantly enhance its global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. We believe that Reform is a living process and we, therefore, support the concept of reform with sustained growth totally responsive to new challenges. We are confident that the governance reform package will be able to deliver better with more transparency and accountability. We are encouraged by the management's commitment to take all necessary actions to generate potential savings identified in the Immediate Plan of Action. We hope in the spirit of reform with focused growth targets, these savings would be ploughed back into technical programmes in Member Nations. Change is in the air, and my best wishes to the FAO Culture Change Team for their pioneering work to bring about change in this Organization. We hope we have enough built-in flexibility and innovativeness so that we can incorporate recommendations of the Root and Branch Review in 2009 as and when it becomes available.

Given the enormity of the challenge that lies ahead we remain committed to oversee the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. We hope the membership can come forward with necessary extra budgetary resources which will be required for the implementation. We hope that the current financial crisis does not hinder progress in this important area. As a member of this august body we stand ready to contribute more constructively during the implementation phase. We will also be more involved in monitoring overall progress in the coming years. Our success will hinge on our collective action and may the same spirit of cooperation prevail during the years to come.

Let us work together in the interest of sustainable food security, to eradicate hunger, to reduce poverty, to provide each child of the world with nutrition that makes him mentally and physically stronger and thus equip them better to survive under hostile climatic conditions. If we do that, the future generations will not have scope to question the collective wisdom of our generation.

#### **Sra Marigen Hornkohl VENEGAS (Chile)**

En nombre del Gobierno de Chile queremos agradecer la oportunidad de poder dirigirnos a todos ustedes en esta mañana en el marco de la Conferencia de la FAO, en su 35º Período Extraordinario de Sesiones.

Para Chile, esta Conferencia representa, sin duda, una ocasión única, muy importante y trascendente, no sólo por lo que acordaremos respecto de Plan Inmediato de Acción para la renovación de la FAO, sino porque esta Conferencia se realiza en un escenario global, complejo y difícil marcado por la situación de la crisis financiera global, en la que ya son varios los países que reconocen estar ya entrando en recesión. A esto se suma la situación de crisis de escasez

relativa y de alza de los precios de los alimentos que este año ha marcado profundamente a nuestro sector agroalimentario mundial; y por último, lo que es cada día más evidente, los signos de cambio climático que están afectando a partes importantes de nuestro planeta.

Es este nuevo escenario el que nos plantea una mayor urgencia, y sobre todo una mayor exigencia en nuestra tarea de definiciones y decisiones respecto al proceso de Reforma de la FAO. Con este escenario difícil, incierto y complejo que estamos enfrentando, la agricultura ha adquirido, sin duda, una mayor dimensión, existiendo una revalorización de la agricultura y de los espacios rurales. Estos temas están cada día más presentes, sea como preocupación que como respuesta en el pensamiento y en las ideas de los líderes mundiales y de los más altos niveles políticos.

Es por ello que Chile ve en esta situación de crisis también una gran oportunidad, donde la agricultura se vuelve a considerar como un factor poderoso para el desarrollo de la humanidad, a fin de contribuir de manera efectiva a la reducción de la pobreza y la hambruna en el mundo y para mitigar o reducir los impactos del cambio climático en nuestro medio ambiente.

Es en este nuevo escenario que el rol de la FAO se hace aún más importante y trascendente para la humanidad. Por eso queremos expresar con fuerza y convicción, que debemos avanzar decididamente en la transformación de la FAO en una Organización más fuerte y más efectiva. Este nuevo escenario se hace propicio para relanzar el liderazgo de la FAO, ya como Organización renovada que conquista los desafíos que enfrentamos hoy, pero especialmente que enfrenta los desafíos del mañana.

Queremos una FAO que, siendo fiel y consecuente con los principios que la crearon allá en el año 1945, responda a las demandas reales de los Países Miembros con focalización, definición de prioridades y, desde luego, haciendo un gasto eficiente en sus programas y en sus acciones.

Países como Chile se han visto beneficiados enormemente con el quehacer de la FAO. El desarrollo agrícola y pesquero, así como el sector rural chileno, viven hoy una situación de progreso y modernidad, con una alta productividad y competitividad, que son gran parte fruto de las muchas contribuciones que la FAO ha realizado en nuestro país a lo largo de más de 60 años.

La FAO ha acompañado a nuestro país, desde luego, con su presencia en su Sede Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, situación que nos distingue y nos permite acogerla con alegría, pero también durante todos estos años su acompañamiento ha sido concreto y expreso en nuestro desarrollo agrícola, pesquero, rural y alimentario; creando y fortaleciendo la institucionalidad agropecuaria, forestal y alimentaria; consolidando las áreas de políticas, investigación, información y transferencia de tecnología; formando capacidades técnicas; favoreciendo la organización y participación de las comunidades rurales; promoviendo la conservación, la protección y el mejoramiento de los recursos naturales y, sobre todo, ofreciendo un espacio neutral y de encuentro para el análisis, el dialogo, el debate y la búsqueda de acuerdos y soluciones.

Nuestro país renueva su compromiso con el multilateralismo como forma de enfrentar los problemas globales y asumir los desafíos que tenemos como civilización. Tenemos que aprender a gobernar mejor la globalización y a fortalecer el rol de la política en esta tarea. Necesitamos de organizaciones multilaterales modernas que faciliten la administración y el gobierno en estos tiempos de globalización.

Estamos seguros de que para alcanzar el objetivo de reformar la FAO se requerirá del compromiso y, sobre todo, de un rol activo de cada uno de los Países Miembros, primero con la aprobación y luego con la implementación del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Finalmente, Chile desea expresar su compromiso con la Reforma de la FAO, participando activamente en este proceso, sea como una de las delegaciones y como Presidente de turno del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Legales, lo que nuevamente nos enorgullece y nos obliga aún más.

Señores delegados, avancemos con decisión en la Reforma. La FAO nos necesita y nosotros necesitamos una FAO fuerte y renovada.

## CHAIRPERSON

And now Kuwait, His Excellency Jasem Mohammad Habib Al-Bader, Chairperson and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources of the State of Kuwait.

### **Jasem Mohammad HABIB AL-BADER (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)**

It is an honour for me at the outset of my comments to extend the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Sabah IV Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Emir of the State of Kuwait.

His Highness would like to extend to your Conference full success in its endeavours and he trusts that the Conference will be up to what the people throughout the entire world expect of FAO. It is pleasure on this occasion to extend our full thanks to FAO for having invited us to take part in this Conference.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of this Organization and also congratulate the Deputy Director-General and the ADGs and Mr Noori, the Chairperson of the FAO Council. I congratulate all of these persons because have worked hand in hand with the Member Nations of this Organization in order to come up with this Immediate Plan of Action to renew FAO in the course of the forthcoming two years, the 2009-2011 biennium.

I also would like to congratulate the Chairperson of this Conference and the Vice-Presidents thereof who have been elected by all of us in order to hold the helm during the proceedings of this Conference. I am sure, as we all are sure, that they will be able to bring together the collective efforts deployed by Member Nations in this effort to analyze and assess this important issue now before us at this Conference. I trust and hope that we will be possible for us to come up with the recommendations and decisions that shall be most efficient and effective in this area.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your Excellencies and distinguished colleagues, we are today, once again together, and this after the High-Level Conference organized by FAO, in an effort to focus our attention on food security and to find a solution to the world food crisis, and this by adopting strategies and general policies that will enable us to better channel food resources within the World Food Programme as well. Despite the succession of all these High-Level Conferences, and especially so since 1996 when we did meet at the World Food Summit here in Rome, the World Food Summit that declared it was necessary to half the number of people suffering hunger by 2015, this noble goal was reiterated and reconfirmed by the Heads of State and Government who met in Rome in 2002 at the World Food Summit-five years later. Now this goal of halving the hungry is the priority of priorities in the Millenium Development Goals. Now despite, as I was saying all those Conferences and despite constant confirmation of this objective, progress towards the achievement thereof is very slow indeed. Many countries are still limping along the road of development and this involves many people throughout the entire world. Now as it is most probable, the rise of food prices shall continue over the next few years to come and this constitutes a particular threat for the poorest countries. Therefore, to supply food, the food necessary to nourish humankind is going to be a constant challenge and a great challenge, especially because between now and 2015 the world population will be nine billion people. So the first challenge awaiting us is to develop a sort of Green Revolution in order to intensify production and to double the increase in agricultural production to feed people. The rich countries will therefore have to double their efforts in order to provide more assistance to developing countries so that the latter may develop their agricultural sectors and not freeze investments which are undertaken in the area of bio-energy.

If we really want to half the number of people suffering hunger throughout the world by a certain period of time, we need political willingness and this can only be achieved and brought about if we do lay the essential foundations of the auspicious political structure and if we do provide the necessary financing/funding for the implementation of those programmes that shall enable us to put and end to the problem of hunger, to the issue of poverty, and therefore all of us have to work together and cooperate in what we call the Alliance Against Hunger. Each party has to assume his or her responsibilities, each person has to play a positive role in order to limit, to decrease the hunger divide or the hunger gap and use resources to the best purposes and ends possible. Now

this Organization, thanks to its regional and national offices, this Organization will as I see it, play a leading role and provide counsel and advice, provide us with the necessary technical support and backstopping so that the poor countries, those countries that are in need, can be assisted in developing their farming, their agricultural sector, their agricultural institutions and adopt policies and programmes which are suited to their needs so they too may participate in the collective efforts of this International Alliance Against Hunger.

I would like to confirm the results achieved by the IEE. What we need is an FAO which is evolved, an FAO that works with efficiency and effectiveness in order to be a prime and active partner in the collective response to world problems. Only an organization of the calibre akin to that of FAO can play a legitimate role, the role of being the leader in the area of agriculture and food. I do feel, Sir, that the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, and this I trust and hope, will only mark the beginning, the true beginning of this Reform, this nascent Reform. We all trust and hope that this reform will be carried out positively and we hope that this Reform will be the first step along the right way, along the good way, along that pathway that will enable us to overcome obstacles to surmount those hurdles which stand in the way of our food development plans, those plans and those programmes which we hope will enable everyone throughout the world to have reasonable and sustainable access to the nutrition they need.

FAO is the entity which, par excellence, is called to task by this challenge, hence the responsibility of FAO. FAO is to help the people throughout the world coping with hunger and tackling poverty and this Organization cannot work on its own. The Organization has to work with pride of place as a partner in a multilateral system. I pray that God the Almighty might listen and provide us with all the assistance for the success we all wish for.

**Tony BURKE (Australia)**

It is my pleasure to address the Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference as Australia's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Today the three biggest challenges facing the world are also fundamental to agriculture: climate change, the global food crisis and the global financial crisis. For agriculture the long-term challenge is to produce more food while we deal with climate change and increasing water scarcity and work through the investment and credit challenges of the financial crisis.

There is no easy fix, but in Australia's view there are four crucial elements to the response: direct assistance, capacity-building, increased productivity and better trade flows. Direct assistance to improve global food security is vital as an immediate response.

Since May this year, the Australian Government has contributed more than a hundred million dollars to the international effort, this includes to the World Bank Trust Fund, to the Emergency Appeal of the World Food Programme and to additional assistance beyond our existing work to Indonesia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and North Korea. But direct assistance can only go so far. A longer-term solution means that we must also invest in capacity-building to provide countries with the means to lift themselves out of poverty and to come closer to feeding their own populations. Agencies such as the Australia Centre for International Agriculture Research do very important work with developing nations to help them with the technology to generate their own food supply.

We must also do our part domestically to promoting fresh productivity. For Australia any discussion of productivity needs to take account of the increasing challenge posed by climate change. Climate change presents a significant risk to the sustainability of our agricultural production and this has implications for national and international food supplies. The productivity of Australian agriculture will be affected by climate change through higher temperatures, longer and deeper droughts, more intense bushfires, reduced water availability, more extreme weather events and the consequent spread of bio-security threats.

Australia's farming future is a major future initiative, providing a multipronged approach to help build adaptable and resilient producers and industries and strengthen their ability to manage

climate change while managing productivity in to the future. It increases our research and development capacity and uses training programmes to get the best technology from the laboratory through to the farm. Investment by governments and international partnerships in research development is another key part of the productivity equation. Today we have improved technology, better farming practices, plant breeding and food distribution systems. But we are constrained by limited available agricultural land and shrinking water resources. Governments must re-focus investment in agricultural research and development, to boost productivity within the constraints of land and resource availability, and we must not be afraid to look at genetically-modified organisms.

Food safety should remain of paramount importance but we should look at this emerging science on a case by case basis and open our minds to the possibility that GMOs can be one piece of the jigsaw puzzle as we face climate change and food security.

Finally it is not enough to produce more food. We must create an environment in which food can move more freely to where it is needed. Australia as a member of the G20, was heartened when the G20 leaders this week recognized the critical importance of an open global economy to economic growth and prosperity, to lifting people out of poverty and to raising global living standards.

Leaders committed to strive towards a successful conclusion to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome.

Australia strongly believes that a more liberal trading regime can make an important contribution to alleviating the world food crisis. Concluding the Doha Round will offer improved incentives and opportunities for efficient farmers in developing and developed countries alike to expand their output and supply the global marketplace.

The FAO has done much to raise international awareness about the problems facing countries affected by food shortages. Today a high-performing FAO is more necessary than ever. We come together at this Conference precisely because of the high expectations riding on the FAO as a pre-eminent international agency dedicated to the eradication of world hunger. Australia has always been a strong supporter of the FAO and has been active in its important and diverse range of activities. We acknowledge the pivotal role played by the FAO when adding to global research and knowledge base for food and agriculture for more than half a century.

Australia sees reform of the FAO as essential in enabling the Organization to continue to support agricultural research, development and capacity-building into the future.

The FAO will need to be increasingly agile with the structure and capacity to continually meet new and unforeseen challenges. This includes the negotiations as we move to a new Climate Change Agreement in Copenhagen. Those who work the land have more at stake than any other part of the economy in successfully responding to climate change. They have a unique interest in ensuring carbon accounting matches the science. A reinvigorated FAO will provide Members, and particularly developing Member Nations, with a reliable fully-functioning global institution for the dissemination of research, skills and knowledge relevant to increasing agricultural productivity. With prioritized funding and efficient programmes, donors can be more confident that their contributions will deliver targeted results ensuring maximum returns for participants.

We need to support FAO activities that encourage sustainable, productive and profitable agricultural, fisheries and forestry practices. A revitalized FAO, equipped with a modern management culture and practices befitting a global Twenty-first Century institution would be best placed to rise to the challenge of maintaining its role and mandate into the future.

Though much has been achieved, much remains to be done. The significance of the work of the FAO, and what its Member Nations are doing cannot be overstated. The fundamental goal of every individual is to feed themselves and their families. If we get it right, the FAO and its members can do that for the world. Reform has never been more important. It is vital to meet the challenges the world faces. It is an opportunity we must all embrace.

**Aramayis Temur GRIGORYAN (Armenia) (Original language Armenian)**

I have the honour to be here and to greet all the participants of the Session, and extend my acknowledgments to FAO's management for the invitation and the warm reception.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the whole Armenian nation has always appreciated the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) mission very highly. The membership of Armenia in this Organization has almost two decades of history. However, our cooperation has shown that FAO is always there, where there are risks of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, where there is a need to address the food security and agricultural efficiency problems through consistent reform measures in the agrarian sector.

This Conference has rather interesting and important objectives. They are aimed at FAO's reorganization, that is, institutional and functional improvement of its activities. I represent a country which was a member of the Soviet Union and had numerous integration links with all Soviet Member Nations. Moreover, the economic development and specialization issues have been generally resolved in the framework of unified interests and relations.

As regards to the integration links, during the more than one and a half decades of the post-Soviet period, we have had more losses than achievements. International organizations, particularly the UN organizations and FAO, have had their valuable contributions in those achievements. Taking into account our country's local peculiarities, we propose that preference be given to the implementation of FAO's regional projects. With the assistance of the FAO European Regional Representation Office, Armenia has always and already been involved in some regional projects. It is worth mentioning the buffer zones' veterinary projects, the food safety capacity-building project, and the conservation and efficient utilization of genetic resources project. However, the mentioned projects create limited opportunities for the development of integration links. Therefore, we propose to activate perhaps relatively slow moving projects in the framework of the Black Sea countries' cooperation efforts, and to pay special attention to animal health issues, stabilization of the epizootic environment and the establishment of rapid response interstate structures for epidemic prevention in the South Caucasus region.

Recently, much has been said about global climate changes and their negative influence. The approaches and proposed solutions for this issue are rather different and sometimes even contradictory. We believe that FAO has a great role and the capacity to develop preventive measures for mitigating the risks connected with expected climate changes and their consequences, especially for risk diversification. There is a necessity in providing technical assistance, particularly to the developing countries, for elaborating local models and the implementation of the preventive projects taking into account the natural climatic features in the country.

A second important issue is the conservation of agricultural lands, the most valuable resources on Earth. Urbanization and the consequential processes cause great damage to these important resources. From both the environmental and production points of view, the conservation of natural landscapes does not recognize country borders. Therefore, we propose to put emphasis on the land, water and air conservation issues in FAO regional projects. The conservation of land resources is a core issue for my country also, as water erosion, typical for mountainous countries, on the one hand, and soil salinity problems, on the other, exclude cultivation of thousands of hectares of land. In our country, there are no modern technologies directed to the prevention of the mentioned problems. Therefore, we again anticipate FAO's assistance for the identification of the scientific potential and the elaboration of effective technologies.

It is also worth mentioning one important issue, which is the conservation and utilization of genetic resources. As mentioned before, Armenia is involved in regional projects. However, these projects in general have mostly educational and capacity-building purposes. It is desirable that practical specific assistance be considered and implemented.

Following the strategic objectives and reforms implemented by FAO, as well as the realization of the MDGs, the Government of the Republic of Armenia will take steps for carrying out the

following issues: the sustainable intensification of agricultural production; the sustainable volume increase of animal production; the sustainable and rational utilization of forestry resources; the sustainable utilization of land, water and genetic resources, the improvement of responsive measures to the environmental issues related to agricultural and food production; improvement of food quality and safety at all stages of the production chain; establishment of favourable conditions for the improvement of market mechanisms aimed to increase people's welfare; ensuring gender equality in accessible resources, products and services, as well as in decision-making processes in the agricultural disciplines; increase in state and private investments for agricultural development and the strengthening of their efficiency.

We are very proud of our proposing that the European Commission on Agriculture and the European Regional Conference be held in Yerevan, Armenia in 2010. We appreciate the confidence that the Director-General and the European Regional Conference, held in Innsbruck, Austria in 2008 have put in us in organizing this very important Conference. We intend to effectively and efficiently host both meetings in Yerevan. We have already initiated the organization of these two events to start implementing the IEE recommendations and the Reform process of FAO regarding the strengthening of Regional Conferences input in FAO decision-making. The agenda will be commensurate with topics which will allow Member Nations to review real issues and come up with practical solutions to regional problems.

Allow me to extend also our deepest gratitude on behalf of the Government of Armenia to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the FAO staff, all the donor communities and all the countries with goodwill for their collaborative efforts in assisting Armenia.

#### **Stephen Masatu WASSIRA (United Republic of Tanzania)**

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, it is my great pleasure and honour to be attending this remarkable Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, specially convened to receive the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. We note and appreciate the exemplary work which has been done by the Conference Committee.

I congratulate the Chairperson of the Conference Committee and his team, including FAO management, for the collaborative efforts and partnership in reviewing all the recommendations which were made by the IEE and coming up with a well-focussed and practicable Immediate Plan of Action (IPA).

Today we reiterate our commitment for the FAO Reform knowing that the world has been sliding backward on achievement of the reduction of undernourished people. The world is facing a massive food crisis. As if that was not enough, the world has been hit by another crisis of even higher magnitude, that is the uncertainty of the global financial system. The environment has since become worse to the vulnerable farmers, fishers, pastoralists and forestry-dependent people, when the effects of climate change, rising fuel and agricultural inputs prices and the use of food crops for production of biofuels are brought into the picture.

Let me recognize the collaborative efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General through the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and the resulting Comprehensive Framework for Action; the FAO for the High Level Conference on World Food Security of June 2008; the FAO Regional Conferences, as well as other initiatives by other stakeholders, towards addressing the global food crisis, including commitments and some financial support to developing countries. I would also like to thank IFAD and WFP for the actions they have taken in response to this problem. I urge the development partners and other stakeholders not to forget their commitments to the cause of addressing issues of hunger and food insecurity, particularly in the poorest regions of the world.

On our part, Tanzanian is currently implementing a sector-wide Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDCP) which aims at creating an enabling and conducive environment for



improving the productivity and profitability of this sector. In regard to the rising global and local food prices, we have responded with immediate short-term mitigation measures including provision of targeted input subsidies through the crop and livestock subsectors, encouraging use of locally available based phosphorus fertilizer to encourage local food production, replenishment and strengthening the strategic national food reserve and improving extension services. It is in this undertaking that we urge the international community's support.

The global situation adds to the need and urgency of the FAO reform agenda. We believe the ground is set in the IPA for the Organization to embark on the current and future challenges. The key pillars include the summary elements of the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan. The strategic objectives of FAO should remain flexible to allow planning for the future, innovativeness and responsive to rapidly changing external conditions. The results-based management model in implementation of the programmes will facilitate FAO to report to the Members on the development, results and impacts that were being achieved. Tanzania will play her role to achieve the desirable results at the country level.

The concept of "Reform with Growth" has a wide meaning including budget structures, staff members, competencies, performance levels, etc. Next year, through 2009, the Conference Committee will elaborate on this. Nevertheless, recalling from the IEE Report, it is clear that FAO cannot be expected to undertake the programmes effectively with a reduced budget. We have witnessed the instances and repercussions in 1994-1995 when the FAO regular budget declined in real terms by 22 percent and continued at such low levels in subsequent years. To us, funding fully the Programmes of Work and Budget of FAO gives the true meaning of Reform with Growth. The integration of regular and extra-budgetary resources will have a positive impact, harmonizing and focusing on agreed work. Further, timely payments of our assessed contributions will enhance growth.

The reform we are embarking on needs leadership in facilitating and driving the process. This leadership has first to come from the Membership through its Governing Bodies. The IPA establishes clarity on roles, mandates and relationship with management.

We want to congratulate the Director-General for his early initiative for change and readiness to lead the process. This is exhibited by the 117 early actions initiated in 2007 and implementation has progressed well. The collective and team-based leadership at all levels will be fundamental as FAO embarks on this Reform. The momentum of Reform needs to be maintained high and felt at all levels of management, from the Headquarters all through to the Country Offices. We hope the Change Team will play its crucial and active role, being transparent and inclusive of FAO staff under the leadership of the Deputy Director-General.

Let me reiterate that the IPA incorporates our desire for FAO renewal. Important institutional arrangements which are very vital to us, such as the enhancement of the status of Regional Conference meetings to be part of governance to discuss issues specific to our region and advice on the FAO programme for our region. Also the strengthening of Decentralized Offices by devolution is appreciated. Further, we reiterate the importance of the Technical Development Programme (TCP) which contributes to enhancing our food security. Therefore, increasing funds to TCP, protecting its voted fund from filling shortfalls elsewhere and clarity on its timeliness will improve this purpose.

In concluding, we look forward to a successful implementation of the IPA in 2009 and a smooth change process in the years to come. The Director-General in his message has said that it can be done and I add my voice to that; yes it can be done as long as everyone plays his or her part. Tanzania will play her part starting with the contribution to the Trust Fund to undertake the IPA in 2009 and will continue to honour timely payment of her assessed contribution to FAO.

**Matthew J. WALTER (Dominica)**

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to address the Thirty-fifth Special Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Similarly, I take this opportunity to say how grateful we are to the Food and Agriculture Organization for its

commitment to the development and progress of agriculture worldwide and its Small Island States such as Dominica. Our long and close association with FAO is one which we will continue to treasure. I also bring greetings from the Government and the people of Dominica and best wishes for a successful session. Mr Chairperson, on 3 November 2008, Dominica celebrated 30 years of independence, with a grand independence and reunion celebration. In reviewing our achievements over the last 30 years, we are proud of how far we have come since our national flag was raised in 1978. However, we still have great dreams to accomplish. Since the end of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference of FAO, world events have significantly impacted our countries and the viability of the agricultural sectors. Like other small states, Dominica has not been immune to the effects of high fuel and high food prices which have had such devastating economic consequences, especially for poor nations. The high cost of oil has also translated into escalating prices of essential agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and animal feed, which have seriously threatened the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The gains which we have made in attempting to increase investments in the sector have been significantly diminished by these high input costs. In addition, Dominica's agriculture continues to be seriously impacted by adverse weather events and particularly by hurricanes. Last year, Dominica's agricultural sector suffered a total loss of approximately US\$ 24 million from hurricane Diane. At this point, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for the technical assistance provided in assessing the damage to the sector and proposed follow-up project on disaster risk management for the agricultural sector. We will shortly formally request approval of this project as an FAO Technical Cooperation Project for implementation.

Mr Chairperson, as recently as 16 October of this year, and ironically on the occasion of World Food Day, Dominica's west coast was battered by 14-foot waves resulting from the passage of hurricane Omar through the Caribbean Sea. The total cost of damage to Dominica in the short term was estimated at US\$ 15.7 million. The fisheries sub-sector was particularly hard hit with damage to fishing boats, boat engines, fishing gear and fishing infrastructure, totalling approximately US\$ 2 million. These events spurred a significant setback for our fisheries sub-sector. We are now in the process of rebuilding the fisheries infrastructure and replacing lost boats and equipment so that our fishers can resume their trade and regain their income in the shortest possible time.

Mr Chairperson, despite all of these challenges, the Government of Dominica is committed to increasing its investment in the agricultural sector. We are pursuing this path because we are convinced of the important role of agriculture for the food security of the population of Dominica. For we are convinced that the high nutritional value of food which we produce can ensure good health for our population and, equally important, that agriculture can continue to contribute in a significant manner to our economy. We will therefore continue to actively collaborate with our partners in the sector such as the Food and Agriculture Organization to assist us to achieve these goals.

Mr Chairperson, in seeking to achieve our goals for agriculture, we are also forging closer relationships with the civil society organizations such as the Dominican Chamber of Agribusiness to develop and implement relevant programmes in agriculture. We believe that the contribution of this organization is critical to the growth of the agricultural sector and for fostering wider participation in the sector. The Government of Dominica firmly believes that the sector must benefit from continuous investment to facilitate its growth and thus we are currently engaged in programmes of investment in several areas of the sector which are outlined in the Ministry's investment plan entitled "Invest in agriculture, secure Dominica". These areas include agriculture, health and food safety, agricultural and fisheries infrastructure, agricultural business development, plant propagation facilities, agro-tourism facilities, information management.

Dominica has demonstrated its ability to recover, though not completely, from the impact of trade challenges to its main major export crop - bananas. We have bounced back from the ravages of devastating hurricanes and severe earthquakes. We are now facing a new development arrangement with Europe in the form of the economic partnership agreement. Our future is

dependent on the determination of our people to survive and to work hard to shape a better future for our country. We depend on the support from our partners such as the FAO.

I once again express my heartfelt gratitude to the FAO for providing technical support and guidance to our agricultural sector. Your sustained assistance has greatly enhanced our efforts to bring further development to the sector and for this we are sincerely thankful. In conclusion, I would wish FAO well during its restructuring process. Let us all hope and pray that the peoples of the world will be more equitably served by a newly-reformed FAO.

Mr Chairperson, delegates and participants, I thank you for your attention. May god bless you all.

**El Zubei Beshir TAHA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning to you all. I would like to greet you all with this Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference of FAO, and we are really keen in cooperating with FAO and all the Member Nations in order to achieve the reforms we are trying to implement.

Allow me to pay tribute to Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General, and excellent way in which he is leading this Organization. I should also like to pay tribute to the staff and to all the representatives of the countries and our guests. I would also like to pay tribute to Professor Noori and the members of Committee who provided us with an innovative analysis which has been unprecedented in the history of FAO for the Independent External Evaluation.

The Sudanese Government for more than ten years has been implementing a political and economical reform programme which led, in the political field, to putting an end to the longest civil strife in the African continent and the Constitution of the country referred to the distribution of power and resources. An ambitious programme for such a reform has been devised and the agricultural sector is contributing and we have mills and they are playing an increasing role in the agricultural sector in our production. This production has increased to more than 1000 percent this year in comparison to what happened in 1990. We have achieved an annual growth rate ranging between eight and twelve percent, and the agricultural sector has a permanent role in this growth.

The Government has devised an ambitious programme in order to develop the agriculture sector. It will cover four years, starting from 2008. We have set aside, out of the budget, an additional amount of US\$5 billion. This was set aside for agricultural development. This programme aims to improve the agricultural sector and to improve the institutional and human resources capacity in order to achieve production that will help us achieve food security, combat poverty, increase agricultural products and enhance our ability to compete on the world markets.

This programme is trying to establish investment partnerships in both the regional and international networks in order to provide the necessary financial and technical support for agricultural development and achieve the objective of this programme. We hope that FAO will provide assistance to us, and we hope that its assistance will be through the partnerships it has already established and those it is going to establish with other UN Agencies and countries. In Sudan, we value the role played by FAO in this field, in order to help us achieve food safety and the efforts made in sustainable development. We hope that most of the programmes will be devoted to development and not to relief programmes. We have national experts and qualified people who can contribute to achieving these programmes after their implementation.

In the field of preservation of nature and the climatic changes, we have established a project called the Green Creep, which calls for planting about seventy million trees in 2008. We have completed the first stage, and we are doing our best to complete this programme and to plant nine million trees in 2009 and especially in the area where we grow Arabic gum.

The ACSAD – the Arab Centre for Studies of Dry Lands – has helped us and we have managed to achieve the first stage of the base utilization of land in three uliahs or governorates of Sudan for three million hectares. We will include the other uliahs or governorates in this project until the end of 2009.

There is no doubt that the economic and climatic changes witnessed by the world will require that FAO should play an ever increasing role in their mitigation. This will be possible through structural reforms and by providing the resources that will help FAO implement agricultural projects that support sustainable development in the fields of research, statistics, information, marketing and capacity-building, and that make better use of the national experts and consultants in implementing these programmes.

In this respect, I would like to say that we are very keen on implementing the Immediate Plan of Action that would renew this FAO. There are innovative ideas included in the Report of the Committee of the Conference which have been set up in order to follow up the Independent External Evaluation. Of course, reforms will be implemented and this will benefit us in our respective countries.

I would like once again to thank you, Mr Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your attention. Thank you.

**Paul Biyoghé MBA (Gabon)**

Au terme d'une année de travail fructueux qui a vu plus que jamais une étroite collaboration entre nous États Membres, personnel et direction de la FAO, je me félicite de ce que le mandat que nous avons confié lors de notre dernière session en 2007 au Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi et de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO ait été rempli de façon aussi satisfaisante. En effet, le Plan d'action immédiate qui nous est présenté face à une feuille de route, comme le souligne le Président de notre Conférence, M. Noori-Naeini, que je remercie particulièrement, qui obéit à la conclusion principale de l'UEI à savoir la réforme dans la croissance de la FAO.

Notre Organisation a un rôle mondial unique dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Celui-ci est reconnu par tous et a été mis en exergue par l'Évaluation externe indépendante. La FAO qui avait déjà entamé une réforme il y a trois ans, à l'initiative de son Directeur général M. Jacques Diouf, mérite maintenant de se donner les moyens de réussir dans son but premier, à savoir la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté et le développement agricole mais aussi de pouvoir faire face aux nouveaux problèmes tels que la hausse des prix des produits alimentaires ou le changement climatique. A cet effet, nous appuyons au Gabon l'application immédiate des différentes mesures à réaliser en 2009 et félicitons par la même occasion le Directeur général Monsieur Jacques Diouf d'avoir, dès 2007 déjà, lancé 117 actions immédiates dans le cadre de ces prérogatives ainsi que pour les nouvelles économies d'efficacité de 22 millions de dollars E.-U. réalisées qui devraient être reversées sur les programmes techniques des pays en développement.

Nous sommes satisfaits de l'ensemble des propositions visant à apporter un renouveau dans le domaine de notre Organisation, que ce soit au niveau de la gouvernance des programmes et priorités, que de sa structure organisationnelle. Nous réitérons à cet égard l'importance que revêtent les programmes techniques pour les pays en développement et souhaitons qu'en 2009, lors de la finalisation du cadre stratégique et du Plan d'action à moyen terme, une attention particulière soit donnée à l'amélioration de la cohérence entre la gouvernance au Siège et la gouvernance dans les régions.

Monsieur le Président, la présente session se tient au moment où notre Organisation doit faire face à une série de problèmes, dont l'un des plus importants est celui de la crise de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui sera sans nul doute aggravée par la crise financière et économique, laquelle entravera certainement les efforts déjà entrepris dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire. Dans ce contexte, nos pays, tout comme la FAO doivent relever nombre de défis. Au Gabon, les plus hautes autorités en tête desquelles le Président de la République, Son Excellence Omar Bongo Ondimba confirme leur ferme détermination à mettre davantage un accent particulier sur l'accroissement de la production agricole et ont opté pour des mesures énergiques pour limiter la flambée des prix des produits alimentaires et maintenir par des subventions et des exonérations les prix des produits de base à un très bas niveau. De même, dans le cas du combat contre la faim et la pauvreté, le gouvernement gabonais a adopté une nouvelle politique agricole.

La nouvelle vision poursuit un double objectif: accroître la production agricole de manière durable et significative et réduire les importations des produits alimentaires, en moyenne de 5 pour cent par an. Pour ce faire et pour un meilleur encadrement des paysans, nous mettons également un accent fort sur la politique semencière, sur la recherche scientifique et sur la formation. Toujours dans cette perspective, nous avons adopté en étroite collaboration avec la FAO le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire dans la deuxième phase; le Programme national pour la sécurité alimentaire est en train de se mettre en place. De manière interne, le gouverneur gabonais a également adopté un autre programme, en abrégé le PRODIAG (Programme de Développement et d'Investissement Agricoles), qui a des effets d'entraînement appréciables sur plusieurs champs d'action: la production végétale, la production animale, l'emploi, le développement rural, la lutte contre la pauvreté. Dans le même but, actuellement un comité technique pluridisciplinaire travaille sur le Programme d'investissement à court terme du secteur agricole du Gabon pour la période 2009-2016. Ce programme sera soumis le 3 décembre prochain à la Commission nationale de l'agriculture et de l'élevage du Gabon, Commission nationale qui est présidée par le Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat. Après cette réunion, le gouvernement gabonais organise le 12 décembre 2008 une importante rencontre avec les principaux bailleurs de fonds et partenaires techniques parmi lesquels la FAO et le FIDA.

Je voudrais rappeler que pour appuyer les efforts de la communauté internationale dans la lutte contre les effets du changement climatique, le Gabon, pays membre du bassin du Congo, qui est désormais le deuxième poumon de l'humanité a consacré 11 pour cent de son territoire à la sauvegarde de la biodiversité et au maintien de l'équilibre écologique mondial en créant 13 parcs nationaux, il y a de cela cinq ans. Comme vous le voyez, mon pays s'inscrit ainsi en droite ligne du combat contre l'insécurité alimentaire, tel que promu par la FAO.

Ce combat, quelque soit la volonté politique des États Membres, n'est pas réalisable sans les moyens financiers requis. Pour la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate en 2009, notre organisation la FAO a besoin d'un montant d'une vingtaine de millions de dollars E.-U. Nous sommes donc tous appelés à contribuer au fonds fiduciaire spécial créé à cet effet. Je suis certain que chacun de nos pays, en fonction de ses capacités, voudra apporter sa pierre à l'édifice d'une FAO rénovée, efficace et efficiente. Le Gabon pour sa part ne faillira pas à son devoir. Je vous remercie.

**Alexander V. YAKOVENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

The Russian Federation supports the process of reforming FAO in order to increase its effectiveness and adapt to present circumstances. The purpose of the reform process, which is taking place in the framework of a global crisis, has to be to improve the Organization and make it able to deal with the development of agriculture and to ensure food security. So, with this in mind, I would like to say that we approve the coordinating role of FAO in order to develop agriculture and also to make use of the expert potential of the Organization for the benefit of all countries. We welcome the results of the activities of the Conference of FAO and the Immediate Plan of Action which was developed in order to reflect the variety of approaches of different countries and regions to the reforms. It was possible to avoid hasty and ill-considered steps and to force changes in the Basic Texts of the Organization.

The balanced approach to the reforms and the stage by stage implementation and change, and so we welcome the active participation of the Management and Secretariat of FAO in the reform process, and we express to her that this fruitful cooperation will continue in these matters.

Looking at the recommendations contained in the first part of the Immediate Plan of Action we support the new system, the new scheme for strategy and Programme of the Work and Budget of FAO. We welcome the changes in the principles for the budgets, in particular, the distribution of resources in accordance with strategic priorities. We are in favour of a reasonable balance between the programme and technical cooperation and the standard-setting work. The main criteria should be not to waste the expertise that FAO has built up.

As for the second part of the Immediate Plan of Action, the reform of the system of the Governing Bodies, Russia is in favour of regulating the work of the Governing Bodies to improve their effectiveness, to make them work in good order and to avoid overlapping. We consider it essential to keep the relevance of the mandates of these Bodies and not to allow an undermining of their decision-making, and we need to avoid any possibility for conflict of interest. However, we think it is important to decide in 2009 the matters in suspense regarding the Reform of FAO, including the number of Members of the Council and to do away with the regional imbalances. We need to remember the need to observe one of the basic principles of the United Nations, namely a fair geographical representation.

With regard to the third part of the Plan of Action, I would like to say that we support the principles of transparency and accountability. When the Secretariat carries out the decisions of the Members and the strengthening of other internal mechanisms, it should calculate risks and new administration features, in particular those borrowed from the business world. These should not be implemented automatically, but on the basis of the principle of reasonable sufficiency. It is seen that not all elements of corporate practice can be adapted to the UN System. We do have a doubt about the proposal to fuse into a single budget the regular budget and voluntary resources which may make the work of the Organization dependent upon individual donors.

I would like to say in conclusion that the Reform of FAO needs to follow the track of general processes of reform in the social and economic segment of the United Nations. There should be no unilateral decisions through to the final resort, and the negotiation process shows that the need to work much further on the suggestions of the evaluators. The key is the readiness of Members to consider the interests of one another.

A year has past since 192 participants met in this building at the FAO Conference and unanimously agreed to have the Russian language as one of the six languages of the Organization. Today, once again, we express our appreciation to all Members for supporting this very important decision. Since then a lot of work has been done in order to integrate the Russian language step by step into the activities of FAO. In support of this, the decision was taken by the Government of Russia to make a voluntary contribution of three million Euros in the period 2009-2011. This is a very important step, which will not only serve the interests of those countries that use the Russian language – and it is not only Russia – but many other states, and will help to increase the general authoritativeness of the Organization and make it more effective. These are the aims which we seek today. So I would like to express appreciation of the Secretariat, the Director-General, Mr Diouf, to the Deputy-Director General, Mr Butler, for their support and contribution in having this important decision taken at the last Conference. Together, we have done a lot of preparatory work, which will make it possible – as of January next year – to begin the implementation of the Russian voluntary contribution.

**Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)**

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be here today at this Thirty-fifth Special Session of the Conference where we are working together to take another step forward in overcoming the challenges of hunger and sustainable development. During a time when these challenges are especially acute for millions of people. FAO and its sister agencies in the UN System must fulfill their respective mandates in the most efficient and effective manner in order to respond effectively to these challenges.

The task before us is to focus specifically on the important issue of reform, to ensure that FAO has the best possible tools, strategy, and expertise to assist Member Nations in reducing food insecurity. This Conference met last November and agreed that the FAO should convene a Special Session to review and adopt an Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) that incorporates recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation report. In that time, we have come a long way. The hard work of the various Working Groups and committees, the independent Chairperson Professor Nouri, and that of FAO staff has produced an IPA that provides a clear blueprint for improving FAO's functionality and relevance. We strongly urge both management

and the Governing Bodies to display the same level of dedication and seriousness to implementation of the IPA, particularly since several key aspects must still be negotiated.

The United States strongly supports the IPA's call for spending controls and budget discipline. The IPA's impressive approach to delayering will lead to cost savings. We call for FAO to commit to working within the current assessed budgetary level, as well as to setting a limit on borrowing to create a more balanced and sustainable budget. We support the fast track attention to a flexible resource mobilization strategy that seeks to mobilize both extra-budgetary and private sector support to priority areas, and to enhance cooperation with other UN Agencies in areas of shared concern.

We believe that enhancing Governance and oversight is critical to turning FAO into an even more responsive and well-managed body. Early IAP priorities in this area include human resources management, independence of audit and evaluation functions and improved financial controls. The reconstitution of the Audit Committee with entirely external members is a step in the right direction.

We welcome the establishment of an independent Ethics Officer position, and urge FAO to finalize the terms of reference for this position on an expedited basis so that this important function can be discharged. The Ethics Officer should be directly accountable to the Director-General and Member Nations and should help develop and report annually on a financial disclosure program, protections from retaliation for reporting and misconduct and ethics training.

We await with great interest the final recommendations of the Root and Branch Review and Enterprise Risk Management Study due, and other efforts by management to steer this institution in the proper direction during the coming years.

Our goal, as is Management's, is to make FAO a better, more efficient and more effective institution. We are confident of Management's continued determination to improve FAO's performance. Therefore, we will continue our strong support for the Reform Process and have already taken steps to address our financial obligations to the institution. We remain committed to active cooperation with the Organization at the technical level, particularly with respect to emergency preparedness. Reprioritization is essential to successful reform and will allow Management and Members to focus on areas where FAO's comparative advantages are greatest.

Improving FAO functionality and relevance will contribute to the greater efforts of the international community towards a coordinated international response to food security. No single nation or organization can solve this problem of food insecurity alone. Each nation and each organization should do its part and work where it has expertise or resources to provide.

Like the United States, many countries and international organizations have responded to international calls for assistance, yet we must remain vigilant. While recent trends indicate that commodity prices have declined from their recent highs – with some prices even dropping considerably – experts indicate that prices, as well as prices for essential inputs, will remain high into the immediate future. As a result, sustained international attention remains critical to ensure that we collectively address the challenges and opportunities the high prices present. It is essential that we facilitate the ability of agricultural economies to take advantage of high food prices and increase their agricultural production. Our efforts at addressing emergency needs have to be coordinated with long-term actions so that these investments are mutually reinforcing and effectively address the root causes of food security.

The United States appreciates the engagement of the United Nations food and agriculture agencies on food security, as well as the work of the UN High-Level Task Force, in preparing the very useful Comprehensive Framework for Action and in coordinating the support of the UN System to the international community's collective effort to identify and respond to the needs of the world's hungry.

As the world's largest provider of food aid, the United States will continue to work to meet the most critical needs of those who are most vulnerable to higher food prices and without access to

proper nutrition. The United States is on track to provide nearly US\$5.5 billion to promote global food security in 2008 and 2009, including US\$1.8 billion in new funds.

We encourage investment in new technologies and basic infrastructure to help make agricultural systems more resilient to climate variability and to improve farm and rural economies. We should work together to identify and introduce existing and new technologies with the potential to significantly boost crop yields.

All countries should have access to the technology most appropriate to their needs. New biotechnology-based crops offer solutions not available through conventional breeding to help countries meet the challenges of Climate Change and the need for more nutritious and higher-yielding varieties. Furthermore, to achieve a more efficient global market, we strongly encourage countries to lift trade-restrictive policy measures.

The United States would like to thank FAO Director-General, Mr Diouf, and Deputy-Director General, Mr Butler, for their strong commitment to reforming FAO and maximizing this Organization's ability to respond to the difficult challenges before us. Likewise we commend FAO Management and staff for their efforts to craft a serious action plan that will take this Organization to where we want it to go.

We call for the adoption of the IPA, as was discussed earlier this evening, which will provide a valuable opportunity for us to produce a more relevant, focused and effective FAO.

The United States looks forward to working with our partners and colleagues, within this forum, to continue our collective commitment to increasing food security and bettering the lives of the world's poor and hungry.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

The Plenary now stand adjourned until 14:30 hours.

The first speaker will be as listed in today's journal but now, please, Secretary-General.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Distinguished Delegates are reminded to pick up their Conference passes from the Turkish Registration Centre, entrance to Building A. Council passes are no longer valid for this Conference Session.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 50*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas*



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire) 35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008 Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008 Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>19 November 2008</b>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:59 hours

Mr Mauri Pekkarinen

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 59

sous la présidence de M. Mauri Pekkarinen

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 14:59 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mauri Pekkarinen

Presidente de la Conferencia

## CHAIRPERSON

I call the Third Plenary Meeting of this Special Session of Conference to order. In the interest of the safety of all of us I would now like to request your attention for just a few minutes to view just a short audio visual presentation on fire safety.

*Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures*

*Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO*

*Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO*

## II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO

(continued)

**II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO** (suite)

**II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO** (continuación)

### **6. Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action** (C 2008/4)

(continued)

**6. Examen du rapport du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO – Plan d'action immédiate** (C 2008/4) (suite)

**6. Consideración del informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el seguimiento de la Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO: Plan inmediato de acción** (C 2008/4)

(continuación)

## CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with Agenda Item 6 Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action. I give the floor to Cape Verde, His Excellency José Maria Fernandes Da Veiga, Minister of Environment and Rural Development and Marine Resources.

**José Maria FERNANDES DA VEIGA (Cap-Vert)**

J'aimerais, tout d'abord exprimer ma joie de pouvoir participer pour la première fois aux travaux de cet organe à un moment si marquant pour la vie de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et souhaiter, au nom de ma délégation les meilleurs vœux de succès à ces travaux.

Je tiens à féliciter le Président, Son Excellence M. Mauri Pekkarinen, Ministre des Affaires économiques de la Finlande, pour son élection, tout en augurant de la bonne conduite de nos travaux. Nos félicitations vont également aux autres membres du bureau et des différents autres organes de la Conférence.

La réalisation de cette Trente-cinquième Conférence à un moment dans lequel le monde passe par une situation de grande difficulté symbolise pour le Cap-Vert l'espoir qu'une fois de plus l'être humain sera capable de vaincre les énormes défis auquel il se trouve confronté et de saisir toutes les opportunités se prêtant à la réalisation des aspirations de tous, au progrès et à une vie meilleure.

Nous sommes conscients du fait qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une tâche facile mais qu'une fois encore, il a été suffisamment démontré que lorsqu'il existe la volonté politique, nous sommes tous capables, les membres, la direction conduite par le Directeur général ainsi que tous ceux qui sont au service de l'Organisation, d'atteindre les objectifs qui nous sont dictés par de nobles idéaux et par le mandat qui font de la FAO l'Organisation qui a la responsabilité insubstituable de promouvoir l'alimentation et l'agriculture sur notre planète.

Nous aimerions également féliciter le Président du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi du processus d'Évaluation externe indépendante (IEE), le Professeur Mohammad Saeid Noor-Naeini, pour avoir su conduire de la meilleure façon possible les travaux préparatoires de ce grand événement et ceci grâce à son indubitable expérience dans le domaine des négociations, grâce à son professionnalisme, ses qualités humaines et son dévouement à la noble cause qui nous réunit dans cet important forum.

C'est avec beaucoup de joie que nous nous félicitons de la brillante et décisive contribution personnelle apportée par le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf, ainsi que la manière dont il a su, une fois de plus, guider la direction et les cadres de la FAO à tous les niveaux.

Le rôle des membres de l'Organisation, spécialement de nos Représentants au sein du Comité ou des groupes de travail a été en grande mesure responsable du fait que nous avons atteint la perspective établie, c'est-à-dire l'élaboration d'un Plan d'actions immédiates (PAI) que nous espérons voir approuver par la Conférence, ainsi qu'à des perspectives beaucoup plus nettes sur la possibilité de trouver des solutions à toutes les questions ouvertes du processus de transformation de la FAO jusqu'à la fin de 2009. Nous espérons voir une Organisation capable d'être fidèle aussi bien aux principes qu'au mandat qui ont toujours orienté son action, et qui sont aujourd'hui plus actuels que jamais face aux nouvelles exigences auxquelles nous faisons face ainsi qu'aux immenses opportunités qu'offre le vingtième siècle pour la résolution de beaucoup des graves problèmes qui affligent le monde.

Dans ce contexte, nous voulons exprimer notre satisfaction pour la qualité du Rapport du Comité de la Conférence, lequel malgré le fait que maints aspects détaillés doivent encore faire l'objet d'analyses à effectuer au cours de l'année prochaine, contient des orientations fondamentales pour notre action immédiate et à moyen terme. Il s'agit en effet d'un excellent document qui traite de façon exhaustive et appropriée les questions en relation avec la gouvernance, le contrôle et l'évaluation, la gestion à tous les niveaux, les ressources financières indispensables à la réalisation des objectifs planifiés à court et à long terme ainsi qu'avec la structuration et le changement culturel ayant comme but l'accomplissement du mandat de l'Organisation tant sur le plan des activités normatives que dans celles des opérations.

A notre avis, nous sommes arrivés au moment de mettre à exécution le PAI, ce qui doit privilégier la production de résultats tangibles en fonction des objectifs que nous nous sommes imposés dans la mesure où ce plan ne constitue pas une fin en soi mais un instrument que nous tous souhaitons effectif et efficace au service de la meilleure réalisation possible desdits objectifs sur la base d'un calendrier de leur implémentation.

Nous sommes convaincus que le climat de grande coopération, compréhension mutuelle ainsi que l'attachement au travail bien fait dont ont fait suffisamment preuve toutes les parties participant au processus de la COC-IEE et qui nous ont permis d'arriver aux excellentes propositions que nous avons approuvées pendant cette Conférence, continuera à prévaloir dans la finalisation de nos discussions. Nous espérons que cela aura lieu au cours de l'année à venir en ce qui concerne le Cadre stratégique et le Plan à moyen terme et à conclure de la meilleure façon possible la tâche que nous nous sommes imposé de réaliser la plus profonde Réforme jamais été effectuée par une organisation appartenant à la même famille que la FAO.

Nous nous réjouissons des progrès réalisés dans le cadre du renforcement de la gouvernance et nous espérons voir cet aspect approfondi dans le futur car il est nécessaire d'effectuer un meilleur suivi, contrôle et évaluation des actions de l'Organisation à tous les niveaux.

Nous encourageons les actions présentes et futures tendant à améliorer la gestion des ressources humaines de la FAO car l'avantage comparatif dont elle fait preuve dans les domaines de sa compétence sont largement le produit des grandes capacités qu'elle a été capable de bâtir dans ce domaine au Siège comme sur le terrain.

Il est important que nous puissions continuer à approfondir et à renforcer les progrès déjà accomplis au niveau de la structure de la FAO à tous les niveaux tant au Siège que dans les bureaux régionaux. La nécessaire et adéquate rationalisation ne peut toutefois être confondue avec

le non-remplissement des places essentielles dans certains cas et notamment dans le continent africain qui est le plus affecté pour les problèmes de la faim et de la sous-nutrition et la situation de crise profonde à laquelle nous assistons. Il s'agit surtout de positions clé au niveau régional à un moment où nous devons tout faire pour mettre en marche le plus rapidement possible nos décisions et en premier lieu, le Plan d'action immédiate.

Nous partageons l'idée de l'établissement d'objectifs réalistes et pas trop ambitieux. Toutefois, cette idée ne peut pas être appliquée au préjudice de la mise en œuvre des actions immédiates ce qui pourrait signifier dans la pratique, compromettre tout ce que nous avons si laborieusement accompli jusqu'à aujourd'hui et porter atteinte à l'efficacité de cette organisation qui comme l'ont si bien dit les membres de l'équipe de l'évaluation externe indépendante, si elle n'existait pas, devrait être réinventée.

Dans ce contexte, il est fondamental, surtout étant donné que le fonctionnement de l'Organisation sera assuré par des contributions statutaires et volontaires que nous soyons capables de faire en sorte que les moyens financiers soient disponibles en temps opportun afin de prévenir la répétition des situations qui ont entravé l'action de la FAO dans le passé. A cet égard, nous ne pouvons que nous réjouir de la création du Fonds fiduciaire, tout en espérant que tous les Membres de la FAO apporteront leurs contributions volontaires.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais réitérer notre sincère et ferme conviction que tout le travail entrepris jusqu'à présent dans le cadre de l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO visant à la réforme avec croissance de l'Organisation ne constitue pas notre objectif final mais le moyen le plus adapté de préparer l'Organisation à remplir son mandat afin qu'elle puisse être mieux placée pour s'acquitter de ses responsabilités dans le cadre de la promotion d'un objectif d'une dimension et portée beaucoup plus grande qui est celle de la contribution aux efforts inlassables de la communauté internationale pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

#### **Gareth THOMAS (United Kingdom)**

We are in the middle of one of the most volatile periods in the world's history as all of you will recognize. A global crisis of financial markets, food and fuel price increases, more poor people increasingly left behind, and global systems and institutions not up to their job. In short a wake-up call for us all.

If we were saying, as we were just one ago, that reform of the international system was urgent, how much more urgent is it now? We need to work together for an international, coordinated response. More than ever we need a united United Nations, for it is only in global partnership that we can reach the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, more than halfway to 2015, progress is under threat.

We have low agricultural growth, a global food crisis, 170 million more poor people added to the world's list of hungry people. And, just as we reach an international consensus on the need to increase investment, we find ourselves in a global financial crisis, which means that capital is scarce. We must, of course, maintain our aid commitments. But more than ever, we all need to be sure that we are getting the best possible results.

In June, here in Rome, the British Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander, said that we should be ambitious in our long-term efforts to achieve a doubling of agricultural production in Africa, and a doubling of the rate of growth in agriculture in Asia. We strongly support a global partnership for agriculture and food to support these efforts and to provide a more coherent international response. FAO does have an important role to play, it should be an international leader in supporting agricultural growth and meeting its challenges, including the challenge of climate change.

Now the Director General has a remarkable record and a remarkable reputation, but he has done all of us and the world's poorest a particular service in announcing now that we will need to find a successor to him, to take forward his legacy in three years time. He will leave big shoes to fill, our

challenge collectively is to find an able, talented and determined reformer to continue to champion a modern, effective, fit for the Twenty-first Century Organization.

As the Minister from Tanzania said this morning, the world needs an FAO that is reformed and is effective, that is why we in Britain share the vision for change here at FAO. The Plan of Action must be implemented urgently. I am aware that the Organization is beginning to reform, but we do need to see demonstrable results - results that are measured in improvements in the lives of the millions of women, men and children who are living at the moment, in extreme poverty.

Indeed, we need strong and independent assessments of the UN's performance across the system to identify these results. FAO has set an example with the largest Independent External Evaluation ever carried out in the UN. But we should not stop here. FAO needs now to follow up with an independent inspection of progress in delivering that Plan of Action, with a robust assessment of performance and results on an annual basis.

The very fact that the Independent External Evaluation, which no-one disputes was necessary and helpful, required a special decision by the Membership, highlights a constant problem for the United Nations. Who is there to turn to when we need an independent inspection of a programme, a fund or an agency? Which body assesses impacts on cross-cutting themes? Who checks on whether organisations in the UN are well-managed, have strong systems and who scrutinises and helps recipient nations to hold UN bodies to account?

The current debate on how to deliver on the General Assembly's decision to evaluate the delivering as one part, highlights the problem. So we need a stronger credible, robust, systemwide inspection process and we need the Chief Executives Board and members to find a way through to a better system.

Back here in FAO, the Immediate Plan of Action and the outline strategic framework do give us the basis for reform. A results-based approach should help improve FAO's impact. Management and administrative reform should turn FAO into an efficient Organization, but this should be only the beginning. Change requires strong leadership and exemplary management. So the real work will start after this Conference, and it must proceed fast.

As some of you will know, the EU is looking to find one billion Euro to commit to tackling the food crisis. Without further reform FAO cannot, in my view, receive much of that one billion Euro and we will have to find other organizations to fund, to help the world's poorest. But let me reassure this gathering, the United Kingdom is committed to increasing multilateral effectiveness. Across the system, we will provide more and better funding for agencies that deliver more and better performance. We have an increasing aid budget and an increasing budget specifically for UN Agencies to support developing countries. FAO can be part of that.

We are prepared to contribute to the special Trust Fund to meet costs in 2009, but it will not be a blank cheque that we write, we want to see further progress before our funding begins, and we will link our funding to performance and results against targets taken from the Plan of Action.

What if reform fails, or if reform is too slow? Well, if, in spite of all our combined efforts, this should happen, then, as I said last year at this Conference, we will have to seek some alternative. The world can no longer wait for an effective FAO.

And what about our responsibilities as Member Nations? The Independent External Evaluation criticised us, the membership, as well as FAO. We, the membership, must change too. We have worked closely with management this year and renewed the way Membership works in FAO. It is more constructive, it is based on greater understanding and trust. But we need to build upon this, providing effective, joint oversight of FAO's implementation of the Plan of Action. Now we must stand back and let management do their job, to manage, while we govern and oversee results.

We in the United Kingdom look to FAO's leadership and management, we will monitor progress, we will seek an independent report on performance and impact, and Mr Chairperson, we will back results.

**Haynesley BENN (Barbados)**

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, I first wish to thank the FAO for the opportunity to deliver this brief statement as we, the Membership body, gather to discuss and decide upon an Action Plan for the proposals presented in the Report of the Independent External Evaluation.

Throughout the years, the FAO has continued to champion the advancement of agriculture as an economic development tool, especially in its supportive role to the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean Region.

Barbados, and many of the other Island States, have benefited greatly from the support which has been provided by the FAO under its Technical Cooperation Programme. This Programme has targeted diverse areas of regional concern such as policy and planning, practical areas such as animal health and crop production, as well as initiatives for promoting rural development and poverty reduction.

It is this relentless commitment and dedication to the development of the agricultural sectors in the Caribbean that has motivated Barbados since 1996 to graciously provide the necessary facilities in which the Sub-regional Office of the FAO could continue to carry out its mandate of providing technical assistance to the Region.

Over the years the Small Island Developing States have continued to be presented with complex challenges due to our small size and limited resources. These challenges have been highlighted in the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States since 1994, and have subsequently been reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002.

Additionally, the Caribbean states have been presented with further challenges which include the need to adopt strategies to address the proliferation of trade agreements, global climate change, the vigorous pursuit of bioenergy, rising food prices and most recently, the global financial crisis, all of which have severe implications on our food security objectives. In the case of the more recent issues, Barbados wishes to applaud the FAO for its rapid response.

The convening of the High-Level Conference held in June this year provided the Small Island States with a much-needed forum to once again highlight our unique concerns. The Conference also allowed Small Island Developing States to garner not only consensus on the important issues, but also foster firm commitments on the part of the Membership body, regarding the strategic direction which would ultimately be needed to mitigate the many challenges.

In this sense I must call your attention to the Mauritius Declaration and Strategy which recommits all to the sustainable development of the most vulnerable nations.

The time for talk is over and the implementation of these strategies must ensue if the agricultural sectors of the Caribbean and other Small Island Developing States are to be sustained. It is with this sense of urgency, that Barbados views the restructuring process of the FAO as indeed timely.

The core issue of decentralisation of the Sub-regional Offices is seen to be but an initial step towards implementing the commitments made in June. It is therefore with great pleasure that the Government of Barbados has reaffirmed its support to the efforts of the FAO in its restructuring process, and has been collaborating with the Sub-regional Office in this regard. It is the view of the Government of Barbados that this initiative will enhance the FAO's capacity to become more responsive and efficient in catering to the special needs of the entire Caribbean Region.

The Government of Barbados has therefore given its commitment to the assignment of some of its best technical officers, on a rotational basis, to the Sub-regional Office, to targeted areas of crucial importance to the Region. These officers will support the current cadre of international experts in such areas as policy, fisheries, animal health and production, plant protection and natural resource management to mention a few. The necessary administrative staff will also be provided to assist with the general operations of the Sub-regional Office.

This arrangement will be consistent with the overall strategy for the development of the human capital, particularly under the youth in all forms within my Ministry. This echoes the wider policies of the Government of Barbados of developing human resources to meet tomorrow's dawn. It is expected that this initiative will not only result in the deepening of the relationship between the Government of Barbados and the FAO, but will furthermore provide a framework for greater regional collaboration, as well as input into common areas of concern to the Small Island Developing States of the Region.

In closing I therefore wish to summarise by, once again commending the FAO for its restructuring efforts, re-affirm the Barbados' commitment to supporting the FAO and the development of regional agriculture and strongly urge Member Nations to support the FAO in its attempts at attaining excellence.

***EL Zubair Bashir TAHA, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Sudan, took the Chair***

***EL Zubair Bashir TAHA, Ministre de l'agriculture et des forêts du Soudan, assume la présidence***

***Ocupa la presidencia EL Zubair Bashir TAHA Ministro de la Agricultura y de Montes del Sudán***

**Ms Lulama XINGWANA (South Africa)**

Thank you Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Permanent Representatives, Honourable Guests and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would first like to congratulate Minister Pekkarinen, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland, on his appointment as Chair of Conference. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the Independent Chair of the IEE Conference Committee, Professor Mohammed Said Noori-Naeini, his competent Co-Chairs, the FAO Management under the leadership of Dr Diouf and the Permanent Representatives who worked tirelessly within the Working Groups to complete the draft Immediate Plan of Action.

Your hard work and the spirit of mutual respect shown during the delicate negotiations is yet another confirmation that the future of FAO remains in the collective hands of Member Nations. It is the Member Nations who will make or break FAO. The spirit of consensus that prevailed during the first phase of the negotiations must continue to guide us as we move further into the implementation phase of the reforms.

Delegates during the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference could not have anticipated the financial meltdown afflicting the world today. When the resolution was taken to set the process in motion, to implement the IEE's far reaching reform recommendations, the world was experiencing the worst food crisis since the Second World War.

Our minds were all focused on devising ways to escape the scourge of hunger resulting from shortages of food supplies, especially in developing countries. No single person at that point in time could have imagined this Conference the FAO Thirty-fifth Special Session of Conference, taking place in a global context defined by the credit crunch, as well as the collapse of major banks in the United States and elsewhere.

In his recent address to the FAO Committee on World Food Security, Dr J. Diouf, FAO Director-General, said the following about the current global conjuncture and the way forward, "*The global financial crisis should not make us forget the food crisis. Agriculture needs urgent and sustained attention too to make hunger and rural poverty part of history*".

Dr Diouf's caution is timely and critical. We need to carefully develop a comprehensive response to all these difficulties and avoid impromptu responses wherein we lose focus every time a new crisis erupts. South Africa not only supports the Director-General in this regard, we also believe that the financial crisis presents a historic opportunity for the world to re-examine the global financial architecture and institute the necessary reforms that will restore credibility and fairness to the global financial system.

Clearly the world historical contours are shifting, they are shifting faster than we can imagine. We can no longer reasonably anticipate the next crisis, the speed with which changes are occurring is overwhelming. These changes present challenges and opportunities at same time and therefore require better equipped organisations, as well as improved methods of facilitating cooperation. FAO cannot escape the historical imperative to re-enforce multilateralism as a means to overcome the new global challenges.

There is no alternative to multilateralism, the multilateral way is the future. South Africa believes that FAO must lead by example to illustrate to everybody that multilateral diplomacy is not only correct but an important ingredient when seeking solutions to world challenges. The reform and transformation of FAO cannot and must not deviate from this important character of global governance.

South Africa fully and unreservedly supports the Immediate Plan of Action for 2009, as proposed by the Conference Committee, and pledges to contribute towards the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

However, we also wish to caution that extra-budgetary resources should be generated beyond 2009, in order to contribute to balance and steady funding of the Reform process. The programme of work should not suffer because of the necessity to reform FAO. We need to create a balance and continuity.

We further call on Member Nations and the donors to increase their contributions to the FAO to ensure that Member Nations continue to receive the best technical advice and information in these difficult times.

South Africa supports the initiatives taken by the Director-General aimed at resources mobilisation to support in particular, south-south cooperation and the initiative on soaring food prices, as important basis upon which countries could extend solidarity and support to other regions.

South Africa and Africa cannot wait any longer for a better equipped FAO with necessary skills to fulfil its mission. The levels of hungry people are increasing daily; we need FAO now, not tomorrow. Let the world know that any delay of the Reform process means death and hunger to the global poor. We wish therefore, to see FAO that is diverse, that is representative of the world we live in and that is gender sensitive, FAO, that has all the technological capacities of a modern organisation capable of meeting the emerging unpredictable challenges facing the world today.

I cannot conclude my statement without mentioning the passing of our mother Miriam Makeba, whose extraordinary life touched us all. In this regard, I wish to express our heart felt gratitude to the Director-General, Dr Diouf, for the profound words of tribute paid to Mama Africa during the opening session. Miriam Makeba dedicated her life and soul to humanity, she was a mother to all of us, an inspirational singer and activist and, above all, an Ambassador for poverty and hunger eradication. It is therefore not surprising that she died in Italy in fighting against injustice. We are grateful that she contributed to FAO, and hope that her legacy will continue to inspire millions to overcome poverty.

**Mauri PEKKARINEN (Finland)**

It has been a great honour for me today to chair this Special Session of the FAO Conference, dealing with an issue that is most important to us all, the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

I would like to congratulate the whole Membership, the Director General and his Management, and the Chairperson of the Committee of the Conference for the tremendous work done during this process. Never before have we experienced in FAO such an open and constructive process between the Membership and the Management of the Organization. This is an excellent path to continue along.



The fact that we, this morning, unanimously approved the Report of the Committee of the Conference on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action is a clear testimony of the level of commitment that the whole Membership of FAO has shown to this reform process.

In the beginning of the process, some may have questioned the need for the Reform, which is probably the most far-reaching one ever realized in any UN Organization, today it seems to be clear for everyone that the reform is a means to a strong FAO playing an instrumental role in confronting the challenges that the world is facing today.

We must not lose the momentum now that agriculture is back on the international agenda, and we need to turn the challenges into opportunities. There is an urgent demand for investments in agricultural research and development, as well as new technologies and innovation. At the same time, we need a multisectoral approach to contribute to the overall development in a sustainable manner and to achieve enduring results in energy and trade questions, among others.

Because of the complexity of the current challenges, what we need most is coordination and coherence of international actions.

We want to see FAO, in full cooperation with other UN and other actors, play a central role in the actions needed in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food. Therefore, the Reform of FAO and better efficiency in its activities are fundamental and urgent issues.

Although the work done so far by Membership and the FAO Management is extensive, and most goals set for the year 2008 have been reached, we realize that we are only in the beginning of the process. We still have a long way to go in order to have an effective and well-functioning organization. Strong political and financial support from all stakeholders is therefore needed for several years to come.

Saying that, I wish to remind you of the role of the personnel of FAO and the importance of involving the whole staff in the process. For an organization founded on expertise, like FAO, personnel is the most important resource.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the strong and persistent commitment and support of Finland since the beginning of the FAO reform process. We will continue our support to the reform process, and I am glad to confirm that Finland intends to contribute to the established Trust Fund for implementing the Immediate Plan of Action in 2009. I would like to urge all the Members of FAO to do the same, in order that the management will have the necessary funds to start implementing the Immediate Plan of Action in due course.

I thank you for your attention.

**Rolf ERIKSSON (Sweden)**

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to address this conference. First, I would to thank the Director-General and his Management Team as well as the FAO Secretariat for their valuable participation in this hard work in elaborating the Immediate Plan of Action. The task ahead for the implementation of the Plan of Action is an even greater challenge than what we so far have achieved. But with the confidence between Member Nations and FAO Management which has been built up with during the last year, I am sure that it can be done. The procedure has been opened and transparent which has led the whole FAO Membership being engaged in the Reform of the Organization. Management will now have to present a detailed work early next year and report on progress. The full Root and Branch Review in April will be a basis for further action.

The role of FAO in global governance have been focused on short-term productions. The longer-term perspective must now come to focus. The FAO Conference in October 2009 on how to feed the world in 2050 must include several disciplines and deepen the understanding of challenges such as climate change and the policy options to solve these problems globally, regionally and naturally. Sweden will continue its strong support of the reforms of the Organization and the

whole UN System, to respond coherently to the food crisis and the ongoing climate change. The current global food crisis has again shown us the importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in fighting poverty and hunger. The crisis has also shown us how uneven the agriculture capacity and food production is distributed over the world.

Hence, it becomes clear, I think, for everyone that the global fight against hunger is not only a matter establishing fair international trade regulations even if it is very important. It is also important to strengthen the agriculture capacity in poor countries. Significant investments in agriculture including in farmers' training and education and in farmers' organizations are of vital importance. Agricultural production and trade in agriculture products is decisive in improving economic growth all over the world. The dramatic figures from FAO that soaring prices had 75 million people in 2007 through global hunger and the World Bank's prediction of 45 million more this year are important signals to the world economy to take immediate medium-term and long-term actions. The attendance of so many leaders at the FAO High-Level Conference in June this year also show the awareness of the need to act now to reduce world hunger. We commend FAO for arranging this Conference at a such a timely moment. We must not let this opportunity be lost if we are to fulfill the goal of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. Chairperson, with a 50 percent increase in world population by 2050 pressure on land and water will become more intense. Agriculture and forestry have a large potential to contribute to a more resource efficient society.

We need to build a bio-based economy. We will make better use of photosynthesis in order to get away from the dependence on fossil fuel. Food, fuel and fibres can and have to be produced on our agriculture land to a greater extent. In many parts of the world, women comprise the majority of those working in small scale agriculture, local markets and within food supply. Securing women's success to land, to credit, clean water and other essential resources as well as their participation in decision-making is vital to the prospect of overcoming poverty.

Responsible management of the fishery resources is also necessary for successful fight against hunger and poverty. Since millions of people in developing countries are dependent on fisheries for their income. FAO must be ready to meet these new challenges as the key partner of the new UN System within its mandate. FAO could and should be able to play an important role in those areas and in global public goods. FAO, as a knowledge organization, as the world's leading competence in how agriculture, fishery and forestry as well as other natural resources should be carried out in a sustainable way. No other organization within the UN System has a comparable competence.

Chairperson, in this respect the implementation of the Plan of Action is right too. Sweden has taken a vital part in the successful elaboration of the Immediate Plan of Action. It is now pivotal that the process of implementing the plan of action starts immediately after this Special Session of the conference with the full participation of the FAO management and membership. To make sure that our natural resources are used in a way leading to sustainable development and increased knowledge, better education and technology capacity-building is necessary. These are areas where FAO has its comparative advantages. Thank you.

**T.H. Taua Tavaga Kitona SEUALA (Samoa)**

Samoa attaches a great deal importance to the agriculture sector, and as a Member of the FAO, we support actions that promote the effective and efficient functioning of FAO as a valued partner in our multilateral systems. We welcome the Report of the Committee of the Conference as a follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action, that is being considered at this Special Session of the Conference. As such, the invitation from the Director General of FAO for Samoa to be involved in discussing the proposals relating to the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) is timely and is greatly acknowledged. This IPA is a tool that guides us all at finding solutions to current devastating events in the global food crisis. It must now be endorsed, implemented and adjusted as necessary where possible.

Samoa's economic transformation, like many other developing countries, is rooted in intensified agriculture. This sector has a significant role in food security, and in raising the living standards of the rural populations. It provides for more diversified sources of food, income and increased livelihood opportunities for rural households.

Historically, a growing agriculture sector able to generate a large amount of capital to finance the non-agricultural sector, partly through rural savings. Agricultural growth also fostered the development of the agro-industrial sector, particularly the rural farmers that supplied key inputs and those that processed agricultural outputs.

Samoa is critical of agricultural and food issues in relation to national and international climate change policies, to ensure an efficient and pro-poor response to emerging risks. There is no doubt that a renewed FAO is needed to address such challenges in order to provide necessary assistance.

We acknowledge the active participation of the Committee of the Conference in producing the Immediate Plan of Action which reflects a commitment to the IEE's principal conclusion for "Reform with Growth". An exhaustive consultative process with all stakeholders has also contributed to the further preparation of the draft elements for the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan, which must be finalized in 2009.

In a message from the Director General, the revised strategic and budgeting framework provides for a new "Results-Based Focus", which forms the groundwork for "Reform with Growth". There is clear emphasis on governance arrangements, programmes and priorities, systems, administration and organizational structure.

Samoa welcomes the Root and Branch Review (RBR) proposals on all aspects of human and financial resources management and administration. We support a new results-based performance management system designed to increase staff development and accountability. The latter calls for clearly defined relationship and reporting lines between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. At a regional level, we are very positive of an open house-wide and interactive dialogue system already experienced with the decentralized office in Apia for the Pacific.

In response to the change, our Government of today has reacted positively at all strategic levels to ensure that all our people have basic traditional food requirements. Programmes are put in place to improve the adaptive and resilience capacity of our people. Samoa welcomes the full support of FAO as she embarks in this direction.

In conclusion Mr Chairperson, Samoa endorses the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-2011) and moving forward with its implementation.

#### **Naimbaye LOSSIMIAN (Tchad)**

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Président de la Conférence et tous les Membres du Bureau pour leur élection.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la FAO a été créée pour servir de cadre à notre action commune afin d'élever le niveau de nutrition et les conditions de vie des populations des États Membres. Depuis sa création il y a 63 ans, notre environnement a subi des mutations considérables. Ces mutations ont suscité de légitimes interrogations quant à sa capacité dans sa structuration actuelle à remplir avec succès la mission qui lui est assignée.

Nous sommes au vingt-et-unième siècle et pourtant, chaque jour plus de 850 millions de personnes dorment le ventre creux, ce n'est pas acceptable. Pour relever ce défi, il nous faut une FAO réformée comme l'a si bien relevée l'Evaluation externe indépendante mais rien ne sera fait sans l'audace et la volonté. Sur la base du rapport de cette Evaluation, le Comité de la Conférence vient de nous proposer la feuille de route pour une organisation efficace qui répondra aux besoins de ses membres. Nous avons pris connaissance, avec grande satisfaction, du Plan d'actions immédiates proposé par le Comité à ce propos. Je voudrais, au nom de ma Délégation et en mon nom propre, joindre ma voix à celles qui m'ont précédées à cette tribune pour féliciter le Comité de la Conférence et singulièrement, son Président qui se sont acquittés honorablement et de

manière exemplaire de la mission qui leur a été confiée. Ces félicitations s'adressent également aux responsables de la FAO et à tout le Personnel dont le soutien sans faille et les longues heures de travail ont permis à ce Plan de voir le jour. Le Plan d'actions immédiates est certainement ambitieux. Nous ne doutons pas de l'ampleur de la tâche qu'il impose et des ressources qu'il exige. Nous mesurons les obstacles qui nous attendent surtout dans ce nouveau contexte où la crise financière mondiale risque d'occulter la crise alimentaire. Conscient de ce défi, ma Délégation approuve le Plan d'actions proposées et mon pays s'engage à œuvrer pour sa réalisation effective.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'agriculture est l'un des grands enjeux du vingt-et-unième siècle. Bien qu'elle soit au cœur de l'agenda du développement des pays africains ces dernières années, la crise alimentaire mondiale de 2008 vient de rappeler que l'Afrique doit se doter de politiques agricoles ambitieuses pour la promotion d'une agriculture moderne, diversifiée et productive mettant définitivement à l'abri nos populations des crises alimentaires.

Le Tchad, mon pays, malgré son immense potentiel en ressources naturelles et une population vivant à 80 pour cent de l'agriculture, continue de souffrir d'une insécurité alimentaire récurrente et de malnutrition.

Mesdames et Messieurs, pour qu'un peuple puisse assurer avec dignité son destin sans s'affranchir de l'aide alimentaire, la solution durable à cette situation réside dans l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Nous devons encourager des actions à long terme fondées sur l'assistance à l'agriculture. C'est l'option que mon pays a choisi en élaborant le Programme national de sécurité alimentaire (PNSA). Le PNSA constitue à présent notre cadre de référence portant sur des objectifs globaux de notre stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté orientée spécifiquement vers la perspective d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire au Tchad à l'horizon 2015.

Il me plait de rappeler que ce Programme a été élaboré avec l'assistance de la FAO et la participation active des partenaires au développement présents au Tchad en mai 2005 lors de la Conférence de présentation et de validation du document du PNSA. Le Gouvernement tchadien s'est engagé à financer à hauteur de 50 pour cent le budget global. Compte tenu de l'intérêt particulier que son Excellence Monsieur Idriss Deby Itno, Président de la République du Tchad et Chef d'État, accorde à ce programme et du caractère hautement prioritaire de la sécurité alimentaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, le Gouvernement a déjà mobilisé près de 15 milliards de Francs CFA soit environ 30 millions E.U. pour le démarrage du Programme dont les objectifs cadrent bien avec ceux du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Par contre, les contributions attendues des partenaires du Tchad ne sont pas encore mobilisées. Aujourd'hui, l'occasion est toute indiquée pour solliciter une fois de plus le concours de tous compte tenu de l'importance et de la priorité que mon pays accorde au Programme national de sécurité alimentaire.

Je ne saurais terminer mes propos sans remercier chaleureusement Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour l'opportunité qui nous est offerte de nous adresser à cette Conférence, pour sa disponibilité constante et pour les grandes actions déjà entreprises dans le cadre de la Réforme de notre Organisation.

**Ms Datuk Rohani Abdul KARIM (Malaysia)**

My delegation and I are greatly honoured and privileged to be invited to this FAO Special Conference to discuss on document C 2008/4 Consideration of the Report of the Committee of the Conference on the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO Immediate Plan of Action.

My delegation would like to comment the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Conference Committee, the Director-General of FAO and all representatives to FAO for undertaking this heavy task and to be able to present the proposals for an Immediate Plan of Action to this Special Conference. The recommendations in this Report will be critical in determining the effectiveness of FAO in responding to the changing global landscape. The importance of this Report is compounded by the consensus that many issues addressed by FAO, which includes agriculture,

poverty and food security, demand a coordinated and collective international response which only FAO can provide.

The current global scenario underscores the increasing importance of this Organization to become a “New FAO”, which is more relevant, effective and efficient, making it agile and responsive to the needs of the Twenty-first Century, particularly in food, agriculture and feeding the world. My delegation shares the view with many delegations that this is a complex challenge and the tasks that lie ahead in the coming years will be daunting.

The role of FAO is even more critical in the light of the present issues of fluctuating food prices and the global financial crisis, the effects of which will impact more unfavourably on the most vulnerable poor segment of the population. It is this segment that demands our full attention and that of the FAO as an international organization mandated to address issues of global food security to promote the eradication of hunger in all countries.

The approval of the IPA for immediate implementation in 2009 will signify the start of the Reform process in FAO but the more difficult task is in ensuring full implementation of the IPA. In this regard the IPA implementation must be formulated in such a way that the required funds are available and the Organization has the capacity to undertake these reforms and at the same time function efficiently in its mandated roles.

Malaysia concurs with the Conference Committee’s proposals on FAO’s Vision and Global Goals, Strategic Objectives and the Main Core Functions to enable the Organization to continue its contribution towards sustainable agriculture development and global food security. We are pleased to note that the IPA has proposed a new results-based focus in planning and implementation. This will ensure more efficient and systematic monitoring of FAO’s work and should facilitate more effective use of resources to meet the needs of Members. We would like to request that indicators of outcomes be determined in a transparent manner that will allow objective evaluation of all the functions of FAO.

To successfully implement the IPA, FAO has to embrace new values and a new performance-oriented management style. My delegation supports the establishment of a “Culture Change Team” which will function as the engine for the change process and can play a catalytic role for the development of an internal vision, facilitate communication and monitor the implementation of all change initiatives.

Malaysia supports the Special Conference to establish a time-bound Conference Committee for the duration of 2009.

This Committee should work closely with the Council and the Technical Committees of the Council to complete outstanding areas of work under the Immediate Plan of Action. The Committee should also assist in monitoring the IPA implementation in 2009 and to provide updated reports on the progress.

Malaysia also agrees that changes need to be carried out urgently. However, they need to be carefully sequenced to ensure the early implementation of critical measures so that efficiency gains can be realized as early as possible, while at the same time, maintaining the Organization’s delivery capacity.

To support FAO reforms and to ensure global food safety, national governments will have to address the need to ensure increased agricultural production to boost the domestic supply of food. In this respect, Malaysia formulated a strategic Food Security Action Plan that identifies key programmes and proposals. The government has already allocated sufficient funds to ensure effective implementation of these programmes.

Measures are being undertaken to increase the domestic supply of rice which is the country’s staple food, through increased investments in agricultural infrastructure. In addition, to partially offset the negative impacts of rising input costs in the production of these commodities, vulnerable farmers will be given incentives to ensure production quantities are maintained and

domestic price levels remain reasonable. Idle land has been identified and earmarked for food production.

Through these programmes the government's target is to increase food production and ensure food security for her people. These programmes have not only made food available but have also kept food prices affordable.

On the use of food for fuel, Malaysia's position is that there must be a realistic balance between these two uses. We call upon the FAO to continue and coordinate greater discussion on this issue so that the use of food for fuel will not negatively affect global food security. In this respect, the planting of biofuel crops must be handled holistically taking into consideration the needs of developing countries to utilize the available land for the planting of such crops in a sustainable manner.

For countries which are in the unfortunate situation of not being able to ensure national food security, a reformed FAO should be able to play a more effective role in assisting these countries. I am very sure that in supporting the new FAO, it is the aspiration of all countries, especially developing countries, in envisaging a new FAO driving global issues to remove hunger and to ensure food security in all countries.

My delegation supports the approval of the Conference Committee Report on the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, including the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal for 2009-2011. On that note, I thank you for this opportunity to address this Conference.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you your Excellency Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agrobased Industry, Malaysia.

I now call on His Excellency Haakon Gulbrandsen, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Norway.

#### **Haakon GULBRANDSEN (Norway)**

The food crisis no longer appears as frequently in the headlines, but there is still a crisis to deal with, as there has been for decades. From time to time the issue has climbed to the top of the international agenda. This year it happened again, as we realized that another 100 million or so had fallen into poverty and hunger as a result of soaring food prices.

Food security will remain one of the main challenges for the world over the coming decades. To feed another three billion people in the context of climate change requires new approaches to agricultural production. Genetic resources will play a crucial role in this process.

We must keep up the momentum from the high level meeting in June. If not, food security and agriculture will again become an issue for those with a special interest.

While the international community calls for a global partnership for food security and agricultural development, no concrete modalities to promote such a partnership seem to be in place.

Norway would like to see the UN High-Level Task Force on the Food Crisis take a more proactive role in facilitating a global partnership, but what we really need is to make the existing global architecture for food security more coherent and functional. FAO should be a cornerstone in this architecture.

But the world does not look to FAO for leadership on food security and agriculture. Why not? The answer is found in the IEE Report, which describes an Organization in deep crisis. Confidence in the Organization has withered, and reform is now a "to be or not to be" for FAO.

I am encouraged to see the results of the efforts for reform made by the Membership and management since the last Conference, manifested in the Immediate Plan of Action. This is a good starting point.

The new FAO must build on the Organization's comparative advantages and focus more on results and impact of its work. I am particularly pleased that both gender and the Right to Food feature high on the agenda as important aspects for improved food security and better nutrition.

FAO management has a special responsibility for seeing the reform process through and much can be achieved just by implementing organizational and administrative changes.

We, the Members of FAO, need to exercise better guidance for the Organization through the Governing Bodies. Norway strongly supports the reforms of the governance structure proposed by the IEE.

The Conference should focus on the issues and challenges facing world food security and be a source of policies and strategies for dealing with these issues.

I would like to emphasize the need for strengthening the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). CFS should be the central forum for all UN Agencies to discuss matters relevant to food security. In addition to NGOs, CFS should open up to include actors such as other UN Agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector and the research community.

Norway would like to see a leaner and more operational Council. The number of Council Members should be kept at a level which secures efficiency, while at the same time being representative. An increase in the number of Council Members would not be helpful, nor in line with the main objectives of the reform process. Let us also remind ourselves of the principle that there are no Permanent Members of the Council.

One of the most important challenges for FAO is to redefine its role at country level based on the principles within the Paris Declaration and the framework of "UN Delivering as One". FAO must work so that the knowledge it possesses is multiplied through interaction with other partners with a stronger presence at field level.

The Netherlands and Norway signed last week a Letter of Understanding with FAO by which the Netherlands and Norway join their voluntary contributions in a programmatic, multilateral Programme Cooperation Agreement with FAO. We consider this an important contribution to the reform process itself and a good way of integrating extraordinary contributions in the regular budget.

A strong emphasis on partnerships is crucial for a more effective FAO. The postponement of the establishment of an Office for Corporate Communications, Partnerships and Interagency Affairs is therefore unfortunate. These are core functions for FAO and important pillars in the Reform process.

Looking at the mandate of FAO – and its Technical Committees – I would say that the elements of a global structure for food security and agriculture exist. If we include the mandates of IFAD and the World Food Programme, I become even more convinced that we have the building blocks in place. They just need to be assembled. If the Rome-based Agencies manage to speak with one voice in the international community, we would have the instrument we need to efficiently deal with the unacceptable and unnecessary fact that hundreds of millions are still suffering from hunger and undernourishment.

### **Bright RWAMIRAMA (Uganda)**

When FAO was created more than 60 years ago, the primary aim was to help nations overcome the food crisis the world was grappling with at the time and to devise solutions to overcome any global threats to future food security. This objective has progressively gained more relevance as new challenges continue to unfold. The recent June 2008 discussion on the unravelling challenges of climate change, bio-energy and food prices on world food security is a very good case in point. Uganda appreciates all FAO's efforts and ability to balance all the existing and emerging challenges despite its ever dwindling resource envelope.

Uganda still recalls the important decision taken by the Governing Bodies in November 2004 to commission and launch an Independent External Evaluation exercise, to proceed in tandem with

the other FAO Reform processes earlier initiated by the Director General. The two approaches were, from the beginning, meant to be mutually supportive – an objective which we hope was achieved in a way that will continue to meet Members' expectations.

Uganda is glad to note the remarkable progress made by the CoC-IEE since its creation by the Thirty-fourth Conference in 2007. A task which was envisaged to be insurmountable has been accomplished within the agreed framework. We salute all the parties that participated in delivering these results without any exception. We are confident and optimistic that the remaining tasks will likewise be timely completed, especially since the approach to be followed is a replica of the one used for the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) preparation.

We also congratulate Membership for having developed and negotiated the draft IPA Resolution, which is ready for consideration by this Conference. We know that the whole process involved hard work and protracted negotiations, for which we congratulate all those who were involved in the whole process.

While in principle we support approval of the IPA for immediate implementation, we consider it important to view the Plan as work in progress, since some of the planning tasks still remain to be accomplished during 2009.

In addition, we note that the start-up of implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action requires US\$21.8 million for 2009 to be met by voluntary extra-budgetary contributions through a Trust Fund yet to be established. We also note that the 2010-2011 funding for the IPA will be treated under the integrated Programme of Work Budget.

While creation of the Trust Fund is a very welcome idea, it is important that we handle the matter of treating the IPA under the Programme of Work and Budget cautiously to ensure that priority activities of the Organisation are sustained.

As work progresses, Uganda as an agriculture-dependant country eagerly awaits accomplishment of the following pending tasks during 2009: finalization of the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan and preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11; the decision and agreement on the priority thematic areas; the question of the number for composition of the reformed Council; the recommendation to integrate and manage assessed contributions and extra-budgetary resources in a unified work programme, subjected to the same planning, monitoring and oversight processes; the recommendation for a transparent and competitive policy for recruitment of staff and consultants; and the Root and Branch Review expected to be completed in April 2009.

Uganda, as a developing country, supports a strong decentralized presence to facilitate easy provision of services flexibly to Members and enable smooth flow of information consonant to FAO's major mandate as a knowledge organization.

The Uganda delegation thanks the FAO Director-General, His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf, for the June 2008 High Level Conference on Challenges to Food Security. We appreciate FAO's participation and contribution to the Follow-up to the High level Conference, especially the Comprehensive Framework for Action by the United Nations. We congratulate the Director-General as the Vice-Chair and his team.

However, we take note of the alarming global food security situation as the number of the hungry shot up from 850 million to 923 million in a period of one year, and the fact that a lot of money will be required to avert the situation. This gloomy picture is indeed likely to continue in the year to come in the light of the prevailing global economic recession. The situation is worsening in Africa, where funding in the agricultural sector is meagre although production potential is still high.

The Uganda delegation wishes to urge FAO to continue spearheading the campaign to attract increased budgetary allocations into the sector to enhance production, especially for agriculture inputs, value addition and market access. We also call upon the Director-General and management to always apprise the Membership of all developments in that regard.



My delegation would like to end by applauding Membership for all the work done and particularly the CoC-IEE. We also thank the Director-General and his team for all the cooperation and assistance rendered during the hard task. We pledge our commitment to the process and look forward to our active future participation in the entire Reform process.

**Ruben Dario PATROUILLEAU (Argentina)**

Señor Director General Jacques Diouf; Señor Presidente y Vicepresidentes de esta Conferencia; Señores Jefes de Estado; Señores Jefes de Delegaciones; Señoras y Señores:

El motivo de esta Conferencia es dar a conocer el resultado del arduo trabajo realizado durante diez meses. Deseo entonces agradecer a todos los participantes por esas labores, al Director General y a la administración por el apoyo permanente, al Presidente y a la Secretaría del Comité de la Conferencia, y a todos los que participaron en cientos de reuniones y debates. A todos muchas gracias.

La situación revela un momento especial, los Estados Miembros de la Organización debemos asumir la responsabilidad colectiva y el desafío inmenso de alcanzar un acuerdo integral del que surja una FAO fortalecida con prioridades definidas y capacidades necesarias para enfrentar airoosamente la nueva escena mundial, dominada por una mayor multilateralidad política, una extendida globalización económica y un paradigma energético en mudanza, que conecta más estrechamente que nunca a la problemática alimentaria con la energética, todo ello atravesado por una de las crisis sistemáticas más profundas de la historia moderna.

En este contexto tan particular debe inscribirse el proceso de transformación de la FAO y queremos señalar algo fundamental que se refiere al reconocimiento que guía este proceso de transformar la cultura de la institución, hecho fundante que a la vez que legitima todos los esfuerzos, resulta el elemento catalizador de todo lo ulterior. En este propósito, el diagnóstico de la Evaluación Externa Independiente (EEI) fue claro: "...Si la FAO desapareciera mañana, debiéramos reinventarla". Pero ya resulta indudable: necesitamos otra FAO.

La Evaluación ha indicado que la caída de los recursos financieros en los últimos 15 años ha provocado una disminución de sus capacidades técnicas y ha afectado muchas de las competencias esenciales del organismo. El desafío de revertir esta situación comenzó con el presupuesto aprobado en la Conferencia del año pasado, y seguirá asegurando la reprogramación, el establecimiento de prioridades por consenso, y alcanzando un acuerdo inicial sobre el "primer paso" de la "Reforma con Crecimiento": el Plan Inmediato de Acción. Coincidimos plenamente entonces en comenzar el proceso de renovación de la FAO con todos los Países Miembros, sumando también a la Administración y al personal de la Organización.

Resaltamos también que se hayan alcanzado acuerdos en la visión y los objetivos globales deseados para la Organización. Recogemos con beneplácito que en ellos se reitere el compromiso de luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición y de erradicar la pobreza. Tan importante para los países en desarrollo, es impulsar la producción de alimentos con agregado de valor, que es tan imprescindible para mejorar las estructuras productivas, y consecuentemente el nivel de vida de las sociedades de estos países. Se coincide enfáticamente también con premisas y conceptos básicos como la distribución equitativa de los ingresos, y trabajar para acercar la meta de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En otro orden de cosas, también queremos destacar los cambios operados respecto a la gobernanza; la marcada intención de articular e integrar los trabajos de la FAO; la importancia asignada a las Conferencias Regionales, la profundización del proceso de Descentralización ya iniciado y el rol que la Evaluación cumplirá en la nueva etapa. Por todo ello, aprobamos el Plan Inmediato de Acción (PIA) 2009-2011.

También deseo comunicar a ustedes que Argentina redobla su compromiso con el proceso de reorganización de la FAO, y en ese sentido, hay dos cuestiones que quisiera abordar: la primera referida a la historia reciente del país, la segunda se refiere a nuestra relación presente y futura con la Organización.

La República Argentina ha vivido hace apenas ocho años la peor crisis económica y social de su historia bicentenaria. Esta situación afectó no sólo a la población de nuestro país, sino también a nuestras relaciones internacionales con otros países y organismos internacionales, como es el caso de la FAO. A pesar de estas gravísimas circunstancias, mi país ha logrado no sólo revertir esta situación, si no que, gracias al esfuerzo de todos los habitantes, este año cumplirá el ciclo de crecimiento sostenido más importante de su historia. En este marco, y lo hemos dicho en innumerables foros, uno de nuestros principales compromisos ha sido trabajar para que toda la población acceda a una alimentación segura con precios accesibles.

Quiero también decirles, por expresa instrucción de la Señora Presidente de la Nación, Dra. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, me ha sido encomendado comunicar ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO), que, en cumplimiento de las obligaciones financieras del Gobierno Argentino ante este Organismo, entre los meses de julio de 2007 y febrero de 2008, Argentina ha pagado la totalidad de las cuotas de los años 2007 y 2008 y parte de su deuda anterior por un monto de 8.615 millones de USD. Asimismo, esta semana se realiza un nuevo pago por 9.415 millones de USD, correspondientes a una buena parte del saldo pendiente.

Esta también es una magnífica oportunidad para agradecer ante ustedes la distinción que significa para Argentina que una representante de nuestro país haya sido honrada con la Presidencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial durante el próximo bienio. Por otra parte, me gustaría remarcar la importancia que tiene que el Consejo de la FAO haya confirmado que este Comité se reunirá en 2009. Dadas las circunstancias que atraviesa el mundo y el impacto no definitivamente vislumbrado de la crisis económico-financiera alimentaria global, para reafirmar también la conveniencia de mantener la anualidad de las reuniones del Comité.

Como señalara en esta sala hace seis meses nuestra Señora Presidente, el problema alimentario no es sólo un problema de producción de alimentos, sino también de distribución alimentaria. Entendemos que esta sería mejor atendida si se reorientaran parte de la cooperación internacional, del crédito y de las inversiones hacia los países que somos de hecho grandes productores de alimentos, y que hemos incorporado la más alta tecnología en favor del incremento de la productividad; esto por supuesto sin desconocer en absoluto, la prioridad de atender a los países más pobres.

Si de producción se trata, hoy el mundo produce un 14 por ciento más que hace 30 años, y la Argentina ha producido, en 2007, 97 millones de toneladas en materia agrícola, llegando a ser actualmente el quinto productor mundial de alimentos. Incluso podría llegar a 150 millones de toneladas con sustentabilidad en un mediano plazo, salvando alguna brecha tecnológica no mayor y básicamente incorporando infraestructura de obra hídrica, de acuerdo con los escenarios productivos realizados por nuestro Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), en el año 2008.

Como correlato de lo expuesto y en el marco de la refuncionalización del Organismo y de su relación con los Estados Miembros, a nivel de la agenda país FAO-Argentina estamos presentando los lineamientos generales del Marco de Prioridades Nacionales de Mediano Plazo (NMTPF).

Queremos poner un marco conceptual y operativo que englobe la cooperación FAO-Argentina, que haga lo propio con la eventual cooperación horizontal Sur-Sur en el marco de FAO, que de hecho Argentina practica activamente en varios países y a través de variadas acciones. Queremos que FAO nos acompañe a transitar el pasaje de una agenda agropecuaria a una agenda agro-alimentaria y agro-energética sostenible, dónde producir más y agregar valor a la producción no sea incompatible, que es lo que realmente cumpliría con los objetivos del modelo de desarrollo elegido por el Gobierno Argentino en 2003.

Para terminar, quisiera enfatizar el rol determinante que asignamos a la FAO en esta circunstancia mundial y el más gravitante aún que puede desempeñar, articulando acciones para paliar sus efectos en el mundo en desarrollo. Argentina está totalmente dispuesta a colaborar con esta

gigantesca tarea que asume la FAO. En ese sentido mi país está dispuesto a acompañar toda iniciativa, diálogo, reunión o encuentro que se traduzca en términos de acción concreta en pro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

**Ms Valentina ZAVALEVSKAYA (Ukraine) (Original language Russian)**

Firstly, on behalf of the Government of Ukraine I want to welcome the participants of the Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference.

During the five years in which Ukraine has been a Member of FAO, cooperation with the Organization has been a priority in the international relations of Ukraine in the field of agriculture. This Special Session of the Conference today is extremely significant for the further Reform of FAO itself. It is first and foremost a turning point in the over 60 years of the existence of the Organization, because it looks at a basic decisions that concern far-reaching reforms. The consequences will also affect all areas of action in the FAO. No doubt, the structure of the FAO needs changes at all levels, beginning with laying down of priorities and ending with the strategic actions of the Organization, that, in turn, need to meet the real circumstances resulting from the financial crisis. We fully support these steps taken by FAO to optimize this structure of the Secretariat, Regional Representatives, improvements in the activities of the Governing Bodies, the Conference, Council and other Bodies. We approve the move to Reform in order to lay down priorities. One of the most important actions is to react to the global climate changes and to improve food quality and security, and the change from production to consumption.

Today, we see that it is very important for FAO to assist countries in forming agricultural policies and in developing their potential in areas that stimulate stable production, thereby helping to ensure food security and economic growth. It is important to also solve complicated and difficult problems related to climate change, and provide people with sufficient food. It is very important in our opinion to increase the role of Member Nations in formulating policies and in participation in the activities of the Organization, particularly regarding the functioning of the Governing Bodies. Ukraine welcomes the results of the Independent Evaluation. We believe that the Immediate Plan of Action will make it possible to start taking measures that will increase the effectiveness of the Organization, its ability to meet the requirements of Members and will assist it in coping with the difficulties of achieving the challenges and goals of the Twenty-first Century.

No doubt we share the concern of the world community with regard to the influence of the financial crisis on the development of agriculture and in food supplies. Despite the record grain harvest, which we had in the Ukraine, 52 million tonnes, or over 130 kilos per head, the tendencies which we have seen in the world markets have a negative influence on the agriculture of the Ukraine. In particular, we see a fall in the prices of certain farm products to levels which do not compensate for the cost of production. There is a break in the granting of credit to agriculture and there is a worsening in the problem of accounting between market participants and the banking system. There is a reduction in the volume of exports in certain agricultural products. Today, the Government of Ukraine considers it very important to regulate the situation in agriculture as a whole. In particular, we will have to deal with the following; a stabilization of food prices internally; the provision of material and technical resources; strengthening controls and observance with legislation; provision of credit from banks to agricultural producers and food-processing firms. We understand that the food and financial crisis has worsened the situation in the poorest countries in the world where the number of hungry people has multiplied and that is why broadening cooperation to combat hunger and poverty is very important. With the large grain crop we had and also with active cooperation between FAO and Ukraine, we are prepared to provide countries with our grain using United Nations mechanisms and we are already working in this direction. One of our companies has got the right to sell 739 thousand tonnes to a number of countries, and we are ready to broaden our cooperation in this direction and participate actively in international humanitarian programmes.

We are ready to cooperate, and we believe that the joint efforts of the Members of FAO, the Secretariat and the staff will enable us to achieve our goals. The Organization will become an

instrument which can effectively react to global climate changes and combat hunger and poverty in the world.

We are grateful to FAO for their cooperation and help. The initiatives of FAO are taken very seriously and carefully examined by us, and we think that our cooperation will, in the future, become more fruitful and closer.

**Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)**

First of all, allow me to express my highest appreciation to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, for his initiative and excellent arrangement for this important meeting. I believe that through this meeting we would generate beneficial outputs for a more prosperous world. In this opportunity, I would also like to convey, on behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, our warm greetings to all Conference participants.

We are all aware that the issues on the global food, economic, and fuel crisis, have become a major concern in sustaining our world food security. The fossil fuel crisis has led to the rising price of food, transportations and agricultural inputs. The food price hike will consequently reduce the consumption quality of poor households. This multi-dimensional crisis will directly hit the poorest and neediest of the world and in turn decrease their already low quality of life. This situation, coupled with the global climate change and the recently-emerged financial crisis, would complicate the future problems in achieving food security in the developing countries, or even in the global terms.

We also share our view that the recent global food security situation will challenge and add burdens in achieving the 1996 World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals, namely: "halving the number of people living in hunger by 2015".

Indonesia has committed to achieve its MDG's and sustain its policy to put agriculture as one of our important development agenda. Therefore, the Indonesian Government gives high priority to the efforts of achieving food security to ensure the sustainability of food availability and food consumption in sufficient, safety, good quality and nutritious. This is done by giving high consideration on the optimal utilization of the local resources and culture, and the promotion of innovative technology and market opportunities.

In achieving its food security, the Indonesian Government has been adopting a general strategic approach, namely twin-track strategy, which consists in: developing people's economy on rural and agricultural development bases to provide job opportunities and generate income; and in complying with the provision of food for the poor and vulnerable communities through food aid and in empowering communities to build their own capacity in achieving their own food security.

We all come here for one purpose only, that is to reform FAO and to further reiterate the importance of FAO roles in managing and distributing food for the world, based on good governance in an international system.

To respond with the recent global crisis, we believe that no single country would be able to solve the problem. We need a closer collaboration among countries, international institutions and other related bodies to solve the existing multi-dimensional crisis more than we ever had before.

This effort would require better common understanding among Member Nations, timely and reliable data and information for policy decisions, and a long-term agricultural development plan focusing on sustainable food production and fairer trade policy.

In relation with the importance of collaboration among countries in facing the global food crisis, Indonesia, therefore, principally support initiatives for global partnership, as long as, it is designed comprehensively and it would not overburden or disadvantage Member Nations.

To cope with the recent global multi-dimensional crisis, Indonesia is of the view that the process of FAO Reform must be implemented accordingly, and in a timely manner. In this regard, Indonesia would like to extend its utmost appreciation for the Conference Committee of the Independent Evaluation for the Report of the CoC-IEE Immediate Plan of Action. The Committee

has proved an excellent work in providing firm and realistic basis for FAO to significantly enhance its global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness. The implementation of this framework also coincides with the principles of the Paris Declaration which Indonesia fully supports.

On this occasion, we would also like to urge all Member Nations for their commitment on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-2011) which requires Members' contributions in terms of extra-budgetary funding.

We believe that through enhanced collaboration among Member Nations in developing global agriculture and food security, we will be able to address problems related to the global crisis. We have to work together, hand in hand, in preventing the decline of the nutrition status of poor households, particularly for children and women in developing countries.

**Manfred BOETSCH (Switzerland)**

I would like first of all to thank all of you who have worked so hard and successfully under the competent leadership of Mr Noori, the Chair of the Committee of the Conference for IEE-Follow up to formulate the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal which we have adopted today. I would like also to express my thanks to FAO Management for its active and positive support and commitment to the Reform process.

Switzerland welcomes the Immediate Plan of Action, and supports its adoption in full. The Immediate Plan of Action, even if it does not meet all our expectations will lead to important and necessary improvements within the Organization.

For Switzerland, an urgent but sequenced implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action is clearly needed under the monitoring of the Council.

In the first stage of implementation, special attention should be given to human resources policy and management, independence of audit and evaluation and improved financial controls.

The Immediate Plan of Action is an important step, but it is only a first step. Important challenges remain and we should not lose the momentum. In this respect, I would like to raise three issues.

Firstly, the Reform Process must continue through a clear prioritization and focus in FAO's actions on the basis of the Organization's comparative strengths. This is especially important at the level of organizational results in order to achieve greater efficiency and effective delivery of services.

Secondly, we expect FAO to forge and implement selected partnerships with the other Rome-based Agencies but also with other relevant partners such as UN Agencies, funds and programmes or the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as with the private sector, civil society and private foundations. Working in partnership is essential if we want to succeed in our endeavors.

Thirdly, we also need a more streamlined organizational structure at Headquarters, and a strong decentralized presence at country level.

Let me come now to the issue of financing.

We support the immediate establishment of a Special Trust Fund for the purpose of financing the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action in 2009. Switzerland will make a contribution to this Fund commensurate to its assessed contribution to the regular budget of the Organization. Further implementation steps from 2010 onwards should not be, however, financed by extra-budgetary contributions, but collectively borne by the whole Membership.

The year 2009 will be a crucial one in the life of this Organization. Switzerland welcomes the proposal aimed at setting-up a time-bound Committee of the Conference. My country is ready to continue to take part in an active and constructive manner in the work of this Committee and of the Working Groups.

Before concluding I would like to make a few comments on the way FAO could promote the continuing contribution of food and sustainable agriculture to the attainment of the three Global Goals.

In our view, FAO should apply in a concrete way the concept of sustainable agriculture in all its programmes and activities. Appropriate, well-targeted and comprehensive policies, legislation and institutions taking into account the three dimensions of sustainability are needed to enhance rural development and livelihoods. Switzerland is ready to cooperate with FAO on this issue.

It is also critical to strengthen FAO's role in the field of sustainable management of natural resources, since they are the basis for food production. For that, we need a FAO structure that is in a position to properly address the global cross-cutting issues such as climate change, preservation of biodiversity, and soil and water management.

Having always given a high importance to the complex issue of food security, the Swiss Government has decided this year to launch a Global Programme on Food Security that is now in the final stage of preparation. This multi-year programme aims to support a coherent and coordinated implementation of the UN Comprehensive Framework for Action at the global and national levels. In this context, Switzerland will give, from January 2009, financial support to the FAO Right to Food Unit. We also envisage cooperation with FAO in capacity-building activities for the formulation and implementation of national or regional food security policies.

Let's now get the Reform underway, and make change happen because we all want and need a strong and efficient FAO in order to foster the Millennium Development Goals and to attain the three Global Goals.

**T. Nanda KUMAR (India)**

I will confine myself to the subject of this meeting which is reforming FAO, Reform with Growth.

FAO, in the six decades of its existence, has played a pivotal role in helping Member Nations meet the challenges posed by rising populations and a growing demand for adequate food and nutrition.

However, with the passage of time, the Organization did appear to have lost some of its agility and ability to prioritize and redefine its role in setting the policy agenda for global agriculture in the world. The world, in the meanwhile, continued to change. There are new challenges to be effectively met: from adapting agricultural production systems to climate change to ensuring continued viability of smallholder holdings, and from assured quality and safety of foods along the food chain to creating infrastructure and improved access to markets.

FAO's principal stakeholders, the Member Nations and their constituents, the producers and consumers of agricultural commodities expect and demand FAO's re-emergence as a leader and facilitator in attaining a hunger and malnutrition free world.

We are happy to note that the Member Nations' concerns for revitalizing the FAO through an in depth evaluation of its working has resulted in an incisive Report tabled already.

The Immediate Plan of Action has thrown up possible outcomes in a large number of areas where FAO needs to be reformed. Having achieved such a high degree of agreement between Members, what needs to be done today is to ensure that the implementation does not belie our expectations.

Mr Chairperson, India welcomes the Strategic Framework encompassing FAO's vision and global goals. We also support the new set of strategic objectives. While we need to be focused on these broad principles of engagement, we also have to recognize that different regions of the world are in different stages of economic development. Developing countries are faced with multiple challenges. On the one hand are the needs of the growing populations with rising expectations and awareness of food and nutrition security, whereas on the other, sustainable use of resources for production of agricultural commodities assumes priority. The challenge before us, therefore, is to

impart FAO with the ability to effectively address global issues in agriculture and food security. But it is equally important to ensure that there are adequate resources to address these issues.

I share the concerns of the Member Nations on the need to make FAO a cost effective and efficient organization and welcome the series of measures included in the Immediate Plan of Action, including those which are under examination through a Root and Branch Review, for identifying potential savings. FAO's Headquarters and Field operations should emerge from this exercise as a lean and business like structure with a highly-talented reservoir of professionals. This will of course have to be backed by adequate financial resources.

We the Member Nations on our part also have to reassess our role and responsibility as Members of the Governing Bodies, to be able to recognize emerging global trends and challenges, and help the management design and implement coherent and workable policies.

I, therefore, welcome measures such as those which will revitalize the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences. We as individual Members can also contribute to this collective endeavour. In this context I am happy to share with the Members about India having organized jointly with FAO two important events during 2008. We hosted the first Global Agro-industries Forum in New Delhi in April and more recently, in early November, we hosted the International Conference on the Impending Threat of Wheat Rust to the Large Wheat-growing Regions of East Africa, West, Central and South Asia. The Conference approved the Delhi Declaration on Wheat Stem Rust Ug 99, and I have been authorized to place this before you for consideration. It forms part of the speech that is being circulated. I will not read that Declaration, but I hope people will take the time to look at that. We urge FAO and Member Nations to support urgent collaborative actions and to mitigate the threat to food security which could be caused by this wheat rust.

Raising financial resources and cutting costs at FAO will continue to engage Member Nations' attention in the future. As stakeholders we will expect the Management to deliver. The proposal to implement a new results-based framework where outcomes matter and organizational results are monitored and evaluated and is appropriate and timely. It should also lead to the establishment of a system for continuous identification of redundancies and their elimination. This will further strengthen confidence in the FAO's ability to deliver. We, therefore, welcome the proposal which supports FAO's cost of reforms in 2009 to be met from a separate Trust Fund established for the purpose, without taking away resources from other programmes.

Mr Chairperson, it may be recalled that at the High-Level Conference in June we all had noted with concern the impact of rising cost of food commodities and the impact of climate change on food and nutritional security of millions of people, and indeed the livelihoods of millions of families that could be in jeopardy. While food prices have come down from those highs, the crisis in the world financial markets, which has become increasingly pervasive since then, can result in adding to the adversity of these vulnerable sections of society. FAO has shown commendable initiative in helping a large number of countries burdened with the food crisis. This is in addition to the important initiatives taken up in the recent past for containment of transboundary pests and diseases. Such initiatives and best practices should form a part of the reform exercise to revitalize FAO, enabling it to partner Member Nations in overcoming challenges faced by world agriculture.

Mr Chairperson, we shall once again gather here in one year's time at a regular session of the Conference. During the intervening period I am confident that the FAO management and staff under the leadership of the Director-General will apply themselves to the task of achieving, what has been set out in the Immediate Action Plan, so that when we meet next we start seeing the emergence of a new FAO, geared up to meet the new challenges of global food and agriculture.

Before I conclude, let me assure you that India will continue to invest in agriculture, do its best to increase agricultural output in the country, and make its own contribution to ensuring global food security.

**Mehdi Al Kaisy (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)**

I am indeed delighted and honoured to represent his Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture in Iraq, Mr Ali Hussein Kadhum Albehadli, who entrusted me with the task of representing him and I should like to convey his best wishes for success.

May I also on behalf of the delegation of Iraq, I would like to congratulate you Sir as Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson for your election for this special General Conference. I should also like to thank FAO for convening such an important meeting.

As you are aware, the global challenges facing agriculture in terms of crop and animal production are numerous and intricate for numerous reasons. Some of them are due to the accelerating economic transformation within the framework of globalization and free trade in the world which bring about a number of standards and regulations which should be applied when goods are traded between countries. In addition to other climatic changes, namely those that led to water shortages and other environmental aspects. Thus, the need to invest in new technologies in order to promote the agricultural production and bring about rural and agricultural development in general.

Iraq since the dawn of history, has been the land of agriculture, the land of Mesopotamia is rich in terms of its soil and water and the diversification of its produce, and if the proper factors are existent then the full potential of the Iraqi development can be secured. One of the main challenges facing agriculture now in Iraq is the issue of the clogging and the salinity of large surfaces of area in Iraq, and, thus, we do need to do reclamation and rehabilitation work in these lands in the central and the southern parts of Iraq. In addition to the need to devise new irrigation and draining networks which are good modern and integrated. We have to make every effort in order to promote the productivity of the agricultural production, and to put in place a strategic plan for the agricultural sector.

Indeed the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq has had a major interest in this since it has promoted research and development in extension work in addition to numerous agricultural services. The agricultural sector has received prominent support through the Agricultural Initiative launched by the Government which brought about positive results and which actually secured a promotion of our activities and leap-frogged other conventional measures. Thus a Special Fund was set in place in order to secure lending to farmers interest free without any charges. There is also another Fund was set up in order to compensate farmers that were affected by drought.

Furthermore, the prices of dates have been subsidized in order to entice and encourage the farmers to look after our national and generous tree, namely the palm tree. The Government, as represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, has been very active in promoting training activities and specialized research work. Undoubtedly, the international organizations do have a prominent and important role in promoting our agricultural projects. A special role should be assumed by this Organization, FAO, because we do need the assistance of FAO in training our traders in supplying us with information and data. Here we should like to express our appreciation for the support given by FAO to Iraq in the field of promoting the agricultural sector in my country.

I should like to say here that the projects implemented do not yet live up to the support given, and we do hope that other projects are implemented so that they can achieve tangible results just like the other projects implemented in other countries.

There is no doubt about the fact that water scarcity and below rainfall rates do have an impact on agriculture. Indeed a number of regions are affected by drought and more particularly in the province of Kurdistan. Actually, Kurdistan has suffered a great deal from drought and has been declared a drought-stricken region, thus the importance of receiving support from international organizations. This Organization, FAO, should promote research work in the field of drylands to help us protect ourselves from bird flu and other diseases affecting our animal health, namely acute dysentery diseases and other diseases.



We cannot but express our thanks and appreciation for the assistance given to us from this Organization. We should like to thank the international organizations and international civil society organizations. My special thanks go to the Government of Australia, that helped us since they gave us a number of scholarships and allowed our students to undertake a number of training courses in Australia.

We have to say here that Iraq has regained its prominent international standing, and therefore it has started paying its arrears and contributions to all international organizations and agencies. A specific programme has been put in place in order to organize this operation. Indeed, one part of our contributions to FAO has been paid and as for the rest, they shall be rescheduled and paid in instalments. Here, I would like to thank all the countries that wrote off our debts and cancelled our arrears, because we did not profit from the activities of the Organization during the last decades.

My country would like to ask the Organization to move the office of FAO from Amman to Baghdad because Baghdad is now enjoying security and safety. I do believe that moving such an office to Baghdad would bring about a substantial benefit to our experts and it would also secure savings on both parts, Iraq and the FAO. I should like to say here that the Government of Iraq has nominated an Ambassador to FAO, and he will be engaging in all activities of the Organization. Our contributions shall be even more significant in the future.

Iraq does welcome the IEE Report and we also welcome what is contained in the Immediate Plan of Action, with all its schedules in terms of its implementation and financial governance aspects for the 2009-2011 timeframe.

**Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

The delegation of Zimbabwe joins others in congratulating you Mr Chairperson upon your appointment and indeed your Deputy Chairs. We welcome the renewal of the FAO and to this end we endorse fully the report of the Chair of the COC-IEE and we take this opportunity to commend him and his Vice Chairs for a job well done.

Mr Chairperson, as we examine the Report on the proposals for implementing the recommendations of the IEE, we note with satisfaction the conduct of the negotiations that have been undertaken by the Permanent Representations in Rome and that have resulted in an agreed Immediate Plan of Action and the Draft Resolution. That such accords were reached well before the Conference signifies a growing realization on the part of the Members of the importance of rejuvenating the FAO in their genuine desire to achieve the objective in a timely manner.

The Reform of FAO is paramount and cannot be delayed any further, particularly as the world faces unprecedented challenges of food insecurity in many countries. The challenge of high food prices that affects people's capacity to access food and the challenge of the climate change that puts constraints on cropping and other agriculture programmes is also a case in point. More recently, the onset of the global financial crisis has threatened the capacity of the world to invest in agriculture. We, therefore, look to the reforms of the FAO to address these concerns with the new agenda.

Reforms should not be about simply sprucing up the image of the Organization but they should be felt in the lives of the people they serve. A better packaged FAO should ensure it delivers or encourages the delivery of people-centred extended knowledge and expertise, and plays a catalytic role in spearhead recovery programmes in projects that are responsive to the needs of Member Nations. In the current climate, the FAO should be empowered to work with Governments and other partners in the field to ensure that the small-scale farmers recover the capacity to feed their families and contribute effectively to national food security. In this regard, Zimbabwe is working with the FAO in its recovery programme. We would like to see the follow-up discussions on the twelve strategic objectives that have been identified in the IPA giving due attention to crop production, forestry, livestock and fisheries, which subsectors we believe would guarantee adequate food availability and reserve stocks. Though this end, the organizational results, as translated in the programme entities, should seek to operationalize these initiatives, in a

manner that enhances the role of FAO to develop knowledge and ensure that it is rolled out to the farmers. Farmers should be able to feel the benefits directly from a revamped FAO. The farmer organizations and their delegates from the capitals that attend the regular FAO meetings would serve to give the meetings the feedback on the impact of the Organization on the ground. If Members cannot identify with the reforms on the ground, then the Organization would have failed its constituency. Members' needs differ for a variety of reasons. Therefore, the programme entities should not close doors to certain Members seeking a particular service but should allow for flexibility to enable different Member Nations to draw from them the benefits that correspond to their need at the time.

Prioritization of FAO resources should build in some degree of flexibility to accommodate the needs of the rich and poor nations. Through the country offices, it should be possible to determine what projects would be implemented in a biennium by individual Member Nations. Programming of resources should also ensure the Organization can address Member needs and any imagined challenges that may threaten food security in the world at any given period. Even where prioritization has to be considered, we believe that the Organization should recognize the challenges in the developing world and not define their needs applying the criteria that is used for the developed world where there is a stronger institutional support for the value chains than say, in my continent, Africa. The regional peculiarities should be considered accordingly. Priorities should be guaranteed by Regular Budget financing, with the extra-budgetary support coming in to complement these programmes as and when necessary.

We share the views of the Members who have advocated that for the foreseeable future, attention should be directed towards agricultural growthh world and recovery programmes, particularly strengthening agriculture support systems of the food-insecure countries. The statement of the Director General was very clear on the agenda before us. Because of the uncertainties we face at the global level, we support the recommendations for a High-Level Summit to be held in 2009. We support the recommendations that arose from the High-Level Conference that we had in June. We also strongly recommend that FAO continues to play a pivotal role in the field of food security.

Mr Chairperson, that the field of agricultural recovery should require continued boosting and monitoring speaks for itself, hence a Summit at high level in 2009 would give the Heads of States ample opportunity to assess what progress, if any, had been achieved by the initiatives that were put in place by the High-Level Conference.

In Decentralization, we align ourselves to the sentiments which would have been made by some Regions, that seek to strengthen country and Sub-regional Offices, as well as ensuring FAO presence at country level. These channels will strengthen the countries for communicating information and new technologies to farmers. In the same vein, we urge that support given to the processes completing regional initiatives in increasing investment to agriculture, such as CAADP for the NEPAD programme, be given additional support. Increase investment in agriculture should be filled by the Member Nations in the farmers. CAADP has sponsored many bankable projects but to date most of them have not found any daylight. They are teetering due to lack of resources, and this is where we would invite extra-budgetary resources .

Mr Chairperson, we see Reform with Growth being supported by additional resources, and so we would like to see the 2010–2011 Programme of Work and Budget incorporating this concept to the full. My delegation supports the IPA and the recommendations that have been adopted from the IEE. We also associate ourselves with the tribute made to Miriam Makeba by the Director-General and the Minister of South Africa and with that Mr Chairperson, I thank you.

**Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Iranian Delegation, to congratulate you on your election as Vice Chair of this Conference, and to wish you and all other distinguished participants, every success in this Conference.

Increasing trends of poverty and hunger in many parts of the world, particularly in Low-Income Food-Deficit countries, is daily causing the death of millions of men, women and children and displaced many others can be due to the following:

First, natural disasters such as flood, drought and in general, the climate changes consequences, as an important element in this respect.

Second, irresponsibility and lack of accountability among some privileged countries in the accomplishing of their commitments to international conventions and development programmes, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Third, the failing of relevant International Organizations and Agencies in materialization of the MDG's and creating the necessary momentum for reducing hunger and poverty, although the recent attention made on eradicating poverty shows a turning attitude of the international community in favour of more support for agriculture as a substantial need.

Fourth, lack of a solid international policy and political will to assist the enhancement of agricultural production in needy countries to enable them to meet their needs in the long term through sustainable agriculture in parallel with the emergency assistance they receive.

Fifth, inability of many countries, particularly Low-Income and Food-Deficit countries, to enhance and improve their agricultural sector in order to secure their first essential needs, mainly due to the lack of some initial requisites such as infrastructural framework, training, technical assistance, different kinds of inputs and many other factors which are needed for such improvement.

In this spirit, receiving the Report of the Conference Committee on the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO CoC-IEE, including the Immediate Plan of Action, brought us the hope of having a better and stronger FAO. So, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes this Report and hopes this action can provide a firm and realistic basis for FAO as a pioneer organization to significantly enhance its global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in the meeting of all its clients, particularly in materializing the MDG's goals, mobilizing funds in agricultural sector, persuading the Membership to transact their commitments in a timely and proper manner, especially the privileged countries.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to draw your attention that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as pioneer country in the Region, in achieving its food security aims in spite of encountering several successive droughts, even in the last year, it could succeed in increasing its agricultural products up to more than 100 million tonnes per year from which more than 70 percent are the crop production and the rest are horticulture, livestock and aquatic products, resulted in self-sufficient in some staple foods. Establishing two million hectares of manmade forest in arid and semi-arid Regions, establishing different gene banks for plants and animals, and many other related issues are some parts of the activities which have been carried out in this sector supported by 23 national research institutes, 32 local research centres, 58 training centres, including 5000 researchers and spending about US\$300 million per year just for the agricultural research purposes.

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as ever, continues its support and cooperation, collaboration with FAO to play its role in mitigating poverty and hunger. In order to make it possible, we urge FAO to observe in a timely and proper manner the recommendations made by IEE. After the appropriate consideration by CoC-IEE, so we can witness a Reform with Growth for this Organization fitted for the Twenty-first Century.

**Ms Agnes VAN ARDENNE-VAN DER HOEVEN (The Netherlands)**

Change is in the air, here and now in Rome and in two days the world. Change brings fear, when people remain uncertain about their future, their jobs or their income; change brings hope if a better future is on the horizon. The decision of the G20 last week, to change the oversight and regulations of the international financial sector brings hope. The same goes for the proclamation of UN Reforms in 2005 to focus on more efficiency, effectiveness and relevance within the UN family, and here, at this Special Session of the Conference, the 192 members of FAO voted for

FAO's change and renewal through the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action. That brings hope to the one billion people who live in the cycle of hunger, poverty and exclusion.

As Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Conference, I would like to commend the Membership and, in particular, the Members of the Working Groups for their commitment and cooperation with regard to the preparation of this Immediate Plan of Action.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their timeless efforts to create understanding and to build trust and transparency among ourselves. Without that we would have never been able to write jointly such a substantial plan for FAO's renewal.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups, their enthusiasm and patience inspired all of us.

I would also like to thank FAO's management and the COC Secretariat, under the able leadership of John Markie, for their support and active participation in this change process.

This process is unique in its kind, no other international organization has ever experienced such a drafting process for their reforms. We have really set the example that it can be done. Although ambitious, the Immediate Action Plan is also very realistic. Still many issues need to be addressed and accomplished in 2009.

I thank the Member Nations for their confidence in the Conference Committee to continue its work in 2009. As Vice-Chair, I am looking forward to working with the Members and FAO management in 2009 on the implementation of the Immediate Action Plan.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement of France, as President of the European Union. In addition, I would like to highlight three points which we see as being crucial for the successful renewal of FAO: first, prioritization, second, growth and third, governance.

The year 2008 will be remembered as the year when the world faced three major crises – on food, on fuel and on finances. We have to double food production and do so while at the same time protecting the planet, taking into account the role small-scale farmers and, in particular, women play in the production, trade and processing of food. I would like to refer to what the Chair of the Programme Committee said during the meeting earlier this week about prioritization. "FAO, as a knowledge-based organization, can make the difference for these farmers if FAO focuses on clearly-defined priorities, innovation and new technologies," and knowledge should be made accessible to farmers and fishermen as well.

Another aspect is the prioritization of the managerial reforms. The Netherlands appreciates the proposed emphasis on improved client focus, the prioritization of human resource initiatives and streamlining of the decision-making process within FAO from January 2009 and onwards.

The second issue: growth. The Independent External Evaluation calls for Reform with Growth. In our view, there is no doubt that this growth entails both a quantitative and a qualitative dimension. The Netherlands, therefore, feels that there can be no growth without reforms. If FAO is able to transform into a valuable organization where the principles of responsibility, subsidiarity, accountability, empowerment and results based management prevail, then this will lead to quality growth within FAO.

The same goes with the first FAO multi-donor partnership, with Norway and the Netherlands. The Norwegian Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs also referred to it in his statement. ADG Sumpsi said after the signing of this FAO multi-donor partnership last Friday, and I quote "this multi-donor programme is an important step towards a new FAO, as it will allow the Organization to reach out to its Members in a more flexible and programmatic way. Its innovative approach distinguishes itself from the traditional project approach, which is based on detailed plans of operation and fully-earmarked budgets, often resulting in isolated and unsustainable interventions with limited ownership." We invite other donors to join us and participate in this multi-donor partnership. Of course, this is just only one example of growth.

The third point, governance. There is a need for much more effective policy review and more clarity on FAO's normative work. The capacities and potentials are currently under-utilized. Also FAO's executive decision-making needs further improvement. The Netherlands welcomes the proposed action that the Council will take up its responsibilities of oversight and decision-making and will act as an executive body. We prefer a smaller Council which meets more frequently than up to now.

In conclusion, change is not a product you can buy or sell. The fifteen members of FAO's Culture Change Team know that change is a complicated process that can only be successful if there is substantial and continuous support from members and management. Let's show them that they can count on us, let's show the world that change can be implemented. Thank you very much.

**Gaoussou DRABO (Mali)**

Permettez-moi tout d'abord au nom de la délégation du Mali de féliciter le Président de la Conférence et les Vice-Présidents pour leur élection. La délégation du Mali voulait ensuite profiter de cette tribune pour partager avec les précédents intervenants l'angoisse et le pessimisme dans lequel la crise financière du moment place tous les continents et singulièrement le continent africain quant à la réalisation notamment des Objectifs du Millénaire. Cette crise qui évoluera très certainement vers une crise économique mondiale éloignera davantage le continent africain récemment mis à mal par le nouveau fléau de la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires, de l'espoir légitimement nourri de trouver réponse à ces exigences et à son besoin énorme de développement.

Face à cette préoccupation, la Conférence de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui s'est tenue à Rome du 3 au 5 juin 2008 avait suscité un grand élan d'espoir dans nombre de pays qui comptaient bénéficier des contributions annoncées. Près de 11 milliards de dollars E.-U. avaient été promis par différents donateurs pour faire face à la crise alimentaire mondiale. Par la suite, le total des annonces de contributions avait atteint la somme de 22 milliards E.-U. La FAO a certes agit au rythme du défi et c'est le lieu de lui rendre hommage; mais à ce jour, il est constaté que seulement 10 pour cent des annonces faites ont été concrétisées. Le Mali voudrait donc saisir l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour remercier tous les Pays Membres qui ont rendu effective leur contribution et encourager les autres dans le sens d'une action vigoureuse, dans l'espoir de recevoir ces financements.

Prenant le pas sur toutes ces dispositions, la République du Mali a décidé de mettre en œuvre une initiative "riz" qui vise à produire sur la campagne agricole 2008-2009, 1 million de tonnes de riz, en vue de couvrir les besoins de consommation interne qui sont chiffrés à 900 000 tonnes et de pouvoir ainsi dégager un excédent exportable de 100 000 tonnes de riz. Au vu des premiers résultats de la Campagne, le succès de cette opération est totale, au point que se pose aujourd'hui surtout la question de la commercialisation du surplus dans la gestion efficiente et présentement au cœur de nos actions. En plus de la grande disponibilité dont elle a fait montre dans la coordination de l'intervention des autres partenaires techniques et financiers, l'accompagnement de la FAO dans la conduite de cette opération a été de 500 000 dollars E.-U. pour l'acquisition des engrais et des semences. Nous en remercions très vivement.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement économique et social initié par Monsieur le Président de la République du Mali, notre pays s'est fixé l'objectif de produire 10 millions de tonnes de céréales par an d'ici 2012, contre une production moyenne annuelle actuelle qui est de 3 millions 800 000 tonnes. D'autres initiatives verront le jour dans le domaine de l'élevage, de la production du maïs, du blé, des fruits et des légumes. Ces nouveaux chantiers, le Mali entend les ouvrir en se fondant sur l'affectation d'une part essentielle de ses ressources budgétaires qui auront cependant besoin de l'accompagnement des opportunités venant de l'action de la solidarité internationale.

C'est dans ce cadre qu'une série de programmes a été préparée avec l'assistance de la FAO et soumis à un financement de la Communauté européenne dont nous saluons ici la constance de l'engagement à nos côtés. Nous considérons par ailleurs que la FAO étant donné son mandat, doit

jouer un rôle moteur pour la création d'un panel de haut niveau d'experts internationaux dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous sommes donc très favorables à la proposition faite par la FAO, au paragraphe 24 du document sur le suivi de la Conférence de haut niveau, d'être à l'initiative de la constitution de ce réseau d'experts internationaux et dans ce sens, nous nous permettons de demander au Directeur général de la FAO de préparer la mise en place de ce réseau en proposant notamment les termes de référence ainsi que les modalités de sa mise en œuvre.

C'est avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme et d'espoir pour le futur de l'Organisation que nous avons engagé de manière unanime l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO dans le processus qui a démarré en 2006 et s'est achevé en 2007. Ce fut ensuite dans la solidarité entre tous les Membres et dans un esprit de consensus tout aussi remarquable, que l'élaboration d'un Plan d'action immédiate et d'un cadre stratégique pour le renouveau de la FAO fut mené avec brio. Le résultat qui en découle aujourd'hui nous encourage à espérer sur des lendemains porteurs pour la FAO car c'était à juste titre que le Directeur général de l'Organisation, dans son introduction du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget du Conseil de novembre 2007, nous appelait à assumer nos responsabilités lorsqu'il disait que, je 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 solution durable et n'appuient pas leur application". C'est pourquoi nous sommes heureux de constater que le travail réalisé par le Comité de la Conférence répond parfaitement à cette préoccupation. Les propositions formulées dans le cadre de l'élaboration du Plan d'action immédiate nous agréent parfaitement. Aussi nous voulons ici marquer notre approbation totale et sans réserve du projet de Résolution 1/2008 adoption du PAI pour le renouveau de la FAO. Nous recommandons la mise en œuvre diligente de ce Plan exhortant les Membres à fournir toutes les ressources nécessaires pour ce faire. Nous voulons également encourager par avance les Membres du nouveau Comité de la Conférence qui sera chargé de parachever le travail déjà énorme réalisé dans le cadre de l'élaboration du PAI et des éléments du Cadre stratégique et du Plan à moyen terme de l'Organisation.

Face aux défis auxquels le monde est confronté aujourd'hui et particulièrement le monde en développement, défis qui ont pour nom le réchauffement de la planète, la crise énergétique et le recours aux bio-carburants, la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires, la crise financière internationale, nous aurons encore besoin et nous le pensons sincèrement, pour longtemps encore de la FAO, non pas d'une FAO affaiblie et à bout de souffle mais d'une FAO réformée dans la croissance, revigorée et prête à relever les défis pour libérer le monde de la faim et de la pauvreté. Il ne saurait y avoir meilleure réponse à cette réalité que la mobilisation des ressources notamment extra-budgétaires à hauteur de situation, en faveur de la FAO. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

#### **Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)**

Hemos sido convocados a una Sesión Extraordinaria de la Conferencia General de la FAO para dar seguimiento a un ambicioso proceso de reforma con crecimiento, que son dos dimensiones inseparables. Este proceso es el más complejo y profundo jamás realizado en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

El alcance de su mandato revela la importancia de la FAO y justifica la inversión que hacemos para su fortalecimiento y renovación. Esta casa nuestra se multiplica en todo el planeta apoyando las dimensiones que conducen a la seguridad alimentaria bajo su consigna *fiat panis* – "hágase el pan".

El Presidente Leonel Fernández ha expresado que nada hay tan degradante como el hambre. El hambre es moral y políticamente inaceptable porque castiga desproporcionadamente a los más débiles. Por ello, la República Dominicana ha consagrado el derecho humano a la alimentación con rango constitucional, y la proposición central del Gobierno nacional es el lema "Comer es primero".

Para llevar este modelo a la realidad concreta, el Presidente Fernández ha lanzado un proyecto de transformación y modernización agropecuaria. Esta iniciativa incluye fomentar la investigación, incrementar la productividad, apoyar la competitividad, promover el uso de nuevas tecnologías,

mejorar las semillas tomando en cuenta la preservación de la biodiversidad, hacer uso eficiente de agua, energía y fertilizantes, así como reducir pérdidas post-cosecha mediante mejores procesos de empaque, almacenamiento y distribución.

La FAO es una institución clave para impulsar la creación de capacidades nacionales y posibilitar la implementación de reformas domésticas profundas como la que despliega mi país. Este apoyo surge de las diferentes áreas de trabajo de la Organización y se materializa a través del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que es la espina dorsal de esta Organización.

Sin embargo, este proceso ocurre en un contexto global desalentador. Los desafíos provienen de diversos frentes, que todos conocemos: desde los desastres naturales resultantes del cambio climático hasta la transformación de alimentos en combustible. Usted sabe, Sr. Presidente, que República Dominicana apoya la producción de etanol a partir de masa biológica no alimentaria y, especialmente, de la caña de azúcar. Existen otros desafíos que todos conocemos: la especulación y las distorsiones de los mercados exacerban la crisis del precio de los alimentos. Los subsidios a la producción de excedentes alimentarios en los países desarrollados arruinan a pequeños y medianos agricultores del mundo en desarrollo.

Al mismo tiempo, la velocidad de acción y los montos prodigiosos destinados a superar la crisis financiera muestran que, cuando existe voluntad política, los Gobiernos ubican los recursos necesarios para encarar cualquier dificultad.

Pues bien, Sr. Presidente, así como podemos identificar las causas de la persistencia del hambre y la malnutrición, también conocemos la única solución posible: la voluntad política, tanto en el ámbito doméstico como en el sistema internacional.

En la comunidad de las naciones, la voluntad política para erradicar el hambre se expresa mediante la cooperación y la solidaridad.

La voluntad política para erradicar el hambre se expresa con el cumplimiento de los compromisos de Copenhague de 1995 de destinar el 0,7 por ciento del producto interno bruto a la Cooperación Oficial para el Desarrollo. Hasta el momento, sólo Dinamarca, Luxemburgo, Países Bajos y Suecia han guardado esa promesa.

La voluntad política para erradicar el hambre se expresa con la continuación de las negociaciones de la Ronda de Doha sobre el principio del comercio justo para facilitar el diseño de políticas orientadas a la reducción de la pobreza.

En el marco de esta Conferencia, la voluntad política para erradicar el hambre se expresa con el progresivo fortalecimiento de la FAO.

Para que la FAO pueda cumplir su mandato con eficiencia y eficacia es imprescindible disponer de un personal técnico altamente cualificado, cuya consolidación y expansión, tanto en esta sede como en las oficinas descentralizadas, deberá acompañar las tareas esenciales de la Organización y los retos emergentes.

La FAO requerirá el compromiso solidario de todos sus Miembros para promover y alcanzar la plena seguridad alimentaria, cumpliendo las promesas formuladas en esta sala durante la Cumbre en junio pasado, y estableciendo una red de alto nivel de expertos internacionales en seguridad alimentaria, para lo cual exhortamos al Director General para actuar rápidamente.

Es oportuno recordar que el Presidente Fernández propuso, durante la Cumbre en junio, la creación de un Fondo de Solidaridad Global para que los países más vulnerables pudieran disponer de recursos suficientes para apoyar la sostenibilidad de su producción agrícola.

Mi país asume el compromiso de continuar trabajando en este proceso de fortalecimiento, con el Plan Inmediato de Acción como carta de ruta mejorable y perfectible.

Naturalmente, la FAO deberá contar con un nivel de presupuesto adecuado a las crecientes exigencias que le encomendamos.

Sr. Presidente, hemos hablado de voluntad política. El momento de la acción comienza ahora.

**Alexander HIMELFARB (Canada)**

Canada adds its voice in welcoming the Immediate Plan of Action, which responds to many of the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). The reforms outlined should significantly strengthen this Organization as it pursues a mandate of fundamental importance to us all.

Arriving at this point is the culmination of more than three years of effort. This is, arguably, the most ambitious evaluation and reform of a multilateral institution undertaken to date and it is to the credit of many that we have come this far.

We recognize, in particular, the contributions of Independent Council Chair, Dr Noori, the CoC-IEE Secretariat, headed by John Markie and Management's representative, Manoj Juneja.

A number of elements of this Reform package will, we believe, come to be recognized as best practices in the UN. The way that internal oversight has been strengthened and connected to the Governing Bodies is one example. Another, is the proposed system of Management for Results, for both programmes and administration, resting on individual accountability.

While taking pride in this progress, we are acutely aware that we are still largely at the planning stage, the stage of plans yet to be implemented. The work of the next three years will be a crucial test of our collective resolve. Further, a number of key issues key to success are yet to be addressed.

The Medium Term Plan must be a concrete expression to the notion of rigorous priority-setting based on FAO's comparative advantage.

The detailed human resource, financial, and administrative re-engineering – so important to lightening the non-program load on staff – is still to be elaborated by the Root and Branch Review.

A Headquarters organization structure that reinforces focus and integration needs to be confirmed and appropriate delegation of authority more vigorously pursued. New approaches to get better value from FAO's field structure are also needed. Agreement on these outstanding issues will be crucial to improving focus and performance and unlocking savings that can be redirected to priority areas.

The responsibility for implementation will fall squarely on the staff of the Organization. We are confident that they are up to the challenge. We have seen an appetite for change. We have seen an energy to undertake that change. The new Culture Change Team – 15 volunteers from across the Organization – give concrete expression to this spirit and commitment.

We embark on this change program at a time when FAO has a critical role to play. Food and fuel prices, while no longer rising, are still at levels not seen in recent years. Food security for over 900 million people and achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1 remain a daunting challenge.

FAO made a valuable contribution to the Secretary General's High-Level Task Force and its Comprehensive Framework for Action. FAO is the institution best placed to advise countries on appropriate policy frameworks and enabling environments to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability. It can also draw on its long experience and technical expertise to suggest what approaches do not work, in particular restrictive and inward looking trade practices.

From governance of the fisheries commons, to food safety and control of plant pests and animal diseases, there is not an Organization better placed to develop urgently needed global frameworks and to help countries make use of these frameworks.

For all these reasons the world needs a strong, high performing FAO. We believe that the IPA and further reforms that should be agreed over the coming year, can better position this Organization to meet these expectations. In a world where limited funding is increasingly allocated according to performance and results, this is the surest way to financial health in the future.



Canada commends the Members and Secretariat for the progress made today and looks forward to significantly furthering these gains in the coming year.

**José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)**

The Independent External Evaluation (IEE) – in September 2007 – stressing that FAO remains relevant to its Members. To fulfil its mandate, it needs an urgent reform with growth and must be strengthened to face recurrent and emerging challenges.

As a result of the IEE follow-up process, this Special Conference has been specially convened to consider and approve, as we actually did, the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) – a collective work undertaken during the course of this year – with the aim of strengthening FAO.

The IPA is indeed a remarkable breakthrough in this process. In less than ten months of meetings of the Conference Committee and its Working Groups, we, the Member Nations – with the support of the FAO Director General and management – have been able to deliver an important set of measures and to draw a forward-looking road map.

Let me take a moment to thank Professor Noori and the Vice-Chairs of the CoC, as well as the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups for their hard work and leadership.

The Immediate Plan of Action is the first step in this endeavour. We all know the importance in having an adequate mechanism to fund its full implementation through the mobilization of voluntary contributions. Costs of the IPA implementation have been estimated at US\$21.8 million – only for 2009 – and additional extra-budgetary resources will be required in the next biennium.

In line with Brazil's traditional commitment to a stronger FAO and to the IEE process, it is my pleasure to announce that the Brazilian Government will be contributing US\$100 000 for the implementation of the IPA. We hope other Members will act likewise. The call for voluntary contributions to finance the IPA implementation in its entirety is a clear message that current levels of regular resources and technical programmes must be preserved and strengthened. Making FAO a stronger and better equipped Organization is a work in progress.

Many outstanding tasks will have to be completed before the next Conference. The new Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan, as well as the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11, are only a few examples of tasks yet to be accomplished.

Attention must be directed to this work, which is arguably even more important to the future of the Organization. The availability and the predictability of sufficient resources to FAO, to fulfil its mandate, must be ensured. The democratic aspects of governance and of the budgetary process must be preserved or we run the risk of transforming this Organization in a donor-driven venture, distancing us from the principles of multilateralism.

Strengthening FAO is our ultimate goal. The growth of the Organization is an issue to be seriously discussed, if we are truly committed to give this Organization a real opportunity to face new issues and, most importantly, to carry on dealing with the old and still urgent challenges of hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The fight against hunger and poverty is at the centre of the international agenda today. The soaring food prices crisis has brought an alert on food insecurity to the international debate. An additional contingent of 75 million people is not having enough food for living their lives in dignity. The number of almost one billion human beings facing the scourge of hunger daily cannot be treated just as a statistical issue. It is both a tragedy and a disgrace to human kind. Achieving food security for all and the full realization of the inalienable and the most fundamental human right to adequate food must be a national and international fight without respite.

The financial crisis has the potential of jeopardizing the availability of the urgent investments required in the agricultural sector of developing countries. The perspective of an imminent world recession will certainly have a negative impact in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The strong political commitment of the Brazilian Government to the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as the achievements of well-designed national policies, are widely known. Brazil is also fully and actively committed to addressing the challenges of food security at the international level.

Therefore, we welcome the Director General's proposal to host this Summit at FAO in 2009 in order to hold a discussion on effective measures to unshackle the world of the scourge of hunger.

The IEE was launched in the context of uncertainty in relation to FAO's future. The overriding conclusions of its final report were that, after several biennia of decreasing budgets, FAO has had its capacity to serve its Members considerably undermined. The maintenance budget approved last year was only the beginning of the long-awaited reversal. Member Nations took the right decision in the right moment.

During 2008, FAO has already shown its capacity to stand up to its challenges in the middle of a serious soaring food prices crisis and financial market crisis.

The IEE follow-up process has generated an environment conducive to open dialogue and common understanding. It has made possible new standards of relationships between Member Nations and between Members and management.

We have taken important steps, particularly for the improvement of the spirit of understanding, dialogue, cooperation and upholding the fundamental principles of multilateralism. Based on this, we must recall the long way we have come and consider the yet longer way that we have ahead of us. Based on the same spirit of cooperation and in the inclusive dialogue involving all concerned stakeholders, in particular the civil society, we must concentrate our efforts to build a new FAO – the FAO that all and each one of us really need.

**Sabri BACHTOBI (Tunisie) (Original language Arabic)**

C'est un plaisir pour moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter d'avoir été élu pour présider les travaux de cette session extraordinaire de la Conférence générale de la FAO. Nous avons pris ce rendez-vous lors de la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence. Nous avons pris ce rendez-vous afin d'adopter un nouveau Plan d'action pour notre Organisation, un Plan d'action à double objectif, à savoir, permettre d'une part au Programme de l'Organisation de s'adapter afin d'être en phase avec les changements accélérés en matière économique, sociale et en matière de climat. D'autre part, ce Plan d'action permettra à l'Organisation de profiter de l'évolution scientifique et technologique afin de moderniser ces méthodes de travail.

Nous voudrions, à cette occasion, confirmer que nous sommes convaincus que la FAO a un rôle important à jouer. Nous avons besoin de la FAO: la FAO est un centre d'expertise et de référence grâce à l'expérience accumulée au cours des soixante-trois ans de son existence et ce en matière d'agriculture, de forêt et de pêche. Je voudrais à cette occasion remercier chaleureusement toute l'équipe qui a présidé à l'élaboration de ce Plan d'action; l'équipe a fait preuve de professionnalisme et d'efficacité; L'équipe a entrepris un travail intense effectué en un temps presque record. Je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui ont soutenu cette équipe et qui ont permis à celle-ci d'aboutir à ce Plan d'action qui sera l'axe principal pour notre réunion.

Je voudrais également reconnaître les efforts qui ont été déployés par la FAO et notamment par le Directeur général, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, les efforts également déployés par les experts et les responsables au niveau de l'Administration pour préparer sans faille cette réunion. Cette réunion est la troisième de ce calibre, elle s'inscrit dans la droite lignée des deux réunions précédentes à savoir le Sommet du mois de juin 2008 et la Conférence dans sa trente-quatrième session en novembre 2007. Nous espérons que l'Organisation, grâce à ses efforts, pourra développer le secteur agricole et garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Il est évident que les priorités ont changé. Le cadre dans lequel œuvre la FAO de nos jours a radicalement changé comparé à la situation d'il y a soixante ans lors de sa création. Aujourd'hui le contexte financier et économique est très difficile. Il y a beaucoup de fluctuations, il y a de nouveaux défis. Quelques exemples de ces défis sont la pénurie des ressources naturelles, le

manque d'eau, moins de surfaces arables, il y a les effets néfastes du réchauffement de la terre, de la perte de la biodiversité. Tout cela est dû à la variation du climat et aux catastrophes naturelles qui sont plus fréquentes de nos jours.

D'un autre côté et malgré toutes ces difficultés, il y a une demande sans cesse croissante pour les produits alimentaires de base comme les céréales, la viande et les produits laitiers. Cette augmentation de la demande des produits alimentaires est due à l'amélioration du niveau de vie dans plusieurs pays et à la croissance démographique car nous savons que la population mondiale dépassera les neuf milliards d'ici 2050. Donc tous ces facteurs ont un impact néfaste sur la production et la productivité du secteur agricole et ont un effet néfaste également sur la situation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. Les dernières statistiques de l'ONU et de la FAO montrent et indiquent que le nombre de ceux qui souffrent de faim et de malnutrition est monté à 923 millions. Avant ce chiffre était établi à 854 millions. Ceci nous empêchera de réaliser les Objectifs du Millénaire, objectifs qui nous sont chers et qui consistent à réduire de moitié le nombre de ceux qui sont mal nourris et qui ont faim, d'ici 2015.

Nous assistons également de nos jours à une crise dans les marchés financiers, une crise qui risque de durer pendant quelque temps selon l'avis de plusieurs experts. Ceci a eu pour effet une contraction des investissements, il y a moins également d'appuis financiers donnés aux pays pauvres. Nous apprécions donc tous les efforts et toutes les initiatives qui sont prises par l'Organisation afin d'aider les pays à s'adapter avec ces nouvelles données et à faire face à ces nouveaux défis. Nous avons besoin d'un nouveau cadre pour faire face à cette nouvelle donnée. Ce nouveau cadre est là, il s'agit du Plan d'action immédiate pour rénover la FAO.

Nous approuvons la méthodologie qui a été adoptée pour l'élaboration de ce Plan d'action, à savoir, un plan qui se base sur les résultats de l'Évaluation externe indépendante, un plan qui ouvre la porte à tous pour participer. Nous soutenons pleinement les mesures de changements qui sont proposées dans ce Plan d'action, des mesures qui visent à avoir des objectifs stratégiques plus clairs et plus précis, un plan qui vise à permettre aux États Membres de participer de façon plus efficace dans toutes les opérations de la FAO, qu'il s'agisse de mise en œuvre des programmes ou d'évaluation des programmes, un plan qui vise à plus de flexibilité dans les méthodes de travail, à une meilleure performance et ceci grâce à des Réformes dans la structure de l'Organisation et grâce au renforcement du principe de Décentralisation.

Nous sommes tout à fait en faveur de la proposition qui consiste à établir une commission qui sera chargée d'intégrer toutes ces réformes dans le cadre stratégique et dans le Plan d'action à moyen terme pour la période 2010-2013. Cette Commission sera chargée d'intégrer les réformes dans le Programme de travail et de budget pour 2010 et 2011. La Commission étudiera également les amendements nécessaires à apporter à l'Acte constitutif afin de mettre en œuvre les recommandations du Plan d'action immédiate.

Nous avons besoin de synergie pour fournir les ressources financières requises. La situation économique est complexe dans les pays pauvres et dans les pays en voie de développement, nous en appelons donc aux bailleurs de fonds et aux pays riches afin de fournir plus de soutien à ce projet de réforme.

Aujourd'hui il y a un enthousiasme politique au niveau des États Membres et au niveau de la communauté internationale, il faut profiter de cet enthousiasme pour soutenir la FAO et il faut encourager la FAO à appliquer et à mettre en œuvre le Plan d'action immédiate, ce Plan d'action qui j'espère, sera une première étape qui ouvrira la porte à une nouvelle phase, une nouvelle ère de performances et d'exploits et de succès. Des succès qui nous permettront de faire face aux défis énumérés. Cette nouvelle phase nous permettra de consacrer le droit à tous à une nourriture et ce droit deviendra un des acquis onusiens du vingt-et-unième siècle.

La Tunisie a toujours considéré que la sécurité alimentaire est la priorité des priorités nationales. La meilleure preuve en sont les réformes qui ont été approuvées par son Excellence le Président Zine El Abidini Ben Ali. Ces réformes consistent à élaborer des programmes intégrés qui incorporent la dimension sociale et économique. Nous avons entrepris également des programmes

afin d'améliorer le secteur agricole. Nous avons entrepris des programmes de développement en matière agricole afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie dans les zones rurales. Nous accordons l'importance aux petits agriculteurs, aux petits exploitants et nous mettons l'accent sur le rôle de la femme dans les zones rurales et nous essayons également d'encourager l'investissement par le secteur privé dans l'agriculture.

La Tunisie a toujours été une terre de tolérance, d'ouverture et de solidarité. Nous sommes convaincus que le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire est important afin de garantir la nourriture à tous en tant que droit fondamental parmi les droits humains.

Nous sommes donc tout à fait partants pour travailler avec la FAO et avec les Nations Unies en général pour prendre les décisions importantes nécessaires pour aboutir à la réforme et pour couronner cette Conférence de succès.

**Ms Lucy Mungoma MUNGOMA (Zambia)**

It is my pleasure to represent my country at this Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference, which has been convened with the special task of considering the Immediate Action Plan for the renewal of FAO.

As a Permanent Representative of my country to FAO, and as Chairperson of the Africa Group during this period, I feel particularly proud to be part of this momentous task which was undertaken during the course of the past ten months, with a spirit of compromise a collegial atmosphere, that partnered the Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat and foregoing divides that sometimes characterized such multilateral negotiations. This is as it should be, and bodes well for the implementation process.

Indeed, the Culture Change that is part of this Reform Process was already beginning to manifest itself. I join those that have assigned our colleagues to the stewardship of the process by the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, Ambassador Noori and his two Vice-Chairpersons. I also commend the Chairpersons of the Working Groups and the Management of FAO for their tireless efforts.

The roadmap that has been chartered of the Immediate Plan of Action, for the Reform of FAO in the area of programmes of the Organization, Governance and Reform of Systems has already been adequately elaborated by the Director General this morning.

We look forward to being part of the process, to finalize the strategic framework and the Medium-Term Plan.

The adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action means the beginning of a process that will create an FAO well-placed to address the many emerging challenges, such as rise in food prices, rising commodity prices, as well as challenges like the financial crisis that will impact the agricultural sectors of our economy and exacerbate hunger and poverty among the very vulnerable population of our countries.

The Director General reminded us this morning that in order for the Immediate Plan of Action implementation process to start in earnest 2009, it requires a provisional amount of extra-budgetary funding of about US\$ 21.8 million for which a Trust Fund has been established.

My delegation would like to encourage all our countries, big and small, to dig deep in their pockets, to contribute to this Fund as it will serve our collective interests. Our financial commitment to the FAO should also be extended to the timely payment of our Assessed Contributions so that, at no time, should the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action be derailed.

We are encouraged to note the commitment of the Management in initiating some of the early actions since last year. Of particular note to us is the response to the call that we gave during last year's Conference for the achievement of more efficiency gains.

It is our hope that a good proportion of these savings will be channelled towards technical cooperation programmes that directly and positively impact food production by small scale-farmers in developing countries.

Time is of essence if we are to ensure that the FAO, which is best placed to tackle issues of food security, has the appropriate strategies, frameworks and capacity to make a meaningful contribution to increase food production, agricultural expertise and feeding the hungry.

The problem of rising food prices, inputs and commodity prices and adverse weather conditions due to climatic change leading to reduced crop yields have contributed to worsening levels of poverty and hunger in developing countries, including my own.

In Zambia, for instance, fertilizer prices rose by 160 percent for around US\$ 500 per metric tonne in December 2007 to US\$ 1 300 in August this year. The impact has obviously seen a dramatic rise in both imported and domestically-produced commodities, increased fuel, electric and other input prices, which are leading to increased agricultural production costs. The prices of the staple food maize, and maize meal have therefore also increased, as a result the vulnerable households in urban and rural areas that depend on purchasing food are becoming more and more food insecure.

As a country, we are concerned that if trends continue unabated malnutrition levels and illnesses will increase as well as poverty levels. Consequently, it is more likely that the MDG one may not be attained by 2015.

The Zambian Government is playing an active role and in response to the food crisis, has drafted an action plan outlining short term measures which will address nutrition in the form of access to quality and balanced foods, post harvest handling and infrastructure, among other issues.

The medium to long-term measures include opening up new land for increased production as land is abandoned in my country. Promotion of agricultural research, promotion of irrigation and promotion of productive efficiency of crops, livestock and fisheries. We are also concentrating on infrastructure development as well as promotion of marketing, trade and agri-business.

Like any other country, Zambia wants to ensure food security for its citizens because food is a right and it should be available in the right places, quantity and quality.

Zambia considers the FAO as an important partner in these endeavours and would continue to draw on its expertise when implementing the national plan of action on the food crisis.

Let me conclude by stating that the impact of the ongoing global crisis on the poor of our countries, is bad and calls for urgent action. It is for this reason that we laud the efforts of the UN High-Level Task Force on the concerted measures being undertaken to address the food crisis. In particular, I would like to see the FAO playing a leading role in the establishment of a High-Level Panel of Experts that is recommended in the Follow-up Report in the field of food security, noting its comparative advantage in this. We would therefore like to support calls on the Director General to prepare the necessary terms of reference for that group.

**Ms Elizabeth GAUFFIN (IFAP)**

Mr Chairperson, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Last week I visited Australia and saw how drought is affecting the agricultural production. Coming home I found my fields flooded with water due to abnormal high rainfalls. These are challenges that we as farmers have to learn how to cope with.

My name is Elizabeth Gauffin, I am a dairy producer from Sweden. I run a farm together with my husband and four children. I am speaking as the Vice-President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). IFAP is the world farmers' organization representing one hundred and fifty natural organizations of family farmers in 80 countries. In total, we reach some six hundred million farmers throughout the world or about a third of the world's total.

IFAP is pleased to enjoy a longstanding relationship with the FAO over the last 60 years. IFAP did push for a reform process of the FAO and we would like to pay tribute to the work of the IEE.

We also appreciate the remarks of the Director-General this morning to say that farmers from both developing and developed countries should have fair income for the work they do. IFAP also appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal. IFAP shares the FAO vision for a world free of hunger where food and agriculture contributes to improve the living standards in an economically, environmentally and socially-sustainable manner. As farmers, reading the strategic objectives, I would say, here is a plan for promoting agriculture in the world and farmers are not even mentioned, even though we have been mentioned here today by many delegates.

We want to be part of the plan. There should be something in these objectives about the farmers' and rural peoples' organizations and not only about setting standards. We agree that FAO has a real technical expertise and comparative advantage in sharing this knowledge worldwide and farmers are your natural partners. I would like to say just a few words about the core functions and here I have three comments. The first concerns articulating policy and strategy options and advice. Farmers are the first people affected by this advice and it is important for us that you include a consultative process to provide this advice in a transparent participatory manner involving farmers in policy formulation and implementation.

The second comment concerns the core function of building capacity. Here we ask that you include building the capacity of farmers to organize themselves so they are better linked to markets, including through farmer cooperatives. Farmers also need capacity-building with Governments to enable them to participate in policy processes with governments and other stakeholders.

The third comment concerns working through partnerships and alliances. IFAP stands ready to develop a long-term sustainable partnership with the FAO. This partnership would rely on systematic collaboration with our farmers' organization at the headquarters, regional and national levels. Both IFAP and the FAO have good structures at these three levels which would enable this partnership to be effective. In particular, we would like to partner in the following areas: climate change, water, land, bioenergy, linking farmers to markets, food chain issues such as food safety, quality traceability and animal welfare. Also, we would like to coordinate with the FAO on meeting food security targets and on energy security. This would include cooperation in the follow-up plan to the FAO June High-Level Conference.

Finally, I would like to ask you what is the mechanism to deal with the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. Here, we would insist on a consultative mechanism with the stakeholders and especially the farmers' organizations. Further, we would insist that farmers' organizations be consulted on the process to finalize the new medium and long-term framework.

We believe in mainstreaming interaction with farmers into the new FAO culture and then we can look forward to have an inspiring, excellent evolution and that also makes IEE.

Thank you for your attention.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to inform you that the Delegation of Estonia has submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the Verbatim Record of this meeting.

Now before closing this meeting I would like to remind you that Conference will resume its discussion on the consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO Immediate Plan of Action at 9.30 tomorrow morning.

#### **Peeter SEESTRAND (Estonia)<sup>1</sup>**

First of all, Estonia would like to point out that we associate ourselves with the statement made by the Presidency of the European Union.

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<sup>1</sup> *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

Estonia is convinced that international cooperation is the best way to meet future challenges. Estonia considers FAO to be the key partner in the United Nations System for all its Member Nations in the field of its mandate. Due to its relative experience, there is no alternative to FAO in many important areas of activities. FAO is and should be a major player concerning the issues related to food security and natural resources. Estonia supports FAO's efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency within the organization.

We welcome the ongoing reform process and appreciate the work done by the Committee of the Conference and its three Working Groups during the period 2007-2008. In particular, we would like to stress the importance of the elaboration of the Immediate Action Plan, which has already contributed to rising mutual trust and expanded cooperation between Member Nations and regional groups. Estonia finds that the new Immediate Action Plan is a good platform for addressing old, as well as new challenges and tasks.

We expect that cooperation and constructive dialogue between Member Nations will form a strong basis for the future development of FAO and for the implementation of reforms. In addition, we expect that by granting sufficient funds, Member Nations will rapidly commit themselves to achieving the overall objectives of the Immediate Action Plan.

Moreover, we sincerely hope that the results of the Root and Branch Review will identify possibilities for savings and future prospects for administrative improvements. As we have experienced, wide utilization of information technology does have a positive effect on decreasing the administrative costs within an organization. FAO, as a knowledge-based organization, could take a leading role in promoting the use of electronic communication, as well as simplifying and thereby improving the availability of information on the Website.

In conclusion, we believe that this is a unique window of opportunity for FAO to renew its role as an international partner in the field of food and agriculture.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Ladies and Gentlemen, Conference will resume its work tomorrow morning at 9.30 sharp.

*The meeting rose at 18:44 hours*

*La séance est levée à 18 h 44*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 18:44 horas*





# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session</b> <b>Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire)</b> <b>35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008</b> <b>Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008</b> <b>Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>FOURTH PLENARY MEETING</b> <b>QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>20 November 2008</b>

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:40 hours

Mr Guillermo Salazar Nicolau

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40

sous la présidence de M. Guillermo Salazar Nicolau

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Guillermo Salazar Nicolau

Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

## **II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO**

(continued)

## **II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO (suite)**

## **II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO (continuación)**

### **6. Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action (C 2008/4)**

(continued)

### **6. Examen du rapport du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO – Plan d'action immédiate (C 2008/4) (suite)**

### **6. Consideración del informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el seguimiento de la Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO: Plan inmediato de acción (C 2008/4)**

(continuación)

## **EL PRESIDENTE**

Distinguidas delegadas y distinguidos delegados: por favor tomen asiento para poder iniciar los trabajos de nuestra 4ta Reunión Plenaria sobre el Tema 6 del Programa: Consideración del Informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el Seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente de la FAO, Plan Inmediato de Acción.

En primer lugar, quiero agradecer al GRULAC la deferencia por designarnos para esta vicepresidencia y poder compartir con ustedes esta Sesión Extraordinaria.

Voy a invitar a los jefes de delegación a hacer uso de la palabra. En vista del número de oradores y el límite de tiempo del que disponemos, ruego a los distinguidos delegados a que limiten sus intervenciones a no más de siete minutos.

Paso la palabra a nuestro primer orador, el Honorable Sr. William Samoei Ruto, Ministro de Agricultura de Kenya.

### **W. Samoei RUTO (Kenya)**

Mr Chairperson, your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Kenya and my delegation, may I join in congratulating the Chair and his team for the good work of Conference Committee and the working groups have done over the last one year to analyse the Independent External Evaluation Report and come up with the Immediate Plan of Action. This plan sets the future course of the work of the Organization. Kenya shares the concerns of Member Nations on the need to make FAO a cost-effective efficient organization and welcomes the series of measures included in the Immediate Plan of Action. Kenya associates itself with the outcome of this team which underscores the need for FAO to reformulate its ways doing business in order to give better services to Members. The Organization should ensure that it supports Members in developing policies and building capacities for action areas that will revitalize sustainable food production and trade to reduce hunger and poverty and managing natural resources in a sustainable manner to achieve food security.

Agriculture continues to face challenges that hamper the realization of the goal of ensuring a world without hunger. Among these challenges are climate change, bio-fuel production, transboundary animal diseases and plant pests, exhaustion of fish cultures, post-harvest losses and variation and development of aquaculture which have an effect on food security.

On behalf of my Government I wish to thank FAO for the continued support through the various Technical Cooperation Programmes that have contributed to food security in Kenya. We are currently operating several TCP and Trust Fund projects in agriculture, livestock, water, fisheries and forests. Kenya's agriculture, like many African countries, depends on rainfall, thereby making it difficult to attain optimal production due to the unpredictable weather patterns and hence

irrigation, water storage and water harvesting need to be prioritized. To supplement traditional crops and livestock there is a need to support aquaculture development as one of the major sources of food security. Conservation of the environment and development of forestry for sustaining natural resources management is also important. Adequate resources need to be allocated to implement the Organization's new Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan.

Let me turn to governance reforms that were addressed by Working Group II of the Conference Committee. Kenya supports the proposed changes that aim at strengthening focus on global and regional policies, increased participation of the Membership and clarification of rules and responsibilities of the various Governing Bodies.

We support the proposed measures with regard to the programming and budget cycle. Kenya welcomes the proposals to strengthen human resources, streamline administration, and improve the effectiveness of the FAO Headquarters and its Decentralized Offices. The decentralized offices play a major role in terms of bringing services closer to Members and hence the need for them to be strengthened in terms of resources and technical capacity. In this regard, FAO should have a transparent and competitive recruitment policy for both staff and consultants based on merit and one that addresses gender and geographical representation from headquarters down to the Country Offices.

Having only recently had the honour to host the Twenty-fifth African Regional Conference in Nairobi, we strongly support the inclusion of regional conferences as part of the governance structure that will play a key role in coming up with issues that enhance regional policy coherence.

The Conference has elaborated on the following broad thematic areas, namely agriculture, water, fisheries, livestock, forest and intra-Africa/African trade that are in line with organizational and individual prioritized areas. My delegation wishes and anticipates that these issues will be accorded due constellation by the governing bodies for the common good of the Membership.

With regard to programming and budget, my delegation supports the recommendation that assessed contributions and extrabudgetary resources be managed in a unified work programme. We look to the finalization of the new Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan which will benefit from the contribution of Members during this Special Conference. We also envisage a focused Programme of Work and Budget for the 2010-2011 biennium that will take cognisance of individual membership priorities.

Eighty percent of Kenya's economy depends on agriculture for growth and therefore we continue to focus on improving the food security for our citizens by putting forward various strategies. In this regard, the government has directed that the budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector be increased from the current 4.5 to 8 percent of the national budget, an effort to conform with the Maputo declaration of increasing agriculture budgets to 10 percent.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, my delegation takes this opportunity to thank the international community, development partners and all our friends who have supported our country in agricultural development. I wish also to thank you for your continuous support to our food security efforts. This has been instrumental in contributing to agricultural development and feeding our people. With your support we believe that we shall move close to realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Htay OO (Myanmar)**

May I extend my warmest congratulations Mr Chairperson, for your unanimous election as Chairperson of this Special Session of the FAO Conference.

At this very moment the global food situation is slipping dramatically. FAO needs to respond effectively to these trends and challenges. Myanmar together with other Member Nations has fully commended the proposal of FAO for undergoing this very extensive and historic evaluation. It is high time that we should get FAO out of a financial and programme crisis that hinders the Organization's capability to deliver essential services to the world.

We are pleased to note the good progress made in adjusting the way in which FAO is structured. By this act, we can be assured of bringing more expertise to the field closer to the very people in the developing member countries who need the assistance and support from FAO. We have also noted that the new Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan will have an integrated results-based structure as a foundation for a renewed FAO. We most welcome the prioritization and focusing of FAO's work at all levels of the results-based framework. All the same, we should commend a good start made by the arrangements in the area of human resources management reform which is highly important to FAO as a knowledge-based organization.

We are highly concerned that pressure on existing production techniques and cropping patterns has been increasing in almost all the member countries as a consequence of the severity of natural disasters related to climate change. This has been promoted by the increased production in biofuels in some countries. In this respect, the people of Myanmar recently felt the full burden of the catastrophic effect of cyclone Nargis causing food crops damage and dismantling livelihoods. Nevertheless the people and the Government of Myanmar were united in the response to emergency. We were able to cope with these challenges through the collaboration and partnership of global communities and organizations such as FAO and other UN organizations.

Aside from all the challenges, the global community as a whole is currently facing financial crisis. In Myanmar, like in other developing countries, exporting agricultural commodities has to a certain extent been affected by the global recession. Therefore, the Government of Myanmar is taking necessary measures to protect small farmers not to get affected seriously.

We would also like to ask the FAO Member Nations to unitedly take all these issues under the framework of the resolution of the high-level food conference held in June this year.

There is no doubt that we may have to face obstacles that stand in the way of successful reform. But the challenge we are now facing is to lose no time in implementing the recommendation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's renewal, fully adopted by this Thirty-fifth Special Conference. I am fully confident that the successful implementation of the action for FAO Reform with Growth can happen through the united and sustained engagement of all our Member Nations.

**Mansour Ahmed AL-HAWSHABI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)**

It is a great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Yemen. I am pleased to address you today at this world Conference. This is a Special Session of the Conference. It is the Thirty-fifth Special Session of that Conference held here in Rome, from the 18 to 22 November of 2008 which we hope that we shall be successful in what we have set out to do and we will be able to reach the target we have set ourselves.

This is one of the most important conferences that FAO has ever held, particularly so because this is happening at a time of crisis. At a time when food crises are climbing and when production of bio-fuels is happening, when we are seeing climate change. We have also seen an increase in energy costs. All of these factors have come together and they have increased the prices of agricultural inputs and they have brought hunger to many parts of the world. Our Conference is holding a Special Session so that we can look at the CoC reports on the IEE Report, and we are also looking at the Immediate Action Plan that was agreed yesterday.

On the behalf of my Government, we would like to praise the results that have been achieved by the evaluation group, namely that the world needs this Organization provided that the Organization can be more efficient, have more skills, have greater competence and act in a way that is clear and transparent and that is well organized. This Organization, had it not been set up 45 years ago, would have needed to be set up today. This leads us to repeat that the international concert of nations needs the FAO and it has to undergo reforms so that it is fit for its purpose, so that it can take up the challenges that it faces. It is important that we have Reform with Growth and we are very pleased that we have attained consensus in this area. Looking at the CoC Report and the Immediate Action Plan we believe that these are ideas that have to be achieved. These are challenges that we have to take up and we have to stick to the consensus that we have achieved

when it comes to implementation of the IPA. This implementation means that all of us are going to have to be realistic in our expectations.

It is important too that we provide resources to the Organization so that it can expertise this process so that it can stick to it. If we want to speed this process it is important that we make greater efforts so that we can really have good impact in terms of the main activities of this Organization. There are many things happening in many organizations which are worried about the Reform programme whilst in the world other things are happening that are affecting the poor and the hungry; and this can adversely affect the Reform and renewal programmes which are underway within the Organization.

I would like to thank all those who have organized this Conference and I would also wish that we be successful in our undertaking. I am sure that we will get positive results so that we can reduce poverty in the world and at the same time have a real vision in terms of international cooperation so that we can shoulder those challenges which affect food production. We also wanted to facilitate trade in these products and I would like to thank you and may peace be upon you.

**Henrik KRØLL (Denmark)**

As a member of the European Union we fully align ourselves with the Statements delivered by members of the European Union and by the European Commission.

FAO has a unique global mandate for food and agriculture and if we are to achieve the World Food Summit objectives and the Millennium Development Goals we need the contribution from FAO. We need a strong and efficient FAO to address hunger and poverty reduction, to support the expansion of agriculture and food production, to deal with negative impacts of high food prices, climate change, and the expected impact of the recent financial crisis on the investment in agriculture, as well as the challenges and opportunities of bio-energy.

Denmark recognizes the commitment and hard work that Members in close collaboration with the Secretariat have demonstrated in formulation of the Immediate Plan of Action. We consider the Immediate Plan of Action as an important step towards a stronger and more efficient FAO.

Denmark has, with great satisfaction, noted that this Conference adopted the proposed Resolution outlining the tasks ahead.

But we, the Members, also need to do our part. Active participation in the deliberations in the Governance of FAO is important but it will not be sufficient to create sustainable development. Financing is essential, and Denmark will in the coming year contribute with 0.82 percent of GDP to overall development assistance, and we strongly encourage other countries to join us in realizing the long-standing UN target of not less than 0.7 percent.

The food crisis, the financial crisis and now a more general international economic recession has clearly demonstrated the fragility of the food production systems in many countries. We recognize the positive role of this Organization in the work of the UN Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and in formulation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action. But we – the Members – also need the assistance of FAO in addressing the fundamental question of how to increase the resilience of present food production systems to challenges posed by climate change.

Denmark is hosting the COP15 in 2009 and we urge Governments to assign appropriate priority to agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, in order to create opportunities to enable the world's farmers, foresters and fishers to participate in, and benefit from, financial mechanisms and investment flows to support climate change adaptation. We support the establishment of agriculture systems and the sustainable forest management practices that positively contribute to the mitigation of climate change and ecological balance, taking into consideration gender aspects important for achieving Millennium Development Goal 3.

We are satisfied that during the process of Reform in this Organization there has developed a general consensus about the need for FAO to build on strong partnerships with Members, with

other UN organizations, with international financial institutions, with research institutions and academia, with representatives from civil society and the private sector.

Let me use this opportunity to inform you, that in 2007 Denmark established a commission with the aim to improve international development cooperation with Africa – the Danish Africa Commission. Members of the Commission are African experts and practitioners from Governments, civil society, the private sector and regional organizations together with representatives from the donor community.

The Danish Prime Minister concluded the first meeting of this Commission on 16 April 2008 by saying: “The Commission underlined that agriculture plays a critical role for growth, employment and poverty reduction in many countries. Improving productivity in food production is an urgent need to ensure adequate food availability and adaptation to climate change. Focusing on women’s access to resources is important in this regard”.

Let me also inform you that the focus of the Fifth Thematic Conference of the Africa Commission in, Uganda on 30 October 2008 was the challenges associated with the facilitation of economic growth. It is notable that the assembled African experts, Government Representatives, civil society, private sector and regional organizations focused on the key role of the private sector and it was actually proposed to add a new Millennium Development Goal focusing on measuring and promoting the competitiveness of developing countries.

Danish Ministers for Foreign Affairs, for Development and for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries are at present engaged in a close dialogue with the Danish private sector with a view to develop partnerships which will facilitate and accommodate investments from Danish companies in developing countries, not to replace official development assistance but to supplement this assistance with contributions from the private sector.

We basically trust that private investment is a powerful catalyst for innovation, economic growth and poverty reduction.

Official Development Assistance has, in this connection, a critical role to play in improving the environment for private sector activity and in helping enterprises to respond to new and changing demands and thus in helping to pave the way for robust growth. But donors have to use Official Development Assistance more effectively to promote private investments for development otherwise the economic effects will not be very lasting.

Let me conclude my intervention by reiterating that we are encouraged by the general agreement among Members and management that FAO has to build on strong partnerships not only with Members, with other UN organizations, with international financial institutions, with research institutions and representatives from civil society but, particularly, also with the private sector.

**Usnat Dursun oğlu ABASOV (Azerbaijan) (Original language Russian)**

I would first like to thank you for inviting me to participate at the Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, and I wish you every success in carrying out the mission of FAO.

FAO is a body which fights for the interests of thousands of rural inhabitants and farmers in Azerbaijan in the same way as it does in other countries. We very much appreciate FAO's support in promoting this growing sector in countries with transitional economies. State support for the development of an agricultural sector in Azerbaijan in recent years and an effective cooperation with international organizations, including FAO, have brought about fundamental changes in the social-economic life of villages and rural areas, thereby contributing to our national economic development and the achievements of our country, the Gross Domestic Product growth in 2007 is further evidence of this.

The volume of agriculture output has been increasing steadily since 1996 and at the same time the national agrarian reforms were embarked upon, and therefore the level of poverty fell from 46.7 percent in 2002 to 15.8 percent at the end of 2007.

In the first nine months of this year there has been a 0.3 percent increase in total volume of agriculture output and there is an ongoing increase in the production of meat, milk and eggs and, at the same time, there has been an increase in wheat production - which is a staple food for the population and which accounts for national food security. The crop was 2 495 000 tonnes according to the information available in the first ten months of this year – that is 490 000 tonnes more than last year. Currently one of the main directions of the Government's policies and priorities is to promote agricultural production and further strengthen the reliability of national food supplies to increase farmers' income through creating alternative jobs in rural areas.

In order to achieve an effective achievement of these goals and food provision for the population, a state programme on reliable provision of food products for the population in the Republic in the period 2008-2015, has been approved. The programme envisages integrated activities for strengthening the supply of food - a long term development strategy of the Government in this regard and other priority issues.

A State programme on poverty reduction and sustainable development was approved in order to reduce the level of poverty in the period 2008-2015. The achievements are undoubtedly due to various projects carried out by FAO on important areas in agriculture. A mission will soon come to our country in order to carry out the project to ensure food security, however, the process of globalization, climate change, drought, global warming and other natural calamities pose a challenge to the world and require an approach to their solution at a national level, with more coherent and concerted cooperation.

In general, we welcome FAO policies conducted internationally in the area of food and agriculture and realize that food shortage has been an unavoidable process and in order to increase the efficiency of urgent steps in the direction of enabling environment for ensuring food security globally and exploring alternative ways of how to improve the livelihood of people suffering from hunger, considering the climate change taking place on the globe and the fact that FAO has been operating with no structural change for a long time. We consider it appropriate, therefore, to carry out reforms in the strategic objectives of FAO and also in its functions and tasks.

For this, we need to carry out a wide monitoring programme expanding cooperation between FAO and Member countries to collect data, to disseminate it, to adopt and undertake global promotion of new consumption and standards which would better ensure health and an active life. We need to effectively use the financial resources and to avoid overlapping and to determine priorities in agricultural production and processing and we need to carry out regional and sub-regional programmes. Therefore, looking at the long term activities of FAO we need to rely, in the future, on the successes of the Organization.

#### **Adel SAFAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)**

It is my pleasure to participate in this Special Session held by FAO to treat the exceptional circumstances related to the global food crisis and to seek solutions.

We hope that through this meeting we can achieve positive results which all world nations are looking forward to in order to fulfil all the humanitarian and economic goals.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of the Organization, for the great and appreciable continued efforts he has been exerting from the moment he assumed this position.

We are meeting here today under the sensitive and hard circumstances which are reflecting negatively on all world countries, especially on developing and poor countries. The global financial crisis threatens the economies of the various countries and their institutions, threatening with bankruptcy and their collapse. Thus most world leaders have called for the reform and the consideration of major current market concepts.

The current food crisis, faced by more than 923 million, is considered a relapse and a serious crisis for the plan that was established and drawn up by FAO to reduce the number of hungry in the world by half by 2015. Such a problem - which is one of the most important problems faced

by humanity - has been seriously aggravated due to several reasons, such as population increase, lack of investment in agriculture and productivity in general, especially in developing countries and the high demand of crops to produce bio-fuel instead of oil and their foodstuffs, the price of which has reached an alarming level, and the climate change and drought that most food-producing countries are suffering. Moreover, natural calamities and disasters, occupation and displacement of millions of people throughout the world add further to the emergent responsibilities of the international organizations to approve and provide the increasing and needed food material and productions.

Under these actual circumstances and changes, food security and agricultural support were the main concern for Syria. Syria has fulfilled important achievements in all fields, especially agricultural productivity, which contributed to the achievement of self-sufficiency and raising the living standards for its people.

This year, Syria has faced climatic conditions which are considered the most difficult since 40 years. The rainfall has declined by 50 percent, particularly in the main wheat cultivation areas. This has led to limited resources, in terms of irrigation water, in rain land deterioration and water scarcity in general. This led thousands of rural households to leave productive activities in the agricultural field.

In addition, there are various crises – whether economic or social – prevailing throughout the world. The management of these problems calls on all countries concerned, particularly those which pledged from this Assembly in 1996, to help poorer countries to overcome their economic and social problems, which certainly calls for urgent international cooperation and imparts an additional task and burden, as well as an obligation, for richer countries to shoulder their moral and social responsibilities in assisting poorer and underdeveloped countries.

There is no doubt that the world financial crisis and current drought show clearly the need for a great role to be played by international organizations and bodies in assisting developing countries to improve the economic and social conditions of their populations.

What FAO is currently providing is considered great evidence in itself of the importance and the efficiency of these international and global organizations. The need today is more important and urgent than any other time before – to re-evaluate the performance, which is a main item on our Agenda – in order to activate the role of such institutions and global organizations and to underline the importance of existing political financial and international contributions to support the sustainable agriculture in poor countries throughout the world.

We support the Immediate Plan of Action and Syria will undoubtedly provide all support and collaboration in this field so that FAO may regain its active role in assisting poorer and underdeveloped countries.

Finally, I wish this current Session every success in order for the world to draw up active mechanisms in order to alleviate poverty and hunger and to treat issues, which are of major concern to our peoples, and which we believe are the first step in seeking solutions for global problems throughout the world in general – the Middle East in particular – in avoiding problems and disputes and in according legitimate rights according to international legitimacy.

We are hopeful that FAO and other international organizations and institutions, as well as civil community organizations, will serve as a bridge, leading to security and peace throughout the world.

#### **Jaya Prakash GUPTA (Nepal)**

I indeed feel very honoured and privileged to have this historic opportunity to address this Special Session of FAO Conference as the first Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister of the new Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

At a time when the global community is embarking on Reform of FAO to be able to address the new challenges of the Twenty-first Century, back home in Nepal we are set to forge the



restructuring of our state with progressively democratic and people-empowering reforms through the making of a new Constitution. Following the historical political transformations, we now face the challenge of bringing about equally momentous socio-economic transformation of the country.

We have just begun a new journey of sustainable peace and equitable progress in modern Nepal where every Nepalese citizen gets an opportunity for growth and prosperity in an inclusive political, social and economic structure.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the international community for supporting us during our political struggle and earnestly request for continued support in our socio-economic struggle that lies ahead. We hope the renewed FAO will be all the more supportive to the countries in transition in their pursuit of consolidation of peace, social and communal integration, inclusive development and rapid economic growth which is pro-poor.

The founding fathers of FAO vowed to ensure the inalienable rights of every person to be free from hunger and malnutrition. The world has become more productive and prosperous today than when FAO was created. This, however, has not been a matter of solace to those hundreds of millions for whom this new found prosperity is of little avail. Standing at the crossroads of history today, we regret our failure to stand up to the promises of our founding fathers while we owe a great deal to the generations to come in keeping our own promises that we have been persistently making.

We live in a more complex and inter-connected world today than a few decades ago. Even as we have been struggling to achieve our targets, new dimensions have been unfolding with more frequency, wider coverage and deeper repercussions. We are faced with charting the new roadmap of agricultural development in the context of challenges and opportunities that have roots in such complexities. As we all agree, only a strong solidarity in action of nations leveraged by a dynamically-moving Organization can contribute to enable us to efficiently and effectively face the emerging challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

It is amidst such an intricate situation that we have forged a consensus in the last Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference on the agenda of Reform with Growth for our Organization. Today we are thrilled to see the Immediate Plan of Action that puts forth concrete steps towards carrying forward this ambitious agenda of reforming and growing for this global forum for food and agriculture.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely commend the hard work of the Conference Committee and its Working Groups and to congratulate Professor Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini along with the Co-chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members for presenting a comprehensive and doable Immediate Action plan with time bound activities and specified responsibilities.

In view of the speed and resolve with which we have been moving from the setting up of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) through the adoption of the IEE Report to the completion of the present Report, we optimistically look forward to the effective implementation of the Action Plan.

At this moment of optimism, however, one question looms large in our minds. Will this newfound realization and consensus receive honest commitment with the required back up of real will and resources? The world community has not been able to get even closer to ODA promises and our own Organization has witnessed a situation wherein means trail behind ends. On this occasion, we would like to call upon the international community to keep up the sense of purpose and urgency that we together demonstrated in charting out the Reform with Growth agenda for FAO. We, on our part, would be pleased to reaffirm our willingness to discharge our shared responsibility within our own limited capacity.

Incidences abound to suggest how vulnerable all of us are to myriad of threats rearing their heads in any part of this increasingly interconnected world. Let me briefly reflect on our perspectives on these issues.

Very lately we have been faced with a global financial crisis and we all need to work together to curb the situation. However, this should not be the reason for the governments to cut back aid to the developing countries. The current global financial crisis should not be allowed to be the reason for another food crisis in the less developed parts of the world.

Expensive foods coupled with higher input prices have greatly challenged production and purchasing capacity of billions of people, especially the most vulnerable around the world, leading to dreadful food security and nutrition consequences. But on the brighter side, high food prices signal the small farmers to produce more. Therefore, the challenge presently is to make food accessible to even the most vulnerable and facilitate the small producers to produce more to earn more. In this regard, we welcome the FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices to try and address this situation and I feel it necessary to mention that Nepal is also a beneficiary of such an initiative.

Rising energy prices have not only made the lives of the poor people even more difficult to live but also have challenged the intensification of agriculture. The international communities need to come together to research, develop and extend the uses of affordable and accessible green technologies that depend less on the use of fossil fuels. However, we need to carefully assess the associated opportunities and risks in moving very far in this regard.

There is no dispute now that the world climate has been changing and threatening the lives of billions of flora and fauna, leading to dire consequences for farming and ultimately humans. At such times, the international communities need to work together to formulate and execute agricultural policies that yield environmentally, economically and socially-sustainable practices. Most of all, unlike in the past, all nations and communities should be ensured of their active participation in the making of scientific solutions and their share of benefit thereof.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my sincere confidence that major recommendations put forth in the report of the Independent External Evaluation would be earnestly and timely implemented so that FAO continues serving the international community at its best.

**Michael Denis LETT (Grenada)**

First I must say thanks for this opportunity to provide remarks to this Conference. As you may be aware, the Government of which I am a part was elected to office just four months ago. Two major plans in our manifesto and campaign were for more attention and resources for agriculture and rural development and introduction of measures to counter the effects of the rising food prices.

That we were successful at the poles highlights, *inter alia*, that agriculture and rural development are moving centre stage once again. More importantly, is that the work of this Conference is meaningful to the livelihoods and living conditions of millions of poor and rural people.

The Government of Grenada is pleased to make a meaningful contribution to the Reform, renewal and reorientation of this venerable institution. FAO has been, is and will continue to be the most important strategic partner in our efforts to further develop and modernize the agricultural sector in Grenada and most countries.

At stake in these efforts are the well-being and livelihood of rural communities and thousands of farm families. Therefore, we subscribe to and support the agenda of Reform with Growth. We support the thrust and process of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan, the budgeting framework and, in particular, the proposed more focused, yet comprehensive and coordinated approach, to deliver support and assistance to Member Nations.

It is our hope that these proposed reforms will result in a FAO that is more responsive and supportive of the needs of countries like Grenada. Grenada is a Small Island Developing State with an environment that is challenging for internationally-competitive production of agricultural products.

Like several other islands in the Caribbean, Grenada is hard-pressed for flat, or even gently sloping land. Given our terrain and the small farm sizes, it is difficult to effect meaningful farm mechanization. Given our small budget, it is difficult to provide the supportive crop, livestock and value-added research and extension services. Given years of exposure to imported processed products, it is difficult for the indigenous crops and cropping systems to be economically-sustaining.

Our farming systems are stressed. Our farmers are ageing. Without meaningful intervention in both the production and consumption arenas of our agriculture, it will go into decline.

FAO is a necessary institution for Grenada and countries like Grenada. We need a FAO that is a strategic partner, responsive to our needs and that is perceived as an honest broker in treating with international issues. We need a FAO that can provide the research and knowledge required to our mountainous small farm systems and indigenous crops more competitive. We need a FAO that will partner with us to increase the consumption of the indigenous foods. We need a FAO that is a strategic partner, concerned with the impacts of its interventions rather than its activities.

We fully subscribe to the conclusion of the Independent External Evaluation and the world needs FAO, but a more relevant, effective and an efficient FAO, with more precise priorities.

For its part, Grenada supports the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal. It is our view that the major activities detailed under the heading "Priorities and Programmes of the Organization" provide a meaningful framework for addressing the special needs of Grenada and countries like Grenada.

It is our view that the major activities detailed under "Governance Reform" will provide more streamlined and effective decision-making processes. It is also our view that the reform of systems, programming and budgeting must call for meaningful reform and renewal to occur and flourish.

In closing, I must state that the Government of Grenada is committed to the development of the agricultural and rural sectors. We have moved beyond manifesto pledges to stakeholder consultations and preparations for implementations of major programmes of support to farmers and key institutions. In so doing, we are reminded of the need for knowledge sharing, technical support and collaboration with other countries and institutions that have travelled this road. It is the hope of the Government of Grenada that this forum and the Reform and renewed FAO will meaningfully support our efforts.

On behalf of the people and Government of Grenada, I thank you.

**Viliam TURSKY (Slovakia Republic) (Original language Slovakian)**

It is a great honour to address you on behalf of the Slovak Republic, the time when we, FAO Member Nations, have to the historic moment of implementation of the results of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

The Report of the Conference Committee and the proposed Immediate Action Plan clearly affirm that the future mission of FAO as extremely important organization for multilateral cooperation which is a precondition to solving the food crisis and other situations threatening nutrition of the world population.

I welcome that follow up discussion on the Current State of the World Food Security which has been introduced as a programme for this Special Conference.

Most recent statistics show significant increase in the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, and here we have a real opportunity to support the original proposals and targets that we adopted in the Declaration of the High Level Conference on World Food Security, Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy.

I am pleased that output of the Committee of the Conference work in the form of a document C 2080/4 which is focussed on solution of fundamental issues in world food security has been achieved with the help of FAO Member Nations.

On behalf of the Slovak Republic, I would like to express particular thanks to the Chairperson of the Committee, to the Bureau and to FAO's Management headed by its Director General for their work on this document. It provides a framework for all of us and opens a future for an effective FAO activities within its mandate, as well as in administration and management. I am convinced that a modernized and flexible FAO will meet the needs of all its Members in developed and developing countries.

Measures proposed in the Action Plan favour the continued achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are linked to solutions to poverty and hunger that fulfill the commitments given at the World Food Summit. I believe that the Immediate Action Plan that has been brought in for FAO, will mean renewal throughout the Organization in its strategic priorities, programmes, in its resource mobilization, as well as reform of management, programming and budgeting. This will, in its turn, increase the effectiveness and importance of FAO, and it will support further steps in the FAO vision on relieving hunger and malnutrition.

I appreciate the suggested strengthening in the field of sustainable identification of crop and animal production, sustainable management of forests, land, water and genetic resources that are relevant challenges in the production of safe and nutritious food and the relief of food insecurity.

I emphasize the importance of building an International Institutional Partnerships with other Organizations as well as with the whole public, focussing on private sector aiming at investment in development and agriculture in rural areas.

The Technical Cooperation Programme should play a vital role for the less developed countries dependent on assistance of the world community together with the core functions of FAO, such as monitoring, assessing trends, dissemination of information and knowledge building partnerships and early warning systems on food security.

Substantial challenges in the Twenty-first Century demand consistent and well timed implementation of measures as well as the internal organization of FAO, and this will in turn lead to the reinforcement of the FAO's position in international relations within the UN System.

I support the FAO change in culture, and the need for qualified human resources, therefore I endorse these steps on the reform of FAO's Governing Bodies, governance and including the Secretariat, Technical Committees, establishments of an Ethics Committee to avoid duplication and introduce flexibility in the work.

Further cooperation of FAO Member Nations is necessary in order to introduce measures of THE Immediate Action Plan into the Programme of Work and Budget 2010 and 2011 and the Medium Term Plan 2010-2013. Establishing a time-bound Committee of the Conference and its Working Groups will also facilitate preparation of strategic documents which are essential for the follow up implementation of the Independent External Evaluation.

I agree that the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference in 2009 will provide a convenient forum for the endorsement of integrated goals as a basis for FAO's work in the biennium 2010 and 2011.

It was an honour for me on behalf of the Slovak Republic, to contribute to the discussions on this change in how FAO works as indicated in the Independent External Evaluation. Implementation of the actions formulated in the Immediate Plan will allow FAO to streamline its work at a time when the world is facing greater problems arising from the growth of global population and also linked to the provision of the right to food and to finding a solution at the Summit initiated by FAO in 2009. I believe that accepting a Resolution for the Special Conference and the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal will bring profit to millions of starving people throughout the world.

**Mahmoud CAMARA (Guinée)**

C'est avec un réel plaisir que je prends la parole au nom du gouvernement guinéen et de la Délégation que j'ai l'honneur de conduire pour saluer la présente session extraordinaire de notre organisation consacrée à l'examen des propositions relatives au Plan d'action immédiate élaboré par le Comité de la Conférence pour le suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO.

Je voudrais à cette occasion féliciter le Président de la Conférence pour son élection tout en l'assurant de la pleine collaboration de ma délégation durant cette session.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Président du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante et les membres du Groupe de travail pour la qualité du rapport qu'ils ont soumis au terme de 10 mois de réflexion en collaboration active avec la Direction générale de la FAO.

Aujourd'hui, force est de reconnaître que la FAO a su s'adapter à toutes les mutations survenues dans l'économie mondiale en apportant son expertise dans l'élaboration de politiques et de stratégies tant au niveau national, qu'au niveau régional et international. En ce qui concerne le continent africain, elle s'est particulièrement impliquée dans la préparation du Plan d'action du NEPAD dans son volet agricole et dans la formulation des programmes nationaux d'investissements à moyen terme du Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine.

Malgré les efforts perceptibles déjà engagés et les perspectives de mise en œuvre de programmes nationaux et régionaux d'investissements en agriculture, le déséquilibre de l'économie mondiale sur fond de crise alimentaire et financière ne cesse d'aggraver la précarité des populations au moment où plus de 900 millions de personnes souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition. Si des progrès importants ont pu être réalisés par endroits, il y a lieu de considérer cependant qu'en 2050, la population globale mondiale qui va enregistrer une augmentation de 50 pour cent pour atteindre 9 milliards d'habitants nécessitera impérativement le doublement de la production vivrière. Face à ce nouveau défi, la FAO, de part sa vocation agricole et alimentaire, doit résolument recentrer et ajuster sa vision d'éliminer de la planète la faim et la malnutrition tout en contribuant à l'amélioration durable des conditions de vie des populations notamment les plus pauvres. Il est évident que cette vision prendra en compte toutes les dimensions de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, de la préservation des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement. Tout récemment, en réponse à la situation de la crise alimentaire, la FAO a lancé son Programme d'urgence: "Initiative contre la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires" en assistant les ménages pauvres et vulnérables en intrants et petit outillage agricole. Ce Programme bien que modeste, car les ressources annoncées et attendues n'ont pas été disponibles, a eu néanmoins un impact positif sur la campagne agricole. Cette intervention s'est inscrite dans les efforts de nos gouvernements pour améliorer l'offre en produits agricoles et alimentaires à travers les systèmes de production durable. Dans ce contexte, les priorités de notre plan stratégique à moyen terme se sont focalisées sur le Programme national de sécurité alimentaire, le développement de l'horticulture urbaine et péri-urbaine, la maîtrise de l'eau et la valorisation des bas-fonds auquel s'ajoutent d'autres programmes intéressants tels que la pêche, la foresterie et l'élevage dont la plupart ont reçu un appui décisif du Programme de coopération technique de la FAO.

Au regard de la crise alimentaire mondiale avec ses enjeux d'ordre économique, politique et social, les décideurs à tous les niveaux doivent s'engager plus résolument pour la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement dont celui primordial de réduire de moitié la faim et la pauvreté avant 2015.

Il est indéniable que la FAO, à travers ses atouts dans son expertise avérée en politique et stratégie de développement rural, continuera à accomplir sa mission avec efficacité et efficience pour assurer une croissance agricole indispensable au développement socio-économique de nos États. A la suite de cette Conférence, la FAO disposera d'un outil lui permettant de conduire les réformes souhaitées par le biais du Plan d'action immédiate qui vise entre autres: à prioriser les programmes de l'organisation par rapport aux objectifs mondiaux basés sur les résultats et les

indicateurs des performances; à rationaliser le fonctionnement des Organes directeurs et améliorer la gouvernance, l'évaluation et le contrôle; à renforcer les capacités de programmation et de budgétisation par rapport aux programmes prioritaires retenus par les États Membres et aussi à améliorer l'efficacité des ressources humaines des institutions dans ses structures à tous les niveaux.

Les conclusions du Rapport qui reposent sur ses quatre grands piliers s'inscrivent sans ambiguïté dans le renforcement de la cohérence et de l'efficacité des interventions de notre institution riche d'une longue expérience de plus de 60 ans pour l'amélioration des pratiques agricoles, forestières et halieutiques. Cependant, la mise en œuvre de ce Plan d'action exige de nous la mobilisation des contributions et aussi, la recherche des ressources additionnelles nécessaires pour mener les réformes afin d'atteindre les performances requises. C'est ainsi qu'ensemble, en notre qualité d'État Membre, nous invitons les pays donateurs à accompagner la FAO dans son processus de réforme pour lui permettre d'accomplir son mandat dans nos pays souvent tributaires de risques économiques, sociaux et climatiques qui menacent la croissance de l'économie mondiale.

A cet égard, nous lançons également un appel aux institutions financières, à l'Union européenne et aux partenaires au développement pour concrétiser leur engagement pris dans la déclaration de la Conférence de haut niveau tenue ici à Rome en juin dernier sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, les défis du changement climatique et la bioénergie.

Tout en recommandant à la Direction générale et aux États Membres la mise en œuvre diligente et efficace du Plan d'action immédiate et la poursuite du processus de révision du Cadre stratégique à moyen terme 2010-2013, nous félicitons, une fois de plus, le Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante pour la qualité novatrice des réflexions, des propositions contenues dans ce Rapport. Et c'est pourquoi, mon pays, la République de Guinée, se réjouit de l'approbation du Rapport du Comité.

Je ne peux terminer mon intervention, Mesdames et Messieurs, sans exprimer toute la gratitude du Président de la République, le Président le Général Lansana Conté, de son Gouvernement et de tout le peuple de Guinée à la FAO et à son Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, pour avoir entrepris courageusement, avec clairvoyance, réalisme et optimisme les réformes visant le développement d'une agriculture moderne pour un véritable progrès social et économique en Afrique et dans le monde que nous voulons libérer de la faim et de la malnutrition.

### **Zoltan GÖGÖS (Hungary)**

First of all, I wish to offer my congratulations to the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons on their election to these responsible positions. I am convinced that under your guidance this Special Session of the FAO Conference will achieve a successful conclusion.

At the outset I wish to refer to the statement made by the French EU Presidency. The Hungarian Delegation fully supports that statement; I would only like to shortly address some specific issues in relation to our agenda.

Let me start with saying a few words of praise. As we all know FAO is the only UN technical agency that has ever had a comprehensive Independent External Evaluation. I do not wish to enter into the details of the thorough discussions on the Evaluation Report's conclusions. I would just like to express my deep appreciation for the hard work of those who have been involved in this long process, both FAO Management and Member Nations' representatives. The forward-looking, positive outcome of this Conference Session is proof of the success of their work.

We are confident that FAO will continue its reforms and will enter a new growth trajectory. We are convinced that the world needs a strong FAO in order to fulfil its mandate, to achieve its objectives and to meet the enormous challenges it faces. Through the proposed changes FAO will be more effective, more efficient and more relevant to the Twenty-first Century.

We are very pleased that this long process of discussions has finally concluded. We are pleased for the outcome, for the resolution and for the consensus it has been adopted with.

We are also pleased about the timely closure of the process because it has been time and energy-consuming, both for the Membership and for FAO. After the Conference, we have to focus our efforts on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

Now turning to some worrisome facts, we are very much concerned about food insecurity in the world. The recent food crisis has had dramatic impacts on the world's poorest populations, endangering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the commitment to halve the number of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. In this respect we highly appreciated FAO's initiative to organize the High-Level Conference on World Food Security in June. As a follow-up to this Conference, the international community should do much more to promote investments in agriculture to boost food production. Increased use of agricultural inputs, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, etc., investments in the infrastructure (roads, warehouses and primary processing) and policy advice are all essential to enhance sustainable agricultural development.

In this process, as it is mentioned among the recommendations of the Independent, External Evaluation Report, the coordination of actions is a key element. As a result, synergies and complementarities can be attained instead of creating duplications or overlap in the operations of various global actors such as multilateral organizations and bilateral donors. In our view, FAO should play a leading and proactive role in coordinating actions in agriculture and rural development.

Hungary is an emerging donor country. A part of our Official Development Assistance is allocated to agricultural development, especially to those activities where we have comparative advantages. We have established close cooperation with many developing countries in Asia, Africa and with some of the Eastern European countries as well. Despite the financial crisis, Hungary is particularly hit by, we continue with our development assistance activities.

I have the pleasure to refer also to the Fellowship Programme we have recently launched together with FAO. Ten students from developing countries already started their veterinary course in Budapest. We are now going to receive applications to select the next 25 students for various other courses. Although with some delay, but we will soon start with the first phase of our Trust Fund Technical Projects financed under the Partnership Framework Agreement signed with FAO last year.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the full commitment of the Hungarian Government to the goals of the Organization and confirm our continued support for FAO's renewal through the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

**Abu Bkerf Al-Mabrouk AL-MANSOURI (Libyan Arab Jamahirya) (Original language Arabic)**

On my own behalf and on behalf of my Delegation, we would like to express our thanks to the FAO and to its Director-General for having invited us to participate at the Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference of the FAO.

It is a privilege for us to take up this invitation and to take part in the efforts of this Conference because it is looking at a number of issues of vital importance for the international community on its agenda, including the increase in food products and their prices, climate change and also the recent acute financial crisis that the world is currently going through and which is inevitably going to have an adverse effect on agriculture and on developing countries.

There is absolutely no doubt that in the wake of successive crises that our societies have had to face, there is going to be a major impact on development. These crises hamper the realization of the Millennium Development Goals where we wanted to halve the number of hungry people by 2015. Also, we have to look at what is done by international organizations when it comes to implementation of the programmes and policies that have been developed so as to meet those goals.

Not only are there natural disasters and the increase in food prices, but also the of despoliation of natural resources that has resulted in climate change and environmental changes. In addition to

that there are conflicts and crises around the world which are created by man. These are also adding to the burden of the international community and the burden borne by all organizations. Hence, we have to redouble our efforts and so that we can find appropriate solutions to prevent these crises getting worse.

The world in which we live now has a particular need for stability both in terms of politics and the economy in the world and therefore, we have to do what we can do to create the foundations of reasonable policy so that we can also build for the long term; so that we can also get through the crises that we are going through at the moment, and ensure that the development continues. We certainly believe, the heads of delegations and the international community that the Organization has to shoulder these responsibilities by coming up with prudent policies, by bringing transparency to the settlement of conflict and by implementing the plans and programmes that are going to allow us to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

It is also important that we take initiatives to lessen the suffering of people, who suffer from poverty and hunger. We should also afford developing countries an opportunity to take part in decisions at all global levels. The Jamahiriya and its leader, Muammar Gheddafi, want to give support to these programmes in the developing countries by working with FAO. We believe that in this way, we will help bring about development and will lessen the food crisis, and, we will also do something about climate change. Hence, we believe in food aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, and we have to control locusts throughout the African Continent as well.

The most recent campaign in my country provided equipment to assist farmers, and there is positive proof of that approach. We believe that, in the long term, we will be able to resolve the problems that the African continent is currently facing, and we shall continue to work with FAO. We will do that, and we will be looking at a Conference on Water Management in Africa and we will also in this way take up the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals.

We hope that on the 6 December, we will be able to take decisions in making real progress and to build on the Twenty-fourth Summit on Water Resources. Also, we believe it will help us act on the Sirte Summit and conclusions from 2004.

I would again like to thank the CoC that has been charged with following up on the Independent External Evaluation, particularly Professor Loyell who has written this very wise report and also given us an Immediate Action Plan, that certainly has received the support of all who are participating here. We hope that this IPA will be put into effect.

Finally, through this Conference, I would like to wish full success to the Organization.

#### **Lesole MOKOMA (Lesotho)**

We have observed with great concern the continuing state of food insecurity in most African states including our own Lesotho. The various statistical reports including those issued by FAO and, in my country, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee, all attest to this situation. The statistics depict that numbers of the undernourished is on the increase in the African region as compared to other Regions of the world where these numbers are actually declining. The existing unfavourable weather conditions confronting the Region like frequent and severe droughts and/or heavy rains and floods exacerbate this situation even further.

Currently, Lesotho faces a severe state of drought thus threatening our food security situation further, as we anticipate another year of low production of cereal crops. The moderate rains, which are late, received during the second week of November, are not enough to sustain the soil moisture content for crops that were planted late, aware that prospects of adequate summer rains are bleak. These rains are late indeed, because 15 November is a cut-off date to plant major grains such as white maize and sorghum. We are already fearful of low cropping rate, especially of alternative crops, for fear of crop failure because of the continued drought and early frost. We will, however, continue to assist farmers to engage in conservation farming and block farming programmes, in order to maintain or improve on the production levels attained in 2007-08 harvest season.



Complementary farming systems, such as irrigation, are being strengthened. It is true that we have not really tapped on this very useful farming technique to its fullest potential given our abundant water resources, but we do have plans in place. Our Agromet Service informs us, however, that with the recurring droughts, Lesotho would enter a water stress period of less than 1700 m<sup>3</sup>/per capita by the year 2019; and the period of water scarcity of 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/per capita by the year 2062. Our fear now is that with the advent of climate change, this scenario could set in even much earlier than anticipated, spelling suffering for humans and animals. The challenge is for us to develop and implement sustainable agricultural and rural development programmes that are adaptive to climate change with the help of our development partners.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in collaboration with the Lesotho Meteorological Services, we have developed the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change, as Lesotho is highly vulnerable to climate change. In the Lesotho NAPA, we have proposed financing under the Global Environment Facility, the projects intended to address “urgent and immediate priority adaptation needs aimed at minimizing impacts of climate change while at the same time enhancing adaptive capacity of the vulnerable communities most prone to the adverse effects of climate change”. For agriculture with guidance from the meteorological services, Lesotho NAPA identified, amongst others, interventions to improve resilience of livestock and crop production systems, and the improvement of our early warning systems against climate-induced disasters and hazards.

All the afore-mentioned interventions in agriculture also aim to mitigate effects of the current challenges of food insecurity resulting from the global soaring prices of food and petroleum. In fact, following the High Level Conference on World Food Security, we have developed a proposal in response to the soaring food prices. Through facilitation by FAO, a United Nations inter-agency assessment team assisted us in defining the proposal. The proposal includes immediate and short-term, medium to long-term interventions, some of which require support from our development partners. Some of the proposed programmes are being streamlined into the 2009-2010 budget estimates.

I take note of the good work done by the Committee of the Conference and commend them for the job well done in developing the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal, based on the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation. This, I am sure, was not an easy job but with dedication, they produced a working document for direction by the Conference. I support a proposal that though we pursue change, we must sequence implementation very carefully in order to improve performance and ensure efficiency gains rapidly, without compromising FAO's delivery capacity.

I, thus, concur that this Conference endorse the Immediate Plan of Action that provides the framework for FAO Reform with Growth process which will enable FAO to play its rightful role as a partner in the essential comprehensive international response to the challenges of global food insecurity.

On behalf of the Government of Lesotho and my delegation, I express our heartfelt appreciation for the continued support by the FAO in our efforts to improve the country's agricultural development and reduce levels of poverty and food insecurity, particularly in the rural and poverty-stricken arid regions of Lesotho.

**Somphat KAEWPIJIT (Thailand)**

Thailand welcomes the IPA and would like to express its appreciation to all who have contributed to its achievement. The introduction of the Strategic Framework for the development of strategic objectives of the Medium-Term Plan and programming and budgeting is very much encouraged. It serves as a tool not only monitoring and reorientation of FAO's intervention impact but also for its performance assessment. However, an effective use of this tool would depend on how much

management and staff understand the system, and the specific part of this law to make use of this tool to achieve the Organization's goal. Constant communication for good understanding and capacity-building, especially of managers, are required. On organization restructuring, the senior management reached two DDGs with less responsibility and manageable reporting lines that will enhance an effective management and a more productive service. However our concern lies on the ongoing cost cutting of the director level. This cost-cutting should not have any impact on the critical mass or capacity of the unit. The delegation of authority of the Senior Management to managers of lower level, both in the Headquarters and Decentralized Offices, is a part of Culture Change. What has been carried out so far as a return is only the first stage. The second stage, as agreed in the IPA, and other possibilities to be explored, will follow. What my delegation would like to point out is that delegation of authority should be supported by a mechanism to ensure accountability of those managers to whom the authority is given.

Thailand attaches importance to the FAO service in term of the TCP. FAO can make use of its comparative advantage through a TCP project to build up developing country capacity in agricultural production which contributes to food security. We support the indicative TCP allocation to different Regions with the first priority given to least developed countries. The programme of delays in project appreciation due to time-consuming processes needs to be resolved. It is expected that the project cycle and approval guidelines to be used in 2009 will strengthen understanding of the process and requirements for project formulation.

The creation of the Decentralized Offices and their input towards policy issues and the decision-making process to meetings with Senior Management is the first encouraging phase of the effort. The role of Regional Offices in seeking input for programming and budgeting to the benefit of its respective Regions should also be strengthened in the arrangements for the Regional Conferences. We need to be prepared. We hope that the Regional Offices, the Secretariat, and Member Nations will do their best to strengthen the role of the Regional Conferences so as to enable constructive deliberations and get tangible inputs for the preparation of the PWB.

With regard to human resources management, a transparent and accountable recruitment process is to be explored, taking into account not only merit but also gender-balance and geographic distribution, with special focus on under-represented countries. Staff development, as well as the modality and criteria of mobility and rotation, should also be clearly spelled out.

Finally, my delegation believes that the year 2009 will be a turning point for FAO. The increase in the number of hungry and poor is the major challenge for the path towards fulfilling the MDGs. We do hope that a renewed FAO will tackle this challenge with extended capacities.

We are sure the CoC-IEE will continue its work with strong support from Member Nations and Management, and that a new set of recommendations will be submitted to the Conference in 2009. Thank you Mr Chairperson.

**Hidenori MURAKAMI (Japan)**

It is a great honour for me to represent the Government of Japan and present its views at the Thirty-fifth Special Session of the FAO Conference.

To begin with, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO and staff members of the Secretariat involved in organizing this Conference Session.

It goes without saying that FAO plays a very important role in the development of world agriculture, forestry and fisheries. However, the Report of the Independent External Evaluation we received last year points out that FAO is in a serious state of crisis. Japan, as the second largest budget contributor, has strong concerns, as well as big expectations, for FAO to carry out its Reform in order to make itself an efficient, effective and influential international organization to carry out those important missions.

In order to realize the Reform of FAO, under the limitations with respect to the financial and human resources, it is of the utmost importance to clearly identify the priorities based on FAO's

mandate. Priorities we believe are: one, the areas that cannot be addressed by any other institutions other than FAO; and two, the subject areas where FAO has a comparative advantage, and we should concentrate our resources on these areas. Japan has always been supportive of FAO's leadership on food security issues. We also attach high importance to the formulation of international standards on food safety and plant quarantine; the promotion of sustainable forestry management and counter measures against illegal logging and global measures against illegal, unregulated and unrecorded fishing, so-called IUU fishing. In addition, we hope that the organizational restructuring and institutional Culture Change will be carried out in tandem.

We appreciate the Immediate Plan of Action that was developed to realize a comprehensive FAO Reform. I recognize that many representatives of Member Nations have worked hard to come up with the Immediate Plan of Action.

I would also like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to the Chairperson, Professor Noori, of the Committee of the Conference for the Follow-up to the IEE and also to other bureau members who have led the challenging work, as well as to the participants of the three Working Groups and the FAO Secretariat. I would also like to thank the CoC-IEE Secretariat, in particular Mr. John Markie.

The important thing now is that the Immediate Plan of Action must be implemented in a steady and concrete manner. The Reform has just started. The challenges we face are extremely big. We strongly hope that continued endeavours will be made by all parties concerned.

To be honest, Japan is currently facing serious budget constraints. However, in order to assist implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, Japan is considering what kind of contribution we can make in the financial aspect. In this connection, it is important from the viewpoint of the ownership of the Reform that Member Nations fully pay their Assessed Contributions in a timely manner. We also strongly hope that Member Nations pay all their Arrears.

Now let me touch upon the problem of food prices. Since autumn 2006, global food prices have soared and this problem has affected people's livelihoods throughout the world. Japan announced food and agriculture related assistance of \$1.45 billion in total from January of this year, and has already carried out the majority of its pledged emergency assistance. We are also currently considering further measures for assistance.

The use of food crops for bio-fuels has been mentioned as one of the factors contributing to the surge in food prices. Japan intends to positively proceed with the research, development and commercialization of second generation of bio-fuels so that sustainable production and use of bio-fuels would become compatible with food security.

Japan would also like to call for self-restraint on measures for export restrictions of agricultural products. Discussions for the regulatory reinforcement of export restrictions is currently being carried out in the WTO negotiations.

Taking into account the importance of agricultural development for food security in Africa, in the context of TICAD IV, Japan has called for doubling the production of rice in the next ten years. Rice consumption in Africa has soared in recent years. The First General Meeting of the "Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)" was held in Kenya in late October under the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) with the participation of related organizations, including FAO and various countries. Concrete actions for doubling the production of rice have already started.

In order to establish global food security, it is important for each country to achieve greater agricultural production by maximizing the use of its own resources and by increasing investment in agriculture. In addition, we should make efforts to increase our self-sufficiency in food.

The Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security also emphasizes the importance of stimulating food production and increasing investment in agriculture. Japan will make efforts to contribute to stabilize the world food market through the promotion of the

domestic agricultural reform, by increasing our food self-sufficiency ratio and strengthening our food supply capacity.

With respect to the global partnership for agriculture and food, it is important that it be inclusive, coherent and results-oriented. Towards its prompt realization, we expect contributions from relevant organizations including the UN High-Level Task Force (HLTF) and FAO. Japan, of course, will not spare any cooperation to this end.

Let me conclude my speech by expressing my sincere hope that FAO will turn into an efficient, effective and influential international organization that can effectively support global food security for all people in the world. Japan stands ready to contribute constructively to that end. Thank you very much.

**Vu Van TAM (Viet Nam)**

First of all, on behalf of the Viet Nam delegation, I would like to express my warm greetings and best wishes to all of you. Over the past years, the FAO, through its TCP, has affirmed its important role as a key Technical Agency within the UN. In order to further explore and improve the FAO role in the new era, I believe that reforms and renovation are necessary, especially in the context of global climate change challenges leading to more natural disasters, crop and animal diseases. Despite its urgency, the Reform should follow a roadmap and should be done in specific steps. In this regard, I would like to make a few comments to our Conference as follows:

First, the approval of the Immediate Plan of Action should provide the foundation for “Reform with Growth” of our Organization, within the UN System, to support achieving the MGDs in each country, among which the goals of poverty reduction and food security for all should be put at the top priority.

Second, the TCP although with moderate budget have made great impacts in the difficult areas that Governments and people of developing nations are requiring. Therefore, we would like to request FAO to provide more TCP to help the poor people to cope with the serious impacts of the global crises on the economy and climate change.

Third, FAO is a very important in the successful South-South Cooperation Programme. At present, this model is being considered for application and multiplication by some developed countries. Therefore, the South-South Cooperation Programme should be further promoted to ensure food security for developing countries. Viet Nam is ready to share our experience with other countries under this Programme.

As you know, Viet Nam has also been affected badly with all kinds of natural disasters. Also as you may know, early this month we faced heavy rains causing flooding in twenty provinces in North Viet Nam with a high number of people affected and economic loss for the country. The economic loss exceeds US\$450 million. But in our most difficult times, we have received effective and timely assistance from the FAO and its specialists in response to this situation.

At this meeting, we would like to express our great appreciation for the FAO assistance to the agriculture and rural development in Viet Nam over the last thirty years. We would also like to take this opportunity to confirm our commitment to further promote our cooperation with the FAO and its Member Nations in order to implement successfully the Immediate Action Plan.

Finally, I would like to wish this Conference a big success; wishing the FAO Reform success and the participants good health and happiness. Thank you very much.

**João Gomes CRAVINHO (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)**

Portugal wishes to associate itself to the statement made by France as current President of the Council of the European Union.

Some sixty years after its creation, the United Nations has embarked upon a healthy process of reflection concerning the way it works and how it can adjust to the needs of today’s world, aware of the fact that greater efficiency and coherence of the UN Agencies require a process of Reform

and this has been seen in all UN Agencies, which is not easy. Everyone is aware that the world is changing and that we have an obligation to adapt to these new realities in the way in which we work and in our mechanisms. These challenges are not always easy to clearly identify. We have to analyze ourselves, look at the way we function and find new mechanisms and establish new systems. It is also very important to take into account the capacity we have acquired and then take this further. We must also look to the past, while we innovate and modernize. We must make the best use of this momentum and work quickly, endeavouring to overcome past divisions and the differences that separate us internationally and that have conditioned our behaviour for a very long time, preventing us from achieving our common objectives for reasons that are obscure or dubious.

We must continue to fight poverty that requires a new approach based on new partnerships allowing us to achieve something which is common, because we have a shared responsibility. We must move towards food security and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Over the last year, we have given much thought to this and negotiated, allowing us to arrive at this Conference with a set of proposals. It is thanks to the efforts of FAO that we will be able to make progress in eradicating hunger and accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals.

It is in this spirit that the successive Presidencies of the European Union, including Portugal, which held the Presidency in 2007, have committed themselves to working with the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, his Secretariat and the Members of the Organization, in order to build a much-needed consensus on Reform.

Portugal is proud of the achievements during its EU Presidency, and this should allow us to help the Organization to overcome many of the financial constraints that are currently impeding its work, and that have resulted in this Special Conference.

We must move forward and move closer to our goal to provide FAO - within its mandate and where it is in a position of comparative advantage - with the instruments that will allow it to more effectively perform the tasks that make it a unique organization, particularly in the production of essential global public goods for rural and agricultural development.

This is just the beginning and now we must work and continue down this path on a lucid and realistic manner. The recent food crisis has reminded us, once again, that the world faces global fragilities that are not yet resolved and that require urgent attention. We must recall that that FAO, like other UN Organizations and Agencies has the responsibility to provide its resources and knowledge in combating hunger in every corner of our planet. This is a major expectation from all peoples of the world, where the most needy areas must be dealt with. The right to food and food security are world-scale objectives that we cannot neglect today.

At this point, I must make special reference to the need to concentrate on Africa, to have a Special Conference for that continent, where the consequences of global movements are felt most intensely despite the fact that they originate elsewhere.

Our task is not an easy one; the food issue is directly linked to other global concerns. Firstly, we must protect our environment. Climate change has transformed the realities and certainties of the past. We must now call these into question. This is essential if we are to know what to produce, where and with what resources and move towards new issues which are very important, that is choosing between different crop growing methods, how to protect the soil, what methods to use, how to combat degradation of land – this concerns, in particular, countries where traditional agriculture is practised and which is no longer adapted to people's current needs.

Then we need to create sustainable development models with more emphasis on strategy and also emphasizing improvement of quality of life in rural areas, reassess urbanization and the role of local communities and small producers.

Thirdly, we have models for the use of essential resources, such as water and land, which raise delicate issues pertaining to land organization, the usage of shared resources, scientific knowledge, technology sharing and the sharing and dissemination of information.

Fourthly, we must recognize the link between these different aspects, as mobilization, globalization and fragmentation, and we must examine this from a national, regional and international perspective, in order to ensure that we bring greater weight to bear in global governance.

Portugal is convinced that the solution to the world's problems must necessarily involve the United Nations. It has vocation and legitimacy to generate shared efforts and responses. Multilateralism is, indeed, and increasingly so, the right way to achieve global answers to these global problems.

Based on our convictions, we are firmly committed to ensuring progress for all our international and regional organizations in these efforts concerning food and agriculture. I am launching a particular appeal to the community of Portuguese-speaking countries and the Ibero-American community and the European Union to this effect.

Food and agriculture are essential in achieving the broader goals of promoting a more sustainable model and fighting poverty and hunger. We are aware of FAO's central role in this process and Portugal and its partners have done everything to strengthen efforts, collectively and individually, through FAO. We have an FAO Information Office in Lisbon that promotes a dialogue with Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries. Portugal and FAO have signed a Working Agreement, and we also work closely with WFP and IFAD, and the cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies has been reinforced.

The path that we have to take is, indeed, a difficult one, but it is the one we have to take. We have no choice. Strengthening our multilateral institutions is absolutely essential if we are to meet our goals in an increasingly globalized world. We will be judged by future generations; we must make use of our generosity, our sense of responsibility, the daring and creative means to produce new instruments that allow us to move forward in innovative ways towards our common goals, the Millennium Development Goals. This is our great responsibility in our contemporary world.

**Frank T. MWENIFUMBO (Malawi)**

Let me first congratulate FAO for taking this initiative to organize this very important Conference to discuss FAO's reforms and issues that have a bearing on global food security.

The challenges of climate change and rising prices of agriculture inputs continue to pose serious threats to food security across the globe. Recently, we have experienced rising food prices, leading to hunger and civil unrest in some parts of the world. The rising food prices have been experienced in Malawi as well, and the Government of Malawi has responded by undertaking a number of initiatives and interventions that are aimed at ensuring that the country is food self-sufficient. Some of the initiatives include, but are not limited to the following:

First, the Malawi Government is implementing an input subsidy programme, whereby fertilizers, hybrid seeds and pesticides are being subsidized for the benefit of poor resource farmers. In this 2008-09 agriculture season, over 50 percent of smallholder farmers will benefit from the input subsidy programme. This programme has enabled smallholder farmers to increase crop use. In the past two seasons the production has recorded a 50 percent increase over the 2007 average. Since the introduction of the input subsidy programme in 2005, Malawi has been producing food surpluses. In the 2006-07 cropping season the surplus was over one million metric tonnes and in 2007-08, despite unfavourable weather conditions, there was still a surplus of 400 000 metric tonnes. The surplus was exported to neighbouring countries, hence contributing to regional food security.

The Malawi Government has intensified irrigation farming in order to reduce over-reliance on rainfed agriculture. Since 2005, land under irrigation has more than doubled. This initiative is supported by the Government, as well as by some cooperating partners and various non-governmental organizations.

Thirdly, the Government of Malawi has embarked on a crop diversification programme whereby farmers are being encouraged to grow other food crops such as cassava, rice, sweet potatoes,

sorghum and plantain, in order to reduce over-dependence on maize, which is our staple. In addition, farmers are being encouraged to embark on compost manure-making in order to improve soil fertility in light of land degradation and increasing fertilizer prices, which are not affordable to the majority of smallholder farmers in Malawi. In addition, Malawi is promoting livestock production and fish farming in order to improve the nutrition status of the country's population in the current financial year. Malawi has increased its dairy animals and promoted dairy farming.

With support from the FAO office in Malawi, the Government is promoting construction of small metallic grain silos in order to reduce post-harvest losses, which are estimated at 40 percent of the total harvest. The metallic silos are being used by smallholder farmers, over and above other recommended storage techniques.

In terms of research, Malawi is intensifying research in drought-resistant seed varieties in light of adverse weather conditions, particularly erratic rainfall patterns.

The vision of the current Government and its leadership, in the name of His Excellency Dr Bingu wa Mutharika, who is also Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, is that Malawi should be a breadbasket in the SADEC Region. Malawi should be able to feed its people and export surplus to neighbouring countries. The Malawi Government has made it clear that the fight against hunger should be one of its highest priority areas.

Through FAO, Malawi has received Technical Cooperation Partnerships (TCP projects) and recently FAO approved US\$70 000 to assist combating the rising food prices crisis. This assistance came at the most opportune time, when farmers have been assisted in acquiring farm inputs, particularly fertilizers and hybrid seeds.

Let me thank FAO once again for all the technical and financial assistance that it gives to my country.

In conclusion, Malawi reaffirms its support to the FAO reforms for the Organization's new forecast in implementing its programmes for the benefit for Member Nations.

### **Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)**

We meet in this Special Conference amidst a time of more multiple challenges than before. I speak of high food prices and uncertain decent supply, a global financial crisis and high fuel and energy prices.

As to the first and the third, while somehow now abating, the accumulated gains over years of delivery efforts, costly investment and scarce public resources – particularly on the MDGs that have effectively been obliterated in a matter of a few months – will take years to recover.

The second, the so-called global financial storm, is poised to further make our recovery efforts more difficult. Three years ago, when we initiated the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – on the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of FAO Council and subsequently the Thirty-third Session of the Conference – we did not have an inkling of this conspiracy of adverse events and developments.

Today we are witnessed to the most comprehensive soul-searching ever undertaken by a UN Organization. As it was initiated by the general Membership, it should better enable this Organization to craft and implement global solutions to global problems, as we experience them today.

The Delegation of the Philippines would like to thank and commend the leadership and Members of the Committees for their signal efforts in this comprehensive Reform initiative. The Philippines is pleased, as a result of these efforts, that this Organization has taken the right direction in structural measures that will enable it to take on the significant role of facilitating concerted global action on the numerous challenges that confront us today and in the future.

We are particularly pleased that this Organization will now be guided by a results-based framework and monitoring system. We have confidence that this will make the Organization more

flexible and agile to the changing demands of the times, as it refocuses its priorities based on precious resources we all must share.

We are also most pleased to support the institutionalization of a separate and independent Evaluation Office in the Organization. We are also in full support of term limits for the Director General.

We are, however, concerned that reform in the Governing Bodies of the Organization could not be undertaken in time for this Special Conference. This, among a few other residual elements, is a source of inertia which will surely tell on the Organization's performance, as we have seen in the past. We look forward to dealing with this and related issues in the coming year.

We believe that there should be term limits in any Member Nation's Representation in the Governing Bodies. Specifically, it is high time that we institute changes in the system of geographical representation so that no Member Nation can claim a *de facto* monopoly franchise to sit perpetually in this Governing Body. We hope that this can be considered in the ensuing deliberations next year.

Developing countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the impacts of uncontrollable forces, invariably unleashed from the developed countries, which are extremely prejudicial towards our developmental programmes on food security, economic diversification and modernization, peace and national security.

The small farmers that dominate our rural economies are now exposed naked to the quantum jumps in the risks that they face in an already naturally-risky environment. Worse, the most threatening economic and bio-physical risks have been transformed into unquantifiable uncertainties.

Adverse climate change – the major causes of which can be traced to the industrial north – have wreaked havoc on agricultural production systems as cropping seasons and the weather can no longer be predictable patterns. This, together with the impacts of the recent spate of spikes in energy and input prices, have vastly eroded the dramatic productive gains of technological change from the 1970s. The global financial crisis will further exacerbate this already tenuous situation with further declines in investment, together with increasing costs.

The Philippines is of the view that the parties most responsible for these adversities must bear the commensurate responsibility of mopping up and help us cope with the noxious pollutants they have infused into the global, economic and biophysical environments. While we wonder of the technological developments of developed countries – green mitigation measures – developing countries agriculture urgently needs, on the ground, another Green Revolution, one that enables adaptation to the reversible widening range of economic and bio-physical risks we face today and will in the future.

For starters, we will need renewed financing and support for developing the next quantum jump in agricultural technology, particularly in the international commodity RND centres, as in the 1960s and 1970s. The developed countries must put their fiscal and monetary measures in order, as they have most patronizingly prescribed to the rest of the world.

If we do not act fast and decisively, we can be set back to the time prior to the first Green Revolution, on the verge of massive famine with dire consequences for peace and development within our national borders, as well as globally. It is a reset we must never allow to happen.

This is the core challenge that confronts us today. It is a challenge that we can only overcome together, with global solutions that are pursued through concerted global action.

May we report that in our corner of the globe, ASEAN recently convened a meeting in Manila with Regional and Country Offices of the UN and its Specialized Agencies and other multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, ADB, ICRC and IRRI. This meeting came up with a convergence matrix of programmes and actions on food security, both anchored to ASEAN's Integrated Food Security Framework and the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the UN



High-Level Task Force on Food Security. This matrix of regional collaboration, among these Agencies, will be tabled for action and mandate before leaders in the forthcoming ASEAN UN Summit this December in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

It is with much confidence and expectation that the historic decisions we take in this Conference make for a stronger, responsive and more effective Organization in addressing agricultural, development and sustainable food security for all. We trust that implementing bureaucracy of the Organization seizes the opportunity for greater collaboration for results among Members.

We thank you for your kind and considerate attention.

**Ms Xiangjun YAO (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference authorized the Committee of the Conference to carry out follow-up arrangements of the IEE. After almost a year of hard work, we finally reached consensus on the Immediate Plan of Action – which is a tremendous achievement in itself – making a very good start for FAO to reform and laying a solid foundation for future work.

Taking this opportunity, I wish, on behalf of the Government of China, to extend our sincere appreciation and warm congratulations to the Chairs of the Committee of the Conference and Vice-chairs of Working Groups, FAO Management, Secretariat and Representatives of Member Nations participating in the FAO Reform process.

The world today is facing both challenges and opportunities. Apart from the impact of conventional factors, the human society is now under the threat of emerging problems, such as the food crisis, financial crisis, energy crisis and climate change which, in particular, affect the global agricultural development and food security, making it even more difficult for us to attain the Millennium Development Goals and objectives adopted at the World Food Summit.

It has always been our policy to rely on our own efforts to satisfy our food demand. This year, we have been affected by natural disasters, such as sleet, storm and the devastating earthquake but we managed to have another bumper harvest. It is expected that the total grain output in 2008 will surpass 500 million tonnes, realizing growth for five consecutive years.

Currently, grain prices remain basically stable in our domestic market. Early this month – in order to address the onerous impact of the international financial crisis – the Government of China decided to allocate about US\$600 billion in an effort to stimulate domestic consumption and promote economic growth. One of the major manoeuvres was to accelerate the construction of rural infrastructure.

Last week, China officially announced the national meat and long-term planning for food security from 2008 to 2020. The fact that China relies on its own efforts to secure food supplies is in itself an important contribution to world food security.

While making efforts to achieve domestic food security, China is also active in helping other developing countries, within our capacity. This year, in order to help developing countries respond to the global food crisis, the Government of China made an additional donation to WFP and provided US\$30 million to FAO Trust Fund to help developing countries improve their agricultural productivity. Moreover, China will increase the number of agricultural demonstration centres funded by China in Africa and expand the scale of the South-South Cooperation Programme within the framework of FAO SPFS.

This year marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of China's Reform and opening up, without which we would not have made such great achievements. China is a beneficiary of Reform, hence the advocate of Reform.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to share our comments on FAO Reform from our own empirical perspective. The success of China's Reform and opening up is based on well-defined objectives, open-mindset, appropriate process and sound implementation, which I think are also essential for the success of FAO Reform.

First, the goal and objective of FAO Reform is to build a more efficient UN Specialized Agency, so as to better serve its Membership and respond to all kinds of emerging challenges in the field of food security and agricultural development.

Second, FAO Reform needs innovative ideas to eliminate outdated practices.

Third, FAO shall adopt a step-wise procedure for Reform, based on agreements among Member Nations.

Fourth, the Strategic Objectives and the Immediate Plan of Action are Strategic Actions, which still need a practical and feasible roadmap for effective implementation.

With regard to IPA, our Delegation supports the results-based framework for all of FAO's work with a four-level programming of global objectives – Strategic Objective, Organization, Performance and core functions. In this way, it not only helps us identify clear objectives but also helps us re-prioritize our work and optimize the utilization of resources so that we can target our resources and strength to solve prominent issues of a mutual consent. It is of particular importance, given the scenario of potential downturn of agricultural investment due to the impact of the international financial crisis.

After the Reform, we think that the right and responsibilities of the FAO Conference, Council, Programme and Finance Committees, Technical Committees and Regional Conferences will be more clearly-defined, which will contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Governance system. To this end, we support the recommendations concerning Governance Reform in IPA.

The introduction of the concept of Impact Focus Area in the IPA is of great significance for the attraction and standardization of extra-budgetary funds, but we wish to emphasize the importance of solving the problem of Assessed Contributions and Arrears to the financial health of FAO.

China supports the IPA recommendation of increasing the budget amount and ratio of TCP and of not re-allocating regular budget to TCP to the reserve fund. We think that TCP Programmes are of great importance to most developing countries, and they are also of great importance to the solution of the world food security and it deserves further enhancement.

Many recommendations concerning administrative and management actions are early actions for the management. Therefore, we hope the management will effectively follow-up the recommendations of the IPA.

This Reform is the biggest one in the history of FAO and also within the UN System. The Chinese Government, as always, will support FAO and take an active part in FAO Reform. At the same time, we wish that all Members will carry-on the spirit of collaboration and reform for change. We can jointly promote the Reform in FAO for greater capacity and efficiency, thus making better contribution to the world agriculture and food security. We are looking forward to a new FAO.

**Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria)**

It is a great honour for me to be here today to deliver the message of Minister Pröll who, due to his heavy engagement in the consultations for setting up a future Austrian government, unfortunately was not in the position to be present at this very important Special Conference held to shape the future of FAO.

We all are living in a world where changes affect us quite rapidly. We are still confronted with more than 920 million people all over the world suffering from hunger, a number which unfortunately has not been decreasing but increasing over the last months. Hunger, as the most critical manifestation of poverty, has to be tackled by all our joint efforts. FAO has got the obligation to contribute to the eradication of chronic hunger and malnutrition due to its unique mandate. However, the Organization needs to be adapted to meet the challenges we are currently facing and will face in the future. At the same time, it is crucial to constructively cooperate inside of a multilateral framework within a coherent UN System.

The Immediate Plan of Action, which we have adopted during this Conference, provides a further step after the Independent External Evaluation in the course of the Organization's renewal.

At this point, allow me to take the opportunity to thank the Director-General, FAO's Management, Secretariat, Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as all the members of the established Working Groups for elaborating in a constructive spirit such an ambitious, yet realistic roadmap as the Immediate Plan of Action.

We all are aware of FAO's vital role in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries in order to contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty. It is therefore absolutely necessary for all of us to move forward concertedly in this positive spirit and to implement as soon as possible the necessary measures in the follow-up process of the IEE in order to allow a reformed FAO to contribute more effectively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

There cannot be any doubt that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals has suffered a harsh setback caused by the diverse global crisis earlier this year, in particular by the global crisis of soaring food prices, another 70 million of people have been put into hunger and poverty. Therefore, joint efforts, like the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and its agreed Comprehensive Framework for Action, are of utmost importance to meet both, the short-term and the long term-needs of the most affected people.

FAO's role within this constructive framework has been quite substantial by preparing, coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action Activities. This has been clearly reflected in the arrangements and treatment of the assignment of tasks and their funding of the three Rome food-based Agencies, keeping in mind their specific mandate in tackling the challenges of world food security.

In the year 2009, we have to prove again of being able of working together to meet important organizational challenges which range from elaborating a clear strategic framework for FAO, a new results based Programme of Work and Budget and the findings of the Root and Branch Review, to the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

In this context, I would like to briefly refer to the FAO/IAEA Joint Programme and to highlight its successful partnership among UN institutions which, due to the constructive and critical work of its Members, did not cease to exist. I therefore urge to accurately reflect FAO's vital support to this programme of the respective joint unit, both within the Medium Term Plan and in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

Finally, I am confident that in the course of the next year we will be in the position to achieve a deeper clarity about the strategic objectives and an improved focus on priorities and programmes of FAO. At the same time, we already should benefit from improved governance and the possibility of a better oversight by Members.

Austria, being a member of the European Union, aligns itself with the speaking notes put forward by France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Let me conclude by saying, that confidence is crucial for continuing to work in a constructive and respectful spirit in order to complete the process we all have been engaged in. As far as Austria is concerned, I can assure you that we will continue to support FAO in its indispensable work after its renewal within the overall context of the UN Reform.

**Clement N. DLAMINI (Swaziland)**

It is a great honour for His Majesty's Government to be part of this Special Conference following the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

We believe the recommendations of the Evaluation will definitely yield the desired results.

His Majesty has extended his best wishes to all present here today.

We believe the evaluation which has resulted in the Immediate Plan of Action, will for a long time be a good guide for the Organization as well as the Membership. We further believe that the

aspiration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security which was held here in June 2008, will be enhanced due to the orientation of the Organization as a result of the evaluation.

The Organization should be better-placed to contribute in the preparation and realization of a comprehensive framework for action.

The Declaration of the Summit remains a challenge to all Members as it has paved the way forward in addressing the major issues on food insecurity, the climate change and bio-energy. We look forward to Member Nations fulfilling their promises and commitments to increase funding and investment in agriculture in addressing the concerns of the Summit.

The synergy that exists between UN Agencies such as FAO, IFAD and WFP is getting some major programmes to be exploited to the fullest. We note with interest the initiative by WFP to undertake the private-sector fundraising strategy. The time for private and public-sector partnership is now, if we will win this fight against poverty and food insecurity.

Every that is expected from these initiatives, especially that there are budgetary concerns within the Organization.

I submit that the existence and performance of the Organization is entirely on us as Member Nations, we own it and therefore we cannot expect more support from others if we are not making the initiative ourselves.

The comment of the Kingdom of Swaziland is committed to paying its dues, His Majesty's Government is committed to improve food security and alleviate poverty under participation and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders. We will be looking forward to getting support from the Organization and all other development partners as we feel agriculture is the end point.

Because our farm inputs have increased tremendously over the past year, appropriate interventions are necessary to sustain and increase our current productivity. Investments in irrigation, development and appropriate technologies are necessary to withstand the current challenges. We expect FAO to assist in this endeavour.

My country is challenged by the lack of food reserve facilities and yet under the present climatic condition it is a necessary undertaking. We will be calling upon our developing partners in addressing this necessary hope which is a product of the Natural Resources Summit we held in July 2008.

We are hopeful that FAO will increase her impact both at country and Sub-regional level, because we believe that the Immediate Plan of Action will be better implemented if the structures are strengthened.

#### **Moha MARGHI (Maroc)**

Permettez-moi tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation du Royaume du Maroc, de féliciter et rendre hommage à M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, ainsi qu'à tous les membres du Secrétariat pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils ne cessent de déployer pour l'épanouissement de notre Organisation, en vue d'en faire la plateforme internationale la mieux indiquée pour faire face aux problèmes d'insécurité alimentaire.

La présente Session extraordinaire se tient dans un contexte international assez difficile, marqué par une crise financière internationale venant s'ajouter au renchérissement des prix des produits alimentaires de base dont l'impact était direct et visible sur la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement souffrant déjà des fléaux de la pauvreté, de la marginalisation et de l'exclusion, particulièrement dans les zones rurales fragiles.

Cette situation est aggravée par les phénomènes extrêmes liés aux changements climatiques, à savoir les sécheresses et les intempéries telles les inondations et les vagues de froid et de chaleur qui affectent considérablement l'agriculture, l'élevage et les ressources naturelles productives, telles que l'eau, le sol et les parcours.

Cette Session de la Conférence constitue donc une opportunité pour nous, États Membres de l'Organisation, de se concentrer et de se concerter sur cette nouvelle réalité caractérisée par l'interaction de trois éléments majeurs étroitement liés à savoir, l'alimentation, l'énergie et le climat et ce en vue d'asseoir des stratégies et des politiques susceptibles de relever des multiples défis qui s'imposent à nous. Il est évident que le contexte international actuel et ses impacts sur la sécurité alimentaire a été à l'origine du regain d'intérêt pour l'agriculture en tant qu'important levier de développement. Aussi, la communauté internationale s'est engagée lors des différentes rencontres internationales, notamment lors de la Conférence de haut niveau de la FAO tenue en juin 2008 à Rome, ainsi qu'au niveau d'autres instances des Nations Unies, de faire de l'agriculture l'une de ses principales priorités de coopération et à recentrer les ressources financières et les efforts de recherche au profit de ce secteur névralgique.

Au Maroc, la sécurité alimentaire a toujours constitué une des préoccupations majeures de sa politique économique nationale en général et la politique agricole en particulier visant à assurer l'approvisionnement continu du pays en produits alimentaires à travers le développement d'une agriculture productive et rationnelle ouverte de manière maîtrisée sur le marché. Comme cela a été souligné par la délégation de mon pays, à la Conférence de haut niveau et au cours de la dernière Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, le Royaume du Maroc à l'instar des pays en développement, n'a pas échappé aux effets néfastes de la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires; néanmoins, elle a pu grâce aux réformes entamées et mises en œuvre ces dernières années à en amortir le choc et pallier ces répercussions sur le pouvoir d'achat des ménages. Cela a été également rendu possible par un meilleur ciblage des actions en ce qui concerne surtout les subventions des produits de base, l'amélioration du pouvoir d'achat des populations, l'assistance directe aux personnes démunies et vulnérables et le lancement de projets visant le développement des zones défavorisées dans le cadre de l'initiative nationale du développement humain. Par ailleurs, le Royaume du Maroc a adopté en avril 2008, quelques jours avant la tenue de la Conférence de haut niveau, une nouvelle stratégie nationale agricole, dite le "Plan Maroc Vert" réaffirmant l'importance stratégique de l'agriculture pour le développement économique et social du pays. Ledit Plan a pour objectif le développement d'une agriculture plurielle ouverte progressivement sur les marchés extérieurs, une mobilisation fortement renforcée des capitaux privés, publics et nationaux, internationaux et sociaux pour booster l'investissement en agriculture à haute valeur ajoutée et à forte productivité. La constitution de pôles régionaux de développement agricole, car c'est sur le terrain que cela se passe et agro-industriel, la modernisation accélérée des petites et moyennes exploitations dans l'objectif d'atteindre 1 million d'entreprises agricoles dans les dix prochaines années.

La FAO a accompagné de manière constructive notre pays et a contribué à la formulation de ses réformes. Nous apprécions hautement la qualité de ses prestations et de son expertise. S'agissant de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, le Royaume du Maroc se réjouit de l'adoption par le Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de cette évaluation d'un Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO pour en faire une organisation encore plus forte, responsable, transparente et décentralisée. Qu'il me soit permis de rendre également hommage à cette occasion au Président du Comité de la Conférence ainsi qu'à tous les Membres des groupes de travail thématique pour l'excellent travail accompli tout au long de ce processus de négociations ardues dont les résultats positifs augurent d'un meilleur avenir pour notre Organisation.

Nous sommes convaincus que les changements identifiés sont tout à fait pertinents. Il s'agit à présent de fédérer les efforts de tous les États Membres, pour réunir les conditions nécessaires à la mise en œuvre des objectifs escomptés afin que l'étape suivante puisse être consacrée sereinement à l'identification des domaines d'interventions prioritaires de la FAO et au cadrage des ressources de financement susceptibles de lui permettre de prendre en charge les réformes envisagées. Nous souscrivons à la proposition faite par la FAO, relative à la création d'un panel de haut niveau d'experts internationaux dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, ce qui à notre avis pourrait renforcer considérablement les synergies entre les institutions du système des Nations Unies présentes.

Le Maroc réitère son engagement et son appui au Plan d'action immédiate et ne ménagera aucun effort pour son aboutissement. Je vous remercie de votre attention et je souhaite plein succès à nos travaux.

**Andrzej DYCHA (Poland)**

First of all I would like to stress that Poland recognises the growing role of FAO especially in the context of global food, economic and energy crisis. The causes are complex and we have to now react with a combination of urgency, caution and determination. That is why we need a modern, reliable and effective FAO. We need the Organization that will be well adapted for the challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

Poland would like to express its satisfaction with the work done by the Committee of the Conference. At this juncture, I cannot fail to pay tribute to everyone involved in constructing the Immediate Plan of Action in particular, Professor Noori and his team, the Director General of FAO, Management as well as the Members of the three Working Groups. Thank you very much for the work you have done, there were some elements where Poland would like to see a more ambitious outcome, particularly in the chapter on Governance, but we acknowledge the overriding imperative of consensus, the motto of the Independent External Evaluation Report has been "Reform with Growth". Right from the beginning some of us placed more emphasis on the reform elements whereas others stressed the need for growth.

Poland belonged to the former group, sharing on the other hand the few that growth can no longer be postponed.

The situation of a global agricultural sector is new, and we acknowledge that few, if any, predicted this change, although it has not come about completely unexpected. For instance, the discussion about climate change, and the role of human intervention in causing it have now taken place for several years. Also the role of agriculture in countering climate change has often been quoted during those discussions. Some countries have already put in place instruments to slow the unwanted changes as these changes result in a higher than before lack of stability of food production.

Poland attaches special attention to the question of climate change, putting this issue on the top of our political agenda. That is why we will be hosting the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Poznan in December of this year.

On our part, we will spare no effort in order to make this prestigious international meeting a success, and we hope that this session in Poznan will be an important step in realization of a viable roadmap and will project a common vision for long-term cooperative action including a long-term global goal for a emission reductions. Rising food prices which come so unexpected and affected so many economies, turned out to be the effect of a combination of several factors, which are unlikely to repeat to this extent in the short-term future. However, careful analysis of the past situation in this context is necessary. Although the rise in prices is largely over it has left the world food prices on a new level.

The problem of competition between food crops and plants designed for bio-fuel crops has to be solved in the long run for future sustainability and stability of food markets and our environment.

The expenditure to reach the right level of research in agriculture is necessary and we should reach the level that we design for research in agriculture has to increase. More investment in farming will be necessary as well as investment in human capital and market institutions.

Poland is in the privileged position of not having to do it alone, joining our efforts with twenty-six other European countries within the Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union.

With a strong feeling of solidarity, Poland is becoming an active partner of international development cooperation. Since Poland joined the European Union in 2004, a value of Polish official development assistance, has increased more than tenfold. Furthermore, as a response to the

food crisis, Poland has made a contribution of US\$1 million to the World Food Programme and part of that amount will be transferred to Afghanistan, adding to international community efforts to stabilize this country.

**EL PRESIDENTE**

Distinguidos delegados y distinguidas delegadas, hemos llegado al final de nuestra Cuarta Reunión Plenaria. Quisiera disculparme sino mencioné correctamente sus nombres, Sin embargo quiero agradecerle a todos los expositores, que, como podrán observar agregamos algunos expositores y hemos el cubierto el período que nos habíamos programado.

Retornaremos nuestros trabajos a las 14:30 del día de hoy y la primera intervención de la tarde seguirá el orden establecido en el programa. Muchas gracias a todos.

*The meeting rose at 12 :57 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 57*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12 :57 horas*





# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session</b> <b>Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire)</b> <b>35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008</b> <b>Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008</b> <b>Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>FIFTH PLENARY MEETING</b> <b>CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>20 November 2008</b>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:40 hours

Mr EL Zubair Bashir TAHA

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40

sous la présidence de M. EL Zubair Bashir TAHA

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 14:40 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. EL Zubair Bashir TAHA

Presidente de la Conferencia

## CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with Agenda Item 6 Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action.

## II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO

(continued)

### II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO (suite)

### II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO (continuación)

#### 6. Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action (C 2008/4)

(continued)

#### 6. Examen du rapport du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO – Plan d'action immédiate (C 2008/4) (suite)

#### 6. Consideración del informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el seguimiento de la Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO: Plan inmediato de acción (C 2008/4)

(continuación)

## CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to inform you that the Delegations of Madagascar and The United Arab Emirates have submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the verbatim Records of this meeting.

### Sultan Abdallah ALWAN (United Arab Emirates)<sup>2</sup>

Allow me, at the outset, to relay to you the greetings of H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad bin Fahd, Minister of the Environment and water in the UAE, as well as his best wishes for a successful Conference. In my name, and on behalf of my delegation, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the FAO Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for the untiring efforts exerted by FAO under his able leadership, for achieving world food security.

I would also like to congratulate H.E. Mauri Pekkarinen, for being elected Chairperson of the Conference, as well as the Vice-chairpersons, wishing them every success.

The UAE delegation welcomes the Report of the Conference Committee for the Independent External Evaluation Follow-up, including the Immediate Plan of Action which forms a strong basis for strengthening FAO's role and image at the international level. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee of the Conference, and his Vice-chairpersons for their excellent work and declare my support for the Immediate Plan of Action for the renewal of FAO (2009-2011), including the annex to the Plan that forms an integral part of the Resolution.

We believe that FAO capabilities and expertise would enable it to implement the proposed Plan. The UAE delegation also supports FAO's proposal contained in paragraph 24 of the follow-up document, for establishing an international expert network, and calls upon the Director-General to take the necessary action for the establishment of this network, and to define its terms of reference and working modalities.

Before concluding, allow me to seize this opportunity to renew the assurances of the UAE's support to all international endeavours for strengthening FAO's role as a leading agency in the

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<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request

fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition around the world and achieving world food security. Peace be upon you.

**Jean Pierre RAZAFY-ANDRIAMIHAINGO (Madagascar)<sup>3</sup>**

A l'instar des autres délégations qui m'ont précédé, je tiens à vous féliciter de votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette Session extraordinaire de la Conférence. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux autres membres du Bureau.

Je voudrais remercier en particulier le Président du Comité de la Conférence ainsi que les deux Vice-Présidents pour leur travail remarquable qui a abouti au Projet de résolution et au Plan d'action immédiate soumis à notre approbation lors de cette Session. Le Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) représente donc une feuille de route pour le renouveau de la FAO. Au nom de la délégation de Madagascar, j'approuve sans réserve le Projet de résolution ainsi que le Plan d'action en annexe.

L'approbation par la Conférence extraordinaire de ce PAI est une étape essentielle mais sa mise en oeuvre demande la poursuite de nos efforts. Je voudrais dire par là qu'il faudrait une volonté politique des États Membres, pour mettre à la disposition de la FAO les fonds nécessaires pour conduire les changements. J'espère que les États Membres manifesteront leur volonté politique et leur appui ferme à cette réforme en faisant en sorte que les contributions volontaires soient disponibles en temps voulu.

Pour ce faire et ainsi que Monsieur le Directeur général l'a annoncé, un fonds fiduciaire a été établi pour recevoir les contributions extrabudgétaires indispensables à la mise en oeuvre du PAI

Permettez-moi de vous brosser la situation de mon pays concernant la lutte contre la pauvreté avant de se prononcer sur certaines questions que le Directeur général dans son discours a mis en exergue.

Madagascar se caractérise par un potentiel agricole considérable et par une réputation en matière de biodiversité. Mais bien qu'elle ait une superficie de 587 000 km<sup>2</sup> et que la superficie cultivable s'élève à 12 millions d'ha, 4 millions d'hectares seulement sont mis en valeur.

Le secteur primaire qui occupe la première place dans l'économie nationale représente 45 pourcent des investissements publics contribue pour 40 pourcent au produit intérieur brut. De plus, le secteur agricole emploie plus de 70 pourcent de la population active et fournit plus de la moitié des matières premières pour le secteur secondaire qui produit plus de 80 pourcent des recettes d'exportation. C'est ainsi que le Gouvernement malgache dans son Plan d'action appelé "*Madagascar Action Plan (MAP), 2007-2012*", a mis l'accent sur le secteur agricole pour améliorer la production et les conditions de vie de la population en milieu rural. Dans son engagement pour le développement rural, le MAP comporte cinq défis, à savoir: sécuriser la propriété foncière, améliorer l'accès au financement rural, lancer une révolution verte, promouvoir les activités orientées vers le marché, diversifier les activités agricoles et accroître la valeur ajoutée. Chaque année, le Gouvernement évalue la mise en oeuvre de ce Plan, appelé dialogue présidentiel, où toutes les parties prenantes du développement participent et je profite de l'occasion pour vous informer qu'actuellement se tient à Antananarive, la deuxième évaluation.

Dans le cadre de l'initiative sur la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires (ISFP), Madagascar a pris plusieurs mesures, entre autres, le lancement de la culture de contre saison 2008-2009 dans les 14 régions de l'Ile et a mis en place le Centre de services agricoles (CSA), qui est un outil privilégié pour le développement de services aux agriculteurs.

Ainsi, Madagascar, appuyé par la FAO a élaboré un Plan d'action à impact rapide pour transformer une crise en une opportunité. A cet égard, je remercie la FAO et les donateurs pour cette coopération. Les délégués peuvent demander au Secrétariat ce document daté de septembre 2008.

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<sup>3</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

Dans son discours d'hier, Monsieur le Directeur général, a lancé un appel aux États Membres, notamment aux leaders de la planète pour la tenue d'un Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire au cours du premier semestre 2009 pour jeter les bases d'un ordre agricole mondial et trouver 30 milliards de dollars par an pour éradiquer rapidement la faim dans le monde. Pour atteindre cet objectif, il a indiqué la nécessité du renforcement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) qui a un caractère universel pour examiner la situation alimentaire mondiale. Etant Vice-Président du CSA, je me félicite de cette proposition et je l'appuie fortement.

Je profite de l'occasion pour réitérer mon appui à la proposition faite par le Bureau à travers son Président de tenir une Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale au mois d'octobre 2009. J'espère que tous les membres seront d'accord avec moi.

Je voudrais porter aussi à la connaissance de cette noble assemblée que Madagascar accueillera le prochain Sommet de l'Union Africaine. Il est bien évident que les thématiques de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de la sécurité alimentaire sont reconnues comme cruciales. A cet égard et grâce à la proposition très appréciée du Directeur général de la FAO, des projets et des propositions très concrets, urgents et porteurs à long terme seront élaborés et soumis aux décisions des plus hauts dirigeants du continent africain dont les ressources naturelles, culturelles et agricoles doivent être revalorisées. Il sera certainement tenu aussi compte des décisions que ne manquera pas de dégager le prochain Sommet sur la sécurité alimentaire prévu pour le premier semestre 2009 tel qu'annoncé par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais rendre hommage à Monsieur le Directeur général pour son travail remarquable, son dévouement et sa détermination pour rendre la FAO plus efficace.

Toute ma gratitude s'adresse également à tous les fonctionnaires de la FAO qui, de près ou de loin, ont contribué à l'élaboration du Plan d'action immédiate.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

**Guillermo SALAZAR NICOLAU (Panamá)**

Señor Director General, sus excelencias, señoras y señores Ministros, señoras y Miembros de la Mesa., la República de Panamá, la cual me honro de representar en este 35º Período Extraordinario de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, desea compartir su esperanza de lograr un mundo libre de hambre y de malnutrición, en el cual sector agropecuario constituya una factor de primordial importancia para mejorar el nivel de vida de la población mundial, en particular, de los más necesitados, en este contexto compartimos plenamente la conclusión de la Evaluación Externa Independiente que genera el Plan Inmediato de Acción en el que la FAO ofrece al mundo la oportunidad de luchar para resolver el combate al hambre, pero sobretudo si se trata de una FAO renovada capaz de afrontar los desafíos que actualmente afectan a nuestro planeta, representados entre otras cosas, por el incremento de los precios de los alimentos básicos, que entrañan amenazas al logro de la alimentación adecuada para todos los consumidores.

Nos preocupa sobre manera el hecho que en el mundo el número de personas que padecen hambre en vez de disminuir se incrementa; estamos convencidos que las proyecciones de esta Conferencia y las reformas que de ella se derivan contribuirán sustancialmente a mejorar la situación planteada por la meta del milenio de reducir a la mitad antes del año 2015 el número de personas que padecen hambre y la reforma con crecimiento de la FAO es indispensable para el logro de este objetivo.

Señor Presidente, la delegación de Panamá desea expresar su apoyo a la Resolución aprobada por aclamación y brinda su decidido respaldo a las acciones que deberán ser emprendidas para el próximo año, para su puesta en marcha.

La República de Panamá ha participado junto con los demás países centroamericanos en el diseño de puesta en ejecución de la Política Agrícola Centroamericana para el período 2008–2017, así

como en la creación de una estrategia de urgencia para atender de manera inmediata la producción de granos básicos en la Región.

Como consecuencia de estas medidas hemos creado y puesto a funcionar en Panamá instrumentos financieros y de apoyo a la inversión tecnológica productiva que han traído como consecuencia que la producción de granos básicos como el arroz, haya experimentado un incremento de 12 por ciento para el presente año y en el caso del maíz ese incremento será del 25 por ciento, incorporando a un gran número de pequeñas productoras y productores que no participaban en las relaciones comerciales y ahora sí lo hacen incrementando sus ingresos.

Por iniciativa del Señor Presidente Martín Torrijos, promovemos la creación sub-regional de una instancia que procure el intercambio de productos e insumos agropecuarios con la participación de los Gobiernos de los países centroamericanos algunos países suramericanos mediante un mecanismo ágil y efectivo.

Latinoamérica así como otras regiones tropicales tiene la capacidad potencial para producir muchos más alimentos y así contribuir de manera sustancial en la oferta mundial de los mismos. Requerimos, pues, combinar los recursos humanos y naturales con la tecnología que se genera en nuestra región y en otras regiones del mundo.

Consideramos que la FAO con el concurso de los Estados Miembros de esta organización, teniendo en cuenta su mandato debe jugar un rol fundamental para la creación de un panel de alto nivel de expertos internacionales en el campo de la seguridad alimentaria, en este sentido, confiamos en que el Director General de la FAO preparará y pondrá en marcha esta red, proponiendo sus términos de referencia, así como las modalidades para su puesta en práctica, apoyamos igualmente la creación de un fondo de intervención de emergencias para países de rentas bajas.

Para terminar, deseo expresar que acogemos con beneplácito la idea de realizar una Cumbre mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria para atender los propósitos aquí señalados. Igualmente invitamos a que se culmine la Ronda Doha y que sus resultados sean consecuentes con el Plan Inmediato de Acción. Por todo esto queremos agradecer su fina atención. Muchas gracias

**Ms Caterina PAJUME (Mozambique)**

It is for me a great pleasure and honour to speak on behalf of the delegation of Mozambique before this Thirty-fifth Special Session of the FAO Conference.

Therefore, allow me to congratulate you Mr Chairperson and the members of the Bureau for your unanimous election to guide the work of this important session. We wish plenty of success to our deliberations.

Our congratulations are also extended to the Director-General of the FAO for his wise leadership and continuous commitment towards ensuring that food and agriculture reaches all those who are in need in order to reduce hunger and poverty worldwide. We also pledge our vote of thanks to Professor Noori-Naeini, Chairperson of the Committee of the Conference for the success achieved during the process of negotiations of the Plan of Action for FAO renewal that my delegation fully supports and looks forward for its immediate implementation.

Gathering here today we are recognizing the central role of agriculture and rural development in our agenda for economic and social development. At the same time, we are also aware of the challenges before us today; such as the world food crisis, financial and economic crisis. These crises have serious negative impacts on Governments' efforts, especially for poor countries that depend mainly on agriculture and natural resources for their development, and one of those countries is Mozambique.

It is also true that the above-mentioned crises obstruct the struggle against poverty, conflict prevention measures, contention of the terrorism escalation, spread of corruption and environment protection. It is under these circumstances that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has embarked in transformative reform. The Independent External Evaluation

Report clearly points out, and I quote *"Implementation of the major reforms needed by FAO would then reinforce trust and serve as the stimulus to real financial growth" ... "should the transformative reform needed by FAO not occur, the mutual trust required for Reform with Growth would quickly erode and the financial prospects of the Organization would then become decidedly negative"*.

This conclusion challenges us for the need to have urgent more practical and coordinated action in order to improve our Organization's efficiency. During the last November Conference my Government stressed, like many other developing countries and those who believe, that the FAO is needed. The need for more financial resources be channelled to our Organization in order to be able to perform and execute programmes and reinforce its efficiency and effectiveness.

Reform with Growth is the evolving and subsequent process as clearly figured in the Immediate Plan of Action before us. My Government recognizes that different views arose during the negotiation process, especially about the FAO's performance, but if everyone considers the global trends and challenges the world faces today, such as continued population growth and climate change, among other adversities, we find that the contribution of FAO has been instrumental to improve agricultural production and productivity and macro-economic growth in many countries to ensure food security.

In this regard, as we all know, FAO played and will continue to play an important role in areas such as, water control, rural infrastructures, technology transfer and in setting-up technical standards of products. Therefore, it is instrumental to trust the multilateralism that FAO continues coping with, if we are committed to the MDG targets up to 2015.

Having said that, my Government stand for urgent approval of the timeframe defined for the implementation of the Immediate Plan for Action. The transformative reform that we seek for the Organization will lead to the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty in our countries.

Let us commit ourselves to these attainable goals.

#### **Ezechiel JOSEPH (St. Lucia)**

First, please allow me to congratulate you Mr Chairperson and your Vice-chairpersons in the manner you have provided leadership to this important meeting of the FAO. Secondly, on behalf of the Government of St. Lucia, I would like to thank FAO for their invitation to participate in this Conference.

The Government of St. Lucia also shares the vision of FAO, that is, people of this world should not suffer from malnutrition and hunger. With this in mind, the many agricultural programmes that we have developed are intended to contribute to improving the living standards of our people, especially those in our rural communities. We are mindful of this in light of the fact that the only resources that we have are our people and the land.

With a population of approximately 160 000 people and 30 200 acres in agricultural holdings, we, too, are severely affected by the many challenges facing the agricultural sector. In the recent past, farmers have encountered increasingly high costs of input averaging between 20-45 percent. This has resulted in a decrease in production activities. In addition, the unprecedented rise in food prices has threatened the food security of those who are most vulnerable.

Agriculture is one of our leading economic activities. We believe that a strong agricultural industry will lead down to the reduction in poverty and also the rural/urban drift.

The Ministry of Agriculture is mindful of this negative impact despite the difficult challenges that we face, for example, climatic conditions, financial and economic turmoil, high costs of inputs, high costs of food, to name a few.

We have undertaken a number of programmes that would assist our farmers to overcome these many challenges. Some of these programmes include: 1) improvement to our infrastructure, so that we are able to provide a better and more sustainable service to the farming community;

2) retraining our farmers in improved and affordable technologies; 3) undertaking a number of initiatives jointly with a number of organizations including, for example, IICA, CARDI and FAO.

Please permit me, Mr Chairperson, to express my Government's deepest appreciation to the FAO for their support in the ISFP project, that is, the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices project which should end in June 2009 and the work that Dr Rosa Rolle is doing through the EU on the gaps in the agro-processing industry.

I would like to speak on the Agenda item No. 6 "The Immediate Plan of Action".

In November 2007, when the Conference agreed to this Independent External Evaluation, the financial crisis that the world is facing now was not a consideration. In view of this, I would like to support the proposed changes as reported in this Plan. As was articulated by the Committee, the intention of this Plan is to "Reform with Growth".

While the Government of St. Lucia will be willing to assist in whatever way possible in the implementation process, I would like to recommend that FAO would base its programmes on available resources and every Member Nation must be given an opportunity to benefit from these programmes.

We would also like to advise that the timeliness of interventions should be given due consideration in the new FAO. I would like to recognize the effort of the Chairperson and his Committee and hope that we can be given the opportunity to participate in this transformation. I would like to make a general observation in that I realize that two of our leading organizations were not on the list of invitees to this Conference.

If there is not any form of collaboration between FAO and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), I would like to suggest in moving forward that there should be some form of collaboration.

#### **Trevor SARGENT (Ireland)**

We are here in Rome to adopt the Immediate Action Plan for reform of the FAO, which is based on the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation. This Evaluation was based on an open, transparent and participatory process and its recommendations can support real and lasting change. It is vital that the implementation of the Immediate Action Plan proceeds speedily and successfully. Reform of FAO will improve the effectiveness of this Organisation. A reinvigorated FAO will be necessary to play its role in the current crisis of hunger and food shortages.

Ireland is committed to reform of this vital international organisation. FAO needs to take a more strategic approach, with better priority-setting and changes in governance and also in culture. It needs to reaffirm its unique global mandate for food and agriculture and its position as a knowledge-based organisation.

Since the June Conference on World Food Security, the number of hungry people has increased from 862 million to 923 million and this figure will probably reach one billion by the end of this year. This increase is a direct result of higher food and energy prices. It is unacceptable that people go hungry in the Twenty-first Century. It will take a united global effort to defeat hunger. The June Declaration emphasised the need to expand agriculture and food production in developing countries and countries in transition and to boost investment in agriculture, agribusiness and rural development. It also called for immediate expansion of food assistance and safety net programmes in countries affected by the food price crisis.

The UN Secretary General's High-Level Task Force through its Comprehensive Framework for Action has called on Members to double ODA for food assistance, other types of nutritional support and safety net programmes and to increase the percentage of ODA to be invested in food and agriculture to ten percent within five years.

It is vital for long-term improvements that coordinated responses are put in place to boost agricultural productivity and improve poor people's access to reasonably-priced nutritious food.

It is important to note a recent UN Report on Food Security in Africa, which highlights the proven potential of organic farming methods in increasing agricultural productivity.

In addressing the food crisis, the world faces many challenges simultaneously: the financial and credit crisis, higher energy prices, climate change and bio-fuels. We must adopt a coherent, concerted and coordinated approach in responding to the global food crisis. Despite decreases in some food prices globally, they remain too high for many of the world's poor inhabitants.

Every actor - Government, Non-governmental Organization and UN Agency- has a role to play. In Ireland we have been considering what we can do. Ireland launched its Hunger Task Report on 25 September in United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Hunger Task Force had representation from the UN System, NGOs, distinguished academics and indeed, the political world. The Task Force examined how the Irish Government can best contribute to tackling the problem of hunger.

The Report prioritises three areas: 1) increasing agricultural productivity in Africa, 2) targeting the prevention of maternal and infant malnutrition and 3) promoting changes in governance and leadership priorities.

To achieve these three priorities, the Report highlights that the eradication of hunger should become the key issue in development aid programmes and a key component in foreign policy. It suggests that Ireland should take a leadership role in eradicating hunger and that 20 percent of our ODA should be directed at this. The Report also suggests that a Special Envoy for hunger should be appointed in Ireland and a United Nations Commissioner for Hunger be appointed in the UN System. The Irish Government is currently examining the proposals and will shortly decide on the details of its response.

Ireland's Hunger Task Force is conscious of the need for greater coherence in the international architecture on hunger and is supportive of moves to address this forthcoming. There are many multilateral organisations relevant to hunger, FAO, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the United Nations Children's Fund and many others that should adopt a strategic approach to the eradication of hunger.

We believe it is time to recognise that hunger is the greatest single source of human suffering in the world today. National Governments, donors, NGOs and the UN System alike need to focus their effort and resources on this problem to a far greater extent than is currently the case. We must ensure that progress in hunger reduction is sustainable and longterm.

In 2008, Ireland will provide 891 million euro to ODA, which is 0.54 percent of our GNP. We are on target to reach the 0.7 percent level by 2012. Our aid programmes focus on poverty reduction and our history gives us a particular understanding of, and indeed sensitivity to, the causes of hunger.

The central role of agriculture is now recognised by all. Previous under-investment in agriculture must be reversed, and quickly. In terms of addressing the underlying causes of the food crisis, improving smallholder productivity in Africa is key.

Given that women account for up to 80 percent of food production in developing countries, policies and programmes must explicitly take account of their needs and priorities.

There is also a need for an enhanced focus on nutrition. This includes the scaling up of successful emergency nutrition interventions, but equally, in the longer term, we must take better account of the linkages between agriculture and nutrition. This demands an enhanced focus on the nutritional quality of particular foods in the production system. We are facing a true global crisis with 150 million additional people facing hunger as a result of high food prices.

I hope that the adoption of the Immediate Action Plan for the reform of an improved FAO will work to ensure a lasting improvement in food security for all people. I assure you that Ireland is willing to play its part in FAO reform and also in particular the eradication of hunger.



**Edgar GRISOLIA SOLANO (Guatemala)**

Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General de FAO, Jacques Diouf, Sr. Presidente de la 35a Conferencia Extraordinaria de FAO, Sr. Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Señoras y Señores Ministros, Excelencias, Señoras y Señores:

El Gobierno de Guatemala, presidido por el Presidente Álvaro Colom Caballeros, se ha propuesto una meta: la de alcanzar una verdadera cohesión social en Guatemala, por medio de una acción unificada, interinstitucional y transparente, que actúa y actuará en un tema de desarrollo humano y calidad de vida; con la finalidad de reducir la pobreza extrema en nuestro país, garantizar un nivel básico de nutrición a la población; en primer lugar a las madres y niños en las poblaciones situadas en la pobreza extrema en Guatemala y de pobreza en las áreas rurales y de perímetros urbanos.

Ha sido indispensable y prioritario, para el cual se ha formado el Consejo de Cohesión Social integrado por los Ministros de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, por el Ministerio de Salud Pública y por el Ministerio de Educación en Guatemala.

También hemos formado el Consejo de Aguas presidido por el señor Vicepresidente de la República. La Secretaría de Obras Sociales de la Presidencia y de la esposa del Presidente, coordinado a través de la Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, con el objeto de establecer estrategias encaminadas a la Seguridad Alimentaria del país.

No podemos alzar una verdadera cohesión social sin haber alcanzado los niveles de plena seguridad alimentaria en la población. Ante la presente crisis alimentaria, se han puesto en acciones varias intervenciones, todas bajo el la coordinación del Consejo de Cohesión Social, tales temas como: "Mi Familia Progresa", "Transferencia Monetarias Condicionadas" (TMC), "Mi Familia Aprende", "Comedores Populares en Ciudad de Guatemala", "Cocinas Solidarias" y en áreas marginales hemos repartido "Bolsas Solidarias Urbanas", y así reforzando la coordinación de programas institucionales ya existentes.

Cabe señalar que el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria entró en una segunda fase donde el Vice-Ministerio de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional ha pasado a apropiarse de este Programa con el acompañamiento de la FAO.

Ante el alza de los precios se han adoptado medidas coyunturales en apoyo a las estrategias de Seguridad Alimentaria, que podríamos agrupar en tres categorías: las Redes de Protección Social, el Aumento de la Producción Agropecuaria y la Garantía del Funcionamiento de los mercados internos.

Bajo el rubro de la producción agropecuaria el Ministerio de Agricultura ha fomentado la producción de granos básicos, proporcionando a los campesinos semillas mejoradas, fertilizantes, fortaleciendo el programa de silos metálicos para el manejo de la post-cosecha, ha establecido un programa integral de capacitación y asistencia técnica para los campesinos, para la conservación de las semillas criollas. También hemos fortalecido el sistema de Extensión Agrícola, promovido el establecimiento de modelos integrales de producción y experimentando e introduciendo nuevas opciones alimentarias;

También se ha creado un fondo para el Programa de Arrendamiento de Tierras para poder otorgar el acceso a las tierras a pequeños productores, para que al menos puedan producir y alcanzar la canasta básica de subsistencia mínima en sus hogares; dicho fondo cuenta con un subsidio de hasta el 30 por ciento del crédito.

Señor Presidente, la fragilidad climática de nuestro país no llega a las primeras páginas de los medios internacionales. Sin embargo, los huracanes que golpean el área del Caribe llegan al territorio de Guatemala como tormentas tropicales de fuerte intensidad que causan grandes inundaciones y deslaves. La última tormenta, la número 16, provocó el estado de emergencia en el Departamento de Petén, Alta Verapaz, Izabal y Quiché, donde la población ha sido seriamente

afectada en sus cultivos agrícolas y sus medios de subsistencia. La intervención del Gobierno, del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y de las agencias bilaterales ha sido inmediata.

Hacemos un llamado a la FAO para que apoye estos esfuerzos con semillas certificadas, fertilizantes y una buena tecnología.

La inversión agrícola es vital para Guatemala y para todos los países del mundo, ya que es la única forma para llegar a liberarse del flagelo del hambre y la pobreza en un futuro cercano.

Queremos insistir y aprovechamos también este foro para expresar que Guatemala, al igual que la mayoría de los productores agrícolas, está a favor del un comercio libre y equitativo, el cual solamente será posible cuando los países desarrollados lleguen a comprender que, podremos alcanzar el desarrollo y lograr una plena seguridad alimentaria, sólo y cuando se abran definitivamente las puertas a nuestros productos agrícolas, bajo un comercio justo, será posible alcanzar el desarrollo y lograr una plena seguridad alimentaria. Por esta razón es importante el impulso para la conclusión de las Negociaciones de la Ronda de Doha.

La FAO es la organización líder para coordinar los esfuerzos de todas las concesiones de la primera Meta del Milenio. FAO deberá estar atenta de forma permanente a las acciones que se implementen en los varios países y regiones por medio del Comité Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria. Para cumplir a cabalidad con su importante y necesario cometido, dicho Comité deberá reunirse con la periodicidad que ha venido cumpliendo y constituirse en la autoridad política por medio de la cual todos los Países Miembros renovemos nuestro compromiso de alcanzar la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe hemos dado un paso adicional en esta dirección y hemos apostado por erradicar el 100 por ciento del hambre en nuestros países. Para ello, con el apoyo de la Oficina Regional de FAO para América Latina y el Caribe y la Agencia de Cooperación Española, hemos constituido la iniciativa "América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre" (ALSCH), la cual busca, a través de una efectiva cooperación Sur-Sur, situar el combate al hambre y la seguridad alimentaria como la principal prioridad en la agenda de cada uno de nuestros países.

La FAO, por lo tanto, deberá ser fortalecida en todos sus aspectos y volver a ser, por medio de esta reforma con crecimiento, una Organización para lo que fue creada. De esta forma, los países nos proponemos llevarla a cabo emprendiendo un primer Plan Inmediato de Acción (PIA), que hemos aprobado por aclamación, con entusiasmo y esperanza.

El PIA nos compromete a consolidarlo durante 2009 trabajando sobre la marcha, porque el camino emprendido será largo. Para llegar a realizar una implementación continua, invitamos a todos los países a colaborar con el aporte de fondos extra-presupuestarios a este fin.

Guatemala, señor Presidente, estará siempre abierta a colaborar con todas las iniciativas de FAO encaminadas al alivio del hambre y de la pobreza en el mundo. Muchas gracias.

#### **Ivo HLAVÁČ (Czech Republic)**

These days, by adopting the Report and the Resolution of IEE Follow-up, we have entered a new phase of the FAO unprecedented reform. In the first half of 2009, when the Czech Republic holds the EU Presidency, the focus of the reform will be concentrated on implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, especially the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan.

The Czech Republic is fully aware of the difficult task that is ahead of us. We have recent genuine experience with our transformation reforms. The IEE Report calls precisely for a deep transformation reform and FAO must change. An ambitious reform requires adopting hard, mostly uneasy decisions, tightening belts, admitting responsibility, and being cautious of possible individual and group failures. It also requests courage, a lot of will, perseverance and, last but not least, a clear settings of priorities.

We do appreciate the unique common effort of both Member Nations and Management in this process under the leadership of the Committee of the Conference. The first steps has been done: the ten-month extensive discussion in the three Working Groups and the Committee of the

Conference have contributed to a deep self-reflexion. This is, in our eyes, the first necessary precondition of a realistic approach to the Reform.

FAO has been expected to perform many roles: to be a global player in agriculture, rural development and food security; it has also been urged to respond to many challenges recently including the solution of food, fuel or financial crisis. The IEE clearly showed that old-fashioned and weakened organism, the overloaded vehicle if you want, is not able to tackle these tasks. However, today's globalized world needs an effective and efficient FAO, as we stated many times before.

The current food crisis requires a coordinated response by the international community. FAO could be an ideal coordinator. The Czech Republic joins the promotion of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, this strong platform of all existing international institutions which will mobilize independent experts able to provide scientific bases for joint and consistent interventions in tackling the food crisis.

We really do understand the notion of Reform with Growth for FAO and we want to be an active and constructive partner in the reform process, namely with respect to a rapid start of the Immediate Plan of Action. We can imagine some inevitable cuts, at least for a transition period, until the financial situation of the Organization improves. Both Member Nations and the Management should consider carefully this aspect. When fixing long-term priorities, we also expect that the question of overlapping among the three Rome food-based UN Agencies will be taken into account.

In the present rapidly changing world, reforms of institutions are really necessary. The challenges for the Twenty-first Century are too complex and uncompromising.

Let me conclude by stressing that we strongly disagree with the provocative statement that if FAO were to disappear nobody would notice. On the contrary, we strongly support the opposite view expressed by the authors of the IEE: if FAO were to disappear, we would have to reinvent the new FAO because its role in today's world is irreplaceable.

**Alain JOYANDET (France)**

Je suis très heureux et très honoré de m'exprimer devant vous au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses vingt-sept États Membres. En effet, un très grand travail a été accompli au sein de cette maison depuis la dernière Conférence. Une réforme majeure et structurelle est désormais décidée. C'est un moment important car l'Europe a la conviction que pour résoudre le problème alimentaire, un Système des Nations Unies fort et cohérent est indispensable.

Au sein de ce système, la FAO est un outil majeur de la Communauté internationale pour traiter et réfléchir des questions liées à l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'élevage, la pêche et les forêts. Le monde a besoin d'une FAO forte, modernisée et adaptée aux nouvelles contraintes et aux nouveaux enjeux auxquels il fait face. Depuis la dernière Conférence, l'Union européenne s'est ainsi engagée en faveur de la refondation de la FAO, de la reconquête de sa légitimité et d'une amélioration de son efficacité afin de renforcer son statut d'agence de référence.

En tant qu'Organisation du savoir, elle doit devenir un repère pour les autres agences des Nations Unies comme pour les gouvernements nationaux. Un travail important a été mené par tous les délégués et le Secrétariat de la FAO durant cette année 2008. Je tiens à saluer l'ensemble des Pays Membres de la FAO qui ont su retrouver les valeurs de confiance et de solidarité qui prévalaient lorsque l'Organisation a été fondée le 16 octobre 1945. Nous pouvons avec raison nous féliciter des progrès réalisés à ce jour. L'adoption unanime du Plan d'action immédiate en témoigne.

Comme elle s'est attachée à le faire en 2007 et 2008, l'Union européenne est prête à continuer à jouer un rôle actif et constructif avec l'ensemble des Membres jusqu'à ce que la réforme soit menée à son terme. Elle appelle tous les Membres de l'Organisation à continuer à travailler ensemble dans le même esprit constructif. En effet, forts de la confiance établie en 2008 des résultats déjà atteints, tous les Membres vont devoir en 2009, avec les agents de l'institution, mettre en œuvre en profondeur le processus de Réforme.

Beaucoup reste à faire et l'année à venir sera cruciale. Je voudrais souligner quelques-unes des tâches qui nous attendent. Les Membres doivent tout d'abord être conscients de la nécessité de fournir à la FAO un financement extra-budgétaire pour 2009 afin de mettre en œuvre le Plan d'action immédiate qui vient d'être adopté.

Dans ce contexte, l'Union européenne est prête à prendre sa part de l'effort à consentir avec les autres Membres de l'Organisation. J'invite l'ensemble des Membres de la FAO à contribuer au fonds fiduciaire mis en place à cet effet en fonction de leurs moyens. Ainsi, la France apportera une contribution de 900 000 dollars E.-U. en 2009.

Le Directeur général et son équipe devront mettre en œuvre le Plan d'action immédiate avec détermination et nous rendre compte de l'état d'avancement de sa mise en œuvre. Les conclusions et les recommandations de l'examen détaillé mené par le Cabinet d'Ernst & Young, devront être pleinement prises en compte. Ces conclusions devraient permettre d'identifier les sources d'économie et les gains et déficiences possibles et aider la Direction dans la mise en œuvre de la Réforme.

Les Membres de l'Organisation devront revoir le Cadre stratégique et le Plan d'action à moyen terme et élaborer les prochains Programmes de travail et budget pour que la FAO élabore une stratégie claire, adopte des priorités et ait un budget adapté aux politiques mis en œuvre. Je souligne la nécessité d'une approche multi-disciplinaire et du renforcement d'une véritable coopération inter-agences. L'action de la FAO doit bien sûr s'inscrire dans le cadre général de la Réforme des Nations Unies.

Vous le voyez, il nous reste donc du 'pain sur la planche'. L'Union européenne reste donc confiante mais exigeante envers l'atteinte de ces objectifs. Elle demeure vigilante et suivra attentivement les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des actions sur lesquelles nous nous sommes accordés.

Permettez-moi maintenant de vous faire part de quelques considérations plus personnelles sur le rôle futur de la FAO sans préempter les débats qui auront lieu demain.

Mesdames et Messieurs, construire un monde libéré de la faim c'est l'objectif que nous partageons tous ici. La récente flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires de base a aggravé la sécurité alimentaire avec d'une part la baisse relative des prix agricoles et surtout avec la crise financière qui occupent aujourd'hui les devants de la scène, l'attention internationale sur le sujet de la faim dans le monde se relâche. Pourtant, la volatilité des prix et le risque d'appauvrissement des populations par la récession mondiale font craindre des crises alimentaires à venir peut-être encore plus graves que celles que nous avons vécues au premier semestre de cette année. Pour porter la lutte contre la faim en haut de l'agenda international, et apporter une réponse cohérente à ce problème récurrent, le Président de la République française a proposé ici même le trois juin un partenariat mondial pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation. Cette idée a fait son chemin, il est aujourd'hui largement partagé. Elle doit se concrétiser rapidement en s'appuyant sur toutes les forces disponibles, en particulier les trois romaines, et l'équipe spéciale des Nations Unies.

La FAO rénovée devra notamment jouer un rôle clef dans l'animation du réseau d'expertise international, à constituer dans le cadre du partenariat mondial. Dans ce contexte, une initiative de la FAO en lien avec d'autres institutions internationales pertinentes telles que celles réunies au sein du Groupe consultatif international pour la recherche agricole en vue de réunir un Groupe d'experts nationaux et internationaux doit être accueillie favorablement. La lutte contre la faim nécessite des moyens très importants. Les conséquences budgétaires de la crise ne doivent pas nous détourner de nos objectifs.

L'Europe doit se mobiliser, l'Europe se mobilisera. Vous pouvez compter sur mon total engagement. J'en ai fait le fil vert de la Présidence française de l'Union européenne s'agissant du développement. L'Union européenne a déjà donné plus d'un milliard d'euros et j'ai bon espoir que le milliard d'euros supplémentaire attendu puisse être annoncé dans les prochains jours. J'ajoute, que j'ai pris l'initiative de réunir les 8 et 9 décembre prochains, à Paris, une Conférence internationale dans le cadre de la Présidence européenne visant à contribuer à la relance

structurelle et durable de l'agriculture vivrière. Pour ce faire, nous tenterons d'inventorier l'ensemble des besoins en termes d'équipements publics et puis également dans un deuxième pilier de cette Conférence, réfléchir à ce que pourraient être les objectifs de production supplémentaire région par région, sous région par sous région. Ce sera la contribution de la Présidence française, c'est un travail de très longue haleine mais nous sommes au-delà de l'intervention que nous avons les uns et les autres à faire pour parer aux récoltes à venir.

Nous avons l'impérieuse nécessité de réfléchir et d'agir pour relancer d'une manière durable et structurelle l'agriculture vivrière dans les pays à faible revenu. Ce sera donc le 8 et le 9 décembre à Paris, ce sera une étape supplémentaire de ce que l'Union européenne veut apporter à notre travail en commun pour faire reculer la faim et donc faire reculer la pauvreté.

**Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus)**

I wish, first of all, to associate myself with the statement just made by the Minister of Agriculture of France, on behalf of the EU and its Member States and also to congratulate FAO for organizing this Special Session of the Conference.

Special thanks are also addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee of the Conference for the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation, Professor Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, and his Vice-Chairpersons, as well as the three Working Groups for their hard work in preparing the Immediate Plan of Action, which has been approved by the Conference yesterday.

As the world is shaken by three profound crises – to which other delegations have also referred – namely the financial, food and fuel crises, the trends are in the wrong direction. The number of the hungry and malnourished people has increased to unprecedented levels and the paramount goals of reducing by half the world's hungry by 2015 seems to be not attainable. The challenges ahead, such as doubling food production to feed the world population that is projected to grow from six and a half billion today to some nine billion by the middle of the century and the needed action to address emerging issues such as climate change, indeed calls for the renewed Organization playing its rightful role as a partner in the essential comprehensive international response.

We share the view that today's challenges need a multilateral framework based on a strong and coherent UN System in order to address the food security issues and that within this system, FAO will be the key partner in the field of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

We recall that we have been committed since the last Conference to build back FAO's legitimacy, to increase its efficiency and to strengthen its knowledge-based organization, its status as a reference point for other UN and international Agencies and national Governments.

Cyprus remains committed to this objective. We are pleased that the rise in confidence that this process has engendered and that Members and Management can and will work together to ensure a positive and workable outcome of this exercise, one that is absolutely essential and that will set the future course of the work of the Organization.

To work towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, FAO must fit to address the challenges and opportunities that we face, such as the global food price crisis. It is underlined that in order to achieve our goals, we will require further changes to the way we do business and build on the Reform. More can be done and will be done and we support the principle of being accountable for measurable improvements in management and in administration.

A key ingredient of success will be the Management's commitment to renewal. The task of renewal only starts with agreeing on a viable plan. The road ahead stretches for three years and there are many details still to be worked out in 2009. The spirit of give and take to resolve complex challenges that do not have a single solution will no doubt continue.

The year 2009 will be crucial and will mark a real milestone in the commencement of the implementation of the approved Immediate Plan of Action. A key process that must be

undertaken in 2009 is the finalization of the new Strategy Framework and Medium-Term Plan, based on the elements approved by the present Session of the Conference.

Preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 will pose a special challenge. The plan will have to be ambitious, yet realistic, and the sequencing of actions must be logical and focus on changes, critical to sustain long-term reform. The plan must also have a building flexibility as additional information becomes available, such as the outcome of the Root and Branch Review in 2009.

As emphasized above, we must find the resources to implement the Immediate Plan of Action in order to increase the cost-effective impact of FAO in all our interests. It is up to us, the Member Nations, to create the right conditions for FAO to be more efficient and more effective.

**KIM Jong-Jin (Republic of Korea)**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea it is my great honour to address FAO's Special Conference, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Director-General and FAO staff for organizing this Special Session.

We have experienced many challenges this year and we are still working hard to overcome such challenges. We all have witnessed severe food crises, largely due to the hike in international food prices as well as the agricultural materials prices such as fertilizers, chemicals and feed. Many countries are still suffering from these difficulties.

Korea is also experiencing those challenges, as it is a net-food importer – we mostly depend upon imported food and feed. Many Korean farm households, which depend on imports of rural materials such as energy and feeds, are facing difficulties. To make matters worse, the recent surge in exchange rate from the international financial crisis has caused a dramatic increase in imported agricultural material and prices, imposing huge burdens on farms more than ever.

However, the impact of this unprecedented global food crisis can be minimized, thanks to the continuous efforts to secure stable supply of basic foodstuffs. Korea has attached great importance to this preventive food security approach. This approach is based on the recognition that food is directly linked to people's survival, social stability and maintaining rural communities and that it is hard to increase food production over a short period of time.

Considering the prospect of a world population growth, climate change, limited resources and competition between bio-energy and food, it is urgently required for all countries to utilize the production bases, to the maximum extent, to increase global production of basic food in a sustainable manner.

In this sense, we hold even high expectation of FAO, which marks the Sixty-third Anniversary since its establishment. Now, no one can deny that FAO has distinctively contributed to improving human nutrition and fighting poverty and hunger. Nonetheless, FAO still needs to advance into a Knowledge Organization, that provides better and delivers the services in a more efficient, effective, speedy and flexible manner in order to respond to changes to internal and external environments, as well as new demands.

To this end, there have been structural reforms and the Independent External Evaluation across the organization since the Thirty-third Session of the Conference and we have come up with the Reform roadmap as a result of years of preparation and comprehensive discussions.

I firmly believe that FAO can efficiently address pressing issues as poverty and hunger reduction by reflecting the IEE results and providing for the cooperation with Member Nations.

I am confident that FAO will actively respond to new challenges including climate change bio-diversity protection and bio-energy.

In this regard, I hope that FAO will be developed into an Organization that actively meets changes in the international agricultural environments and the Member Nations, while readjusting

the existing projects, and keeping itself field index system on project performance regulation based on restructuring of the administrative and personnel management system.

There should be further discussion on FAO key projects and project priority order next year, but for now I would like to present critical tasks that FAO activities need to focus on.

Firstly, FAO should provide support for the increasing world food production in response to the prospects of increase world food demand. As I mentioned earlier, we are facing many challenges to overcome in order to increase global food production.

Now it is high time to develop and transfer agricultural production technologies for increasing food production and energy efficiency in a sustainable manner. In order to achieve this, I think it is necessary to implement agricultural production policies that take region-specific circumstances into consideration.

Secondly, FAO should extend its close monitoring and preliminary prediction system for global food supply and demand. We need to analyse and predict diverse factors that affect the international agriculture markets, including in-depth analysis of the future of bio-energy.

Thirdly, the international society has increasing concern over food safety, environmental pollution and the spread of livestock disease. To address these issues, FAO also needs to set up its efforts through collaboration with relevant international organizations. In this regard, Korea has recently established networks and undertaken corporate projects centred in the Asian regions and in various areas such as agricultural policy and genetic resources and food industry.

Korea will expand its support by stages for the projects that require common response from the international community, thereby joining FAO's efforts for fighting hunger.

Food security can be achieved by harmonizing domestic production and the international trade. The international society should enhance its cooperation and support to increase food production of developing countries. In this context, FAO should lead to long-term programme and expanding research and development assistance to revitalize the Green Revolution.

There is a saying that goes, crisis is an opportunity, in neither of current crisis let us reaffirm the importance and the role of agriculture and rural communities and walk together towards the end of world poverty.

#### **Adel CORTAS (Liban) (Original language Arabic)**

J'ai l'honneur de représenter son Excellence le Ministre de l'Agriculture Monsieur Elias Kaf pour prononcer le discours du Liban à l'occasion de sa session extraordinaire de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Lors de cette trente-cinquième session de notre Conférence j'ai le plaisir de vous transmettre, Monsieur le Président, ainsi qu'à tous les Membres de l'Organisation ainsi qu'au Directeur général les salutations de Monsieur le Ministre et ses souhaits du plus grand succès pour nous tous au cours de nos travaux. En cette occasion, et à partir de cette tribune j'aimerais vous dire très fièrement que mon pays a fait partie des premiers pays qui se sont joints à la FAO et nous avons eu l'honneur d'être représentants et d'être au service de l'Organisation et puis au niveau du Siège pendant dix-huit ans.

Ma délégation a pris bonne note du rapport détaillé du Comité du Conseil pour étudier l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO ainsi que le Plan d'action immédiate et le Projet de résolution, et c'est le principal texte de résolution que nous avons adopté hier collectivement.

Ma délégation est d'accord sans réserve avec la teneur de ce Rapport et du Projet de résolution. A cette occasion nous sommes d'avis que c'est là une occasion unique de renouveler et de revitaliser notre Organisation que nous aimons et respectons tous. Nous attendons un avenir plus brillant pour améliorer le sort des personnes vulnérables de par le monde. Il est nécessaire ici de rendre hommage aux efforts remarquables qui doivent être déployés et nous devons tous les reconnaître, ainsi que les réponses positives du Directeur général et du Secrétariat général dans cet effort qui

nous a amenés à un Rapport que nous allions adopter et qui sera repris en qualité et qui modifiera notre Organisation pour en faire une Organisation meilleure et qui répondra ainsi aux espoirs et aspirations de nos populations dans les pays en développement pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition de par le monde. Je voudrais aussi rendre hommage aux efforts qui ont été déployés par notre Président Mohamed Noori-Naeini et féliciter son équipe qui a assuré le succès dans cette tâche écrasante. Nous lui devons de grands remerciements.

Cependant, permettez-moi Monsieur le Président, et puisque j'ai passé plus de trente-cinq ans dans cette Organisation comme Membre du personnel au Siège et comme Conseiller technique jusqu'en 1992, j'aimerais faire quelques observations, en espérant que l'on en tiendra compte à l'avenir.

Premièrement, le Rapport du Comité n'a pas encore traité des aspects techniques et structurels dont il faudrait tenir compte à la lumière du rapport de l'EUI de l'Organisation. La dernière fois que l'on a examiné cette possibilité c'était en 2005. Il faut donc se pencher à nouveau sur la structure surtout que le Rapport se concentre sur la structure de la direction et donc de l'Administration de haut niveau, sans se pencher sur les Départements techniques. Il serait regrettable qu'après tous ces grands efforts nous ignorions ces aspects dans la structure de l'Organisation même si elle représente la partie la plus importante.

Deuxièmement, en élargissant le phénomène de la décentralisation et en créant des bureaux régionaux, sous régionaux et nationaux, c'est là un élargissement des activités de l'Organisation dont les pays se félicitent. Nous sommes aussi d'accord cependant pour dire que cela ne doit pas se faire aux dépens de la base de connaissance et d'expertise technique qui doit être disponible dans les départements techniques dans les divisions du Siège à Rome.

Troisièmement, il y a une érosion vraiment effrayante, excusez-moi d'utiliser cet adjectif, une érosion effrayante de certaines des principales activités de l'Organisation tout particulièrement dans les secteurs suivants (là je citerai le Rapport de l'EEI). Les statistiques agricoles ont été réduites de 1994 à 2007 de 31 pour cent, la production animale 39 pour cent, la vulgarisation agricole et la recherche 11 pour cent, l'assurance et la commercialisation agricole 27 pour cent, les pesticides et insecticides 38,4 pour cent et je ne vais pas continuer avec cette longue liste.

Quatrièmement, il y a une grande préoccupation pour ne pas dire une inquiétude au Secrétariat général de l'Organisation et parmi le personnel de l'Organisation et pour tous ceux qui suivent de près les affaires et les activités de la FAO.

Permettez-moi de citer ici le Paragraphe 110 du Rapport de l'EEI et qui est comme un des principaux Membres du personnel. Il dit que nous travaillons au-delà de nos capacités et nous atteignons un point de rupture et si le personnel technique dans mon bureau est mis dans des bureaux sous régionaux, notre Département s'écroulera et notre Organisation ne peut pas faire moins de ressources. Nous pouvons faire plus avec plus de ressources et nous pouvons faire moins avec moins de ressources: c'est l'évidence. À moins que nous soyons honnêtes sur ce point, tout cela sera très mauvais pour notre Organisation.

Cinquièmement et dernièrement, nous devons, même pendant une période biennale, arrêter de réduire toujours le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation. Ce budget se réduit d'année en année. Depuis 1994 bien sûr cela satisfait les pays donateurs qui veulent réduire le budget de l'Organisation. Mais c'est vraiment fort regrettable que le budget ordinaire de la FAO ne puisse pas être au niveau du budget de la lutte contre les incendies en Californie et c'est même beaucoup moins que le budget du GCRAI. Si nous justifions cela en disant que nous recevons des ressources extra budgétaires, et bien cela n'est pas suffisant à moins que nous nous concentrons sur les principales capacités de base et les activités de base de l'Organisation pour les financer à partir d'un budget ordinaire stable.

Toutes ces questions bien sûr ne seront pas traitées dans l'année à venir par nos commissaires aux comptes, ce n'est pas un mandat et donc j'espère que le Directeur général ainsi que tous les sous Directeurs généraux se pencheront sur cette question.



Je vous remercie de votre patience et de votre attention.

**Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (Mexico)**

Permítame, en primer término felicitarlo por su elección. Estamos seguros que bajo su conducción y experiencia, esta sesión de la Conferencia podrá cumplir con el mandato para la cual fue convocada, de saber fijar las bases para la Reforma de la FAO, con miras a poder contar con una organización que esté en condiciones de enfrentar los retos para los cuales originalmente fue creada y en la dimensión que, actualmente ha alcanzado.

La comunidad internacional ha expresado reiteradamente y en distintos foros, su firme compromiso para enfrentar el problema del hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo. Coincido con las delegaciones que me han precedido, que lo importante ahora es pasar a la acción.

El hecho de que en el último año haya aumentado de más de 75 millones el número de personas afectadas por el hambre y la malnutrición, el hecho de que más de 925 millones de personas, más del 10 por ciento de la humanidad, sufra de este flagelo en este siglo, vuelve aun más necesario que la comunidad internacional lo enfrente de manera coordinada y decidida.

Por su parte, la FAO tiene una función claramente definida que desempeñar, debe sumar esfuerzos con los Estados y con las otras agencias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otros organismos internacionales; teniendo presente sus mandatos respectivos, para que en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición y el desarrollo agrícola puedan convertirse en un verdadero pilar del crecimiento económico de los países y en beneficio de sus pueblos. La FAO puede aportar la experiencia que ha acumulado a lo largo de su existencia y también puede contribuir con el conocimiento técnico y científico que genera, día con día, promoviendo la colaboración y la interacción de expertos en todos los ámbitos de su competencia.

Retomando las palabras de la gran Miriam Makeba, Mamá África, cuya pérdida lamentamos todos, la FAO tiene que estar presente para compartir con la gente el conocimiento necesario, para garantizar su seguridad alimentaria. Este es, en primer término, su responsabilidad dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas: evitar que las personas sobrevivan eternamente de la ayuda de emergencia.

Además, la FAO está llamada a encabezar una “nueva revolución verde”, para aumentar la producción de alimentos. Resulta inaceptable que en este Siglo XXI el número de personas con hambre en el mundo esté aumentado cada año. Mi país está dispuesto a colaborar activamente y como ya lo hiciera durante la primera revolución verde, en esta nueva empresa.

La necesidad que tiene la FAO de reformarse y evolucionarse, deriva de la magnitud del reto que debe enfrentar. Por ello, los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría de la Organización debemos estar comprometidos, a mantener bajo revisión constante la forma en que cumple con su mandato, e implementa su programa de labores.

El informe preparado por el equipo de la evaluación externa proporcionó los insumos iniciales. El Plan de Acción Inmediata recientemente adoptado constituye, tan sólo, el primer paso. La consolidación de las transformaciones necesarias, incluyendo en materia de gobernabilidad y supervisión, constituyen el reto siguiente.

Para mi país, en su calidad de décimo mayor contribuyente de la Organización, resulta prioritario que la FAO reciba los recursos que efectivamente requiere para implementar su mandato. No obstante, los requerimientos deben de estar debidamente justificados y el ejercicio del presupuesto debe llevarse a cabo en un marco de transparencia y de rendición de cuentas.

Los recursos extra-presupuestarios, por su parte, deben ayudar a potenciar los programas y proyectos que implementa la FAO, en su calidad de organización multilateral. Para mi delegación la Reforma no debe propiciar la creación de órganos subsidiarios o el aumento del personal administrativo, por el contrario hay que liberar recursos para facilitar el cumplimiento de los objetivos que la FAO deberá alcanzar en el porvenir.

Al igual que en 2008, tenemos un año intenso de trabajo frente a nosotros. Debemos, entre otras tareas, llegar a la Conferencia de noviembre de 2009 con las modificaciones que requieren los Textos Básicos, las estructuras y los arreglos institucionales existentes claramente identificadas, y con la evaluación de la utilidad y el resultado que habrán tenido las primeras medidas implementadas.

La reforma de la Organización es un proceso continuo. El compromiso firme y decidido de los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría es indispensable.

**Musa M. MAROOFI (Afghanistan)**

I consider it an honour to speak to this eminent assembly on the two topics for which this special Conference is convened: first, the global food crisis brought about by the unprecedented increase in the prices of basic food commodities worldwide and the hardships it has brought to the people of Afghanistan, particularly those who are poor and vulnerable to shocks and second, the Reform of FAO as elaborated in the Immediate Plan of Action.

According to the national risk and vulnerability analysis for 2007-2008, some 35 percent of households in Afghanistan are unable to meet their minimum daily intake of 2 100 calories. This figure of food insecure household is 5 percent higher than that of a similar survey conducted in 2005.

Moreover, in 2008 the domestic markets of cereals in Afghanistan were greatly impacted by prices. Because of unfavourable weather the 2008 cereal harvest is estimated to be 3.8 million metric tonnes, which is one third less than the harvest of 2007. Wheat output is estimated at 2.6 million metric tonnes in comparison to 4.3 million metric tonnes in 2007. Wheat imports from July 2008 to July 2009 are likely to be of the order of 2.2 million metric tonnes. Allowing for normal commercial imports, some 700 000 metric tonnes of wheat need to be mobilized with assistance, of course, by the international community. On its part, the Government will spend US\$100 million on imports of wheat and wheat flour. It will also organize special teams to deliver food to remote areas. A joint appeal by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the UN had requested 227 000 metric tonnes to assist 6 million rural and urban people affected by high food prices and the drought during the winter months. If the required food from abroad does not reach the country soon, the coming winter will bring severe hardship to millions of Afghans, especially those living in remote areas where access becomes difficult with heavy snowfall. Feed for animals is also in short supply and, in this respect, donor assistance in animal feed will be greatly appreciated.

In order to provide a long-term solution to food insecurity our Government has launched a ten-year Master Plan for the Development of Agriculture. The first five years of the Master Plan envisages an investment outlay of approximately US\$2.3 billion. A major pillar of this outlay is the National Programme for Food Security with an estimated investment of US\$360 million.

As far as the second topic, my Delegation welcomes the Immediate Plan of Action for the renewal of FAO and congratulates the Conference Committee of the IEE and its three Working Groups for the hard work done in producing the Immediate Plan of Action on time. Our special thanks go to the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, Professor Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeini, who led this difficult assignment to a successful end. We also thank the Director-General for providing the full support of the FAO Secretariat to the deliberations of the Committee of the Conference and its three Working Groups.

The Immediate Plan of Action is comprehensive, focused, transparent and feasible to implement. We support its wide ranging actions. In particular, we give strong support to the following proposed measures: the introduction of the results-based framework covering all programmes of FAO; the three fundamental goals of membership and the eleven strategic objectives of FAO in support of the three goals; the introduction of impact-focused areas for attracting extra-budgetary resources; the concept of unified budget covering both Assessed Contributions and extrabudgetary funds; consolidation of the lengthy list of former programme entities into lesser organizational results; measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Governing

Bodies of FAO, by streamlining the functions and responsibilities of the Conference, the Council and its Committees; strengthening the decentralization of FAO; enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences and the recommended measures for the reform of systems, culture change and organizational structure.

We fully support the Draft Resolution presented by the Conference Committee which has been rightfully approved. We think it is a balanced resolution and it provides the road map for the renewal of FAO to be implemented during 2009-2011. To complete this work with the full participation of the FAO Secretariat, we support the creation of the Committee of the Conference for the year 2009 and its terms of reference as proposed in paragraph 4 of the Draft Resolution.

The fundamental message of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO was "Reform with Growth". We fully subscribe to that message. As Member Nations are aware, since 1994, the FAO has been subjected to budget cuts and has lost nearly 30 percent of its Professional staff. As a result, the critical mass in key technical areas has been weakened. As a knowledge-based Organization, this erosion in staff capacity is unacceptable and must be restored as quickly as possible, both at Headquarters and the Regional Offices.

In addition, FAO needs to build its capabilities to be able to cope with new challenges of climate change, bio-energy and bio-diversity. Therefore, we look forward to a robust, growth-oriented and integrated Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 to fill these critical gaps for the benefit of all Member Nations.

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

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson. May I begin by congratulating you because you have played a very prominent role in the work of this Conference and I would also like to reiterate our congratulations expressed by previous speakers. It is a pleasure for me to know that the Egyptian Delegation has been able to cooperate with you in this task and I would also like to pay tribute to Dr Jacques Diouf and thank him for the very important role he has played, as well as thanking the members of his team, who have made tireless efforts to fight against the hunger and poverty in the world.

I would like to reiterate as well our firm decision to support this Organization so that it may achieve its goals. We have taken part in all these efforts because we are certain that we need to modernize this Organization, strengthen it and help it to evolve in its role so that it can meet the challenges that are facing agriculture in the world today and to respond to the growing needs of Member Nations as regards agricultural development and food security.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the CoC and his two Vice-chairpersons for the excellent manner in which they have been managing the work done by that Committee and the Working Groups because they have made the Immediate Plan of Action what it is and the success that we achieved yesterday in approving it together.

I am sure you would agree with what I am going to share with you. First, it is true that in the international community there are other bodies that are active in the field of agriculture, but recent events have shown us quite clearly the vital role FAO must play if we are to find solutions to the food crisis. This is something that was confirmed at the High Level Conference that was held last June and which dealt with global food security in the light of the challenges of climate change and bio-energy. Our President, Hosni Mubarak, had participated at that Conference and we were able to focus the attention of the international community on the crisis due to the soaring food prices.

The second comment I would like to make is regarding the participation of Member Nations in the Working Groups that have studied the IEE Resolutions, have forged a feeling of belonging in this Organization, of ownership of this Organization.

Thirdly, we speak of Reform with Growth. If we do not have more resources for our programmes, then we will not be able to find a solution and respond to the needs of the Member Nations. Therefore, greater funds are necessary for our technical programmes and this is something we will

continue to debate in 2009 as we move toward a common understanding of the motto of Reform with Growth.

We also have to improve the financial health of this Organization and Member Nations must meet their pledges. The Immediate Plan of Action, as we know, is just the first step and that there are other areas that the CoC has not been able to conclude its discussion on. Therefore, we will have to continue our reflection in areas such as the Strategic Framework, as well as the Medium Term Plan.

Next if we want to truly implement successfully the Immediate Plan of Action then we have to contribute to the Trust Fund on a voluntary basis to ensure that the financing will not be undertaken in a manner that would be detrimental to the technical programmes. On the contrary, we must increase the resources for these programmes as well, particularly as we draft the budget for 2010-2011.

We also have to follow very closely the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. It is a priority for us and, therefore, the Secretariat, the CoC and the Council need to participate together in the monitoring of the implementation.

We are also waiting impatiently for the final report of Ernst & Young who will go into further detail of the Root and Branch Review. They have studied administrative questions and we are particularly interested in the support to the translation services because, unfortunately, the quality of the Arabic translations has been gradually deteriorating which makes it very difficult for us as well as for other Arab-speaking delegations to follow the meetings and to remain updated on the various publications and brochures of this Organization.

We are in a transition and we need synergies. We need to continue our efforts based on confidence and a spirit of collaboration that existed during the work of the CoC and various Working Groups. Therefore, we must continue our efforts to revitalize this Organization so as to ensure the development of the agricultural sector, a sector which has often been neglected. This neglect has led to the present food crisis. Therefore, we need to confirm our commitment and concentrate on the Right to Food, as well as the need to share knowledge and technological progress so as to improve agricultural production.

**Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

It is a great honour for me to deliver the statement of the Nigerian Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr Sayyadi Abba Ruma, to the Thirty-fifth Special Session of the FAO Conference.

On the recommendations of IEE follow-up action today, we commend Professor Noori-Naeini, Chairperson of the Conference Committee on the IEE, the Vice-Chairs, the three Chairpersons and Members of the Working Groups, the Committee Secretariat and the FAO Senior Management, for an excellent report on the IPA, which was unanimously adopted yesterday.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria Support Group supports the proposed results-based framework for FAO activities which will not only provide foundation for "Reform with Growth", but also will allow prioritization in line with Members' needs. We support the proposed follow-up milestone indicators and deliverables that will ensure tracking, monitoring, evaluation and attainment of the set FAO vision, the MDGs and the three global goals.

We support the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2010-2013, and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 that will ensure a systematic and sequential planning and implementation of activities. We appreciate and support the proposed impact for cost components which will emphasize the achievement of results, as defined in the MTP. At the national level, resource mobilization is expected to be guided by country development priorities in the National Medium Term Priority Framework in support of FAO's organizational results, through various mechanisms, as most developing countries now have effective frameworks for the attainment of food security.

On behalf of my Government, I am delighted to report to this Special Session of the Conference, one incident of FAO's extraordinary guidance in policy dialogue with Governments, and give thanks to the Nigerian and Chinese experts that resulted in the successful implementation of our National Food Security Programme.

Consequently, on October 21, this year, the second phase of the programme was signed in Beijing between Nigeria and China, midwifed by FAO.

South-South Cooperation, therefore, which the commitment and dedication Dr Jacques Diouf brokered, is commendable. By the same token, the success of the High-Level Conference in June this year, initiated by him, demonstrated great foresight and was greatly appreciated. Therefore, FAO must play a leading role in the establishment of a High Level Panel of Experts on Food security.

My Delegation, Mr Chairperson, therefore calls on the Director-General of FAO to set in motion the modalities required for the establishment of a network of international food security experts without delay.

The plan to engage membership and donors in the planning process is commendable and supported by my Delegation, for this will eliminate duplication of efforts.

My Delegation also strongly supports the proposed Governance arrangements that will address efficiency, effectiveness and ownership. This includes, among others, the measures to strengthen FAO Governing Bodies' role in the global policy and regulatory coherence, and the exercising of executive oversight functions.

We welcome the process that will enhance the status of the Regional Conferences into committees of the FAO, hence, an integral part of the governing structure, and we also strongly support the proposed Decentralized Offices.

My Delegation supports the increase in Membership of each of the Programme and Finance Committees to twelve. We advocate also the enlightenment of the Council.

It is believed that a well-articulated Strategic Framework and reformed Governing Bodies will ensure a coordinated intervention by FAO.

In the developing countries, the rising farm-level productivity, strengthened rural marketing networks, efficient and profitable value addition industries and linkages between the producers and processors in international markets to achieve overall sustainable national food security will also guarantee national security.

In conclusion, let me remind the Membership of our collective resolution to have a reformed, efficient and effective FAO, but this will not happen unless it is backed up with adequate resources. Against this backdrop, I call on all Membership to honour their financial obligations on time and make voluntary donations generously in order to kickstart the process.

**Laurie MARKES (New Zealand)**

In our statement to the Conference last year, New Zealand noted that the FAO stood at a crossroads. We are pleased today to say that the combined efforts over the past year of some dedicated, hard working delegates and FAO staff give every indication of pointing us to the right road. We are well satisfied with the end product of the past year's discussions.

As we have previously said, it is vital that Organisations periodically examine, review, reform, and redefine themselves so they remain relevant and effective.

After 60 years, it was time for FAO to have a good, hard, critical look at itself.

Members asked for, paid for, and got, an Independent External Evaluation. Consistent with our support for Reform across the United Nations organisations, New Zealand supported this external review, and hoped it would provide an objective, thorough, external opinion on the programmes and management of the organisation, and offer practical ways in which FAO could be improved.

To show our support for the transformation that we believed would reinvigorate FAO, New Zealand was pleased to make its financial contributions to the IEE process.

New Zealand was impressed with the First Report of the IEE team, delivered in July 2007. It was a rigorous, wide-ranging and comprehensive assessment. We were struck by the comment from the review team that the FAO was, quote, “an organisation in crisis”. Clearly, a vigorous self-assessment and Reform Programme was required. We supported the key IEE assessment that the FAO is needed, and fulfils a unique role in the global governance framework. But we also agreed that urgent change was necessary, to make FAO more ‘fit for purpose’ in the Twenty-first Century.

We were generally in accord with the IEE team’s diagnosis, and the Reform prescription it delivered.

Since the 2007 Conference, a very intensive Working Group process has brought us to where we are today, with a comprehensive Immediate Plan of Action in place for implementing FAO reform. We believe that this has been a positive process, and has delivered a good end product. But it not just the product we welcome. We believe the process itself has been a notably positive experience. The way in which the Members and FAO Management worked together on this exercise bodes well for ongoing collaboration and a sharing of vision, goals, objectives and working procedures in the future.

We are pleased to know that the Director-General supports the intent and the nature of the reforms now incorporated into the IPA. We welcome the words in his message in the IPA document, that “a key ingredient of success will be Management’s commitment to renewal”. We look forward to Dr Diouf’s continuing support for the process, and to his encouragement of the culture change, and spirit of collaboration that will give full flight to the abilities, knowledge and experience of the dedicated staff that this Organisation possesses.

Mr Chairperson, the next phase of reform - implementation - is critical. Implementation is not just fine words and intentions. These must be fed by political will, and the goodwill and positive attitude of all participants. We believe that the Working Group process over the past year has shown us the kind of collaboration and sense of shared endeavours that are possible.

The Resolution approved by us seeks extra-budgetary contributions for implementation in 2009. While we are unable to announce an exact figure today, we are considering what contribution we can make to implementation in 2009.

I would like to turn to a few of the key points of the Immediate Plan of Action that we are particularly attracted to – bearing in mind that we are very supportive of many other elements that I do not have time specifically to mention.

One of the very strong points coming out of this process is the emphasis on spreading responsibility and decision-making - and the attendant accountability - throughout the Organisation. This will place decision-making closer to the point of implementation and closer to the point of expertise. In this vein, we are particularly supportive of the possibility this brings for greater financial and administrative autonomy in Codex and in the IPPC.

We are very pleased to see the emphasis on a results-based framework. Members and Management must work together to define realistic outcomes, and then to develop appropriate targets and indicators with which to assess progress. Setting benchmarks and milestones are an important part of this process. We look forward to working with others to incorporate this approach into the new Programme of Work and Budget cycle. The integration of voluntary contributions in the Regular Programme budget will be an important element of this new approach.

We look forward to the next steps in the Root and Branch Review of management and administrative systems, and consideration of the findings and recommendations at Conference next year.

Above all, we wish to reiterate the importance of collaboration and goodwill amongst Members, and of Culture Change permeating all levels of the Organisation. These are key ingredients which will underpin the successful implementation of the IPA. We are heartened by the refreshing level of cooperation that has often been apparent in the Conference Working Groups over the past year.

These are just some of the changes emerging from the Reform exercise which we applaud. We now look forward to working with all Members and with Management to implement them.

We are pleased to endorse the present Resolution adopting the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.

Global economic turbulence and the immense challenges it brings for agriculture and food security mean that the world is very much in need of a reformed and 'fit-for-purpose' Organisation. This Immediate Plan of Action can help get FAO and Members into a better position to take on these challenges together.

**Sitki Ugür ZİYAL (Turkey)**

I am pleased to be here today to address the FAO Conference, which has met in order to discuss the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow up to the Independent External Evaluation (CoC-IEE) of FAO. The objective was formidable: to further strengthen the organization in order to enhance food production and accessibility, with the aim of feeding the hungry and alleviating poverty, while preserving natural resources.

Circumstances have prevented the personal presence of the concerned Cabinet Minister of our Government, but we in Turkey are aware of the importance of this meeting. We realize that our food production systems are vitally affected by other global developments such as climate change, industrial demands, high prices and lately the financial crisis. Consequently, we believe that the solutions require collaborative, integrated and determined efforts of all countries. So, we are glad to see here that the international community meeting once again with a view to pooling their capacities and abilities for the renewal of FAO to better address the challenges of sustainability of food production and access to it.

FAO has played an impressive role in establishing an intergovernmental forum to develop and implement mechanisms towards alleviating hunger, improving food production and rural livelihoods, as well as preserving natural resources. The history of FAO is full of achievements. However, FAO's role and responsibilities are ever-increasing, especially in face of the emerging challenges. New challenges require new strategies and commitments. Considering the food-related problems that our world is facing today, we deem the Reform of FAO timely and relevant. In this context, our appreciation goes to Director-General Jacques Diouf for his dedication to FAO and his challenging portfolio, as well as for his qualities and efficient leadership which have made him an asset for the Organization. Furthermore, on this occasion, I would extend my personal gratitude for his cooperative and open attitude regarding relations with my country.

We also appreciate the untiring efforts of the Committee of the Conference, its Chair, Professor Nouri-Naieni and Vice-Chairs, its Working Groups and their co-chairs, members and participants as well as the FAO Management and support staff. They have realized very productive and participatory sessions during the preparation of the Report which focuses on the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for 2009-2011.

We see that the Committee of the Conference has displayed efficient performance in analyzing the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and has come up with a roadmap proposal for the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA). We welcome the Report in its entirety, as well as its design and content, but in particular we appreciate the results-oriented and impact-driven approach to priority-setting, programmes and resource management. The emerging challenges, capacity-building needs of developing countries, collaboration with Member Nations and other stakeholders have all been widely dealt with in the Report. In general, the visions and strategic objectives are relevant to address the current problems that we face. We are also glad to see the

emphasis given to “Right to Food” and gender issues which are, we believe, the key factors for overall development.

The proposals to enhance Governance efficiency through clear distribution of responsibilities among governing structures, promoting more transparency and member ownership are also much appreciated.

The measures taken to ensure a pro-active organization with increased participation of the members will help FAO respond to the emerging challenges of the Member Nations more efficiently. In this context, we welcome the already taken “Culture Change” steps, the proposals to strengthen human resources, administrative practices and improve effectiveness of Headquarters and Decentralised Offices. We trust that the savings on managerial costs will allow more resources for technical work, which is in fact the main tool for the delivery of the services. We think that the proposals to develop and enhance partnerships with other international institutions and to further involve public, civil society and private institutions are valuable means for ensuring integrated and collaborative approaches to overcome the diverse challenges.

In this framework, I would like to thank the Director General for his rapid response to the necessary changes that have been deemed critical in the ‘Independent External Evaluation’ to sustain ‘Reform with Growth’. From his letter of 14 November, we understand that the management has already taken actions to implement the recommendations therein, and we very much support these efforts.

In view of emerging challenges, Turkey is committed to playing its part in agricultural development nationally, bilaterally and internationally. We have taken numerous steps in terms of policy development, legislation and institutional restructuring in order to meet recent challenges such as climate change, bio-energy demand and food price fluctuations. We aim to increase our food production and foster rural development through regional development programmes and reform in such major areas as farmer support practices, technology transfers, protection and control services and agricultural research.

We will also continue to take part in international efforts to alleviate hunger and achieve sustainable and rural development in our world. We attribute great importance to the initiatives taken by FAO and other UN Agencies and international institutions in this sense.

In conclusion, let me repeat that the Report of the Committee of the Conference analyses the Independent External Evaluation in a very detailed yet very efficient manner and sets a clear roadmap for the Immediate Plan of Action, in order to create a renewed FAO that is more effective in delivering its services, that is more transparent and participatory in governance. Now we believe it is high time to start the implementation. Thank you for your attention.

#### **Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)**

Es un deber para nuestra delegación recordar que en esta misma sala nuestros Jefes de Estado o Gobierno acordaron el modesto objetivo de reducir a la mitad el número de personas que sufren hambre y malnutrición para el 2015. Desde entonces, muchas reuniones han sido celebradas para abordar el tema, incluyendo conferencias y cumbres mundiales.

Los debates han sido intensos. Muchos países hemos mostrado nuestro serio compromiso para contribuir al cumplimiento del objetivo acordado y hemos trabajado para que se comprenda que, no sólo debemos erradicar el hambre a la mitad, sino que es más importante y ético desterrar ese flagelo de la faz de tierra de una vez por todas, si es que queremos preservar la especie humana.

A pesar de los esfuerzos realizados, hoy continúan existiendo en el mundo más de 850 millones de personas que padecen de hambre y malnutrición. Su erradicación trasciende las buenas voluntades y las diferencias ideológicas. Ha faltado hasta hoy, la voluntad política necesaria.

Estamos reunidos una vez más, en esta ocasión, para considerar un exhaustivo Plan Inmediato de Acción, resultado del proceso de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, Con él esperamos maximizar la contribución de la FAO a los Países Miembros en la lucha contra el hambre.



La introducción de un nuevo enfoque, basado en los resultados para la planificación de todos los programas que integran la labor de la FAO, además, de ser un marco en proceso de implementación en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, constituye una oportunidad para concentrar los esfuerzos y medir los resultados que esperamos en la lucha contra el hambre.

Los recursos deben asignarse al logro de los Objetivos Estratégicos, pero sin dejar de atender las necesidades de todos los Miembros de la Organización. La asistencia técnica, como función básica, debe continuar guiando los esfuerzos y la labor de la FAO. Es imprescindible garantizar que al programa de Cooperación Técnica le sean asignados los recursos suficientes que requiere.

El Programa Ordinario debe continuar siendo la base para la ejecución de las principales actividades del Programa de Trabajo de la FAO, si bien es importante disponer de financiación extra-presupuestaria, el funcionamiento futuro de la FAO puede verse comprometido; si no logramos que haya clara diferenciación entre las actividades que se financian con este tipo de recursos; y las que se ejecutan a través del Programa Ordinario. Sin duda, es necesario el reforzamiento del sistema de programación y del presupuesto propuesto en el Programa Inmediato de Acción.

La administración en un programa único de las cuotas asignadas y los recursos extra-presupuestarios sólo puede ser aceptable, si se eliminan las contribuciones voluntarias con un fin específico. Las principales actividades de la Organización no deben, ni pueden quedar a merced de las contribuciones voluntarias.

Si no somos capaces de lograr que estos y otros aspectos sean tenidos en cuenta en la Reforma de la FAO, podríamos estar asestando un duro golpe a los principios fundacionales de la Organización, y por tanto, a su funcionamiento futuro.

Nuestra Delegación comprende que la aprobación y aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción, constituye una necesidad para iniciar un proceso de mejoramiento de esta Organización, que es patrimonio de todos sus Miembros e importantes cambios han sido aprobados por esta Sesión Extraordinaria de la Conferencia, para su implementación durante el año 2009.

El Gobierno de Cuba se ha asumido al consenso logrado tras arduas y extensas jornadas de negociación, esperamos que la voluntad política que nos ha acompañado para alcanzar este consenso se haga realidad, también, en las acciones, que en el contexto internacional pongamos, todos en práctica para permitir que la FAO pueda cumplir su cometido que todos esperamos de ella, y los países en desarrollo podamos alcanzar, sin tropiezos, los objetivos de desarrollo fijados.

La Constitución de la FAO establece claramente el mandato de esta Organización. En lo adelante, debemos aprobar importantes modificaciones a los textos fundamentales para permitir que muchas de las reformas propuestas puedan ser implementadas en el más corto período de tiempo. Sin embargo, consideramos importante llamar la atención acerca de que ninguno de los mencionados cambios tenga que significar modificaciones o cambios al mandato de la FAO.

Por otro lado, la crisis económica y financiera actual, y, particularmente la crisis alimentaria, como consecuencia de la elevación del precio de los alimentos y la producción de los bio-combustibles, han agravado seriamente la situación alimentaria de una gran parte importante de los países en desarrollo. La FAO, y en especial su Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, tienen el mandato de dar seguimiento a dicha situación y proponer las medidas adecuadas.

Mi país considera que es necesario el fortalecimiento de la capacidad del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para dar seguimiento cada año a las causas que influyen en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y proponer las políticas necesarias para su mejoramiento.

En nombre del Gobierno de Cuba, deseo reconocer el liderazgo y el importante rol jugado por el Director General, Jacques Diouf al frente de la FAO. En ese sentido, reafirmo la voluntad política y el compromiso de Cuba con la Organización, en la implementación de acciones para luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Aprovecho también para agradecer la importante ayuda brindada por la FAO para la recuperación de mi país, que en un período menor de dos meses, ha sido azotado por tres huracanes, cuyos daños a las viviendas, al sector agrícola, la pesca y otras infraestructuras, se calculan en diez mil millones de dólares USA.

El reto que enfrentamos es colosal, Cuba espera que en el futuro seamos sabios al enfrentarlo. La FAO puede continuar contribuyendo enormemente, si somos capaces de fortalecerla en beneficio de todos sus Miembros y en especial de los países en desarrollo.

**Hans-Christoph EIDEN (Germany) (Original language German)**

It is a great honour for me to be able to share with you here the attitude of the German Government on the Final Report of the Independent External Evaluation and regarding the reform process that has been embarked upon at this Conference.

I would join on to what has been said by the French EU Presidency – a year ago, the Final Report of the External Evaluation was presented and it finished with the finding that were there no FAO it would have to be invented.

Since it was set up in 1945, we have to face every anew the threat of hunger. More than 920 million people around the world suffer from hunger and under nourishment and the most recent crisis have exacerbated the already existing problem. This means that agriculture and food security has been put right at the top of the international agenda and the High-Level Conference of June 2008 underlined that.

We face enormous challenges; the world population – and that means demand for food – is increasing unabated. Economic growth in many parts of the world is changing eating habits. A higher number of animals means that we need foodstuffs to feed those animals, the long-term increase in energy and oil prices increases the cost of producing food and the amount of land that can be used for agriculture is being threatened by climate change encroachment of the desert. This is also happening because there are other uses, such as urbanization. Furthermore, the use of agricultural products for fuel purposes has to be done in such a way that does not impinge upon food security. The key to dealing with hunger successfully and to dealing with poverty successfully in the world will come by strengthening rural agriculture and also by boosting sustainable production of crops.

We need to do this by boosting production in developing countries, as well as making sure that we have sustainable production in other parts of the world which produce agricultural products. This has to be done on the basis of sound science and good technical know-how. FAO here has a very important role to play, particularly in its core competencies, in its management of know-how, its early warning system and crisis management, in its normative work, in its strategic planning and in its advice to Governments.

The problem of food security is too serious for us to waste resources on it, we need to have an effective organization for agriculture and food production and it has to be able to take on the leading role that it has to play in dealing with the challenges that face us in the Twenty-first Century. This also counts for the High-Level Task Force that has been set up for global food security by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The IEE took comprehensive stock of what has happened in FAO and it made certain recommendations and we need to recognize the good work done by its authors. They showed us the challenges of reform for this Organization and its Members.

In the last ten months, FAO Member Nations and the management have done a great deal of work and we are very grateful for what they have done. These talks were marked by a very constructive atmosphere and by a very good spirit of cooperation in the committees. This is because there is a shared interest in us producing an effective and robust FAO. The Member Nations have proven that they are all pulling in the same direction. They are showing that there can be a dialogue and they have also proven that FAO is seen as their Organization. For the wise stewardship of that, we would like to thank you, Professor Noori, and your deputies. The results are now available; we

have it in the form of the Resolution and also the Immediate Plan of Action. These are the first steps which are going to be taken for a Root and Branch Review and this includes, amongst other things, setting strategic goals and priority areas, the modernization of the control bodies and also reform of the administration and management system, and such a Reform process has, thus far, never been undertaken before within the UN System.

Germany supports the plan which has been put in place, and we give it our full support and we believe that the upshot of this Conference is a clear success, but, of course, as yet we haven't attained all our goals. There are a number of decisions which yet have to be taken. The new Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the question of Governance, for instance, and also how the council should be made up; these issues are still to be dealt with. But, we are confident, though, that these points and other matters that remain in abeyance will be brought to a successful conclusion if all Members show flexibility and if they keep their spirit of Reform. Germany sets great store by this Reform being brought to a successful conclusion and we are very confident that this will happen because the work done in the committees has set in train a process which has boosted our mutual confidence. I think we can build on that and we can also learn from this process for the rest of the reform process.

May I just close by launching an appeal? FAO is our shared Organization and its reform is our shared task, so we would call on all Member Nations that you work to implement these decisions already and that you do within the bounds of the possibility that you try and implement these as quickly as possible. We shall make our contribution to that and this year we would like to make some contribution of about 700 000 Euros, and this is approximately US\$850 000 to US\$900 000.

**Sra Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)**

Señor Presidente y Vicepresidentes electos, nuestras felicitaciones, Excelentísimo señor Director General, Jacques Diouf, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Señoras y Señores Ministros, Representantes Permanentes de los Países Miembros, Señoras y Señores.

La celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación 2008, nos invitó a continuar los trabajos y las reflexiones, que iniciamos en junio pasado con la Conferencia de Alto-Nivel sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, para atender los desafíos que enfrentan la agricultura y la alimentación en esta nueva era; de los altos precios de los alimentos, el cambio climático y la bio-energía, a los cuales se suma hoy, la crisis financiera global.

En esta oportunidad expresamos, que la especulación financiera en el mercado de alimentos y la energía; que el cambio de la agricultura tradicional por la agro-industria y el agro-negocio; que los tratados de libre comercio y los agro-combustibles, todo esto asociado al carácter de mercancía que tienen los alimentos en la actual estructura económica internacional, que privilegia la maximización de la ganancia en desmedro del bienestar colectivo de los pueblos y del aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales, que han sido las principales causas de la tragedia humanitaria que representa, casi mil millones de personas con hambre en el mundo.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, expresa nuevamente su preocupación por la necesidad de tomar acciones concretas para superar los efectos adversos de estos factores, que han dejado la secuela del incremento en 75 millones de personas que padecen hambre, para finales del año 2007.

Concientes de los llamados urgentes de la comunidad internacional para que la FAO asuma el liderazgo de las acciones necesarias para atender los nuevos retos de la agricultura y de la Seguridad Alimentaria, sus Miembros organizados en tres Grupos de Trabajo, guiados por el Comité de la Conferencia y con la participación de la Administración, tomaron como base el Informe de la Evaluación Independiente Externa y han llevado adelante durante el año 2008, un amplio proceso de Reforma, sin precedentes en la historia de las organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, atendiendo el mandato del 34º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de formular un Plan Inmediato de Acción y un Marco Estratégico para la renovación de la FAO.

El Plan Inmediato aprobado por esta Conferencia en el día de ayer, representa una base sólida sobre la cual podemos trabajar a partir del 2009, en el amplio espíritu de cooperación que ha prevalecido hasta el presente. El proceso de Reforma de la FAO sería frágil y carecería de legitimidad, sino se basa en la negociación y el consenso como reglas máximas que rigen los sistemas multilaterales.

Este Plan, constituye el mapa de ruta para mejorar la eficiencia y la eficacia del trabajo de la FAO, teniendo como horizonte el logro de la "Reforma con Crecimiento".

Venezuela considera necesario atender la silvicultura, la pesca y la acuicultura como parte importante de la cadena alimenticia, al igual que la producción agrícola y ganadera, desde el nivel primario hasta la protección del consumidor, garantizando la calidad de inocuidad de los alimentos, la bio-seguridad y, promoviendo la infraestructura y el procesamiento, en un marco de utilización sostenible de los recursos naturales. Los agricultores beneficiarios directos, deben tener una decisiva participación en la formulación y ejecución de los programas. Esta es la única vía para la equitativa distribución de los alimentos y la erradicación del hambre y de la pobreza.

El seguimiento de este proceso y los retos actuales, dan cuenta de la importancia de tomar el camino del crecimiento. Incrementando la cantidad de recursos disponibles con un manejo eficiente, la FAO podrá proyectar en forma beneficiosa, el alto valor de los conocimientos que genera, en creación de capacidades para los países en desarrollo y menos adelantados, en especial a través del Programa de Cooperación Técnica; para seguir contribuyendo al cumplimiento del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio; preferiblemente en alianza efectiva en el terreno con las agencias hermanas el FIDA y el PMA evitando así la duplicación de los esfuerzos.

Reafirmamos la necesidad de reforzar los marcos reglamentarios y de políticas para garantizar la Seguridad Alimentaria por parte de los Miembros, contemplando en la estructura de los Programas propuestos por la FAO, el fortalecimiento de los trabajos de la Unidad de Derecho a la Alimentación y del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Preocupa a la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, el descenso de la ayuda pública al desarrollo en agricultura, la cual se redujo del 17 por ciento en 1980 al tres por ciento en 2006, y la drástica contracción de las contribuciones por parte de las instituciones financieras, durante el mismo período. En la actual crisis, los Gobiernos deben evitar reducir las ayudas a los países en desarrollo. El incremento de la población en situación de hambre indica claramente que la agricultura necesita atención urgente y prioritaria, por encima de la crisis financiera.

Venezuela hace un llamado a concretar la intención política de mayores contribuciones financieras para atender la seguridad alimentaria mundial, a través del desarrollo de una agricultura sostenible, con capacidad de duplicar la producción de alimentos para 2050, cuando la población del planeta habrá alcanzado nueve mil millones de personas.

Como lo ha indicado el Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías, la crisis nos obliga a ejecutar acciones para garantizar el desarrollo humano y el verdadero desarrollo económico de nuestros países, en esta oportunidad de la mano con una FAO del Siglo XXI fortalecida y renovada.

En tal sentido, compartimos la idea expresada por el Director General en su mensaje a esta Conferencia, para celebrar una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria en el primer semestre del 2009. Así como la constitución de una red de expertos para el fortalecimiento del análisis científico y de la capacidad técnica del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

El problema de la inseguridad alimentaria es político, por lo que su eliminación depende de una definición de prioridades por parte de los Gobiernos. Venezuela ha reconocido explícitamente el Derecho a la Alimentación en nuestra legislación, sobre seguridad y soberanía alimentaria, siendo este un buen indicador del rumbo para superar estos problemas que aquejan a los países en desarrollo.

Con la implementación de diferentes programas y misiones sociales, se ha garantizado el acceso seguro y estable de alimentos a toda la población, particularmente, a la población más vulnerable.

Los resultados exitosos, confirman la importancia de la atención a cada uno de los eslabones de la cadena agro-alimentaria, desde la producción primaria hasta la distribución y comercialización; y se ha iniciado la puesta en marcha de centrales de acopio y almacenaje de productos a nivel nacional.

"Un paso imprudente puede sepultarnos para siempre", inspirados en este mensaje del Libertador Simón Bolívar, reafirmamos nuestro compromiso a seguir trabajando para orientar la Organización hacia la Reforma con Crecimiento, y, culminar con éxito la agenda pendiente en el 2009 como es la elaboración del Marco Estratégico, El Plan a plazo medio y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto, contando con la plena participación de las oficinas descentralizadas en el proceso general de adopción de decisiones de la FAO.

El Comité de la Conferencia, está llamando a establecer un mecanismo de consulta con las organizaciones de la sociedad civil de todas las regiones que tradicionalmente han interactuado con la FAO y han tenido un rol importante en el cumplimiento de su mandato.

La cooperación internacional sigue siendo la herramienta fundamental para solucionar los problemas de carácter económico, social, cultural y humanitario, sustentada en el desarrollo y estímulo del respeto a los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales de los pueblos, reconociendo las necesidades específicas de desarrollo y el derecho a la alimentación de cada nación.

En tal sentido, alentamos a una conclusión satisfactoria y equilibrada para las negociaciones de la Ronda de Doha, que permita eliminar las prácticas distorsionantes del comercio agrícola que afectan a los países en desarrollo, tal como acordaron los jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la XVIII Cumbre Iberoamericana, en octubre de 2008.

Finalmente, reiteramos nuestro respaldo a la labor de la FAO, con la seguridad de que el trabajo adelantado por los Miembros, el Director General y la Administración, impulsará acciones efectivas para la superación de la pobreza, la erradicación del hambre, y el aumento de la productividad agrícola, mejorando el nivel de vida de la población rural de los países en desarrollo.

#### **Charalambos ROCANAS (Greece)**

Allow me first of all, to convey to all of you the greetings and best wishes of the Greek Government for every success of this Conference.

It is truly a great honour for me to represent my country at this very important Special Session and present the Greek Government's views. It is, indeed, a privilege to participate in this event, which constitutes the foundation for shaping the future of FAO.

At the outset, I would like to state that Greece fully associates itself with the statement, delivered by France on behalf of the European Union.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is undergoing a crucial reform process. On the basis of the first-ever Independent External Evaluation in its sixty-year history, FAO is now facing the great challenge of becoming capable to secure food for all

This is a remarkable task - remarkable because it coincides with a moment critical for humanity – from various points of view – the most important being the fate of 923 million people who are destitute and deprived of the most elementary means of survival, namely food.

The Director-General, in his introductory remarks to the Report of the Committee of the Conference, gives a very alarming signal, noting the increase in the number of the hungry, despite the mobilization, since 1996, aimed at reducing their number by half by the year 2015.

Food production is growing but not at the rate, necessary to meet the needs of the increasing population. It is estimated that by 2050, the population of our planet will have reached nine billion and that food production should then be double of what it is today.

Climate change, water management, energy and bio-fuels are the main challenges calling for concerted, multilateral action, as are the continuous pressure on existing production techniques, the higher value crops, food safety, the facing of transboundary diseases of plants and animals and urbanization.

Under the conditions prevailing today, our duty to make this Conference a success is even more compelling. We have to come out of this Conference with a renewed FAO, with a clear vision and global goals, specific strategic objectives and action plans which should all be part of an integrated, results-based structure.

We welcome, in particular, the agreement reached in the Immediate Plan of Action on various aspects of FAO's Governance, such as the involvement of Regional Conferences in the Organization's policy formulation at regional level, the reform of the term of office of the Director General and its pre-election procedure, and the integration of Assessed Contributions and extra-budgetary funds, which will all facilitate the achievement of FAO objectives.

A renewed FAO will be an Organization managed with transparency and accountability, in which both management and membership equally share the responsibility in policy-setting and oversight. In this regard, the establishment of a separate and operationally-independent office for evaluation is most welcome.

A renewed FAO will be an international Organization that endorses change in its own culture. We appreciate the Director-General's initiative in this context, as well as the planned appointment of an Ethics Officer and the establishment of an Ethics Committee.

A renewed FAO will be an Organization which has, at its disposal, financial and human resources to achieve its objectives and does not model its objectives according to available resources.

During the last eleven months, an extraordinary amount of work has been carried out by the Membership, management and by the Chairpersons of the Committee of the Conference, as well as the Working Groups. This, in itself, is a guarantee that a renewed FAO can emerge. We are grateful to those who have participated in this effort. They are all entitled to, I think, feel proud for having contributed in this very praiseworthy endeavour.

Our gratitude also goes to the current French Presidency of the European Union, which managed, with remarkable efficiency, to coordinate the views of 27 Member States, ensuring convergence of their positions and, thus, allowing the EU to speak in one voice.

The Immediate Plan of Action for the period 2009-2011, which we have adopted yesterday, is not the end of the road. A lot of work is still ahead of us. The new Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013, the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, possible changes in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council are among the pending issues to be considered in the coming year, 2009 – hopefully in the same constructive spirit.

Before closing my statement, allow me please to stress a few more points: one, Greece fully supports FAO as the irreplaceable international forum on food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development; two, we are also fully committed to FAO's Reform; three, we solemnly pledge a timely Greek contribution in the required funding for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

Our deliberations in the course of this year taught us that the Reform Process should not be seen as a dividing line between developed and developing countries nor as an issue of controversy among Regional Groups. It is rather a unique opportunity to create an Organization which bypasses regional and political divisions so as to decisively contribute to the achievement of world food security. The key to success lies in the mutual confidence which should inspire all stakeholders involved.

**Manuel Pedro PACAVIRA (Angola)**

C'est un honneur pour moi et pour ma délégation de participer aux travaux de cette Conférence extraordinaire. Je voudrais d'abord et avant tout m'associer aux orateurs distingués qui m'ont

précédé pour féliciter votre Excellence ainsi que Messieurs les Vice-présidents pour votre élection à la Présidence des travaux de la Conférence.

Notre monde se débat dans de grands problèmes qui dérivent de la crise financière, de la faim, de la pauvreté, des conflits de plusieurs ordres qui entravent le développement du capital humain et des relations entre les peuples et les Nations. La FAO a une grande responsabilité internationale en ce qui concerne les problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté. Elle peut apporter une grande contribution grâce à son expérience et à ses connaissances pour minimiser les problèmes du changement climatique, du manque d'eau ou de sa rareté, des fluctuations accentuées des prix des produits alimentaires et en matière de bio-énergie.

Nous connaissons les problèmes avec lesquels l'Organisation se débat, en particulier en ce qui concerne les questions financières, les ressources humaines et le processus de décentralisation. Nous sommes convaincus, qu'une application correcte du nouveau Plan d'action immédiate qui contient des mesures équilibrées et pragmatiques pourraient faciliter la mise en œuvre des nobles objectifs de l'Organisation et renforcer son rôle au sein des Nations Unies, renforcer de la même manière son prestige et son protagonisme au plan international.

L'Angola a eu l'occasion de participer dans l'un des Groupes de travail du Comité de la Conférence et est témoin de l'intérêt généralisé de la part des Pays Membres et de l'Administration à trouver des solutions durables pour le fonctionnement de l'Organisation.

Le dialogue, la persévérance, une discussion ouverte et franche ont été les ingrédients qui ont permis que l'on termine sur un document consensuel. Je voudrais également féliciter tous les membres des Groupes de travail et leurs Présidents respectifs, la Direction et le Secrétariat pour le travail ardu et développé et adresser une mention spéciale de reconnaissance à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO pour son engagement personnel et pour avoir fait participer ses meilleurs cadres dans la préparation du Programme pour le Plan d'action immédiate et au Président du Comité de la Conférence, Monsieur Noori Naeini et ses Vice-Présidents pour avoir été à la hauteur de leur complexe responsabilité.

Nous espérons que toutes les attentes qui ont été créées vis-à-vis du futur de l'Organisation trouvent un écho dans la définition future des programmes et budgets PTB, dans l'interaction nécessaire des Pays Membres et de l'administration dans la collaboration étroite avec les autres agences des Nations Unies et avec le paiement ponctuel et régulier de la part des pays des contributions qui leur incombent. Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi d'exprimer la satisfaction de la délégation de l'Angola devant l'approbation par acclamation de la part de la Conférence de la Résolution 1/2008 et du Plan d'action immédiate pour l'exercice 2009-2011 ce qui va faciliter, nous en sommes convaincus, la pleine exécution de la Réforme de la FAO dans la croissance.

Sur la question de l'augmentation significative des prix des produits alimentaires, nous avons eu l'opportunité récemment de nous réunir dans cette même salle à l'occasion de la Conférence de haut-niveau, et nous avons approuvé une Déclaration avec des mesures concrètes à court, moyen et long termes. Nous avons entendu alors des promesses de contributions volontaires de divers pays et institutions financières internationales qui étaient assez significatives. Quid de ces promesses? Leurs concrétisations associées à la Réforme de la FAO peuvent engendrer des conditions favorables à l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité et à la réduction de la pauvreté dans le monde.

Sur ce dernier aspect, réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté, mon Gouvernement a consacré, au cours de ces dernières années, une grande part du budget pour le secteur de l'agriculture et des pêches et les effets de cet effort commencent à se faire sentir. La production augmente graduellement et les populations ne se sentent plus en situation d'urgence en termes alimentaires. Et on voit s'ouvrir une voie vers une agriculture de développement.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais adresser un mot de profonde douleur au Gouvernement et au peuple de l'Afrique du sud pour le décès de la grande chanteuse et Ambassadrice de la FAO, Miriam Makeba, que j'ai eu le privilège de connaître personnellement.

C'était une amie de l'Angola, de l'Afrique et du monde en général et une grande et infatigable lutteuse pour la cause des plus pauvres. Merci infiniment.

**Aleksei SKRIPKO (Belarus) (Original language Russian)**

The Republic of Belarus is amongst those countries having a developed agro-industrial sector alongside a very high industrialized and intensive agricultural sector we also have a large production of agricultural machinery, we have specialised bank instructors, and we have a very modern agrarian body of scientific knowledge. At present, agriculture in the Republic of Belarus is undergoing far reaching reforms, and we are carrying out not only the technical modernization thereof and the transition of agricultural production to new technologies, but we are also thoroughly renovating the infrastructure of the countryside and the Government is seeing to it that there is a progressive income increase for the rural population. Now this is in a very important stage for us and this is why at this juncture the advice and support of the UN Organizations, in particular FAO, is of the essence because only FAO has the necessary expertise to support transition countries in their efforts, Belarus is one of those transition countries, and it is precisely FAO that has the expertise and is capable of seeing to it that we avoid mistakes in undertaking agrarian reform.

This agrarian reform is being carried out under difficult circumstances because we have three global crises that are influencing each other - financial, food and climatic crisis. Not only do they coincide but they could also compound the issue and they could create a vicious circle out of which it would be very difficult to extricate ourselves. This is why we take very seriously the whole Reform process of the FAO.

By and large, Belarus shares the conclusions and supports the recommendations made by the Committee of the Conference regarding the implementation of the IEE. We believe that the Immediate Plan of Action, once it is implemented, will lead to a situation where our Organization, which was created after all in the middle of the past Century, will be renewed and will be in a position to confront the tasks of the coming century. In this connection, it is essential for us that in the course of the Reform, FAO be much closer than in the past to Member Nations and consider that it is a priority issue. Here FAO should strengthen its potential in offering services to Member Nations in a number of years, regarding a sustainable increase of food production, and increasing food security in our Member Nations.

My country supports the Reform revamping of the work of FAO in such a way that it would be geared to achieving concrete results. This is why among the basic key functions that are being suggested for a renewed FAO, what is a priority issue for us is the technical and expert support by FAO to be given to Member Nations. This means the implementation of efficient country projects, of technical assistance transmitting vanguard technology and strengthening the potential of farm organizations in general.

To conclude this brief statement, I would like to say that Belarus supports the idea that it would be appropriate to have greater control over the activities of FAO including internal evaluation and audit, but it would not be appropriate to really curtail the activities and the independence of the Organization and the Secretariat in such a way that a control would supplant Management. We need a strong active and useful UN Organization for food and agriculture.

Belarus is quite prepared to take an active part in the efficient and results-based reform of FAO, and we highly value the innovative approaches of the Director General, Mr Diouf, and the Secretariat, and we believe that all of the transformations that have been identified should be implemented forthwith.

**Sra Geoconda M. GALÁN CASTELO (Ecuador)**

Buenas tardes a todos y a todas, Señor Director General de la FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, Señor Presidente, felicitamos por su elección, así como a los demás miembros de la Mesa, en nombre del Gobierno del Presidente Rafael Correa Delgado, reciban ustedes un cordial saludo. Puede



usted contar con mi Delegación a fin de asegurar el éxito de esta Conferencia en esta llamada a marcar un hito en la historia de la FAO.

Han pasado tres años desde que los Miembros de la FAO acordamos un marco de referencia para la realización de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, tres años de enormes cambios y de múltiples emergencias, que han convulsionado nuestra manera de pensar, cuestionándonos sobre las políticas y prácticas adoptadas en los últimos decenios. Como ya lo han señalado los oradores que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, hoy estamos pagando las consecuencias de haber relegado a un segundo plano en la agenda internacional el tema de la producción agrícola en toda su dimensión e implicaciones.

Hace casi más de un año que aceptamos el reto de participar en las negociaciones de la Reforma de la FAO, dijimos que lo hacíamos conscientes de que el mandato fundamental de la Organización seguía vigente. Lo que se requiere es la plena participación de los 192 Estados Miembros, para ello es necesario recordar, en primer lugar, que la FAO debe volver a ser una Organización de conocimientos puestos al servicio de sus Miembros. Se habla mucho de la fuga de cerebros y es una verdad: la FAO ha perdido un tercio de sus expertos.

Ecuador ofrece aportar en este sentido ya que, en las últimas décadas, muchos y muy buenos técnicos se han preparado y están listos para aportar con sus conocimientos en el terreno. El pertenecer a un país de múltiple diversidad nos da una ventaja que debiera ser aprovechada en el desarrollo de soluciones creativas en la adaptación a las nuevas realidades que impone el cambio climático.

En segundo lugar, al ser un foro neutral de discusión de temas que no son tratados en otros foros, tiene la enorme responsabilidad de cumplir con la necesidad de que las reuniones de expertos que convoca sean verdaderos foros democráticos donde la participación de los países en desarrollo esté garantizada.

En tercer lugar, la FAO debe mantener su esencia de Organización de carácter intergubernamental. La mayor participación de los Estados Miembros garantiza la adecuada propagación de políticas, normativas o directrices internacionales adoptadas por consenso.

Señor Presidente, podemos sentirnos satisfechos por el trabajo realizado. Hemos adoptado el Plan Inmediato de Acción para la renovación de la FAO (2009-2011) y su Anexo, que sin duda se trata de una primera piedra que esperamos reciba todos los recursos humanos y financieros necesarios para convertirse en la base sólida de una nueva FAO, que hace honor al compromiso de Reforma con Crecimiento. Por lo tanto, apoyamos la creación del Fondo Fiduciario Especial previsto en el proyecto de resolución.

En cuanto al trabajo pendiente, ofrecemos nuestra contribución para la elaboración de enmiendas de los Textos Fundamentales a fin de adaptar la estructura gubernativa de la FAO a las necesidades actuales de flexibilidad en el tratamiento de los temas y la mayor participación democrática.

Por último, el Gobierno del Presidente Rafael Correa, Presidente de la Revolución Ciudadana, confía en una reflexión en esta conferencia para que las políticas aplicadas en la implementación de una verdadera reforma constituyan la implementación de políticas adecuadas para combatir el hambre y la pobreza, y que sea un verdadero impacto social para nuestros pueblos. Muchas gracias.

**Razvan Victor RUSU (Romania)**

I would like to extend our sincere congratulations for your election in this position at the Thirty-fifth Special Session of FAO Conference.

I am confident that under your wise leadership, the Special Session of the Conference will have positive results, at the same time I assure you that the Romanian delegation's interest towards the topic of the Conference is called to decide upon and I express our will to contribute to the success of the work.

The Independent External Evaluation concluded that the world needs FAO, at the same time the Organization will only deliver at its potential if a comprehensive programme for institutional renewal with profound and sustainable reforms is successfully implemented.

Romania has strongly supported this conclusion and stresses the importance and necessity for FAO's renewal which is timely, especially given the present context of world food security. In order to fulfill the expectations of its constituency, it is crucial for FAO to become fit for the Twenty-first Century and to properly respond to the challenges lying ahead in the key areas of its mandate.

Furthermore, in Romania's view, FAO should act through partnerships within a coherent UN System and should strengthen the cooperation with the other Agencies based in Rome.

The ongoing wider UN reforms offer the opportunity, the incentive as well as the momentum that FAO needs to seize as it embarks on an institutional renewal process that builds on its strength and comparative advantages.

During this year, Member Nations have worked in a spirit of cooperation in order to fulfill the tasks drawn by the previous session of the Conference in November 2007.

We appreciate that this work generated the renewed trust and mutual respect among the Member Nations, in addition to the Immediate Plan of Action, which is enclosed in the Report of the Conference Committee.

We appreciate the active support of FAO's Management and of the President's Conference Committee for the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action.

Romania welcomes this progress and congratulates all those involved in this process. However, in my delegation's view, this result does not represent the end of the road as it is only the beginning of the Reform process. Therefore, we believe that 2009 is a decisive period, during which the Member Nations and the Management will need to revise their efforts and to contribute to the successful implementation of the reform process. We expect that the Management starts without delay the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action.

The Member Nations will need to continue to work in order to present recommendation to the next Session of the Conference, next year, in particular with regard to the new Strategic Framework with the Medium Term Plan for the period 2010-2013, and the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 2010-2011.

We hope that during the next year the Member States will continue to work in the same constructive spirit.

By concluding, I would like to stress that my country supports the endorsement of the Draft Resolution which is submitted for adoption of the Immediate Action Plan for FAO's renewal 2009-2011 as contained in the document C 2008/4.

Last but not least, we reaffirm Romania's commitment and support for the Organization, especially for its reform process.

**Denis CANGY (Mauritius)**

On behalf of the Honourable Satya Veyash FANGOO, Minister for Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security of Mauritius, who had to cancel his participation due to unforeseen commitments.

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to express our heartfelt thanks to the Director-General for the organization of the Thirty-fifth Special Session of the FAO Conference with focus on the follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO including the Immediate Plan of Action.

FAO has a unique global mandate for food and agriculture along with all Members, has a continued commitment to achieving the World Food Summit objectives and the Millennium Development Goals. In the wake of various challenges namely of addressing hunger and poverty,

expansion of agriculture and food production, high food prices, climate change, expected impact of recent financial crisis on investment in agriculture as well as the challenges and opportunities of bio-energy, FAO must be fit to address these issues and become a better and stronger Organization.

We welcome the report of the follow up to the Independent External Evaluation and the Immediate Plan of Action. We congratulate the Chairperson of the Committee of the Conference the active participation of all Members in the working out of this huge exercise and particularly the important role played by the Director-General and Management in the process. The Report stressed on the importance of shared vision of FAO's future work and serve as affirm and realistic basis to significantly enhance FAO's global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in the service of all its Members. The Reform emphasises on growth which includes reforms to priorities and programmes, governance and organizations structure is expected to better serve the needs of all Members. We sincerely hope that a strong spirit of partnership will prevail in the implementation and completion of the Reform while contributing towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

The Technical Cooperation Programme which is a central programme of FAO, will be restructured for more flexibility of actions at the regional and country levels. Mauritius, has, under this programme, benefited from catalytic technical inputs and allow me to place on record the valuable support provided by FAO under most of that programme in addressing the priorities in the food and agricultural sector.

It is subsequently important that Members reaffirm the commitment to increase both the amount and the proportion of total resources of the Organization from Assessed Contributions dedicated to TCP.

This Thirty-fifth Special Session will also follow-up on the High Level Conference on World Food Security and FAO contribution to the preparation and implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action. We understand that the CFA proposed to address the threats and opportunities resulting from food price rises. It will also encourage policy changes to avoid future crisis and contribute to country, regional and global food and nutritional security.

Mauritius appreciates FAO's initiative on soaring food prices, integrated into the CFA under the short-term objectives. We are very pleased that the project proposal for Mauritius has been approved. The project includes provision of raw materials such as fertilizers and planting materials to vulnerable farmers which no doubt will contribute to significantly improve our food security situation.

We also understand that FAO is working on the programming of the EU's proposal of one billion Euro for food security for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries. We sincerely hope that Mauritius will be included in the list of countries to benefit from this facility.

Mauritius, in spite of being a middle income country, remains vulnerable on account of its inherent weaknesses as a Small Island Developing State, and also a net importing developing country.

Allow me to avail of this opportunity to request that special consideration be given to the Small Island Developing States in the Immediate Plan of Action so that they may achieve the goals of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development in SIDS. This request was tabled by the Minister of Barbados yesterday.

In the wake of various threats, Mauritius is adopting a long-term strategy to food security in order to mitigate the impact of the food crisis and possible future crisis situations.

To give a concrete shape to a proper and effective regional food security initiative, Mauritius is already partnering with interested supply-side and demand-side countries in the Region. To drive the regional initiative forward, discussions are already underway with partners of the Regions,

namely Madagascar, Mozambique, France (Reunion Island) and development partners – namely, the EU Delegation in Mauritius, UNDP, SADC and COMESA.

COMESA has already submitted a proposal for a food security programme to be financed under the one billion Euro facility, and Mauritius looks forward that this proposal be positively considered by the EU and FAO whereby the Region can access these funds for implementation of this programme as soon as possible.

Finally it is noted, that the special trust fund has been established for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action and Mauritius will contribute its share.

**José Roberto ANDINO SALAZAR (El Salvador)**

Señores Presidente y Vicepresidente de la Conferencia, Señor Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO, distinguidos Ministros y delegados de los Países Miembros de la FAO, señoras y señores. Esta Conferencia Extraordinaria marca un hito muy importante en la vida de esta Organización.

Durante muchos meses los Países Miembros de la FAO han dedicado enormes esfuerzos en buscar la fórmula para que esta Organización esté al día con los tiempos y responda de manera eficiente y eficaz a los importantes retos a los cuales está llamada en la búsqueda de una vida mejor para las poblaciones más necesitadas del planeta. En esta labor, el Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO y su Secretaría, han puesto todo su empeño y dedicación, con los resultados que están a la vista de todos.

Deseamos hacer un especial reconocimiento al Presidente del Comité de la Conferencia por el seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, Profesor Mohammad Saeid Noori-Naeni, así como a los dos Vicepresidentes de este Comité, Sra. Agnes Van Ardenne-Van der Hoeven y al Sr. Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa. Su dedicación a este ejercicio ha sido total y encomiable.

Asimismo, destacado ha sido el empeño y dedicación de los miembros de los tres grupos de trabajo establecidos para afrontar esta tarea. Vaya nuestro reconocimiento y especial agradecimiento a ellos así como a sus Presidentes y Vice-presidentes. El Gobierno de El Salvador comparte plenamente la conclusión general de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, en el sentido de que el mundo hoy más que nunca necesita de una FAO reformada, de una FAO que cuente con los medios e instrumentos que le permitan afrontar los inmensos desafíos del mundo actual.

Compartimos y respaldamos la necesidad de una Reforma con Crecimiento. Este concepto debe ser la piedra angular para la construcción de la Organización que todos deseamos y queremos. El Salvador reitera su respaldo a la Resolución 1/2008 mediante la cual hemos aprobado el Plan Inmediato de Acción para la Renovación de la FAO en el período 2009-2011.

Hemos trabajado intensamente en la elaboración de este Plan Inmediato de Acción. Ahora es fundamental que este Plan se ponga rápidamente en ejecución. Por ello, unimos nuestra voz al llamado realizado para que se obtengan los recursos extra-presupuestarios necesarios que permitan su adecuado financiamiento y puesta en marcha. Respaldamos también la creación del Comité de la Conferencia para el año 2009. Este Comité deberá continuar con el seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, con la finalidad de que se concluyan los trabajos que quedan pendientes en el marco del Plan Inmediato de Acción.

Para la Delegación de El Salvador es fundamental que mantengamos un espíritu de total transparencia en nuestros trabajos. Por ello respaldamos que los grupos de trabajo que serán establecidos de acuerdo con la resolución aprobada, sean grupos de trabajo abiertos a la plena participación con derecho a voz de todos los Miembros. Confiamos en que el Comité de la Conferencia presentará adecuadas recomendaciones al 36º Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO a llevarse a cabo en 2009, particularmente con relación al nuevo Marco Estratégico, al Plan a Plazo Medio y al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el bienio 2010-2011.

El mundo esta viviendo uno de sus momentos mas difíciles, con una crisis alimentaria profundizada por el alza en los precios internacionales de los alimentos e insumos y una crisis financiera sin precedentes que indudablemente impacta fuertemente las economías de nuestros

países, sobre todo la de los países en desarrollo. Ante estas crisis nuestros Gobiernos se encuentran seriamente comprometidos en la búsqueda de alternativas que permitan atender las necesidades más urgentes de las poblaciones más vulnerables. En este sentido, El Salvador da la bienvenida a programas e iniciativas orientados al mejoramiento de la situación alimentaria mundial, como las indicadas por el director general en su discurso de inauguración de esta Conferencia.

El Gobierno de El Salvador considera que una FAO fuerte, una FAO renovada, una nueva FAO que funcione con eficacia y eficiencia, estará en grado de proporcionar a los Estados Miembros una válida contribución para hacer frente a esta crisis y coadyuvar los esfuerzos que realizan los Gobiernos en la búsqueda de una vida mejor para sus pueblos. Asimismo la nueva FAO estará en grado de contribuir con el logro del cumplimiento de los compromisos, adquiridos por los países para el logro de las metas de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

El tema de la seguridad alimentaria está intrínsecamente vinculado al cumplimiento, por parte de nuestros países, de cuatro de los ocho Objetivos del Milenio: erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre, reducir la mortalidad infantil, mejorar la salud materna y garantizar la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente. Para el Gobierno de El Salvador el cumplimiento de estos objetivos representa un compromiso ineludible. Por ello, en El Salvador, estamos haciendo ingentes esfuerzos para proteger a los grupos vulnerables, especialmente a los niños y familias más pobres de las áreas rurales, a través de programas sociales orientados a reducir la pobreza extrema, el hambre y la desnutrición infantil.

Estamos conscientes, sin embargo, que los esfuerzos nacionales son insuficientes, por lo que la cooperación internacional y multilateral juega un papel determinante para complementar los esfuerzos nacionales que conlleven al logro de un desarrollo sostenible y sustentable. La nueva FAO que estamos construyendo será indudablemente un valioso aliado en nuestros esfuerzos.

Señor Presidente, permítame reiterarle una vez más el total apoyo del Gobierno de El Salvador en los trabajos futuros de esta Organización, orientados a complementar el ejercicio iniciado con la Evaluación Externa Independiente y a hacer de la nueva FAO la Organización que todos deseamos. Muchas gracias.

**Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)**

Señor Presidente, señoras y señores. La inseguridad alimentaria es un problema que el mundo viene tratando de solucionar desde la fundación misma de la FAO y, al parecer, seguirá siendo un problema grave en las próximas décadas.

A pesar de la importante reducción del hambre que se proyecta para el final del siglo, muchos países en desarrollo seguirán padeciendo la pobreza y la inseguridad alimentaria, debido a las altas tasas de crecimiento de su población, su débil estructura socioeconómica, la degradación de sus recursos naturales y los perjuicios causados por el cambio climático.

La seguridad alimentaria se encuentra estrechamente ligada a la producción agrícola-ganadera, la que tiene por delante el desafío de proporcionar alimentos a una población mundial que crece en forma exponencial, mayormente en los países en desarrollo. El desafío que enfrentamos es asegurar que los riesgos asociados a la producción y a la vulnerabilidad de la población rural, no afecten significativamente a aquellas regiones que tienen escasez de recursos hídricos y de tierras productivas.

Creemos que es oportuno recordar que uno de los mandatos de la FAO es, y cito, “Alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria para todos, y asegurar que las personas tengan acceso regular a alimentos de buena calidad”. El Comité de Seguridad Mundial es uno de los ejecutores principales del mandato citado y su trabajo debe privilegiarse. Es por ello que mi país se asocia plenamente a lo manifestado por el distinguido Representante Permanente de El Salvador en representación del GRULAC en ocasión de la 2da Sesión Plenaria del Consejo, en el sentido que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial debe reunirse anualmente.

Creemos que la Evaluación Externa Independiente ha resultado un ejercicio útil y sus conclusiones ayudaron a la FAO como un todo, y esto quiere decir Membresía y Administración, a proceder a una autocrítica necesaria, a los fines de contar con una Organización a la que siempre respaldamos pero que necesitaba del diagnóstico de sus problemas para entregar más y mejor FAO. Encomiamos la respuesta de la Administración al informe de la primera fase del examen exhaustivo y reconocemos los ingentes esfuerzos hechos por el Sr. Director General, el Sr. Director General Adjunto y la excelente dedicación y entrega de todo el funcionariado de la FAO, que ha visto en ésta una oportunidad inmejorable para demostrar a la comunidad internacional que la Organización tiene un importante papel que desarrollar en el cumplimiento de su mandato.

Con el mismo enfoque integral que apuntábamos anteriormente, los Países Miembros hemos hecho un gran esfuerzo en pos del mismo objetivo, a lo largo de prolongadas pero fructíferas negociaciones. Éstas pudieron llevarse a buen término gracias al excelente trabajo cumplido a nivel de los Grupos de Trabajo, con el apoyo de la Mesa del Comité de la Conferencia, instancias en las que el G-77, todos los grupos regionales y el GRULAC en particular, realizaron un importante aporte.

Nos queda por emprender el necesario seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente y el estudio por el Comité de Finanzas de la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción, en particular de los costos y las modalidades de la financiación del mismo. En este sentido, nos reconforta la confirmación de que la Administración elaboraría a principios de 2009 un plan de ejecución integrado para el Plan Inmediato de Acción y el seguimiento del examen exhaustivo.

Mi país cree firmemente que se debe reforzar el concepto de Reforma con Crecimiento como objetivo fundamental del proceso, por la vía de un análisis de las metas específicas de Reforma y de Crecimiento, recogiendo la esencia del mandato de la FAO en cuanto a la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza. Es por ello que creemos firmemente que el Plan Inmediato de Acción contiene elementos aún por definir en el año 2009, por lo que lo consideramos un trabajo en marcha.

Consideramos que la implementación de políticas adecuadas por parte de cada país, teniendo en cuenta sus características geográficas, ecológicas y sociales, puede reducir los riesgos de la adopción de cultivos bio-energéticos para la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente. Pero es una realidad que reclama aún más investigación y asistencia técnica para aprovechar las oportunidades derivadas de la producción de bio-energía sin afectar la seguridad alimentaria.

Por ello, apoyamos la labor de la FAO en el estudio e investigación sobre este tema, tendientes a la provisión de asistencia para elaborar políticas nacionales sobre bio-combustibles, así como una lista de buenas prácticas voluntarias que permitan acotar los riesgos que estos cultivos conllevan para la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente.

El comercio internacional de los alimentos nos ha mostrado, en los últimos años, una fuerte alza de los precios relativos, habiendo alcanzado los guarismos más altos de los últimos 30 años en términos reales. Hoy, las cosas son distintas como consecuencia de la inestabilidad de los mercados financieros y otros factores que han afectado a la economía real, notándose un leve proceso de descenso del precio de los alimentos, pero estos aún mantienen un nivel cuyo impacto se ha traducido, lamentablemente, en hambrunas, miseria, desnutrición e inestabilidad.

Si bien mi país es un exportador neto de alimentos, por lo cual la coyuntura le ha sido favorable, no dejamos de apreciar la magnitud del impacto sobre la seguridad alimentaria en muchos países. Es por ello que creemos, como se ha expresado en foros regionales latinoamericanos y del Caribe, que resulta fundamental garantizar la transferencia de tecnologías agrícolas apropiadas desde los países desarrollados hacia los países en desarrollo, a fin de que puedan aumentar su producción de alimentos y el fortalecimiento de la cooperación Sur-Sur en esta materia.

**Ms Gila Livnat ROSINER (Israel)**

Firstly I would like to congratulate you on the excellent work you have done throughout the year and therefore the success of this Conference.

It is an honour to be here today as a Representative of the State of Israel.

I am pleased to announce that an agreement was signed on 14 November 2008 between the State of Israel and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to strengthen the agricultural capacity of the developing world. The agreement assists developing countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals through a joint programme focused on capacity-building. The Centre for International Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs will work with FAO to design, implement and monitor professional Training Projects, Seminars and Workshops to be held both in Israel and developing countries.

Just over eight years ago, the United Nations embarked on an enormous challenge, to tackle some of the world's most significant problems related to hunger, poverty, education, equality and others. The Millennium Development Goals were not a mere declaration they are expressions of our common humanity, our common vision of a better world. They provide a clear roadmap to help those most in need.

While the challenges may seem daunting, I am reminded by a statement by Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, in order to be a realist he said, you must believe in miracles. In Israel, we are very familiar with the challenges of development as we ourselves, transformed Israeli society from a developing country into a modern success story.

Today we feel privileged that Israel offers its expertise to help others on the path of development working together with FAO.

Israel International Cooperation Programme, Mashav, offers Israeli know how in order to make a difference. Founded in 1958 Mashav began as a modest programme focused on "grassroots-level human capacity-building in Africa" and blossomed into an extensive programme that promotes sustainable development, food production, public health programmes and equality throughout the developing world and, in particular, in the African continent.

In the area of food security the State of Israel, through Mashav, has initiated several programmes. Among them, a small-scale drip irrigation system that extends the advantages of sophisticated water-saving technologies to traditional farmers. The venture called TIPA, the Technological Innovation for Poverty Alleviation offers the potential of self-sufficiency to those who normally struggle to survive.

Another simple, yet powerful programme is titled "farmers for the future". The programme exposes school age children to modern agricultural techniques and helps to educate and create a new generation of young farmers with the skill to develop sustainable market-oriented farming techniques.

There is no single approach to overcoming the immense challenges before us, but we are proud that our small nation can offer so much to those in need. We remind ourselves that emerging from the past is a journey and not a destination. An achievement along this journey, be they small or large, help us touch the lives of millions of people around the globe.

Development is a partnership that requires the commitment of all. We strengthen the hands of FAO in implementing its vision for striving for a better world.

#### **Amparo RAMBLA GIL (España)**

En primer lugar, España respalda la Declaración de Francia como Presidencia de la Unión Europea y se suma a las felicitaciones por el excelente trabajo colectivo que nos ha llevado hasta esta Conferencia. La búsqueda del consenso, la aportación de propuestas y el espíritu constructivo nos indican que nos encontramos ante un momento histórico en la vida de la FAO.

Especialmente, deseamos felicitar a todos los Estados Miembros, así como al Comité de la Conferencia y a la propia Administración de la FAO, por haber sido capaces de llegar a un acuerdo unánime en la elaboración del Plan Inmediato de Acción, para lograr una FAO más eficaz y eficiente para contribuir a la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo", y a la ordenación y utilización sostenible de los recursos naturales.

España comparte las preocupaciones que se están expresando en esta Conferencia en relación a la situación internacional: la crisis financiera, ambiental y alimentaria amenaza especialmente a aquellos más desprotegidos. Es un deber político y ético dar una respuesta colectiva para el logro de los Objetivos del Milenio. Así lo hemos defendido en cuantos foros internacionales hemos participado, y fruto de este compromiso, que hoy queremos reafirmar, España reitera su compromiso de alcanzar el 0,7 por ciento de su Renta Nacional Bruta para la Ayuda al Desarrollo en el 2012.

Nos congratulamos, con todos ustedes, porque hoy la agricultura vuelve a ocupar un lugar preeminente en la agenda internacional del desarrollo: difícilmente podrá nuestra sociedad progresar si se encuentra sumida en el temor del hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Hoy más que nunca, hablar de desarrollo y lucha contra la pobreza es enfrentarse a uno de los principales enemigos de la humanidad, que es sin duda el hambre que padecen millones de personas en el planeta. Sólo desde el reforzamiento de la producción agrícola local, en un marco democrático y participativo, podremos hacer frente a este desafío histórico.

España identifica a la FAO como la Organización clave para liderar la erradicación del hambre en el mundo, en colaboración con otras Agencias Especializadas del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. En los últimos años, España ha incrementado sus niveles de apoyo financiero a la Organización, al tiempo que la sociedad española se siente fuertemente vinculada con sus objetivos, como demuestra el éxito de la Gala FAO realizada recientemente en la Televisión Española.

El proceso de "Reforma con Crecimiento" que, estos días examinamos, es fruto de un trabajo serio y riguroso que España apoya desde la exigencia, pero también desde la lealtad. Partiendo de la valoración positiva que, compartimos con el conjunto de la Unión Europea, España quiere mantener su apoyo en el corto, medio y largo-plazo. Queremos que la FAO renovada juegue el papel que le corresponde. Las mejoras propuestas sin duda nos permitirán avanzar en esa dirección, siempre que se lleven a cabo adecuadamente.

Por ello, estamos contribuyendo con 2,5 millones de dólares a la realización del Examen Exhaustivo y haciéndonos eco del llamamiento para la puesta en marcha del Plan Inmediato de Acción, España se compromete a realizar una aportación adicional de 600 mil dólares al Fondo Fiduciario para la Reforma en el año 2009.

De esta manera, España quiere seguir apostando de una manera activa y atenta al desarrollo de la Reforma de la FAO, con la voluntad de seguir fortaleciendo sus estructuras y su papel en los decisivos años que tenemos por delante.

**Ibrahim COULIBALY (Comité international de planification des ONG/OSC pour la souveraineté (CIP))**

Mon nom est Ibrahim Coulibaly. Je suis paysan au Mali et Président de la coordination nationale des organisations paysannes du Mali, qui est membre du mouvement international des petits paysans et des paysans sans terre de *La Via Campesina*. En Afrique de l'ouest, nous sommes aussi Membres du réseau des organisations paysannes de l'Afrique de l'ouest. Ici, je prends la parole au nom d'un groupe composé d'organisations de petits paysans producteurs d'aliments, d'ONG internationales ainsi que du Comité international de planification pour la souveraineté alimentaire qui se sont concertés et ont préparé cette Conférence afin de porter une vision consensuelle à propos de la réforme de la FAO.

Nous vous remercions d'avoir accepté de nous accorder un temps de parole devant cette assemblée. Cela fait plusieurs années déjà que la FAO a été une des premières institutions du système des Nations Unies à ouvrir un partenariat direct avec le mouvement de la société civile, à travers des consultations régulières. Nous saluons le processus d'Évaluation externe indépendante qui a conduit à l'initiative de la Réforme de la FAO. Cependant, depuis le début de ce processus il y a un an, nous, représentants de la société civile partenaire de la FAO depuis plusieurs années, avons été exclus de toute consultation. Pourtant le résultat de l'Évaluation externe indépendante souligne justement l'importance du renforcement du partenariat avec la société civile.



Aussi, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale vient d'adopter lors de sa dernière session en octobre 2008 des mesures pour renforcer la participation de la société civile. Toutes les réflexions en cours pour juguler la crise alimentaire mondiale soulignent la nécessité d'augmenter la production alimentaire. Il est clair que le marché libre et les multinationales de l'alimentation ont totalement échoué en ce qui concerne l'accès à l'alimentation pour tous. Aujourd'hui, il est capital pour la stabilité même du monde de changer de direction et les petits producteurs d'aliments sont au cœur des solutions qui ont une chance d'aboutir. Tout le monde reconnaît ceci. Mais qu'est-ce que cela implique dans la réalité ? C'est seulement quand les petits producteurs accèderont à des moyens pour produire, c'est-à-dire la terre, l'irrigation, les crédits adaptés mais aussi et surtout, à des marchés locaux protégés du *dumping* et de l'effet pervers de l'aide alimentaire, à des prix rémunérateurs et à des revenus conséquents pouvant leur permettre de mener une existence digne, que nous verrons l'accès de tous à l'alimentation.

Il est temps d'élaborer et de mettre en pratique des politiques agricoles responsables et cohérentes, basées sur le droit humain universel à l'alimentation et le droit de chaque État à réaliser sa souveraineté alimentaire. Aucun État ne doit se donner la vocation de nourrir d'autres États. La souveraineté alimentaire est un droit inaliénable des peuples et des nations. Les politiques brutales de libéralisation forcée des marchés agricoles imposées ces trente dernières années par les institutions de Bretton Woods et les accords bilatéraux de libre échange ont déjà fait assez de mal aux pays pauvres et ont détruit les moyens d'existence des couches les plus vulnérables: les paysans, les pêcheurs, les peuples autochtones.

Il est indispensable de s'éloigner des modèles productivistes et destructeurs et d'aller vers des modèles agro-écologiques qui ont le mérite de ne pas augmenter inutilement le coût de production des paysans, dans un contexte de flambée des prix des intrants agricoles. Les impacts négatifs de l'*agro-business* et de l'agriculture productiviste à outrance n'ont non seulement pas nourri le monde, mais ont contribué aux changements climatiques, tout en créant encore plus d'exclus. Il est souhaitable de renforcer la coordination entre les agences des Nations Unies, d'instaurer un système de gouvernance global équilibré et d'éviter la multiplication des espaces politiques des négociations autour de l'enjeu de la faim.

A cet effet, nous regardons avec inquiétude le processus de mise en place d'un partenariat global pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture qui ne met pas en avant le rôle des agences des Nations Unies basées à Rome. Les multinationales et les intérêts d'une minorité doivent sortir de l'Agenda de la gouvernance mondiale de l'agriculture car ceci met en danger l'équilibre du monde. Nous, Organisation de la société civile, demandons à cette Conférence de tout mettre en œuvre pour donner un espace d'écoute et un rôle clair aux acteurs que nous sommes, dans le cadre du processus des réformes de la FAO et du travail que le Comité de la Conférence aura accompli en 2009.

Nous souhaitons rappeler aux délégués de cette assemblée que cela fait cent ans déjà que leurs pays se sont réunis ici à Rome, en 1908 pour lutter contre le pouvoir des cartels agricoles en créant l'Institut international de l'agriculture, précurseur de la FAO, à l'initiative de M. David Lubin, agriculteur qui a donné son nom à la Bibliothèque qui se trouve au rez-de-chaussée de ce bâtiment. Déjà alors, les paysans ont pris les devants pour trouver des solutions et nous le faisons aujourd'hui à nouveau. En mémoire de l'initiative de M. Lubin, nous invitons les représentants des Gouvernements ici présents à venir écouter les propositions des paysans et de la société civile à propos de ce sujet à l' "Espace Gabon", à la clôture de la séance de demain matin.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to inform you that the Delegation of Botswana has submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the Verbatim Record of this meeting.

**Micus Chiwasanee CHIMBOMBI (Republic of Botswana)<sup>4</sup>**

I wish to start by conveying apologies from the Minister of Agriculture, Botswana who because of other commitments could not attend this conference and whom I have the honour to represent.

Botswana congratulates the FAO on the Independent External Evaluation that has been undertaken and the resultant Immediate Plan of Action that was adopted by this conference. We concur with the findings of the Evaluation that the world needs a reformed FAO that is relevant to the needs of the farmers on the ground.

The fact that the hungry people continue to increase in the world and agricultural production continues to decline in many parts of the world leaving farm families exposed to hunger, poverty and starvation in the midst of support from institutions like the FAO leave us concerned and with questions of what is not being done right.

We are of the opinion that with the evaluation and the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action we should re-look at the way we have always done things. Many studies, assessments and analysis which the FAO does as a knowledge organization unfortunately remain in the files and do not have any fruits on the ground. Unless and until the results of the normative work undertaken by the FAO translate into tangible benefits, FAO will remain a remotely relevant organization, as was confirmed by the Independent External Evaluation.

We wish to challenge the FAO family which we are proud to be part of to ensure that we follow through our work to ensure it benefits those who need it most. The result of the FAO's good work should be evident and speak for itself in our villages, farms and countries.

Botswana remains committed to work with FAO and to play its role as it has always done in meeting our obligations and participating in FAO work. We, however, cannot overemphasize our conviction that as stated in the Immediate Plan of Action we should assess our work by the results and results at the farm level. Thank you Mr Chairperson

**Ms Agnes VAN ARDENNE (Vice-Chairperson, Conference Committee)**

You are all invited by the Vice-Chair, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tanzania, Ngirwa, to join us in celebrating the approval of the IAP and the election of Professor Noori-Naeni.

Thank you very much Ladies and Gentlemen, Conference will resume its work tomorrow morning at 9.30 sharp.

***The meeting rose at 18:21 hours***

***La séance est levée à 18 h 21***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 18:21 horas***

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<sup>4</sup> *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire) 35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008 Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008 Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SESTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>21 November 2008</b>

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:40 hours

Mr Mauri Pekkarinen

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40

sous la présidence de M. Mauri Pekkarinen

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mauri Pekkarinen

Presidente de la Conferencia

## **II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO**

(continued)

### **II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO (suite)**

### **II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO (continuación)**

#### **6. Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO – Immediate Plan of Action (C 2008/4)**

(continued)

#### **6. Examen du rapport du Comité de la Conférence chargé du suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO – Plan d'action immédiate (C 2008/4) (suite)**

#### **6. Consideración del informe del Comité de la Conferencia para el seguimiento de la Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO: Plan inmediato de acción (C 2008/4)**

(continuación)

### **CHAIRPERSON**

When the Conference adopted the First Report of the General Committee on Tuesday morning, we agreed to permit a representative of the FAO Staff Bodies to make a statement under Agenda Item 6, Consideration of the Report of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO Immediate Plan of Action.

I would, therefore, now like to invite Ms Margaret Eldon to make this statement on behalf of the Union of General Service Staff, the Association of Professional Staff and the Field Staff Associations. Ms Eldon you have the floor.

#### **Ms Margaret ELDON (Staff Representative Bodies)**

It is a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the staff of FAO and we would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General and the Chairperson for permitting us to address this Conference.

This has been a year of intense activity that has generated high expectations of change within FAO. The establishment of the Culture Change Team and the initiation of their activities provide new avenues for communication for everyone in the FAO community, and it is envisaged that the staff aspirations and concerns will form an integral part of the Reform Process.

Within the Joint Advisory Committee on FAO Reform, the staff representatives have received an increase in information and we have had the opportunity to observe some of the discussions in Working Group III of the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the IEE. This has helped us to gain a broader perspective of the nature of the challenges at all levels of the Organization. Today, we have been accorded the opportunity to speak before the Conference under the actual agenda item on FAO Reform. We are very appreciative of these new approaches.

In 2009, the challenge before us all will be to find the specific ways to implement the necessary changes so that a renewed and reinvigorated FAO becomes a reality. Development of a shared vision for FAO, demonstration that ethics and fairness are important to the Organization, the creation of a management cadre that models good management practices and improvements in flexible working conditions will be signs that FAO is renewing itself.

The role and participation of the staff representatives will be essential to this process, particularly in the area of improved human resources policies and procedures. For many years, staff have called for a fair and transparent system of performance appraisal that would recognize the contribution of all staff and hold everyone accountable for their actions, and failures to act, including senior officials. While the new system that is being piloted holds promise, most staff are reserving judgement until they see the full evaluation of the pilot exercise and there is greater clarity on how the system will be used.

The new human resource management strategy aims to give high importance to career development. We believe that the career aspirations of staff who have been serving in the Organization for many years warrant serious attention. Many staff would welcome opportunities for new experiences, training to enhance their competencies and recognition for their acquired knowledge and dedication to the Organization. We are, therefore, eager to contribute constructively and substantively to discussions on the new policies, on mobility and rotation, as well as review procedures for staff development, upgrading and promotion.

The Immediate Plan of Action calls for a rationalization in the use of FAO retirees and recommends that consultants and retirees not be used for longer-term gap filling in vacant posts as a cost-saving measure. We agree, we agree that there should be proper succession planning so that there is recruitment of new talent into the Organization and career development opportunities for serving staff both of which are also avenues to address gender balance. Non-staff member contractual mechanisms should not lead to the creation of a lower-paid category of employees with inferior conditions of employment carrying out core functions. Long-term temporary staff is a contradiction in terms. We shall strive, therefore, for concrete improvements that will signal real change in this area.

Individual grievances often indicate weaknesses in the way the Organization is working. The build up of untreated grievances can create unnecessary tension in the workplace and a sense of injustice can become a catalyst for conflict. We advocate greater emphasis on mediation rather than entering immediately into the adversarial time and energy-consuming process of legal appeal. In 2009 we would also like to see a position of ombudsperson in FAO to identify trends and provide advice to address those trends, as exists in many UN Organizations today.

An area of key concern is the perceived divide between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. Addressing this division must be a priority in the proposed deliberations on the increased effectiveness of the Decentralized Offices. The representation of locally-recruited staff in the non-headquarters locations should be part of this process. We are one Organization needing to act in unison and the apparent lack of integration of the Decentralized Offices should be of concern to Members as it is to staff.

As we look towards the future, we are aware that the promise of the change process can only be achieved if sufficient time is allowed for proper and sequenced implementation. If the sense of urgency and enthusiasm for real change result in a plethora of uncoordinated actions, it may jeopardize the success of the Reform.

The Organization has embarked on a serious effort to reform. We have the will. We need the time and the resources to succeed.

On behalf of the FAO staff who serve you worldwide, we thank you for listening.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Margaret, for those very constructive and thoughtful remarks. It is very heartening to see the enthusiasm of the FAO staff behind the Reform momentum that we have now created.

At this point, do any of the delegates wish to take the floor to make any comments or responses?

I see no requests for the floor, so we will move on to the next item. Before I move on, however, I do want to inform everyone that the Final Report of the Credentials Committee, that is C2008 LIM 4, is available at the Documents Desk and can now also be downloaded from the Conference webpage. I would like to thank the Chairperson and the Credentials Committee for their hard work before and during the Session.

### **III. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS**

### **III. AUTRES QUESTIONS DE FOND**

### **III. OTROS ASUNTOS SUSTANTIVOS**

**7. Follow-up to the High Level Conference on World Food Security: FAO Contribution to the Preparation and Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action (C 2008/5)**

**7. Suivi de la Conférence de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale contribution de la FAO à la préparation et à la mise en œuvre du Cadre global d'action (C 2008/5)**

**7. Seguimiento de la Conferencia de Alto Nivel sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial: Contribución de la FAO a la preparación y aplicación del Marco Integral de Acción (C 2008/5)**

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We will now consider Item 7, the Follow-up to the High Level Conference on Food Security We will now consider Item 7 Follow-up to the High Level Conference on World Food Security: FAO Contribution to the Preparation and Implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action. Background to this item is given in document C 2008/5.

As many of you will recall, in the preparation for this Conference, Members expressed a strong preference to focus squarely on FAO Reform and the adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action. This has now been accomplished, and we have heard an enthusiastic round of speeches praising the work of the Organization and, especially, the cooperative work of Members and management in developing this remarkable reform blueprint. We have also received a clear indication from Members that reform will attract resources and strategic partners.

Having received initial pledges to the IPA Trust Fund the focus may now shift from talk to action, from aspiration to implementation of reform.

We have heard from many Members the desire to stay focused on reform and to use the Reform process to ensure that FAO will enjoy a strong leadership and technical role in the High-Level Task Force of which Director-General, Jacques Diouf, is the Vice-Chair.

Indeed, since our June High-Level Conference, FAO has worked very hard to support the comprehensive Plan of Action as facilitator and knowledge partner.

In recognition of this contribution, we have asked FAO today to present an update of progress. Today we will hear a report of these contributions by Assistant Director-General, José Maria Sumpsi Viñas. This also provides us the opportunity to look forward in determining how FAO can best contribute to an emerging global partnership for agriculture and food.

Clearly, FAO, as one of the largest repositories of technical expertise and knowledge in this area must play a facilitative and a strong role. There was the mention by the Director-General and several Members, of a Summit in coming months to move this process forward. At the same time, we have expressed a strong desire to see FAO dedicate maximum staff and financial resources towards IPA implementation as a matter of the utmost urgency while looking to our political leaders to provide the backing needed for a global partnership.

Once Mr Sumpsi presents his Report, there will be time for short comments and questions. I would be particularly interested in hearing suggestions, looking how best to balance reform, technical support and protocol advocacy as we move forward.

I would now like turn to ADG, Mr Sumpsi, to present his Report and I request that after the Report that any comments be restricted to a maximum of three minutes.

**José María SUMPSI VINAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)**

I believe really that this is an interesting point that complements the main goal of this Conference; that is the process of reform of FAO and IPA.

The acceleration of the chronic food insecurity in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries by soaring food prices and other elements in 2007 and early 2008, called for urgent comprehensive and coordinated action by the international community.

FAO was alerting, in July 2007, of the crisis on food security and in December 2007 launched an Initiative on Soaring Food Prices to try to deal with this crisis that was really very explosive and rapidly developed. In fact, all these elements conditioned all the first semester in 2008 and even the High-Level Conference in Rome, as you know very well.

On 29 April 2008, the United Nations Chief Executive Board decided to establish a High-Level Task Force on the global food security crisis under the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General which brought together the heads of the United Nations Specialized Agencies, funds and programmes, and Bretton Woods Institutions and relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat.

The Director-General of FAO was asked by the Secretary-General to serve as Vice-Chair of the High-Level Task Force. The mandate of the Task Force was to promote a unified response to the global food security crisis including by facilitating the development of a Priority Action Plan and coordinating the implementation of this plan.

The High-Level Task Force agreed on a Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) which was presented for the first time by the Secretary-General in the High-Level Conference in Rome and in a more developed way in the Summit of G8 leaders in July 2008 in Hokkaido, and at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2008. The CFA sets out the joint position of the High-Level Task Force members on proposed actions to: first address the threats and the opportunities resulting from food prices crisis, second, encourage policy changes to avoid future crises; and third, contribute to country, regional and global food and nutritional security. FAO contributed significantly to the work of the High-Level Task Force and the preparation of the CFA.

The Organization seconded a senior staff member, Richard China, to New York to coordinate all the contributions of FAO of this High-Level Task Force and in the task to draft this Comprehensive Framework for Action.

FAO has contributed by providing data information, supporting all the discussions, proposing courses of action and reviewing all the drafts on the CFA. While the CFA has agreed to these elements, in support by other international experts and also consulted with NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders. In that sense, CFA represents not just the position of the United Nations system, but also the contributions of other partners outside of the United Nations Agencies.

The most important element was that the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, launched by FAO in December 2007 to address the crisis originated by the soaring food prices, was integrated in the CFA. Let's say, after April 2008 all the activities of FAO were integrated in this context of the High-Level Task Force and Comprehensive Framework for Action.

FAO plays a central role in facilitating the implementation of the actions of CFA to achieve its two main objectives; namely, first, it promotes improved access to food and nutrition support and takes immediate steps to increase food availability; and second, it strengthens food and nutrition security in the longer run by addressing the underlying factors driving the food crisis.

FAO has a leading role in both the short and longer-term CFA goals, that is related to increasing small farmers' food production in a sustainable way, and is contributing to deliberations to the food and nutrition security policy adjustments and the emerging issues of climate change and bio-fuels.

FAO also plays a key role in one of the CFA objectives that is critical for planning and measuring achievements of the short and long-term objectives, that is, the strengthening of global information and monitoring systems. FAO is really contributing a lot on this monitoring system in the context of the High-Level Task Force in New York. This applies, particularly, to food and agriculture market information and intelligent analysis at the global, regional and country levels.

By mid-October 2008, under SPFS initiative and in the context of CFA, FAO intervened in more than 80 countries through policy advice, provision of technical assistance and also with donors' programmes related to input distribution, based on donors' contributions and also based on TCPs of FAO. This process played a catalytic role, and now we are starting to see how this catalytic role is providing important fruits with some of the donors, with contributions expected in the coming months.

Input distribution took place in 79 countries, affected 300 000 smallholder farmers' holdings and 1.5 million people. Implementation of this input distribution has been progressing well, although there are some problems regarding procurement due to existing problems in the fertilizer sector and lack of availability in some countries.

FAO is working closely with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank, and other international organizations, and also with regional organizations and development banks and donors.

FAO has coordinated 30 inter-agency joint assessment missions aimed at identifying the priority needs of countries worse affected by the combination of chronic food insecurity and increased food and input prices, and has developed country action plans to address the priorities and mobilizing additional funds to implement these plans.

With funding from the European Commission, FAO is updating six country assessments and coordinating joint rapid assessments in another 32 countries. The purpose is to validate the programming of the European Commission proposal of the One Billion Food Facility for Rapid Response to Soaring Food Prices in Developing Countries, for which FAO, IFAD, WFP and World Bank have jointly developed, in cooperation with Governments, detailed and integrated proposals of intervention at country and regional levels.

In Africa, FAO has been working closely with the African Union and the NEPAD Secretariat, particularly within the framework of paragraph 3 of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) focused on food security. The CFA and, of course, all Agencies, are trying to integrate all these reactions in the context of existing bodies and existing programmes.

I would like to talk about resource mobilization as this is an important element because all these problems and plans need to be funded. FAO's contribution to the CFA objective of "strengthening food and nutrition security in the longer run by addressing the underlying factors driving the food crisis" is embedded in the mandate of the Organization. The focus of the CFA's joint work will be to make this a reality at country level, providing the international community comes forward with the additional support that it announced at recent international meetings.

To date, only 10 percent of the US\$22 billion announced at the High-Level Conference in June at FAO Headquarters has materialized. Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) are already stretched by measures they had to put in place to cope with the food crisis but – and this message is particularly important for all of the international community and this Conference – without coherent, coordinated, additional external assistance, as proposed by the CFA, these countries risk another food crisis as highlighted by the Director-General earlier this week. This financial crisis will be affecting also food security in the world.

Donor contributions to FAO and its own contributions amount to US\$103 million, with US\$35 million coming from FAO's core funds. We also have US\$80 million in the immediate pipeline and we also expect important contributions from the European Union, if this Fund will finally be



approved in the coming month. We also expect, in the future, important contributions that really will increase this spare patch of funding, which is US\$103 million. We expect to reach some US\$ 100 million to implement important programmes in some of the most affected countries in the world with food security problems.

In that sense, our catalytic role is now starting – as I said – to give important fruits. Our work is beginning to allow us to receive support from some important financial institutions and donors to implement and to support countries.

The last question – I think this is important – is some elements that the G8 highlighted in the July meeting in its statement on food security. Following the FAO High-level Conference, the G8 leaders, and at the Summit in July, issued a statement on global food security, renewing their commitment to address the multi-faceted food crisis. They proposed the forming of a Global Partnership and a network of High-Level Experts on Food and Agriculture in which the Rome-based food Agencies would stand ready to play their role. As requested by some of the Members, FAO is working actively on these elements – this High-Level Panel of Experts and also the Global Partnership.

Recently, in Tokyo two weeks ago, the G8 experts and United Nations experts met to discuss how to progress on these two elements – this High-Level Panel of Experts and Global Partnership. I think that was a very important step because G8 Members and United Nations Agencies built some kind of consensus about what could be the major actions leading to implementation of these two important ideas. Of course, FAO is available to work jointly with all other partners to contribute to the creation of this High-Level Panel of Experts, and also this Global Partnership.

FAO wishes to say that clearly we will contribute – as we contribute in CFA and the High-Level Task Force – and we could present some proposals that will be discussed in the future with the rest of the partners, such as what modalities would be put in place for the creation of this High-Level Panel of Experts and this Global Partnership.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Mr Sumpsi. That was a very illuminating and comprehensive Report. It was very helpful.

I would now like to open the floor to delegates who wish to speak on this item.

I would like to encourage speakers to keep their comments short – a maximum of three minutes, if possible. The floor is open for comments.

#### **Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)**

I listened very carefully to the presentation made by the ADG on Technical Cooperation in FAO. I have some specific question to raise here.

First, we have heard and Mr Sumpsi gave us a very clear picture on what FAO will be doing within the CFA activities, but we do not know about what the others will be doing, either in IFAD, WFP, the civil society and NGOs. If there is some information on this, I would be very grateful to him if he can provide it.

My second point is related to the new trend of the climbing prices of agricultural products now. The day before yesterday, the Director-General, mentioned the soaring prices and I have in front of us here, sitting at the podium, the ADG of Economic and Social Development Division in FAO. If there some study here in FAO to see the impact of the climbing prices on food security and fighting hunger all over the world and the relationship between the soaring prices, on one hand, and the increase of the prices of the inputs on the other hand? This was mentioned the day before yesterday by the Director-General himself.

My third point is related to this Summit which was announced by the Director-General. I quote what he said: "This Summit will be planned for the early part of the year 2009". I have the hunch here that it is an early statement to be made by the Director-General of FAO at this stage. Do we

have enough time from now until the early part of the year 2009? Are we well-prepared to have this Summit, because we just finished one Summit in June this year. Are we ready for another Summit for the early part of the year 2009?

**Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

The Afghan Delegation appreciates the brief Progress Report on the Follow-up of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security.

Indeed, FAO's contribution to the Comprehensive Framework for Action produced, under the guidance of the High-level Task Force, chaired by the UN Secretary-General, has been significant and praiseworthy.

The provision of food by WFP and FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, launched in December 2007, have been of great assistance to the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries affected by the high food prices.

Afghanistan has benefited from food aid by the WFP and other friendly countries. Afghanistan has also been the recipient of assistance from a number of FAO-assisted projects, funded both by TCP and other donors. These donor-funded projects are making available improved seeds and fertilizer for the autumn 2008 and spring 2009 seasons.

The Government of Afghanistan wishes to thank the European Commission and the friendly Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom for such assistance, which collectively amounts to US\$30 million.

We fully subscribe to the short, medium and long-term objectives of the Comprehensive Framework for Action, and we wish FAO will have a major role to play. In fact, the objectives of the Comprehensive Framework for Action match the twin-track approach for improved food security, jointly-advocated by the three Rome-based food agencies.

Food security and rural prosperity in developing countries depend on accelerating production and productivity of smallholders. This in turn requires substantial investment in support of smallholders, particularly in improved systems of irrigation, adaptation to climate change and the substantial use of natural resources. A big push in agricultural development in food-deficit countries is required and external assistance is crucial for its realization.

Soaring prices has been a wake-up call and has raised the prospects of opportunities which should not be missed.

In this connection, we support the scheduling of the Committee of Food Security Session in 2009 as was discussed on Monday in the Council, and where Dr Ghanem provided us with the justification for such a Session. We appreciate his explanation.

In the light of the High-Level Conference, some US\$11 billion were promised to meet the global food security crisis and further announcements, according to the ADG, have raised the sum to US\$22 billion. Paragraph 25 of the document states that only 10 percent of the promised resources has materialized, and that has been mostly for emergency food aid. Thus, there is a long way to go. We urge the donor community to pay more attention to the long-term solution of the food crisis in net-food-importing-developing countries, and not only restrict their assistance to emergency needs.

**Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)**

Gracias Presidente, gracias, también, al Doctor Sumpsi por la presentación en la que nos resaltó algunos elementos contenidos en el documento y nos ilustró sobre algunos nuevos progresos que habría que reportar, sobre la tarea que estamos haciendo en el marco del resultado de la Cumbre sobre la Seguridad alimentaria en el marco integral de acción.

Tengo una pregunta y un comentario un poco general sobre las nuevas iniciativas que hemos escuchado en esta Conferencia. La pregunta se refiere al párrafo 23 del documento, en lo referido a bio-combustibles, aquí, nos están hablando del papel de la FAO dentro de la asociación mundial

de energía y del grupo de acción sobre la sostenibilidad y sobre un proceso que se pondrá en marcha incluyendo partes interesadas dirigido a elaborar principios y normas de bio-energía. Desearíamos saber un poco más sobre esa Iniciativa y en qué momento se van a involucrar a los Países Miembros; si estamos hablando de principios y normas que posiblemente van a llegar a ser recomendaciones sobre las mejores prácticas e incluso las directrices voluntarias, en este caso sería muy importante involucrar a los Países Miembros en el proceso.

Sobra recordar que sobre el tema de la Bio-energía hemos hablado mucho en los últimos dos años, en esta Organización y este ha generado unas controversias bastante intensas, lo que significa que hay que escuchar a todas las partes interesadas, pero sobre todo a los Países Miembros.

Concurro con lo expresado por la Delegación del Líbano a cerca de la Cumbre que se está empezando a convocar en los primeros meses del año entrante, la preocupación es por ejemplo, los temas, cuáles serían los temas de referencia de esta Cumbre, sobre todo pensando que este será un año muy intenso, en el que tendremos que completar el proceso de Evaluación Externa, y será año de la Conferencia regular con todos los Comités. Cuándo se empezaría su preparación, y conceptualmente aún no entiendo cuál sería el alcance de esa Cumbre,

Esta Iniciativa, con la otra que se refiere a la de Red de Expertos que se ha mencionado, desearíamos saber cómo lo está viendo la Secretaría, es esto un desarrollo, ya sea de la Cumbre de Alto-Nivel del pasado mes de junio, o también, si esto se escribiría como desarrollo posterior del marco integrado de acción.

Se supone que este marco integrado de acción es además comprensivo, en el sentido de integrar todas las iniciativas que apuntan a disminuir el problema de la crisis, sobre todo el problema del hambre; Entonces de qué manera la Secretaría está viendo esas dos iniciativas nuevas que han circulado como parte de este proceso, que se supone es global, integrado y coherente para conseguir el objetivo de disminuir el número de personas que sufren hambre en el mundo?

**Mark E. KEENUM (United States of America)**

It is an honour to be here in Rome to join with you at the Twenty-fifth Special Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

I am proud to represent the United States of America and present the actions of the United States we have taken on world food security. The United States has continued fulfilling the commitments it made at the High-Level Conference in June to help poor and hungry people.

At that time, we committed immediate humanitarian assistance and intermediate development assistance to increase the capacity of food production and distribution and aggressive pursuit of free flow of food and technology. The US Government is on track to spend almost US\$ 5.5 billion in 2008-2009 to fight global hunger. This includes US\$ 1.8 billion to spend on agricultural infrastructure development targeted at those countries most vulnerable to hunger by rising food prices.

We urge other countries and donors to follow through on the additional commitments to global food security and agriculture that they too may.

The United States believes that calls for a Summit at this time are premature. Our focus must be on building capacities for local crop production, post harvest management and trading of food products. We must find ways to work with farmers around the world to boost productivity of their land. This requires investing in agriculture, particularly in research in order for worldwide agriculture production and yields to catch up to rapidly-growing demand. In July, G8 leaders acknowledged the important role that agricultural research and development play in stimulating world food production.

We need to increase investment in the development of new technologies through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, partnerships between advanced and developing country researchers and the private seed sector.

We know that new technologies and basic infrastructure improvements can make agriculture more resistant to climate variability and climate change in improved farm economies, so we must invest in scientists and research institutions and market information systems, distribution networks and storage facilities, we must improve water management and irrigation, we must provide access to rural credit and livelihood programmes for farm families. We must work together to widen the use of existing new technologies with potential, significantly to boost crop yields. In some countries, this may mean adopting the most recent Green Revolution technologies. In other countries faced with greater environmental and climate changes, new bio-technology base solutions should be considered.

In the United States, we have had positive experiences with using bio-tech tools but expanding that benefit, by giving more countries the opportunity to gain familiarity with the technology and address their own questions and concerns, will require investing in a greater range of crops needed by developing country farmers, training researchers and regulators to bring those benefits to their countries' farmers.

We need more public investment by more diverse donors, to provide more equitable access to this technology. The United Nations Agencies, the G8, the World Bank and other international partners are critical to moving these technologies to people in need. World leaders have a responsibility to allow markets to provide food efficiency without obstructing access or limiting the safe technologies that produce it. To achieve a more efficient global market, the United States continues to work toward the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda. We seek an agreement that will reduce and eliminate tariffs and other barriers, as well as market storing subsidies for agricultural good.

All countries must honour their World Trade Organization obligations to facilitate the free flow of trade and establish science-based regulations, and provide the private sector initiatives to develop new technologies.

We continue to strongly encourage countries to lift trade-restrictive policy measures, such as export restrictions and taxes. For example, African farmers have cut back on planting crops due to rapidly-rising fertilizer prices, resulting from some countries that have imposed high-export taxes to keep critical supplies from leaving their countries.

This comes at a time when the African food supplies are really tight, due to drought, political unrest and last year's high prices. These types of actions take food off the global market, drive prices high and discourage farmers from responding to market signals.

Since we last met in June, export prices for wheat, corn, rice and soy beans have fallen by 30 to 50 percent as energy and shipping costs have dropped. Meanwhile crop outlooks, especially for wheat, have improved and many countries have eased grain export restrictions. FAO reported in September that an additional 75 million people have been pushed below the hundred thresholds. This brings the number of undernourished people worldwide to about 925 million. The United States have always provided more than one half of the entire food disaster relief around the world. We are proud of our record of leadership, we have a moral and ethical obligation to share our agricultural bounty with those less fortunate. At the same time, however, we need to continue our commitment to build the infrastructure, capacity and market integrity that will hopefully alleviate price volatility. Improving efficiencies in our food aid delivery and use is essential.

Agricultural research and technology still need to be pursued and embraced, lower trade barriers and increasing transparency remains critical for producers, processors and distributors to follow market signals.

I wish to emphasize that the United States believes that calls for a Summit are premature at this time, and we should instead focus on completing the goals set forth in the June Declaration.

The United States remains committed to the promises it made in June. We must harness agricultural productivity to feed a hungry world as we cannot allow the spectre of hunger to continue.

**Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)**

Heureux de vous voir présider cette séance de notre Trente-cinquième session, nous connaissons vos dons. Nous savons que cette question qui est en discussion maintenant, vous allez la gérer comme vous avez l'habitude de gérer les questions parfois difficiles dans nos sessions.

Monsieur le Président, ce que je veux dire ici est plutôt une sorte de compte rendu que je voudrais faire pour dire que le Cameroun a bénéficié de la réaction de la FAO dans le cadre de la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires. En fait, vous avez suivi mon Ministre il y a trois jours. Nous avons été très durement touchés en février dernier et cela a entraîné beaucoup de manifestations de rues et nous avons dû prendre plusieurs mesures. Mais il faut reconnaître que la FAO à travers un PCT est venue compléter les mesures que nous avons prises. Et dans ce cas précis, nous avons bénéficié dans un premier temps d'une aide qui allait dans le sens de la distribution des intrants agricoles, d'engrais et de pesticides pour essayer de supporter les efforts de la campagne 2008-2009. Et il faut reconnaître que ce sont des efforts qui ont été faits à temps car c'est quand la campagne commençait que nous avons bénéficié de cette distribution.

Nous voulons également dire que cette distribution a joué un rôle catalyseur dans un certain nombre de mesures que le Cameroun est en train de prendre. Nous sommes en train de développer un plan de réactions à cela, ce qui nous a permis un peu de bénéficier de l'apport de la FAO dans ce contexte précis pour le budget 2009. Le Cameroun a déjà identifié presque 300 millions E.U. dans le cadre de ce budget pour pouvoir faire suite à l'action qui a déjà été entreprise. Nous pensons que l'inscription dans le budget de l'État de ces 300 millions E.U. pourra nous permettre de résoudre plus ou moins, ne serait-ce que pour la campagne 2009-2010 un certain nombre de problèmes qui se sont posés au cours de cette campagne.

Le Cameroun s'est également engagé, avec l'expérience que nous avons acquise dans les procédures de passation de marché et grâce au contexte de ce PCT, à mettre en place un système similaire pour que les 300 millions E.U. puissent bénéficier effectivement aux petits planteurs. Et toujours dans la suite de cette action, car il y a eu également de la part de la FAO un support technique, nous sommes en train de mettre en place un Programme de préparation de support aux filières agricoles les plus importantes qui sont les filières de production. A cet égard, le Programme a déjà été identifié, le centre des investissements de la FAO qui était au Cameroun il y a exactement un mois pour faire la préparation de ce Programme et nous pensons que le FIDA s'est déjà engagé pour le financement d'un tel Programme. Mais nous sommes encore au début de la préparation du Programme. Ceci dit, je pense pouvoir dire ici que le Cameroun soutient absolument ce Programme et nous allons tout faire pour que ce Programme soit mis en œuvre.

Monsieur le Président, il y a une petite inquiétude que nous avons eue en lisant le Rapport et en écoutant M. Sumpsi tout à l'heure, concernant le paragraphe 25 du Rapport C 2008/5. Nous avons des soucis énormes parce que nous nous sommes engagés ici en juin et nous avons suivi des déclarations ouvertes ici sur les financements. Et qu'à ce jour, nous n'ayons reçu que dix pour cent de tout ce que les gens se sont engagés à donner, je pense qu'il y a lieu d'être soucieux. Quand on fait un Plan et que l'on a que dix pour cent des ressources pour financer le Plan, cela veut donc dire qu'il faut mettre le Plan à la poubelle et nous ne pensons pas qu'il est temps en ce moment, pendant que nous parlons, de mettre ce Plan à la poubelle parce que c'est un Plan qui est important.

Nous notons, Monsieur le Président, qu'il y a un fossé entre les intentions et leur effectivité. Il faudrait pouvoir boucher ce fossé le plus rapidement possible parce que face aux besoins de la Communauté internationale, nous avons le devoir de rester consistant.

**Tasmin ASLAM (Pakistan)**

We appreciate Mr Sumpsi's comprehensive Report on the Follow-up to the High-Level Conference on World Food Security.

We are happy to note that FAO is helping countries in addressing the more serious problems, such as the case of Cameroon. This, I believe, has mostly been done through existing TCPs and some

funding provided by one or two countries. As regards the pledges for the High-Level Conference as paragraph 25 of the Report states, only ten percent of the pledges made at that Conference have been fulfilled. Unfortunately, if FAO is counting on fulfilling its plan of action or activities on the basis of these pledges, and this is the status of the pledges, then FAO will not be in a position to implement these activities.

This is becoming a pattern now. It is unfortunate that pledges are made, applauded, and forgotten in most cases.

The Membership, we believe, has the right to know what is the status of the pledges. We know that only ten percent have been fulfilled but we do not know from which quarters this ten percent has come and where and who are the defaulters. We would suggest that there should be a seminar or a meeting in which the FAO's Management should inform the Membership, share this information with the Membership, so that we know where these pledges are falling through the cracks.

**Alexander V. YAKOVENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Sumpsi for his very detailed report and we note the growing significance of the UN System in the collective effort being made to overcome the global food crisis. We highly value the work that has been performed by the High-Level Task Force set up by the Secretary General to come to grips with the global food crisis. We do support the Framework Plan of Action that has been developed by that Task Force for future collective efforts in this direction.

In paying tribute to the major role played by FAO in this group, we welcome the initiative of the Director-General regarding focussed discussion on this programme and encourage the adoption of the recommendations. We support the increased support being given by FAO to the 94 countries that suffered most from this crisis and we welcome the development of a reaction strategy to the constant increase in food prices.

One of the instruments to achieve this Framework Plan of Action, could very well be the Global Partnership in the field of agriculture that was launched by the G8 at their last Summit. We do value the efforts being made by FAO in Africa and the coordination of the anti-crisis measures with the African Union and with NEPAD and, more specifically, we support those measures that aim at boosting the agricultural production of African countries through improved plant breeding, the extension of irrigation services introducing modern agro-technical tools, and chemical fertilizers.

As regards overcoming the food crisis, it is essential that new technologies be developed and that they be disseminated, but it is also essential to improve the efficiency of the existing agricultural potential without, of course, this being detrimental to the environment. We have to contribute to the inclusion of new lands and other resources to broaden agriculture alongside with the increase in volumes of agricultural production. Priority attention should be given to the investment system, and to modernizing the agricultural infrastructure to broaden access by the poorest strata of the population and to improving the quality of food. Obviously the Rome-based international organizations should play a leading role in this area because they have the expertise and they have all the necessary knowledge. The main platform where we can really take up these challenges of food security, however, is of course the FAO.

As regards Russia's contribution to the resolution of the food problem, and the food crisis, we plan to develop in an organised fashion and we plan to extend our agricultural production and boost our potential as one of the leading exporters of foodstuffs and in this manner, contribute to the stabilization of local food markets.

We are also in the process of developing measures to step up our involvement in international efforts to overcome the global food crisis, and here we are thinking of increasing food aid and of contributing to the development of agriculture in developing countries.

As is well known, Russia this past July at the G8 Summit came up with the initiative of organizing in 2009 a World Cereals Summit. This will be an opportunity to bring together grain-producing and grain-consumer countries. This will also bring together dedicated international organizations, the leading food companies and the main food traders. This Cereals Summit will be held from the 2 to 4 June 2009 in Saint Petersburg, and the main topics for discussion will be the need to increase food security, and broaden agricultural production and global grain trade. Also the point will be to develop an overall long-term anti crisis set of measures to overcome this global food crisis.

**Philippe VINÇON (France)**

Je m'exprime au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses vingt-sept États Membres sachant que les États candidats à l'entrée dans l'Union, à savoir la Croatie et la Turquie, s'associent également à cette déclaration.

Tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO et en particulier Monsieur Sumpsi, pour le document C 2008/5 qui présente la contribution de la FAO à la préparation et la mise en œuvre du Cadre global d'action. Je voudrais rappeler ici combien l'Union européenne apprécie la mise en place par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies d'une équipe spéciale de Haut niveau chargé de proposer des réponses à la crise mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous nous félicitons de l'engagement de la FAO et de la place qu'elle tient dans ce contexte. Nous pensons que cette initiative doit permettre de favoriser une meilleure coordination, indispensable à nos yeux, entre les organisations du Système des Nations Unies et notamment les trois agences basées à Rome et les institutions de Bretton Woods.

La définition du Cadre global d'action en est l'illustration concrète. Ce Cadre devrait permettre de renforcer maintenant la coordination sur le terrain entre les bailleurs, les agents de développement et les pays bénéficiaires.

Monsieur le Président, l'Union européenne estime que la crise alimentaire actuelle exige une réponse conjointe, cohérente et concertée de la part de la Communauté internationale avec l'appui de la société civile et du secteur privé. C'est pourquoi l'Union promeut un partenariat mondial pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation reposant sur les institutions internationales existantes et notamment celles des Nations Unies.

Nous saluons la disponibilité de l'équipe spéciale de Haut niveau à fournir, au cours de la phase de lancement, le Secrétariat de ce partenariat. Dans le cadre de ce partenariat nous souhaitons qu'un Réseau indépendant d'experts fournisse une analyse scientifique et mette en lumière les besoins et les risques futurs de manière à ouvrir une discussion de l'ensemble des acteurs concernés et d'éclairer leur décision.

L'Union estime que la FAO, compte tenu de son mandat, devrait jouer un rôle clef au sein de ce Réseau. Dans ce contexte, l'Union accueille favorablement la proposition faite par la FAO au paragraphe 24 du document, d'être à l'initiative de la constitution d'un réseau de spécialistes de haut-niveau. Cette démarche doit, naturellement être faite en collaboration avec le Groupe consultatif pour la recherche agricole internationale, les institutions membres de l'équipe spéciale des Nations Unies et les autres partenaires pertinents. Ce réseau d'experts pourrait aider à faire la synthèse des recherches et des analyses existantes à établir les avantages et les inconvénients de nouvelles propositions innovantes sur des sujets spécifiques qui nécessitent une attention politique comme, par exemple, la question de la gestion des stocks.

Monsieur le Président, pour terminer mon intervention j'aimerais apporter une précision en réaction au paragraphe 9 du document. L'Union européenne apprécie les évaluations de pays réalisés par la FAO sur financement de la Commission européenne. Ces évaluations visent à mettre à disposition des différents intervenants, des informations de base sur les besoins réels des pays de manière à les aider à définir des stratégies à court et à long terme. Ces évaluations ont également permis à la FAO et aux Nations Unies de préparer des programmes en réponse à la crise, auxquelles pour certains pourraient contribuer la facilité de l'Union européenne en réponse à

la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires dans les pays en développement sous réserve naturellement de son adoption par les institutions européennes.

Ce projet de faciliter viendrait compléter les efforts déjà importants, consentis tant par la Commission que par les États Membres en réponse à la crise. À cet égard, je rappelle entre autres l'augmentation significative des contributions volontaires au Programme alimentaire mondial, portant la contribution de l'Union européenne à près de 700 millions d'euros.

Un dernier point, Monsieur le Président, pour finir, l'Union européenne prend note de la proposition de tenir un Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire au premier semestre de 2009. A ce stade, et comme d'autres délégations, j'ai noté le Liban, la Colombie ou les États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Union européenne a besoin d'informations complémentaires avant de pouvoir se prononcer sur une telle proposition.

**Masahiko SUNEYA (Japan)**

The issue of soaring food prices still needs to be addressed urgently and the food supply demand situation is becoming more unstable in the medium and long terms. Ensuring World Food Security is continuously an important subject. It is important that the international society should work together to address the issue in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

Japan announced food and agriculture related assistance of US\$ 1.45 billion in total from January of this year, and has carried out the majority of its pledged emergency assistance. We are also currently considering further measures for assistance.

The Government of Japan understands the importance and the necessity of holding a World Summit for Food Security, proposed in the Director-General's statement, but we need further information to express our support. Since holding such a big Conference requires huge resources, we would like to have such information.

**Patrick GOMES (Guyana)**

My remarks are made as Coordinator of the 15 CARIFORUM countries in the Group of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States in Brussels.

We wish to put on record our appreciation of what the FAO has been doing in general and the work of the ADG, Mr Sumpsi, is particularly commendable. We would like to urge that on the proposal of the European Commission's one billion that a speedy resolution be made between the European Parliament and the Member States of the Council, to have this matter resolved.

We would also like to point out that among the most affected countries, some in the Caribbean, particularly Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Jamaica have been adversely affected by hurricanes this year. Our vulnerability continues and our food production systems are almost devastated. We would like to be assured that those four countries will be included in the immediate and rapid response. They do deserve that attention.

It seems to us also that while we welcome several Member Nations that have lived up to their pledges and particularly admire the work of the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Ireland and others, we do find it very strange that despite the great crisis recognized and spoken about, there is an almost scandalous response to this food crisis, whereas, to bail out banks US\$ 700 billion can be made available in less than 10 days. We think this is a shame by our advanced developed countries, and we think it needs to be re-addressed as soon as possible.

**James MELANSON (Canada)**

Responding first to the excellent report presented to us by Mr Sumpsi on the High-Level Task Force, the comprehensive framework for action among others. I would underline Canada's support for the twin-track approach that was outlined there, the UN Comprehensive Framework for Action that promotes a supply response of the agriculture sector through appropriate incentives and investments but also that ensures immediate access to food for the poor and vulnerable.



Canada has given concrete expression to this support through nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in untied cash food aid in 2008, as well as nearly US\$ 200 million in agricultural support to developing countries in the past year.

In this regard a number of speakers have made reference to paragraph 25 of the Report. I think I would be inclined to agree with the sentiment expressed by Pakistan that it would be useful for us to have a more detailed analytic basis for the statements made and that that information could be usefully presented to Members.

Colombia has made reference to paragraph 23 of the Report, and I would like to do that as well. The Government of Canada is supportive of sustainability as a goal for bio-fuels production. Canada has also been supportive of voluntary industry-led third party verified standards and certification schemes that are based on sound science and that avoid ethnical trade barriers. I think as Colombia has suggested, we would look forward to moving this body of work forward with the full involvement of all stakeholders.

Finally, a number of Members have commented on proposed advocacy events for 2009 including the proposed Summit on Food Security that the Director-General mentioned in his opening remarks. As others, I think we believe that some deliberation is required, in fact there are a number of different events. We do have a consultative framework that has worked well for us in the past year, the High-Level Task Force and it might be appropriate that that group make some assessment of these various events, their purpose their synergy, each to each other, that would inform deliberation that we could take subsequently.

**Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)**

Señor Presidente, en primer lugar mi Gobierno desea asociarse a la declaración hecha por el Distinguido Representante de Guyana, en nombre de los Estados del Caribe.

Mi país apoya la celebración del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su 35<sup>mo</sup> Período de Sesiones en 2009 y nos asociamos a la intervención que realizara el Embajador de El Salvador en nombre del GRULAC, en ocasión del último período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, para mantener el carácter anual del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Esto es sólo usual, Presidente, y así consta en los textos vigentes en esta Organización, por tanto no hay que cambiar el Plan Inmediato de Acción ni otros.

Como la de Pakistán y de otros países, mi Delegación ve con alarma el estado de la movilización de los recursos prometidos en la Cumbre del mes de junio. En conexión con esto, el Gobierno Dominicano está preparado para atender a la convocatoria del Director General a una Cumbre que dé seguimiento a la anterior. La situación alimentaria mundial es crítica y exige respuestas urgentes, coherentes y coordinadas, para acercarnos al objetivo fundamental de esta Organización de erradicar el hambre.

Por último, mi Gobierno desea reiterar su apoyo a la Red de Expertos de Alto Nivel sobre Seguridad Alimentaria y al Marco Integral de Acción, con la plena participación de todos los Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas.

**Ibrahim ABU ATLIEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)**

I will speak on behalf of the Near East Group. In this regard I should also give my thanks to Mr Sumpsi for his presentation.

From his presentation we unfortunately learn that we have a long way to go in order to ensure the needed resources to face the challenges before us to raise productivity.

We all agree that food security comes at the top of our priorities since it is related to survival. This must be the focus of all our efforts. I should like to recall the previous Summits held in this respect in 1996 and the World Food Summit: *five-years later* in 2002. I also recall the Summit held this year with soaring food prices and the High-Level Task Force composed by the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as the High-Level Conference in June with over 180 Members represented.

From this High-Level Conference we reiterated the importance of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit. We also agreed on a plan in the short-term and long-term to address the food security issues regarding rising food prices, climate change and bio-energy. I also recall the many Regional Conferences and the G8 Summit.

The highlighting of the food security issue is of great importance as well as the proposal to hold a new Summit in 2009. As was mentioned by the European Union, the United States and Japan and many other speakers, I believe that it is necessary to provide us with more information regarding the aims of the Summit, and what is the expected outcome, before we take a decision in this regard, especially since the world awaits for us to engage in the implementation and the realization and achievement of all that we have pledged in previous Summits, namely raising productivity and transferring technology to increase food production and to eliminate all the obstacles facing the agricultural sector to achieve all the goals and aims we have agreed upon in previous Summits.

**Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

Firstly, thank you to Mr Sumpsi for this information concerning the High-Level Conference follow-up. We certainly see value in the close monitoring of prices and their impacts because we have seen, that what we read up here the prices are sky-high. That was when that poster was made, but now things have changed slightly and where we will be tomorrow, we are not to sure, so close monitoring is important. I agree with the United States concerning the role of trade liberalization and also the bio-fuels proposals in paragraph 23. Certainly there is a lot of thought and analysis to be done in this area.

Concerning paragraph 25 and this famous 10 percent figure, 10 percent of pledges received. It would be interesting to have a bit more of information in so far as does this 10 percent only include the amounts received by FAO? Because I am aware that at the High-Level Conference many of those pledges were not just to FAO as such, but were to World Food Programme, CGIAR and others. So, it would be useful to have a clarification of what that figure exactly means and just where we are on that. Perhaps the Seminar Meeting of the Permanent Delegates could be useful in this connection.

Concerning the Summit, it seems to be getting a fairly crowded Calendar here, and there is the risk of Summit fatigue. We think it is a bit premature. We note the comment from Colombia that next year on the programme there is the IPA implementation, there is the November Conference, there are the Technical Committees. Also, we are not quite sure of the status and timing of the deferred Conference on Feeding the World in 2050. We also hear from the Russian Federation of a Cereals Summit in St. Petersburg, so we are getting a very crowded Calendar, and I think before going ahead with the Summit you need to consider the sequencing. For example, I printed off the Web that the Director-General had sent a letter to President-Elect, Barack Obama. Now maybe you will have to wait until 20 January before getting a response to that letter. That is another factor that is to be considered. There is the question of coherence between the various meetings that are being proposed. There is a whole preparatory process. Early in the year seems very short to fully prepare such a meeting so as to achieve a maximum success. And then there is also the question of the role of the Governing Bodies of this Organization in such a process.

We think it is somewhat premature, it needs further reflection and consultation before final decisions are made.

**Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)**

I would like to express my appreciation for the comprehensive report presented by Mr Sumpsi on the follow-up action of last year's summit which was overtaken by three events: high food prices, climate change and bio-energy. Following that High-Level Conference, the contribution of FAO to the Plan of Action set out by the Task Force is well appreciated but the problems will remain with us. They are not over yet.

We have been faced with another very challenging emerging issue - the financial crisis - and several meetings or small summits have been held – the UNGA, G20 and so on - and regional group meetings in their region. In these meetings, they have been referring to high food prices, fuel, bio-energy, climate change and, at the same time, the financial crisis. So we expect somebody will hold, or some of the organizations will hold, a meeting next year, and the key message of the Director-General is indeed that a Summit is held next year. I think we have to appreciate his sharp response saying that it remains with FAO. As to the timing, it can be extended to October during the World Food Day, or any time that is convenient. This can be discussed, but it affects very much the financial crisis and investment in agriculture.

Several pledges were made but the actual contributions were only 10 percent of the pledges. It is understandable why the pledges are low. It is because the main donors have been overtaken by the financial crisis. We can hear this from every country. So I think that we do not have to object, but we need to discuss with the Director-General or the Management so that it is explained to us what they intend to plan, because we did not participate when he announced that he intended to hold a Summit. So he should give us his plan and if we have any problems with our Agenda, at that time we could raise it. But now we have no time to oppose or support his proposal. We can discuss the timing, whether it will be in October or in April, next time.

**José Antonio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)**

My delegation has listened very carefully the comprehensive Report presented by Mr Sumpsi, to whom we are very grateful, on the follow-up to the High-Level Conference. It is a matter of great concern to us that in spite of the seriousness of the situation of food insecurity worldwide, the required resources to fight that situation have not been made available.

This lack of resources is there at the same time that OECD countries spend over US\$ 1 billion a day in subsidies to their own agricultural production. On top of that, compounded to that, some of these developed countries still insist on preserving their comparative disadvantage in producing ineffectively food that can be produced effectively and economically, in an advantageous manner in developing countries. So Mr Chairperson, it is very unfortunate that the eradication of hunger does not receive the same level of attention that was given by developed countries in rescuing and boiling out their financial institutions with this rapid mobilization that we have witnessed in recent weeks. The funds were very abundant to rescue these financial institutions, but the same is not occurring to fight hunger and to bail one billion human beings from a situation of hunger. So Mr Chairperson, in that light, in this context, my Delegation is very concerned with this shown lack of interest by a significant number of developed countries.

We also would like to emphasize that, in this regard, we have supported in our Delegation's statement in this Conference, that we welcome the proposal by the Director-General to hold a Summit. I am very astonished by listening to some delegations saying that it is not the time, this is premature, crowded calendars, agendas. Chairperson, when we have one billion people starving, how can we call that premature? Is that leaving them without food? How do we characterize that? And the collective effort of Heads of State and Government? The collective effort to try to fight this issue and to face this situation head-on is long overdue. In that light, we certainly support this proposal.

As a question to Mr Sumpsi, I would also like to have more details on paragraph 23 of the Report he has just presented. I thank you.

**Dato Mohd Mokhtar ISMAIL (Malaysia)**

Malaysia would like to raise two specific issues in response to document C 2008/5. Firstly, we wish to voice the concern raised by the DG of FAO and Lebanon on the issue of declining commodity prices and the increasing price of input. This is an alarming phenomenon and it should be of great concern to all of us as we reduce the margin of return to farmers. In this respect, we note in paragraph 15 of the document that FAO has been monitoring the policy response of countries to the food crisis and the paper on this issue is being prepared for presentation to the

Committee on Commodity Problems in April 2009. We would like to request that this issue of declining commodity prices and rising input prices be addressed in this paper.

Secondly, in respect of bio-fuel and actions to build longer-term resilience and contribute to global food security, in particular, Item 18, on the international bio-fuel consensus, Malaysia's position is that there must be a realistic balance between use of food and fuel. Production and use of first generation bio-fuels, including palm bio-diesel, should be pursued notwithstanding the competing use for food, to reduce reliance on fossil fuel for energy security and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, research and development into second generation bio-fuels using non-food bio-mass should be actively continued.

Participation of FAO in the Global Bioenergy Partnership and its any Task Force on Sustainability is also pertinent. Issues of sensitivity must be handled holistically, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries to utilize their valuable land for development, including planting of bio-field crops. Such countries must not be unduly restricted from developing land earmarked for development. Nevertheless, cultivation of such crops should comply with certain good agricultural practices. For palm oil, initiatives on sustainability such as a Round Table for Sustainable Development are already in existence. Malaysia also has developed a Code of Practice for the Oil Palm Industry which could be an important reference source that can be used.

**Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)**

My Delegation joins others in expressing our appreciation to Mr Sumpsi for his comprehensive Report. We also join others who expressed their concern with regard to the paragraph 25 and I think in this regard, another High-Level Summit is required, for the fact that the number of people affected by hunger is increasing rather than decreasing, and therefore the need for a Summit is there. We also will support more information, of course, as suggested by Pakistan, on the issue of the High-Level Summit and also the problems of not getting enough of the amounts pledged to serve the problem of hunger.

**Guillermo SALAZAR NICOLAU (Panamá)**

Muchas gracias señor Presidente, esta conversación que llega en un momento oportuno porque consideramos que tenemos suficiente tecnología a nivel de la humanidad para poder atender las necesidades de la producción de alimentos. Consideramos que se hace necesario la realización de una nueva Cumbre sobre este Tema de la Producción de alimentos y la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, porque no pueden esperar más, muchos pueblos de la humanidad.

Lo que viene ocurriendo en el plano global respecto al incremento de la demanda de alimentos y su consecuente crecimiento en los precios tiene que ser contrareestado con un incremento sustancial en la producción. Hay tecnologías que datan de siglos, sin embargo, todavía, gran parte de la humanidad no dispone de ellas, como por ejemplo, los sistemas de riego. Nosotros estamos convencidos que hay que desarrollar una estrategia global respecto a atender a esa parte de la humanidad que hoy no dispone de los alimentos necesarios para atender las necesidades básicas.

El precio de los insumos no guarda relación con las necesidades de la humanidad, estamos convencidos que una nueva Cumbre sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria, podría convertirse en una alternativa para la crisis financiera que hoy afecta a un número plural de países, el proceso especulativo al que se han enfrentado los ha llevado ahora a una recesión. La inversión en la producción de alimentos puede ser la alternativa y debe ser la alternativa para afrontar esta situación. Creo que es el momento oportuno para que la humanidad se debata sobre el uso de los recursos existentes y la atención de las necesidades nutricionales de gran parte de la población mundial.

**Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

Let me join others in thanking Mr Sumpsi for very comprehensive and useful Report regarding the issue. Mr Chairperson, I'll try to be very brief. Regarding the proposal made by the Director-General, which should be appreciated, of course, one question could be raised; is it better to

respect the previous Summit that we have already put into place for this issue, or do we again insist on a new one that has already been proposed. We support the statement made by Japan and particularly the statement of Jordan which followed. And regarding paragraph 25, I would like to fully support the statement made by Pakistan and supported by Canada.

**Sra María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)**

Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Agradecemos al Sr. Sumpsi por la presentación del documento que lo ha hecho con mucha precisión y claridad.

Entendemos que todos los organismos internacionales están realizando grandes esfuerzos frente al problema de la crisis del alza de precios de los alimentos. También lo han realizado durante este año los países donantes, y todos los demás países en la medida de sus posibilidades han actuado a nivel nacional y regional en el mismo sentido.

La crisis del alza de los precios de los alimentos también ha puesto en el centro de la escena, la agricultura y las posibilidades que un desarrollo agrícola ordenado tiene para salir de esta situación. Al centralizar el tema, la FAO está llamada a cumplir un papel sumamente importante, durante este año, y está muy claro en este documento, muchos han sido los esfuerzos y, por lo tanto Sr. Presidente, entendemos que una de las cosas que se debe evitar es la dispersión de esos esfuerzos. Entendemos que es necesario concentrar los esfuerzos y, en ese sentido, la FAO es la Organización de las Naciones Unidas que debe contribuir a esa concentración y a ese ordenamiento.

En este respecto, se deben definir políticas y entendemos que ello debe estar en manos de los Jefes de Estado y de los distintos países. Por esta razón es que apoyamos la realización de una Cumbre Mundial. En la intervención de nuestro país de anteayer, dijimos que Argentina está dispuesta a apoyar todas las iniciativas, reuniones, grupos de expertos que contribuyan a erradicar el hambre y a alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria.

Volvemos a ratificar nuestro compromiso y entendemos que una futura Cumbre no es, en este caso, una reiteración de lo sucedió en junio del año pasado. Entendemos que dicha Reunión de junio fue un primer encuentro de los Presidentes frente a una situación muy crítica que los llevó a reunirse en Roma con mucha rapidez y a tratar de definir cuestiones centrales.

En este año, además de la crisis del alza de los precios nos vemos frente a la crisis financiera internacional. La situación del año próximo seguramente no será mejor. Es probable que tengamos que transitar un camino muy difícil. En este sentido, insisto sobre la posibilidad de definir políticas de alto nivel, que puedan guiar un trabajo mucho más ordenado y concentrado desde la FAO hacia el mundo.

También nosotros teníamos una pregunta para el Sr. Sumpsi. Concretamente, como fue expresado por Colombia y por Brasil, nos interesaba tener algunas aclaraciones sobre el párrafo 23.

**Emile ESSEMA (Congo)**

Monsieur le Président, je tenais également à mon tour à remercier M. Sumpsi pour cette présentation que nous avons trouvée claire, concise et pour tout dire complète et cette présentation nous satisfait. Mais, Monsieur le Président, il y a comme ont su le dire mes prédécesseurs, notamment le Cameroun, le Pakistan et le Brésil, à un moment donné il faut s'arrêter et se poser la question de savoir si effectivement, nous aimons cette organisation. Je fais allusion rapidement aux promesses faites par les brillantes déclarations que nous avons eues à suivre dans cette même salle en juin et qui, en fin de compte, se sont soldé par 22 milliards, en fait on en est qu'à 10 pour cent d'encaissé. C'est là où nous nous posons la question de savoir si effectivement, nous sommes sérieux. Lorsqu'on entend, Monsieur le Président, qu'il y a à se lasser parce qu'on serait fatigué de tenir des réunions, là encore on se pose la question de savoir si effectivement ce souci est de ces 923 millions de personnes qui souffrent, qui sont affamées et qui attendent tout de cette organisation. Mais, on peut aussi dire qu'avec la crise financière récente, on a tenu des réunions aux États-Unis, au Japon, à Bruxelles, en France, et il y en a encore d'autres de programmées et là

on ne se lasse pas, on ne se lasse pas parce que c'est bon. Mais pour sauver 920 millions de personnes qui souffrent, c'est pas bon, il faut se lasser.

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais aller un peu plus vite pour dire que nous sommes choqués et voilà pourquoi, nous faisons la proposition suivante à l'endroit de la direction de la FAO. A l'instar de ce qu'ils ont l'habitude de nous produire, nous, États Membres, des documents sur les contributions ordinaires versées par chaque État et en faisant aussi état des États qui ne se sont pas acquittés ou qui ont des arriérés, nous voulons ici faire la proposition suivante: lister tous ceux qui ont eu à prononcer ici dans cette salle un discours, de lister tout le monde et de nous produire ceux qui se sont acquittés et ceux qui n'ont rien fait pour que les États Membres soient en mesure de juger, s'il vous plaît, de la capacité des engagements tenus par chaque donateur et de ceux-là qui ont eu à prononcer ces promesses.

**Pietro Sebastian (Italy)**

First of all I wish to congratulate Mr Sumpsi and his Department, not only for today's statement but also for his day-to-day work.

Our position was perfectly reflected by the EU declaration, but I wish here just to pronounce that Italy will make a contribution to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices.

**Ms Lucy Mungoma MUNGOMA (Zambia)**

Just a few remarks; I want to associate myself with the comments made by the African speakers on this subject matter and also by the G77 Chairperson and also to commend Mr Sumpsi for an excellent Report. I think the issue we are discussing is of paramount importance and hunger and starvation cannot wait.

The Report has projected dire numbers of increasing undernourished people, and people are talking about weariness about meetings. This is reflected, I think, in the amount of pledges that have been received so far only amounting to 10 percent.

I would like to support on behalf of the Africa Group the recommendation made by the Director-General, that we do indeed have the Summit next year. I also wish to support the proposal that he made and we indicated in our general statement the first day to support the recommendation in paragraph 24 that the formal Global Partnership and a network of High-Level Experts on Food and Agriculture. I think we cannot continue to disappoint the hungry of the world just because we are weary of conferences when we have not found solutions.

**Ms Sara COWAN (Australia)**

Australia thanks Mr Sumpsi for his comprehensive Report.

We hear the views of many Members about the vital importance of assisting the one billion starving people around the world and we certainly would not argue with any of that. However, we do not consider the proposed Summit in 2009 to be a matter of meeting fatigue or prematurity, rather we would like to echo the views of others who have called for further information on the aims and expected outcomes of the Summit. Before we could support it, we would like to know how this Summit would add to the solutions that were proposed and pledged in the last six months.

**Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)**

Quisiera agradecer la presentación de este importante Informe que nos lleva a subrayar una vez más la urgencia y la importancia de actuar, para evitar que siga creciendo el número de personas con hambre en el mundo, yo creo que este es el objetivo central que hay que tener presente, cuando hablamos de tantos temas que han sido tratados en esta sesión.

Debemos buscar la eficiencia y los resultados y es en esto, donde deberíamos centrar nuestras discusiones. Más que averiguar o tratar de descalificar o calificar el medio para alcanzar los resultados, creo que estamos anteponiendo una discusión de instrumentos a una discusión de objetivos y de metas claras que debemos de buscar.

Creo que las metas son por todos compartidas, hay que disminuir y si fuera posible eliminar el hambre en el más breve plazo posible, pero eso no es ni será el resultado automático de uno u otro tipo de reuniones, será el resultado del trabajo de la coordinación de la eficiencia de lo que hagan, los institutos, las instituciones multilaterales pero también de lo que hagan los países con sus propias poblaciones.

No voy a relatar ahora lo que son los programas que ha establecido mi país en este sentido pero nosotros somos conscientes que la mayor responsabilidad para aliviar las condiciones socio-económicas de nuestras poblaciones recae sobre nosotros mismos.

Antes de hacer un pronunciamiento sobre la importancia o no de reunir a Jefes de Estado, la importancia o no de que las contribuciones se han hecho, creo que deberíamos tener una información mucho más compleja, mucho más completa de la que tenemos, de las promesas que se hicieron en esta misma sala en junio pasado, algunas de ellas se mencionaron poco; o sea, de cuáles eran los objetivos y los propósitos de esas contribuciones, cuáles eran los destinatarios y cómo se deberían emplear, creo que sin esa información estamos careciendo realmente de una base sólida para discutir el tema.

**Ezechiél JOSEPH (Saint Lucia)**

I, too, would like to express my views on this comprehensive Report presented on the follow-up on the proposed programme regarding food security.

Yesterday I called on FAO to be timely on the manner it implements programmes because we all would agree that the timely implementation of programmes would have positive impact, but paragraph 25, Resource Mobilization, gives me a clear indication that FAO should not be blamed for the manner in which it has implemented programmes because I do not believe that the Director-General and his staff have the ability to perform the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes!

It is surprising to note that only 10 percent of the pledges that were made have been received. We have to agree that FAO needs the resources to implement the necessary programmes as promised. I want to find out those persons who have made the pledges, are they making pledges without the authority of their respective Governments, or are they only building castles in the sky? We must agree on measures here that when pledges are made they must be follow-up actions to keep persons responsible to the pledges that they make, because we have a crisis, a crisis that the level of malnutrition and hunger is increasing, and we all here share the view of FAO to see a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

I am sure if we do an evaluation 99.99 percent of persons starving are from developing countries. Is it a situation where we do not care because the playing field is not level?

I would like to call on those individuals and countries that have made pledges to stick to their pledges and give support to FAO so that they can implement the programmes in us realizing the vision of FAO – a world free of hunger and malnutrition.

**Alaa EL DIN WAGIH ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

First of all, I should like to insist that Egypt believes that it is important to discuss the outcome and the follow-up of the High Level Conference in June. The presence of our President in this Summit reflects the importance we attach to this issue. We believe that the follow-up to this Conference is important even if another Summit is needed.

In this regard I confirm what was said by my colleague of Jordan on behalf of the Near East regarding the need to receive more details and information on this Summit in order to examine them and take the relevant decision in this respect.

**Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

Many delegations have spoken on the issue on the table and for the sake of brevity the message that has been delivered on behalf of the hungry by the Chairperson of the G77, Pakistan and by

the Chair of my own Region, Zambia, clearly articulates the situation as it is felt by the hungry people.

The views of my delegation regarding the soaring food prices are well known and I associate myself with these statements that I have just indicated because I feel there is indeed some importance in following up on the decisions that were made by the High-Level Conference and with that I see merit in supporting the proposal that was made by the Director-General that this follow-up has been made at the highest level, so that we take decisions that can commit Member Nations to what should be done.

At our level, we can continue to debate, but real decisions have to be taken at a higher level, and I believe that this is the reason why this matter is being proposed to be put to such a high-profile Conference.

With that I wish to support that we consider seriously this Conference in 2009. Any details that may be required, surely, for any conference details can be worked out, but the idea is what we are proposing here.

**José María SUMPSI VINAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)**

It is a pleasure to answer these interesting and critical questions raised by the delegations.

First of all, let me take advantage of the first intervention by Lebanon, who asked a question about what the rest of Agencies – not just FAO – are doing on these particular issues, on the crisis provoked by soaring food prices.

In that respect, one of the most important achievements that we made in this crisis – because all crises have threats but also opportunities – is to work much closer together, all Agencies in the framework of the United Nations System, High-Level Task Force and CFA. In fact, when I am talking about the CFA, I am talking about all the Agencies that are contributing in their respective mandate to the CFA. FAO is contributing in its own mandate related to increased agricultural productivity, increased agricultural production, access to markets, improved production systems and all of the relations within the mandate of FAO in the short, medium and long-term perspective.

The other Agencies are contributing to the CFA in their own mandate: IFAD, with the question of access to markets with micro-credits; WFP, in food assistance and other elements or this programme of purchases for progress; World Bank also with other important problems of social safety nets or improving some system information, etc.. Lets say that all the Agencies are contributing in a joint manner in this context of the High-Level Task Force.

For instance, in the case of all the preparations for the European Union Fund – for which there are ongoing discussions now – we prepare these documents jointly with the Agencies, in the context of the High-Level Task Force and CFA. We can say that the rest of Agencies are contributing in their own mandate to all these activities, and now we are moving to implementation of CFA at country level. This is the most important step. Now we are trying to put in place, and in fact, several weeks ago – this is very important information – the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban ki-Moon, decided on a new coordination mechanism within this High-Level Task Force to ensure that the next step will be implementing concrete actions at country level.

These coordination mechanisms will be very important with a key role to be played by the Rome-based Agencies. The main hub will be in Rome – with other hubs in Washington, New York and Geneva – and the Rome-based agencies will play an important role in the implementation of CFA at country level. The coordinator of this new mechanism that will be put into place from 1 January 2009 will be David Nabarro. I think this, of course, will improve our capacity to be effective in implementing CFA at country level.

One of the other elements that was mentioned was the importance of the reporting system, and I think that FAO is absolutely aware of the critical role of the information and monitoring systems



on the progress regarding implementation of the CFA. In fact, FAO has been working since February and March putting in place an important reporting system to understand what is happening at field level, and what progress is being made regarding soaring food prices and the implementation of the CFA.

Our contribution in the High-Level Task Force is in this new mechanism for coordination and implementation at country level. One of the most important functions of this new coordination mechanism – that is a very light mechanism – is to put in place, not just for FAO but for all Agencies, a monitoring system to understand the progress regarding implementation and concrete actions taken at country level. It is a common system for reporting on CFA.

FAO contributes to the monitoring system with its own monitoring system and, in fact, we recently discussed with David Nabarro the possibility of taking this monitoring system that FAO put in place in the last months, extending and mainstreaming it to be used as the main monitoring mechanism and system for tracking the progress of the implementation of CFA at country level. This is the kind of leadership that FAO, technically, is trying to play, and we are already playing.

The next very important question a lot of delegations mentioned was that of paragraph 25 – ten percent of the pledges received up to now after the announcements made during the High-Level Conference.

Let me say that this is a difficult question, and I understand very well that some delegates are proposing that we clarify and report in detail on this question. Why? Because the first question – and I think some of the delegations also mentioned that – when we talk about this ten percent, it is not just the funds received for FAO. US\$22 billion is needed to face the crisis, whether by FAO, other Agencies or directly to Governments of developing countries. The first difficulty that we have is not just mentioning or reporting on funds received by FAO to implement initiatives in the context of the CFA. It is also the funding received for other Agencies, like the trust fund created by the World Bank or bilateral contributions from donors directly to the countries to implement projects and programmes. Of course, we have control over the money received for FAO. We have some control and information about money received for other Agencies, but we do not always have information about bilateral contributions from donors to countries.

I think that when we talk about the catalytic role of FAO, this catalytic role needs to also put in place new systems to monitor and to inform. In that sense, we are trying to put in place a system to get information from recipient and donor countries about how this question is progressing and what are the main contributions provided bilaterally from donor countries to beneficiary countries to implement programmes in the context of the CFA.

We are achieving good progress, but the result is not totally complete. We expect, in the next two or three months to be able able, with this monitoring system, to track perfectly not just the funds through FAO, but also the funds through the United Nations System and Bretton Woods, as well as bilateral contributions from donor countries to beneficiary countries.

Also, we have some difficulties because when we talk about US\$22 billion, there are very different questions in these US\$22 billion. US\$22 billion are pledges by countries, donors, World Bank and other development banks and are not grants – these are loans. You are managing these US\$22 billion, loans, grants and different mechanisms, and this is certainly a confusing situation. I think you have to distinguish between the various components in the pledges of US\$22 billion to be able to analyze the situation in detail.

Some of the delegations requested that a report be prepared regarding this matter and that a meeting be organised to disseminate information on how US\$22 billion in pledges are implemented in reality. Management will report this situation in detail and will try to organize some kind of event to disseminate this information in detail by countries and by different programmes.

Let me say, in concluding this question, that although it seems very poor – this ten percent on US\$22 billion – we are moderately optimistic about it. Why? Because the reaction does not

depend on the different kind of emergency or non-emergency projects. For emergency projects, the donors are very well prepared to react immediately, but it is not the same for development and long-term perspectives. In that sense, the achievement of 2008 is mainly for emergency responses. This US\$2 billion of US\$22 billion is mainly for food aid and food emergencies and is very rapid, because the donors are prepared to comply because emergencies are emergencies and we have to deal with them rapidly. When we enter into the medium and long-term perspective, the donors have to rearrange some of the programming and it takes some months at least. We expect, in 2009, to achieve good results on this question of the pledges because we have some clear signals from important donors – not just the European Union, other donors – that in 2009 an important part of these pledges will really become available to implement programmes and projects throughout the year. I think we have to be moderately optimistic and not so pessimistic.

In that sense, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Italy for its announcement of a contribution to the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, financing some projects and programmes in that context of CFA, as well as our activity in the context of CFA.

The next question is about the Summit and is related to the low-level of the availability of the pledges on funding to face this crisis. I think that the Summit was proposed by the Director-General as a response of this poor reaction and poor level of these announcements – this approximately ten percent. I think this is an initiative to try to reinforce governance on world food security and try to push on mobilization of this US\$22 billion.

In that sense, as some delegation expressed, I think that this intention is a positive one, trying to use this Summit as a main stepping stone in mobilizing resources. In that sense, I think this Summit will be very different from the High-Level Conference in Rome. It is clear that a lot of delegations expressed the need for further information on this Summit before making pronouncements of support. Management takes note of these comments and we propose to study and analyze the details of the organization and the contents of this Summit and distribute to Members to get their support. As some of the countries said – and I think Brazil was particularly explicit when it noted that this billion of hungry people really needed immediate action. Of course, there should be no overlapping events, because some of the delegations expressed concern about the proliferation of events – and we understand that this is a concern and we will try to combine the rationale and streamlining of this event with the necessity to attain the resource mobilization to attack the problem of hungry people.

In that sense, I think that the comments of delegations such as Canada to put this discussion within the context of the High-Level Task Force about different events that are scheduled could be interesting to try to avoid overlapping, duplication and some confusion. I think that an event that is not very well organized could provoke some problems. I think that it is clear that the world needs advocacy, and needs a push in this direction to mobilize resources to really deal with this crisis.

I would also like to mention the statement made by the European Union about the importance of CFA and the High-Level Task Force and also the support that the G8 statement proposed with regard to the Global Partnership and High-Level Panel of Experts. We take note of the support of the European Union, especially regarding paragraph 24, because FAO has to play a key role in this High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security. We take note of this support because it is important. We have to move rapidly to put in place first this High-Level Panel of Experts – that is much easier – and then this Global Partnership that has to be discussed in a wider perspective.

I think the last meeting in Tokyo between G8 experts and United Nations agency experts was a very good step, and now we are improving our understanding of this Global Partnership and I think it will be very easy, in the coming months, to achieve important progress in putting in place this Global Partnership for Food Security.

There are two last questions. Several delegations spoke about paragraph 23, bio-fuels and I think Alexander Muller can answer this and also some question related to the trends of prices of inputs

and prices of outputs. I would also like my colleague Hafez Ghanem to answer the question of prices.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much Mr Sumpsi for those very concise explanations and responses to the questions put forward.

At this point, I would like to ask Alexander Muller if he could respond to the questions on bio-fuels, if he is willing and then to Mr Ghanem on prices.

### **Alexander MULLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)**

Paragraph 23 is a very brief overview of the situation in the area of bio-fuels after the High-Level Conference, and I would first like to thank all delegations for their comments and remarks and for the question raised on this issue.

As we all know, bio-fuels were intensively discussed in the High-Level Conference and they were also discussed at large during the preparatory phase of the Conference, which led to the final declaration of this Conference. Since the Conference, a series of international meetings has taken place – dealing with various issues of bio-fuels, technology development, the need for research, the question of introducing a second and a third generation of conversion technologies. Parallel to our Conference in Rome, Brazil invited participants to a very important High-Level Conference dealing with these issues, so we are all very well aware of the risks and the opportunities related to bio-fuels.

What we like to present here are the ongoing activities of FAO and how we try to link these ongoing activities to all these international efforts. I have to admit that it is sometimes very difficult to follow all the international activities which take place around the globe, linked to this issue, because we all know the world needs more food and energy. We have to find a way to deal with the energy requirements without affecting food security, and this paragraph 23 gives a very brief overview.

I would also like to draw your attention to the State of Food and Agriculture in 2008, which gives a very comprehensive overview over the situation of production of bio-fuels, especially the production of liquid bio-fuels.

In paragraph 23, we also inform you about the ongoing process of the global bio-energy partnership – which is hosted here at FAO and chaired by Italy and the Vice-chair is Brazil – where we, also in parallel to this Conference, try to continue our work on two major pieces of international commitments. One is dealing with the important question of how to assess the reduction of greenhouse gas methodologies linked to the production of bio-fuels. The second is an ongoing work on the question of how to define sustainability linked to bio-fuels. These two processes are driven by the Member Nations of the global bio-energy partnership and FAO is committed to support this process, and especially to bring into this process all information related to the question of food security.

FAO has launched a project in three pilot countries where we try to find out what is the connection between the production of bio-energy and the situation of food security in these countries in the regions because, on an overall perspective, it is difficult to assess. We need more detailed information. What is the positive or the negative impact of the production of bio-fuels on the food security situation in these countries, and what we have announced here is that we will launch a multi-stakeholder process with the Member Nations of FAO to better bring the issue of food security in this global process dealing with the further development of bio-energies.

I would also like to draw your attention to paragraph 18, to the CFA, where four main CFA outcomes were mentioned to which FAO contributes. One of the outcomes is that an international bio-fuel consensus has to be developed and, of course, FAO wants to bring into this development of the international bio-fuel consensus, the results of the High-Level Conference, the results of the

ongoing international work and we will bring in this outcome and the questions which need to be answered in relation to bio-fuels. So it will be, over the next years, an intensive workload leading to bio-fuels.

**Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)**

On prices, what we witnessed in 2007, what we expected from the end of 2007, and that was in our previous projections that we did jointly with OECD that prices would go up, and prices did go up.

However, what we saw in the first quarter of 2008, is what I would consider an over-shooting of prices, that is, prices increasing much higher than what was in our original projections.

In the joint outlook of OECD and FAO of June 2008, we said that we expected prices to come down and to stabilize at the level which was higher than the pre-food crisis level, so, at the higher level than 2005, but still much lower than what we saw in the first quarter of 2008.

What we see now is an over-shooting of the other side. We did not expect prices to come down as sharply as they actually did. We expected that these fallen prices would be slower over 2008 and the first half of 2009. When we did this joint outlook with OECD, oil prices for example, oil prices are very highly-correlated with food prices, oil prices at the time were US\$ 120 a barrel, in our projection exercise, we thought that oil prices would fall to US\$ 90 a barrel. Actually, today oil prices are below US\$ 60 a barrel.

So that gives you a feel for how much more prices have fallen beyond our expectations. However, prices are still higher on average, by about 30 percent, than they were before this whole crisis began.

Our expectation is that actually prices will firm up, we still believe that prices over the medium term will continue to be relatively high, not as high as we saw in the first quarter of 2008, but certainly much higher than what we saw in 2005 and 2006.

One fact is true, whether prices go up or down, the variability of prices has increased tremendously over the last few months and the financial crisis and changes in the financial market, are affecting this variability.

What, I think, is very important for all of us to bear in mind, that prices have gone up or come down and go up again, but the number of hungry people has been high even before prices started increasing.

In 2005, when prices were low, we had 840 million hungry people in the world, which is still higher than the number of hungry people in 1990, which is the base year for the World Food Summit. In 1990, there were 820 million hungry people in the world. So regardless of what prices are doing, we have a structural hunger problem in the world, and this is a point that we really need to remember. We also need to remember that the direction of change is for an increase, the number of hungry people in the world was increasing even before prices started rising. Of course in 2007 we saw this big jump in the number of hungry people, an additional 75 million, but even without this jump, we were not achieving the Millennium Development Goals. If you project the trend between 1990 and 2005 and projected to 2015, the MDG one is not achieved.

So my main concern about the financial crisis and what it is doing to prices, is that it is diverting our attention from the real issue. We are all focussing on what is happening in the markets today or tomorrow, but the real issue is the long-term issue, that we have nearly one billion hungry people in the world and this is a structural problem, we are moving away from achieving the Millennium Development Goals. If you look into the future, population is growing, it is going to grow from 6.5 billion today to 9 billion in 2050. The demand for agricultural commodities is growing, not just because of population growth but also because of bio-fuels, and agricultural productivity is stagnating in the developing countries where all the population growth is

happening and where all of the hungry people are today. Those are the real challenges that we need to focus on.

Finally, there was a question that said that the number of hungry people which has increased would now start decreasing, we are actually trying to deduce if the figure that we had for an increase of 75 billion is just for 2007. We are now working to try to update that to include more recent months. Our feeling is that since the biggest increase in price was in the first quarter of 2008, we will see an increase in the number of hungry people and probably some decline now. Again, my main point is that the short-term variations are not the real issue. We have to be really concerned with the long-run and with the structural trend of hunger in the world.

**Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)**

It is too big a challenge to be missed. I would like to address myself to Mr Ghanem.

If I understood you correctly, Mr Ghanem, you are suggesting that by separating this issue of the prices of food and the structural problem of hunger, there could be solutions to the structural problem of hunger outside the market?

**Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)**

No, I was not suggesting that, and thank you for asking the question to allow me to clarify myself.

What I am suggesting is that the problem of hunger is much deeper and more structural than the price variations and that even if prices today were still low, at the same level as 2005, the problem of hunger would still be with us. Looking forward to the future, if we maintain the trends as they have been over the last fifteen years since we have been tracking hunger in the world, if we maintain the strength we are not solving the hunger problem in the world. So that means that we need actually to take serious action to deal with this problem and, of course, serious action to deal with the problem of hunger will require a movement on several fronts, including linking farmers in developing countries better to markets, allowing them to compete in markets, helping them to raise their productivity and also ensuring that poor people have better access to food and that markets function properly.

**Abdel CORTAS (Lebanon)**

I am still confused about this question of giving the priority for holding the Summit early in 2009. In this respect, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that on one side, we said that we have established a High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security on the CFA, then we did not have any answer related to holding the meeting of the CFS late in the year 2009.

There is some confusion here, on the position of the Management - on the side of FAO. It would be more logical and more rational to have the meeting of the CFS, to have the report of the High-Level of Experts, then we have the Summit.

This is one point. The other point I would like to react to what Mr Ghanem has said, what I wanted when I raised this question in the beginning of my first intervention was to have a technical paper from the Department of Mr Ghanem, Economic and Social Department, at least a paper to be presented to the next meeting of COAG, next year, whereby we would see more clearly a good economic analysis of the impact of the declining prices on one side and the increase of prices or the stability of high prices of the inputs. Yes, oil is going down, but what about fertilizers, what about manpower, what about labour, etc.?

I respectfully would like that these suggestions be taken in consideration by the Economic and Social Department of FAO.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Lebanon, are there any further requests for the floor?

Getting back to my original intervention, I think what we are facing here is the question I posed and that is: what is the optimal balance between reform, technical support and political advocacy?

One thing that we have all agreed upon is that we need a very high level of political advocacy to move forward the cooperative process, the Global Partnership, or how this emerges and the question then becomes again for FAO. How to move the reform programme forward while also mustering the technical resources in a way that maintains momentum and a high degree of political leadership? I do not think that we have quite come to an answer to that proper balance. Perhaps we can refer to the Secretariat to give us some further information on that question, as well as the question of the CFS and COAG.

Mr Sumpsi, would you like to take the questions?

**Jose Maria SUMPSI VINAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)**

I think that this comment of the Chairperson is very appropriate, and it is very similar to the response that I gave to this question. I think that Management's position is clear.

First, we need continued momentum of international advocacy, because the question of the Reform of this Organization is not going as rapidly as we wish. Second, the two main amendments to be promoted are the improvement of governance and global food security; and mobilizing to detail with this food security crisis.

Third, I said also clearly, that is important as all of you or as a lot of delegations expressed it is important to try to streamline the different events in 2009 to avoid overlapping, to avoid duplications to avoid confusion, and in that sense I said clearly that, as a lot of you required, the Management will analyse this question in depth and propose a further information to Members on how and when to organize this meeting, particularly in the context of a High-Level Task Force and CFA. Because it is true that there are different events with different nature and different moments, and I think that this could be important to streamline the situation in 2009. We will analyse, we will study these questions and we will give you further information about the content, expected outcomes and maybe the most likely date for these events.

All this information will be disseminated to Members trying to get feedback about this Summit. We take note that several delegations said clearly that to support this Summit, some further information and details are needed and we will prepare this information. We will provide precise and detailed information about these proposals.

**Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)**

Just to quickly respond to the Honourable Representative of Lebanon, to say that yes, we are working on such a paper. We are actually working on an analysis of the overall impact of the financial crisis on food security, which includes the effect of input and output prices on investments and so on. He is absolutely right to ask for it, and I agree that it is very important.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Are there any other requests for interventions?

The one thing that we can say quite clearly is there is a very strong and unified aspiration to move the process of addressing the Millennium Development Goal of feeding the hungry forward in a context of robust and accelerated Reform, and one which is backed by a high degree of political advocacy in the form of the appropriate level of meetings which should be properly sequenced as well.

With that having been said, I would like to request that the Secretariat try to record this in the Report as best as possible in order to, as I said before, try and begin to move towards the appropriate balance between Reform, technical support, resources mobilization and political advocacy.

With that having been said, I would now like to move on now to the next Agenda Item. You have noticed that there is no agenda item 8 on the schedule, that is because that agenda item related to

applications for Membership, and that was handled already in the General Committee. So we will now move on to Agenda Item 9 on Budgetary Matters.

**9. Budgetary Matters (C 2008/3)**

**9. Questions budgétaires (C 2008/3)**

**9. Asuntos presupuestarios (C 2008/3)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

At its Thirty-fourth Session in November 2007, the Conference decided to reconsider the issue of Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account at this Special Session, as mentioned in document C 2008/3.

I would now like to ask Mr Manoj Juneja, Assistant Director-General of the Department of Human Financial and Physical Resources Department to introduce this Item to Conference.

**Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human Financial and Physical Resources Department)**

What you have under this Item is mundane matter compared with the discussion you just concluded, in fact, hopefully, a simple housekeeping matter.

The Special Reserve Account is an important safety net of the Organization, established by Conference Resolution. The Special Reserve Account may be used to finance three things: budgetary expenditures pending receipt of Assessed Contributions, unbudgeted extra costs due to certain currency movements, and to finance unbudgetary extra costs of approved programmes due to unforeseen inflationary trends. The Special Reserve Account also absorbs any realized net gains or losses on exchange arising from transactions or unrealized gains or losses from financial reporting requirements. Its level as reported in US Dollars, therefore also fluctuates depending on exchange rates.

In 2006-2007, the Special Reserve Account was utilized in the amount of US\$ 6.4 million to fund some unforeseen inflation in General Service staff salaries in Rome. When the Finance Committee and Council approved such use in the last biennium, they also recommended that proposals for replenishment of the Special Reserve Account be considered.

At one point during the past biennium, this was urgent because the Special Reserve Account had a zero balance. But, the Special Reserve's level has since increased and then decreased again in the course of 2008, with a recent balance at 30 September of US\$ 30 million.

The 2007 Conference considered whether to replenish the Special Reserve Account up to the amount of US\$ 6.4 million utilized in 2006, and decided in Conference Resolution C 2007/4 that this matter should be revisited at the 2008 Conference.

More recently, the Finance Committee reviewed the matter in 2008, in preparation for this Conference, and recommended that Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account should be considered more holistically with other reserves of FAO.

In 2008, the Finance Committee therefore recommended that proposals for Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account be developed through the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, and submitted at next year's the Conference in 2009. Management supports this recommendation.

As highlighted in document C 2008/3, the Conference is therefore requested to note that proposals for replenishing the Special Reserve Account will be submitted to the 2009 Conference, through the next Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will now open the floor to any delegates who may wish to make comments on this Agenda Item or to raise any other issues on this Agenda Item before interventions. I see none.

**11. Date and Place of the Thirty-sixth Conference Session****11. Date et lieu de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence****11. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia**

We move on to the next Agenda Item. That is Agenda Item 11.

Item 11 pertains to the Date and Place of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference, and may I ask the Secretary-General to give the Conference a proposal with this regard.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The proposed date for the next session of Conference is 14 to 21 November 2009 at FAO Headquarters.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Thirty-sixth Session will be convened from 14 to 21 November 2009. If there are no objections. It is so decided.

**12. Any Other Matters****12. Questions diverses****12. Asuntos varios**

We will now move on to Item number 12, any other matters. Does any Delegation wish to raise an issue under this item?

I will open the floor for any possible interventions. Bulgaria.

**Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)**

I would like to make my last statement in FAO, and for it to be a word of thanks.

Thanks to everyone who prepared and who worked in this Conference. One small but effective very big thanks to those people who made the new Permanent Representatives Web site.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now would like to bring the Conference to an end, as we have reached the end of our Agenda for this morning.

This afternoon, I have two short announcements.

First of all, I would like to inform you that the Delegation of San Marino has submitted a Statement to the Conference for insertion in the Verbatim Record of this meeting, if anyone wants to review that insertion.

**Marino RICCARDI (San Marino)<sup>5</sup>**

First of all let me congratulate you, Mr Chairperson on your election as Chair of this Special Session of the Conference, as well as the two Vice Chairs.

We are here gathered for an important if not unprecedented occasion.

Our Missions in Rome have worked during these last nine months on a very important and crucial task: to help this Organization fulfil its unique global mandate by providing it with new and adequate tools to respond to global changes.

FAO must therefore adapt to the changing situation; it has to be more efficient while addressing hunger and poverty reduction, more effective when facing new challenges such as the expansion

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<sup>5</sup> *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*



of agriculture and food production, the soaring food prices crisis, climate change, the impact of the recent financial crisis on the investment in agriculture and the new opportunities created by bio-energy.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated time and energy during the last year believing in a new Reformed FAO. The process has now started. At the end of this Conference, we will approve a Declaration which is the starting point of a complicated and intense work. The implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (2009-2011) will provide a firm and realistic basis for FAO to enhance its global relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.

The involvement of all partners, Management, FAO staff, Decentralized Offices and Member Nations will be of fundamental importance for the success of this process. We are fully aware that it will not be simple. Many adjustments will be required as well as continuous efforts by FAO Staff.

We welcome the establishment of the Committee of the Conference for 2009, and the appointment of Professor Noori and of the two Vice Chairs, confident that they will pursue in their excellent work, and we as well endorse the re-appointment of the same Chair and co-Chairs of the three Working Groups, recognizing their competency in leading us through this process.

2009 will be an important year for the implementation of all decisions taken: the Immediate Action Plan, the new Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan for 2010- 2013, the Program of Work and Budget 2010-2011 which will all have an integrated results-based structure defining new priorities for the Organization.

Many aspects are still open. For instance, there is the strengthening of FAO governance in order to ensure independence, transparency and efficiency of the Governing Bodies in their systematic review of the global situation, the role of the Independent Chair of the Council, and the new composition of the Council, where size and a rotation scheme must be identified to guarantee full participation to all Members.

Efficiency and effectiveness must be the key words for a new reformed FAO as well as for its Governing Bodies.

We look forward to the results of the Root and Branch Review which will have implications for the functioning of the Organization, its efficiency and from where savings will occur. We also believe that Membership must not be involved in micro-management of the Organization. Responsibility, delegation of authority and layering will be the key issues for efficiency and transparency.

We endorse all actions to strengthen partnerships and strong alliances among the three Rome-based food Agencies in the context of UN System Coherence and Effectiveness for both technical and administrative functions.

One example is the recent initiative taken by the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish a "Joint High-Level Task Force on the Emergency" on the occasion of the food prices crisis where an important role was given to FAO by appointing the Director General as Vice-chair of the Task Force for its fight against hunger and food security.

FAO has an important role to play and as the IEE team underlined, "if FAO did not exist it should be invented."

This mandate can be fulfilled only if FAO changes according to a changing world where new challenges such as climate changes, the world economic crisis, the increased number of undernourished people, conflicts and emergencies require that FAO give prompt responses to hungry people and vulnerable groups.

We have all been working during this past year believing in the reform process. We are here today as we have achieved this important result. But, moreover, we are here today because we need a reformed, more efficient and effective FAO.

The 2007 Conference has approved “Reform with Growth”. The concept of “growth” will have to be defined not only in the sense of an increased budget for the Organization, but also as means for FAO to improve and develop and help countries progress in combating hunger. Hunger has profound implications for national security, and there is no more central role for governments than ensure that their citizens to have enough to eat.

The use of hunger as political weapon constitutes the denial of the Right to Food itself, and we welcome FAO’s role in promoting the Right to Food and helping Governments to implement national policies on food security.

We have always said that Reform must belong to the Membership and, in this respect, we must all contribute to its implementation. A Trust Fund has been established by the Director General upon Members’ request, and a provisional amount of US\$ 21,8 million for the implementation of the Action Plan as been requested for 2009 to be funded by extra-budgetary contributions.

Let me conclude by thanking once again all those who have dedicated time and willingness to achieve this important result. The world needs FAO and rural people need its technical assistance. They need to be part of the changing world of new research and FAO, as a knowledge Organization, can contribute to build the capacity for new generations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

There is an announcement of a meeting. Civil Society Participants are meeting at 12.45, in twenty minutes, in the Espace Gabon, to discuss perspectives on reform, farmers, indigenous peoples, women and NGOs.

We have a proposal to reconvene this evening to adopt the Report.

Congo you have the floor.

#### **Emile ESSEMA (Congo)**

Ma préoccupation était liée à celle que vous venez déjà d'évoquer, à savoir que dans le journal de ce jour, il est fait mention que l'heure de l'adoption du Rapport sera communiquée à la fin des débats de la matinée, et comme nous étions en train de conclure sans avoir de précision à ce propos, je voulais donc prendre la parole pour en faire état. Mais comme vous m'avez répondu, je crois que je suis satisfait.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

In the IPA, one of the central elements is to move forward in presenting more precise, more action-orientated and more directive reports. We have not convened a Drafting Committee for this Conference in that regard so we will look to the Secretariat to prepare a short Report. I am hoping it is very short, then when we come this evening we can review it very expeditiously and approve it. That having been said, I would now like to turn over to the Secretary-General to give us and update on a time to be convened and the procedures for reviewing the Draft Report.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

We have come to the end of the Agenda for this morning, and Conference will resume at 19.00 hours this evening to adopt the Report of the Special Session of Conference.

I look forward to seeing all of you at seven o'clock this evening.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

This meeting is adjourned until seven o'clock.

Thank you all very much for your very helpful and useful interventions. The meeting is now adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 12:30 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 30*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12 :30 horas*

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<b>Thirty-fifth (Special) Session Trente-cinquième session (session extraordinaire) 35° periodo (extraordinario) de sesiones</b>
<b>Rome, 18 – 21 November 2008 Rome, 18 – 21 novembre 2008 Roma, 18 – 21 de noviembre de 2008</b>
<b>SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b>
<b>21 November 2008</b>

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 19:16 hours

Mr Lee A. Brudvig

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 19 h 16

sous la présidence de M. Lee A. Brudvig

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 19.16 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Lee A. Brudvig

Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

## **II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FAO**

(continued)

## **II. SUIVI DE L'ÉVALUATION EXTERNE INDÉPENDANTE DE LA FAO (suite)**

## **II. SEGUIMIENTO DE LA EVALUACIÓN EXTERNA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA FAO (continuación)**

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

### **ADOPTION DU RAPPORT**

### **APROBACION DEL INFORME**

### **DRAFT REPORT – PART I**

### **PROJET DE RAPPORT – PARTIE I**

### **PROYECTO DEL INFORME – PARTE I**

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Does anyone have comments on paragraphs 1 to 12? I see none. These paragraphs are approved.

*Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved*

*Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés*

*Los párrafos 1 a 12 son aprobados*

### **DRAFT REPORT – PART II**

### **PROJET DE RAPPORT – PARTIE II**

### **PROYECTO DEL INFORME – PARTE II**

### **CHAIPERSON**

Does anyone have comments on paragraphs 13 to 19? I give the floor to Brazil for comments.

### **José A. MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)**

Maybe you went too fast with your gavel on this section. I just wanted to recall the fact that the civil society participated very actively in this Conference and they are actively participating also in other works of FAO. It is important to bring civil society to this process, so I would submit to membership that "The Conference would invite the CoC to establish mechanisms for consultation with the civil society in the follow-up of IEE and its implementation".

### **Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)**

Quería agradecer el comentario realizado por la Delegación de Brasil y mi Delegación simplemente quería hacer una pregunta: primero, en qué parte o párrafo se introduciría esto y cuál sería el texto exacto que reflejaría este mecanismo. También me gustaría conocer un poco más de qué estamos hablando, o sea, cuál es el mecanismo que se va a implementar.

### **José A. MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)**

My phrasing is: "The Conference invites the CoC to consider establishing mechanisms for consultation with civil society organizations from all regions in the process of follow-up of the IEE and the implementation of the IPA."

Those that have drafted this Report could very well find a suitable place for this, but I would think it could be after paragraph 17. This is a suggestion.

### **Mounghi MÉDI (Cameroon)**

Well, we recognize that what Brazil is saying is somehow important but I do not know if we really need to put this kind of sentence in this Report involving the CSO. I think we need some

legal advice, and I think that is what we intend to do. It might be interesting, but I think it is important to have legal advice on this, on the kind of mechanism that maybe set up between the CoC and the CSO. I do not see it clearly. Probably Brazil may come up, and then the Legal Office will come up and guide us on this.

**Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)**

It is very difficult to swallow this type of proposal at this time. We cannot accept it. It can remain open for discussion because the Immediate Plan of Action is not concluded. If need be, we can discuss the role that civil society and others could play in the 2009 discussion in the Working Groups, and they could suggest in which Working Groups. Without any discussion for any of the Working Groups, we cannot include this one because it entirely covers the Immediate Plan of Action, so I have a very strong objection on the inclusion of that one.

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

It is not easy for me to answer this question because, as far as I remember, this issue has not been discussed during the Conference Session. The only thing I can say is that, from a legal point of view, whatever mechanism the CoC may establish it should be in accordance with the Basic Texts. But, without knowing what kind of mechanism is envisaged, it is difficult to answer the question.

As you know, the Basic Texts provide for consultation with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and there are various distinctions, and in the absence of more information, it is really very difficult for me to answer the question. It depends on what the CoC will suggest, keeping in mind, however, that whatever it may suggest, it should always be in line with the Basic Texts. But you know, not having had the benefit of any discussion, I do not know what kind of mechanism is envisaged in this respect.

**Mounghi MÉDI (Cameroon)**

With the consent, probably, of the Delegation of Brazil, we might suggest that we leave the formation of the Committee as it is described in the Resolution, on paragraph 5a.

I think that serves us the purpose, instead of adding new terms of reference in the Committee.

**Alaa EL DIN WAGIH ROUSHDY (Egypt)**

After our colleague the Ambassador of Brazil read his suggestion slowly, and also particularly after what we have just heard from the Legal Counsel, I think that this is an issue, as mentioned, that was not discussed in the Conference. I think this is an issue that my delegation would welcome – consultations with civil society – but the implications of this, I think, need to be studied further, so I think we should defer this issue and not have it in this Report.

**Ms Lucy MUNGOMA MUNGOMA (Zambia)**

We also value the proposal that the Ambassador of Brazil has made on a procedural matter. I think we are approving the record of the minutes of the meeting of the Conference as a true reflection of what we discussed, and anything that was not discussed during the Conference cannot be reflected as part of the record. So, on that point alone, and given also the advice of the Legal Counsel, I think we could do with some further consultations during the course of the implementation process before we can include it.

**Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)**

I endorse the statement made by Zambia.

**Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)**

Gracias, Presidente. Creo, que lo que usted recién ha dicho es muy cierto. Este tema ya está en el PIA. Creo, que también tenemos que ser muy sinceros con nosotros mismos.

Después de haber llegado a grandes acuerdos, después de diez meses de trabajo muy amplio, deseo hacer notar que en realidad, durante la Conferencia no se trataron cuestiones específicas del

PIA, porque dábamos por sentado que esos temas estaban acordados. Entonces lo que está pidiendo el Representante de Brasil, que nosotros apoyamos, porque ha habido un trabajo muy serio de apertura y figura, como usted bien dijo en el Plan Inmediato de Acción, nosotros veríamos con agrado poder introducir un párrafo en este, donde se haga mención de la sociedad civil; creo que es una manera de mostrar un avance y un progreso en las formas de consulta.

**El Zubeir BASHIR TAHA (Sudan)**

I also subscribe to the proposal put forward by the Ambassador of Brazil for two reasons.

One, that his formulation has been carefully made as his words say 'invite the Committee to consider', which means they are going to consider, and in which case legal matters will also be part of these considerations.

The other point is, if I remember well, I have been chairing one of the sessions in which Via Crocias participated on behalf of farmers and the speech given by the Representative was well received at this meeting. So I would think including this proposal from Brazil would be a faithful record of the events that took place in the past deliberations of this meeting.

**Philippe VINÇON (France)**

Un commentaire un peu différent de ce que l'on a entendu, simplement pour dire que cette Conférence était vraiment extraordinaire, extraordinaire par son esprit, son esprit de consensus, son esprit positif qui, je crois, montre que la rénovation de l'institution est vraiment en cours et que, nous sommes tous très heureux et très mobilisés sur ce changement.

Pour vous dire que, sur la remarque de fond qu'a faite notre collègue brésilien, je crois que l'on est tous autour de la table, complètement mobilisés sur ce sujet, je crois que c'est un aspect qui ne fait pas de doute entre nous et sur lequel, nous partageons très largement l'idée qui a été émise par notre collègue brésilien. Je crois que, comme beaucoup de délégations l'on dit également, il y a un problème juridique auquel on se heurte et donc, je me demande si l'on ne pourrait pas revenir à ce qui était un peu votre sentiment initial pour, je dirais, concrétiser cet esprit nouveau qui me semble souffler aujourd'hui et rechercher par la suite une solution à la suggestion brésilienne et dès ce soir, adopter par acclamation ce Rapport.

Je dirais que obtenir un Rapport aussi concret, aussi positif, sans Comité de rédaction, ce qui est la pratique habituelle ici, me semble résumer cet état d'esprit et c'est donc, au nom de l'Union européenne, la suggestion que nous vous faisons: l'adoption de ce Rapport par acclamation. Je vous remercie.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

Do you actually propose Chair? Or was that put to us by the French Chair? I am not sure whether we are acclaiming his speech or whether we are acclaiming the Report. I am sorry, I do not know what we have acclaimed, because we came along with the hope that we would be able to adopt this *en bloc*. But upon reading it, we did not have sufficient comfort with one or two aspects and we would have liked to have heard the views on some others on those before actually accepting it *en bloc*. So, I would just like some ruling on whether you have allowed France to do the Chairing for you, or whether you own the Chair?

**José A. MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)**

Chairperson, it is not an objection, we also want to have this Report to prove that it was a point that we felt missing in the Report. But we have here the Chairperson of the next CoC, our incoming Chairperson, and we trust he will be dealing with this matter appropriately. There are established mechanisms in which this Organization deals with the civil society, and we also need to recall the proposals that were put forward by the Secretariat and the CFS. So, this is a building

process and we trust Professor Noori, although we have preferred the explicit inclusion of such text, but we do trust Professor Noori will be addressing this issue next year.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to ask Ambassador Noori to just say a few words about this.

#### **INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL**

I was going to propose this, but I preferred that it come from Brazil. Yes, I think they are resolving this matter, because everybody agrees that this issue is important and we should discuss it. Now the issue with some people raises a legal issue which is appropriate - to put it in the Resolution of the Report, or not? I can put this item on the Agenda of the First Meeting of CoC-IEE, and we will discuss it, so the purpose would be served.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Paragraphs 13 to 19 then stand approved.

*Paragraphs 13 to 19 approved*

*Les paragraphes 13 à 19 sont approuvés*

*Los párrafos 13 a 19 son aprobados*

#### **DRAFT REPORT – PART III**

#### **PROJET DE RAPPORT – PARTIE III**

#### **PROYECTO DEL INFORME – PARTE III**

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Dealing with other subsequent matters, paragraphs 20 to 28, I open the floor for any comments on this section. The floor is open.

I see Afghanistan, who had requested the floor previously.

No, we will continue to deal with this section by section because I perceive that while there is a widespread desire to approve the Report by acclamation, there are still a number of concerns in other sections as well. So, in the fullness of discussion, I would like to go through this as expeditiously as possible, and I would like very much in Part II to pick up on the sentiment that seems to be emerging in the room, and that is that the concept of including civil society in other institutions is very broadly accepted. The question is whether or not to include it in this specific Report. It is in the IPA; it is included as part of our agenda in the future.

My own feeling is that given that general recognition and the broad consensus that this will be addressed, that it may not be necessary to spend a lot of time or to amend the current Report.

My suggestion is to go back to the section as a whole and adopt it *en bloc* as it is without the additional wording with the understanding that these issues will be dealt with in the fullness of discussions as we move forwards in the Committee of the Conference. If that is acceptable to all, that is what I would like to propose. Is there any objection to that? Brazil?

#### **Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

I have just a minor suggestion in paragraph 22, and a small suggestion in paragraph 23.

In paragraph 22, in line six, I would suggest to substitute the words "establish and design" by two words "prepare the". So, the text will read "The Conference requested FAO to prepare the terms of reference".

In paragraph 23, in the fifth line, after "programmes", I wish to add "at country level" because most of FAO programmes are at country level. At the end of the paragraph, in order to provide justification why we are seeking more funds, it will be better to add the following words: "in order to address the structural problems facing agriculture in the developing countries".

**Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

My comment refers to paragraph 22, as just noted by the Delegate from Afghanistan.

Around line six, where the Conference was requested to do something. I am not sure at large if the Conference did request it. It did come from a quarter or some quarters, but I am not sure if it was a general thrust.

Secondly, this is asking us to establish something and then develop the terms of reference, which seems a very about-face way of doing something. You sort of form a club and then say now what shall we do? It does not appear very felicitous to us, and we propose something along the lines of: "The Conference had requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by Council, draft terms of reference for a High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security".

It seems to us that to mobilize 400-500 experts requires careful consideration and considerable debate and discussion amongst Members before being established. As I understand, that extensive discussion has not really been held.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you New Zealand.

Can I ask you to repeat that language very slowly so that we can get this written down, in terms of the Conference Report.

**Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

"The Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by Council, draft terms of reference for a High-Level Panel" and so on.

**Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)**

Gracias Presidente, también tenía algunas dudas sobre el párrafo 22 donde básicamente está condensado lo esencial de nuestra discusión de esta mañana y más que unas propuestas específicas de lenguaje yo tenía algunas preguntas, pero me parece que quienes me han precedido han ayudado un poco a despejar estas preguntas y una de las dudas que tenía.

La primera duda se refiere a la primera línea, cuando se afirma que debido a la crisis alimentaria el número de personas aumentó. Me parece que el Director para contextos sociales se refirió a este tema esta mañana y lo que nos decía que si bien la crisis alimentaria, como la crisis de los altos precios, fue uno de los factores que contribuyó al agravamiento que ya de por sí era grave, entonces, yo le pondría una matiz a esa afirmación de que la crisis de los altos precios empeoró una situación que ya de por sí era grave, era un asunto de matiz.

Además creo que la forma como está redactado originalmente no es claro, por lo que refiere a la ventaja que se está haciendo de la FAO que pide; no sabemos esta ventaja para quién en la FAO; ya que la FAO somos todos, el Grupo de Alto-Nivel.

Me parece que la propuesta del Sr. Ayazi de Afganistán de pedir los términos de referencia es mucho más clara, aunque lo que acaba de proponer el delegado de Nueva Zelanda le ha dado mucha más claridad a la idea. Porque así como se dijo no me parecía muy claro, por lo menos en el debate de esta mañana. Hubiera una voluntad de todos por establecer esta fase por lo menos hasta que no nos entendamos qué es exactamente lo que se quiere hacer de esto? Entonces, yo podría concurrir con cualquiera de las dos propuestas, que me parece aclararan un poco la idea de lo que se discutió esta mañana.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The language dealing with preparing the terms of reference, I think that is quite clear. We have the language down that has been proposed. You had proposed something regarding the first sentence of paragraph 22. Did you have specific language that you wanted to put forward?



**Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)**

Lo único que diría es que el número de personas con hambre aumentó, entre otras razones, como consecuencia de la crisis alimentaria, para no dar la sensación de que fue el problema de los altos precios, que es coyuntural y lo que generó el problema del aumento del número de personas que sufren hambre. Sabemos que es un problema estructural más grave que viene de atrás y no es simplemente una coyuntura de los últimos dos años. Entonces, se trata simplemente de poner un matiz; que es la crisis entre otras razones.

**Sitki Ugur ZIYAL (Turkey)**

My point is with paragraph 28, with the dates of the next session. When I am counting the dates, it comes up to eight working days for this Conference that is proposed. I think as we are working on the Reform and are increasing our efficiency, that the eight days would be too much for the Conference, and every day costs, of course, for the high-level delegation.

I was just wondering if this period duration would include the Council as well and, if so, would this have to be mentioned in the text here?

**CHAIRPERSON**

Since that is a fairly specific item, I am going to ask the Secretariat to respond to that now, and then come back and continue to collect comments on the other paragraphs.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Just to recall that Council, this week, has adopted the Calendar of Governing Body Sessions, and those dates are indicated in the Calendar that was adopted by Council.

Secondly, earlier this morning, this Agenda Item was put to this Conference and the dates proposed were agreed.

On the specific comment made, as to the duration of Conference, perhaps we should bear in mind the fact that, next year, the Conference will have a very, very heavy agenda of important items, including such matters as the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan, as well as a number of Basic Text changes to be made. It may well be that the whole week will be required to go over all of these items.

However, if in actual fact, it turns out that the Conference can cover all of its business in a shorter period of time, we could decide to shorten the Conference at that time.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you very much. With that, I will return to the other discussions, and I call now on Canada.

**James MELANSON (Canada)**

I just wanted to briefly concur with the line of reasoning raised by Afghanistan, New Zealand and Colombia. I think, as they have suggested, we are at a stage in the governance process of considering this, which is not yet decision-making, but rather asking for preparation or an outline of a terms of reference, which would be a useful step.

I would suggest, and if Afghanistan agrees, that the New Zealand formulation adds a useful indicator of how we would like to treat as a governance issue, which is that the terms of reference could be reviewed by a Governing Body. I would suggest, in fact, that we might go forward with the drafting suggested by New Zealand.

**Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)**

Gracias, creo que la tecnología no siempre es la mejor forma de comunicación. Sobre el párrafo 22, quisiera hacer dos señalamientos. En primer lugar, mi Delegación coincide completamente con las menciones que se han hecho anteriormente, de la importancia de tener unos términos de

referencia, antes de aprobar un Grupo Consultivo, con el cual al principio no vemos mayor objeción, pero, hay que saber qué es lo que estamos aprobando, cuál es su composición.

Dentro de este comentario yo quisiera que se eliminara la frase en la que “participarán todos los actores pertinentes.” Estamos hablando de expertos. ¿Qué es esto de “actores pertinentes?” Si son “actores”, creo que pueden coincidir pero no necesariamente. “Actores pertinentes” pueden ser algo mucho más amplio que “expertos”. Entonces, creo que eso será lo que se tendrá que definir en los términos de referencia que han pedido varias delegaciones.

Por otra parte yo creo que, también, sería conveniente aclarar lo del número de expertos, cuando decimos 400 ó 500 expertos a nivel global, deberíamos tener alguna referencia sobre el costo que estos podrían tener. Cuando veamos los términos de referencia, tendríamos bien claro cuáles son las implicaciones financieras que esto va a tener para la Organización. ¿Los seguiremos incluyendo en contribuciones voluntarias, o será parte del presupuesto regular?

Hay que aclarar sobre qué estamos hablando, porque hemos visto en los últimos meses que los temas de financiamiento se han vuelto temas que hay que considerar con cuidado antes de aprobar ciertas propuestas.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I am going to continue to collect observations, although this is getting a little bit messy, and then ask the Secretariat to summarize the changes. We shall then try to come to a compromise acceptable language for paragraphs 22 and 23.

I call next on Australia.

#### **Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)**

I just wanted to support the comments made by Afghanistan, New Zealand, Colombia and Canada regarding paragraph 22.

The question I had was, in the formulation of words put forward by New Zealand, it talks about preparing terms of reference for consideration by the Council. I guess I was just guessing, under the new governance arrangements, whether the Council was the appropriate Body to consider the terms of reference or whether there were some other Body that should consider those terms of reference. It was more of a process question, I guess.

#### **Mounghi MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I also concur with what Afghanistan, New Zealand, Canada and what Australia just said now. I have, more or less, the same query.

Let me try to suggest something for this paragraph. If I want to go back to what New Zealand proposed, there are two issues here to be solved. First, which Council will consider the terms of reference and also, what will be the purpose of the outcome of those terms of reference?

These are the two issues that we need to consider here, and then I would like to propose something and put it on the table, if you permit me.

What we want to propose, on the basis of the New Zealand proposal, is to say: "The Conference requested FAO to prepare the terms of reference for consideration by the Council in 2009 for a High-Level Panel of Experts to hold subsequently consultations in the second half of 2009".

That may help to solve those two issues that I just mentioned.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

At this point, I have one more request for the floor from Ecuador. Once Ecuador speaks, I am going to look at the language we have and try to come up with an acceptable language on the section dealing with the High-Level Panel of Experts.

**Sra. Mónica MARTINEZ (Ecuador)**

Han hablado muchas Delegaciones y esto es una ventaja pues esto me permite ser muy breve. Mi Delegación está absolutamente de acuerdo con todo lo dicho por la Delegación de México. Entendemos los problemas y tenemos las mismas preguntas. Los puntos que acaba de mencionar Camerún, creo que son pertinentes, que es una cuestión de lenguaje que podemos trabajar y encontrar una solución.

**Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)**

Muchas gracias, Presidente. Es viernes, son las 8 de la noche y estoy seguro que todos querríamos ir a descansar después de toda una semana que corona un año de mucho trabajo. Sin embargo, yo no me puedo ir a mi casa, esta noche, con la esperanza de dormir, cuando estoy escuchando que una propuesta que trata de crear un grupo, en el cual se reúnan las más altas inteligencias del mundo sobre el tema de la seguridad alimentaria.

Habría que preguntar al Dr. Pucci. ¿ Hay que ver los términos de referencia y mandarlos al Consejo de junio del próximo año? ¿ Los van a ver el Comité del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas? ¿ Vamos a hacer un Comité para que ese Comité estudie otro Comité, que estudie otro Comité? Y mientras tanto, vamos para mil millones, Señor Presidente, mil millones es un billón de personas que esta noche se van a ir a la cama sin haber comido.

Yo iba a incluir algo más en mi discurso en el podio, pero por razones de tiempo tuve que recortarlo. En los siete minutos que iba a tener cada Delegación para hablar, en esos siete minutos, según cifras de la FAO, mueren 120 personas porque tienen hambre.

Cuando mueren 120 personas por una bomba, eso sale en la primera plana de todos los periódicos del mundo. Cuando se cae un avión con 120 personas a bordo, es noticia en todos los medios de todos los países del mundo.

Pero cada siete minutos, se mueren 120 personas porque no tienen qué comer, en el siglo XXI, en un mundo que gasta lo que gasta en rescatar a los banqueros de los errores que ellos cometen, en un mundo que gasta lo que gasta en armas para matarnos unos con otros.

En este mundo, nuestros países nos mandan aquí para que aceleremos la búsqueda de soluciones a un problema escandaloso y terrible que nos avergüenza a todos. Y estamos discutiendo por una palabrita, que una frasecita, que los términos, y que el Consejo del año que viene discuta estas cosas. Eso es cuánto, Sr. Presidente. Gracias.

**Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

I think that the views or concerns that was beginning to develop in my mind were aired by the Delegate of the Dominican Republic. I thought here that we were talking of coming up with a follow-up mechanism following the High-Level Conference. Once I would have accepted that we need to find the wording that it could carry everybody on board. But I think the philosophy that we are trying to use, if my recollection is right, when New Zealand proposed the amendment, they said that the word "Conference" there was misleading because everyone did not seem to have agreed. There were some who agreed and some who did not agree, and to that extent that is why they put a caveat that would cover those that did not agree. But I thought that our mission here was to look at implementing what was already agreed in June. As the Dominican colleague has indicated, in June we were trying to find ways of preventing people from dying of hunger. I thought that the Conference here was trying to operationalize those aspirations in those views that were aired at the highest level. But I do not see this paragraph, the way we are rewording it now, having that outcome.

The longer we delay it, the more meaningless paragraph 22 will become. So for me, I thought we had discussed this matter. We may not all have agreed, and in all these paragraphs that I have clapped my hands to, the word "Conference" is used. But I must tell you, Mr Chairperson, that I did not agree with everything. But I think we are looking at collective decisions here. We are

Member Governments that have come here to take decisions on what our Heads of States and Ministers agreed upon in June.

So I would welcome that we find a way forward in language that would accommodate everybody, and that we use a philosophy that is not retrogressive – a philosophy that will build on what June had achieved. The way I see it, the June resolution was more positive than what you are trying to come up with now. So I would like to see a situation whereby authorize this and some movement does take place. We have adequate governing mechanisms within our structures to enable any terms of reference that may be drawn up by the Secretariat to be scrutinized by the Membership. And so for us, to say we should wait until June next year for a final decision, I would have difficulty with that and my Delegation would certainly not agree with that proposal.

I am prepared to discuss the wording that would carry everybody on board, but let us be action-oriented. Let us try to put in place the essence of the debate this morning. If my recollection is right, people were saying that we needed details. I did not hear people say they did not want to see this implemented, but most people were saying we needed to have enough information on this. This is why I thought the Secretariat had put this wording before us by saying that there would be clear terms of reference that would be put forward to the Membership. It was to try and cover the many questions that we asked with regards to the lack of information.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Zimbabwe, I am going to suggest some language and then I am going to come back to Guatemala.

I think the challenge we face here is that we are in a new situation. We do not have a Drafting Committee. We are focussing now on a more streamlined document and the role of the Conference is to register at a political level the high priorities of the Organization to then allow the Secretariat and the Members to move that forward and present it for the appropriate decision.

We have not yet formally made a decision but we have, I think reached a great deal of consensus on the fact that there is a need for terms of reference for the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security.

I think the challenge here is to capture the spirit of the discussions to allow the process to move forward and to empower the Secretariat to do what we have asked them to do, and that is to develop terms of reference which will then go through the appropriate governance scrutiny for a decision. So my suggested language is: "The Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare Terms of Reference for consideration by Council of a High Level Panel of Experts, with a view to its establishment in 2009".

Now that puts forward the spirit of what we have talked about. It makes it clear that the next step lies with the Secretariat. The following step is to go to the Council and it sets a time-bound framework for action, and those are the things that we want to accomplish. I am going to put this forward, and see if people can agree on that language. We have had a lot of discussion and I think that this, in my view, accurately represents both the spirit and the motivation of what we are trying to do with the end as Zimbabwe and the Dominican Republic has said in resolving the world's food problem. I am going to put this forward for consideration, are there any comments?

I am going to read this once again.

"The Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare Terms of Reference for consideration by Council of a High-Level Panel of Experts, with a view to its establishment in 2009."

The floor is open for comments, and then I will come back to Guatemala who is next on the speakers list.

#### **Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

I just want to say that because I proposed an alternative, I guess that I would like to comment on this to say that I would be happy for your wording to replace the wording that I proposed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other comments on this?

Let us move on from this section. We have a couple of other sections that are still open. There are a couple of editorial suggestions by Afghanistan. I do not want to get into a Drafting Committee mode here, but I will come back to the two suggestions by Afghanistan.

First of all, I am going to call on Guatemala and then open the floor for other further comments. I hope there are none.

**Sra Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)**

Para estar seguros, y como lo ha solicitado México, únicamente quería decir que también a nosotros nos deja perplejos el párrafo que usted acaba de leer, que lo aceptamos porque nos parece muy bueno, la parte final donde decía "en el que participan todos los actores relevantes o pertinentes", que sea cancelada. Gracias.

**Moungui MÉDI (Cameroon)**

I wanted to be clear in my mind, the wording as reported before us now says "prepare the terms of reference", and then furthermore, "with a view for its establishment in 2009." Does it entail the fact that the panel will start working in 2009 and that there will be no delay for the start of this work beyond 2009, because I have the feeling here that the establishment does not entail the start of the work. If that is the case, we need to have it clear in our mind before we can agree on this text.

**CHAIRPERSON**

There may be members of the Secretariat who want to comment on this. But my own feeling is that the Terms of Reference will themselves embody the nature of the Organization and the moment when it begins functioning, so the establishment in 2009, of course, will then go back to the Terms of Reference and the terms of the operational modalities.

Does the Secretariat have any other comments on this? Is that correct? OK. So I think that this language does cover that. It is established, and then the Terms of Reference will determine the ongoing nature and the function of the High-Level Panel of Experts.

Do I have other requests for the floor?

If not I would like to return to paragraph 23, and if I could have the Secretariat just repeat the two amendments that were suggested by Afghanistan to see if they are generally acceptable, then I will call on France.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL**

The proposals made by Afghanistan are as follows: In line 5, after "programmes" in the English text to add the words, "at country level". Then at the end of this sentence, after "substantial funding", to add "in order to address the structural problems facing agriculture in developing countries".

**Philippe VINÇON (France)**

Je souhaitais revenir sur le paragraphe 22, à la suite de l'intervention de notre collègue du Zimbabwe, simplement pour rappeler quelques éléments. Je crois qu'il est prévu par les Textes fondamentaux de la FAO que le Directeur général peut convoquer un Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, c'est donc une disposition, l'Article IV, qui est de sa compétence. Je crois que c'est un élément qui me paraît important. Je crois qu'effectivement, tel que rédigé dans le Projet de Rapport, il y avait en effet une certaine inversion des facteurs entre l'établissement et la définition des termes de référence. C'est pourquoi, je pense que les propositions qu'avaient faites notre collègue d'Afghanistan étaient parfaitement de nature à résoudre l'ambiguïté nécessaire.

En revanche, la proposition que vous nous soumettez maintenant de renvoyer au Conseil est de nature, à nos yeux, à retarder une avancée importante sur un élément qui nous paraît essentiel,

dans le contexte de lutte contre la faim, qui est notre objectif. Et je crois que l'on s'éloigne d'une des avancées qui nous paraissent les plus importantes dans le Rapport qui nous était soumis et qui permettait de montrer que la Réforme de la FAO était en cours, point très important.

Et que deuxième point, il y avait une volonté de réunir rapidement les termes de référence d'un Groupe de haut niveau qui est, à nos yeux, essentiel pour la suite des opérations. Et je crains que la formulation que vous nous proposez ne remette en cause cet engagement politique et cette implication, sur laquelle, je crois, il y a un large accord.

Voilà ce que je voulais vous dire sur la dernière proposition que vous venez de nous soumettre Monsieur le Président.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Could I call on the Legal Counsel, as this is beyond my realm of expertise. Are the Terms of Reference a matter that could be approved by the Director-General or do they need to go for consideration by the Council? If they do not, then perhaps we could eliminate the phrase "for consideration by Council".

#### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

As mentioned by France, Article VI.4 of the FAO Constitution provides that the Director-General may establish, in consultation with Member Nations, Associate Members and National FAO Committees, Panels of Experts with a view to developing consultation with leading technicians in the various fields of activity of the Organization.

The Director-General may convene meetings with some or all of these experts for consultation on specific subjects. I think this is the Article to which France refers. So, if it is envisaged to have this kind of panel of experts, the Director-General may, in consultation with Member Nations and Associate Members and National FAO Committees, establish such a Panel.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

So the possibility exists to simply take out the words "for consideration by Council". So France is right here, this could potentially be approved more expeditiously according to the terms of the Basic Texts of the Organization. Would it be acceptable to have the sense stand as it is but remove "for consideration by Council"? Of course, that does not preclude that the Council could consider this matter, but I do believe France has a point in the interest of acting expeditiously and within the Basic Texts. This could possibly be done in the least bureaucratic manner.

Do I have any comments or responses to that?

#### **Neil FRASER (New Zealand)**

I noticed in the wording that it says "in consultation with Member Nations", and I just wondered what the mechanism was for that. I thought that Council could be an appropriate mechanism.

This is quite a large undertaking. We are talking about four or five hundred experts, according to the figures that I have seen. So it certainly requires considerable discussion among Members I would have thought. I think that would add ideas and richness to the proposal.

#### **Ms Fiona BARTLETT (Australia)**

I guess I had similar concerns to those of New Zealand. If we want to take out the words "for consideration by the Council", well I would like to take out the words, "The Conference requested FAO", because not all of us requested FAO, and put in "the Director-General has decided to establish this", because not all of us agreed to it. I prefer not to agree to it without seeing the outputs and outcomes. Just having a High-Level Panel of Experts is not going to feed people. So I would prefer to see what it is going to do before we agree to establish it.

#### **Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

I request that the Legal Counsel explain the input of this caveat "in consultation with Members". How exactly may this be applied in circumstances such as this?

Mr Pucci, did you hear my question? In your explanation now of article IV.4 and how it may apply to paragraph 22, you made reference to “consultation to Members”, that is, the Director-General consulting with Members. Would you care to explain the modalities in which the Director-General may consult with Member Nations? Is it only through Council, or are there other modalities?

### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

The normal practice of the Organization is that the consultation is done through correspondence, in the sense that the Director-General writes to the Member Nations of the nationality of the Experts concerned, informing them that he intends to nominate the Experts. This is the normal procedure for the establishment of a Panel of Experts.

Here, as I understand, we are in a different situation but the same may be done by correspondence, not only regarding the individual Experts, but perhaps the consultation could also cover the Terms of Reference of the Panel of Experts. Normally this is done by correspondence through a letter of the Director-General, where the Terms of Reference are mentioned, and the letter is sent only to those countries of the nationality of the Experts. This has been our practice.

Here we would have a different situation involving specific features, and we would have to find out a suitable way in which we can consult Member Nations.

### **Jean Pierre RAZAFY-ANDRIAMIHAINGO (Madagascar)**

Oui, Monsieur le Président merci de me donner la parole. Je crois que notre souci majeur c'est de décrire de façon très précise le processus décisionnel concernant la formation de ce fameux Groupe d'experts. Je rejoins tout à fait ce que nous a expliqué le délégué de la France, c'est-à-dire, il a rappelé quelles sont les compétences de Monsieur le Directeur général. Pour ma part, me semble-t-il, la chose est simple: la Conférence qui est l'instance souveraine décide d'une chose. On a décidé effectivement le principe de la création d'un Groupe d'experts et me semble-t-il pour simplifier au maximum et, par conséquent, atteindre le souci de rapidité dans la résolution de cette grande crise alimentaire à laquelle nous sommes tous confrontés, c'est tout simplement, constatant que le Directeur général peut décider de la convocation d'un Groupe d'experts.

Là, nous mandons le Directeur général de bien vouloir constituer ce Groupe d'experts dans les plus brefs délais possible, quitte à ce que le Directeur général consulte les Membres sur la composition de ce Groupe d'experts.

### **Sra. Liz Haydée CORONEL CORREA (Paraguay)**

Muchas gracias, Presidente. Lamentamos que se esté extendiendo tanto este debate, pero al mismo tiempo lo consideramos muy importante. Entendemos las posiciones, sabemos que es un tema de suma urgencia, que no puede esperar, sabemos que es importante tener la opinión de expertos calificados que nos digan qué caminos podemos seguir para solucionar este problema que es realmente acuciante.

Al mismo tiempo entendemos la importancia de que tal composición, de que este Grupo propuesto por el Director General, sea lo más transparente posible porque no estamos hablando de un Grupo pequeño y habitual de expertos, sino que, según lo propuso el Director General, se trata de un grupo de 400 ó 500 Expertos, que no es una cuestión menor.

Tomando en consideración estos aspectos, así como también lo expusieron Colombia, México y otros colegas, nosotros consideramos que sí haya a la luz de lo que nos leyó el Dr. Pucci de los Textos Fundamentales, consideramos que debe quedar reflejado el mecanismo con el cual la Secretaría o el Director General consultarán a los Miembros.

Reiteramos: no es un Grupo menor, no es un Grupo pequeño, es un Grupo muy importante y será un Grupo muy importante. En aras de la transparencia, consideramos que el Consejo o alguna instancia de participación de todos los Miembros tienen que ser consultada. No es suficiente una carta a los Países Miembros, de donde provengan esos Expertos. Consideramos que esto no es suficiente.

Por lo tanto apoyamos el párrafo que había propuesto el presidente en un principio.

**Ms Ann Belinda NYIKULI (Kenya)**

Our concern is in the text that you have just given us, and I do agree with to some extent with what Madagascar has indicated as well as some aspects of Paraguay. We feel, however, that if the Director-General would consult with countries, it still leaves us with what we have because this is too open-ended on the contentious issues. The actual methodology of how this would be done and the forum in which this would be discussed should be clarified. There we would probably get somewhere. The issue we cannot leave behind is that whatever is discussed, whatever methodology is used and whatever forum, it still has to go back to the Conference for consideration.

**Philippe VINÇON (France)**

Si le point de départ est l'excellent document initial duquel je rappelle que, depuis le début de la discussion on ne s'est pas écarté, ce qui montre que la proposition que j'ai faite tout à l'heure n'était peut-être pas si farfelue qu'on pouvait imaginer, nous pouvons l'accepter.

Deuxième proposition que nous pouvons également accepter, c'est celle que vous nous avez faite tout à l'heure en associant les États Membres pour justement concilier à la fois la sécurité juridique à laquelle nous sommes tous attachés, les grands principes que nous partageons tous et également, la nécessité d'une rapidité que nombreux dans la salle ont évoqué. Et je pense que ce que vous avez indiqué me paraissait un compromis relativement acceptable, en tout cas, nous aurions pu le soutenir dans cette association des États Membres, dans cet esprit, sur lequel nous pouvons tous nous retrouver. C'est-à-dire une confiance dans le Secrétariat, une confiance dans les États Membres et une volonté de travailler ensemble.

Je crois que quand on parle de confiance, il faut des fois la traduire par des actes et je crois que la phrase très équilibrée que vous nous avez proposée tout à l'heure, me paraît tout à fait s'inscrire dans cet esprit.

**Sra. Liz Haydée CORONEL CORREA (Paraguay)**

Aceptaríamos en principio pero podríamos agregar: "someterse a consideración de todos los Estados Miembros". Con este agregado estaríamos más felices.

**Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)**

Con ánimo de contribución: me parece que hay dos cuestiones que se han mezclado.

La primera es la propuesta del Director General de la creación de un Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos que, según los Textos Fundamentales, el Director General puede crear. Aparentemente, según los debates de esta mañana, estábamos todos de acuerdo en la creación de ese Grupo de Expertos.

Probablemente el Informe tendría que registrar eso, de esa manera: "La propuesta del Director General es la creación de tal cosa", y seguidamente decir: "La Conferencia solicita que en la elección o en la conformación del Grupo de Expertos se sigan procedimientos transparentes, se consulte a todos los Estados Miembros, se respete la distribución regional", es decir: algunos elementos que dice la Conferencia, pero no unir las dos cosas.

Creo que el problema surge a raíz de que unimos la propuesta del Director General, que tiene atribución para convocar al Grupo de Expertos, con la decisión de la propia conferencia. Me parece que se pueden separar las cosas. Hay un consenso de que queremos el Grupo de Expertos, también coincido con Zimbabwe, República Dominicana, Francia y con Paraguay en que lo queremos pronto.

Hemos dicho en esta sala que tiene que ser el soporte del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, por lo tanto tendría que ser pronto ese Grupo de Expertos, pero a su vez la Conferencia tiene la atribución de pedir que ese Grupo de Expertos cumpla determinados requisitos en su constitución.



Entiendo que esto, Sr. Presidente, sería una posibilidad de dejar conformes a todas las partes y también de tener el Grupo de Expertos.

**Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)**

Mi intervención iba a ser muy corta. En realidad, en el mismo espíritu de la Delegación del Paraguay, quería pedirle al Director General que tuviera la amabilidad de mandarlas esas cartas a todos, y no solamente a los Países que tienen Expertos. Mi país nunca ha recibido una carta de él, entonces sí nos gustaría recibirla.

Dicho eso, quisiera reaccionar a los comentarios hechos por la Delegación de Argentina, si usted me lo permite. Todos nos pronunciamos a favor de conocer la propuesta con profundidad. Todos nos pronunciamos a favor de estudiar una iniciativa que nos pareció muy interesante. Pero como ya dijo otra Delegación, este es un Grupo de Expertos que no tiene precedentes en la historia de FAO. No estamos hablando de procedimientos normales, no estamos hablando de un Grupo que se reúne una semana para discutir un tema técnico en específico, y creo que las Delegaciones de Australia y de Nueva Zelanda fueron muy claros en eso, y mi Delegación está de acuerdo con ellos.

Repito, no es hora de iniciar polémica. Mi Delegación está de acuerdo con su propuesta, simple y humildemente pide al Director General que nos cuente a todos cómo va el proceso y que piense sobre cuáles son los objetivos y los términos de referencia.

**Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)**

Estoy de acuerdo con lo que dijo Argentina, y aprobaría lo que propuso de dividir la frase y que tuviéramos una mayor claridad en este concepto. Gracias Sr. Presidente.

**Yaya Adisa O. OLANIRAN (Nigeria)**

I have listened to most of the Delegates and suggestions that are quite positive, and I think we are coming to the stage where we should allow the spirit of cooperation and understanding that has been in place during the last ten months of working together to prevail on this issue. If the Basic Texts have given the Director-General the power to do what he has thought about and has put forward, and the highest authorities of Governments have endorsed it, and given the belief that the promises that were made in terms of resources will come, I think that France said it clearly, and my dear friend from the Dominican Republic allowed the sentiment of the people that we are all working for those who are dying, even as we are talking now. I am calmed by Zimbabwe's contribution regarding this matter.

I think that we should come to the point of understanding that the Director-General has the right and the prerogative. He initiated this High-Level Conference, and once this Expert body on food security is established, the dissolution resolutions, the reduction of debts and poverty can be put to rest. It will not happen overnight, but the sooner we allow him and we give him the enabling environment to do it, he will do what is right.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we are coming to a consensus. What we want to do here is to provide an enabling environment to allow the birth of this High-Level Panel of Experts to take place. I am going to return once again to the original formulation and see if I read it again, perhaps it can meet with the Members' approval and that is, "The Conference requested the Secretariat to prepare terms of reference, in consultation with Member Nations, of a High-Level Panel of Experts with a view to its establishment in 2009". Now this may not be perfect nor does it meet everyone's desire for the most perfect formulation, but I think it will accomplish what we want to do and that is to set the ball on course to allow us to work together - Members as well as the Secretariat, as well as the Director-General, under the Director General's leadership, to launch this process in coordination with what is happening in the High-Level Task Force. I would like you to consider this, and meanwhile I call on Costa Rica.

**Luis PARIS CHAVERRI (Costa Rica)**

Al inicio sobre la discusión del Informe, algunas Delegaciones puntualizaron y me parece, que lo puntualizaron muy bien, de que el Informe debe recoger, realmente lo actuado por la Conferencia.

Escuchando este debate sobre el Tema del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria, me parece que la intervención de la Delegación de Argentina es la que clarifica un poco más lo que sucedió en el transcurso de las reuniones de la Conferencia y me parece que el Informe debería recoger este aspecto.

Sugiero una contribución para ese párrafo, que pudiera ser construido de la siguiente manera: "La Conferencia recibió con beneplácito el anuncio del Director General de crear un Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos en Seguridad Alimentaria y solicitó que en ese proceso se consulte a todos los Estados Miembros."

**Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)**

Dans la délégation française, nous sommes obligés de nous mettre à deux pour essayer d'expliquer notre position, et notre position c'est aussi celle de l'Union européenne parce que nous avons pris le temps de discuter pendant une demi-heure ou trois-quarts d'heures de ce document. Mais, c'est aussi la position de quelqu'un qui a assisté pendant ces dix mois à tous nos travaux. Et nous sommes très clairs: premièrement, dans le rapport de la Conférence, pas celui que nous examinons, celui qui a été présenté au paragraphe 24, nous disons que "comme le demandent certains Membres et conformément au débat de la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la FAO est prête à créer un Groupe d'experts de haut niveau".

La Conférence a examiné ce sujet, nous sommes la Conférence, nous sommes les Membres et nous avons dit que nous étions favorables à ce Groupe de haut niveau. C'est donc le premier point.

Deuxième point: lorsque nous regardons les Textes fondamentaux, Article VI.4 dit: "cette compétence relève du Directeur général. Le Directeur général doit consulter les Membres", que sommes-nous en train de faire, aujourd'hui, en ce lieu à bientôt 21 heures, sinon être consultés? C'est une consultation, nous sommes tous ensemble, nous sommes consultés, vous comprenez? On n'a pas besoin de voter, nous sommes consultés, nous sommes tous là. Maintenant, si nous avons envie de voir la signature, la belle signature du Directeur général, nous disons que: "ayant été consulté, il monte un Groupe de haut niveau et j'espère qu'il le fera, alors le Directeur général peut nous écrire pour nous redire que nous avons été consultés, nous sommes consultés, je le suis moi, tout le monde est consulté, c'est fait, il est en situation de monter ce Groupe de haut niveau".

Maintenant un mot sur le Groupe de haut niveau: que croyons-nous? Que le Directeur général va réunir cinq cent personnes à Rome? Mais c'est impossible. Le Groupe de haut niveau dans le monde qui est le nôtre, ce sont des groupes d'experts dans tous les pays du monde, dans toutes les institutions, ils ont tous un micro-ordinateur, ils sont tous capables de travailler en petits groupes et que fait la FAO? Elle organise cette circulation de la connaissance, elle organise ici la façon dont nous réglons les consensus, elle nous en parle à nous les États Membres, c'est ça le Groupe à haut niveau, ce n'est pas cinq cent personnes qui vont occuper cinq cent chambres d'hôtel pendant combien d'années en réalité? Parce que ce Groupe va durer longtemps et progresser lentement. Donc, comme ce Groupe va se réunir par voie électronique et finalement s'appuyer sur des groupes déjà existants, c'est ça le Groupe de haut niveau franchement, c'est pas réunir cinq cent personnes ici, donc pour toutes ces raisons nous pensons, nous, l'Union européenne qu'il y aurait une logique d'abord à dire, comme vous l'avez dit, Monsieur le Président, qu'il vaut d'abord décider le mandat et ensuite réunir le Groupe plutôt que réunir le Groupe et décider le mandat.

Mais même là j'ai un doute parce que très souvent lorsque nous réunissons des experts de haut niveau, ils participent eux-mêmes à la rédaction du mandat parce qu'ils savent mieux que nous de quoi il leur faut parler. Mais on peut admettre, comme l'a dit notre collègue d'Afghanistan, qu'il y a une logique à parler du mandat d'abord et du groupe ensuite. Pourquoi pas?

Donc, Monsieur le Président, je crois vraiment qu'au point où nous en sommes, compte tenu des aspects juridiques, du travail que nous avons fait, de votre proposition, la dernière, je parle de la dernière, comme l'a dit mon collègue et ami de la France, cette proposition est parfaitement convenable. Nous avons été consultés mais nous recevrons une lettre, n'est ce pas, Monsieur Diouf?

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I cannot imagine a better case of consultation than having the Conference at the highest political level, together with the Director-General for over an hour and all the Members discussing this. So I think we have come to a very clear understanding that there is a political drive behind this initiative and that we are pleased that the Director-General made this proposal. It might be enough to satisfy all the Members that we add preamble language to the existing formulation to say "The Conference welcomed the proposal made by the Director-General and requested the Secretariat to prepare the terms of reference, in consultation with Member Nations, of a High-Level Panel of Experts with a view to its establishment in 2009." That essentially captures the previous formulation, it brings in the request by Argentina to make manifest that this was a proposal by the Director-General and it also ensures that we will go forward in a consultative manner. I think we all know what we want to accomplish since we are all here and we have all gone through this very long, valuable discussion. I would like to put that forward as a formulation. I hope that this will then satisfy the needs of all the Members. Do I need to read the formulation again? Do I see any objections? I see everyone nodding. Let's move on and we will adopt this, and once again thank you to the Director-General and to Members for this very useful discussion.

We have then paragraph 23. There are simply the two minor edits that have been put forward by Afghanistan. They have been read back by the Secretariat. There didn't seem to be any objections to those and so I would like to propose, unless there are any objections to those two minor editorial additions, that we adopt that language as well and then move forward to adopt Section III *en bloc* as a whole. I will open up the floor for any final discussions and hope that we can then move to adopting the Conference Report as a whole.

There is no further request for the floor and so my proposal, and I am going to speak very slowly, is to adopt Section III with all the suggested edits in the spirit in which they were made, and then move on along with that to adopt the entire report as a whole, since we have gone through all three sections. I am going to solicit any further requests from the floor, any further commentary. I see none. Last chance. So adopted.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We have now adopted the Report of the Special Session of the FAO Conference in its entirety, and I would like to give the floor to the Director-General who has been very patient in sitting through these discussions.

#### **DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson, Mr Independent Independent Chairperson of the Council, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I think at this time I would be very popular by being short, so I just wanted to thank all of you for one of the most successful conferences and a very encouraging one for the Secretariat. I am therefore calling on you to continue with this same spirit in the process of implementing the Immediate Plan of Action. Thank you all, may God bless you, I wish all of you who do not live in Rome to return safely home, and those who are based in Rome, I think we may start meeting tomorrow, on Saturday. Bye bye.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This effectively brings to an end the substantive work of the Conference. I want to thank you again all for your cooperation and the very good discussions that we have had. I am very proud to say that this Special Session of the Conference has drawn to a close one day ahead of schedule. I hope that we can continue this in the future. I want to wish you all a safe journey home, to those who are travelling back to your the countries and a very good weekend to all of you. The Thirty-fifth Special Session of the Conference is now closed.

*The meeting rose at 20:55 hours*

*La séance est levée à 20 h55*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 20:55 horas*

