

Rome, Roma, 2009



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

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session • Cent trente et septième session
• 137° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Rome, 28 septiembre - 2 octubre 2009
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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(30 September 2009)

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(2 October 2009)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
28 September 2009

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION**I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCÉDURE****I. INTRODUCCIÓN - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO****CHAIRPERSON**

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Council to order. Before proceeding, I would like to ask Ms Williams, Secretary-General of the Conference and Council, to make a short announcement. Ms Williams, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of 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 CL 137/INF/5, which is available at the Documents Desk, and I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to welcome all of the Members of the Council and Observers to this Session, especially those of you who have travelled to Rome. I wish you a good stay and a fruitful Council. Before we move on to the Adoption of the Agenda, allow me to extend a warm welcome to Mr Jim Butler, the Deputy Director-General and offer him the floor.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much, and let me add my wishes of welcome to all of those that have travelled from their capitals to be with us during this important Council meeting. We are all anxious to listen to the debate and follow-up on the actions of your decisions this week.

Just last week the world was focused on New York and decisions that occurred at the UN General Assembly and much of the discussion around climate change. In six weeks, the world will be focused on Rome and how this Organization and others will come together and define a way forward related to food security. No one disagrees that food security is not an important topic and should not be on the minds of all of us. Your decisions this week regarding the Reform of FAO; actions to be implemented at the Conference; discussions on CFS Reform and the planning for the World Food Summit will all lead to a very positive outcome in mid-November. The world is awaiting our preparation and the world is awaiting our actions on food security. I wish you a very successful Council, but I ask us all to have flexibility; set our differences aside to the degree possible and move forward.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 137/1; CL 137/INF/1; CL 137/INF/5)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 137/1; CL 137/INF/1; CL 137/INF/5)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 137/1; CL 137/INF/1; CL 137/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

Our first item is the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable as set out in documents CL 137/1 and CL 137/INF/1.

CL 137/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session by a circular letter of 30 July 2009.

Now please pay attention, I propose that Sub-item 11.1, *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions*, and Sub-item 11.2 *Applications for Membership in the Organization* be deleted from the Agenda because there are no invitations to Non-Member Nations, nor

applications for membership, to report at this Session of the Council. So because we do not have anything on these matters, these two Sub-items would be deleted; that is Item 11 altogether.

With these two deletions, which I take the Council approves, are there any comments on the Provisional Agenda?

I do not see any, so can I take that you approve the Provisional Agenda.

So decided.

Thank you very much.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

With respect to the Timetable, you have before you document CL 137/INF/1, which is a provisional draft.

Does the Timetable meet with the approval of the Council?

I see no comment on that, so the Timetable is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, in the interest of the safety of all of us, I would like to request your attention for just a few minutes to view 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

2. Election of three Vice Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

2. Élection de trois Vice Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Security Service for this, but I hope that we never need to follow these instructions.

Now we move on to Item 2, Election of the Three Vice-Chairpersons and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee.

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairpersons of the Council: from Africa, Ambassador Muchada, from Italy, Ambassador Sebastiani, and from Sudan, Mr Al-Farqui. Since there are no objections, I wish to congratulate these Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Ms Rita Mannella of Italy as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and the following countries as Members: Afghanistan,

Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco and Russian Federation. I am sure that there are no objections so let us congratulate Ms Mannella and the Members of the Drafting Committee on their appointments.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Okay, now we know that we are in good hands, and also that the Vice-Chairpersons are in the Drafting Committee.

Before moving on to the next Item on our Agenda, I would like to focus briefly on the working methods of the Council in accordance with indications set out in the IPA.

In order to conduct this meeting in an efficient and business-like manner in line with IPA indications, I suggest that Council Members keep their interventions as succinct and focused as possible given that we have only five days to complete the Agenda. It would be in the interest of good time management if regional spokespersons could make statements on behalf of their regions whenever feasible, rather than having single countries repeat comments already made by other delegates.

In the same IPA spirit, I will make an effort to sum up the conclusions of our debates on each item to facilitate the drafting of the Report of the Session, to be adopted here on Friday afternoon.

Members of the CoC-IEE will recall our discussions on the need for the Council to concentrate on making decisions and recommendations. I believe that the final Report should demonstrate that we have taken on board IPA Action 2.22, which most of us are familiar with, which states that the *Council Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations*.

Indeed, greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Council is a prerequisite of improved governance.

I would therefore call on Ms Rita Mannella, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and its Members that we have just elected to concentrate on making the *conclusions, decisions and recommendations* of Council as clear as possible in the draft report, rather than repeating debate already covered in the Verbatim Records.

I would also call on the Secretariat to assist us by drafting concise reports which are simply a record of Council decisions.

In the interest of good time management, I would also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for inclusion in the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally. Whenever such texts are submitted for inclusion in the Verbatim Record of any meeting, an announcement to this effect will be made from the podium.

Furthermore, may I also request that you give a copy of any statement you intend to make to the Secretariat in advance to assist the interpreters and Verbatim Records staff. The Order of the Day gives an e-mail address where such written interventions should be sent, and if it's too late you can just hand it over to the messengers and they will deliver them to the proper offices.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO**II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO****II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO****3. Preparations for the 36th Session of the FAO Conference (Recommendations to the Conference) (C 2009/12; CL 137/7)****3. Préparatifs de la trente-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO (recommandations à la Conférence) (C 2009/12; CL 137/7)****3. Preparativos para el 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO (Recomendaciones a la Conferencia) (C 2009/12; CL 137/7)**

3.1 Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and of the Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference

3.1 Nomination du Président de la Conférence et des Présidents des Commissions de la Conférence

3.1 Presentación de candidaturas para los cargos de Presidente de la Conferencia y Presidentes de las Comisiones de la Conferencia

3.2 Nomination of three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference

3.2 Nomination de trois Vice-Présidents de la Conférence

3.2 Presentación de candidaturas para la elección de los tres Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia

3.3 Nomination of seven Members of the General Committee

3.3 Nomination de sept membres du Bureau

3.3 Presentación de candidaturas para la elección de siete miembros del Comité General

3.4 Nomination of nine Members of the Credentials Committee

3.4 Nomination de neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

3.4 Presentación de candidaturas para la elección de nueve miembros del Comité de Credenciales

3.5 Nomination of seven Members of the Resolutions Committee

3.5 Nomination de sept membres du Comité des résolutions

3.5 Presentación de candidaturas para la elección de siete miembros del Comité de Resoluciones

3.6 Draft Timetable for the Session

3.6 Projet de calendrier de la session

3.6 Proyecto de calendario del período de sesiones

CHAIRPERSON

Now let us move on to Item 3 of the Agenda.

The relevant documents for Item 3, *Preparations for the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference by Council)* are C 2009/12 and CL 137/7. Ms Williams will introduce this item.

Ms Williams, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Sub-item 3.1 regards the Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference, and the Chairpersons of the Commissions of the Conference. In accordance with Article XXIV.5 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Council nominates candidates for these posts and forwards the recommendations to the Conference for decision. The last Session of the Council, held in June this year, proposed the following nominations to Conference: Chairperson of the Conference would be from the United States of America and will be USDA Deputy-Secretary Kathleen Merrigan; Mr Noel D. De Luna (Philippines) for the post of Chairperson of Commission I; Ambassador Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven (Netherlands) for the post of Chairperson of Commission II.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Williams.

Can I take it that Council endorses these nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Ms Williams, please continue.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We now move on to the *Nomination of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference*. Following consultations amongst the Regional Groups, the following candidates have been proposed for the post of Vice-Chairperson of the Conference: His Excellency Hans-Heinrich Wrede of Germany; the African country and the Asian country nominees are still to be provided.

CHAIRPERSON

We still do not have the names for Africa and Asia, but I am sure that we will have them soon, so I do ask to have your agreement to ask the Regional Groups to provide the names and then they will be reflected in the Report of the Council for your information during this Session. Do I take it that you endorse these nominations with the two names that should be provided?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

These nominations, which have already been mentioned with two missing names, together with the others proposed by Council under this Item, will be forwarded to Conference for final approval, but before that I take this opportunity to congratulate them all on their appointments.

SECRETARY GENERAL

We now move on to Sub-item 3.3, *Nomination of Seven Members of the General Committee*. The Regional Groups have proposed the following seven nominees: China, Guatemala, Jordan, New Zealand, Sweden, United States of America, and the African country nominee to be provided.

CHAIRPERSON

So again, since we do not have one name from Africa we would ask the Africa Group to provide a name and we will inform you later. Can I take it that you approve these nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Ms Williams, would you please continue.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We now move on to Sub-item 3.4, *Nomination of Nine Members of the Credentials Committee*. The Regional Groups have proposed the following nine nominees: Austria, Cyprus, El Salvador, Estonia, Nicaragua, Oman, San Marino, Sri Lanka, and the African country nominee to be provided.

CHAIRPERSON

Again we will inform you of the name of the candidate from Africa. With this, do I take that Council endorses the nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We now move on to Sub-item 3.5, *Nomination of Seven Members of the Resolutions Committee*. The Regional Groups have proposed the following seven nominees: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Russian Federation, and the African country nominee.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Sub-Item 3.6, for the Session, which is the Session for the Conference, which is set out in an appendix to document CL 137/7. Before passing the floor to Ms Williams, I would like to propose that Item 18 of the Conference Agenda, which is *Report of the Conference Committee on IEE, Independent External Evaluation* and on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal which has been scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday 21 November in the Tentative Timetable contained in document CL 137/7, the document in front of you. This is to be rescheduled to the *Plenary Meeting* of the morning of Tuesday 19 November, immediately after the Statement by the Independent Chairperson. I believe this would be in line with the vision of the Conference Committee on the IEE, and would also be in the interest of good time management during the demanding Session of the Conference.

Ms Williams, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is proposed that the Conference open at 16.00 hrs on Wednesday 18 November, following the closure of the *World Summit on Food Security* earlier the same day.

The opening meeting would consist primarily of procedural matters including:

The McDougall Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Professor Olivier De Schutter, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and

The Presentation of Awards.

This would be followed by the First Meeting of the General Committee.

The Director-General and the Independent Chairperson are scheduled to address the Conference on the morning of Thursday 19 November. Plenary would then be dedicated to the COC-IEE Report, as has just been proposed by Professor Noori, followed by the General Debate on Item 5, The State of Food and Agriculture, with a special focus on the theme selected by Council at its last Session, *Improving Preparedness for, and Effective Response to, Food and Agricultural Threats and Emergencies*. The General Debate has been scheduled to continue until the morning of Saturday 21 November, to be followed by Administrative and Financial items.

It is also proposed that Commission I and Commission II follow past practice and meet in parallel to the Plenary meeting.

It is further proposed that the Conference meet on Sunday, 22 November to:

vote on proposed amendments to the Basic Texts;

adopt the Report of Commission II on the budget level for 2010-2011;

elect Council Members and appoint the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The afternoon of Monday 23 November would be dedicated to the adoption of the Report of the Conference, for Commissions I and II and Plenary Meetings.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Williams. Do any delegates wish to take the floor on the Tentative Timetable which is contained in document CL 137/7?

I do not see any. So can I take it that the Report of the COC IEE on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, to the morning of Thursday 19 November, immediately before Item 5.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Hugo VERBIST (Belgique)

Je suis désolé de prendre la parole si tard mais j'aimerais poser une question. La suggestion de remettre la discussion sur le rapport du CoC-EEI dans la session plénière n'exclut pas, j'espère, un débat possible sur ce point comme c'était le cas à la Commission II. C'était une question de clarification. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Belgium. Of course my understanding is that we cannot decide for the Conference. Of course, if they would like to have a debate, they may do so, but my understanding from the discussion we had in the COC-IEE, is that we shall have a consensus report which does not need debate in the Plenary. If that is not the case, of course, it would be subject to debate.

Is it ok with you? Ok, thank you very much.

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
III. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION
III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

5. Strategic Framework 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

5. Cadre stratégique 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 et Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

5 Marco estratégico 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan a plazo medio 2010-13 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 5, Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. The main documents for this Item are C 2009/3 and C 2009/15.

Council will recall that the first Strategic Framework for the period 2000-2015 was adopted by the FAO Conference in 1999. In 2007, the Independent External Evaluation of FAO called for a Strategic Framework that would be the pinnacle of a revitalised set of planning documents which are the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

These key programme planning and budget documents have been prepared by the Secretariat during the course of 2009 in line with the new results-based approach agreed in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.

Elements of these documents were considered by the CoC-IEE Working Groups from January to May, then by the Programme and Finance Committees in May, and the Council at its last Session in June this year. Full draft versions of the documents were considered by the CoC-IEE Working Groups and the Programme and Finance Committees in July.

The final draft versions of the documents were prepared in August, and reviewed by the CoC-IEE Working Groups and the Finance Committee in September.

The Council is now called upon to review and transmit the documents, along with its findings and recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference for adoption.

So, as you have observed, there have been lots and lots of discussions on these documents and a fruitful and efficient debate on this item.

I would now invite Mr Haight, Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, to introduce this item. You have the floor.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Thank you Mr Chairperson and distinguished delegates. As you have just noted in your introduction, the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan, Programme of Work and Budget documents have been progressively formulated this year by the Secretariat in close consultation with the Members through the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up, and the Committees of the Council, and the Council itself.

The Strategic Framework outlines the long-term challenges facing food, agriculture and rural development and sets out a results-based programme framework intended to prioritize and focus on what FAO will do to address these challenges and how FAO will contribute more effectively to agreed impacts in Member Nations. Concerning what FAO does, the new results-based framework has three closely linked hierarchical components. First, the vision and global goals define the fundamental development impact in the areas of FAO's mandate that Members aim to achieve, this being: a world free from hunger and malnutrition; where food and agriculture

contribute to improving living standards, especially among the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally-sustainable manner. Addressing these goals, the 11 Strategic Objectives set out the sectoral and cross-sectoral impacts that Members strive for with the contribution from your Organization, from FAO, focussing on intensifying crop and increased livestock production, sustainable management and use of fisheries, forests and natural resources, improved quality and safety of food, and enabling environments for markets, food security, better nutrition and gender equity; preparedness for and response to emergencies; and increased investment in agriculture and rural development. Contributing to these Strategic Objectives are 49 proposed Organizational Results which represent the outcome at global, regional and country level from the uptake and use of FAO's products and services. These Organizational Results are what FAO will be held accountable for achieving in the two and four year timeframe set forth in the Medium-Term Plan/Programme of Work and Budget.

The new results-based framework also provides the means for improving how FAO operates to effectively and efficiently achieve its results through two functional objectives which apply the results-based approach to essential administrative and other enabling services for FAO's work; and eight core functions, which are the primary means of action, based on our comparative strengths and taking into account our work with partners. These core functions relate to information, knowledge, statistics and perspectives studies; international instruments, norms and standards; policy and strategy options advice; technical support to technology transfer and capacity-building; and advocacy and communication.

The Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget documents present a comprehensive package of proposals in a new format, as agreed by the Council and in line with the Immediate Plan of Action. The MTP and PWB are presented in a combined document to highlight, in the results frameworks, the linkage between the means of action, including strategies for applying the core functions, and the planned results. There are several aspects of these documents which you may wish to take into account in your debate. First, concerning the results frameworks specified in the IPA and developed during 2009 together with the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up and the Committees of Council, the Results Frameworks define for each Strategic and Functional Objective the results to be achieved, including indicators for measuring achievement against baselines and targets, and the resource requirements in the two and four year horizons. The Results Frameworks provide the basis for accountability both internally and with Members, and for a monitoring and reporting system that is now being developed. The Results Frameworks also provide the basis for further prioritization and focus of the work of the Organization, which is an ongoing process to involve the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees in the first cycle of Governing Body review and oversight in 2010-11.

The Programme of Work and Budget also fully integrates the reforms set out in the Immediate Plan of Action and the conclusions of the Root and Branch Review, including a consolidated Headquarters structure, revamped reporting lines in Decentralized Offices and further savings and efficiency gains aimed at making the Organization more effective.

The most innovative proposal in the documents, and as called for in the IPA, is the integrated financial requirements to implement the biennium Programme of Work i.e. to achieve the two-year targets in the results frameworks. These integrated financial requirements are funded from both the assessed and the voluntary contributions estimated at almost USD 2.3 billion for the biennium. Of this, 44 percent i.e. USD 995.9 million will be funded from Assessed Contributions and 56 percent or USD 1.265 billion from the Voluntary Contributions.

The estimated Voluntary Contributions fall into three categories. Core Voluntary Contributions are Trust Fund projects and other income that provide direct support to the Regular Programme of the Organization. Technical assistance from Member Nations is provided through the Field Programme at country, regional and sub-regional level, and Voluntary Contributions are also provided for emergency and rehabilitation assistance. Just under half of these Voluntary Contributions are assured through ongoing and pipeline projects in the next biennium and the

remainder will be mobilized through a resource mobilization strategy to be put in place with three main elements as agreed in the Immediate Plan of Action. First, seven impact focus areas will be used to communicate and advocate for less earmarked and more pooled funding for priority groups of Organizational Results aiming to provide particular policy and capacity-building in Member Nations. Second, the Regional Conferences and the Regional Offices will develop regional areas for priority action to help focus results on regional issues. Third, the national medium term priority frameworks that FAO has developed will be used in conjunction with UN joint programmes and UN development frameworks at country level to mobilize and focus resources on where FAO can best intervene.

Turning to the proposed net appropriation of USD 995.9 million, this represents a 7.1 percent increase over the current PWB of 2008-09 to accommodate cost increases of USD 49.9 million, to preserve purchasing power, and an increment of USD 15.5 million for funding of the Immediate Plan of Action. The balance of the funding of the Immediate Plan of Action, USD 19.1 million, is proposed under Core Voluntary Contributions. It should be noted that the proposed Net Appropriation takes account of USD 22.1 million additional savings and efficiency gains mandated by the Conference and achieved in the current biennium, as well as an additional USD 19.6 million efficiency savings to be achieved in the next biennium.

Finally the Programme of Work and Budget presents options for improving FAO's financial health, and reserves and these have been the subject of discussions in the Finance Committee.

We look forward to the outcome of your deliberations and advice to Conference on the strategic direction and the budget of the Organization. As always, the Secretariat is at your disposal to provide any clarifications and additional information you may require to facilitate your discussions.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Haight, I would like to have your opinion on how we go ahead for discussion. Do we discuss all three together, or do you have discussions on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

I have presented in the introduction all three documents together to reflect the linkage between the Objectives, the Results and the Resources. However, there may be aspects of the Strategic Framework which you may wish to have a discussion on first, in particular Section 1 of the document, before you go on to the programmes and resources in the MTP and PWB.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Haight. The Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 were also discussed by the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting, as reported in documents CL 137/2, CL 137/3, CL 137/4 and CL 137/9.

Now I will invite the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Mr Heard, who has also chaired the two Committees in July, to please report on the discussions of the Programme Committee. Of course, only the parts which are related to these items, because, as you know, we do have tomorrow afternoon with other items that have been discussed in these two Committees for consideration. Today, we shall only consider the parts of these Committee reports which are related to the Strategy Framework Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, and then we will also do the same on the debate of the Finance Committee.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

We had a brief consultation between the Chairs of the Finance and Programme Committees. We are wondering whether it might be simpler if we were to do Programme Committee, then Finance Committee, and then the Joint Committee Reports as the two Committees really feed into the Joint Committee. If that would be alright, I can see that Professor Noori has agreed. Thank you Professor Noori. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

The Programme Committee had as usual a very interesting meeting and the sessions in which we covered the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget were, I would say, very thoroughgoing. Everything at the moment is new. We are in the process of renewing FAO. The renewal of FAO is what we are doing principally day in and day out. The Programme Committee had therefore to decide what it was supposed to do. We decided that our role should be to try and analyse the structure and the organization of the documents, how they related together, how they linked and I was interested in Mr Haight's response to the question about as to whether they should be taken separately or together because I think the Programme Committee found that they did link together very well. They flow one into another. They derive from one another. They are a comprehensive single piece of cloth and, from the point of view of the programming, it appears to us that we should look at them in one chunk. This may not be the case when you wish to consider their financial aspects, but certainly we were of the opinion that this was a very well-presented, well-proportioned, well-articulated planning framework and management framework for FAO. To try and get a clear idea of how the new programming documents worked, we decided to try and look at the way they handled prioritization. The process of prioritization, as you all know, has been continuing in FAO for a couple of years now, gradually moving towards a position where the Technical Committees provide advice on prioritization within their fields, with the idea that they should flow into the Programme Committee which should then help advise the Council and through the Council, the Conference on prioritizing the work of FAO. To try to get a view as to whether this had been done or not, we invited those responsible for the objectives and the results leaders in the Secretariat to come and talk to us and to explain what the principle priorities were within their elements of the Programme. I think one has to realize that with a huge ongoing programme like FAO's, there is really comparatively little which can change from year to year and from biennium to biennium, possibly as little as 10 percent, possibly less than that. Agriculture and food go on year-in, year-out, much as they always do and FAO's role in monitoring and assisting these processes continues in the same way. However, we did manage I think, a very useful discussion and got from the results leaders and the leaders of the objectives some clear ideas of what had changed or what their new priorities were. The 10 percent that is changing is the 10 percent perhaps which the Governing Bodies of this Organization should mostly focus on because that is the thing that is changing in relation to the way the world changes.

We also recognized in this discussion that much of what some of the objectives cover is driven by events outside FAO and that FAO, in fact, responds to changes in the external environment. For this, I would like to draw your attention to a paper that was provided to us on events of relevance in other fora. We weren't just looking at what FAO did. We weren't just looking internally. We were for the first time advised by Management on the events outside, in the rest of the UN System, that would help FAO to engage with changes in the world as they took place. This was the sort of discussion which I cannot do justice in a few minutes on the podium, and certainly we have not gone into detail in the report itself, but I do recommend that you participate as silent observers in the Programme Committee meetings and that you continue doing so in the future because these discussions we have with the results leaders and the programme managers are very, very interesting, very direct and they penetrate quiet deeply into what FAO does.

The conclusion of this for us was that we had been presented with extremely useful documents which were part of the ongoing process of change in FAO. Work in progress, I think we always say this, at some point during our meetings, and this is work in progress. We therefore ask various things, we ask for clarification of the core voluntary elements of the budget which we discussed at great length. I think having also chaired a Working Group between then and now, I realised that we are going through a process of gradually understanding what these new elements in the programming are and the core voluntary element, or the bit that we never saw but which has always been there and has always been providing support to FAO's core programmes, suddenly appears in the document. We can see and stop worrying about it, this is excellent. This we thought was a useful aid to ask us the governors in FAO in seeing what FAO's problems are in making sure that the core programmes continue even though a part of them rely upon Voluntary Contributions. However, we ask for further information to be provided on this to future Council

meetings. We also asked for certain other documents. I think these have been produced and certainly the Working Group which discussed the Programme of Work and Budget documents subsequently was better informed and had answers provided to certain questions. In the discussion we had during the Programme Committee all indicators, for example, have been sharpened and modified. Having said that, ladies and gentlemen, I think the Programme Committee Report concludes that we could commence the Programme of Work and Budget documents in terms of their organizational structure in the way they have been put together to the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

A short but comprehensive overview. Mr Sorour, you have the floor please.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. At the outset I should like to express my delight to be here with you in Rome once again and I do hope that the input from the Finance Committee shall be of benefit to the Council so that it agrees on recommendations to be made to the forthcoming Conference. As you have instructed, Mr Chairperson, I shall focus the input of the Finance Committee when it reviewed the Medium-Term Plan and the PWB for 2010- 2011 and the Strategic Framework. As you are aware, the Finance Committee did tackle these issues in three stages. Hence, we have held an extraordinary Session on 18 September, and I shall focus on the main recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Mr Chairperson, the Committee welcomed and appreciated the document related to the Assessed Contributions and extra-budgetary contributions presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget. This new presentation is a step forward towards adopting the results-based budget, and indeed, this will help us in the future. It will help us lay the foundations for the prioritization of the activities of the Organization. This new approach shall also help us deal in a comprehensive way with the overall resources to be available to the Organization and the ways and means of using these resources.

Mr Chairperson, I would like to refer to some points related to the Programme of Work and Budget. First, the Voluntary Core Contributions, and I should like to lay emphasis here on the recommendations of the Programme Committee. Indeed, the Finance Committee did feel the need for further clarifications concerning this concept. However, it has welcomed this new concept. We have had additional information from the Secretariat regarding the receipt of these resources by the Organisation, and, here I should like to refer to the core contributions. Sixty-three percent of USD 177.2 million are secure contributions to be collected by the Organization, whereas USD 30.1 million are long-term contributions to be received from other institutions: the World Bank, the Codex Alimentarius and, as for the other Voluntary Contributions, USD 372.1 million shall be given to support the field programmes. The 89 percent of these resources are secure or shall be received by the Organization. This is in a nutshell what we have discussed in terms of the Voluntary Contributions and their share within the budget of the Organization. As for the budget level, Mr Chairperson, and there is a discrepancy within the views of the Finance Committee and also bearing in mind that there is the need for further clarification from Management of this core. I should like to tell you that there are five elements related to the Reform linked to Reform with Growth. These five elements have been recommended by the Finance Committee and accepted by the Council. These four elements should be taken into account by the Council when it deals with the issue of the budget level, and also this should be the borne in mind when this issue is dealt with in the Conference.

Mr Chairperson, I should like to reaffirm once again what has been said within the Finance Committee or during the meeting held by the Working Groups on 16-17 September.

Mr Chairperson, we believe that the budget level should secure two basic functions, first to secure the continuity of the Reform and the IPA. Second, this Organization should be able to perform what is contained in its mandate. Mr Chairperson, the second element is related to an important subject and this has been the subject of fruitful deliberations, that is to say, the financing of the

IPA and this is indeed linked to the previous point, namely Reform with Growth. Mr Chairperson, there is no doubt about the importance of a reform process within the Organization and there is no doubt about the need to secure the necessary financing in order to secure the implementation of this IPA. As you are aware, Mr Chairperson, the first proposal submitted was 80 percent of the financing from Voluntary Contributions and during the discussion the Secretariat proposed a different approach, namely 50 percent to be financed from extra-budgetary resources and 50 percent from the Net Appropriations. Mr Chairperson, I should like to refer here to what the Working Groups have agreed upon in their deliberation, bearing in mind the lessons learned in the implementation of the IPA in 2009. As we have all realized, there is a slow progress in collecting the necessary funds in order to implement the IPA. According to the information received so far, I believe that there is a definite need for the implementation for this IPA, and there are some pledges that have not yet materialized.

On the basis of this, the Finance Committee would like to submit three options to be considered by the Council. I should like to say here that there are different views concerning these three options within our Committee. The first option is to establish a specific quota for the implementation of the IPA in which all countries are to contribute according to the Scale of Assessments. Second, to increase the resources from the Assessed Contributions. Third, to integrate the IPA programmes within the Voluntary Core Contributions within the Assessed or Net Appropriations on the basis that this shall be implemented from the efficiency savings to be secured in the years 2010 and 2011. My personal view concerning this is that there is a difficulty in securing the funding of the IPA in a comprehensive way from Assessed Contributions or from the net appropriation, and I believe that a compromise solution might be either that the Council adopts the formula submitted by Management, 50/50 percent, or we increase the funding of the IPA from the Net Appropriations. And here Mr Chairperson, the Finance Committee asked Management to prepare a document related to the projects that can be looked into from the Net Appropriations for the year 2010-2011. The Finance Committee considered the different proposals concerning the budget level, and it recommended the approval of this on the basis of the first option submitted by the Secretariat.

As for the two different chapters, the FAOR programmes and the TCP, the Committee expressed its appreciation for the effort to increase the support of the FAOR in the future within the framework of Organizational Functions and Organizational Results. The Committee also welcomed the revitalisation of the resources of the FAOR and the TC, bearing in mind that these would contribute to the objectives of the Organization and that these shall be submitted in distinct reports with the implementation reports. This is, to our mind, a good step forward in preparing the management based on the results.

Mr Chairperson, there is another issue I would like to draw your attention to – the establishment of a Shared Services Centre. As you are aware, the Finance Committee discussed this issue, and the issue was also discussed within the framework of the Working Group. The Finance Committee did not recommend the implementation of such proposal before we discuss and receive the documents pertaining to the implementation scenario of this proposal.

Mr Chairperson, the Finance Committee's discussions were not limited to these issues; we also discussed a very important issue, namely to improve the financial situation and financial health of this Organization. Here I should like to refer to the fact that the Finance Committee wanted to give some signals or some messages that might be an input to your deliberations and these points are as follows.

The first point relates to the After-Service Medical Coverage. As you are aware, the Conference recommended the coverage of this liability and during our two previous sessions, it was deemed that this figure was not enough, and we recommended that the recommended figure be increased.

The Finance Committee also emphasized the need to increase the resources of the Special Reserve Account. However we saw that there is a time difference between this project and the timeframe recommended. The Finance Committee, in discussing this issue, recommended the minimum to secure the financial health of the Organization. However, the Committee saw that it is important

to deal with the Capital Fund and we need to secure its replenishment for one time because this Fund helps the Organization to fill the gap whenever there is a delay in the payment of the Assessed Contributions by Member Nations.

My last point is about the additional resources that the Organization will need in the budget in addition to the financial needs of the Organization. These are two important issues. Inflation rates should be taken into account. We thought about the inflation rate taken into account by Management and the need to coordinate with other international Agencies in this connection. We have to take into account the inflation rates adopted by the different UN Agencies. When discussing staff costs and other costs, Management warned us that decreasing these resources led to the reduced resources allocated to these chapters for the years 2008-2009.

These are the main points that I wanted to draw your attention to on this issue, and I do apologise if I talked at length.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Sorour, Chairperson of the Finance Committee for a rather detailed report of the Finance Committee. It should refer to many important points. Now I would like to open the floor for your contributions. The proposal was that we might consider the Strategic Framework and the other two documents separately, but since many of the delegates might have already their statements and, on the other hand, they are very interlinked all these documents that we are talking about: the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. So please, feel free if you have prepared a statement as they are all together, don't hesitate to relisten to that carefully and, if they are separate that would be better and more understandable for the people on the podium and with this I will ask the speakers. Sorry, we still have the Report of the Joint Meeting which Mr Heard will present. I am sorry, Mr Heard, you have the floor.

Victor C. D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Thank you very much, Chairperson. This will be so brief that it will not really interrupt the process at all. Although we had a thorough going and painstaking session of the two Committees, it was an inconclusive session. This was partly due to the nature of the subject, some of which we referred to Working Groups as we could not conclude. There's more to be done, but also because the Finance Committee had yet to have another meeting. Therefore, we were not in a position to bring together all of the deliberations of those Committees together. We did focus on what we consider to be the most key aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget. One was the comparison with future and with past budget level; and the second was the Core Voluntary Contributions issue as proposed in the IPA. The idea of the impact focus areas has again come up. As I say, we discussed these without conclusions but I came up with some observations. One was that we observed that there was no clear basis of comparison between the Programme of Work and Budget we were looking at and the previous biennium because so much has changed, and we asked for statistics. There is more material to be provided on the Core Voluntary Contributions issue because we found it one that excited debate rather than conclusions and we did really want to know more and understand it better.

The third conclusion observation we made was that the IPA and reforms are paramount to everything we were doing. There is, I am sure you will realise, one item with the Joint Meeting of the two Committees which does not fall to either Committee, and that is to make recommendations to the Council on the overall level of the budget. The Joint Meeting has openly never managed to do this in the past. We did consider it, but for various reasons decided we were ready to move in that direction. Personally, and this from all observations, I wonder whether it is realistic to expect the Programme Committee to make a recommendation that might commit the Members when we have realised that probably a political decision rather than a technical decision will emerge from the two Committees. With that Mr Chairperson, thank you very much, that's my Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Heard. Again, I apologize for not giving you the floor before. My understanding is that we might be able in the Council to reach an agreement despite the fact that agreement on the Programme of Work and Budget was not possible in the Committees. I have two names, Thailand and Afghanistan. Ms Williams established the List of Speakers, and we shall listen to Thailand as our first speaker.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, I would like to request you to pass the floor to the Dominican Republic. Thank you.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Observador de la República Dominicana)

No es mi estilo hacer comentarios de índole personal, pero quisiera felicitarle por verle presidiendo esta sesión en su segundo mandato como Presidente del Consejo. También me complace mucho ver a nuestros queridos colegas Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas entre nosotros hoy.

El G77 realizó una reunión plenaria el día miércoles de la semana pasada, en la que llegamos a conclusiones sobre dos temas que han sido tratados en la mañana de hoy; quisiera indicar muy brevemente cuál es la posición de los 130 países en desarrollo sobre estos dos temas.

Punto uno sobre la financiación del Plan Inmediato de Acción: el Grupo de los 77 reafirmó su compromiso con la protección de los programas técnicos de la FAO y acordó apoyar la propuesta de la administración de realizar una distribución 50-50 entre contribuciones obligatorias y voluntarias, siempre que se garantice que los programas de la FAO no se verán afectados por esta modalidad de financiación.

El segundo punto trata la propuesta de consolidación de los Centros de Servicios Compartidos de la FAO y el probable cierre de los de Bangkok y Santiago de Chile sobre lo que el G77 acordó en solicitar más información, pues la que se encuentra disponible muestra que semejante proceder resultaría en ineficacias, ahorros mínimos e insostenibles y constituiría un retroceso de la Descentralización de la FAO.

El G77 también opina que las Conferencias Regionales deberían proveer orientación sobre este caso. Otras delegaciones del G77, incluyendo la de Tailandia que ha solicitado la palabra, aportarán mayores detalles sobre este tema.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for especially being brief. But I did not understand, you were pleased that my term is coming to the end? Okay, thank you anyway. Now I would like Afghanistan to take the floor please.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I do not want to speak I just would like to ask a question. If we keep all the three items together: the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, it is going to be a very lengthy statement. On the other hand, if you want short statements and break it down, maybe another way would be to discuss the Medium Term Plan once and then the Programme of Work and Budget, which really requires decision-making as a separate item.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Ayazi, as usual you come up with a proposal. If the Council agrees, and if you are prepared to do it, I think that it is a good way to first discuss, more separately discuss the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan and then the Programme of Work and Budget for which we need to listen to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to better assess the financing. Now, it's a proposal I am making to you, and as I mentioned, if you are prepared to do that, I welcome it. But if you are not prepared to do that and you cannot just separate these two things, please feel

free to do so and deal with both these issues. Thank you, Mr Ayazi, do you want to start yourself as an example?

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

If you allow me, I will start on Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan. The three documents, all three of them: Strategic Framework, the Four-Year Strategic Framework, Strategic Framework of ten years and Medium Term Plan of four years and the Programming of Work and Budget of two years are interfacing, no doubt, anchored, all of them are anchored on Results-Based Management, so there are bound to be some areas of conversions and some repetitions between the documents. The point of conversion is indeed a sign of strength of these documents and the repetition, in my view, is of less concern. With respect to the Strategic Framework 2010-2019, we fully subscribe to the last paragraph of the Director-General's foreword namely that the document provides the broad principles and guidelines on the success of FAO's future programmes and, therefore, serves as a road map for the Organization for the next decade, but flexible enough to adjust to changing circumstances.

Section 1, The Challenge, challenges facing food, agriculture and rural development towards a wide territory. But this coverage, is balanced and well-presented. Subsequent to the deliberations of the Programme and Finance Committees in July, some improvements have been introduced in this Section. We particularly appreciate the inclusion of paragraphs 18 to 21 on Land and Water, paragraph 25 and 26 on Lifting the Productivity of Small Farmers, the sharpening of paragraph 27 and 28 on Fisheries and improvements in paragraphs 36 to 40 on Natural Resources, Climate Change and the Incidence of Emergency. Section 2, Division, is the result of the hard work, joint work, I would say, for several months of the ROEC Members and Management in formulating a coherent architecture for Results-Based Management that is consistent with FAO's mandate. Undoubtedly, it is the first result and it is subject to further improvement based on experience gained in the coming years. Therefore, several elements of the architecture remain as works-in-progress.

Section 3, the Results-Based Management in the Organization, namely, paragraphs 56 to 68, has been expanded, has sharpened and we welcome this improvement. Section 5, pages 18 to 29 of the English text on Strategic and Functional Agriculture is a precursor to the detailed description in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

Finally, we welcome the consolidated Core functions in Section 5, paragraph 74-82 as the details mentioned in the Medium Term Plan. On the Medium Term Plan, Mr Chairperson, we wish to make the following, we wish to point out that the version presented to the Council is a much superior text than the one reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees in July. The improvement includes: one, the size has been reduced from 87 to 16 pages. This reduction is due to the elimination of the lengthy section on the Results-based framework for Strategic and Functional Objective and its replacement in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. We consider this to be a significant improvement. Two, another improvement is the inclusion of a more detailed narrative on the Core Functions and making the representation of the Core Functions as short as possible in the Strategic Framework 2010-2019. Three, the three short paragraphs 65-67 constitute another good addition. Number four, other improvements include: the inclusion of opportunities in Items C, E and F in paragraph 8, the addition of paragraph 9 which makes the point that exploitation of opportunities depends on appropriate and timely interventions that leverage FAO's comparative advantage vis-à-vis the other sectors. Number 3 paragraph 17, which highlights the tracking of progress through indicators for in-course correction. With respect to the core function, we have two observations to make. One, in paragraph 39, allowance should also be made for perspective study related to region and sub-regions and not made exclusive to global studies. Two, to avoid any misinterpretation, the policy assistance note in paragraph 48 would require brief explanation.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Afghanistan for the points and comments. I will come back again to Thailand.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

As referred by the Chair of G77, I understand that I can raise the issue of the Shared Services Centre at this point. Thailand is speaking on behalf of G77. We would like to refer to the text on page 47 of the Programme of Work and Budget document which is in the last part of the Foreseen Savings and Efficiency Gains. Paragraph 191 refers to the advice of the Root and Branch Review that the Organization will consider whether it is necessary to have the three hubs in separate geographic zones of the Shared Service Centre. This advice was given without making any analysis of the Shared Service Centre in Budapest or the hubs in Bangkok and Santiago. A group of external contractors was later engaged to make a more detailed review of the Shared Services Centres' staffing and reporting lines during the first quarter of 2009. This work then recommended the consolidation of the Bangkok and Santiago Shared Services Centre hubs into the Budapest hub. The text on page 47 also informs us that a detailed analysis of the functions in those hubs, which includes transaction volumes and work processes, is being carried out at the second phase and will only be completed in 2010.

The G77 fully supports efforts to cut costs by streamlining administrative work throughout the Organization but the G77 maintains that without solid factual evidence there is no justification for any proposal of consolidating the Bangkok and Santiago Shared Services hubs with the Budapest hub. We are not yet convinced that the proposal is in the best interests of Member Nations or of FAO, or that it will result in cost savings, especially in the medium and long terms.

At this stage, we would like to make the following observations: First, the way that this tentative proposal was put forward, as referred to in the text on page 47, seems to be a prejudged assumption which may misguide the focus of the study. Second, the rationale of the tentative proposal seems to be in contradiction with the concept of Decentralization. Instead of strengthening Decentralized Offices where the two hubs are located so as to cope with increasing administrative tasks which are being transferred from the Headquarters, it tends to weaken them by eliminating experience in human resources. Such a move tends to be a Recentralization and not greater Decentralization, as recommended by the IEE and approved by the FAO Conference. Third, the tentative proposal ignored the previously agreed rationale of providing real-time services in three different time zones leading to the establishment of the three existing hubs which was approved by the Conference in November 2008. It was put forward even before undertaking a detailed analysis of the functions currently carried out in those three hubs. Fourth, the proposal provided a figure of USD 1.8 million as a foreseen amount of biennial savings with no evidence-based justification. It does not appear to take into consideration the following: 1) investment and start-up costs of work transfer and operational cost increases in the medium- and long-term when Hungary adopts the Euro currency; 2) compensation payment upon termination of staff with Continuing appointments; 3) efficiency and timeliness of current services provided by the three Shared Services Centre hubs and comments or satisfaction of the clients.

Based on the points that I have just mentioned on behalf of G77 we would like to request Management to take into account the following considerations: First, the ongoing analysis should be independent, transparent, thorough and evidence-based. Second, the focus of the study should be open to other possible assumptions or options like keeping the three existing hubs as they are, and exploring areas to save costs by adjusting the existing way working processes and enhancing effectiveness and timeliness of their services. Third, the efficiency and effectiveness of the three Shared Services Centres in servicing regions in their respective areas of responsibility should be part of the ongoing analysis. Fourth, we urge that, before taking any action, the findings emerging from the ongoing analysis should be presented to the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the one for Latin America and the Caribbean, for review.

Last but not least, we would also like to request the Finance Committee to take into consideration the views expressed for their further in-depth discussion once the detailed analysis is finalized.

Sergio INZUNZA BECKER (Chile)

La delegación de Chile había considerado el Tema 5 como uno solo enteramente y nos parece que la Secretaría, probablemente tiene razón así como también lo dijo Afganistán son temas que están muy relacionados unos con otros, por lo tanto, nosotros nos vamos a referir a los tres aspectos que están incluidos en este tema.

En relación con el Marco Estratégico y el Plan a Plazo Medio, recuerdo que son temas que han sido muy analizados en el seno de los Grupos de Trabajo del Comité de la Conferencia para la Reforma y creemos que, efectivamente, se ha obtenido un muy buen resultado que al mismo tiempo plantea enormes desafíos a la Organización y éstos son los desafíos en lo que respecta al nuevo bienio a los cuales debería dar respuesta el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto.

A nuestro juicio, la nueva forma en que ha sido presentado el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto y, dado que también incluye tanto los recursos correspondientes a la asignación presupuestaria neta y a las Contribuciones Voluntarias, responde al mandato de la Conferencia y a lo establecido en el Plan Inmediato de Acción y constituye un plazo adelante ya que presenta un cuadro de conjunto más claro y el modo de identificar las prioridades, al mismo tiempo facilitando la labor de control de parte de los Órganos Rectores.

El Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto que se propone considera que el financiamiento de las necesidades de recursos de la FAO para el bienio 2010-2011 de la FAO será en un 43 por ciento a través de la contribución financiera neta o sea las cuotas asignadas a los Estados Miembros, y en un 57 por ciento a través de Contribuciones Voluntarias. Nos parece que es legítimo interrogarse si los recursos que contempla el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto serán suficientes para responder a los ambiciosos objetivos que el Plan a Plazo Medio y a las necesidades siempre mayores de los Países Miembros, y si son suficientes para enfrentar este enorme desafío que tenemos por delante, que en primer lugar presenta la erradicación del hambre en el mundo.

Examinando las asignaciones financieras para cada uno de los Objetivos Estratégicos, se observa que la cobertura con recursos provenientes de la asignación presupuestaria neta es variable pero que el promedio no supera, en general, el 30 por ciento. Para una mejor comprensión, tal vez, habría sido útil incluir en alguno de los cuadros que acompañan el documento, una columna que estableciera claramente qué porcentaje de los Objetivos Estratégicos es cubierto cada uno por la asignación de las contribuciones netas y cuál por las Contribuciones Voluntarias. Esto habría permitido tener una comprensión mejor del problema que tenemos por delante.

La escasa cobertura de los objetivos estratégicos con un presupuesto garantizado, por así llamarlo, es un dato que nos preocupa. Es necesario contar con mayor información acerca del modo que la Organización entiende atender las necesidades de asistencia técnica de los países, en particular de aquellos que más la requieren, teniendo en cuenta la fuerte dependencia en las Contribuciones Voluntarias que serán necesarias, en parte, para el cumplimiento del Programa de Trabajo. Parece conveniente definir mecanismos de monitoreo y constante información y consulta con los Órganos Rectores sobre este tema de importancia fundamental para el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de la Organización.

Otro aspecto que está contenido en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto que quisiéramos brevemente mencionar es el que se refiere a la nueva estructura de la Sede que ha sido propuesta. Nos parece necesario que este tema se siga examinando en el futuro tanto desde el punto de vista de una, probablemente, más adecuada distribución de los recursos humanos en favor de las actividades técnicas de la FAO, como así también una mejor definición de la atención que se debe prestar a algunos temas cruciales como el Desarrollo Rural y la Seguridad Alimentaria que, en la estructura que se nos propone, no se ve con claridad de qué manera van a ser atendidos adecuadamente.

Otro tema importante para nuestra delegación es el que se refiere a la Descentralización. Sobre esto creemos que es necesario reiterar algo que ya hemos planteado en ocasiones anteriores, que es la importancia que tiene la presencia de la FAO en los países y la necesidad de dotar a las

Oficinas Regionales con los instrumentos necesarios para atender a estas necesidades. No parece posible imaginar una FAO sin una presencia activa y eficiente en los países prestando su apoyo en los temas de su mandato, en especial el desarrollo rural, el incremento de la producción agrícola, la seguridad alimentaria. Cualquier intervención en este materia debería ser ampliamente analizada y discutida con una activa participación de las distintas regiones.

También quisiera referirme a un tema que ya ha sido mencionado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y por la Representación de Tailandia respecto al Centro de Servicios Compartidos y la proposición que se contiene en el documento de Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto que indica incluso una fecha para materializar el objetivo de concentrar en uno sólo estos centros.

En primer término, deseo expresar con respecto a esto que toda medida que tenga por objetivo reducir, producir ahorros y aumentar la eficiencia de la Organización contará con nuestro apoyo. Sin embargo, en este caso, vemos con preocupación que se propone aplicar una medida que, a nuestro juicio, no ha sido examinada en la debida forma y que, lejos de producir ahorros y aumentar eficiencia, podría crear situaciones de grave ineficiencia y un posible aumento de los costos para paliar eventuales efectos negativos. Hay que señalar, como lo ha reiterado hoy el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, que este tema no ha sido debidamente tratado o deliberado en este Comité. Los Miembros no contamos con información acerca de los efectos que podría tener una medida de esta naturaleza sobre el trabajo de las Oficinas Regionales que funcionan en zonas geográficas con diferentes husos horarios que alcanzan 6 o más horas de diferencia. Nos parece que un correcto criterio de Descentralización debería, por una parte, dotar a las Oficinas Regionales de recursos financieros adecuados y, por otra parte, de los instrumentos necesarios para un eficiente funcionamiento entre los que se encuentran, al menos en este momento, los Centros de Servicios Compartidos que se propone cerrar. Compartimos la completa intervención de la delegación de Tailandia en este respecto y por ello hacemos un llamado a que este análisis continúe y que incluya como mínimo una evaluación del impacto que una medida de esta naturaleza podría tener sobre la eficiencia en el funcionamiento de las Oficinas Regionales, sus efectos sobre las actividades de las Oficinas Sub-regionales y de las Oficinas de la FAO en los países.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Chile and invite the United Kingdom to take the floor to be followed by Sudan.

James HARVEY (United Kingdom)

I would request the floor on behalf of Sweden in their capacity as President of the European Community. Thank you.

Michael HJELMAKER (Observer for Sweden)

Mr. Chairperson, I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey, associates itself with the statement.

At the outset we would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the documentation regarding this agenda item. We recognise and appreciate the work put into the preparation of the Strategic Framework, The Medium Term Plan (MTP) as well as the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) by the Management and staff of the Organization. We are convinced that this effort will lead to a more effective and efficient FAO where the process of identifying priorities will be easier, and ultimately assist the FAO in delivering substantially better results in the field. We also realize that this is very much work in progress. The EC stands ready to assist FAO in further improving Results-Based Management and Budgeting.

The EC notes the Strategic Framework as presented in document C 2009/3. The EC further takes note of the fact that the document has been amended and improved since it was last examined by the Membership in July. We believe that this document provides a good basis for analysis of the context within which FAO will operate in the coming decade.

The EC has also taken note of the Medium Term Plan for 2010-2013. We consider this to be a most useful document in that it provides a concise and focused presentation of the new results-based framework of the Organization. The Medium Term Plan provides a base for better dialogue with partners and donors, facilitating coherence and resource mobilization, *inter alia*, through the Impact Focus Areas.

With regard to the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, the EC appreciates that the Secretariat has produced a document that takes the guidance of the Governing Bodies of the Organization into consideration. We have now a useful and comprehensive document that avails of better understanding of the integrated budget and which reflects all the resources available to FAO. This provides the basis for a more transparent and open prioritisation process in the future. The EC acknowledges that the process of prioritization and the development of Organizational Results and baselines within the new results-based framework has been commenced and that it needs more than one budget cycle to be fully effective.

The on-going Reform of FAO constitutes an overarching priority for the EC. Rebuilding confidence in the Organization is vital for its future, in particular, with regard to its ability to attract extra-budgetary funding. Therefore, the financing of the Immediate Plan of Action, the IPA, is crucial. The EC welcomes the reduced cost-estimate for the implementation of the IPA and the new Programme of Work and Budget document. The EC notes that the savings in the implementation of the IPA are largely due to extended timelines for a number of Reform elements. It is of utmost importance that extended timelines are only resorted to in order to improve end results, and that they do not unnecessarily delay the overall Reform. In this matter we look forward to further clarifications from the Secretariat.

We also note that the financing of IPA implementation is now proposed to be covered to 50 percent by Net Appropriations and to 50 percent by Core Voluntary Funds. While this, in our view, is an improvement as compared to the first draft of the PWB, it is still not sufficient. The EC believes that the necessary Reform activities of the Organization are too important to be dependant on extra-budgetary resources. With a view to achieving timely and secure implementation of the IPA, and ensuring a broad ownership of the Reform by the entire Membership, the full cost of the IPA must be financed by Assessed Contributions, taking into account the options indicated in the Report of the 129th Session of the Finance Committee.

The EC, in principle, supports the maintenance of the Regular Programmes, but has difficulties in accepting the proposed cost increases. That is why we expect to see a substantial level of additional efficiency savings within the 2010-2011 biennium and the current proposal, therefore, needs to be revised downwards.

Regarding the proposals in the PWB addressing the financial health of the Organization, we refer to our more detailed comments to be provided under Item 8.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sweden, talking on behalf of the EC, for your to-the-point comments.

Now I invite Sudan to take the floor to be followed by the Russian Federation.

Abdel Ahmed IJAMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Chairperson we wish you every success in your endeavours and would like to focus on the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

All of the efforts made by the Organization are commendable, and we are aware of the responsibility which the Secretariat has to shoulder in facing the challenges of developing food in a world,

CHAIRPERSON

Can you please speak slowly so that the interpreters can cope with the translation.

Abdel Ahmed IJAMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We commend the efforts made by the Organization and we realize the great responsibility FAO faces in rising to the challenges of improving the food and agriculture situation in the world. This requires on our part, a precise assessment of the plans of the Organization on the basis of measurable results. We express our satisfaction with this new structure, and we have the following comments to make.

The Independent External Evaluation has pointed out that this Organization, this democratic Organization, has low levels of responsibility which were highlighted in the evaluation and we are certainly satisfied with what the Secretariat has done in that endeavour. The Organization at present does not have the authority or the ability for the Regional Offices to do their work properly. It would appear that Management has to intervene in the tiniest details in the Field which reflects the fact that these are essentially just administrative offices.

The IEE has also referred to the need to implement Decentralization and the necessity to improve those Offices. The Organization has been reformed but the Decentralized Offices have not been reformed. They work with just one or two experts. Their work has no significant impact even at the level of the TCP.

The IEE has also referred to efficiency gains, as well as Zero Growth, but this has not been implemented in practice.

In paragraph 40 reference is made to the fact that all the statistics, information and knowledge are the core of the work of this Organization. We stress that the efforts made with respect to statistics, information and knowledge require greater effort on the part of the Organization so that it can provide that information to the Member Nations in an appropriate and timely manner to help them in producing agricultural statistics that are comprehensive.

In paragraphs 48 and 49 reference is made to the legal field and the agricultural field, and we commend the work of the Organization here and call for more to be done. The Plan does not refer to efforts pertaining to small farmers and the fact that they can develop associations which will help them to obtain inputs and to have access to new markets and improve production methods.

Paragraph 79, at the Table, refers to a USD 2 200 000 budget, only USD 946 000 of which comes from the regular budget, the rest being extra-budgetary. Extra-budgetary funding is not free. Reference has been made to a number of objectives of the Organization, but we do not think it is realistic to expect this in the context of this budget. So we hope that the downward revision of the budget should not be at the expense of regular programmes such as those for emergencies and the need for the Organization to be able to deal effectively with them. This cannot be funded through what amounts to 40 percent of the net budget. How can we talk about equal conditions for all countries to have food security in this light? Of USD 673 million, two-thirds will be spent at Headquarters, the other third is devoted to the Regional Offices as well as Country Offices. That does not reflect Decentralization of decisions in this Organization. We call for that situation to be revised.

Nor is there a clear breakdown between plant production and livestock in the plans of the Organization. Comprehensive agricultural development cannot be achieved without a close link between the two types of production.

One further clarification, on page 103, the question of crop production, in the context of food security. I would like some clarification of what the document states in this regard. The preparation of appropriate market conditions is a crucial issue for us, and we think the Organization should devote greater attention to the market situation as food security does not just depend on primary agriculture. We must also take into account the needs of each family, each individual, and provide greater assistance to small farmers in rural areas - access to markets in this context is absolutely vital. So the efforts of the Organization are extremely important as a result. Technical support for countries is a necessity and it should be a priority. Before we start talking

about relations between the types of production, I think we actually need to focus on the markets so that we allow farmers to improve their situation and have greater access to those markets.

Rapid response is of great interest to my country and others, and I hope the Organization will pay greater attention to that issue as well.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sudan for your to-the-point statement and now I will invite the Russian Federation to take the floor please.

Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian delegation has read very closely the documents presented on this agenda item. There is no doubt that both the format and the content of these documents are a new important landmark on the path of transition to Results-Based Management and Budgeting. The remaining innovations in the prepared Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011 have thus been merged into a single document with the Medium Term Plan for 2010-2013. We feel that to a large extent, this merger so far has been mostly mechanical. But we should not forget that this is just a first stab, a first experience, in principle, in a necessary direction. Together with the financial resources from Assessed Contributions, the budget this time also includes Voluntary Contributions of two categories. The Programme and Budget structure has been changed in the light of the Strategic and Functional Goals. There are other novelties too. Time will tell to what extent they will have been advisable and appropriate. One thing is clear; the Secretariat has done a tremendous amount of work in implementing the Immediate Plan of Action, and deserves our gratitude.

We would now like to move on to an evaluation of the proposed draft budget for 2010-2011. We commend the fact that it has been prepared on the basis of Zero Real Growth and we appreciate the detailed breakdown of price calculations therein. Nonetheless the proposed growth seems to us to be a bit excessive. In particular, we fail to understand the discrepancy in indicators for growth of the budget. In various places, we come across figures of 5.3 percent, 7.1 percent and even a 10.7 percent increase compared to the current biennium, and we would like to hear from the Secretariat a final figure for price increases. We note the importance of the measures for efficiency gains, and the skilled steps the Secretariat has taken to this effect. However, the subsequent fate of the saved resources seems very opaque to us and in future we would like to see in the Secretariat's report where specifically, and in what amounts, the resources saved through such so-called efficiency gains have gone. As regards the proposed increase in the funding of the After Service Medical Coverage liability from the current USD 14.1 million to USD 39.3 million per biennium in the current difficult financial situation which the overwhelming majority of Member Nations of this Organization are experiencing, it seems to us scarcely acceptable. Many organizations have deferred a decision on this question altogether until better days.

We also cannot agree to the proposal for a three-fold increase in the Working Capital Fund of FAO from the current USD 25 million plus to USD 75 million in principle, and this is the practice of other organizations including the United Nations. But for the forthcoming biennium again taking into account the difficult financial situation of Member Nations we propose that the level of this Fund be kept where it currently stands.

Incidentally, in paragraph 186 of document C 2009/15 it says that as a result of selective layering of Director-level posts at Headquarters for the next biennium, some USD 17.4 million will be saved. What if that money, or at least some of it, were used to beef up the Working Capital Fund? Then we could truly value the real significance of the efficiency gains with respect to the question of a partial transfer of authority to the Director-General for budgetary transfers. We do not object to affording the Secretariat additional flexibility, it is just a question of the size of the transferred amounts. Thus, under Section 12 of the Budget, entitled *Effective Cooperation of Member States and Partners*, five percent amounts to more than USD 10 million. So we probably need to think again, perhaps about the level of the transfer, but, I repeat, again in principle, we do not object to such a decision.

In conclusion, I would briefly like to touch on a question of human resources and the conditions of service of staff. On this issue, as we understand it, the Secretariat is preparing a whole array of reform proposals. We would like to be sure that all of the innovations proposed by the Secretariat in this field, especially those related to level of remuneration, bonuses, and material incentives, the status of staff members will be the subject of preliminary expert assessments by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). We all know that issues of staff compensation, of Organizations in the UN System to which FAO also belongs are settled in context of the common system of salaries and conditions of service of UN staff, and the ICSC considers system-wide recommendations on these matters for adoption by the UN General Assembly. We would like to stress that the Russian Delegation may have problems with adopting those decisions on staff which are either still being considered by the ICSC, or which were rejected by it.

On the other issues pertaining to the budget, we would like to speak under Agenda Item 8 when we will discuss the Report of the Finance Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russian Federation, and now I will invite Tanzania to take the floor and this is the last name on my Speakers List. If there are other delegates who want to ask for the floor? Okay. Tanzania you have the floor.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

My delegation appreciates the Agenda in front of us and is grateful to FAO Management for working on this Agenda and the other tasks, in particular, during the summer holidays; this is a culture change in practice.

The Tanzania delegation would like to make interventions on three items at a go. By making this intervention we align ourselves to the conclusions reached by the Africa Group, as well as the G-77 as a group.

Referring to the Strategic Framework, we appreciate the process which has been undertaken which has been within the IPA for FAO Reform. This is what has been the guiding principle of this work. The level of engagement, that is of Members, their Committees, the staff of FAO, the Regional Conferences, to some extent, is appreciated and we recognize it as an input to this good and appreciable document. It has been realized that FAO's Strategic Framework was not as straightforward as could be for other UN Organizations. It is wide and entails various principles. On the basis of the vision and the goals, the Africa Group fully supported the relevant Strategic Objectives given us to respond to the challenges. We also agreed to the Functional Objectives.

The issue for more focussing and prioritization, although even being considered we feel it will continue to be work in progress. Regarding Regional Conference contributions, their inputs during this process were not well-structured. Hopefully for the year 2012-2013 this will be taken into consideration bearing in mind that Regional Conferences will be one of our Governing Bodies. Further the indicators and the reporting mechanism will have to be improved in the process.

Turning to the Medium Term Plan in the Programme of Work and Budget, the integration of Assessed Contributions and Voluntary Contributions is guided by the Results-Based Management to achieve the Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives. All the funds are needed for realizing the Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives. These have no labels of Net Appropriation or Voluntary Contribution, therefore, we welcome the integration as a good starting point and, more important, that evaluation of both Net Appropriation and Voluntary Contributions will continue to be assessed by the Finance Committee.

It allows common monitoring and reporting and it strengthens governments' process accountability and really Members' partnership.

We appreciated the explanation given on the Voluntary Contributions; the core voluntary and the other voluntary. We note this explanation and the comfort given by Management on the high

realization of the Voluntary Contributions. This guides us well when it comes to resource allocation to the Programmes and, in particular, to financing the IPA.

We appreciate the treatment of the IPA and results in the Root and Branch Review in the Programme of Work and Budget. The IPA, it is agreed, is an extremely ambitious plan. This was also put forward by the External Evaluation and when we were discussing this issue and, of course, it is foreseen to be implemented in three years. However, the work of 2009, funds availability, the manpower has called for more practical and realistic thinking on this time period. We have recent data through Management's rigorous work on sequencing, timing and on the cost implications. We therefore accept the extension of implementation into the year 2012-2013. This should be supported by all those who appreciate the work involved in the Reform of FAO.

Regarding funding of IPA, we support the fifty-fifty funding for IPA as it maintains the programmes intact. We would like to accept the increased contribution, but bearing in mind that increased contributions to fund the IPA or for the IPA to be one hundred percent funded by Voluntary Contributions will be adding a burden to some of the countries, including my country. Today fifty-three countries are in arrears and twenty four almost losing their Voting Rights, that will not be a pragmatic way to say that IPA be funded by Assessed Contributions. Otherwise we shall not be fair to the Reform.

We appreciate the work reached in regards to the Headquarters apex structure. We look forward to the work still in pipeline below the departmental level.

On Decentralized Offices, we would like to zero in on the Country Office Network and we say it requires a revisit of the process which we have undertaken. We in Africa have insisted on the need to refer this issue to the Regional Conferences. Therefore, we support also Thailand's submission in regard to the others. We recognize the savings and efficiencies, but I think we should be guided more also by effectiveness.

On the elements for improving FAO financial earnings, there is a need to stabilize the General fund deficit to avoid liquidity shortages. As noted in the document, since 1997 FAO has suffered. We Members also have suffered and some programmes have fallen victim of these liquidity problems. We have realized this suffering, particularly we in the developing countries and Africa in particular. One issue is the non-payment of Assessed Contributions, therefore this issue will be discussed later but we will go along with what has been proposed by the Finance Committee. Of course, some measures identified can be difficult to operationalize, therefore, we need to have a balance and with safeguards towards countries with problems.

I would like to say something on Annex 1 which is on the regional dimension and areas of main challenges and emphasis. I would also refer that this will benefit more from the Regional Conferences in future.

CHAIRPERSON

I invite Panama to take the floor to be followed by Norway, Afghanistan, United States of America, Mexico and Denmark.

Panama, you have the floor.

Horacio Joaquín MALTEZ RODRIGUÉZ (Panamá)

Al igual que las representaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra deseamos manifestarle nuestra complacencia por haber presidido este período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Acogiéndonos a su solicitud de brevedad y de no repetir otras intervenciones, ya que son conocidas por haberlas realizadas en otras instancias, deseamos solamente apoyar muy decididamente la declaración efectuada por el Presidente del G-77, hecha a nombre de sus 130 Países Miembros.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Like other delegations, we certainly appreciate all the work that has been done in preparing the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. This has been a shared responsibility and shared work, and we have come a long way and we certainly appreciate that.

Also I am pleased to inform you that although Norway supported the level of the budget, I think it is a good basis for change with growth that there are several elements in it that are highly risky and I would like to talk a little on the risks that we are now facing. Some of these risks are self-imposed by the Organization. We had too much to do this summer and this fall and that is reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget and we have to be really careful that we do not fall into the trap that my Russian colleague pointed out that this is sort of a mechanical merger between all the sound elements that we now have as a basis for the Reform of the Organization. But the mistake we made was not having the time. I think we all wanted to take the time to integrate this coming Programme of Work and Budget as a part of Reform, real change and real growth.

There are elements that need to be further elaborated, further work needs to be done that should have been worked on before they decide on Programme of Work and Budget at the Conference. There are too many unanswered questions that will pop up during the Conference and that we will all have a hard time answering or explaining satisfactorily to other Ministers.

The big risk is that the results-based system is very fragile in the sense that we really do not have enough indicated benchmark timelines to the extent that is necessary for a full Reform of the Organization. Another risk is a Headquarters structure, like my Chilean colleague pointed out. We need to discuss this. It is not only the structure but it is what emphasis regarding the normative and the operational side at Headquarters versus Decentralized Offices, we place on the resources, and what kind of Organization we need in order to disseminate its wonderful knowledge in the regions and the countries. We need to change from a project Organization to have a discussion we have not had at all, we did not even have the time to embark on it before we started a big discussion on the structure of the Decentralized Offices, and we have heard how this has popped up today in discussion as major points from regions in the whole Reform process and that in itself is a risk for the Reform, if that is going to be the discussion.

Another, and this is a terrible risk for the Reform process, is the way that we now seek to finance it, absolutely with the EU and others we have heard many voices for that. The Reform needs to be financed one hundred per cent in the Regular Budget and no part of it should be Voluntary Contributions.

This is a shared responsibility, every Member Nation, each one of us and this is a risk we should not burden ourselves or the Organization with. Please let us agree on a full financing of the core budget of the IPA. I think that is absolutely necessary. Another risk is that to get the cost of the IPA down, we have extended the timeline to 2013, and we all know and the IEE Report is telling us that this is going to be a lot of work for a long period. We need to maintain the momentum and it is a danger when you start cutting the first assessment for the next two years which was USD 56 million now we have ended up USD 38 million. To make that possible we have extended the timeline and that is a risk in itself. It is an efficiency risk and it is also another serious risk. How long can you keep enthusiasm for the Reform process among Members, in the Organization itself and among the resources needed to do this job in a consistent and comprehensive and inspired fashion? So to keep the momentum in the Reform process is now of major importance. We need to see Culture Change, better invested in the Organization than it is today. The silo culture has got to go. We have not discussed it, we have not touched upon it. The question of Decentralized Offices and to get this Organization to be not a project Organization, with thousands and thousands of projects but a programmatic Organization. That discussion we need to have and that is one of the elements that can change this from a silo Organization, so to speak, to a really efficient development and normative knowledge Organization.

So I spent some time, on the risks that are facing us and I think that they have not really been assessed. They are underassessed in Management and they are underassessed among the Council and the Membership at large. We should spend more time on the risks and it is too bad that we do not have a comprehensive strategy for risk management, yet in this Organization, it is known that we really need it.

CHAIRPERSON

I invite Afghanistan to take the floor, to be followed by the United States of America, Zimbabwe, Mexico and Canada.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am now talking only about the Programme of Work and Budget. It is the first time that Membership has been so actively engaged with Management in the formulation of an integrated Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. This in itself is a sign of the FAO Reform underway.

The resource modification of the one hundred and seventy page document has been slightly changed from the version that was presented to the Programme and Finance Committee in July. The modifications consist of additional USD 4.9 million for net appropriation and a drop of close to USD 29 million in Core Voluntary Contributions.

None of the eleven strategic objectives are touched by these resource modifications. Only the two Functional Objectives X and Y and Capital Expenditures are affected. With respect to net appropriation, there is an increase of USD 6 million for Functional Objective X, another USD 7.7 million for Functional Objective Y and a drop of USD 8.8 million for Capital Expenditure. With respect to the Core Voluntary Contributions there is a loss of USD 10 million for Functional Objective X, close to USD 22 million for Functional Objective Y and a gain of USD 3.15 million for Capital Expenditure. All the changes in the Core Voluntary Contributions relate to the IPA.

We wish to submit the following observations on the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

One, we consider the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 as an integrated document and clear in presentation.

Two, the integrated Programme of Work and Budget of USD 2.2 billion is twenty-six percent higher than the overall Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009. Of this sum, USD 1.9 billion are programmed for normative work and support services. This figure is thirteen percent higher than the resources that were approved for normative work and support services in the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009. The increase in net appropriation between the two biennia is USD 16 million and of the Core Contributions of USD 10 million. Thus the dependency of Programme of Work and Budget on the Core Voluntary Contributions has increased from 13 per cent in 2008-2009 to twenty one percent in 2010-2011. Over the long-run the rising dependence on Core Voluntary Contributions, especially for normative work is not a healthy sign for the Organization.

Three, by and large the budget is centered on global work. As shown in Annex 1 (page 158 of the English text) 67 percent of the Net Appropriation and practically all of the Core Voluntary Contributions are linked to global work. With Decentralization taking root in the work of the Organization, these ratios will hopefully change in the future.

Four, according to Annex II (pages 165-166 of the English text), 40 percent of the Net Appropriation is earmarked for the eleven Strategic Objectives and 33 percent for the two Functional Objectives. Because of the shift to results-based programming, it is difficult to compare these percentages with the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009. Nevertheless, table 2 on page 32 of the English text would reveal that in 2008-2009, 41.6 percent of the Net Appropriation was earmarked for components that make up the eleven Strategic Objectives and 33.5 percent for Functional Objectives X and Y. So for both the eleven Strategic Objectives and the two Functional Objectives the shares of Net Appropriation have marginally declined.

Five, Table 4 (page 41 of the English text) and Annex X (page 191 of the English text) show the number of budgeted posts by grade and location. We understand that budgeted posts exclude officers funded from Trust Fund projects linked to normative work and this will apply also to the APOs. The calculation based on the data shown in Annex X close to 44 percent of the D posts and 23 percent of the P posts are located in Decentralized Offices. With the Decentralization structure the share of the 5 Regional and 10 Sub-regional Offices in D and P posts is 17 percent of the total D and P posts. Given the additional responsibilities of the Regional and Sub-regional Offices in the Reform process, the fundamental question is whether these offices can handle additional work with the present level of P posts and above. We feel that there is no ready made answer to this question without carrying an in-depth evaluation of the Regional and Sub-regional Offices. The new Evaluation Division is in the process of initiating such an evaluation for the Regional Office in Cairo and we look forward to its findings and recommendations.

Six, we support the ethics of the Headquarters structure and we look forward to the structure below the apex and other Regional Offices in 2010.

We finally wish to make the following additional points:

One, the Results-Based Programming Model does provide a rational and convenient framework for prioritization and we share EC's view that prioritization does require more time to be perfected.

Two, we endorse the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 as presented by the Director-General, including the level of the budget that is proposed and we thank Norway for supporting the level of the budget. We support the 50-50 percent distribution of the IPA for 2010-2011 between net appropriation and Core Voluntary Funds and we thank Tanzania, speaking on this issue on behalf of Africa. But we can discuss this IPA matter further when the Report of the Finance Committee is discussed including the extension of the IPA in the biennium 2012-2013.

On Decentralization, we are in favour of reaching a balanced solution to fully fledge FAORs, in exploring ways of more Core Voluntary Contributions for Decentralized Offices. On both issues, the views of the Regional Conferences in 2010 appear to be essential.

Finally, regarding the Shared Services Centres, we strongly support the statement of Thailand made on behalf of the G-77 regarding any transfer of the Shared Services Centres from Bangkok and Santiago to Budapest. We wish to supplement that their statement by the following three additional factors:

One, what evidence exists that the Hub in Budapest can handle the additional load, especially as TCP country value operations will be from 2010 onward delegated to the Decentralized Offices. Why did the RBR skip the analysis of Budapest Hub in handling the role already transferred to it from Rome, Cairo and Accra?

Are the clients satisfied with the services of the Budapest Centre? The answer to this question necessitates and Independent External Evaluation of the SSC in Budapest prior to any decision regarding its expansion.

Two, the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee strongly encourages the completion of the extended review of the SSC which is now planned for completion in 2010. Therefore, prior to the completion of the external review the estimated figure of USD 1.8 million savings mentioned in paragraph 194 in the Programme of Work and Budget and repeated in paragraph 69 of the Report of the Finance Committee, is in our opinion premature, especially as the amount mentioned is not incorporated in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

Three, the recommendation of the planned external review should be shared with the Regional Conference prior to any action regarding the SSC in Bangkok and Santiago.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Ayazi. Now I invite the United States of America to take the floor.

Chris HEGADORN (United States of America)

Thank you very much. Let me start by sharing my delegation's greetings to you Mr Chair, the Deputy Director-General who seems to have left, your colleagues on the podium and all other distinguished Council Member delegations and guests here with us today. I would like to start with a couple of questions of clarification and follow with some initial points on the Strategic Framework. I reserve further comments on the budget, PWB, to later interventions.

To start, the Programme Committee, the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees that is, a discussion on the documentation available regarding the PWB and the requests from Members for documentation that would allow the basic comparison. He mentioned his belief that Management had provided that, if you could clarify just what it was Management provided, to answer that question, that would be helpful to later interventions.

Second, the Strategic Framework was a subject of discussion within the CoC-IEE Working Groups recently. We agreed that there was text remaining in the document before us that would be amended, paragraph 48 for example on ODA, a case in point. If I could request clarification on when the addendums will be circulated regarding the text, it would be helpful. I did not see the addendums circulated nor on the Website.

Now, more specific to the Strategic Framework discussion before us. There are many good inputs and statements that we share views on from many of our colleagues. We certainly see, as with the IEE itself, the IPA. In general terms, the Strategic Framework is a very important step and we believe it has been strengthened hardly by the inclusion along the entire formulation process by Members, Senior Management and, of course, FAO's most valuable asset, its staff. These indicators in particular, we believe, are at the heart and soul of these documents and we believe that the indicators themselves need to continue and be improved with clear measurable results, whose results have clear impacts on the resource allocations within FAO to the most productive areas of work and expertise. We agree with the EU and others who have stated that this is a work in progress and that it will take more than one budget cycle to sharpen and tighten controls over the management and direction of the resources included and foreseen in this PWB.

In the Strategic Framework, paragraphs 49 through 51 speak to the importance of UN reforms at the country level. We wish to speak to the need for FAO amongst that group within the UN System, to act as a productive, cooperative member not only at country level but here in Rome among the Members of the High-Level Task Force with the goal of strengthened and effective coordination and cooperation from top to bottom. We also believe that confidence in the Organization cannot be questioned, particularly as this new integrated budget shows the importance of Voluntary Contributions to the delivery of the Programme of Work. We also stress the fundamental importance of a field structure that delivers value for money and where such value does not meet expectations, we need to be prepared with management to make tough decisions and tough choices. With those initial comments, I thank you Mr Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you United States of America.

I invite the last speaker for this morning, Zimbabwe, to take the floor. We have I think used all our time as Zimbabwe speaks on the additional time that we are borrowing from the interpreters, and I appreciate that. Then we meet at 2:30 sharp this afternoon and we start with Mexico to be followed by Canada, Denmark, Australia and Japan and others if they want to speak.

Zimbabwe you have the floor.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I hope I am not the least though I am the last. I wish to welcome you and the other people on the podium for having stayed for this morning's deliberations. My delegation associates itself with the G-77 statements that have been made by

the Dominican Republic and Thailand, and with the comments that followed from Afghanistan and Tanzania in respect of the same.

Mr Chairman, on the Strategic Framework, we are generally satisfied with the proposals before us. We welcome the incorporation of the measurable results-based framework. We see it as a starting point to ensure that every Organizational Result has a baseline from which to develop clear indicators and I think this will also help us to continue to work on the prioritization of our work. At the same time, this will help Members to make an assessment at the end of each biennium and at the end of the Medium Term Plan.

On the Medium-Term Plan, we see the Headquarters structure as work-in-progress and look forward to the ensuing consultations that address the many concerns Members have raised in respect of the Departments' architecture.

On Decentralization, we welcome the idea of integrating the Decentralized Offices' work in the Results-Based Framework. As G-77, we have discussed the issue of Decentralization at length and made some observations with regard to the architecture of the offices themselves. We believe that the discussion of the Decentralized Offices architecture has gone on for a long time with decisions being taken without us Members giving our views at the regional and country level. There are certain principles of Decentralization that we must not lose sight of, that is increased participation of Member Nations through the decentralized structure and through the delegation of decision-making authority and responsibility. Indeed, there are many typologies of Decentralization but since the IEE did not redefine this concept, we can only be guided by the earlier definition that was made by the Decentralization study which was tabled in 2004. That study anchored Decentralization in Administrative Decentralization. It sought to delegate authority and responsibilities. Delegation cannot succeed without accompaniment of financial responsibilities. As Regional and Country Offices have no other means of raising revenue, the regular budget that is raised centrally from the Members' contributions has to be shared for the Decentralized Offices to function efficiently. On country coverage, in the efficiency savings, we expect these to bring about efficient savings in the long term, but in the meantime, there has to be some investment in capacity-building in controls, shifts and balances, communication network and institutional building among others. This cannot be done overnight. We have to be patient and be prepared to invest in the future.

As for the coverage the comparative advantage of the FAO is in its ability to take up a desk in the Ministry of Agriculture and to be at hand to give advice on policy-making and capacity-building and institutional building on request. If it loses this edge, then its role will really be greatly compromised. For this to succeed, the Organization should get inputs from the respective Regional Conferences to shape the nature of the representation that meets their own needs. For instance, in Africa, Tanzania has articulated some of our requirements and governments are looking to think about capacity-building and institutional building as some of the services they readily access from the FAO. We therefore believe that as the impact of the Reform will mostly be felt at that level, we need to give the Regional Conferences an opportunity to deliberate and make inputs of how they view this issue. Let us hold the English adage which says "He who wears the shoe, knows where it pinches" and this is especially so when it comes to Country Offices. On the Programme of Work and Budget, we work on the integrated budget of the regular budget and the voluntary budget, but as regards the programmes we see a great dependence of the strategic objectives on the extra-budgetary sources, and this worries us. We do not believe that the achievement of the organizational results is guaranteed enough. We would like to see a shift to better coverage by the regular budget. We wish to register the following concerns with regard to the PWB.

The reduction in the net appropriation for item G "*Enabling Environment for Markets*" and Item S "*Improved Food Security and Better Incomes*": these reductions are coming at a most inopportune time, that is at a time when we should be placing greater emphasis on improved food security and rural incomes by enhancing market access of commodities produced by poor farmers. We believe that improved food security should remain a key priority of the FAO.

Secondly, the reduction by 1.6 percent of the allocation to Item X "*Effective Collaboration with Member States*", at a time when Decentralization is being considered to enhance country level, we see this as not being timely. The same is true for the FAO Programme.

The other area where we would say we had difficulties is the funding of the IPA, but Afghanistan and Tanzania have clearly articulated our views on the matter. On the Shared Services Centres, Thailand has clearly underscored where our views lie.

Let me conclude by indicating that we endorse the level of the budget that has been tabled before us and with this we share the same views as Afghanistan and Norway, so I need not go into those details.

Solomon Karanja MAINA (Kenya) ¹

Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the new FAO Results-Based Framework 2010-2019, Medium Term Plan 2010-2013 and Program of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

We appreciate that the three are closely related in a mutually complementary manner. We are particularly pleased to discuss FAO reforms in the context of "Reform with Growth" as recommended by the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). Having thus deliberated the pathway to desirable reforms, the Organization's Vision, goal and strategic and functional objectives now spelled out in the new Results-Based Framework have become dear to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation shares the views of statements by various delegations on the issues of Decentralization. We particularly associate ourselves with statements by Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Thailand, the Dominican Republic and several other countries from the G-77. We recognize that FAO operates on two pillars, the Headquarters here in Rome and the Decentralized Field Offices. In this regard, Mr. Chairman, we are of the opinion that there is need for strong emphasis on improving coherence, performance, and integration of the Decentralized Offices for effective service delivery to Member Nations. This can only be achieved by allocating more resources, strengthening capacity and devolving more authority to the Decentralized Offices.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports the proposal to refer the detailed discussion on Decentralization to respective Regional Conferences. Given the ongoing healthy debate on the subject, Member Nations will be given an opportunity to deliberate with in the prescient of their needs at the regional level as Zimbabwe put it and make informed decisions.

On the issue of IPA Funding, we understand the uncertainty of complete dependence on Voluntary Contributions. However, as we stated from the beginning of the debate on the FAO Reform Agenda, it is important to ensure that the program of the organization is not negatively affected. Kenya supports the proposal to have a budget set aside specifically to fund the entire Reform Agenda.

Thank you Chair.

The meeting rose at 12:42 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 42

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:42 horas

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
28 September 2009

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:44 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 44
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14:44 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(CONT'D)

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

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

5. Strategic Framework 2010-19 (C 2009/3), **Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11** (C 2009/15) (Cont'd)

5. Cadre stratégique 2010-19 (C 2009/3), **Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 et Programme de travail et budget 2010-11** (C 2009/15) (suite)

5 Marco estratégico 2010-19 (C 2009/3), **Plan a plazo medio 2010-13 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto 2010-11** (C 2009/15) (Continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Second Meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Council on the floor to order. We will continue with Item 5 on the Agenda and the main documents as I refer to are 2009/3; 2009/15; and we continue with the List of Speakers which has been established this morning. I read the List of Speakers, Mexico, Canada, Denmark, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Ethiopia and USA again. We have Denmark and Switzerland as observers, but as a culture change we want to give them the floor at the end. Ok, so Mexico to be followed by Canada.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ (Mexico)

Solicitamos la palabra para Venezuela, Presidencia *pro tempore* del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Solicitamos la palabra para Venezuela presidente *pro tempore* de turno del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Deseamos referirnos al Tema 3 preparativos de la 36° Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Se que este era uno de los temas de la sesión de la mañana y que todavía hay oradores en lista, habíamos solicitado la palabra en la mañana a través de México y quiero entonces con su venia expresar un tema importante para nuestro grupo referido al Tema 3.

CHAIRPERSON

Ambassador I am sorry. Item 3 has been discussed and already closed. Now we are in Item 5. If you have anything under Item 5, please continue. Otherwise, we are not going to return to Item 3.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Quería referirme al Tema 3, si es posible hacerlo se hace ahora en el momento ya que era un tema de la sesión de la mañana que por alguna razón pues no se pudo expresar en esos momentos.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ambassador. We will talk bilaterally to see how we can handle that. Then next on my List of Speakers is Canada.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Thank you Chairperson. Let me begin by thanking Management for the documentation and the Chair and other Members on the podium for their updates and brief reporting to Council Members. Canada is pleased with the initial phase of FAO's Results-Based Management philosophy and approach. Having said this, the infancy of implementing this new approach has led to some growing pains. For example, Canada believes more can be done in prioritising the Organization's activities, including the ongoing need to review outdated programming activities and those that have generated less than desired outcomes and results. In essence, stopping

activities that are not central to the FAO's Mandate or performance. As a Member of the Programme Committee, Canada is of the strong opinion that the Organization, and the Programme Committee specifically can do more and must do more to advise Council on the effective use of FAO's core comparative advantage. With regard to comments made today by our Chairs of Programme and Finance Committee, two quick points of interest with regards to the Programme Committee, well one at least for now. Canada believes that the Programme Committee's review of the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and PWB and its prioritisation assessments was less than ideal. In some cases, weak and certainly too late in the process for real debate to occur, impacting the PWB as a whole. Programme Committee is a key Committee that needs to improve its efficiencies and effectiveness in order to properly implement its mandate, thus providing Council with real advice on all issues impacting FAO programmes. With regard to comments made by our Chair, Finance Committee Chairperson as expressed by some of our colleagues today, Canada is currently waiting for additional information and documentation that was to be provided by Management during the lengthy PWB debates. This includes comparison documentation with regards to the 2008-2009 biennium, the addendum highlighting the changes to the ODA reference and additional information on the Special Reserve Account and the Capital Working Account.

Chairperson, with regards to the Strategic Framework, Canada appreciates the changes made by Management based on information received from the CoC and the Programme Committee, and although we continue to believe that Management needs to further clarify its strategy of addressing the longer-term trends and opportunities and challenges as expressed in this document. This document should be seen as providing the policy framework architecture for the Medium-Term Plan and the PWB. FAO must further define its long-term commitments in achieving its mandate which is of the utmost importance in tackling the many global challenges.

Mr Chair with regard to IPA implementation, Canada considers the thorough implementation of the IPA as a number one priority for the FAO and must remain the top priority for Management going into the next biennium. This is not a question of programme activities versus reform. This is about doing everything, especially programme activities, better. Canada believes that all Members of this Organization need to share in the delivery of an improved and effective Organization and that all stand to benefit from an efficient and effective FAO. As a result, Canada reiterates its position at the forecast 100 percent of the IPA implementation needs to be fully funded through Assessed Contributions. Efficiency gains as identified through the Root and Branch Review as well as a focus on priorities result in a comparative advantage can more than cover the 50 percent proposed as core-voluntary. Canada is also concerned, as mentioned by our Norwegian colleague, that extending the implementation of the IPA into the next biennium will impact the sequencing of key activities and the overall effectiveness of the Reform. Among the ongoing challenges for Reform, Canada encourages the FAO Management's Members to focus on its Field structure, on rationalising its Field structure and better integrating it with the Organization's Strategic Objectives.

Finally, Mr Chair, with regard to the Programme of Work and Budget, in our view the lack of effective prioritisation undertaken during the last few months and the very limited evidence of implementing real efficiency savings in the second year of the Reform process implies more can be done in confirming the appropriate budget level for this Organization going forward. We believe we can significantly reduce the budget requirements without impacting key programme activities, as has been done elsewhere in the UN System. Specifically, with respect to the 2010-11 PWB, Canada wishes to express its real concern with the budget as put forward by Management and Canada reserves the right to make further interventions on this matter when we begin to discuss the specific elements of the PWB.

Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Thank you, Chair, especially for allowing in this period of the new inclusiveness in this Organization to allow a humble Observer to intervene and mingle with the Members of the

Council. I would also like to thank Boyd Haight for the presentation of the documentation and of course for their leadership, the Chairs of the Finance and Programme Committee.

Firstly, we would like to state that Denmark fully supports the intervention by Sweden on behalf of the EU, and we want to make it crystal clear that we will not be able to support a budget where the full cost of the IPA implementation is not assured by Assessed Contributions. We also recognize a number of other substantial interventions by Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Norway and others and welcome their substantive contribution to the debate even though we do not agree on all points. Without pre-empting the outcome of our discussions on the budget level, that overall budget for this Organization will for the coming biennium possibly amount to at least USD 2.3 billion. The interesting question is how much is really integrated in the framework for Results-Based Management and accountability. The Assessed Contributions will possibly amount to some 40 percent but as everybody should know about 20 percent of the budget earmarked to FAO Regular Programme and TCP is not covered by the 49 Organizational Results. We should, therefore, be aware that at present the accountability for the Management and indeed for the Governing Bodies are really limited to less than one-third of the overall budget.

Furthermore, exactly how the Management will facilitate the over-sized functions of the Governing Bodies of this limited part of the budget is still not very clear. The Council should therefore fully agree with Boyd Haight that the implementation of the Results-Based Management and accountability framework is indeed work-in-progress. Among the important outstanding issues are: how do we fully integrate the TCP in the system based on targets, results and accountability? How do we really integrate Voluntary Contributions in the framework and how do Governing Bodies exercise oversight regarding the voluntarily-funded activities? What documentation should Management provide to facilitate the prioritisation of the Membership regarding the Regular Programme and what information from Management should be provided to the Governing Bodies to facilitate their deliberation and the basic question is really what insight do these Bodies have at present regarding the possibilities for efficiency gains and savings in this Organization?

Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you Chair. I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue. Australia would like to take the opportunity firstly to give our thanks to you, Mr Chairman, for your commitment over the last few years. This is certainly while I am only new to the Organization and we certainly do appreciate the efforts you put in over the last few years.

Australia has for many years strongly supported the FAO and has been a major contributor to its budget. We were a founding Member in 1945 and continue to attach great importance to its work. In recent years, Australia has strongly supported the reforms of the FAO. The FAO has taken major strides forward in this biennium to implement the reforms agreed in November 2008 and, in particular, to move to a more results-based planning and budgeting process. We welcome the new strategic planning documents for the FAO as an important step in adopting modern organizational management practices and demonstrating the Organization's commitment to efficiency and effective operation. But the transformation has only just begun, with much of the hard work still to come. As many delegations have said before me, this is still a work-in-progress. Australia attaches the highest level of importance to the IPA reforms. These reforms are vital to the ongoing credibility and efficient operation of the FAO and must remain core business for the Organization. We are very disappointed these reforms are not fully included within the Assessed Contributions and have been partly delayed until 2012-2013 biennium. We believe this sends the wrong signals regarding the Reform of FAO and that this must change. These reforms are vital for the future of the Organization and must be given a higher priority. We fully recognize and support the importance of the FAO being given sufficient resources to carry out its important mandates. It undertakes work not only elsewhere in the UN System and deals with most of the important policy issues confronting the world at the moment. However, at the time of this global financial crisis, the work of the FAO needs to be taken forward in a way that shows budget discipline. We are strongly of the view that it is not appropriate, given the current global financial pressures, for

FAO or any other UN Organization to seek a budget increase of around 11 percent. Globally economies are contracting reflecting ingrown deficits and shrinking outputs. Australia is not immune to these pressures with the economy expected to contract by 0.5 percent in 2009 and while this is better than the average for most developed countries which fell by 3.8 percent in 2009, the effects remain far-reaching. One way this could be achieved is through the Organization placing further emphasis on budget savings. An example to follow are the recent adjustments made to the IPA reforms, Management managed to find savings of more than 30 percent or USD 20 million, in large part by delaying implementation of these reforms to the 2012-2013 biennium. There must be an opportunity for a similar approach to be used elsewhere in the Organization. It is extremely difficult to sell a message of growth, particularly, double digit growth for the FAO in the current domestic budget situation and, while I cannot speak for all major donors, I expect many to be facing similar constraints.

On that basis, we would urge all Members to consider the complex environment facing countries as they consider the obligations and their constraints with respect to contributions to the UN System and FAO in particular. As we approach the FAO Conference in November, we urge all countries to work together to arrive at a funding formula that all Members can support that ensures that the FAO can continue to deliver on its core mandates. Thank you.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Thank you Mr Chair. In accordance with the Immediate Plan of Action, FAO introduced the results-based approach into the MTP and PWB. And the PWB now presents an integrated view of total resource requirements by combining the estimates of extra-budgetary voluntary funding to increase the Regular budget. Japan highly appreciates these initiatives by the FAO Management. Japan also understands the nature of the issue are work in progress. However, as a result of the newly-introduced results-based approach to the PWB 2010 and 2011, it became very difficult for us to carry out detailed comparison of the proposed budget with the current one. At an Organizational level which will be essential to evaluate and promote prioritization work among various programmes. I want to ask Management to provide Member Nations with more detailed information before the Conference.

As for the integrated budget, the integrated budget has reflected just the regularity of the current FAO funding situation and it highlighted the critical importance of extra-budgetary resources for the FAO which cover more than half of FAO funds. Frankly speaking, by definition of the resources the assurance to FAO of a budget will be generally lower than the Assessed Contributions. In order to assure these resources, it is most important for FAO to acquire higher trust and better reputation from various donors. From this point of view, implementation of FAO Reform is highly essential.

Finally, as for the Shared Service Centre issue, I support the previous speakers enhancing more analysis will be necessary before proceeding on this issue

As for the budget level, I will make a statement afterwards. Thank you.

José Antonio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Thank you Chairman and like others I would like to thank the presentation by the Secretariat, as well as that by the Chairman of the Finance and the Programme Committees.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan and the PWB. The Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan are really remarkable achievements after two year joint work, Member Nations and administration in defining priorities to better focus the Organization's activities according to recommendations of the IEE. Brazil has already had the opportunity to voice its position over the quality and guidance that the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan will provide the Organization's future work. During the last COAG Session earlier this year, the Membership agreed to carry out some adjustments to rural development in Strategic Objective G.

Governance in FAO administration devoted considerable energy to accomplish this task. This was indeed a collective where we all have displayed a commonality of objectives and spare no efforts to strengthen FAO in better adjusting it to the needs of its Member Nations, especially developing countries. However, at this juncture we would like to present a few concerns that we have, especially regarding the proposed PWB.

One, efforts that we Member Nations have made to reform this Organization over the last two years, which we value very greatly, deserve commensurate growth of resources available for the Organization to achieve its goals. Member Nations have done their utmost in the Reform process. The same efforts however have not been employed in searching for realistic options to the Organization growth. Some voices frequently assert that extra-budgetary resources equate with growth. We consider the budget integration as a positive measure especially in terms of transparency and monitoring of funds. However, like others have mentioned, especially Zimbabwe, we remain deeply concerned with the risks that FAO, being progressively dependent on voluntary resources whose nature, is per se, totally unpredictable. It has been my delegation's consistent view that integration of regular and extra-budgetary resources seem to be an insufficient answer to the question of growth.

Two, Brazil favours the budgetary level proposed on real and sustainable growth. It is time that we call spade a spade. The proposed Zero Real Growth PWB which is not precisely growth. It only keeps constant the value of resources after inflation and cost updated need to be thoroughly considered. We are, however, mindful of the circumstances and we view that the proposed PWB is indeed the minimum acceptable. We are not even certain that the proposed budget level will be sufficient to finance the problematic level expected, in regard to the urgent actions needed in the present context of food and economic crisis and the increase in food insecurity. FAO governance must send a coherent signal of the political commitment and priority to agriculture, rural development in all its aspects and world food security. Allow me a minute of digression to express my delegations' difficulty in understanding the position of some Member Nations. On the one hand they favour a downward revision of the regular budget claiming that a large chunk of the implementation of core FAO mandates should be financed by Voluntary Contributions. On the other hand, they refuse to accept a 50 – 50 proposal presented to finance the IPA. We fail to see the consistency of these Members on their approach over this matter.

Three, Brazil favours an open dialogue among Member Nations interested in the Decentralization structure. Developing countries as clearly stated by the Chairman of the G-77 and Thailand on behalf of us all. Developing countries have reiterated during Working Groups and CoC-IEE meetings, the point of view that Regional, Sub-regional and National Office networks must be preserved and reinforced. We are of the view, as they have expressed, that regional governments of our governance structure must have a say on this matter. As a part of essential FAO work in favour of developing countries, decentralized network must grow in human, financial and technological dimensions, more autonomy and responsibilities are indeed welcome goals, but the corresponding resources must be provided for. PWB 2010-11 includes only a modest staff increase of 2.7 percent to the Decentralized Offices. Moreover, savings cannot be the single consideration on deciding if Shared Services Centres presently in Budapest, Santiago and Bangkok that cover the three main time zones in which FAO operates. Just savings should not be the only consideration on whether these activities must continue or not.

Fourth, regarding the proposed Headquarters structure contained in the PWB, Brazil has already expressed in the Conference committee that it requires further consideration especially during the next biennium. Administrative and technical areas must receive balanced treatment by having strengthened and better integrated Technical Departments and avoiding an oversized administrative structure. Rural development and food security despite, their cross-cutting nature require indeed focal points in the Headquarters organigramme to enable FAO to promote coordinated and integrated actions. We consider that there must be an alignment of the proposed Headquarters structure and the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan. We understand that the Headquarters structure changes, to be considered later this year by the Conference, are to be taken as work in progress and will have to be revisited during the next biennium.

Finally, Brazil is very mindful also that there is a very positive political momentum in the fight of hunger. The Strategic Framework and the Medium Term plan together with the CFS Reform process and the World Summit on Food Security later this year are indeed strong signals that Members are working in unison to strengthen the multilateral system within the UN framework. Let us not send contradictory signals as we consider the regular budget for the next biennium.

Abreda Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We join others in thanking you Sir and other Members of the podium in preparing the documents. In keeping with your guidance, I will not repeat what other colleagues have already said and will be brief. My delegation endorses statements made by the Chair of G-77, Thailand on behalf of G-77, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Brazil. We also appreciate Norway for the support of the budget level. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much especially by being brief and not repeating other things, only referring to them. I hope that others would follow suit. Now I invite Sudan to take the floor for the second time to be followed by Thailand for the second time, and Ghana.

Mohammed Abdel RAZIG (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much Mr Chairman for giving me the floor for the second time around. There are two comments I would like to make. The first has to do with page 101, Strategic Objective regarding the increase of production of grain cereal production. We feel that it has doubled over four years, only speaking about quantities and not speaking about qualities. We find that the number of countries that do have very clear strategies, very clear policies but this report does not deal with the mechanisms or the ways used to evaluate and to follow-up the subject. In our opinion, this does not respond to what are the geographical needs of countries and, in particular, only seem to focus on some countries and not on others. How we are going to understand things if we do not define them in clear terms?

The second comment, Mr Chairman, has to do with page 155 which is the preparation for the emergency situations in terms of food requirements. Now the Organization depending on the UN Common System and non-governmental organization working in the area of agriculture and nutrition represent by themselves a threat to the development of developing countries. Now those organizations work without any coordination to farmers. They bring to farmers information which at times are contradictory. At certain points in time, those farmers are just the receivers of assistance and not people who are inspired to work, and these farmers become loafers, they do not want to work because they just receive assistance which is not suitable and not justified nowadays.

We feel the regions where the farmers work in a collective and in a community matter and at present this work is not done any more. Therefore, we feel that the work of non-governmental organizations and other organizations who provide assistance to farmers has to be coordinated in a responsible manner. That is people have to assume responsibility as regards food security on the National, Regional and Sub-regional level and cooperate and coordinate with the corporate governments in question.

Sakchai SRIBOONSUE (Thailand)

Thank you Mr Chairman for giving the floor to my delegation for the second time. We are now making general comments on the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. We welcome the two documents and would like to commend the Secretariat for the efforts made in their preparation, although it may take us some time at the initial stage to get familiar with the new format and to understand the under linkages among the elements presented. The new business order made of Results-Based Management is expected to satisfy Members which, in linking means, to aims. Regarding the Strategic Framework, we appreciate that the livestock sector is given more priority and appear in the Strategic Objective B on increased sustainable livestock production. We support the increased emphasis given to

transboundary animal diseases and other related animal health. However, we are quite concerned to learn from the report of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee that the work on animal production and conventional breeding technologies will not be emphasized, as it should be, although animal production plays its major part in contributing to the world food security, poverty alleviation and economic development. We, therefore, hope to see an adjustment of programme and budget in a well balanced manner.

Regarding Decentralization we fully support Brazil's intervention that Decentralized Offices should be strengthened in terms of human resource and financial resources as traced by the last Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, to cope with emerging environmental change and other related internal and external factors. It is foreseen that a review of the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget needs to be priority carry made. We believe that comprehensive, independent and transparent monitoring and evaluation should be a key tool for such a review and for any adjustment thereafter. As far as the PWB is concerned, we notice that the proposal over our budget level is 7.1 percent, slightly higher than that of the current biennium. We understand that the need to include the amount of cost increased to maintain purchasing power, however, due to the current global crisis and the urgency in implementing IPA for FAO renewal. As mentioned earlier this morning by the distinguished delegation of Russian Federation, the proposed increase of funding of the After-Service Medical Coverage from USD 14.1 to 39.3 million, as for one time replenishment of the Working Capital Fund of USD 49.3 million may not be appropriate for the time being.

With regard to the funding of IPA implementation in 2010-2011, we support the statement made by the G-77 on the proposed percentage of integrated market and, if a negotiation is to be made for this issue, the proposed percentage is a good starting point for discussion. Thailand can go along with any final decisions made by Member Nations which will be realistic and feasible, as long as the planned Regular Programme for the biennium is not affected.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG (Ghana)

Thank you Mr Chairman. On behalf of the Ghanaian delegation, I wish to join the other speakers before me to commend the Secretariat and all those who took part in preparing the documents before us. We also align ourselves to the Statements made by the Chair of the G-77 and the Members of the African Group. Ghana appreciates the analysis made in the Strategic Framework which brings out the issues and the challenges facing agriculture and rural development. And we also want to emphasize the concerns raised by Zimbabwe on Table 2 of the Programme of Work and Budget. If you look through the document on page 2, you realise that there is a cut in some of the allocations especially to rural development, food security, the FAO regional representations, but when you go back to the analysis and the Strategic Framework, it comes out clearly that there is a problem in developing countries as far as food security is concerned and these problems are particularly manifested in sub-Saharan Africa. So, if we "reduce the budget reallocations" in the budget that is before us, as compared to the current one, how do we do build capacity in the developing countries to increase food security especially at this time that food security is high on the global agenda and it is being touted all over for efforts to be made to support developing countries to help feed themselves. So I would wish that some of these documents are living documents and they are subject to periodic review, that these trends be reversed in the near future.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

Allow me to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive documents before us for our further consideration. With regard to Agenda Item 5, Indonesia wishes to take this opportunity to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Thailand on behalf of G-77 with China. In this regard, we are pleased to note that the Strategic Framework 2010-2019 was drawn up carefully and reflects all significant inputs from all regions. Mr Chairman, on the sub-Agenda item on the Programme of Work and Budget, I wish to join with the previous speakers that we need a significant and speedy reform of this Organization. In particular, on specific issues we find it, to some extent, has become problematic in the implementation of the outcomes of our discussions or what Members have agreed upon in the

previous meetings. We, therefore, wish to re-emphasise our strong commitment that we will work closely and constructively with all the other Member Nations and Associate Members to make this Organization meaningful to its Members, particularly to the developing countries and LDCs. Regarding the programmes, Mr Chairman, we are of the view that if FAO's programmes heavily depend on extra-budgetary resources, Indonesia believes that it would not be appropriate in delivering its technical assistance and also to tackle the problems in the food security consecutive programme. To conclude, Mr Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that for the realisation of the implementation of what we have concurred under the IPA programme, the Indonesian authority has given its approval for voluntary IPA contributions.

CHAIRPERSON

I have to express my apologies to United States because they were in my list but I don't know, somehow I overlook that, but its China, they do have an appointment and have to leave with your permission, they take the floor and then I'll come to the United States. China, you have the floor.

Wang YING (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee for their presentations. The Chinese delegation would like to appreciate the Secretariat for their effective work. The three documents under discussion are forward-looking, precise, and realistic. Particularly, they have embodied the principle of Results-Based Management throughout the whole text which are in accordance with the IPA requirements. So, the spirit of it, as in the whole text, the Chinese delegation has two points of concern.

First, in the Programme of Work in 2010-2011, the budget is only 11.5 percent and I think it's lower, even lower than the current biennium. I think it does not meet the expectations of the majority of the countries and does not meet the goals of the Reform. Secondly, the Net Appropriations for the Country and Regional Offices of FAO in Asia and the Pacific account for only 4.4 percent of the total. While the fact is, two-thirds of the world's hungry people live in this region. According to the proposal by the Regional Conference of FAO in Asia and the Pacific, the region has no plans to set up more Sub-regional Offices. Therefore FAO should reinforce the functions of the FAO Office at Bangkok to provide the necessary resources to meet the requirements of this region in a more timely and effective manner. We support the statement made by Thailand this morning and I hope that the Secretariat can seriously consider the views of Asia and the Pacific with regards to the Shared Service Centre in Asia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, China. Now, I would like the United States to take the floor, but before that, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Glover, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States of America to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Wishing you a fruitful stay and cooperation. You have the floor, Sir.

Michael P. GLOVER (United States of America)

Thank you very much, Mr Chair, it's a pleasure to be here getting to know all my colleagues here at the FAO. As my delegation mentioned this morning, the United States warmly welcomes FAO's transition to a Results-Based Management and budgeting framework. While this approach is welcome to our delegation and indeed was endorsed by the entire Membership during last year's adoption of the recommendations, as described in the IPA, the presentation of the new documentation and here I specifically refer to the PWB is troubling to our delegation. In fact, Finance Committee Members requested details on several aspects of the budget. Unfortunately, the Secretariat provided a revised PWB, the one that we are currently considering, and did not provide the information that was requested or required i.e., information to clearly understand the underlying assumptions and figures used to reach staff rate increases, decision-making behind the increases and nearly all the budget chapter allocations contained in the draft PWB currently under consideration. Indeed, our own analysis indicates that the proposed increases in the number of

chapters represent far more than the so-called maintenance of purchasing power, as claimed by Management.

With regard to IPA funding, my delegation believes that the approach taken by the FAO and IPA funding is inconsistent with Management's statement found in paragraph 117 of the PWB, and I remind my colleagues that paragraph 117 states that the IPA is of paramount importance to the Reform Process. We also note that the Director-General has made many public statements on this subject emphasizing the vital importance of the IPA. Following review of the first draft PWB, we and many others expressed profound disappointment that Management had proposed that 80 percent of the IPA be funded by Voluntary Contributions. After the June Council meeting where these concerns were expressed, Management returned with a proposal to fund approximately 50 percent of the IPA by Voluntary Contributions and this is the percentage currently under consideration in the revised PWB. Like several other speakers here today, we support 100 percent of the IPA funding being included in the net assessment for the coming biennium, and we ask for this as a point of principle.

All Members agreed to the IPA Reform programme. All Members will benefit from Reform, therefore we believe on principle that all of us should be committed to its full funding. We also requested specific details on how Management was capable of reducing the IPA cost from USD 60 million to USD 38 million practically overnight. This suggested to us that perhaps Reform is a "bargaining ship" in these budget negotiations rather than required desperately-needed changes that will truly transform the FAO into a relevant actor in the UN System.

With regard to the financial health of the Organization, we, as many others, believe that in the current environment it is not appropriate to fund After-Service Medical Coverage beyond the minimum needed as we await work done across in the UN System on this topic. Nevertheless, we welcome FAO's willingness to address this issue.

With regard to the proposal in the penultimate paragraph of the draft Conference resolution on budget chapter transfers, like my Russian colleague, we also have concerns regarding the proposed transfer of authority regarding budgetary transfers without Finance Committee approval up to a level of five percent of the amount in each chapter. A more rational approach to this would be to allow the required flexibility up to a level of one percent. We do not understand that this issue has been a problem up to now and we do not leave an hour's time to make a change in the current procedure. As regards risk management in the Organization, we have made it clear and said it before, we believe the FAO needs a realistic approach to risk management and that the ERM function must be affectively mainstreamed across the Organization and the entire personnel evaluation system.

In general terms, we would like to see in the Council Report the same caution called for by the Finance Committee in most specifically in paragraph 22, with an emphasis on proper or become mired in old habits and divide into side politics characterised by zero sum thinking.

The poor and hungry are not interested in talk but results. We strongly encourage all Members to come together to shape a FAO that is united, focussed and, by far the most important, affective, perform with growth, it is beyond argument that the FAO has already received considerable growth over the past years. Now is the time for strong budget discipline in the Organization and we would like also to see further budget savings from what is proposed in the revised PWB. In the FAO Membership, all of us need to accept that the Organization simply cannot do all things for all groups. Hard choices must be made as in any modern organization. Everything simply cannot be a priority. It certainly makes sense to have regional input, technical input but at the end of the day, the central Management must decide where its interests lie, where its comparative advantage exists, and what risk it is willing to take in this regard. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Sra. Patricia COMANDARI (El Salvador)

El Salvador solicita que se le conceda la palabra a la delegada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Antes todo quisiera felicitarla y a todos los de la mesa directiva por la manera como se esta conduciendo este proceso del Consejo y su debate, y desearle el mejor éxito al igual que a los Vicepresidentes designados en la mañana de hoy.

Sobre el Tema 5, queremos expresar la posición de los 33 países del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe en términos de apoyar la declaración hecha en la mañana de hoy por el distinguido Embajador Mario Arvelo, en representación de la Presidencia del G-77.

También apoyamos las declaraciones hechas por la Representación de Tailandia y por Chile referida a los Centros de servicios compartidos puesto que pensamos y confiamos que este tema sea analizado exhaustivamente durante el 2010 en una amplia consulta con las Oficinas Regionales, ponderando la eficiencia en lugar de los posibles ahorros que se pudieran generar con esta medida de fusión de los nodos de Bangkok y Santiago.

Igualmente apoyamos las declaraciones hechas por la representaciones de Zimbabwe, Tanzania y de Brasil que resumen las preocupaciones que tenemos con respecto al Programa del Presupuesto 2010-2011, a la financiación del Plan Inmediato de Acción y en términos del proceso de Descentralización en donde, en este caso, el GRULAC, tal como se ha dicho por los oradores que hemos mencionado, desea reiterar la importancia para el desarrollo, y el fortalecimiento que tienen estas oficinas Regionales, Sub-regionales y nacionales de la FAO.

Siempre respecto a este proceso de Descentralización y a las responsabilidades que están siendo transferidas a estas oficinas, no compartimos las posibilidades de reducción o de supresión de las mismas, de lo contrario estaríamos en contra de este proceso de reforma que se está llevando a cabo e igualmente esta transferencia de responsabilidades debe presentarse de manera proporcional y equilibrada. La transferencia de competencias debe de ir paralela con la transferencia de recursos financieros; apoyo tecnológico y transferencia que permitan realizar esta Descentralización que nuestros países requieren.

Finalmente queremos expresarle que en cuanto a la estructura de la Sede, ya se ha planteado por otras representaciones que creemos que es un proceso que se encuentra en desarrollo de tal manera que debería ser un tema que nos ocupe nuevos debates en el futuro para que esta organización en definitiva se ajuste como queremos a colocar en el centro de su agenda el desarrollo rural, la seguridad alimentaria, el desarrollo de la agricultura y la posibilidad de que el derecho a la alimentación sea garantizado para todas y todos los habitantes de este planeta.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Nos sumamos a los oradores que han felicitado a usted y a la Secretaría por el documento presentado. Atendiendo a la solicitud de que las intervenciones sean breves y concretas, nos referimos a aspectos específicos que consideramos de vital importancia para nuestra delegación. En relativo al nuevo marco estratégico 2010-19 y el plan a plazo medio 2010-13, consideramos que constituyen una buena base para encauzar en los próximos años el trabajo a la FAO.

En ese sentido exultamos a la Secretaría y a los Estados Miembros a continuar trabajando en el producto final instrumento que debe ser presentado para aprobación de la próxima Conferencia. Consideramos también la sola existencia de estos documentos no garantizará el cumplimiento del papel que le corresponde jugar a la FAO en el contexto actual. Será necesario un completo compromiso de la Secretaría y de todos los Estados Miembros para dar cumplimiento a lo que nos proponemos en ambos documentos.

En lo relativo al Plan de trabajo y presupuesto 2010-11, nuestra delegación tiende mal, cree menos, adherirse a la declaración realizada por República Dominicana en nombre del Grupo de los 77.

Igualmente, deseamos apoyar lo expresado por la República de Venezuela en todos los aspectos que habló en nombre de todo el Grupo Latinoamericano. A nuestra delegación, al igual que a otras, también le preocupa que la existencia de un programa de trabajo unificado con recursos

ordinarios y extra-presupuestario que pueda significar que las actividades prioritarias del mismo queden a merced de las contribuciones extra-presupuestarias. De hecho, si realizamos detenidamente el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto, la dependencia que tiene cada Objetivo Estratégico de las Contribuciones Voluntarias de uno u otro es bastante elevada. Las dificultades financieras de muchos países, en especial los países en desarrollo, es bastante difícil de un entorno internacional de crisis financiera, en correspondencia con ello consideramos que el nivel de presupuesto para el próximo bienio no debe generar un aumento considerable de las cuotas a pagar.

Debemos garantizar un nivel adecuado de recursos que prometa a la FAO ejecutar las prioridades de su programa de trabajo a través de los recursos ordinarios y, en especial, las actividades de los recursos del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. En relación a la financiación del Plan Inmediato de Acción, estimamos que debido al alto monto de recursos necesarios para dar fin, sólo parte de los recursos del mismo se deben financiar a través de la consignación neta de trabajo del presupuesto 2010-11. El financiamiento total del PE a través de las consignaciones netas provocaría un aumento considerable de las cuotas a muchos de nuestros países y podría afectar la ejecución del Programa de Trabajo en el bienio. Por ello aceptamos y apoyamos la fórmula de 50-50 para su financiación.

Por otra parte, creemos que es muy importante conceder mayores niveles de decisión a las oficinas en el terreno, y en especial la asignación para su gestión de una parte de los recursos del Programa de Cooperación Técnica a las Oficinas Regionales, las cuales se encuentran más cerca de los países y tienen un conocimiento mayor de las necesidades de estos. Dicha medida debe ir a aparejada de significativa simplificación de los mecanismos de aprobación de este tipo de proyectos.

Cuba considera también que en la situación financiera que presenta la FAO es importante trabajar para mejorar la situación financiera a la organización en este sentido apoyamos la propuesta de posición del fondo de operaciones y de la cuenta especial de reservas no obstante es nuestro criterio que el monto de posesiones no puede representar una carga significativa para la cuotas a pagar por los Países Miembros.

Con respecto a la reestructura de la sede reconocemos los esfuerzos realizados por la FAO para reducir esta y alentamos a la Organización a continuar trabajando en ese sentido con el objetivo de elaborar una estructura final menos burocrática que permita atender las necesidades de los Países Miembros en forma más eficiente.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ambassador. Now I invite Switzerland to take the floor to be followed by Japan for the second time.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse apprécie tous les travaux réalisés pour l'établissement du Plan d'action à moyen terme du nouveau Cadre stratégique ainsi que du Programme de travail et budget.

En ce qui concerne le Cadre stratégique, nous regrettons que dans la partie relative au défi, ce document ne met pas suffisamment en évidence la contribution que pourrait apporter la FAO au titre des actions à mener pour relever les défis auxquels sont confrontés l'alimentation, l'agriculture et le développement rural.

Quant au Plan à moyen terme, nous regrettons également l'absence d'une véritable stratégie en matière de partenariat. Ceci est un élément important pour mon pays. S'agissant maintenant du Programme de travail et budget 2010-2011, nous nous félicitons de l'établissement d'un Programme de travail unifié et d'un budget intégrant les contributions ordinaires et volontaires. Nous constatons toutefois, avec regret, que ce Programme de travail et budget a été établi avant tout sur la base de la structure actuelle de l'Organisation et non pas en fonction des résultats organisationnels. Ceci aurait été, à nos yeux, un élément important notamment sous l'angle du

changement de culture. S'agissant du budget, nous sommes conscients de la nécessité de fournir à l'Organisation les moyens nécessaires pour lui permettre de remplir son mandat.

Nous avons signalé notre volonté de fournir des ressources adéquates à la FAO dans la mesure où la réforme va dans le sens des recommandations de l'Évaluation externe indépendante. Cela est le cas selon nous, mais le processus de réforme n'est cependant pas encore achevé. Il doit être poursuivi avec détermination. À ce stade, nous estimons qu'il n'est pas réaliste, eu égard notamment au contexte économique global, d'envisager une hausse des contributions ordinaires dans la dimension proposée par le Secrétariat. Il faut, selon nous, tendre à la recherche d'une solution plus réaliste.

En ce qui concerne le financement du Plan d'action immédiat, nous partageons l'avis exprimé par de nombreuses délégations, que ce Plan doit être financé par le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation lors du prochain exercice biennal 2010-2011.

Kasumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Thank you Chair. Thank you for giving me the floor for a second time.

I will concentrate on the PWB issue this time.

The Director-General proposes a 10.7 percent increase of assessed contributions for 2010-2011. It is not an acceptable increase for Japan, also considering the extraordinary financial difficulties many Governments are facing due to the current financial crisis.

As for the Programme of Work part of the budget, a 7.1 percent increase is proposed in it.

Cost increase factors should be further assessed, including influence of inflation factors and the possibility of further savings and efficiency gains are to be sought out.

We should remember that the proposed budget for the programme operations is more than Zero Real Growth since most of the savings to be accrued during 2010-2011 by de-layering will be distributed to the related programme operations.

As for the items other than the programme of work part of the budget, namely ASMC and SRA, are categorized to the requirements for destroying financial health of FAO. These requirements have tripled up to USD 46 million.

Since many Governments are in severe financial situations, I want to emphasise that we postpone funding these requirements until the financial situation permits.

Actually I heard that FAO's arrears situation had drastically improved recently, and I believe it will help a lot to improve the cash flow situation in the next biennium.

I want to have clarification from the Management in this point and the Agenda Item 8. The budget amounts of USD 46 million for ASMC and SRA will not be of added necessity.

Through these further efforts Japan hopes that FAO will keep its budget level flat for the coming biennium.

Alaa EL DIN WAGIH ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to congratulate you on the way you are leading the work of the Council. I'd like to thank the Secretariat for the report and the discussion and the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I ask for the floor at this late stage so I will be very brief. I would like to agree to what has been said by the Chairman of the G-77 and by Thailand and the other Members of the group.

I would like to stress the fact that we should leave the Regional Offices for the time being until we evaluate what they do and of course I refer to Santiago and to Bangkok because of their proposals that the Regional Conferences should discuss this matter.

I would also like to emphasize that we should provide full funding for these programmes because, these programmes are vital for the work that the country should implement.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Egypt.

Okay, I do not have any other name on the Speaker's List and the intention is that we should have covered the Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. So if any delegation wants to add anything to the discussion of these three documents, please feel free to do that.

Now I have Morocco, to be followed by Zimbabwe.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Je remercie les membres du groupe de travail du Comité de la Conférence sur le suivi de l'UI, pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils ont déployés afin de rapprocher les points de vue des Etats Membres sur un certain nombre de questions d'importance cruciale dont le Conseil est saisi. Il va sans dire que l'une des faiblesses majeures, à laquelle nous faisons face au cours de la présente session, réside dans l'inadéquation et l'insuffisance des ressources dont est dotée l'Organisation. Qu'il me soit permis de souligner que les défis posés par la problématique de l'insécurité alimentaire, en général, et le processus de réformes en cours, en particulier, exigent une réponse et une action urgente sur le plan international. Ceci ne peut se faire qu'à travers une Organisation cohérente, que nous appelons de nos vœux, dotée d'autorité, de capacité et de ressources à la mesure de la gravité de la situation.

Enfin, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de faire miennes, les déclarations qui ont été prononcées au nom du Groupe des 77, africain, notamment en ce qui concerne les propositions relatives au financement du PAI et du renforcement de la représentation de la FAO sur le terrain.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I take the floor for the second time just to contribute on the financing of the PWB.

I do appreciate and register what others have already indicated. This is the first budget that is trying to marry the old and the new and this is why we will function with some overhangs from the previous budgets just like the ASMC and Working Capital Fund that requires beefing up, moving away from relying on TCP funds when contributions are not coming. With this I would also wish to remind the Membership of an observation made by the IEE. That we should move away from scenarios because these were not responding to the Organizational Results of the Organization.

I take it that Management has put before us a budget which reflects the Organizational Results that we have asked them to work with, and that the figures are what are before us. Whether these figures result in an increased figure compared to the last biennium's budget or not, is immaterial because, like I heard this morning, we all agree that the previous biennium and the current biennium do not have a direct relationship. We are moving into a new era.

So the choice is before us: do we want to reform this Organization or do we want to remain with the old Organization? Because I seem to hear others saying can we have a Zero Real or a Zero Minus or a Zero Plus or a Zero what have you. This is really linking ourselves to the past. I have come here with others, prepared to build a new Organization with others and I am beginning to wonder whether this is what we are debating this afternoon. I fear we are retrogressing so I'd like to appeal to Members that as we conclude on this subject, we would like to move forward, we would like to reform this Organization, to reform the new approach to financing our programmes, to reform the new approach to evaluating how we are performing.

In the next biennium we will have something to compare with, then we will be comparing apples with apples. But right now we are trying to compare apples with oranges, and I don't think that we will come up with a good equation.

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Quisiera hacer unos breves comentarios, en primer lugar destacar la importancia que mi delegación da a estos tres documentos, que finalmente después de muchos meses de trabajo, sobretudo porqué empiezan a reflejar un enfoque diferente para esta Organización. También no se le puede escapar a mi delegación de hacer un reconocimiento a su persona por su participación en todo este trabajo, en todas estas negociaciones que se han llevado en diferentes foros y que siempre las hemos visto perfectamente bien dirigidas y muy bien orientadas.

La distinguida Representante de Zimbabwe nos acaba de decir en este momento algo que creo que es muy importante y es lo difícil de comparar este presupuesto con el presupuesto anterior. En este sentido mi delegación apoya y ha apoyado abiertamente un presupuesto basado en resultados que no sabemos exactamente cuál será su situación dentro de dos años o si se tuviera dentro de cuatro.

Estimamos que el proceso de reforma no es un proceso acabado, igual que el presupuesto por resultados; son procesos en curso que van a tener que ir mostrando sus cualidades y sus desventajas, conforme se vaya avanzando en su aplicación. Esto significa que el proceso de reforma no es un proceso que estará limitado a tantos meses, más sino que es un proceso que eventualmente tendremos que ir observando e ir adecuando e ir corrigiendo cuando esto sea necesario.

También hemos escuchado de varios oradores la necesidad de que se hayan mayores ahorros, que haya una mayor claridad en las prioridades y que realmente se aprovechen las ventajas comparativas.

Yo creo que en este momento la situación que impera en la economía mundial que no se observe ni que se conozca y se vea con mucho cuidado.

Mi delegación se ha expresado porque los aumentos de los costos varios se vayan absorbiendo con ahorros importantes y ganancias por mayor eficiencia en esta Organización. Creemos que el presupuesto cero nominal es siempre algo que es bueno mantener como un objetivo para buscar la eficiencia y los ahorros que todos deseamos.

Con respecto a los centros de servicios compartidos, ya lo hemos expresado en otros foros, la delegación de México desearía que hubiera una información más completa antes de tomar cualquier decisión, que se instrumenten en pleno cuáles son las funciones que los tres centros cubren en este momento y sólo después de una aplicación y un examen exhaustivo debemos de decidir si son ahorros realmente lo que estamos buscando o si esa nada más una nueva reforma administrativa lo que esta resultando de esa propuesta.

Por ultimo preocupa a la delegación de México cuando se habla de un número de oficinas nacionales alto, que podrían ser clausuradas o cerradas, creemos que lo importante no es el número, ni se puede contemplar esto como una forma de ahorro, quizás deberíamos partir por el concepto contrario porqué se habla de que oficinas no son eficientes y busquemos cómo activar estas oficinas para que cumplan la función que se les ha otorgado. No sirve inmediatamente que haya que clausurarlas o terminarlas; porque lo que tiene defectos y tiene sus ventajas en el funcionamiento de la Organización; hay que buscar como se logra que las ventajas sean mayores que las desventajas o los problemas que presentan.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. Any other requests for the floor? If not we will take a 5-minute break to come back and listen to the comments and answers from the Secretariat and Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees, if you have any questions and comments. Only 5 minutes, we will take a brief rest and be ready for another round of debate. Thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 16.06 to 16.24 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16.06 à 16 h 24

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.06 a las 16.24 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats.

Okay, we did have a very fruitful and thorough discussion of the documents for today and now I am coming to first Management and then the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees to respond to your comments and answer your questions. And first I will invite Mr. Haight to take the floor, please.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Thank you very much distinguished delegates for your very thorough review and comments on this set of documents. In fact I would like to refer to the last intervention of the delegate of Mexico who brought us around to where we were at the beginning of this morning, talking about the fact that we are in a long-term process. I think we all owe ourselves both Members, staff and Management a pat on the back for engaging in this process of improving the Organization. I can certainly speak for Management that we are very serious about engaging in the improvements and what you have seen so far in the evolution of the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget are the results of all of our collective work in the Conference Committee, its Working Groups as well as the Committees of the Council and the Council itself.

I particularly appreciate the recognition that the application of a Results-Based approach is a long-term process and we are just beginning. Those of you who have been associated with FAO for many years will recall that the current Strategic Framework, that was approved in 1999, as the Chairman referred to in his introduction, also had in it the Results-Based approach. But, we have been unable to implement RBM over the past years. Those of you who also look at the World Food Programme and IFAD know that we are, the three Agencies, embarking on the same journey of putting in place a Real Results-Based approach, and it is not something that can be done overnight or in cookbook fashion. I am sure that many of you in your own Governments have faced a similar situation.

So, we are moving ahead and learning by doing, what works and what does not work in dealing with the risks that we have identified. Norway has raised several of them related to the integrated budget. To give you an example of one of the areas where we did have success this year and we need to build on is the Strategy Teams that were put in place to formulate the Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results. These teams cut across the Departments, brought a true multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with the Objectives and also have helped to begin mainstreaming the work of the Decentralized Offices under the Objectives. One of the challenges ahead of us as we move forward is to use these Strategy Teams to implement and then monitor and be part of the accountability framework for achieving the results.

Our work on Results-Based Management is being put in place now in a gradual stepwise approach to training, with the next round of training courses starting this very month. In fact the first course was held in Addis Ababa in the Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa earlier this month, and will be rolled out not only in Headquarters but in the other Decentralized Offices. The continued refinements also in the Headquarters structure in the coming two years will also help us to adapt and make more tangible the application of Results-Based Management.

One of the key aspects of managing for results that has been raised by several delegations in their interventions: the EU, Russian Federation, Chile, Norway, Denmark and others is the strategic allocation of resources. How are we going to, in the future, allocate our resources in a more strategic prioritized fashion to the Strategic Objectives and the Results that we are currently debating in the Strategic Framework? There are several elements of this that we will be working on with you and the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees in the coming year, related to priority-setting and making choices about what we will or what we will not be able to do with

the resources at our disposal. As we set out in the document our goal in the 2012-13 biennium is to budget by Objective, that is to be able to assign the resources by Objective rather than having the Departments themselves make the allocations; and this should go an important step further in implementing Results-Based Management.

Now when it comes to the integrated budget, and I very much appreciate that this has been a process of learning for all of us as to what it means, I think that the most important aspect is that it recognizes the reality that FAO does receive a significant amount of Voluntary Contributions. This is not new and in fact the estimates in the budget of USD 1.3 billion are at the same level of delivery as we now expect in the current biennium. What is different is that we aim to bring these resources to bear on the results that Members collectively agree that the Organization should achieve and, as has been raised by several delegates, we now need to put in place the monitoring and reporting mechanisms that would be used by the Governing Bodies for the oversight on the allocation and use of these resources.

The IPA provides for, and the Medium-Term plan itself sets out elements of a resource mobilization strategy that we will put in place for the coming biennium to make these Voluntary Contributions more strategic, for example using the Impact Focus Areas. An example here would be the Impact Focus Area relating to Capacity-Building on Information and Statistics. Sudan raised the issue that this is very important, that countries need to be able to develop and provide comprehensive statistics and here we have a good example on how an Impact Focus Area can transmit the need to mobilize voluntary resources, to work at country level, to build on the norms and standards that FAO has on statistics and also to feedback into the global statistical analysis perspective studies prepared by FAO. This resource mobilization strategy will also, as I mentioned in my introduction, build on the regional areas for priority action that we would hope come out of the next Regional Conferences as well as the country priorities in the national Medium-Term priority frameworks.

So, we do have a way to go when it comes to fully integrating the Voluntary Contributions into the results frameworks, but will the frameworks provide the means to do that? Of course it also depends on the donors themselves providing resources in a less earmarked and more strategic fashion.

I would like to say a few things on the programmatic comparison. Several delegations have enquired when we were going to provide information on programmatic comparison with the current biennium and I would like to point out that what we have provided is in the document, in paragraphs 85 to 108 of the PWB and in particular in Table 2, and in fact some delegations: Zimbabwe and Ghana in particular have referred to the resource shifts that they have seen between the two biennia at the level of the Strategic Objectives.

But I must say and as we set out in the document that this is very much an indicative comparison of the two biennia. The Results-Based Frameworks in the new Strategic Framework have not been built with reference to the old Programme Framework. We did not take the old Programme Entities, the 183 Programme Entities, and map them to the Organizational Results. The Objectives, as those of you who are in the Working Groups will know, emerged from the discussions in the Working Groups and the Organizational Results were thereafter proposed by Management on how FAO would contribute to helping you achieve those objectives. So we have had to go back to map in retrospect. It is an indication but it is an interesting indication and it does show some resource shifts. The delegate of the USA was questioning whether we were actually shifting resources between areas of work and, as you can see in Table 2, there are some significant variances in particular in crops and livestock. We have said in the document that we have allocated additional resources to some of these areas. At the same time, and as has been remarked upon by Zimbabwe and Ghana, there are reductions in the objectives for food security and in markets. In part this could be due to the imprecise nature of mapping the old entities to the new Objectives, and I think it will now remain to be seen as we move into more prioritization in the next round how the resources may further shift between these Objectives, or perhaps some objectives may eventually disappear.

In terms of reporting and oversight, this is an area that is now under careful attention by the Secretariat. We have moved past the formulation stage, we have the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan before you. We have committed to providing a look at the system early next year to be used during the course of the biennium, reporting on, not only the achievements but also the use of resources. This will be a dialogue we will need to have also as we move forward as to the frequency and the type of monitoring that will take place particularly for the extra-budgetary resources.

There have been some comments on the chapter structure, which was reviewed twice by the Finance Committee and was generally endorsed. We have had some lively discussions on how we will be moving forward to plan, in the next biennium, the work of the FAO Representations under the Strategic Objectives but we will always be able to report not only on how the FAORs are contributing but also how the Technical Cooperation Programme contributes to the Strategic Objectives.

Now if I could say a bit on the increases in costs and assessments in reply to several questions from the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Canada and others. I would like to focus on three aspects:

First are the cost increases – to preserve the purchasing power of the appropriation. These are set out in some detail in Table 6 of the document. The overall increase is 5.3 percent for the biennium which is a 3.5 percent annual increase. We provide information to IFAD and the World Food Programme for their use and compare information in calculating costing increases and ours are comparable, if not even slightly less, than our sister agencies. However, there are also going to be differences because of the nature of our work, the location of our staff. You will see from Table 6 that personnel costs comprise 86 percent of these cost increases and therefore that is very sensitive to staff location, great structure and so forth.

The staff costs are based on a rigorous procedure that is approved by the Governing Bodies and is aligned with the ICSC standards under the Common System and these have been discussed in some detail in the Finance Committee. A second part of the increase is the increment for the Immediate Plan of Action of USD 15.5 million, and the USD 600 000 increment for security costs for a total of USD 16.2 million. When this is added to the cost increases this is how you get to the 7.1 percent increase in the Net Appropriation. This is the Director-General's proposal for the Net Appropriation in the budget. The cost increases and the increment for the IPA and a small amount for security.

Third, the figure of 10.7 percent that several delegations have quoted relates to the increase in assessments that is due to the increase in the appropriation and the minimal additional assessments for the After-Service Medical Coverage and the Special Reserve Account. These are detailed in Table 17 of the document and do not relate to the appropriation, but rather to the financial health of the Organization. They have been bundled together in this figure of 10.7 percent to give some indication of the potential increase of assessments should Members pursue options for the financial health of the Organization.

I believe this answers some of the questions. I think there are others at the table who maybe would be better placed to answer others.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Boyd. Now, I give the floor to Mr. Juneja for his comments or answers.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

You rightly mentioned this morning that the Council is the start of a political process of negotiation for determining the 2010-11 Programme of Work and Budget. What I would, therefore, like to do would be to provide some clarifications to support your future deliberations.

Let me say at the outset that we look forward to providing a series of succinct information notes after the Council to support your discussions and deliberations in the period leading up to the Conference. This will be along the lines of information notes that we provided also two years ago. And certainly we could provide some more information on our methodology for calculating cost increases to arrive at the results as presented in the Programme of Work and Budget before you as well as the comparison with other Rome-based Agencies.

However, as mentioned also by Mr Haight, there will be some pieces of information that we would not be able to provide, such as the request for a more detailed comparison between the PWB 2008-09 and the 2010-11 proposals. This is for the reasons mentioned by Mr Haight, that both the Organizational Structure as well as the Results Hierarchy has fundamentally changed and our budget preparation methodology did not foresee such a request. In fact, I should mention that a request along these lines was made to the Joint Working Groups in June, and we had explained our difficulties in responding to this request. Perhaps Mr Heard could provide some further clarifications in that regard.

I would also like to confirm that, through the Secretariat of the Conference Committee, we would be issuing an Addendum to paragraph 48 of the Strategic Framework immediately after the Council. That is the paragraph that would seek to better align the write-up on Official Development Assistance with the L'Aquila Declaration.

Let me turn to some of the observations that were made regarding delayering and efficiency savings, in order to provide some rationale for the Director-General's proposal in the draft PWB.

The methodology adopted for delayering, was to recognize the savings that would arise from eliminating one third of the Headquarters' D-level posts and reapply them to the programmes of the Organization. This comes from the guidance that was provided in the Immediate Plan of Action. In fact it is mentioned in paragraph 21 of the IPA in your foreword, but also in paragraph 46f of the IPA as well as paragraph 7 of the Annex of the IPA. So the Director-General has sought to follow the guidance that was directed in the IPA in this regard.

In terms of the application of these savings, paragraph 187 of the PWB explains that this is being applied to the Junior Professional Programme, as well as for a number of priority programmes including Statistics, Right to Food, EMPRES, Livestock, Climate Change, Fisheries and Forestry, as indicated in paragraph 257 of the PWB.

With regard to efficiency savings Members will know that this has been on the agenda for a number of years and it is a regular feature of the PWB and Finance Committee discussions. Efficiency savings have been essential to contain the decrease in the real value of the assessed budget as the dollar has substantially weakened against major currencies of FAO's expenditure including the Euro, and as inflation has also chipped into the purchasing power of the dollar over the years.

The Independent External Evaluation asked for an evidence-based Root and Branch Review of the structure and systems of FAO to identify and quantify efficiency savings in the PWB. This led to our joint engagement with you in carrying out a USD 2 million study, an external study by experts, to recommend measures aimed at ensuring that FAO's administration, human resources and financial management support to the business of the Organization is as efficient and as economic as possible. The study lasted nearly a year and the terms of reference, in fact, asked for detailed recommendations, and I quote "for a time-bound target for substantial administrative efficiency improvements with a quantification of savings". The quantified recommendations of the Root and Branch Review have been examined by the Joint Working Groups of the Conference Committee. They have also been examined by the Finance Committee. The recommendations have been quantified in the PWB proposals. I appreciate that these may seem insufficient but it is important that I point out that all known evidence-based efficiency savings are included in the PWB.

Let me turn to some observations from many G-77 Members concerning a possible revised configuration for the Shared Service Centre. Management's reflections are outlined in paragraphs

191-195 of the PWB. We welcome the universal support in your interventions for Management's efforts to seek cost reductions even beyond any substantiated savings identified through external studies, such as the Root and Branch Review.

We acknowledge that we are at an early stage of the analysis in considering different models for delivering transaction processing services worldwide. I can confirm that at the next stage we shall undertake a transparent and participatory process with the concerned Regional Offices and search for the best option. We will engage the Governing Bodies, as was the case when the Shared Service Centre was established in 2006. However, I should clarify why Management sees merit in reviewing the present configuration in some detail. Three years after the establishment of the Shared Service Centre we have realized that other UN Agencies that started offshore operations after FAO have set up a single global hub configuration to maximise economies of scale. External consultants have advised us that, *prima facie*, best practice is to have a single global operation.

On the question of providing services to specific time zones we need to examine whether our transaction processing needs are strictly required on a real time basis as we had originally envisaged. Our experience thus far is showing that the vast majority of transactions can be processed with some delay without loss of programme effectiveness.

There is not necessarily a contradiction between a possible consolidation of the Shared Service Centre hubs, on the one hand, and a general thrust, on the other hand, towards delegation of authority and decision-making. Substantive decisions should be decentralized wherever feasible. However, the Shared Service Centre provides back office transaction processing administrative services which need to be done with adequate response times at lowest feasible cost.

So as we move forward in the analysis and in our consultation with the Regional Offices, we look forward to reverting to Members with further details in 2010 as a basis for further review and deliberation.

Finally, you shall still have a chance to review IPA implementation in more detail under Item 9 of your agenda but several interventions were made regarding the risks of IPA implementation and the extension in the timeframe for IPA implementation. The extension of the IPA timeframe, as put forward in this document and as described also to the CoC-IEE and its Working Groups, is due to three factors. The first is the incorporation of the Root and Branch Review actions in an integrated IPA. The Root and Branch Review which the Working Groups and the Conference Committee reviewed earlier this year included a number of actions that need to be taken over a five year period. So, one consequence of the inclusion of the Root and Branch Review into the IPA is that the integrated IPA timeframe as now presented is extended to five years, largely for those Root and Branch actions which spanned into the 2012-2013 biennium.

The second factor is, as several Members mentioned, financial considerations, and in Paragraph 115 of the PWB we provide some examples where the need to look at cost mitigation has led to an extension in the timeframe of, or delayed start of Root and Branch actions, but also some of the IPA actions.

But finally, I think it is important to recall that the integration of the Root and Branch Review has also increased the complexity of an already ambitious Immediate Plan of Action. Perhaps on this point the extension that is put forward in the documentation should also be seen as an opportunity and not a risk. In this regard, the Finance Committee recognized this approach of extending the timeframe in its September Session when it acknowledged that "an extended timeframe would reduce the risk of less than full implementation of the IPA actions". Similarly, the Joint Meeting of the Conference Committee earlier this month also "recognized that the full incorporation of the Root and Branch Review had significantly increased the complexity and therefore the risk associated with IPA implementation".

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr. Juneja. Now I turn the floor to two Chairs, excellent Chairs of Programme and Finance and just establish between yourselves, who wants to speak first. Okay yes, Vic.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

The points that I would like to respond to were made by people speaking during the discussion which relate particularly to what I said in my Reports, one of which has been referred to by Mr Juneja already and referred to me and that is the question of the extent to which we can track previous Programme of Work and Budgets into the current Programme of Work and Budget and vice versa. I think that Mr Haight has actually provided the factual answers to this by telling you where the material that has been provided can be found in the documentation, and I think what we are probably looking at here is not a matter of what has been provided but our various expectations of what was coming and I said, you will recall, that the Programme Committee and the meeting of the Joint Committees both asked for some clarity to enhance the extent to which they could track things from one Programme of Work and Budget to the next. I then said that I had received it and seen it in the Working Group meetings and I was pleased with it and the reason that the United States asked the question was perhaps because they were expecting something rather more. Now, in my view, what has been provided represents the extent possible to which something can be provided. There have been the most enormous changes in the way programming is done in this Organization. I do not think that we can get much further than Table 2 in the Programme of Work and Budget which sets out these comparisons to the extent possible.

I was very much taken with Zimbabwe's comments about 'we should not add up oranges and apples' and I am tempted to take this even further and say that if we mix oranges and apples you tend to end up with banana skins and you know what they are good for. So we have an element of risk here, we are trying to do something that is not do-able. I think also that the Mexican Ambassador referred to this as being work in progress or something in transition, and it is. You know this is a big change. The next time we try to compare a Programme of Work and Budget with a future Programme of Work and Budget it will be absolutely crystal clear what has happened between the two because we will have the same Strategic Objectives and very very similar results. So, I think these are issues to do with what we expected. There may be some disappointment, but some of us, as I said when I reported for the Committees, some of us are pretty well satisfied with what we have so far.

The second intervention I would like to refer to was from Canada. My distinguished colleague from the Programme Committee expressed disappointment with the extent to which the Programme Committee have been able to make changes, make a real difference to the strategic focus of FAO in terms of comparative advantage and said that he felt there was perhaps a rather limited impact of the Programme Committee's work on the Programme of Work and Budget in terms of prioritization because perhaps of a matter of timing. Now these comments may appear to reflect rather negatively on the Chairmanship of the Programme Committee and you will be surprised to hear that I agree with them. I think that, you know, we could always do better, of course. We are in a transition period and this issue of prioritization is one that has entertained us certainly over the last four and a half years to my personal knowledge and one on which we have at last started to make some inroads, but we are not going to do it overnight. If I could just remind you the process started, when it really started in earnest, in Working Group One, where we kept coming to the issue of prioritization because the IEE said we must prioritize and every time we got to it there was a brief argument, a lot of disagreements and we retreated again and said we will look at it again next meeting and we did and the same thing happened over and over until we at last made the great leap forward when we decided that we couldn't do it because we were not specialists and it was all a specialist matter – we could not talk about fisheries; we could not talk about forestry. What we at least decided was at least the one thing we could decide and that was that we needed desperately to do something about prioritization in this Organization. That started the ball rolling. The next step was to recognize that the Bodies that could prioritize were the

Technical Committees and not a bunch of generalists like ourselves. I know many of us have technical qualifications but we do not use those in the governance entities in which we participate as specialists. So the Technical Committees took over and we are still in a transition process. You will recall I think that the Fisheries Committee made a stab at this as they were the first one to come up and that was not bad and the Forestry Committee had another stab. They had more time to prepare and the documentation for that was rather better and so we had better prioritization recommendations from that Committee than from Fisheries and Agriculture did even better still. The idea was that they should come back to the Programme Committee and we would then look at the whole breadth of priorities and of course there are further priorities covered beyond those three Committees. There is a whole lot of cross-cutting stuff that we had to get the advice of the Assistant Director-General over and we did have a very good discussion and I think we did make some inroads on prioritization and I do not think we have got there yet. I think this is something that will develop as we get better at it it will get better done.

The question about whether we come in too late to have any impact, now I think that probably is extremely valid because what we were looking at when we were looking at the Programme of Work and Budget was not how to prioritize the work of FAO as perhaps we should have been doing at that stage by bringing together what the Technical Committees had said and what the Assistant Directors-General were saying about their priorities. We were looking to see if what had been said by those Committees and those people was properly reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget and that is not quite the same thing. I think that we concluded that it was, but possibly the answer for this is for future Programme Committees to have an extra meeting at some earlier point when the only item on the agenda is the prioritization recommendations of the Technical Committees and of the Assistant Directors-General so that the Programme Committee can give advice to Management on how prioritization should appear in the Programme of Work and Budget. That would then be the way in which the Membership's view could be reflected in terms of prioritization.

Those are the two points on which I wanted to comment. Thank you very much.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Having listened to what has been said by Mr Juneja I would like to make two comments. My first comment has to do with the funding of the IPA. Very quickly I would like to say again that one of the proposals made by the Finance Committee is the increase of the percentage which is funding the net income for the IPA and as we said there are, of course, some risks in getting resources and, of course, there are also risks if we fund that from the ordinary budget because there are delays in paying the contributions there are arrears as you know and this is, of course, a risk. This is one of the risks that should be taken into account as well when we look into such proposals. So I think that we should do our best in order to reduce the risks for funding the IPA.

As for the establishment of a single Shared Service Centre, I think what has been said by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 is very relevant and could be the basis of a future discussion of this matter in our Finance Committee.

Another matter, how to maintain FAO efficiency and accord the Finance Committee Members we have said the programmes should not be touched at all. They should be funded as has been agreed. Some countries said that we can make cuts and reduce some of them. In order to maintain an efficient FAO, we have to carry out the Reform and find ways to implement these programmes in a more efficient manner. I think this is the most appropriate manner and this is my conviction regarding this matter.

I am not going to repeat what has been said regarding the deliberations of the Finance Committee on the matters which have been dealt with by the Members.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Now the floor is again opened, if any question has not been answered for your follow-up questions or you need more new clarifications. The Russian Federation.

Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I have a small question, regarding efficiency savings as it is called. We got some detailed clarifications from the Secretariat on this matter but there is a problem. If these funds are available thanks to economy measures, who will take the decision about their further use. Is this the property of the Council or does it fall to the Director-General to decide the question in accordance with his discretion?

The second question, if this happens in a different scenario, if the decision is taken by the Director-General then is this not a violation of the financial situation, because from my point of view such a decision is very close to a decision about shifts between different chapters in the budget and as we know, at the present time, that which is a decision which falls either within the Council or the Finance Committee and the question of possible passing of part of this right to the Director-General is something which needs to be considered and possibly be decided upon.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Russian Federation. Any other requests for the floor? Turkey.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

Of course we also agree that there is always scope for improvement for the things that human beings are involved in. So in that sense I do not think that we can blame any committee for not doing the job properly. We can only congratulate the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Secretariat have done really good work during this process. I think the work of the Programme Committee is getting even more difficult. The Chairperson touched upon the recommendations from the Technical Committees. I think that they have become very valuable this year, but there is also now the Regional Conferences. There will be a lot of recommendations coming out of the Regional Conferences over the coming year so they also have to be considered in setting up priorities. So I think the Programme Committee would have to consider both the recommendations from the Regional Conferences and from the Technical Committees. So things are more complicated, so we wish you good luck.

Søren Skafte (Observer for Denmark)

I have a question and also an observation. I missed a reaction from the Management on the concerns expressed by many of the delegations regarding the risk of jeopardizing the Reform Process not having the funding of the IPA fully assured, meaning contained under the Assessed Contributions. I fail to hear if the Management is sharing our concerns and what they intend to do about it. Would they, for instance, before Conference in one of these information notes, I understand that is the term, would they present their, possibly technical document outlining the technical possibilities to facilitate the concern expressed by many of us? That is my question.

My observation is that I think that Manoj Juneja is gravely underestimating himself and this Organization. The statement that all known evidence-based efficiency gains have already been included in the Programme of Work and Budget at present. I am totally confident that Mr Juneja, with the good assistance of many other people in the Management and the Members would be able to provide substantial further efficiency gains in the coming two years just as any other international organization or private organization or government institution is forced to do in these years.

José Antonio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Thank you, Chairman, and I thank our friends from the Secretariat and both Chairmen for their explanations.

When I spoke I failed to agree with my colleague from Canada that indeed what we expected from the Programme Committee was a lot more. I share his sense of disappointment that the performance was weak to say the least, but our Chairman put precisely, you know, hit the nail on the head talking about the circumstances and what we could do in that context, but as the Chairman I see the intervention of Canada as a call for improvement rather than undue criticism. In that sense, I think that it is an issue to be discussed with the future Members of the Finance Committee for the next biennium, but one thing that I have not heard precisely is how is it, exactly in the same vein as my colleague from Denmark just spoke, what is at risk for the implementation of the IPA; what is at risk for the implementation of the programmes of FAO as a whole if the extra-budgetary resources are not there. What are the tools that the Membership has to ascertain whether (a) the money is coming in – the Finance Committee will be telling us, but (b) what can be the negative impact for our goals? So this is something that we need those kinds of tools so that indeed the Membership can monitor what we have agreed and what we are doing, but not for the sake of doing history. I think that the performance assessments today did too much right to history rather than they represent a tool for the Membership to monitor, assess what is happening and take corrective action. So I think this is something that also the Programme Committee should be looking at very precisely.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Ambassador and a Member of the Programme Committee.

Mr Juneja, can I come to you to answer these specific questions?

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Let me take first the question raised by the Russian Federation regarding the authority for the application of efficiency savings, such as those emanating from delayering. The decision on such application is, of course, a decision of the Governing Bodies - ultimately the Conference - that will approve the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. In arriving at the Director-General's proposals, he has taken into account the guidance that has been received thus far. Specific guidance was provided in the Immediate Plan of Action regarding the modalities for applying savings for delayering. That guidance was discussed in the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE during the course of 2009. The guidance was also discussed by the Finance Committee at its July Session where, in fact, in paragraph 39 of its Report, and I am looking here at document CL 137/4, the Committee underlined the need to continually seek and achieve efficiency savings "while it accepted that the USD 17.4 million in savings for delayering in 2010-11 would be reinvested in programmes. Some Members noted that this should not set a precedent for the use of future savings whether from the continued Reform Process or from other initiatives." So the Director-General has listened to the guidance that has been received thus far, but the ultimate decision on the application of such savings is a decision for the 2009 Conference.

Regarding the question raised by the Representative of Denmark concerning the risk to reforms in not having the funding for the IPA fully assured. Of course, the question here, as the Representative of Brazil noted, is that the resources for the implementation for the Programme of Work from Assessed Contributions and the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action are finite. Those resources are finite and what the Director-General believes we have in the proposals before you is a good substantive plan for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action under the Net Appropriations. The highest priority projects have been identified and funded in their entirety within the Net Appropriations in the draft Programme of Work and Budget. There are of course a number of other very important projects that are recommended for funding under Core Voluntary Contributions. The Finance Committee last week deliberated on a number of options for seeking to get greater assurance for the IPA funding. The Director-General, on his part, in his proposals, has sought to find a balance between the demands on the Organization for its delivery of services to Members and the implementation of IPA on the one hand, and the financial difficulties that Members would face in making Assessed Contributions on the other and, as I also indicated at the outset, this is now a matter of negotiation among Members.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other requests for the floor? I do not see any.

As you see, in our planning we predicted that this discussion would go forward to tomorrow morning as well, but thanks to your efficiency and to the post reform era we were so efficient that we concluded the discussion today. It was a very fruitful discussion, very rich discussion, we debated all aspects of the documents in front of us. Of course, some part of it is because of the very intensive work we have been doing during the whole year. The people that have been here have been engaged in discussing almost all of these issues in detail and almost weekly, so it was also a contribution, your contribution, to the efficiency of our meeting.

Let me try to just refer to some of the important points that were raised today. Just remember that the whole practice which we have seen the result of is a huge achievement of our Secretariat and Membership together. You have done a remarkable job and you have opened the door to a new chapter in FAO.

Council commended and praised the documents and the work done by the Secretariat while recognizing that all these documents are work-in-progress and will continue in the future biennium.

As far as the Strategic Framework is concerned, Council viewed the Strategic Framework as broad principle and guidelines for the future of FAO and emphasized that it is in need of regular review. Council emphasized the importance of this Strategic Framework and welcomed improvements on it and is looking to more improvement in the future.

Council fully supported the eleven Objectives in the Strategic Framework, however mentioned that indicators are especially in need of improvement. This document is a living document and needs more than one biennium to become a satisfactory framework for FAO.

Council also is of the opinion that the partnership shall be more visibly incorporated in this Strategic Framework.

Council also welcomed the Medium-Term Plan document and is of the opinion that it is mostly consistent with the comparative advantage of FAO but it needs more alignment for the future in this regard, and the Programme Committee can play a more active role in this regard. All the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences can make a contribution in this regard as well.

As far as Decentralization is concerned, more Decentralization means the delegation of authority and responsibility is required, but at the same time more financial requirements, which is commensurate with these new responsibilities, is needed. On the other hand, Decentralization should be in a better alignment with the Strategic Objectives.

Council agrees that this issue of Decentralization should be revisited and decentralized networks should again be revisited in the next biennium with direct inputs and contributions from the Regional Conferences.

On the other hand, investment in the decentralized network is needed in areas like capacity-building.

As far as IPA is concerned, Council thinks that Reform and IPA are FAO priorities and must be viewed as core functions of FAO. Some think that the implementation period is rather ambitious, while others are concerned about maintaining the momentum and enthusiasm which exists, if the time is expanded.

In financing our IPA, while many countries will count the proposal by Secretariat for fifty-fifty percent financing by Assessed Contributions and Voluntary Contributions, others are of the opinion that this is risky and it should be fully financed from Assessed Contributions. However, others said if it is fully financed by the Assessed Contributions, the programmes and especially technical programmes of FAO should remain intact.

And there are still some Members that say that if it is all financed by Assessed Contributions, we have to think about other risks, the risks that some countries cannot pay and already we have a high number of them in arrears and they are really not able to pay and we have to have that in mind as well.

In the Plan of Work and Budget, the Council commended the new integrated model of Assessed and Voluntary Contributions and said that its formats gave a clear picture of what FAO is doing and, while it contains many new innovations, it provides more tools for accountability of the Management and Secretariat. They mentioned that a stronger link between Strategic Objectives and resources is needed.

While many welcomed the maintenance budget level, and since it is logical others said that in funding we should think of more efficiency savings and we have to take that into account. Others said that if we are going to fund the whole thing from Assessed Contributions, it should not be at the expense of the technical programmes and they should not be negatively impacted.

Others mentioned that After-Service Medical Coverage and replenishment of the Working Capital Fund, different treatment of that in a longer term might provide some solutions to this problem of budgeting. Many countries still believe that this whole new format of the budget, especially voluntary parts, i.e. the core and other Voluntary Contributions need more deliberations and they need more information on that.

Non-payment of Assessed Contributions by some countries was mentioned as a possible contribution to this, but others recommended a balanced remedy means that considering the difficulties, the financial and economic difficulties, that some of the countries are facing.

Another issue that was mentioned is the dependence of the programme of FAO on extra-budgetary resources which brings new elements of risk and it needs risk analysis as soon as possible.

Canada, you have the floor.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

I think you have done a masterful job of summing up the debate up until now but I was alarmed at the suggestion that somehow we wrap up this item at this point after this first round of interventions in that it is Council's duty not simply just to debate these issues but actually to come to a clear recommendation. I was reading over the Brazilian Ambassador's shoulder, clear recommendations and decisions. That is, as you know very well from having chaired the Conference Committee, the IPA made very clear that it is Council's duty to recommend a number to the Conference, so we cannot possibly end this item on this note.

We need to reflect on the summary that you have just given us and on what we have heard from each other, perhaps suspend this item for now so we can carry on with the Agenda or have some more consultations and then come back to it in the course of this week so we as a Council can do our duty under the IPA and give a clear recommendation with a number and the elements, including how to treat the IPA to Conference.

I just want to be sure before you bang the gavel that I had the right understanding.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Canada. That is an interesting and very useful proposal. Of course, legally speaking, in this biennium Council was not mandated to come with explicit recommendations, it is for the next biennium, but in the spirit of the Reform I do agree with you that we can do more.

So let us not close this debate, keep it open, and the prerequisite for a successful debate is, please, reflect on that, talk to each other, because then when we re-open discussion on that, we do not want to repeat again the same things that we have been repeating the whole year, from January to now.

We need some agreements. If this is a negotiation, this is a matter of give and take, lots of flexibility is needed. We cannot stick to our views and say that this is it and we cannot do anything else. The flexibility I think is the most important aspect we have to remember. With that I keep this open. I ask all the Regional Groups and everybody, all the Members of the Council, please talk to each other, not tomorrow morning, later on, we will come back to this issue and I hope, that as Canada wishes, we can come up with very definite recommendations to the Conference.

Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I fully agree with the point of view expressed by our Canadian colleague, in particular because we will come back to re-examine part of this question under the item when we look at the Report of the Finance Committee which, of course, concerns this question.

Naturally it has to do with the budget, its scale, the method to improve the financial situation of this Organization and all this will be looked at under Item 8.

CHAIRPERSON

That is correct but we are still not closing Item 5. It is open to the question and my request is for your reflection and useful deliberation and I make an announcement when it will be discussed. It will not be tomorrow morning because we need time to sleep on it and to think about it.

Before closing, adjourning the meeting of today, the Secretary-General has an announcement to make and also the Chairperson of GRULAC has asked me to make an announcement and before that, I give the floor to United Republic of Tanzania, Ambassador, the Vice-Chairperson of the CoC-IEE.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

The intervention which has been made by Canada is really a good one. Of course we need to work towards converging our minds and putting to the Conference good recommendations. Of course the Reform starts from now and that is what we are doing. I wanted to know, as we are trying to conclude, if you had not finished would you please finish on all those points which you had as they may be points to refer to when we consult among ourselves.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to announce that there will be a EU Coordination Meeting tomorrow morning at 9.00 a.m. in the German Room.

CHAIRPERSON

In response to the question by the Ambassador of Tanzania. I think in all aspects that we have discussed on the level of the budget and financing of the budget of Voluntary Contributions, Assessed Contributions, and also financing of the IPA which are two important issues we have to consider.

Ambassador of Venezuela, you have the floor.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Gracias Señor Presidente por atender gentilmente a nuestra solicitud de señalar como punto de información a todos los miembros de la Plenaria que la Representación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, siguiendo el Reglamento General de la Organización, ha elevado por los canales regulares una solicitud para que se incluya en la agenda de la 36ª Conferencia de la FAO, el tema Informe del 12º Período de Sesiones de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que se reunirá del 19 al 23 de octubre de 2009. Hemos hecho esta solicitud para que este punto tan importante sea incluido en el debate durante la próxima Conferencia del mes de noviembre.

CHAIRPERSON

I would mention that this has nothing to do with our deliberation in the Council. It was an announcement and information and it would follow its course through the legal channels of FAO and I am sure that all the Members of Conference will be informed.

José Antonio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Getting back to your summary, which I also commend you for, what you could extract from this, I think it was a good gist of what was discussed.

I think just putting these two issues- just the level of the budget and how the IPA should be financed - I think it was kind of a limited number of issues for the wealth of considerations that were made here today. Maybe, if I could suggest something, but it depends on you and the rest of the Membership, if you could circulate your summary of the meeting today, because there are still other things there that are open that would deserve some consideration. I understand and agree with you what the IPA said, in the next biennium, in the next budget cycle, the Council will have that responsibility. What we are doing, as you said, is anticipating working on the spirit of what we approved last year, even before we are legally mandated to. I think it would also be important for us to display flexibility and willingness to arrive at a good report and not leave our colleagues and some of my delegation in the Drafting Committee to be handling those decisions.

Hugo VERBIST (Belgique)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais soutenir l'intervention du Canada et du Brésil. Cela serait une bonne idée d'avoir un petit compte-rendu de ce que vous avez dit pour être sûr que le résumé que vous avez fait est complet et reflète les discussions. On pourra alors les examiner et les compléter ce qui, jeudi, facilitera le travail du comité de rédaction et reflétera ainsi tous les points de vues ébauchés pendant la saison plénière.

CHAIRPERSON

First of all, my summary, as was said, I am referring to some important points. In no way did I cover all the discussions of today.

Secondly, I do not want to turn the Council into a Drafting Committee, to say this was mentioned and that was not mentioned, but I do agree that we cannot limit ourselves to a very limited discussion, so if you permit me, I will not distribute these points as it might not be constructive but with those two major issues, the whole issues which have been discussed today, the three documents will be open to your discussion and whatever you want to reflect on that and to raise, I think would be welcome and we will discuss it.

With this, have a nice evening and see you tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 17.39 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.39 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
29 September 2009

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.49 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 49
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.49 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONT'D)

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

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

9. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 137/8)

9. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (CL 137/8)

9. Informe sobre los progresos en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 137/8)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends, I call the third meeting of the 137th Session of the FAO Council to order. I am pleased that we do have the Director-General today with us and we would like to request him to address the Council.

Mr Director-General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much Mr Independent Chairman of the Council for giving me the floor.

Mr Independent Chairman, Honourable Delegates, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to express my appreciation for your presence in Rome this week to participate in the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Council.

Before starting my address, I wish to recognize the passing away on 12 September 2009 of a legend and dear friend to all of us, Dr Norman Borlaug, best known as the father of the Green Revolution, which resulted in an unprecedented increase in food production to feed the world population that doubled between 1960 and 2000. Dr Borlaug helped defeat one of the most ancient scourges of humanity, mass famine. He saved countless lives.

No doubt, he will be greatly missed as the world faces today a double challenge - to ensure food security for the one billion hungry and malnourished people and to double food production to feed the world population set to reach 9.2 billion in 2050.

I would call you to kindly observe a minute of silence in honour of Dr Borlaug.

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Honourable Delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Allow me to turn first to the progress and plans for the continued Reform and Renewal of FAO and my proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

In the past months, Members and Management have formulated a new Strategic Framework that provides the broad principles and long range guidance on our future programmes of work. The Strategic Framework builds on a firm conceptual basis - an enhanced results-based approach - as agreed in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. The results frameworks comprising 11 Strategic Objectives and the means of action through application of two functional objectives and eight Core Functions, are the results of very patient and meticulous intergovernmental discussion over the past 18 months.

The proposed Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 and PWB 2010-2011 embody a serious attempt to link means to ends, that is to direct all resources at the disposal of the Organization to achievement of agreed results, and clearly distinguishing between technical and administrative work. This has allowed us to better focus our work on Members' needs. The last PWB had 183 programme entities for the Regular Programme. The PWB 2010-2011 proposes 56 focussed and measurable results encompassing all of our activities, from Assessed Contributions and Voluntary Funds.

With clarity and agreement to contribute to well-formulated Strategic Objectives of the Organization, we have established the basis for unity of purpose, so that staff at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices can function as one team. Much attention is being given to the Decentralized Offices and their role in decision-making.

Decentralized Offices have played a more prominent role in the preparation of the 2010-2011 budget proposals. Starting from next January, Regional Offices will also have budget and programme oversight responsibility for technical officers in the region and will progressively direct the substantive work of Country Offices. All personnel in Decentralized Offices have been trained to take on additional responsibility for the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2010.

To facilitate the alignment of our structure to the results framework, a comprehensive restructuring of Headquarters was initiated in 2009 for completion in 2012, to produce a flatter and less hierarchical management structure. A key element of this exercise has been a delayering of one third of the Director level positions. As requested by Members, the resulting savings of USD 17.4 million per biennium are being redirected in the PWB 2010-2011 towards FAO's programmes.

We continue to ensure the efficient use of Member contributions through systematic reform of administrative and management systems. An external Root and Branch Review of our processes and systems, as called for under the IPA, has given us several opportunities to lower the costs and improve the quality and timeliness of administrative services during the next five years.

The IPA and Root and Branch Review have emphasised the importance of human resources reform for FAO's Renewal. The Human Resources Management Strategy and Policy Framework has been developed and endorsed by the Finance Committee. The Performance Evaluation and Management System (PEMS) pilot involving over 500 staff was launched in 2009. This system provides the link in accountability between individual staff performance and the corporate results framework. An intensive programme of staff and managerial training is underway to fully implement this system next year.

The staff representative bodies have been engaged with Management and have also interacted formally and informally with the CoC-IEE. The Culture Change Team has engaged widely with staff at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices. It has produced an internal vision statement and made proposals for career development, rewards and recognition.

I have only touched on a shortlist of our collective accomplishments without even alluding, for example, to the numerous amendments to the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization that will be before the Conference to implement the IPA. The journey in 2009, through the 235 follow-up actions agreed at last year's special Conference is well underway, with 132 actions to be completed by this year's end.

To get this far, the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up has shown exemplary leadership, and provided encouragement and motivation, in guiding Members and the Secretariat through the implementation of the IPA for FAO Renewal. I trust you will agree that the personnel of FAO has on their part provided extraordinary enthusiasm, commitment and determination to support our Member Nations.

The innovative approach of monitoring progress through Member-led Working Groups as well as informal seminars has unleashed the conditions for a meaningful dialogue among Members and with Management, which has provided a channel for accommodating diverse points of view.

Getting this far has required tedious re-prioritization and sequencing of activities by Management, as the extra-budgetary resources provided for FAO Renewal in 2009 have fallen significantly short of the provisional requirement of USD 21.8 million adopted in Conference Resolution 1/2008. In fact, pledges to date have amounted to USD 8.3 million, of which only USD 5 million in cash contributions. This shortfall has complicated our work.

Looking forward, the PWB for the next biennium presents a comprehensive package of proposals in a new format. It exposes the integrated financial requirements to implement a biennial programme of work funded from Assessed and Voluntary Contributions. In addition, my proposals for the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget fully integrate the reforms set out in the IPA for FAO Renewal and include the thirty-five additional actions emanating from the conclusions of the Root and Branch Review.

As I close out my mandate with the Organization in the coming biennium, I will do everything within my authority to ensure that FAO will be better able to help Members face the challenges of the 21st Century. Our reforms are setting the foundations for a strengthened Organization able to deliver its programme more effectively, tightly focused on its results. This is why I continue to give top priority to the Reform.

Of course, we cannot undertake programmes and reforms without able governance from the Membership and resources that you, as Members, agree to provide to the Organization.

In respect of the Regular Programme assessments, and taking into account the concept of “Reform with Growth”, advocated as the principal conclusion of the IEE and echoed in the IPA, the Secretariat has faced a dilemma.

On the one hand, there is obligation for FAO to operationalize the strategies and programmes to contribute to the eradication of hunger with new needs for resources.

On the other hand, we are cognizant of the competition for scarce public funds, especially as Member Nations redress the detrimental effects of the financial and economic crisis.

In that context, efficiency savings could be considered as an important financial ingredient in maximizing FAO's services to Members at minimum costs. The Root and Branch Review has provided an expert, evidence-based analysis of the opportunities for quantified efficiency savings in 2010-2011, which has been incorporated in the proposed PWB. I would ask Members to take due note of the result that the potential for monetary saving is rather modest as illustrated by the Root and Branch Review. This finding needs to be viewed in the context of the measures already taken over the past sixteen years, which have yielded cost savings in excess of USD 170 million per biennium compared with 1994-95, through streamlining, reorganization of work, greater use of modern communications and increased cost recoveries. I must caution the Membership against the temptation of setting unsubstantiated and unprogrammed efficiency targets for the 2010-2011 biennium, which will put at risk the momentum of FAO renewal and its services to Members.

I should also recall the caution in the Root and Branch review, that the number and complexity of simultaneous changes we are undertaking run some risks if we are not methodical and thoughtful in their implementation. We are scheduling some IPA actions for completion beyond 2011 to manage risk and ensure success.

For all these reasons, I ask for adequate resources, as we seek to maintain the momentum for FAO renewal and contribute to our common vision of a world free from hunger.

Turning to the specific numbers, the proposed biennial budget for the Net Appropriation is set at USD 995.9 million, representing a 7.1 percent increase over the PWB 2008-09. As previously requested by Governing Bodies, I have also summarized measures to improve FAO's financial health, liquidity and reserves.

The proposed Net Appropriation reflects an adjustment for cost increases in the Regular Budget which has been examined twice by the Finance Committee and is in line with the adjustments proposed by the other UN Rome-based Agencies.

In addition, the proposed Net Appropriation includes an increment to meet just over half the revised costs of the IPA in the biennium. In formulating my proposal, I have listened carefully to Members on the need to guarantee funding for IPA implementation, while protecting the Programme of Work. This follows a comprehensive review of the assumptions and scope of the IPA actions since the meetings of the CoC-IEE and the Programme and Finance Committees in July, which resulted in a substantially reduced estimated cost for 2010-2011 of USD 38.6 million for the IPA and the implementation of the recommendations of the Root and Branch Review.

While the Committees have appreciated my proposal as a step in the right direction, I must now look to the Membership to take the next step to find means to ensure adequate funding for the programme of work and IPA in 2010-2011. The Finance Committee at its Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of 18-19 September reviewed some possible options which you have been considering.

In this, your final session before the Conference, I look forward to the outcome of your deliberation and advice to the Conference on the strategic direction and budget of the Organization, including the treatment of the IPA.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in profoundly reforming FAO, we should not lose sight, at the same time, of our mandate and the needs of those who suffer from hunger in the world. One in every six persons does not meet their daily nutritional requirement and the situation has aggravated substantially during the last few years.

In the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the Council, last June, you agreed that a Summit on Food Security be held in November 2009, in close proximity to the Conference, in view of, *inter alia*, the increasing number of hungry people and the need to keep food insecurity on top of the international agenda. This reflects your dedication and commitment to the cause of the poor and hungry and I wish to commend you for that.

I wish in this regard to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generous financial contribution of USD 2.5 million it has made to the costs of the Summit.

You have also directed to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to decide on the necessary arrangements for the Summit. I am happy to report that the Group has met six times so far under the Chairmanship of the Council Independent Chair and two Vice Chairpersons, and that good progress has been made. The Secretariat is giving full support to the process.

The Open-Ended Working Group has started to put together a Zero Draft for the Declaration. I should note here that, at the request of the Group, the Secretariat has provided a contribution to defining the objectives and possible outcomes of the Summit. This contribution was prepared with a view to tackling the fundamental causes of food insecurity and to establishing quantifiable goals with timeframes for their realization.

This will be the third summit after those of 1996 and 2002. While the previous two summits have contributed to keeping food security and agriculture on the agenda of policy-makers and making commitments to fight world hunger effectively, the decisions made were not followed by actions commensurate to achieving the goals set. The primary goal of the World Summit on Food Security next November would be to forge a broad consensus on the rapid and total eradication of hunger in the world so that all peoples of the Earth may enjoy the "Right to Food", which is the fundamental right of all human beings.

Global food security is facing the greatest challenges in modern history. The challenge is twofold – on the one hand, we must secure the food security of one billion people suffering from hunger and malnutrition; on the other, we need to double food production to feed a world population expected to reach 9.2 billion in 2050.

World food insecurity is rising and no region is immune. Our latest data show that, in 2009, hunger is expected to increase in all the regions of the world. Asia and the Pacific: up 10.5 percent to 642 million; sub-Saharan Africa up 11.8 percent to 265 million; Latin America and the

Caribbean up 12.8 percent to 53 million; Near East and North Africa up 13.5 percent to 42 million.

In addition, as of last July, thirty countries were in a situation of food crisis requiring emergency assistance. Of these, twenty in Africa and ten in Asia/Near East. Today, the prospects for food production in several countries are worrisome. Guatemala declared a “state of public calamity”, with the country facing severe food shortages. In India, drought is expected to result in crop losses in about half of the districts. In Argentina, prolonged drought has affected grain production and is expected to reduce export surpluses.

What we are paying today, with the increasing number of hungry people, is our inability to develop or revive local food production, after nearly thirty years of neglect of agriculture and underinvestment in the sector.

We may have good intentions to defeat hunger, but we will not achieve our goals without proper political decisions, the required follow-up actions and the necessary financial resources.

The events of the last two years have demonstrated the fragility of the global food system and the lack of coherence and efficiency in the governance of world food security. Responding to the food insecurity crisis in an effective and sustainable way requires not only strong leadership and relevant strategies, policies, and programmes, but also coordinated implementation and monitoring of actions. That is why a reformed and strengthened CFS is so vital.

While the number of hungry people has increased, resources to agriculture decreased. Agriculture’s share of official development assistance (ODA) fell from 17 percent in 1980 to 3.8 percent in 2006. Presently it stands at around 5 percent. Yet, back in the 1970s, to avert the risk of hunger and starvation in Asia and Latin America, the world spent 17 percent of ODA in building irrigation schemes, rural roads, storage facilities, seed production systems and fertilizer and feed production plants, which formed the basis of the Green Revolution.

Nevertheless, in these last two years, FAO on its part has mobilized all the available technical and financial resources at its disposal to tackle the food crisis.

In addition to the assistance provided under national and regional food security programmes and the emergency projects launched to mitigate the effects of hurricanes and other natural disasters, FAO has also carried out numerous actions in the field as part of its “Initiative on Soaring Food Prices”, which was launched on 17 December 2007 to facilitate small-farmers access to seeds, fertilizer, agricultural tools and fishing gear. The current budget for these projects amounts to USD 104 million. In addition, the Organization is implementing projects in 25 countries with a budget of USD 285 million funded by the European Union under its “Food Facilities” of one billion Euros established to help developing countries deal with the food crisis.

Now we need to broaden, deepen and replicate such programmes and projects.

It was a great satisfaction to note the encouraging policy change in favour of support to the poor and hungry that was manifested in the food security initiative by the G8 meeting last July in L’Aquila. The initiative, which puts emphasis on assistance to small farmers in developing countries to increase their food production, and the financial commitment of USD 20 billion over three years for a comprehensive strategy focussing on sustainable agricultural development are an important step in the right direction.

The commitments taken at the G8 L’Aquila meeting must now translate into concrete actions, not only for the moral considerations but for economic reasons and to ensure peace and security in the world.

Finally, I dare to hope that in November we can agree on three objectives:

1. to eradicate hunger from the face of the Planet during the next 15 years;
2. to restore the share of agriculture in total ODA to its 1980 level; and

3. to strengthen the CFS as the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition with the national component to enhance global governance for the fight against hunger.

While looking forward to the results of your deliberations, I wish you every success in your work and I thank you for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Director-General, I thank you for your interesting, comprehensive and thought-provoking address to the Council. Thank you very much.

Now we will move on to Item 9, Immediate Plan of Action, Progress Report. Please ensure that you have documents CL 137/8 before you. Management has produced this paper to provide Members with an overview of, first, progress made in implementing the IPA during the current year and second, the way ahead into the next biennium.

The IPA actions aim to transform FAO into an organization that manages for the results required to meet the objectives set by the Governing Bodies. This Results-Based Management approach is at the heart of the Reform, and is thus a major priority.

We are joined by Mr David Benfield, leader of the planning, monitoring and reporting and Vice-Chair of the Reform Support Group, who will introduce the Progress Report on the IPA. Mr Benfield you have the floor.

David BENFIELD (Leader of Planning, Monitoring and Reporting, and Vice-Chair of the Reform Support Group)

The 2009 IPA Progress Report provides a synoptic view of progress made across the year 2009 and also projects the situation at the end of 2009.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to ask colleagues that want to talk to each other to please use the corridor and not the hall. We are doing our business. Would you please walk out if you would like to have private conversations, bilateral conversations. Quiet please.

David BENFIELD (Leader of Planning, Monitoring and Reporting, and Vice-Chair of the Reform Support Group)

As I was saying the Progress Report provides a synoptic view of progress made across the year 2009 and projects the situation that we will be in at the end of 2009. This is in terms of the progress that we have made, but it also reflects upon the achievements; the substantive element of the IPA in 2009 and outlines a way forward in light of the changing nature of FAO Reform as we move into the next biennium.

In terms of progress in 2009, very good progress has been made and it is projected that by the end of the year 2009 some 56 percent by number of the IPA actions will have been completed and this, of course, is one year into the original projection of a three year programme. So this is very good news and the supporting information is attached at Figure 1 which follows paragraph 9.

In terms of the project achievements, there have been substantive project achievements in 2009. A new results framework has been developed; a new format and issuance of the Medium Term Plan 2010-2013 and a PWB for 2010-2011. There has been a restructuring of the Headquarters. The Office of Evaluation has been established. There has been an extensive pilot involving over 500 staff of the new staff appraisal system. The Culture Change Team has been very busy consulting very widely across the Organization and has produced an Internal Vision for the Organization and a set of specific recommendations for changes, particularly in the human resources area. There have been amendments to the FAO Basic Texts and a delayering at the Director level of one third; and, in addition to all of this, a comprehensive Root and Branch Review has been conducted of the administrative support arrangements. So these are substantive achievements during 2009.

In terms of the costs of IPA in 2009, these have been subject to ongoing review by Management to reduce these costs - the external funding requirements - whenever possible; to use creative mechanisms and to reduce the cost estimates to a figure of USD 14.27 million or USD 15.27 million including the project support costs.

Furthermore, looking at the situation in terms of the Trust Fund, Management has earmarked certain projects as underpinning the Reform Process and has then sequenced other projects to produce a revised and reduced estimate of those projects of USD 10.5 million, including the project support costs.

Looking at the IPA Trust fund situation, as at earlier this month a total of USD 8.3 million has been pledged and of this USD 8.3 million USD 5 million has actually been received. So, how has Management applied these funds to the IPA projects? Well, Figure 2 at paragraph 29 indicates the project that Management has determined should be earmarked and should be fully funded because they underpin the whole Reform Programme. The first of these is Culture Change, which we believe is fundamental to support reform across the Organization. The second is the Governing Body follow-up, the costs of the Conference Committee meetings etc. without which the Reform could not proceed; and the third are the management cost to follow up. Those three projects were earmarked for funding before looking at the other substantive projects and then these projects were sequenced. Again Figure 2 of paragraph 29 indicates this sequencing and as funds have become available to Management so these projects have been funded and as receipts come in we move further down this list of the sequenced projects.

Moving on to the overall situation with the Trust Fund, we do have a shortfall of USD 5.5 million between the receipts of USD 5 million and the earmarked and sequenced projects of which have a total cost of USD 10.5 million. So at this point in time we are running with a shortfall in terms of receipts of USD 5.5 million.

As we look forward to the planning for 2010-2011 we have made an assumption, an assumption that those earmarked and sequenced projects with a total value of USD 10.5 million will be fully supported by funds received from Member Nations in the IPA Trust Fund. At the moment we have pledges of USD 8.3 million and we have made an assumption that those pledges will all turn into receipts and we are running at a shortfall, in terms of that assumption, by the end of the year of just over USD 2 million – USD 10.5 million being required and USD 8.3 million having been pledged.

As we look forward to the work ahead in 2010-2011 we realize that the nature of the FAO Reform is changing, and changing significantly. We have made major progress in 2009 and much of this progress has been concerned with planning. So the Results-Based Framework, the Medium Term Plan, the Programme of Work and Budget is planning how we will perform as an Organization and how we will respond in terms of the Results-Based Framework in 2010-2011.

Management has a great deal of work ahead of itself in terms of establishing the baseline, establishing the indicators and monitoring its performance against those indicators so that we can report back to the Member Nations in terms of how we have actually performed as an Organization and that is a major challenge for us in 2010-2011.

The Root and Branch Review was a significant project that was completed in 2009. The results of the Root and Branch Review are a series of recommendations of projects which we will be implementing in 2010-2011. So there is a change in focus from 2009 on planning and achieved under a number of major successes in terms of planning to one of implementation in 2010-2011.

Now this implementation will be of a number of major projects which will be implemented in parallel due to the time constraints we face and due to the interdependencies between a number of these projects and that poses risks for Management because running a number of major projects in parallel does have risk implications, particularly so because these projects will impact on the working practices and the routines of staff at Headquarters and also in the Decentralized Offices. So staff will be looking at new ways of budgeting, of managing, new work processes, new human resources policies, new staff evaluation, new administrative services and Management

understands that there is a requirement in terms of the management support for effective support to the project managers on these complex and difficult projects for change management support staff across the Organization and for effective communications during this biennium.

In terms of the funding for 2010-2011, following feedback from the draft Programme of Work and Budget, Management set about to provide cost reductions from those original IPA estimates. Now these cost reductions were not revisions of estimates because they had been estimated incorrectly. The revisions were on the basis of reductions in scope of the actions that were planned, on the basis of extended timelines for the actions planned and on the basis of delays to the start of some of these processes. I just indicated that running a large number of major projects in parallel creates significant risk in the Organization; that we fail to effectively implement those actions. The inclusion of the Root and Branch Review recommendations in the IPA, to form an integrated IPA, heightened those risks and Management in looking at reducing costs therefore did look at reducing scope and extending these timelines with an objective also to reduce the risk of IPA implementation to ensure that with this extended timeline we would have greater possibility of success. So, some examples of these were in terms of the scope, for example, the number of staff to be rotated for the Staff Rotation Policy was reduced from 80 to 25 each year. This brought about savings of approximately USD 6 million in the programme. Timelines were extended, for example, the design of the management information system, originally planned to be delivered in 2010-11 was extended to be delivered from the period 2010 until 2013 and some projects which were originally scheduled to start in 2010 were delayed until 2011, for example, the new planning and budgeting model.

In terms of the funding mechanisms, as has been discussed earlier, Management took the opportunity and was able with these cost reductions to reduce the percentage of funding from Core Voluntary Contributions for the IPA from 80 percent to 50 percent to find a fifty-fifty balance to find funding from net appropriation and from Core Voluntary Contributions.

The Report also contains two annexes and these are also important documents because Annex 1 provides an audit trail of the progress made in 2009 on the IPA as endorsed by the Conference Resolution 1/2008. So this looked back and it gives you the IPA as agreed in 2008 by Conference together with Management's progress and projected progress by the end of 2009 against that version of the IPA. Annex 2, in contrast, includes now the integrated IPA with all of the Root and Branch Review recommendations and provides a detailed listing of this integrated IPA and also includes a breakdown by action of all of the costs associated with the programme and indicates whether those actions are to be funded from the net appropriation or from Core Voluntary Contributions. So again, very helpful information as we plan forward for 2010-2011.

So, in brief, good progress has been made in 2009 with more than half of the actions estimated to be completed. Significant achievements have been delivered during 2009 adding great value to the Organization and to the prospects for successful implementation in 2010-2011 of the remainder of the IPA programme. Management has undertaken reviews consistently throughout 2009 to reduce the requirements for external funding but there remains a shortfall in terms of our planning assumptions for 2010-2011 of just over USD 2 million between the pledges and the requirements and of course, in terms of the receipts there is a shortfall in 2009 of USD 5.5 million.

As we move forward to 2010-2011 we will be changing our focus from planning to implementation with a small number of large and very complex projects and in terms of funding, in effecting the cost reduction from USD 59.9 million to USD 38.6 million, as you see in the Programme of Work and Budget document, Management has also sought to rebalance some of the risks and ensure a more effective delivery of the entire IPA across the extended timeframe.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you David, for a very clear report. I think the report is a very good report, both in showing all achievements, your achievements during this year, the current year and also looking forward and showing the way ahead for the next biennium. And especially the two annexes are very useful

and they will answer lots of detailed questions which you might not find in the body of the report. Thank you for this introduction and now the floor is open for your contribution.

Norway and United Kingdom and the established list Afghanistan, China, Kenya. Norway you have the floor.

Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Thank you very much Mr Chair. Yes, it is a very good report and my delegation certainly appreciates the work that has been laid down to give us this wealth of information and good information. But in the Secretariat's introduction there was a little warning in itself saying that when we are talking about the 56 percent of actions completed, that is strictly a number and nothing more. This is not a weighted assessment of the process, of the Reform Process is going on. In my intervention yesterday, I pointed out a number of serious risks for the Reform Process and I think the Implementation Report in itself highlights quite a few of those risks in a very substantial way and, in the Secretariat's presentation, they have been pointed out. Let me just repeat a few things from yesterday's intervention.

It is the Results- Based Management system which, when you look at the matrix on page 9, has a fairly high degree of completion. It looks like that but we all know but that is not the fact. We lack the baseline and the associated time lines that give the baseline, I mean the indicators, the benchmarks, the whole thing. So this is what the platform of the whole Reform Process, the Results-Based Management System with the connected monitoring system that we need for that and the assessment and evaluation system is really not in place, and we have to keep that in mind. I will not go on at length with the many points that you find in the Report that raise questions. When you go back to the annex, which I agree with the Chair, which are very good annexes full of information, and look at the action groups and their reports and their completion you will see that when we dig into that we will meet a lot of problems in the Reform Process. One is item IPSAS which is fundamental for the efficiency of the Organization, another is Oracle and I can tell you, Mr Chairman, that the problems we will meet when implementing IPSAS and revamp Oracle and the whole FAO information system which is very much underestimated in over-planning and in this Report, and we should have that in mind all of us, then we know embarks in the next two years of Reform work.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. Before I read the List of Speakers I want to emphasize one major point and that was, a still more than USD 2 million gap between the pledges and the minimum requirement for implementation of IPA in the current year. I hope that we hear some good news today that indicates that we are closing that gap. With this, I shall read my Speakers' List. It is United Kingdom, China, Afghanistan, Kenya, Canada and Tanzania. And I invite United Kingdom to take the floor.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. We would just like to ask that the floor be given to Sweden as Presidency of the European Union. Thank you very much.

Peter NILSSON (Observer for Sweden)

Thank you Mr Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EC welcomes the IPA Implementation Progress Report. It is clear that the effort undertaken by the Management and staff of the Organization as well as by its Membership is substantial and that it will have profound and positive effects for the work of FAO in the future. The EC particularly appreciates the open and transparent process, i.e. the CoC-IEE, through which much of the work has been conducted thus far. In particular, the EC notes the improved trust between

Member States and between Member States and Management, which will be most valuable for the future of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, we note with satisfaction that a vast majority of IPA actions are already underway and that 132 actions, or 56 percent, are due to be completed by the end of 2009. This bodes well for the continued Reform Process.

The EC welcomes the work that has been undertaken with regard to enhancing FAO's partnerships and to furthering the process of Culture Change within the Organization. These tools, one external and the other of more internal nature, are both of vital importance as the Organization positions itself to fulfilling its mandates in the future. The EC encourages the Management, as well as the Governing Bodies of FAO to stay abreast of and to pursue further positive developments.

The EC acknowledges that the cost for IPA-implementation in 2009 has been further reduced to USD 14.27 million and that the estimated cost of implementing the earmarked and sequenced IPA-actions for 2009 are USD 9.83 million. In this context we note with satisfaction that the gap between cost and funding has narrowed. The full funding of the Trust Fund is vital for the continued Reform of FAO. Furthermore, with a view to maintaining a broad ownership of the Reform among FAO Member Nations, it is important that the funding comes from as many countries as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sweden, speaking on behalf of EC. Now I invite Canada to take the floor, to be followed by Afghanistan. Sorry China, not Canada, to be followed by Afghanistan.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you very much Mr Chair. First of all I would like to thank the Secretariat for this very detailed report on IPA implementation. In the Chinese translation it is top flight - excellent job. And now I would like to make a few comments on this Report, and on this Item. First of all Mr Chair, I do feel that the IPA is, I think, one of the most ambitious ones in the whole UN System. This Reform encompasses so many different aspects and features and is well structured, I would add. Therefore, we support the pursuit, the continuation of this Reform Process.

Second, Mr Chairman, I feel that we should pursue the direction of this Reform and respond to the expectations of developing countries in this regard. The Reform should also be a benefit to the development of agriculture throughout the world, and strengthen the efficiency and accuracy of endeavours undertaken in that sense.

Thirdly, Sir, with respect to the funding or financing of the IPA implementation, we have to place the stress on the principle of Voluntary Contributions. We are not in favour of its funding being done on the basis of the Scale of Assessed Contributions.

Fourth point, Sir, according to the proposals made by the Secretariat finding the funding would be split between regular contributions or Assessed Contributions and Voluntary Contributions we would support the fifty-fifty split in their regard because such a split or such a distribution of funding sources would take into consideration the relationship between work included in the Regular Programme and the Reform Process, and would foster the implementation and carrying out of what are considered priority activities.

Mr Chairman, by way of conclusion I would like to point out that we have to improve the efficiency of the Reform itself because the implementation of the IPA must not be postponed and hence the importance of efficiency gains and savings. No delays therefore. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you China. I now invite Afghanistan to take the floor to be followed by Kenya.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Generally speaking, the implementation of the IPA as mandated by Resolution 1/2008 of the Thirty-first Session of the Conference has been fairly successful despite resource constraints. As mentioned in the Report, out of the 235 actions, 56 percent will be completed by the end of 2009 and hopefully most of the remaining 44 percent will be completed in the biennium 2010-2011, pending the adequacy of resources. As mentioned in Part 2 of the Report, progress has been made in most areas and particularly in the three major components of the results-based programmatic architecture, i.e., the Strategic Framework, the MTP and the new model for the Programme of Work and Budget. Other notable areas of progress have been in human resource management, better understanding between the Membership and Management through the CoC-IEE mechanism, Decentralisation, the creation of an Evaluation Division with greater autonomy, Culture Change, layering exercise, attempts at staff rotation, administrative efficiency and effectiveness, and changes in the Basic Texts.

The 2009 cost estimate of the IPA has been a moving target starting from close to USD 20 million and now reduced to USD 14.27 million and the Trust Fund has now reached USD 9.83 million excluding PSA. These downward revisions are due to the modifications in original parameters, efforts by Management to further reduce the cost of the Reform measures and the cost and savings of the Root and Branch Review. Meanwhile, as of 2 September, pledges to the Trust Funds come to USD 8.3 million of which virtually 8 million have been received. So the resource gap in the Trust Fund still remains. With a clue from the Report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees, Management has revised the total net estimated cost of the IPA for 2010-2011 by introducing four modifications: 1) extending the implementation period of the IPA from 3 to 5 years, ending of 2013 instead of 2011 as originally planned.

This time extension may reduce risks; 2) integrating the cost and saving of the Root and Branch Review recommendation in the IPA plan for 2010-2011; 3) on the basis of further review proposing a sharp reduction of 35 percent in the total cost estimate for 2010-2011 which now stands at USD 38.6 million as compared with the original estimate of USD 59.8 million; 4) sharing the revised cost estimate, half and half, between Net Appropriations and Core Voluntary Contributions. This reduction in estimated cost has undoubtedly affected the Reform effort in some areas, as described in paragraph 115 of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. For example, staff rotation in 2010-2011 will be cut from 80 to 25, a very drastic reduction indeed.

We agree with the four modifications introduced by Management, and wish to support the cost estimate of USD 38.6 million as stated in Table 3 of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. As I mentioned yesterday, we think the 50/50 percent spread of the total cost of IPA with the Net Appropriations and Core Voluntary Contributions is an acceptable compromise. With the revised estimate, the share of the IPA funding from the assessed budget will be 2 percent of the Net Appropriation before the cost increase compared with 1.3 percent in the Programme of Work and Budget that was submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees in July. That is an increase in absolute amount of close to USD 7.5 million. Due to the importance of IPA, the Membership must strike a compromise on the funding mechanism of the IPA. Everyone agrees that delays in implementation will be detrimental to the Reform of FAO. On 17 September, the three Working Groups reviewed the way forward in the CoC-IEE Report to the Conference on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. The text submitted right now in paragraph 32 resembles the one that we discussed on September 17. The three Working Groups made good suggestions for improvement and Management also brought up some good points. The text was then revised by the Secretariat of CoC-IEE, and once again was discussed last Friday by the three Working Groups. However, no consensus was reached on the famous paragraph 72 which still is to be discussed this coming Friday. The second point is the Decentralisation, therefore we consider paragraph 32 of CL 137-8 as an unfinished business. We look forward to a consistent consensus of the financing mechanism of IPA for 2010-2011.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Afghanistan. Now I invite Kenya to take the floor to be followed by Canada.

Gideon M. NDAMBUKI (Kenya)

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to commend FAO Management for the effort and achievement made toward the implementation of IPA this year. We support the IPA as the basis of FAO renewal in order to make it more efficient and effective. As mandated by the Thirty-fifth Special Conference, Management has done considerable work. We note that fifty-three (53) actions are already completed. The task ahead seems challenging as 132 actions have to be completed in the next three months. This is also against a budget shortfall of about USD 3 million. We share Management's optimism that the funds required to fully implement actions earmark for this year will be availed by the Membership and encourage them to rise to the occasion. We have noted that it is difficult to implement reforms in 2009 due to the challenge of funds. This matter needs to be handled in a decisive manner, even as we finalise the funding of the work of the Organization for the next biennium. We feel that it is important to set aside budget purposely for the Reform. We also further encourage Management to continuously explore opportunities that further reduce the cost of IPA where possible. We note that IPA actions from 2010 onwards will be large and complex and this indeed will present significant pressure on the Management alongside other biennium activities. We add that the momentum of reform be maintained. We note that action of 2010 and beyond will have significant impact, particularly on the entire human resource reforms. In this process, it is important to ensure that the technical strength of the Organization is not negatively affected. The issue of follow-up to the IPA implementation from 2010 and beyond and the need to maintain the current enthusiasm and the momentum is also key. For this appropriate measures therefore need to be in place. We are encouraged that the Conference Committee is already putting some thought for proposals in this.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, distinguished representative of Kenya, and I invite Canada to take the floor to be followed by Tanzania.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Thank you to the Vice Chair of the Reform Support Group. Canada very much wishes to salute the commitment of staff who have made the reforms today possible and we wish to also thank them for their accomplishments on behalf of all of us.

I would like to focus more on the future Reform in 2010-2011 starting with the Director General's address of this morning where he identified Reform as the top priority for 2010-2011. To Canada stating that, has a very direct corollary, if something is a top priority you fund it fully. We believe that there was an agreement to supplement the 2009 Regular Budget with the Trust Fund and extra-budgetary finances to cover Reform investment cost in 2009 as part of a general understanding and indeed a bargain involving Members and Management that in 2010-2011 Reform funding would not be contingent on Voluntary Funds. The proposal that was first put to us and now even the 50/50 proposal raised serious concerns about the commitment to Reform and risks undermining the trust that has been built up in the last two years. This Reform versus programme activities is and always has been a false trade-off. Making FAO an efficient, effective and respected international organization will translate into more funding. Even the promise of Reform led to more Regular budget and extra-budgetary funds to FAO, for the 2008-2009 biennium saw a massive increase in the Regular Budget, 21 percent in USD terms, I believe it was 17.5 percent in mixed budget in US dollars/Euros at a time when inflation was running somewhere between 1 and 3 percent. By any definition, that constitutes growth. Indeed I recall the Director-General himself welcoming the largest budget increase in the UN System for the FAO. In that budget, we, the Members, paid a second time for 200 posts on the basis that they were vacant. That is no different in creating 200 additional posts, that is growth. Also, recently the Director-General issued a Press Release welcoming 2009 as the best year ever for extra-budgetary funding to FAO. It stands to reason that major funders will be happier giving money to a top

performer and despite the real progress made in 2009, FAO still has a long way to go. I think we collectively should set a goal that all Member Nations perceive FAO to be a top performer in the UN System and beyond, by the 2011 agreed deadline for IPA reforms.

Canada understands that some Root and Branch review items have an implementation period that goes beyond 2011 and this is okay. What is not okay, is the hold of form hostage to the receipt of still more extra-budgetary funds, even after FAO was put on a solid growth trajectory already as of January 2008. Those in the Reform Support Group need and deserve to plan and to implement, secure in the knowledge that the money is there. The only way to do that is through using the Regular Budget. The alternative 50/50 means that we the Member Nations and Management risk spending too much of 2010 and 2011 debating the priorities within the IPA and possibly arguing over sequencing. We already know what that is like, we spend much in 2009 doing it. The implementors of these reforms within Management deserve certainty and if they constantly have to adjust their plan because extra-budgetary plans were to fall short, it risks demoralisation. Member Nations have said that the IPA is a package, to be implemented in full. The only way to ensure that, restore trust and keep us all moving forward together is to cover 100 percent of the IPA costs in the Regular budget. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Tanzania to take the floor to be followed by Chile.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Thank you Mr Chairman. My delegation wanted to thank Management for the reports on the achievement made during 2009 in the implementation of the IPA. Very important actions to transform FAO to Member's expectations are now contained in the Strategic Framework and more specifically through the eleven Strategic Objectives.

Mr Chairman, from the afore-going discussions since yesterday there is still work to anchor the started actions on a stronger foundation. I may cite some areas where we urge the stronger capacity for building Decentralized Offices. There is another area which is to strengthen the partnership at the regional and country levels. Much of which has been done has been strengthening the partnership for the Rome-based UN Agencies.

Another area is the Culture Change. The Culture Change project has been about the open-minded uptake of the reform momentum by the FAO staff. It is therefore important to put a managerial focal point for Culture Change. We support that it will be streamlined in the various activities or Departments but it may get lost in the entire process.

Mr Chairman, we do appreciate the fourteen projects and the sequence in which it has been unilaterally undertaken by Management. They have been discussed extensively by Members in the Conference Committee. Much has been noted in particular in funding these actions because of the slow pledging by Member Nations, there were numbers of countries who have pledged and the paying in the Trust Fund has not been forthcoming as we should have wished. I hope, Mr Chairman, that the Trust Fund is still open until the end of the year. Therefore, I would remind you that all Members are still committed to the Trust Fund and in particular to the implementation of the IPA and the remaining sequenced projects which are seen to be completed this year.

On this remark, I would like to thank the Chairman, now the Chairman of the Council, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Conference Committee for being pro-active and engaging various champions for trying to get funds for implementation for the IPA through the Members.

Mr Chairman, planning for 2010 and 2011 assumes that the 2009 sequenced activities will be fully funded. Yet there is still about USD 2 million which is needed but we do not know, this amount may not be realized and I think in this meeting we would like to know what will happen in the following biennium if this amount is not realized.

We agree to the cost reductions which have been made to the IPA costs now at a rate of USD 80 million and we go along with the realities which have been used in order to arrive at this amount.

As we have said, mostly and mainly, we in the Africa Group, including also the G-77, that we support the two twin track of funding the IPA by a 50/50 approach. This is an approach which you will see will work and any other proposal which will go along to cut down the pragmatic areas so the programmes will not be accepted by the Africa Group.

Mr Chairman, the 50/50 approach depends on the willingness of the Members. We should note that all sources of funds to fund the IPA bears risks whether they are in the Assessed Contributions or in the Trust Fund. How many times have we seen that funding for the programmes and the Assessed Contributions have not been possible because Members who have pledged have not been able to pay in time and this has forced to borrow money elsewhere?

We should avoid double standard judgement; all the programmes are important but are funded on a dual basis. In fact, some of the important programmes, if you see for the coming Programme of Work and Budget there are a lot funded from the Voluntary Contributions, but we keep quiet and we do not say anything. I think we should avoid this picking on just only one item. I think we need to look at the FAO work as one package, as a programme.

Mr Chairman, I would conclude saying that there is very high trust among Members towards the Reform of FAO, this I have seen during the past two years and I can see that we move together. That is why we have been able to come up with this work which is being presented today. I trust we have consensus on this issue.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. I invite Chile to take the floor to be followed by Zimbabwe.

Sergio INSUNZA BECKER (Chile)

Gracias Señor Presidente, mi delegación también desea felicitar a la Secretaría por el informe que está muy completo y contiene todas las informaciones que son necesarias para evaluar cómo se sigue el proceso de aplicación de implementación del Proceso de Reforma, nosotros pensamos que es muy importante tener siempre presente que, el objetivo de la reforma no es un objetivo finalizado a si mismo, sino que se propone mejorar la Organización para que cumpla mejor su mandato.

Podría ser útil que, en el futuro se informe sobre la implementación de la Reforma; poder incluir y no limitarse solamente a qué si una medida ha sido o no ha sido cumplida, sino de qué manera esta medida ha cumplido con su aplicación, que se refleje en mejorar la eficiencia y el mejor cumplimiento del mandato de la FAO. Eso sería útil para que nosotros nos vayamos dando cuenta de cómo este proceso se refleja en las actividades de la FAO.

Nosotros pensamos que para hacer más eficiente a la FAO hay dos elementos que tienen una importancia relevante. Una se refiere a la estructura de la Sede y otra a la estructura Descentralizada de la FAO. Ambas requieren ser reformadas en manera tal de adecuarse a las necesidades de la mejor manera posible. Entendemos que así lo hemos dicho también ayer; que es un proceso en curso, que debemos continuar examinando y que sobre todo en el caso de la Descentralización, es necesario continuar con la delegación de facultades y funciones pero también con asignación de recursos adecuados.

Al igual que otras delegaciones, la nuestra manifiesta su preocupación por los aspectos relacionados con el financiamiento del Plan Inmediato de Acción. La situación del presente año no es una situación que nos haga estar optimistas lamentablemente, pero pienso que habría sido útil haber podido recibir hoy una tabla del estado de las contribuciones y este problema se plantea también para el futuro, incluso con la propuesta de financiamiento 50-50 que ha hecho la Administración, ya que una vez más una buena parte de las actividades del Plan Inmediato deberán recibir Contribuciones Voluntarias para su financiamiento.

En todo, caso cualquiera sea la solución que se busque para esto, nosotros queremos insistir, así como fue planteado ayer por el Grupo de los 77 y otras delegaciones, que en ningún caso los recursos que se destinen del Programa Regular al financiamiento del Plan Inmediato de Acción

puedan afectar el Programa Técnico de la FAO. Mi delegación por su parte continuará prestando su máxima colaboración en este proceso.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Chile and invite Zimbabwe to take the floor to be followed by Indonesia.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements that have been made by those speaking as G-77 regions on behalf of those regions, for example, China, Afghanistan, Tanzania, the Vice-Chairperson of the Reform Committee and Chile, and others who have contributed to this debate.

Yes, we do see that many people have different aspirations and different views in this Reform Process. But my delegation shares the view that was advanced by China on this matter, so I need not go into detail because it is already on record. We do acknowledge the concerns that have been raised by others, for instance from the European Group, Canada and many others, but maybe where we differ is on the way to solve the problem and this is what we would like to contribute to.

My delegation sees the IEE as a child born out of Voluntary Contributions right from day one and since then all Members have come on board and contributed in cash and kind. So we all believe we own this property in one way or another. We have started discussing the way to find a way forward and on this my delegation associates itself with a statement that was tabled yesterday by the Chair of the G-77.

We welcome the Report that has been tabled today by the Reform Committee and we are encouraged by the efforts that have been made to meet certain targets set in the IPA, despite lack of adequate resources and also despite some delays that were inevitable due to the outcome of the Root and Branch Review. The many complex processes that have been implemented at once show commitment to change on the part of both the staff of the Organization and the Membership. Implementing the IPA was indeed a mammoth task that could have only been achieved through total commitment by all. My delegation wishes to commend you all for the role you have played in helping us to achieve this much success.

We extend gratitude to those who have contributed in cash to the Trust Fund in 2009 but we further urge those that have made pledges to fulfill their commitment and indeed, those of us that are yet to contribute to continue to do so because the Trust Fund is still open. In the same vein, we believe that the IPA should continue to be a priority commitment that we should all support in cash and in kind. The success of the entire Reform package is at stake unless the necessary resources are obtained. We appreciate the need to sequence the main actions for 2009 if only to accommodate the limitations we had which I have already articulated. But we also realize that it means being committed to finding the necessary resources without jeopardizing the impact of the reforms at the organizational level and without necessarily jeopardizing the programming of the reforms.

For these reasons, my delegation will support any sequencing that will enable us to achieve the results within the agreed Reform period, realizing that the implementation of some elements may delay, but would still be implemented within the timeframe targeted for the reforms. We may need more assurances from the Management to guarantee when and how programming is to be adjusted, how far the new timelines may need to be revisited in the 50/50 projection, and which Reform aspects are likely to be affected, if any.

This may not be to the liking of us all but, throughout the year, we have handled more delicate matters with ease and I believe that the last step should not be a hurdle which we cannot manage if we put our minds to it. It requires that same commitment that we started with. We have appealed to the Reform Team to give us pointers from time to time to enable us to engage in the discussions and we believe in the same spirit we can continue to find ourselves in unison as we implement the 50/50 formula.

Like Tanzania has implied, many programmes are being implemented from Voluntary Contributions and from the Assessed Contributions and sometimes they are being delayed because the resources are not there. So delays are not necessarily related to Voluntary Contributions alone, delays are also associated with other regular programmes.

Those arguing for more certain means of financing the IPA have drawn to our attention the uncertainty that is associated with this new integrated budget, because many core programmes for food security are heavily dependant on such funds, for instance, I know Strategic Objective A is only obtaining less than 10 percent from the Regular Budget but the rest is coming from the extra-budgetary resources. We fear that the Organization is endangering core programmes that are critical to increasing productivity. We would wish to have this addressed.

If the countries that contribute to the voluntary budget have no faith in it, the Management should prepare risk management of all organizational resource that depend on such resources so that at least the Membership is kept abreast. Because my idea was an integrated budget and the steps that we are moving to are for us to try and get more trust in integrating extra-budgetary resources and assessed resources. The IPA is one such test. Therefore, if we can come forward and say we do not trust ourselves in this relationship then I really wonder what the fate of the whole PWB shall be.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. I invite Indonesia to take the floor. And is there any other request for the floor? To be followed by Australia.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

First of all I would like to thank the Management for their full commitment in the accomplishments of the tasks assigned to them. We welcome the work that has been undertaken and we think the progress of the IPA activities achieved so far is satisfactory. The Management has made good progress in implementing the IPA actions with 53 IPA actions which have been concluded and hopefully 132 actions will be concluded at the end of 2009.

Mr Chairman, we have been listening to arguments and statements from distinguished delegations since yesterday and my delegation feels that the issue of programme prioritization has become of utmost importance for all of us in deciding the budget allocation.

We know that we cannot change FAO in one night, hence it is advisable that the Programme and Finance Committees could perhaps advise us on priorities and its timeline of implementation that could be agreed upon by all Members.

We all know that the financial crisis is not over yet, and some countries have to cut their budget because of these circumstances. However, we also believe that we have been working very hard for the last two years to build a global system which will enable us to avoid the food crisis and, in the end, help the world to reduce the number of hungry and hopefully reach the target of the Millennium Development Goals which have been agreed by all leaders of all nations.

We have to improve the process of the Reform itself in order to reap effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of action and programme. To delay our collective constructive effort would be detrimental to the Reform Process that we are now undertaking. My delegation is of the view that we are at the point of no return in our efforts to reform FAO and for that reason we want to strongly urge all of us to show our flexibility and understanding in coming to a concrete recommendation in which our Ministers could agree in the Conference.

FAO has existed for more than 50 years now and many of us have benefited from its existence. Let us open our minds and hearts to get to a consensus because millions of hungry people are waiting for our decision to help them survive.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Indonesia and invite Australia to take the floor to be followed by Chad.

Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you Mr Chair. Australia too supports the work of Management and Members on reforms and we associate ourselves very strongly with the comments made by most delegations here, I think it would be fair to say about the tremendous efforts that FAO has gone to implement these reforms. I mean there is no disputing the fact that this is a major change for a large Organization and regardless of which country you come from whether it is developed or developing, changing a large Organization is never easy. So absolutely I commend the Organization for the efforts it has gone to. Also, I note, as the Director-General mentioned this morning, the tremendous leadership of the CoC-IEE and while I have not been a Member for very long, I have noticed the very hard work of its Members plus knowing that it is hard for the Members as it is for the Secretariat and the Organization itself, so absolute support to the Secretariat for its efforts there.

As we mentioned yesterday, these reforms are of the highest priority for Australia. I would like in this moment to associate my comments with some of the comments from Chile on the need to better understand how these reforms have been implemented, not just an analysis of the number that have been implemented. I think that would be very useful exercise to undertake. I also listened very carefully throughout the morning today and yesterday on this issue and wonder whether there is one issue that perhaps we have not quite answered yet. It seems very much that there is a view that these IPA reforms actually come at the expense of the FAO's programmes. Now I guess I question that sentiment. We see this issue really quite differently. I see it as an investment in those programmes. You know what we are talking about here is a relatively small investment in the future of the FAO's programmes. You know, no one can argue that it is like an investment, the earlier you can make an investment, the more valuable it becomes over time. So I see this as quite a small cost that we should be looking at implementing. As the Ambassador for Tanzania noted, nobody wants to undertake Reform for the sake of reform. That is a pointless exercise. We do this to deliver programmes better. So I think that these reforms are done for the benefit of all Members and I really see that there is no alternative then for the costs to be shared among all Members according to the usual process. I really do think that the cost of these reforms over the long-term of the Organization and what we are trying to achieve, really pale into insignificance compared to the benefits they can deliver and the work we are trying to do. I associate with the comments that a number of others have made about the fact that this is an important issue, a difficult issue and that needs to be dealt with. But I guess we also need to focus on our main business of the FAO. So I think we should try to reach a resolution on this issue. I see it this is a very important one for me. But I see that it is something we need to move on with.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Australia. I invite Chad to take the floor to be followed by Switzerland.

Mme Fatimé Issa RAMADAN (Observateur du Tchad)

Ma délégation et moi-même, nous joignons nos voix à celles qui nous ont précédées pour saluer ce travail et remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué à la réalisation de ce rapport. En ce qui concerne la discussion des PIR (Programmes intérimaires renforcés) sur le PAI (Plan d'action immédiate) par rapport à son financement, le Tchad pense que ce problème, ce concept nouveau vient à point nommé. Il faut bien que l'Organisation évolue et, si nous sommes tous d'accord sur le fait que l'Organisation doit évoluer, cela met en exergue deux acteurs: les États Membres, d'un côté, et les contributions volontaires, de l'autre. Quand on parle des contributions volontaires, cela veut dire qu'il y a un aspect facultatif et aléatoire et donc pas d'obligation mais, en revanche, les États Membres ont une obligation, ils ont une responsabilité.

Le Tchad pense, qu'à l'instar des financements ordinaires venant des pays membres, les États Membres doivent, en principe, prendre cent pour cent. Nous avons un problème et on doit réfléchir à une autre solution par rapport aux retards des paiements. Les arriérés que nous comptons est un autre problème, mais au-delà de cent pour cent, il est tout à fait normal que, par rapport à la proposition de la Direction générale sur le cinquante pour cent, les États Membres doivent contribuer à hauteur de quatre-vingt pour cent parce que cela incitera ainsi les volontaires

à contribuer de manière efficace, car les premières personnes concernées sont d'abord les États Membres.

C'est une Organisation, dont une grande partie des États Membres ont, comme nous le savons, tiré profit. Par rapport au Tchad par exemple, dans les pays d'Afrique en perpétuelle déstabilisation, la FAO joue, à plus d'un titre, un rôle très important. Donc, à quatre-vingt pour cent, *plus* que les Donateurs Volontaires parce qu'on va obliger ceux qui volontairement doivent contribuer et quand ils se rendront compte que l'Organisation est efficace et fonctionne à plein temps, ils feront *plus*. Donc, soit nous voulons donner une part égale à cinquante pour cent ou sinon, on dit que seuls les volontaires doivent le faire à cent pour cent et là, je pense que nous empruntons une fausse route. Pour qu'on puisse arriver à nos objectifs, il faut que les États Membres aussi donnent à quatre-vingt pour cent, les vingt pour cent, on les laisse, même si on a plus de cent pour cent, il y a le budget supplémentaire et la FAO pourrait utiliser le surplus pour d'autres actions.

J'avais soulevé tout à l'heure le problème de retard des paiements qui engendre les arriérés. Je m'interroge: est-ce qu'au niveau de la FAO il ne pourrait pas y avoir un mécanisme d'alerte et de suivi parce que chaque État, à chaque réunion se focalise sur un problème et quand chacun repart chez soi, il y a d'autres problèmes qui surgissent de manière régulière pour le fonctionnement de nos États. Pourquoi n'y aurait-il pas un système de mécanisme d'alerte et de suivi au niveau central de la FAO qui puisse avertir les États Membres peu avant l'échéance de versement des cotisations. Je pense que pour le Tchad, ce mécanisme au niveau de la FAO s'impose pour réveiller les États, et ainsi éviter qu'ils ne se reposent sur leurs lauriers et oublient sous prétexte qu'ils appartiennent à diverses organisations.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Chad and invite Switzerland to take the floor, please.

Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse se félicite des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate en 2009. Ceci dit, le processus de réforme n'est pas achevé et il doit être poursuivi avec la même détermination au cours des deux prochaines années. Pour nous, la Réforme doit être la priorité de la FAO au cours du prochain biennium 2010-2011. Dans ce contexte, une attention particulière devra être accordée à l'établissement de priorités. Nous sommes également en faveur du développement de la réalisation d'une stratégie en matière de partenariat ainsi que de la mise en place d'une Décentralisation effective et l'instauration d'une stratégie des ressources humaines permettant une gestion efficace basée sur des résultats.

La Suisse a fourni cette année une contribution au financement du Plan d'action immédiate. Pour le biennium 2010-2011, nous partageons l'avis exprimé par de nombreuses délégations que le financement devrait être garanti par le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Switzerland and invite Brazil to take the floor be followed by Denmark.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Thank you, Chairman, and like others I would like to thank the presentation of the document which we think is very complete. As we have stressed yesterday, Brazil shares the view that the implementation of the IPA must be fully achieved and financed without prejudice to the delivery of technical programmes of the Organization. Member Nations have decided during the Thirty-Fifth Conference to finance the IPA implementation during this year through Voluntary Contributions. Unfortunately, as confirmed by the DG himself and Mr Benfield, we have been confirmed that the total amount necessary for the implementation of the first phase of 2009 has not been reached. Postponing the implementation of IPA recommendations has never been a satisfactory option but it seems that Management had no alternative. In this regard, the recent reduction of estimates of costs for 2010-2011 have certainly demonstrated this, and we applaud

the efforts of the administration, in order to put in place a plausible sequencing to the IPA, reducing risks and maximising results expected to be in place.

Due to the complexity and comprehensiveness IPA implementation is a process that would produce results in the short, medium and long-term. Some measures have already entered into force. We still have some unfinished business in the CoC under the Chairman's very able leadership, and I would like to point only two of them. One is decentralisation, and two is agreeing on the final touches of the Council Reform. Time and financial resources are needed to implement this very ambitious plan in its entirety. That is why we favour the 50/50 finance proposal. This is an issue that we consider will be more thoroughly discussed as we finalize the PWB for the next biennium. As my delegation has mentioned yesterday and Zimbabwe has emphasized today, Member Nations must be consistent in the integration of Regular budget and Voluntary Contributions for all, and I stress, all of FAO's actions. For that, Chairman, I strongly urge all Member Nations to avoid double standards.

Mr Chairman, FAO renewal is an emblematic process aimed at allowing the Organization to face better urgent challenges. It will boost FAO's credibility to remain as the point of convergence in the UN System in dealing with its important mandate in the area of agriculture, rural development and food security. If you allow me, Chairman, I must concur with my colleague from Indonesia saying that FAO Reform is at a point of no return. We recognize, as stressed by our colleagues from the Secretariat, that the Reform will shift focus from planning to action. Our responsibilities as Member Nations after having decided on the IPA on the 2008 Conference and hopefully agreeing on the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan in Conference in November, well our responsibilities will be different, from hands on in shaping the Reform together with Management, we will be managing and exercising oversight on the work of the Secretariat, in implementing what we have collectively decided. The tools for the follow-up will have to be developed. We expect that the Governing Bodies will do their part in supporting the common goal of a stronger FAO together with the Reform Process.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. I invite Denmark to take the floor followed by Morocco.

Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

Thank you Mr Chair. We certainly support the EU statement delivered by Sweden on this IPA Progress Report and we especially support the appraisal of the very good work in the Conference Committee on the IEE under your able Chairmanship. We also note the articulated commitment by Management to support the Reform Process. But as the Root and Branch Review yesterday and also this morning by the Director-General himself was referred to as an almost ultimate authority. It should be noted that the imminent Root and Branch Review team, in their final Report, noted that the Management of this Organization is engaged in a wide range of initiatives frequently diverting them from the priority objective of implementing the Reform Process. As pointed out by several, the Working Groups will on Friday continue the discussions on the important outstanding issues regarding the way forward. One is, of course, Decentralization and the other is still the funding. In many aspects I totally agree with the intervention from Brazil that also the mechanism for securing sufficient oversight in the coming biennium is extremely important. But still the funding issue is very pertinent and, as stated by many yesterday and also this morning, it is of paramount importance that 2010-2011 financing of the IPA will be fully assured by Assessed Contributions.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Denmark and invite Morocco to take the floor please.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Ma délégation se félicite du rythme soutenu que connaît le processus de réforme et notamment la mise en œuvre du processus de réforme (PR). Je saisis cette opportunité pour rendre hommage au

Secrétariat de la FAO pour le dévouement exemplaire qu'il a démontré pour conduire à bon port ce processus fort complexe.

La délégation du Royaume du Maroc n'appuie pas le financement du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) en fonction du barème des quotes-parts. Elle accepte cependant le compromis tendant à une répartition des coûts, cinquante pour cent de budget ordinaire et cinquante pour cent de contributions volontaires.

Pour ce qui est des considérations techniques inhérentes au point précité, ma délégation souscrit pleinement à la déclaration faite dans ce sens par le Zimbabwe.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you Morocco. This brings me to the end of this List of Speakers. Canada is asking for the floor for the second time.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

In the spirit of a dialogue and since this discussion does feed into the one that we have yet to complete, I would just like to point out that the comparison between Voluntary Contributions for the IPA Implementation and Voluntary Contributions for the other programmatic activities of the Organization is perhaps not helpful to our understanding of the problem that I was speaking of earlier. Let me explain just from the view point of the Canadian Government.

First off, when Ministers decide on Voluntary Contributions like any other major spending commitment, our Ministers are faced with myriad pressures. Developing countries are lobbying them directly for development assistance and for humanitarian assistance, and Canada responds, it is a leading donor. International organizations approach us for all range of needs, many directly involving life and death or the attainment of core development objectives as expressed by recipient governments in their capitals, in their plans.

FAO is writing to us about all nature of worthy projects easily understood by our political masters and the general public. It is asking for funding for fighting Avian Influenza, to contain Swine Flu, to rehabilitate Haiti's agriculture after devastating typhoons. FAO will undoubtedly be part of the upcoming flash appeal to rehabilitate the Philippines after its devastating floods.

Now picture the poor official who has to approach a Minister asking for Voluntary Contributions to make FAO work better. The first question would be: But doesn't FAO have a Regular Budget? The next question is going to be: Didn't we just pay an additional USD 1.5 million a year in Assessed Contributions to FAO?

Why should we have to pay more to make FAO work well? Now Canada is glad that others have been able to give to the Trust Fund, but most have not been able. I think that the problem that we face is far from unique. The evidence is there. The Trust Fund only received USD 5 million, as others have noted.

Canada has not been one of those able to give to this Trust Fund for the simple reason that we believe we have already paid with a 21 percent Regular Budget increase. Now, we are not able to go back to Ministers following a budget increase like the 2008-2009 one and ask for more money to implement internal reforms. Now we are happy to go to Ministers on programmatic Voluntary Fund requests and are especially happy to in the future, when we are able to say that FAO has addressed the many problems identified by the IEE.

Canada is already a major contributor of Voluntary Funds to FAO, but it is a tough sell. I, personally, would like it to be a far easier sell.

Let me address the issue of double standard. We simply, again I repeat, we cannot equate requests for Voluntary Funds for the rehabilitation of a country's agriculture after a typhoon, flood or earthquake with a request for funds to implement PEMS or reorganization of the Finance Department. The lack of voluntary funding for Reform is not a cause, and I would like to reassure the distinguished Ambassador of Zimbabwe, the lack of Voluntary Funds for Reform is not a

cause for concern about the assumptions in the 2010-2011 integrated budget because, as was explained to us earlier by Mr Haight, the voluntary funding assumptions for programmatic activities are based on the real contributions received in 2008-2009. Using the same standard, we would not count on more than USD 5 million in voluntary funding for Reform in 2010-2011. I note that even that assumption would be dubious because the simple reality is that the other requests that we are facing are for events directly before us, whereas the momentum that was generated by the IEE and the IPA, we are going to have to work to maintain it.

In short, it is already proving hard, it is even proving hard for us now to maintain the reform momentum given the competing demands of CFS Reform and the preparations for the World Food Summit. So we need to be realistic and again I would just plead for understanding that it is very different to be asking for voluntary funding to fix the inner workings of a UN Organization and the many other requests we get from FAO. The Director-General listed a few of them this morning.

Chris HEGADORN (United States of America)

We have enjoyed this morning's discussion on an issue we see at the heart of FAO's success in the future, potential success, and we wish to associate ourselves with a number of interventions made today. As we have said on numerous occasions through this entire Reform Process, we warmly welcome FAO's transition to a managerial and governance system that reflects the modern era and we support, as we said yesterday quite clearly, full implementation of the IPA at the earliest timeframe and 100 percent of the costs covered under Net Assessments.

We also, picking up on our Swiss colleague's statements, note that reform is of course far from over, it is a continuous process and one which we will be following closely and participating in. In fact we note that there are items still to be completed in this year, including the Root and Branch Review or rather the study of the ODG being done by Ernst & Young which we expect by sometime next month and to be included in discussion of the CoC-IEE.

We wish to associate ourselves with the statements of Canada and several others, particularly on the point made regarding the false juxtaposition by Management between Reform and programmes. As we said yesterday, our own analysis shows that this budget is not a maintenance budget as Management put to us in the first draft of the PWB, and when we challenged that assumption during the joint Programme and Finance Committee in July, it was quickly retracted and you note the word maintenance does not feature in the discussions of Management in the revised PWB.

Our own analysis shows that numerous programmes have cost increases that go well beyond quote, unquote, "maintenance" for staff costs and other costs. So funding reforms from the Regular Budget is, indeed, workable if you work from the assumption that we are maintaining the programme costs, as the Deputy Director-General has stated quite clearly was his intention. The Director-General also this morning spoke about the closing of his mandate, I think those were his words, over the coming biennium and it would certainly be our hope that during this coming period, the coming biennium, reforms will indeed be deep and meaningful so that another 400-odd page IEE is not necessary, and does not distract attention from Members or Management on delivery of services.

It is our view that a great number of the reforms addressed by the IPA and the Root & Branch Review would be normal for any UN Organization, in fact any large organization, and I concur with my Australian colleague's point, that any significant change to the scale that we are looking at is indeed difficult, but the reforms that we are looking at would need to be done anyway. Looking at the IPA, IPSAS is a UN System-wide Reform, public accounting standards, international accounting standards; making staff accountable through a performance evaluation system, it is certainly time for that, it is long overdue; IT upgrades, can you imagine an organization that did not regularly upgrade its IT systems; and certainly efficiencies in its field structure; and the list goes on.

I would leave you with the thought that from June of last year, at the High-Level Conference, here in Rome, January in Madrid, July in L'Aquila, there were decisions made and pledges made where quite a bit of resources have been pledged for food security. Those funds are looking for channels where results can be delivered in a truly effective and transparent manner and we encourage FAO, we encourage all of our colleagues here, to work together closely to make sure that FAO becomes a channel where value is truly delivered.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any other requests for the floor so I invite Management. Ethiopia.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

I join others in expressing my thanks to the Management for the excellent progress report, but I ask for the floor to make a suggestion and, with your permission, if the suggestion is too early, I stand to be corrected.

This is a very important Governing Body and we need to thrash out differences here so that we can go to the Conference with clear recommendations and conclusions so I was wondering whether a Friends of the Chair could be established, with your permission. If you think it is too early then I stand to be corrected.

CHAIRPERSON

In this special issue I do not think we do have many differences, except for the funding. On all other issues I think we are moving in the same direction, we have almost the same views and it is not Reform for the sake of reform, a Reform for making a better FAO, a more efficient and more effective FAO, and this one would be part of our discussion on Item 5 which we have decided to return to, and the possibility of a Friends of the Chair on that, yes it is open and we will decide upon it later.

With this I will go to Management and ask for brief comments and answers to the questions because we are close to end our time.

Before this, we will listen to Congo.

Charles KINZENZE (Congo)

Nous sommes en train de débattre d'une question concernant l'avenir radieux de la FAO, dont beaucoup de pays en développement tirent profit. La République du Congo, mon pays, fait partie des pays bénéficiaires et, grâce à l'intervention efficace de la FAO, le Gouvernement du Congo a mis en œuvre une stratégie qui permet aujourd'hui de redynamiser les secteurs agricoles. Pour parler de la question à l'ordre du jour relative à la Réforme de la FAO, que nous saluons du reste, le Congo souscrit à la proposition du Tchad fondée sur la responsabilisation des États Membres. Cette formule de financement nous paraît efficace et sûre pour couvrir les besoins de financement du PAI (Programme d'action immédiate). Il appartient désormais, à chacun des ses États de revisiter les mécanismes de mobilisation des ressources affectées aux contributions en tant qu'États. C'est vrai que, les grands bénéficiaires sont des pays pauvres, qui accusent aujourd'hui des besoins de financement énormes dans leur budget, mais il y a dans ces pays de l'argent économique doté d'une capacité financière assez grande. C'est pourquoi, j'insiste sur la notion de responsabilisation pour dire que, ces États devraient, par rapport à la nouvelle donne de la réforme, imaginer d'autres mobilisations, d'autres moyens de mobilisation des ressources, si nécessaire, au titre de condensation. Et si les contributions étaient, hier assujetties au budget de l'État, aujourd'hui on doit revisiter pour imaginer d'autres formules de mobilisation des ressources au titre de contributions de l'organisation. Voilà, Monsieur le Président, la proposition que je voulais ajouter à la proposition de la République du Tchad.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Congo. The Members will definitely take into account this request, made by Chad and Congo.

Any other requests for the floor?

Mr Juneja, you have the floor.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Let me start at the outset by saying that Management does not see a competition between the need to reform and the need to implement the Programme of Work in 2010-2011. The Director-General has sought to find a very difficult balance, as he explained in his address today, because Members require services from FAO - services that cannot wait at a time when more than one billion people are hungry and malnourished - and at the same time we need to seize this opportunity for the renewal of FAO, an opportunity to be seized jointly between Management and Member Nations after years of declining real budgets in FAO, as noted by the Independent External Evaluation of FAO that you commissioned before the IEE reached its principal conclusion on Reform with Growth.

So we have to multitask as an organization. We look forward to supporting your further dialogue this week and in the weeks leading to the Conference in this regard.

More specifically on this item, I truly appreciate this opportunity that you have of taking stock of our progress in 2009 and wish to thank you for acknowledging the good progress that has been made this year. It has been our hard work, under the leadership of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General, as well as, of course, your hard work through the Conference Committee and the Committees of the Council.

In fact, if I reflect back to our situation eighteen months ago, at the start of this process, few Members had actually thought we could get this far. Even on actions that have been done without any additional costs such as the many changes in the Basic Texts. Managing for results has been a foundation of our reforms and we are the first to acknowledge that this is largely a process where we have completed the planning stage. We have planned the results framework and we have much to do in terms of implementation - implementation that will require efforts from every programme manager and their teams for development of baselines, for developing monitoring tools, for assessment methodologies and the like. All this will need to be done under revamped organizational arrangements both at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices.

Many Members have recognized that genuine implementation of such reforms takes years. This goes beyond marking the boxes as complete and the genuine outcomes will come from achieving and recognizing the complex inter-relationships between the actions that you see in the rows of the Immediate Plan of Action matrices and in our progress reporting. It will come from mainstreaming change in a new business model for FAO for resource planning, change in programme planning methodologies, in monitoring, in reporting, in developing new relationships for teamwork and in our modalities for internal and external communication, to name just a few things.

Most of these changes are hidden efforts. They are hidden efforts of renewal, largely to be implemented at no extra cost beyond the PWB and, as you have said, this is a continuous process. It is also a very time-consuming process. So I cannot stress enough that the entire PWB is a reform and renewal. That being the case then, we get a fuller appreciation of the scope of the work ahead of us for renewal by looking at the entire package of the PWB and this progress report and its annexes. The commitments that have been articulated in the PWB demonstrate, and will ensure, that there is no return.

Still, within the PWB there are some very ambitious one time activities, including one that was noted by Norway - the implementation of IPSAS - which on its own is a USD 14 million initiative and puts in perspective the effort that is required for its implementation when we compare those resources to the resources put forward for the entire implementation of the IPA in 2010-2011.

Outside the Independent External Evaluation itself, the Root & Branch Review has added initiatives, including some that have been mentioned by Members like the upgrading of Oracle, and the upgrading of FAO's management and information systems. So the question that arises is how we might jointly address the implementation of the renewal and look at the caution and the risks that many of you have alluded to in your interventions. There is a governance responsibility, a responsibility for you the Council and for you the Membership, in this regard. It is noted in paragraph 120 of the IEE Report. It notes, in terms of risks, that the failure of reforms are often found in the mismatch between available resources and over-ambitious goals. Now there have been many interventions today and yesterday on resources, but another question to ask yourselves is whether your expectation of yourselves and of management might be striking an over-ambitious goal for 2010-2011.

In providing your guidance, therefore, on the funding for renewal and the timeframes for implementation and in reviewing Annex II of the Report before you, as well as the reforms that are embedded in every page of the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, the question I put to you is, are we sufficiently ambitious or overly ambitious in maintaining the momentum of reform? Are we risking doing too much too quickly and simply ticking the boxes for the implementation of the reforms?

I would like to turn now to a specific question that was put forward by Afghanistan regarding paragraph 39 of the Report. This concerns the way forward and he rightly noted that there have been some discussions in the Conference Committee in this regard. I wanted to mention that this particular progress report will be an annex of the Conference Committee report to the Conference and we will update this progress report to reflect the deliberations of the Conference Committee. So we will update our final text on paragraph 39 when those deliberations in the Conference Committee are completed.

The Ambassador from Tanzania asked what will happen if the IPA Trust Fund amount, which is now a revised target of USD 10.51 million, that is USD 9.83 million plus PSC, is not attained in 2009. The answer to that may be found in paragraph 29 of the Report which specifically mentions a sequencing of the projects for implementation in 2009 as resources become available. So as the cash contributions from the Trust Fund become available in 2009, the Reform Support Group is releasing resources for the projects moving down this list. If there is a shortfall then those sequenced projects which are low in the list would slip into 2010.

David BENFIELD (Leader of Planning, Monitoring and Reporting, and Vice-Chair of the Reform Support Group)

I would like to respond to one or two specific points and, in particular, the distinguished delegate from Norway raised the point that the 56 percent completion is not a weighted completion and, of course, this is absolutely correct. All actions in the IPA are not equal; some actions are far more complex and lengthy than others. Indeed, if we were 56 percent of the way through the IPA at this point in time we would not be looking at four more years in order to complete the IPA process. So clearly we are not half way through the IPA but we have made very good and substantial progress in 2009.

The distinguished delegate from Tanzania raised the issue of a managerial focal point for Culture Change and at the moment Management is looking at its support arrangements for 2010-2011, which will need to be modified as we move forward to implementation and the Culture Change Team has produced a number of very significant outputs in terms of recommendations and we will make sure that the Management arrangements fully take into account responding to those and taking them forward as appropriate.

The distinguished delegate from Chile, but also I believe from Australia, raised the issue of future reports and indicating, in addition to overall progress, in what way the measures that are being applied improve the efficiency of the Organization or better enable the Organization to meet its mandate and that point is well taken and clearly as we move to fewer, more significant projects,

we will be going into far greater detail in terms of our reporting of the contribution that those projects are making.

There was also, I think, a request from Chile in terms of the Trust Fund situation and is that actually updated as of today. We do have information as of 24 September and I can confirm that the pledges of USD 8.3 million and the receipts of USD 5 million are correct as at 24 September. So that is the latest position that we have. Clearly as this Table I is, updated it is placed on the Permanent Representatives Website.

Finally, a question I would like to respond to from the distinguished delegate from Zimbabwe requesting guarantees from Management on the timelines under the 50/50 arrangements. Now Management will be looking, over the coming months, at providing a 2012-2013 programme for the IPA and this programme will comprise in effect the Root and Branch Review recommendations which continue beyond 2011 and also those other IPA actions for which the timeline has been extended or the start date has been delayed and we will be providing that. Clearly if the funds do not arrive in 2010-2011 then we will need to move some of those projects into 2012-2013. So any programme that we produce for 2012-2013 will be based on full funding in 2010-2011 and if that should not be the case, the 2012-2013 programme would need to be modified.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Benfield. Ms Villarreal, Chair of the Reform Support Group wants to have a few words.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Chairperson, Reform Support Group)

Just very briefly I would like to refer to a comment that a couple of you made, in particular, Australia and the United States of America. Changing a large organization is never easy. We are fully aware of that and in our process of change we consult the worldwide expertise in change and change management and we have been advised that even for the private sector it is very difficult as an enterprise and we are constantly seeing the results of the big reform that General Electric took, which took them no less than six years. So yes, we are very aware. It is not an easy process, but we fully agree with the delegates of Indonesia and Brazil who said we are at point of no return. This is here, it is for real and staff are fully embarked in the process of reform.

I would just like to refer very briefly to one point that was raised by several of you, which is the issue of trust. It is something that we appreciate very much. The IEE referred to issues of problems of trust throughout the Organization and within the Member Nations and now as a product of the Reform Process we see very clearly the increasing trust that you, the Members, have in the Reform Process. You see that it is happening, that you, the Members, have between yourselves, and that you have with Management. We believe that the informal sessions that took place throughout this year have been important in contributing to that sense of trust. They are sessions in which we have been able to listen to your concerns in a very informal and candid way and we have taken note of those and made sure that your concerns are reflecting in the way in which we address change management. So we believe that it is important to continue these informal sessions throughout the next years and, just to reinforce the point, that we are at a point of no return.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Marcela.

Okay we have come to the end of our time. I will try to be very brief in my summing up and again in saying that in Norway it is conclusive and I will only refer to major points of the meeting today.

First of all, the Council welcomed the Report and commended the Management and staff and the CoC-IEE on their highly successful work despite shortfalls in the funding.

Both the Management and the Council put high priority on the Reform and it is a top priority for the Organization.

The Reform Process has improved trust among Members and between Members and Management. Still, continued momentum and enthusiasm by all is a must and it should be prevailing in the future.

Issues that were raised that were of importance to Members are Culture Change; partnerships - future reports should be linked to the efficiency of the Organization and not only explaining what has been done; Decentralization and especially capacity-building in decentralized network; issues related to Council; oversight in the future is important; and finally there are risk elements in IPA, which require caution and special attention in the future.

As far as the funding is concerned, again we have the same situation that we had discussed yesterday, while many countries agree with the 50/50 split in the funds required for the implementation of IPA, others are of the view that the implementation of IPA should be fully funded by Assessed Contributions. Others emphasize that efficiency savings might be a possible way of reducing the cost of the implementation of IPA and the former group said that funding should not be contingent on Voluntary Contributions due to resulting uncertainty which would follow.

We discussed that any option which negatively impacts the Programme of Work of the Organization should be considered as a no option. Some countries, and especially the poor countries, mentioned that aid is necessary for the poor countries for the payment of the implementation of IPA regardless of how we decide to fund it.

It was mentioned that any probably sequencing should be in the agreed timeline and it should not extend the timeline which has already been agreed. Any delay in implementation will be detrimental to the Organization as a whole.

Finally, the Council extended its appreciation to those countries who contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund for 2009.

With this we come to the conclusion of this session of the meeting. Of course, the issue of the funding of the IPA will be continued under Item 5 which we will come back to tomorrow or the day after.

Thank you very much, have a nice lunch and see you at 2.30 pm this afternoon and, by the way, I would ask that this afternoon's session be chaired by Ambassador Muchada, the Vice-Chair of the Council. Thank you very much.

Okay, sorry, there is an announcement also which the Secretary-General wants to make.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are kindly requested to collect mail that has been left at the country pigeonholes at the Korean Documents Desk located at the entrance to the Nordic Lounge. Participants who have not yet registered at the Turkish Registration Centre, located at the entrance to Building A, are requested to do so today. Failure to register will lead to exclusion from the List of Delegates appended to the Final Report of this Session.

The meeting rose at 12:36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:36 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
29 September 2009

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.54 hours
Ms Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 54
sous la présidence de Mme, Mary Margaret Muchada
Vice-président du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14:54 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sra. Mary Margaret Muchada,,
Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONT'D)

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

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

6. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 102nd Session of the Programme Committee and the 128th Session of the Finance Committee (29 July 2009) (CL 137/2)

6. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la cent deuxième session du Comité du Programme et de la cent vingt-huitième session du Comité financier (29 juillet 2009) (CL 137/2)

6. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 102.º período de sesiones y del Comité de Finanzas en su 128.º período de sesiones (29 de julio de 2009) (CL 137/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, the fourth meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Council is now open. The first item on our Agenda this afternoon is Item 6, Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee which was held in Rome in July. The Report is set out in document in CL 137/2.

You recall that some sections of the report are referring to the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 have already been covered under Item 5, so please try not to reopen debate on the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

Before I hand over the floor to Mr Heard who chaired the Joint Meeting in July, I would like to draw your attention to document CL 137/INF/10, Directions for Collaboration Among the Rome-based Agencies which has been tabled for information at this Session of Council at the request of the Joint Meeting held in July this year. And with that, I call Mr Heard to take the floor.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I hope this may well be one of my shorter presentations. You will be very relieved, I am sure, to hear that, as the bulk of the content of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the two committees was covered yesterday in some detail in a discussion under Agenda Item 5. The main one of the other two items that we dealt with was the matter of collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies, and if you glance at the Report, you will see that it is divided into collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies and collaboration on administrative and processing work between FAO, WFP and IFAD. This is partly because these two aspects of collaboration have different histories, but also because of a recognition that they are somewhat different. The second one is collaboration of back-office functions, and when one looks at the possibilities of back-office function collaboration to save money and enhance efficiency in Rome, there is no obvious reason why FAO and the other two should not have a joint travel service, why they should not join up other things of that sort to save money and to take advantage of efficiencies of scale.

The collaboration among Rome-based Agencies is rather different as it talks of future partnerships and ways in which the three organizations might work together in the field and we had a very interesting discussion in the Joint Meeting on both aspects, and also a recognition that whatever is done in the field must be done in the light of the requirements of the government of the country concerned, and therefore, there is no automatic blueprint. There is a possibility of the three

Agencies working together but it might be more effective for them to choose other partners, perhaps even no partners other than the government.

The main message that we received from this was that the efforts towards collaboration are moving ahead, and we wait to see the next step. This is something which the two Committees said they wished to continue to be informed about.

The other Item on the Agenda, Madame Chairman, which was not to do with the Programme of Work and Budget was an item called "The Management of the TCP Appropriation", and this was mainly on the Agenda because of concern expressed by the two committees on the low spend on the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2006-2007. In other words, it was a piece of history, and an explanation was given to us which we asked questions about, and I think eventually realized that the situation had changed. We also recognized that the process of handling the TCP will be very much more based on the decentralized structure of FAO in future and that the situation that arose in 2006-2007 will almost certainly not recur. We concluded by saying that we wished to be kept informed of progress on the way the TCP was spending, as of course it is an earmarked budget within the funds of FAO and it is vitally important that it is fully spent, effectively spent and efficiently spent.

CHAIRPERSON

I now open the floor for intervention by the Members. The List of Speakers is now open.

Astrid JAKOBS DE PADUA (Germany)

Thank you Madame Chairman, it is just to ask to give the floor to Sweden as presidency.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States.

The candidate country to the EU, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Community endorses the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We note that the deliberations in the Joint Meeting focussed on 5 main aspects, including, among others, the comparison between the current PWB and the programmes as included in the new PWB, and the proposed financing of the IPA.

We also note that the Joint Meeting was unable to arrive at any conclusions regarding these issues.

The EC welcomes the work that has been done by the Secretariat with regard to including information in the new version of the PWB 2010-2011 which makes it possible to roughly compare the proposed resource allocations with those in the PWB 2008-2009.

Following from the discussion in the Joint Meeting, the EC takes this opportunity to reiterate our position regarding IPA financing. We remain convinced that the full cost of the IPA should be covered by Assessed Contributions.

The EC welcomes the Secretariat's agreement to provide additional information regarding the category of Core Voluntary Contributions in order to assist further future deliberations.

The EC concurs with the ambition of the Joint Meeting to follow-up the development with regard to Management actions aimed at ensuring maximum utilization of TCP resources.

The EC welcomes the intention of Management to prepare for including the budget chapters concerning the FAO Representatives and the Technical Cooperation Programme in the Strategic Objectives in future budgets, while understanding the limited possibility to achieve this inclusion in the PWB 2010-2011.

Finally, the EC appreciates the discussion at the Joint Meeting on collaboration on administration and processing work between the Rome-based Agencies. We fully support this effort and encourage FAO, WFP and IFAD to search for further areas of cooperation and complementarity.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We also endorse this Report included in document CL 137/2 and as you have already highlighted that we have already discussed the part related to the Strategic Framework Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. Our interventions as the Africa Group still remain the same on this issue. On the issue of the collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies, we note and applaud the progress which has been so far made by the three Rome-based institutions and we appreciate their joint document which they have put out. But we look more for actions. In particular, we look at how they collaborate in the field and in particular the Country Office. I know at country level the collaboration is more than the three, but with other UN Agencies and the other stakeholder at the country level. Madame Chair, we also recognize what happened through the TCP in 2006-2007 that the use of TCP was very very low, so many of the programmes suffered, but we are happy that the spending of funds from TCP has now taken up and we look forward that this will be more enhanced in the coming Programme of Work and Budget, taking the view that TCP funds now will be allocated from Decentralized Offices.

Ms Nancy ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)

Like the previous speaker, the Zimbabwe delegation endorses the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and the Finance Committees, and the comments which we made on some of the provisions which are covered in the earlier meeting yesterday stand, and we are not going to repeat them. We, however, would like to point out that we welcome the Rome-based UN organizations' openness at the acceptance to implement the review recommendation to establish a joint procurement unit in the coming biennium. We look forward to regular updates on this matter. The Report also covers a mode of management of the TCP Appropriation. I would like to indicate that delays in implementing the TCP budgets and amend the capacity-building processes and implementation of projects at country and regional level. To this end, I would like an update on the current position since the meeting was briefed on the events of the 2006-2007 TCP Appropriation. We would also like to know how far we are on the commitments of the 2008-2009 biennium.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, me rallier à la déclaration prononcée au nom du Groupe africain et, comme réponse au défi de la fragmentation du système, le renforcement de la coordination et de la collaboration entre les trois institutions romaines, revêt à notre sens une importance capitale. Ce qui exigerait des relations organiques, non seulement entre les trois Secrétariats, mais également entre les organes intergouvernementaux compétents. S'agissant du Programme de coopération technique, nous souhaitons que les nouvelles dispositions prises soient traduites dans les faits, sans délais.

Abdelaziz M. HOSNI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We would also like to endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. Egypt has fully noted and supports the five topics within the Report. We especially welcome the management of the TCP Appropriations in the context of Decentralization, as from 1 January 2010, since we think and are convinced that it will overcome the delays in the management for such TCPs. Thank you.

José Antonio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Very briefly we would also like to express our satisfaction for the report. I thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for this introduction. We share the views expressed by Tanzania on behalf of Africa that we need to see the management of TCP Appropriation. We very much look forward to what the Joint Meeting is going to be doing in following up the development and implementation of the Decentralization regarding TCP. We are certainly still questioning the fact that we have not seen enough resources being allocated to the Decentralized Offices for them to be able to undertake such a new and heavy responsibility. So, I would like to inquire of our

colleagues from the Secretariat what indeed has happened in terms of appropriation for them, or at least estimates for appropriation for the next biennium regarding this issue. We also very much welcome the directions for collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies and since this was a Report of a meeting that took place in July, I would like to inquire further on the establishment of a Joint Procurement Unit. Maybe our friends from the Secretariat could give us further information on that situation. Regarding the Medium-Term Plan and the Strategic Framework and PWB, we have made ample comments on this but maybe it would not be useless to re-emphasize our willingness to talk to other Members, but for them to understand why we still favour the 50/50 split on the IPA budget. These were the very brief comments that we would have at this stage and the questions posed to the Secretariat.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

I would like to join the previous speaker in endorsing the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. With regard to the two agenda items, Madame Chair, my delegations would like to thank the Secretariat also for the coordination effort and collaboration with the other two Rome-based Agencies, IFAD and also WFP. We are looking forward that this kind of cooperation would improve or strengthen coordination efforts in order to avoid overlapping of work in the same area, especially on food security and on sustainable agriculture development in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on poverty alleviation. Thank you very much, Madame Chairperson.

Mohammed Abdel RAZIG (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

My country endorses paragraph 20, regarding introducing Decentralization into the TCP programme implemented in Member Nations. This is all the more so, since the technical assistance provided by countries has diminished and we should take into account the characteristics of Member Nations, and the characteristics of the agriculture sector, the livestock sector, hoping that this will help provide further technical assistance to all Member Nations. Thank you.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

There might be some points that the Secretariat might be able to respond to as well, but can I just say that thank you for the comments and for your endorsement of the Report. A number of people have said they agree totally with the statement by the Ambassador of Tanzania. I would also like to say that I also agree totally with the statement of the Ambassador of Tanzania. I think he summed up our feelings about the number of the things we said during the Meeting and our feelings about how these things should be taken forward. There was to be a discussion in the Finance Committee on the TCP Appropriation which had not taken place when this Report was written. It may have taken place since then, and it may be possible that this could be covered by a Report of the Finance Committee. I think we probably can.

On the matter of the Decentralization of the TCP, I think we have touched on this in the Report of the Joint Meeting because it came up in the context of this Report we had on the under spin and both Committees were interested. Now it was noticeable at the last couple of meetings, that the Finance Committee was discussing financial issues to do with Decentralization, including the staffing of Decentralized Offices and the flow of funds. The Programme Committee was separately discussing the programming arrangements for handling the TCP programming and I think there is a reason that we should consider bringing these together in the Joint Meeting of the Committee or at least the two Committees meeting together, to discuss them jointly because it is so obviously linked together as part and parcel of the same thing, that we might be able to do a better job as a result of that. But I welcome the comments that have been made on the Decentralization because I think that is the way forward, obviously with the TCP. The greater interest we can see in it through the two Committees, the better. I think those are the only points I can respond to, Madame Chair. Thank you.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

I wanted to comment on some of the questions raised regarding FAO's collaboration with the UN in general at country-level and more specifically with the Rome-based Agencies. There will be an opportunity for the Conference itself to review FAO's work at country level in the report that we will be preparing for the Conference on our follow up to the TCPR, that is the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. This is in follow-up to a Conference Resolution some two years ago. Quite apart from that, again at the global level, FAO plays a very active role in the United Nations Development Group where one of our ADGs is Vice-Chair and we have been actively engaged in the Delivering-as-One Pilots as well. Our work in connection with the UNDAFs has also improved quite noticeably, partly also as a result of our revised methodologies for preparing the national medium-term priority frameworks. With the Rome-based Agencies, specifically, I wanted to also recall that we have food security theme groups with IFAD and WFP to improve our effectiveness at the country level. Turning to the question raised regarding TCP, I can confirm that our rate of expenditure on the TCP has improved satisfactorily since this matter was first raised by the Finance Committee a year-and-a-half ago. This is also partly due to the projects that we have implemented through the TCP in connection with the ISFP, the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices.

With regard to the TCP approvals for 2008-2009, we expect a USD 100 million out of a USD 104 million 2008-2009 appropriation to be identified for approved TCP projects by 31 December 2009. So, here again, we are in good shape in terms of ensuring that the TCP is promptly used for the purposes intended.

Finally, there was a question with regard to the progress on the Joint Procurement Unit. I should mention that this was a specific recommendation of the Root and Branch Review, and we are delighted that it has been positively received by both WFP and IFAD. We are on track to have the Unit up and running by January 2010. It will be hosted by one of the Rome-based Agencies. It will not be FAO for 2010, and we are identifying one staff member per agency to contribute to this project. We have already prepared a Joint Procurement Plan for 2009-2010 and have made considerable progress in harmonising contractual terms and conditions for a number of services which we procure from Headquarters. So, here in synthesis, I would say that there is a positive report to give and we are very much on track in implementing that initiative.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Sorry to take the floor again but as the Moroccan colleague referred to the disintegration of the international system and Manoj has referred to Delivering as One, we should perhaps remind ourselves that we have invented the Friends of one UN Group, so maybe there is another way of helping to bring these things together and looking at way the Agencies work, work increasingly well. Thank you.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Just to follow up on the question that was raised by the Ambassador of Brazil on resources and support to the Decentralised Offices for managing the TCP. First, as you will recall from the Director-General's speech this morning, we are now implementing training of the staff in the Decentralised Offices to take on this responsibility starting in January of next year. In addition, the Programme of Work and Budget proposes that USD 4.7 million in resources are transferred from Headquarters to the Decentralised Offices for providing support services not only to the TCP, but also some of the decentralised services related to the current work of the Office of Coordination and Decentralisation. It is in paragraph 173 of Programme of Work and Budget, and it is based on a workload analysis. Of course, we will have to see how this actually transpires as the work is undertaken but it is being done in a methodical manner to ensure that this responsibility can be carried out. Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

It would appear on this topic the Membership generally will count the report. There were no new issues that were raised except some of the positions that we already know relating to the Strategic Framework, MTP, and the PWB. With particular reference to the financing of the IPA and financing of Decentralisation activities. Membership will count the efforts that are being made in strengthening collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies in particular the establishment of the joint Procurement Unit. This in time, they welcome the Decentralisation of the TCP and some hope that this should eventually be incorporated into the overall Resource Base Framework. The Members also welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat for the smooth management of the TCP appropriation and to maximise the utilisation of the resources in 2008-2009. With that, they endorsed the Report contained in CL 137/2. Unless, I see any other flag, I take it we have concluded the discussion of this topic.

7. Report of the 102nd Session of the Programme Committee (27-31 July 2009)
(CL 137/3)

7. Rapport de la cent deuxième session du Comité du Programme (27-31 juillet 2009)
(CL 137/3)

7. Informe del 102.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa
(27-31 de julio de 2009) (CL 137/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Our next item is Item number 7, Report of the 102nd Session of the Programme Committee of 27-31 July this year, documents CL 137/3 and CL 137/3-Add. 1. On this item, I am pleased to invite here again the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Mr Victor Heard, to introduce this Report and may I again remind the Membership that the Section of the Report of the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan in Programme of Work and Budget have already been presented to the Council under Item 5, so please focus your interventions on the other sections of the Report. As you know, we have not yet concluded Item 5, so those outstanding issues will still be discussed when you come back to Item 5.

May I now call on the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to give us an introduction to this topic. Mr Heard, you have the floor.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I am indeed only here to address the items which were not covered in the discussion yesterday. The only item on the Agenda in fact of the Programme Committee at the last meeting for discussion or for decision was the item on the Programme of Work and Budget. In addition, though as well as same procedural items, there were nine items for information. Some of these items for information are not things we can just ignore and overlook as they are quite significant pieces of business. I can deal very briefly with six of them as these involve the Committee receiving oral reports on progress or the follow-up on earlier evaluations and in each case we received a report from the responsible officer in FAO, and in most cases, Members have questions.

In the case of a Report on the response to Desert Locust, for instance, the Committee found the Report so interesting we had quite a significant discussion of the substantive issues concerning the Desert Locust. But in all cases, we decided that the follow-up work that had been initiated was underway in the Secretariat and that it was satisfactory.

I can be almost as brief with the item on Junior Professional Officers. We encouraged FAO to give greater visibility to this team and to encourage developing countries to participate. I am not sure how widely this scheme is known but there are Junior Professional Officers who could be financed through FAO, and it is a wonderful way of getting into the United Nations System. I

know a lot of very senior people in the System who started either as Interns or Junior Professional Officers. It is a very significant way of starting off a brilliant career in the international system.

There was a further item on access to the Technical Cooperation Programme on a grant basis, and this required rather more discussion. This is actually a comparatively minor issue which affects a small number of Member Nations of FAO. These are the ones that would not automatically have access to TCP on a grant basis, because they are too well off basically, but can do so because they fall into one or another of the special categories. The most usual one is high income countries who are also Small Island Developing States. I think the Chair of the Small Island Developing States has recently joined, so you may have some comments on this. But the position is that it was decided that this should be examined not from the point of view of stopping it but from the point of view of finding out what the interests of these countries were. FAO was asked to write to the countries concerned and to ask them whether they wished to continue receiving TCP on a grant basis, or whether they would waive this. Effectively this would be more resources for countries that were not in any way likely to receive it then on a grant basis. The Secretary reported to us that there were no replies, so we had limited discussion on that. Can we just make it clear that all Member Nations of FAO, regardless of their income status, have access to the TCP and this is solely an issue as to whether that should be access on a grant basis. Well-off countries can have access to TCP but they have it on a repayment basis. Effectively they pay for their own TCPs. That is the distinction, and it is a comparatively minor piece of business. It is one that came up in the discussion of the Decentralisation of the TCP, and the new programming arrangements, so obviously we had to consider it and see what we can do with it in the Programme Committee.

The item that caused us most discussion and the one item that may engage your interest the most closely was the discussion we had over what appears in the Programme Committee Report as Item 4, the Charter of the Office of the Evaluation. Now you will recall that the IEE suggested a number of changes in the evaluation system in FAO including that there should be a Charter and a Charter has been duly produced. It has been drafted and it has been considered by the Programme Committee, informally then formally. I believe it came to the Council at an earlier meeting and we have discussed it, but we decided that as the post of Director of Evaluation was still being recruited and as this post was on a rather different terms of reference and was a grade higher than the previous incumbent, John Markie, we should wait until the new person had been appointed before finalising discussion on the Charter of the Office of Evaluation, not because we wanted his approval but because we wanted him to have a buy-in to these discussions we have been having, to make sure that we were all moving together on an agreed Charter. Because the Office of Evaluation will be on a very unusual and novel footing in future, in that it will report jointly to the Director-General and to the Membership of FAO, through the Programme Committee. Already much of the work of the Evaluation Department goes through the Programme Committee, but it does not actually formally report to the Programme Committee and the Membership as one of its bosses, the other one being the Director-General. It is quite a big change, I understand that it is a new departure in the UN System. Evaluation is of such importance both to the Membership of such an Organization like this and to the Management and the direction that this seems to be a most appropriate and interesting way to go forward.

Now, as it was something new, we had a long discussion in an earlier meeting about how the recruitment of the Director should be done, because there was an interest by the Programme Committee because it was a joint management arrangement where the reporting was to the Membership. It was eventually felt that the Programme Committee should be involved directly in whatever process went forth. Now, you may recall from an earlier meeting that I reported that the panel had been set up and that the Programme Committee had decided that two Members of the Committee, I had the honour to be one of them and the other one was my distinguished colleague from Egypt, Dr Hosni, should participate as Members of the Recruitment Panel. The other Members of the Recruitment Panel which was chaired by Mr Butler, the Deputy Director-General, included members of the Secretariat of FAO and two senior Evaluation Specialists from elsewhere in the United Nations System. I am very pleased with the way this process went forward. We have not, I think, in the past had much opportunity to have a window into the

recruitment processes of FAO. It has been something that is carried out by Management. Rightly so, they are recruiting the staff but I was very satisfied with the efforts that were made to ensure transparency, equality of opportunity, encouragement to scarce categories of staff to apply. Everything went very well indeed. The arrangements for this Panel were discussed not only in the Programme Committee but also presented to the CCLM to ensure that they complied with the legal requirements of FAO. They indeed did although there was one discrepancy between what the IPA had proposed and what the rules of FAO require on recruitment, that is, that the IPA said there should be a Panel and there was a Panel and the Panel should consist of various people from various quarters, and that was done, and they should select a candidate to the best of their ability and nominate that person to the Director-General for appointment. The rules of FAO say that any recruitment process must provide a list of candidates to the Director-General with recommendations, and eventually the CCLM said that we should revert to the method that was legal within FAO. This sounds subtle, but if we had tried to recruit on the basis of the IPA which is not yet part of the rules of FAO, then we would have found ourselves breaking the rules of the Organization we are engaged in, so we decided we can only recruit this person rapidly within the rules and we had already accelerated this process despite the IPA not yet being approved. We had answered the request of the Programme Committee which had asked me to write to the Director-General and ask that we could go ahead with the recruitment on the basis of the IPA, despite the fact that this was not in place. He agreed, and we reached this point where at the last meeting of the Programme Committee we had concluded this long process of recruitment.

I will give you some more details about that because I think it is interesting. We concluded the process of recruitment up to the point where we should move forward to the recommendation going to the Director-General. At this point, there was some concern in the Programme Committee that the exact wording of the IPA and the Independent External Evaluation to nominate a candidate for appointment was not being followed and had been changed. After a long discussion, I was asked by the Programme Committee to visit the Director-General and to report our discussion to him and to politely request of him that the recruitment should be carried out in the spirit of the IPA no more. We realised that we could not say to the Director-General: "Would you mind recruiting out of line with the rules of your Organization". You cannot tell the Director-General to break his own rules. So we were very careful that we were asking for recruitment in the spirit of the IPA.

To give you some idea of the degree of transparency of this recruitment and the thoroughness of it, we started off with over a hundred candidates, I forget whether it was a hundred twenty or a hundred and thirty. This is a very good job, you know. We have all done a bit of evaluation, very interesting. A lot of people applied, but unfortunately we were not just looking for an Evaluator, we were looking for someone who could take charge of a novel type of an evaluation arrangement within the UN System. Someone that had not tried it before, and someone who would be operating at a new higher level, who could take forward part of our vision of the way FAO should change.

So, we decided there should be some criteria for shortlisting, and we eventually got the shortlisting of 130 down to 9, and we could rule out some because they were too old. This is a post which was recruited for two years with two years extension possible, if people had already reached the retirement age of the UN which is 62, then we could not consider them. We also felt that we needed people with senior experience of planning and leading evaluation in a corporate sense. That narrowed down the field enormously. We also felt that the person should have some experience in a field relevant to FAO. We thought either the environment or agricultural, or food science – something that would mean that he would understand the innards of this very complicated Organization. I think this eventually got it down to nine candidates, and this might seem a rapid thing to do to get down from a hundred thirty to nine, but thinking about it afterwards, we were probably looking at a specialisation for which there was a realistic field of maybe twenty five or thirty individuals globally, because for someone to be able to present themselves as a realistic candidate to lead evaluation in an organization like this, they will either have to be doing that job in another organization or the deputy to someone doing that job in

another organization. There are not that many of them, most of those are happy where they are, so we were looking for someone who wanted to move as well. We got nine. We interviewed them by telephone, we interviewed them face to face, we sent them exercises, our Evaluation Specialist marked the exercises and made recommendations to us.

As I say, this was a very thoroughgoing recruitment exercise. At the end of it, the Recruitment Panel was unanimous about each stage of this recruitment and had proposed a candidate. I actually wrote this out but as you will see, I am not actually reading so I have lost my place. I duly went to see the Director-General and delivered the message from the Programme Committee. I delivered a little more because I thanked him for already allowing this process to go forward in accordance with the IPA, despite the IPA not being in place yet. I then said that we would like the recruitment to be in accordance with the spirit of the IPA, and I would not try to deter the Director-General's reply, but he said that he had to work within the rules of this organization. My reply to that was we agreed, you must work within the rules of this organization, we have already decided that was the case in the Programme Committee.

That was the end of that part of our discussion, and ladies and gentlemen, Madame Chairperson, I understand that the way this has turned out is that the findings of the Recruitment Panel have not actually been used and I think therefore that this recruitment was not done in the spirit of the IPA. I repeat, not at all in the spirit of the IPA. I am not going to say anymore about this, it is my job as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee only to report factually what happened and the content of this Report. You will see that it goes as far as the point where I am charged by the Programme Committee to go and see the Director-General, and I have given you the outcome of that discussion and the result of the recruitment. An individual has been recruited, we were looking at nine of the best evaluators on the planet, we have a good evaluator, but this was not in line with the IPA recommendation. I might just add that I was impressed with something that the distinguished Ambassador of Tanzania said yesterday. He said, Reform starts from now. I am wondering if it actually does. Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Heard for that explanation of what transpired in your meeting. I now open the floor for discussion.

May I take a list of all those who are interested to take the floor? I recognize Germany, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Canada.

Ms Astrid JAKOBS DE PÁDUA (Germany)

This is the same procedure as the point before. It is just to ask for the floor for the EC Presidency. Thank you.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

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

The EC endorses the Report of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee. As reflected in paragraph 15 of the Report, the Committee requested the responsible Assistant Directors-General to attend the Session so as to elaborate on key areas of priority for the coming biennium.

The EC is of the opinion that the possibility to hold this exchange of views with Senior Management was extremely valuable, and we would welcome similar opportunities in the future based on more elaborate input from the Technical and Regional Committees with a view to facilitate the further work of prioritization in the future work of the Organization.

The EC notes in particular the Committee's discussion about the risk to overall programme delivery due to the relatively high dependence on Core Voluntary Extra-budgetary Resources. The

EC shares the concerns expressed by the Committee and recognizes the need for proper contingency planning should the foreseen Core Voluntary Funds not materialize.

The EC also agrees with the need, as identified in paragraph 14 of the Report, to continue work on improving indicators and establish baselines where absent to facilitate monitoring of progress and to review targets.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

I thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr. Heard, for the detailed explanation of the work of the Committee.

I have a question actually. The first one relates to the statement that he made that the recruitment had to be done within the rules of the FAO, that the Programme Committee would respect that. On the other hand, the Recruitment Panel had to go through all that process, a very long process, and in the end the decision was made not in the spirit of that process, and Mr. Heard would not like to go further than that. I wonder how that could be reconciled, and if he could elaborate further on that.

Thank you.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for explaining certain things which I, as a Member of the Programme Committee, was not aware of.

I think the Programme Committee selected the Chairperson and one Member of the Programme Committee to be involved in the review of candidates for the post of the Evaluation Service. As the Chairman said, that process was conducted quite seriously with many people involved, including evaluation specialists, and it was quite open to everybody.

The results were discussed by the Chairman of the Programme Committee with the Director-General. The Director-General quite correctly stated that so far, the recruitment of staff was authorized, within the Basic Texts, under the authority of the Director-General. The Director-General had received a short-list which was not shown to the Programme Committee, but the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Member who was involved from the Programme Committee, knew. Other Members did not know.

The Director-General made a choice and I, personally, am very happy about this choice. I think the choice should be introduced to the Council: it is Mr Bob Moore, who has worked all his time in the trade of evaluation. In fact, I can say, that he has not worked in any other field except evaluation. He was a staff member of the Evaluation Service of UNEP and he was recruited from UNEP by myself. I was responsible for recruiting him, because at the time he was recruited I was the Chief of the Evaluation Service and I was very serious about what sort of candidate should be recruited. He was recruited, he worked since then only in the Evaluation Service. He has proved to be an effective evaluator with lots of experience in the field, and I am very glad that the Director-General has made the right choice.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Thank you very much for the detailed prospective that the Chair of the Programme Committee gave us with regards to - I will speak on just one issue, we had talked about the other issues yesterday, the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan, the Programme of Work and Budget, but I do want to talk about the issue regarding the Director of Evaluation.

Notwithstanding the last comment that was made by our colleague from Afghanistan, I do not want to go into details as to who was actually recruited, on the merit and so on, but I do want to talk about the process.

Canada has always been a very strong advocate for timely, transparent and merit-based approach to Human Resource Management. We keep talking about HR being a key element of this Organization and, in this regard, we are very concerned that the competition for the Director of

Evaluation was not conducted according to the agreed-upon process by Management and by the Programme Committee and in line with the spirit of the IPA action plan. And I should note that, as mentioned by the Chair, Vic Heard, that there was a discussion with the Director-General prior to this process being undertaken, and he had agreed that he would follow with the spirit of the IPA. So why at the very end, does he actually not follow through with his commitment? And I'm very pleased that the Chair of the Programme Committee, at the very end of his intervention, indicated that the findings were not done in the spirit of the IPA and in the benefit of the Organization with regard to a transparent process that was established at the very beginning.

We certainly wish to receive additional information from Management in explaining their actions with regard to this competition.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We also endorse the Report, contained in CL 137/3, of the Programme Committee and we thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for presenting the Report and giving an explanation on some of the items.

Madam Chair, we have already aired our views on paragraphs 5 to 37 of this document, and our position as Africa remains the same.

Madam Chair, on the issue of recruiting the Director of Evaluation, I can say this let us judge it on the basis of legality. Of course, as has been quoted by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, I am one of those who favour that the Reform is already on and it is already on, and we move within that spirit. But having said that, we remain to be guided by the current statutes of FAO.

Madam Chair, I want also to say something on the Junior Professional Officers and the like. We are very much encouraged by the Committee's guidance on this issue to Management to encourage the visibility of the Associate Professional Officer Programme and more importantly to us, the measures to increase on-the-job training opportunities for candidates from developing countries. And here I would add that Africa be given the same opportunity through the various programmes. The Chairman of the Programme Committee has said that they question themselves if this programme is known and how widely it is known. We would like Management to maybe give an explanation on this one. If it is not done, how can it be done?

Madam Chair, there is an issue on the response to the Desert Locust. We want to congratulate or to thank FAO for doing very good work on this and, in fact, I could say on behalf of Eastern and Southern Africa, they are also doing work on the Desert Locust and we have appreciated it this year where a suppression was done of the big sites which would have been a catastrophe for the region. We thank FAO for this work.

The issue of access to TCP on a grant basis was discussed. We should call this still work-in-progress and we would like the Programme Committee to continue following-up on this one. Nevertheless, I would like to know if this issue will occur in the new criteria which have been set within the IPA for the FAO renewal.

Travis POWER (Australia)

I just want to return quickly to the recruitment issue that we just discussed, and I guess make two short points.

I don't have the benefit of having been a Member of the Programme Committee at that time, so I cannot accurately comment on the situation. So, I guess I would just really like to make the point that I support Canada's request for further information on that issue so we can accurately make a decision. I think it is important here that we do not leap to conclusions, and that we look at the details of these things and as I think the previous speaker just said, look at the legality of these issues and then we will make a decision based on that.

José Antonio MARCONDES (Brazil)

I would like to start with the comments of the Programme Committee on the Junior Professional Officers, Associate Experts and Associated Professional Officers Programmes. I certainly view this as an important entry point of professionals in the System, and certainly welcome the suggestion of the Programme Committee to request the Secretariat to give it greater flexibility.

One issue that still concerns my delegation, that if it is indeed an entry point of professionals into the Organization, due care should be given to allow countries that cannot afford having their nationals benefiting from this Programme so that they will not have their nationals being limited on their access to entrance into the Organization. That's point number one.

Point number two. Like Canada, I will not comment on the Medium-Term Plan, Programme of Work and Budget, but just one point that I think would be important to mention. I think it was somehow mentioned by the European Union, I'm not sure whether on this point or on the previous point. It is on the Early Warning Mechanism that the Membership could have if the Core Voluntary Contributions expected do not come in and what is going to be, what instrument or tool the Membership will have, through the Programme Committee and then through Council, to ascertain the risks on programme implementation.

The other points I think I am not familiar with. I am a Member of the Programme Committee, I understand what we have discussed there regarding the officer to be in charge of the Evaluation Office but I am in no position to pass judgement whether candidate 1, 2, 3 or X was better or worse. I have no information on that. I take what we have heard from Professor Ayazi whose knowledge, not only of the issues of Evaluation, but also of the person who apparently was finally chosen, deserves our consideration and I take his word that this person is very well-qualified to occupy that post. I am not sure that, well I am positive that the Director-General would not cross the threshold of legality into hiring anybody in this Organization or we would be in a very awkward situation. These were the comments that I would have at this juncture.

Abdelaziz M. HOSNI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The Egyptian Delegation would like to endorse the Report of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee as pointed out in the documents in our hands today.

I would just like to reiterate what the Brazilian Ambassador has just mentioned that we would like, as far as Item 5 was concerned, the Junior Professional Officers, that the developing countries would be given a chance to be represented for such posts.

As far as the recruitment of the Director of Evaluation is concerned, personally speaking, I stick by what the Chair of the Programme Committee has said, because I was a Member of the Recruitment Panel, and everything mentioned by him is absolutely true.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

Indonesia also wishes to endorse the Report of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee, as we have in document CL 137/3.

Soon after I heard the intervention made by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Tanzania and also Brazil, I think their interpretation is very inspiring to me and that is why I take this opportunity to say also my views on this matter, especially regarding the Junior Professional Officers Programme.

It is our expectation that this Organization should give a kind of special and differential treatment to those Junior Professional Officers who come from LDCs and developing countries who have a kind of limited access to international organizations. I know that there are certain Junior Professional Officers in other organizations, but they are also very limited in numbers.

In addition to the recruitment process for the Junior Professional Officers, I think it is also pertinent if we take into consideration also to have access to a kind of training programme for

Junior Professionals of LDCs and developing countries, maybe a kind of Internship for one or two years just to improve the capacity of human resources for developing countries and Member Nations. The reasons why we place serious consideration on this matter simply is that if we could improve the human resources development of developing countries, it would of course have a kind of multiplier effect on the development of agriculture sectors, and would, in turn, result in sustainable agriculture development and in achieving MDGs in 2015.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Président du Comité du programme de nous avoir édifié sur un certain nombre de questions importantes et j'ai deux demandes à formuler:

La première pour demander au Secrétariat de nous fournir un surplus d'informations sur le programme des cadres associés et deuxièmement, je voudrais également féliciter la FAO, ainsi que toutes les instances régionales, impliquées dans la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, qui méritent toute notre estime car ils agissent dans des contextes vraiment très difficiles.

Ms Nancy ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)

We endorse the Report of the Programme Committee, and we wish to associate ourselves with the statements made by Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group.

We would like to make a few comments on some of the technical provisions covered in the Report. Firstly, in paragraphs 16-17 that cover Strategic Objective A: *Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production*, we seek clarification on the implication of paragraph 17 specifying areas of emphasis to real efforts identify crop production in order to achieve food security. We would like to know why paragraph 17 is addressing Indicator A1.3 to the exclusion of all the other indicators under Organizational Result A1; that is A1.1 and A1.2.

The Organizational Results in Strategic Objective A speak for themselves. The areas of emphasis seem to ignore the importance of access to improved technologies in the form of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides by farmers in the developing world in order to improve productivity. Access to these improved technologies was a critical component to the Green Revolution which was referred to by the Director-General in his address this morning.

It is clear that the priorities set out are not about crop intensification. We requested the Management to reconcile with the priorities of the Membership. We feel short-changed somehow since the goals and the challenges to be addressed should point to increasing the agricultural productivity. We would like the emphasis to be in alignment with the Organizational Results.

In paragraph 30, that is Strategic Objectives G, H and K, these have suffered undue cuts in resources, yet they are the ones targeting vulnerable groups in crop production and marketing. If our objective is to increase food security and nutritional status of the people, we urge that extra-budgetary resources be channelled to this group of Strategic Objectives for them to achieve the anticipated results.

FAO's Management should explain paragraphs 35 on the cancellation of out-posted gender posts and their impact. What alternatives are being sought to address gender issues in Member Nations?

Covering paragraph 47, that is the item *Towards a More Effective Response to Desert Locusts*, it would be helpful for Members to know how this programme is being monitored in order to prevent expired pesticides being maintained in the system. Furthermore, it is also critical to know how FAO is planning to respond to the issue of desert locusts when under Strategic Objective A, it is not specified as an area of emphasis.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I will be very brief about the recruitment of the Director of the Office of Evaluation. As a Member of the Programme Committee, I think the Chair of the Programme Committee did his best. It is in line with the discussion and the decision made in the Programme Committee and the result might not what we wanted, but this is a result and the appointment of the Director of the Office of

Evaluation is not the responsibility of a Programme Committee. The process is our job, but we have discussed it a lot and this is the result.

CHAIRPERSON

I call on the Chairperson of the Programme Committee to respond to any issues that have come up.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

A number of the issues, possibly most of the, are best replied to by the Secretariat. I can deal with a couple of them; one, which Tanzania raised, about whether the new Technical Cooperation criteria would produce the same result. I think they would because the special position given to Small Island Developing States and other countries in special categories is retained and still denotes grant basis for those countries, even if they are high-income countries. So, the issue does continue; it only affects quite a small number of countries. It is sort of a storm in a teacup, so it is just something that we have to try and resolve in the Programme Committee, not something that leads to being an enormous issue for the rest of the Organization.

Now let us see, what else can I respond to? I can say one further thing about the recruitment issue and that is that you have heard Dr Hosni say that what I have said was an accurate reflection of the recruitment process.

Because the recruitment of individuals concerns their personal information, their personal data, neither Hosni nor I can say anymore about that and about the process. This leaves you with some big questions to worry about – what are we worried about, why are we saying something was not in line with the IPA and yet we cannot give you very much detail on the answer?

Now, I do not suppose that Jim Butler, who was chairing the Recruitment Panel, could provide you with much more information but I would be very grateful if you would ask him to try because he might be able to throw some light on this. He may well be able to throw some light on this which I fear I cannot do.

I do not think I can respond to any other points that were raised here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Madam Chair and Mr Heard for your interventions. I would first like to begin by thanking both of the Programme Committee Members for their participation in the selection process of the Director of Evaluation. I want to preface my remarks to say that I, too, am relatively new in the Organization and still learning a great deal about our rules and procedures and often I am anxious to move issues forward before I take the time to learn all the necessary processes.

As Vic pointed out in his intervention we did have some 120 or 130 applicants which is, depending upon the positions in FAO, I might say, is small compared to other positions where we have many many more applications. We did our initial screening through our normal processes; we identified candidates to interview. Everything that Vic pointed out is accurate and correct. There were mixed genders that we interviewed. There were a mix of countries that we interviewed – both developed countries and developing countries that were a part of the final application.

When we get to the issue of the legality, if you would like additional information I will defer those comments to our staff member in the room, Mr Tavares, who represents our legal staff.

I would also like to reflect on what we learned in this process and I think we learned a great deal and I had the privilege of becoming acquainted with our two specialists on the Panel as well; one from the World Food Programme and one from UNDP in New York, if I am not mistaken. Not only did we benefit from their knowledge during the Panel, but I benefited from their knowledge as I interacted with them bilaterally and asked about their processes and procedures.

One outcome I would say, in the future, perhaps not only in this position but others, we may need to establish a relationship with a professional firm to recruit into the Organization. The standard procedures that Mr Alonzi or Manoj could articulate on are traditionally posting on the Internet, etc., but in certain areas I feel we need to take a different tactic and I do believe that this is a practice ongoing with other UN Organizations.

I would also like to follow-up the distinguished delegate of Afghanistan and say that behind me is Bob Moore, and I might ask him to just stand. He is our new Director of Evaluation, a very competent professional that I have had the pleasure of working with now for some two years not only through this process but as Chair of our Internal Evaluation Committee. So, we look forward to Mr Moore's leadership. I have had a bilateral conversation with him about moving our Evaluation Programme forward. I have met with the Director-General, not only on this topic but on several topics and we are ready to move forward.

If there are other issues, then I am pleased to respond. If you would like for me to ask Mr Tavares to also perhaps comment on where we are from the legal perspective of the full adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action and perhaps the amendment that was proposed in the Committee on CCLM, I feel that he is more qualified so I will stop at this stage.

CHAIRPERSON

I think it would help all of us if he just gives us an outline of how we reached the situation. Mr Tavares.

LEGAL COUNSEL

This issue was, in fact, examined by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters which has reviewed all the issues pertaining to the amendment of the Basic Texts and I want to present to you the manner in which this was handled and was examined by the CCLM at one of its Sessions at the end of May.

The Office of Evaluation is located inside the FAO Secretariat, and it reports both to the Director-General and to the Council through the Programme Committee.

The Office and the Head of the Office enjoy a very considerable measure of functional autonomy, but the Head of the Office and the Office remain within the Organization and the Head of the Office is a Senior Official of the Organization who reports and is accountable to the Director-General. He is, therefore, both accountable to the Director-General and to the Council through the Programme Committee.

It is in this context that the CCLM examined the matter. The CCLM examined the procedure for the selection and the appointment of the Head of this Office in this context of the dual accountability lines.

The CCLM examined the procedure in accordance with the Basic Texts of FAO including the provisions of Article VIII of the Constitution which are of an overriding nature. Article VIII of the Constitution of FAO recognizes the authority of the Director-General in the appointment of staff, especially senior staff and in the Management of the Organization. This provision also reflects the obligation and the requirement under which the Director-General is, that in appointing staff he must give effect to criteria of geographical distribution and, on the basis of a number of resolutions of the Conference, he is also required to give effect to a number of criteria of gender distribution.

This is why the CCLM proposed the procedure for the Charter of the Office of the Evaluation, where a Panel would review candidatures and make a final recommendation regarding candidates, candidates appropriate for appointment by Director-General. The Panel does submit a list of candidates for appointment, and the Director-General would act within the parameters of that recommendation.

This is the procedure that as we understand was followed and we consider that this procedure was legally correct as, in fact, the Chairman of the Programme Committee has indicated.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I wonder if I can ask Mr Tavares to elaborate on a further point, because when the Director-General said during our brief meeting that he had to operate on the rules, the only rules he mentioned were those on geographic distribution and gender, and I would be grateful to know how those are factored into the decisions made on recruitment in this Organization.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Indeed, as we indicated and was discussed extensively in the meeting of the CCLM, the Director-General has the authority and is invested with the authority to appoint senior staff of the Organization and he is also required to give effect to requirements of geographic and gender distribution.

Precisely if, I would not wish to enter into a very detailed area, but basically the Director-General cannot implement criteria of geographical distribution in respect to staff serving already within the Organization, staff who are already in the service of the Organization cannot not be appointed or promoted on the basis of such criteria and this is why the Director-General appointed an internal candidate because he would have been obliged to give effect to this criteria of geographical distribution in respect of external candidates. In fact, he would have not been giving effect to this criteria. Geographical distribution criteria and gender distribution criteria do not apply in respect to internal appointments.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I am sorry to come back on this again, but I think that addresses a different point to the one I raised. What I wanted to know was how matters of geographical distribution and gender are factored into recruitment decisions, not how they affect internal candidates. You will appreciate I cannot say any more, but it is understood that these were factors that we used to decide against. I can say no more about that, but my understanding had been that the process of recruitment in this and all other UN Organizations was one where there was an open selection to find the best candidates, and then when other things are equal, to select on the basis of gender and geographical distribution, and I would be grateful if that could either be confirmed or corrected.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

C'est une question d'ordre, qu'est-ce qui se passe ici entre le Président du Comité des programmes et entre le Secrétariat; qu'est-ce qu'il arrive là? De quoi on parle? Ou est-on? Je ne comprends plus du tout où on est là. Est-ce que l'on veut bien m'expliquer? Merci.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador. I hope now that we can conclude it. I will just pass the floor to our Legal Counsel to put a closure to this, so we can discuss other things.

LEGAL COUNSEL

In fact, I am not sure of having understood correctly the question from the Chair of the Programme Committee. I wanted to indicate that the Director-General in appointing the staff is required to apply a number of criteria and the criteria of securing the highest standards of efficiency and of technical competence, and he also has to pay due regard to the need to appointment staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible and to integrate considerations of geographical distribution.

The Conference of FAO has itself in 1999 adopted a Resolution inviting and instructing the Director-General to apply this criteria jointly and apply this criteria in a combined manner. Therefore, the Director-General made, in our view, an appointment which we consider legally-correct and, in fact, we view with some concern the fact that any issues regarding the legality of this appointment could be raised in this forum which is not in our view a forum where this issue of legality should be raised because this is in fact a very delicate matter.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

I do not want to belabour the point but I do want to make one last remark with regards to the staffing of the Director of Evaluation and again this is not talking about candidate A versus B, but it is talking about a process, and adhering to a process, and just to let other colleagues, Council Members know, that the debate that did take place at the Programme Committee, because we did have a lengthy debate about this, was, whether we just delayed the appointment and waited until the IPA was approved at Conference, whereby the specific language about the recruitment and the process for recruiting the Director of Evaluation versus appointing the person right away, because we needed to have somebody in place in an expeditious manner, and therefore, what we decided and we got as the Chair of the Programme Committee indicated, agreement from the Director-General and was willing to agree to the spirit of the IPA, that we decided to move ahead and try to recruit as soon as possible. But there were others in the room that were suggesting to hold off until November when the IPA was going to be approved, and were going to hopefully recruit the individual based on the criteria that was identified in the IPA itself.

I just want to share with Council that this was a lengthy debate and it was not trivial.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I wish to thank everyone who participated in this and the candidness with which the Management responded to this item. I will give you my summing up once we have finished the discussion of the other topics.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

In fact, there were numerous questions raised with regard to Item 5 of the Agenda of the Programme Committee, concerning the Junior Professional Officers' and the Associate Professional Officers' schemes.

Allow me to clarify first that in fact the Report that was being reviewed by the Programme Committee was a Joint Inspection Unit Report that was addressed to the entire UN System, the UN Agencies and programmes. FAO responded positively to the recommendations in that Report, those recommendations that were addressed to the Agencies and in fact our response to the Programme Committee indicated that the recommendations are not just accepted but also largely reflected in FAO's practice and indeed would be even more so through the ongoing Reform Process.

The question of including higher visibility for the APO Programme is important because in fact, the Associate Professional Officer scheme is funded through Voluntary Contributions and, indeed, we acknowledge that recommendation as well as the recommendation to encourage recruitment from developing countries.

To do so, one initiative that we are in the process of implementing is to bring the Junior Professional and the Associate Professional Officer schemes into the Human Resources Management Division. This would allow us to better integrate Junior and Associate Professionals into FAO's regular human resources practice. At the moment, the APO Programme is managed by the Technical Cooperation Programme, but bringing it into the Human Resources Management Division, we believe, will allow us to address better the issues of encouraging recruitment from developing countries and improving integration of these officers in FAO's Programme of Work.

There was also a request for additional information on the APO and Junior Professional Scheme. As I mentioned, the APO scheme is voluntary-funded and just to give Members an idea, the extent of delivery of this scheme amounted to USD 8.6 million in 2007, it fell to USD 6.6 million in 2008, but we are expecting the APO scheme to be funded by donors to the tune of USD 12 million or more in 2009.

The Junior Professionals has actually had some more impetus through the Immediate Plan of Action. As well, we are in the process of implementing a Junior Professionals' Programme Policy and, more specifically in the Programme of Work and Budget, we have made proposals to adjust our human resources mix so as to allow the creation of Junior Professionals in FAO's Programme.

Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

To follow up on the questions of Zimbabwe concerning the areas of programme emphasis that are reported in the Programme Committee Report, in fact this relates to Item 5 on the Agenda of the Council, the Medium-Term Plan of the Programme of Work and Budget and the areas that are shown in particular in paragraph 17 of the Report relate not to the entire work under Strategic Objective A, but rather in that formulation where new areas have emphasis at the time of presentation and discussion in the Programme Committee.

The paragraphs in the Programme Committee Report, 16 to 37, have been further elaborated and appear in the section of the PWB that is on areas of programmatic emphasis, Section 1D, in the particular paragraphs 95 to 108, in an attempt to show areas of prioritization, and this evolves out of this discussion that was also emphasized by Mr Heard in the Programme Committee, the opportunity to engage with the senior managers of the Strategic Objectives, to try and focus the work down under the Strategic Objectives, and we all look forward to continuing this process in the future.

Zimbabwe had a question on how locusts are being monitored and I know that the Chief of the Plant Protection Service is in the room, and can answer that question in more detail. I am not a specialist in that area.

Brazil raised the question on the amount and the dependence on Core Voluntary Contributions of some of the work under the Objectives. As many of the Members are aware, this is a matter of ongoing discussion as we evolve in implementation of the Programme of Work. We have provided additional information in the MTP, PWB document, in Annex VIII, to elaborate on the type of work that is covered by the Core Voluntary Contributions which, as we note there, in fact is not a new category in the sense that we have always had resources provided, Voluntary Resources provided, to support and supplement the work of the Regular Programme, and the integrated presentation of the budget does provide us now with a means of better indicating how that actually supports the work as we move forward.

We indicate in Annexe II and Annexe VIII of the PWB that about 58 percent of the Core Voluntary Contributions that are shown in the PWB are assured in the sense that they are operational projects that will continue into the next biennium, or the so-called pipeline where we are very close to having a signature and agreement on projects. As we move forward with the resource mobilization strategy, the impact focus areas is a means to further mobilize these resources and, of course, we will develop the monitoring reporting system to ensure that the Governing Bodies, that is the Programme and Finance Committees, are kept aware of progress. The impact that this could have on the programmes, as I mentioned under this item, the results frameworks are sized, the targets are sized for the resources in the PWB so the first level of impact would possibly be reducing the targets to be achieved, but this remains to be seen how we will work on this in the next biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

There is one item that was passed on to Mr Kenmore on Locusts.

Peter KENMORE (FAO Staff)

The monitoring of desert locusts and in fact other locusts falls under Strategic Objective A and Organizational Result 2, and the crucial point is that monitoring of desert locusts is a combination of on the ground work by national programmes with dedicated locust surveillance staff who go to the field, spend the majority of their time in the field, and are familiar not just with the locusts but with the plants that they eat and the likely weather conditions that will encourage their populations.

FAO's contribution, in particular, comes from assembling those data through E Locust II and other mechanisms through satellite uplink of data. The field staff have radio systems that go to the national headquarters, the national Locust Information Officer hits one button and sends the information through satellite to the FAO Desert Locust Information System Headquarters here on a twenty-four-seven basis. Those data are brought in and combined with up-to-date weather satellite data that are being analyzed with algorithms that have been developed by scientists from all over the world. The point is without the field data, without the human observation by people from every locust-affected country the weather data would not be useful. The weather data adds value to the crucial work of those people in the field, so that we can make predictions of where locusts are likely to go and share that information with all affected countries.

Now, the monitoring of the locust is a completely collaborative exercise. In Organizational Result OR3, *pesticide risk reduction*, we are trying to begin to emulate that same successful kind of system and empower national programmes through a pesticide stock management system that was developed in Mauritania with computer programmers from the West Africa Region and is now being tested in other parts of the world to monitor their stocks of pesticides, including the dates of when the pesticides go in to storage so we can prevent those pesticides becoming obsolete. We want to know where they are and when they go in so we can follow them. When the risk arises that the pesticides have been in storage too long, then we look for places where they can be placed for the use of pesticides in locust control and we have had examples over the past three years with Mauritania first and then Mali second. Both made donations of pesticides that were then used in other countries, in particular in Yemen and then in the Southern African red locust area of Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique so that we prevented an obsolete stocks problem because the countries generously donated pesticides they had that were not needed because the locusts in their own country were not threatening at that point. So we are trying in both cases to increase power and leverage of the local knowledge in terms of linking it on a more global basis.

In both senses the locust monitoring system then gave us a model in terms of the human development system that could be used better with the pesticide stock management and these appear in the Programme of Work and Budget. The results of these, the indicators and baselines and such are in the Programme of Work and Budget in the copy that I have got, under Strategic Objective A, of C 2009/15 on pages 76 through 78. So they do not appear in those actual first paragraphs, which Mr Haight said concentrate only on the new emphasis. The core foundation work appears in the more disaggregated presentation in the back.

CHAIRPERSON

Allow me to sum up then from what I have gathered from this debate. The Membership, in general, endorsed the Report of the Hundred and Second Session of the Programme Committee, but made the following observations:

- The need for the Management to ensure there is an early warning system in order for there to be proper contingency to advise Membership if Core Voluntary Donations do not materialize. The importance of ensuring that there would be clear baselines in the new programmes, in line with the results framework.
- FAO was commended on its role in combating locusts and its way ahead from the locusts specialists; the programmes on the ground have been outlined to us.
- Regarding the APO programme which is considered as the entry point for Junior Professionals, Members requested that particular preference be given to those from developing countries whose entry into this Organization sometimes depended on just that. Besides that, there was the issue of the recruitment of the Director of Evaluation. You all realize there was a lengthy discussion, I will not go into the details of the discussion because I might even change the input. We have all heard from the Legal Counsel. We can only conclude that the recruitment was done in the context of our current Basic Texts to which, as we all know, we are recommending some amendments in November, but as of now, this is my understanding from the Legal Counsel, and the Deputy Director-General has indeed introduced the candidate to us, Mr Bob Moore, who

has been recruited to fill the post in question. I can only say I invite you all to place our confidence in the candidate who has been identified to fill the post.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to thank the outgoing Chair of the Programme Committee who has served us for the last two biennia, and I understand this is his last session as the Chair of the Programme Committee and you may want just to bid us farewell. Mr Heard, you have the floor.

Victor C.D. HEARD (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Thank you very much, Madam. Yes this is indeed my last appearance as Chair of the Programme Committee. As I have managed to crown my achievements by confusing the Ambassador of France to the extent that she had to raise a Point of Order to ask what I was talking about, I think it is probably time I went. So anyway, let me just say that I have had a long career, about 200 years it sometimes feels, and this is probably the most interesting, entertaining and engaging job I have ever had in my life. It has been tremendous, really. You know, yesterday somebody said, it is going to get more difficult, and I think it was Turkey because we will have to worry about prioritization from regional committees. Here it probably will, and we had two Members of the Programme Committee saying that we haven't done enough, we have got to do more, we must do better. Yes, I agree totally, but all that means is that the next Chair of the Programme Committee will have an even better time than I've had, so don't all rush.

But I am sure there are lots of people in the margins waiting to apply for the job, it's about to become vacant. I don't know if I have made any changes because I don't know the way it was before. I think Mary was part of the Committee before I joined, were you? You probably were. A number of people here were. The only thing I can say is that during the four years I have been chairing it, we have only gone over our time once, and that was only by about half an hour, so I think what has happened is that we are working much more collegially.

You know we are still arguing. We are still telling one and other off. They still straighten me up when I get it wrong, but we are actually doing it in a way which goes forward, in a productive manner and I think we can say this for the whole of the last four years in which we have been dealing with evaluation and change.

You know, we have got so much better at talking to one and other that we are moving things ahead and I think you can say we haven't done enough, but we have actually made some enormous changes over the past couple of years and I think we have helped to improve FAO and it is going even further in that direction.

We probably did something useful enough which if we were to look at it would result in more people being fed, fewer people being hungry, more crops etc. I expect we will go to Heaven. That is tremendous. We will be led there by Professor Noori because he has led us in this process. This means it will be a Muslim Heaven. There might be a small problem for those of us who like to go out for a drink in the evenings, but I expect there will be chocolates as there has been in the afternoons of the Programme Committee.

Thank you Madam. Thank you everybody. I would like to thank the Members of the Programme Committee for tolerating me, allowing me to sit at the front and straightening me out when I got it wrong. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We would like to extend the same comments to the Programme Committee that has steered us this far and presented this report.

I now commend this report to you.

I thank you.

We have concluded Item 7.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

8. Report of the 128th Session of the Finance Committee (27-31 July 2009) (CL 137/4)

8. Rapport de la cent vingt-huitième session du Comité financier (27-31 juillet 2009)

(CL 137/4)

8. Informe del 128.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (27-31 de julio de 2009) (CL 137/4)

8.1 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 137/LIM/1)

8.1 Situation des contributions et des arriérés (CL 137/LIM/1)

8.1 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 137/LIM/1)

8.2 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports

8.2 Autres questions découlant des rapports

8.2 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now on Item 8, Reports of the Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Session in the Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee. The two Sessions were held as follows: 27th to 31st July 2009 and 18th to 19th September 2009.

The documents in question are: CL 137/4, CL 137/4-Add 1, CL 137/9, CL 137/9-Add 1. The two Sub-items under Item 8 are: 8.1 regarding the Status of contributions and Arrears, for which the relevant document is 137/LIM/1, and Sub-item 8.2 on Other Matters Arising out of the Reports.

As of the 23 September, the Organization had received over USD 156 million and over USD 130 million in respect of 2009 Assessments. This represents 72 percent for the USD account and 70.5 percent for the Euro account. Receipts of arrears of contributions have amounted to USD 41 million and Euros 50 million, which is substantially higher than at the same time last year.

It is regrettable that 49 Members have still not made any payment towards their 2009 USD Assessments, and 61 Member Nations, 32 percent of the Membership of the Organization, have not yet made any payments towards their 2009 Euro Assessment. In addition, 50 Member Nations still have Arrears outstanding from 2008 and previous years, and 22 owe Arrears in amounts that would lead to the loss of Voting Rights at the forthcoming Session of the Conference.

No decision is called for on this Item at this time. It is customary, however, for the Council to emphasize the importance to all Member Nations, irrespective of size, to honour their financial obligations toward the Organization, since only in this way, with proper financing, can the Organization continue to fulfil its mandate. The Council may wish to include a statement to this effect in its Report on this item.

With this, I would like to invite the Chairperson of the Finance Committee to introduce the Reports of the Committee, so that the debate can commence.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will focus in my intervention on those issues that I have not included in my statement yesterday regarding PWB.

Madam Chairperson, as you've mentioned, we have the status of current contributions and arrears. This is an extremely important subject to the Finance Committee, it has started examining this subject as a standing item on its agenda starting last year.

At the status of current assessment and contributions, the contributions unpaid until 23 September 2009, USD 95 million and Euros 67 million. As you have said, Madam Chairperson, in your introduction, the payment of Assessed Contributions is a *sine qua non* for the Organization to be able to carry out the mandate we entrust it with.

Therefore, that was the logic that underlined the resolution of the Conference in 2007 which called upon the Council, as well as the Finance Committee, to put an integrated scenario for a way to solve and settle this problem.

Allow me to refer to the number of Member Nations in arrears in general terms: number of countries that paid their arrears in full, 23; number of countries which partly paid their arrears, 20 countries; countries which have not paid anything of their arrears, these are 30 countries; and the number of countries with arrears until 23 September 2009, 50 countries.

This highlights the gravity of this problem. Nevertheless, I would like to point out that the problem does not lie with arrears alone, but the problem lies with the late payment of Assessed Contributions.

As you have mentioned, Madam Chairperson, our Committee examined this issue following the guidance of the Conference, and it concluded the following points. It retains all the current measures, notwithstanding the fact that they were not as fruitful as expected. Second, the strict application of the current regulations, especially the loss of the Voting Rights. Third point, and this is a new one, in the thinking of the Finance Committee is to recommend to the Council to widen the constraint referred to in Rules 22.5, 22.7 of the General Rules and Regulations of the Organization regarding the eligibility to the election of the Council and the loss of the seat in the Council regarding those countries whose arrears amount to its contributions for the previous two calendar years, so as to apply the same eligibility criterion on the three Committees, Finance, Programme and CCLM. The logic behind this is the following: if we prevent countries with arrears from being eligible to be candidates to the highest Governing Body which is the Council, it goes then without saying, as a means to put political pressure on them, to include also eligibility to the Membership of the three subsidiary committees of the Council, CCLM, Finance Committee and Programme Committee as well. We know that this is an extremely difficult and delicate matter. It is fraught with sensitivity, political sensitivity. However, we felt as a Finance Committee, guided by the Conference, that it was high time to move to act once and for all on this matter. This in itself will not solve the issue, however. We need a sincere and serious move from Member Nations to find a way to settle it once and for all. Our thinking will not stop at that in the Finance Committee. Other ideas were advanced, ideas relating to the settling of this issue, for instance to apply late interest payment of those countries who pay their contributions late and not in a timely manner. However, there was a divergence of views among the Members of the Finance Committee and the result of that divergence is to limit ourselves to those three points I mentioned, those three recommendations, provided that this matter will be followed up further in the forthcoming Sessions of the Finance Committee.

In order to ensure balance in our integrated comprehensive scenario, the Finance Committee agreed on an Incentive Scheme to allow prompt payment of the Assessed Contributions. The Committee agreed that the discount rate to be used in 2010 would be 0.3 percent for US Assessments and 1.43 percent for Euro Assessments provided that it would not exceed the discounts applied to the regular budget for the calendar year. We were wondering whether the

discount rate would be paid in 2009 or if that decision will be decided at the end of the financial year when the picture is clearer, when the picture regarding the amounts of interest under the regular budget is clear. This is the integrated scenario that we, as Finance Committee, decided to put before you and, of course, the final decision is yours in the Council whether you accept these proposals or reject them. But again, it is high time to move in order to settle this issue once and for all, be it Arrears or the late payment of Assessed Contributions because both of them compel the Organization to borrow taking into account the global financial crisis hitting the world and also limiting the ability of the Organization to borrow from the banks.

Other matters discussed by the Committee regard the budget as well, the 2008-2009 budget. I would like to single out two main issues. The first one regards efficiency savings required by the Conference in 2007 and addressed to the Secretariat, USD 22.1 million efficiency gains to be achieved as requested by the Conference. Our Committee examined this matter. It actually followed up this matter incessantly, and expressed its concern that the one time gains amounting to USD 4 million were not achieved and the Secretariat was unable to achieve them in 2008-2009.

My second point regards transfers between budget chapters. The Finance Committee agreed on the basis of Rules governing that matter to allow transfer from Chapter 346 to Chapter 1 in the amount of USD 90 million, USD 60 million from Chapter two and USD 1 million from Chapter 5.

The last point, Madam Chairperson, very briefly regards matters discussed by the Finance Committee and relating to the IPA. The first of these issues is to review the Terms of Reference of the Ethics Committee, its proposed Membership and composition. The Finance Committee kept this issue open since the establishment of an Ethics Committee is a work-in-progress and it is being discussed within the UN System at the Headquarters in New York. We decided not to jump the gun, and to wait for the results of the UN work in order to have a comprehensive look at the composition and Terms of Reference of that Committee.

The second issue regards risk management. Risk management has commanded an extensive in-depth debate in the Committee which stressed the importance of such an issue to support the Reform Process. It also endorsed the new approach followed by the Inspector General with a view to implementing this project, so as to be initiated locally supported by outside experts instead of relying totally on outside experts. This decision is expected to reduce the cost of the Risk Management Project.

Thirdly, Human Resource Management. The Committee, and since the adoption of the IPA, has reviewed closely the Human Resource Management Plan. It asked the Secretariat to develop an implementation plan for this Human Resource Management, including the implementation of the recommendations by the Root and Branch Review that was done. Indeed, and in view of the importance of the matter, the Committee re-emphasised its request to keep this item as a standing item on its agenda so as to follow closely the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategic Human Resources Plan.

Those are the main issues I wanted to highlight in my Report, and I apologise if I was a bit lengthy.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

We would like to ask just that the floor be given to Sweden as the Presidency of the European Union. Thank you.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

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

The European Community endorses the Report from the Hundred Twenty-eighth and the Hundred Twenty-ninth meetings of the Finance Committee.

The EC acknowledges that much of the Committee's discussions focussed on the proposed PWB 2010-2011. We agree with the Committee's recognition that the integrated budget provides a more holistic view of the resources at the disposal of the Organization. In this context, we would like to refer to our statement delivered yesterday on Agenda Item 5, in particular paragraph 8.

The EC notes with appreciation that the Committee underlined the importance of the implementation of the IPA as a critical area of FAO Reform and the necessity of securing guaranteed funds for its implementation within the PWB 2010-2011. The EC reiterates its position that in order to secure implementation of the Reform and to have all Members contributing to the Reform Process, the IPA should be fully financed by Assessed Contributions.

The EC has taken a particular interest in the Committee's discussion about cash shortages that are due to high levels of Arrears and Contributions from previous years, delays in payments of Current Assessments and insufficient cash reserves. It is regrettable that the late payment by some countries continuously jeopardize the financial health of the Organization. With a view to remedying this problem, the EC strongly supports the decisions taken by the Finance Committee to encourage timely payment of contributions. The EC would also recommend that the Finance Committee, at its next Session, positively examines further measures that can be taken in this regard.

The EC would like to highlight paragraph 25 of the Report of the Hundred Twenty-ninth Session of the Finance Committee. In that paragraph, the Finance Committee recognized that taken together with other financial obligations included in the PWB, the minimum incremental funding proposed to improve the financial situation would substantially increase the total Assessed Contributions required for 2010-2011, and that this would need to be reviewed by the Council.

The incremental cost of After-Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) should be first analyzed by the Finance Committee, and then be treated under PWB 2012-2013. The EC is also concerned by the cash shortage of the Working Capital Fund. In this regard, the FAO should address the issue of late payments and arrears, for a great part at the origin of this cash shortage. With this in mind, the EC thinks it would be appropriate to defer the decision of how to improve the financial health of FAO.

The EC notes and appreciates the Committee's discussions about FAO's revised approach to implement Organization-wide Enterprise Risk Management. As it is of highest importance for an organization such as FAO to have a system for evaluating risks we encourage the Committee to remain engaged with this matter.

The EC notes that while savings on IPA implementation amounts to 35 percent there are no savings in the rest of the PWB. We would appreciate if the Secretariat makes serious efforts in identifying further efficiency savings in a budget of approximately USD 1 billion.

Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian delegation agrees with the principle conclusion of the Reports of the Hundred Twenty-eighth and Hundred Twenty-ninth Sessions of the Finance Committee. In particular, with regard to the situation pertaining to the payment of contributions, should contributions that are now due be paid it in the near future, then we could comfortably cover all expenditure required to implement the Immediate Plan of Action. The timely establishment of the After-Service Medical Coverage liability and the replenishment of the Working Capital Fund are also important. Therefore, the question of timely payment of Members' contributions must constantly be focussed of our attention. In our statement on the budget, we already have covered the issues of Reform and Human Resources. We should like to remind you that the Finance Committee must take an extremely cautious approach to approving initiatives from the Secretariat with respect to issues of staff remuneration, especially, if this is related to potential additional financial implications. All of this should be the subject of preliminary expert assessment by the International Civil Service Commission.

We would also like to cover two issues reflected in the Report of the Hundred Twenty-ninth Session of the Finance Committee.

The first pertains to allowing the Director-General to carry a transfer between budget chapters up to a certain limit, without prior consent from the Finance Committee. I have a question on the basis of what considerations or documents has the Committee proposed a range of one to five percent of a level of transfers which can be carried out by the Director-General. We could be talking here of amounts in excess of USD 10 million. The second comment on the report relates to the proposed three-fold increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund from USD 25 to USD 75 million. If I have correctly understood, USD 50 million will be required additionally from Member Nations. Did the Committee, in making its recommendation, manage to study the practice of other international organizations in the United Nations System with respect to this matter? Perhaps the Committee should explore some less painful solution to the problem of improving the financial situation of FAO because as far as it is known, any additional Assessments may be the simplest proposal, but far from the most popular one.

Michael GLOVER (United States of America)

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our Chairperson, Mr Sorour. I also welcome the privileges serving as the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee.

I would like to highlight again the language in paragraph 22 as an important instruction that goes to the very heart of our discussions on Reform Risk Management and the PWB. This point speaks to the "importance of proper financial prudence throughout the Organization in line with recommendations of the IEE and IPA". We also note the section in the report of the Hundred Twenty-eighth meeting on Human Resources Strategy, recall the rich discussion in that meeting on the need to strengthen and tighten the list of indicators to ensure that FAO's most valuable asset is given the focus needed to ensure delivery of value for our contributions and welcome that the Finance Committee will continue to closely monitor progress of the entire Human Resources function in the Organization. On this note, we wish to encourage the Organization to act expeditiously to hire an Ethics Officer and to rapidly find a replacement Inspector General, two very important senior posts. We also look forward to hearing more on the status of FAO's plans to hire an Ombudsman, as committed to by the Director-General.

With regard to efficiency savings, I recall paragraph 30 of the Report of the Hundred Twenty-eighth Session which noted the Committee's concern that Management was unable to identify a one-time savings of USD 6 million, as called for during this biennium by the Conference.

Finally, as mentioned by my delegation yesterday, like Russia, we are concerned with the proposal to give the Director-General the flexibility to make budgetary transfers among chapters of up to five percent without the prior approval of either the Finance Committee or the Council as is currently required by the Financial Regulations. The United States believes that the margin of flexibility for such budgetary chapter transfers should not exceed one percent. Thank you very much.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

First I want to express my appreciation to Mr Sorour, Chair of the Finance Committee, for his long-lasting efforts to tackle the Arrears issue. I am very happy to hear that you have reached some conclusions, and I fully agree with the proposal you made for the issue of Arrears.

And the second point is about the issue of the Working Capital Funds. We have already raised this issue and would like to have the clarification from the Management on how is the cash flow situation in the coming biennium. Third, I want to clarify about the ASMC, this is not just a FAO issue but also affects the other organizations. How about the other organizations? How do they tackle this issue?

Lastly, we agree with Russia and the United States concerning the draft resolution giving the Director-General authority of transferring between budgetary chapters up to five percent without prior approval of the Finance Committee. I understand the necessity of FAO to have a certain

amount of flexibility. I have the impression that the flexibility of transferring up to 5 percent between all the chapters might be too much. I propose to restrict the subject of transfer within the chapters one to eleven, namely the chapters related to Strategic Objectives. So among other chapters such as TCP, prior approval should be requested to the Finance Committee as it is now applied. Thank you.

Mme Virginie ASSOGBA-MIGUEL (Observateur du Bénin)

La délégation béninoise a suivi depuis hier, avec beaucoup d'intérêt, les discussions et félicite le personnel de la FAO ainsi que les États Membres. Je voudrais remercier également le Président du Comité financier qui vient de présenter son Rapport. Le Rapport était clair mais, quand même, quand on suit depuis hier le problème des arriérés qui sont payés et les contributions qui mettent du temps et qui ne permettent pas à l'Organisation de travailler et d'atteindre peut-être les résultats escomptés, cela fait réfléchir.

Toute à l'heure, dans l'intervention du Président du Comité, il a été question d'essayer d'étudier ce qui pouvait se faire pour que ces États puissent arriver à payer à temps.

Donc, je comprends que ce n'était pas le moment pour eux de sortir peut-être les points ou les critères qui pourraient frapper ces pays qui ne paient pas à temps. Pour eux, il s'agissait de rédiger le Rapport, mais je voudrais suggérer qu'au-delà de ce Rapport qu'ils ont eu à présenter, ils essaient de poursuivre leur réflexion sur ces contraventions, ou bien je dirais les intérêts, comme il l'a dit dans ses propos, pour pouvoir peut-être décourager les pays. Mais avant cela, essayer de continuer un peu la sensibilisation autour pour que ces pays puissent respecter leur engagement au plus tôt.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

First of all, I would like to very much commend the Chair of the Finance Committee for his powerful championing of the need to restore the Organization's financial health by addressing the Arrears issue. Canada has spoken to this issue many times in the past and is very pleased that the Finance Committee is seeking to move this debate forward. Rather than going over all the ground, I would like to talk to another measure, not yet mentioned that would greatly help with the Arrears problem and that is the adoption of the budget by consensus.

Consensus confers legitimacy and makes the obligation to pay in full and on time all the more compelling. We should all do our level best to pass FAO's central planning and financial document with unanimous support. This will require flexibility and compromise. I would like to join Russia, Japan and the United States and possibly others in referring to CL 137/9 paragraph 20, that is the issue of the reallocation between chapters. What we have in that paragraph is a major proposed change. And I guess when faced to with the major proposal question number one, what problem are we trying to solve? I am not clear on that. We have just come through a two-year process during which Management had the chance to introduce the issue and for us all to debate it with the amount of time and detail required to satisfy us all. Now a change may be warranted but we have no explanatory paper and neither the CoC-IEE nor the Council has yet to have a debate on this proposed change. I am not sure that we can make it on the basis of simply a passing reference in a Report from the Finance Committee. I hasten to add that we welcome the Finance Committee's work on behalf of all of us, but it is an advisory body and Council, I think, needs to have a full hearing of the issue so that the majority of us who are not on the Finance Committee can understand the rationale and presumably find some compromise that satisfies everyone.

I note that the IEE did not identify the need to report on reallocations between chapters to the Finance Committee as a problem. Rather it talked of the need to empower the Governing Bodies and have them play their full governance and oversight roles. Canada is all for realigning resources for priorities. This is for the Management and Membership to do together and it is best if it is done for part of the PWB process before the onset of a biennium with a full involvement of Programme Committee and Council. Of course, things do arise within a biennium and they should be discussed between the Finance Committee and the Director-General before money is moved

between chapters. If the Management has a good case, it will get approved. Indeed I am not aware of any cases where this has not been such. Now again, Canada is not closed to the idea, but until we have a fully Results-Based Management budget and Programme Committee is playing the full role described yesterday by Brazil, my colleague, Marco Valicenti, our outgoing Programme Committee Chair and others, there is perhaps a need for such a dialogue between Finance Committee and Management to continue. So we are not saying no, merely not yet and after we have had a proper discussion.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

My delegation would like to endorse the Finance Committee's Report which is in front of us. We endorse the recognition by the Committee that the IPA is a worthy project to invest in and we once again reiterate our stand on this issue, that the IPA be funded on a 50-50 percent as proposed by Management. This has been our stand in the Africa group and the G-77. Madame Chair, we are very much concerned with the negative financial position of the Organization. The Working Fund, the Special Reserve Fund, they are all in a very bad negative position. Therefore, improving the financial situation of the Organization must be given due consideration by all of us. We need to be considerate and approve what has been proposed by the Finance Committee. Further, on the Assessed Contributions, we see some improvement this year, that several countries have made their payments as early as possible and the total sum to date is over and above the previous year. We hope this will continue and all Members will be encouraged by those who paid their Contributions. We have not had measures to encourage timely payment as tabled and discuss within the Finance Committee. We welcome those recommendations which are being put by the Finance Committee, but we say that there should be consideration on some of the measures, where they may be very difficult to realise. For example, denying membership of a country to a Governing Body may have political implications and be very difficult to implement. Interest payments on Arrears may be a more added burden to some countries who are already in Arrears, so it might also be counter productive. Therefore, the measures which we are looking for should be very balanced and have safeguards particularly for those countries who are experiencing some unavoidable problems. Thank you.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Thank you very much for the presentation and for the report. But I would like to start with the issue of Measures to Encourage Timely Payment. I am still not clear exactly what the Finance Committee is proposing. I mean, is that just to enforce the rules that are here and going against the current political practice that we have had into allowing countries in technical arrears with more than two years of contributions accumulated to be able to vote in Conference or in any vote. I am still to be convinced that this is the best way to proceed because it suffices to take a look at document CL 137/LIM/1 and see what are the countries in Arrears. All these countries with a potential voting problem are developing countries, so is that the wish of the Finance Committee to penalise these countries? While no measures, no measures are very clear in terms of tackling the issue of late payments and which I think deserves in fact greater consideration because we are not talking about encouraging timely payments just for the sake of penalising smaller developing countries, but in fact to improve the financial health of the Organization. So I leave a note of caution on that because it is not too clear to me what is intended to be done. Or the Finance Committee is thinking of bringing up a whole comprehensive approach to this in their consideration to the matter and having a full proposal to be discussed, so if I could be further informed of the intentions of the Finance Committee, I would appreciate it. The second point I would like to mention is, what I have been consistently asking, my Delegation has been consistently asking, is on an issue that was highlighted by Mr Haight earlier today on how we are going to be known if indeed there are problems with the Core Voluntary Contributions income, and what is the likely impact on the programmatic delivery of what we are deciding. I do not think we need to talk on the IPA as our position was clearly mentioned yesterday, and we stick to it. But I would like to refer to the document CL 137/9. I wish to commend the Finance Committee for making it very clear, very clear, the recommendation that, except for one delegation, all other Members of the Finance Committee approved the incremental budgetary requirements. There is

no word regarding other Members disagreeing with incremental needs, so I gather, although it is not written there, that the Committee agreed with the proposal of Management on the level of the budget and the only sticking issue that I gather from that Report is that on the IPA financing. So, I think that, paragraph 14 makes it clear that just one Member pointed that the cost increases should be absorbed through a budget of Zero Nominal Growth. Except for that, all the Members, I understand, agreed with the budget proposal which I think is a very welcome fact and shows the Finance Committee working with very clear and sound recommendations.

Some other countries have mentioned the issue of the possibility of changes within programmes without interference of the Governing Bodies. If some more information could be shared with us, I think its very meagre this paragraph here. I would expect the Finance Committee aligning more arguments for us to be able to take an informed decision.

Then I would like to touch upon the last point of my intervention which is on improving the financial health of the Organization. In Section 5 of the last report of the Finance Committee, we have seen that we are postponing what the recommendation is, although the Finance Committee itself recognizes that there are increasing unfunded liabilities. We need to come to terms and bite the bullet and indeed improve this financial situation. What we are doing without looking at that, we are just pushing some liabilities down under the carpet pretending that they do not exist. I am not sure, Chairman, this is a responsible budgeting exercise on the part of the Organization, but these were the comments that I would like to make and certainly expect some responses from yourself and the Secretariat.

Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

I would certainly also like to thank Mr Yasser Sorour for the clear presentation of the Report from the Finance Committee. We fully support the EU statement delivered by Sweden but we would like to elaborate a little bit on a question the Finance Committee unfortunately has not really considered and that is: What is actually the scope for further efficiency gains and savings during 2010-2011? First, what is the track record of this Organization, so far? We do not know in detail, at least I do not know in detail, but in the Programme of Work and Budget C 2009/15, in paragraph 179, it is actually stated that since 1994, the various efforts have shielded efficiency savings estimated at more than USD 140 million per biennium, a quite impressive figure we are unfortunately not able to verify. The PWB document, in Chapter 3 on Savings and Efficiency Gains, also delivers a convincing argumentation that this Organization is inclined to continue to pursue all avenues for further savings. At the reference to the Root and Branch Review yesterday and also this morning by the Director-General, and the Management have actually made references to the findings of the Root and Branch Review at several occasions, and has argued that all evidence-based possibility for further efficiency gains has already been incorporated in the Programme of Work and Budget. It should however be noted that the RBR was focusing on the administrative and support functions constituting the so-called corporate services and now it even covers the activities of the ODG as mentioned by the U.S. delegation earlier today. But even within these narrow boundaries, the RBR team succeeded in identifying the net savings of some USD 12.7 million in 2010-2011. It should be noted that the bulk of the Organization, the Technical Departments, the decentralised structure, partnerships and other important areas, was not reviewed. Therefore, we are still convinced that this Organization during 2010-2011 will be able to identify and implement activities with a view to further enhance efficiency and deliver savings of at least same magnitude as decided by the Conference in 2007, and I underline, without negative consequences for the Regular Programme.

Ms Nancy ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)

We endorse the Report of the Finance Committee and we also would like to associate ourselves with the comments made by Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group. We would like to make the following observations.

Under paragraphs 19-22 which cover the issue of enterprise risk management, I would like to indicate that enterprise risk management should above all cover the integrated budget because the

success of the main organizational results and even the IPA largely depends on the smooth running of the relationships between assets and voluntary funds. Paragraph 36 covering the foundations of planning and budget, note that these have changed and teething problems should be expected. Could Management please enlighten us on the problems they anticipate and the solutions they envisage. Paragraph 38, we support the needs to maintain the Organization's purchasing power, noting that the calculations were based on the methodology approved by the Governing Bodies. Paragraphs 60 to 61, we support the Finance Committee's view on the harmonisation of cost recovery policies between Agencies.

However, as regards to paragraph 64, the suggestion that TCP be carried into the third biennium, this can be already suggesting that the Organization is using TCP resources for the second biennium for other purposes. In line with the IEE observation, we would like to indicate that this should be discontinued. We, therefore, support the Finance Committee's position on this matter. I think we have already indicated earlier on the importance of implementing approved TCP projects tenuously, and we cannot overemphasize this subject.

On the item covering the World Food Summit, I think this is covered in paragraphs 86 to 88 regarding the possible financing for travel of delegates from the Least Developed Countries. We support this position and this would enable the Least Developed Countries to share their views with the rest of the Membership in shaping the future for securing a food security. We also encouraged the readiness of the WFP and IFAD to play an effective role in this regard. Thank you, Madame Chair.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

Nuestra delegación hizo los comentarios correspondientes sobre el Marco Estratégico, el Plan a Plazo Medio y el Plan de Trabajo y Presupuesto en el Tema 5. Ahora sólo queremos hacer un breve comentario, que le vamos a agradecer al Comité de Finanzas por la presentación del documento tan detallada. El comentario breve está relacionado con que la delegación cubana reconoce todas las conclusiones que están en el informe del Comité de Finanzas acerca de la difícil situación de liquidez que presenta la FAO.

En ese sentido deseamos también hacer notar que ese Comité precisamente reconoció que algunos países en mora atraviesan situaciones económicas sumamente difíciles, por lo que consideramos que esta es una razón para que el Comité de Finanzas estudie con mucha precisión, con mucho sentido político, las medidas a aplicar para mejorar la salud financiera de esta organización, en especial aquellas medidas que estan destinadas a aprobar o proponer sanciones a los países que se encuentran en mora.

Mme Fatimé Issa RAMADAN (Observateur du Tchad)

Nous félicitons vivement le Comité financier pour le Rapport. Bien que, tout à l'heure, il y a eu une intervention qui disait que l'aspect économique réalisé par la FAO ne se trouvait pas dans ce Rapport, nous souhaiterions que cet aspect "économique" qui doit être réalisé par la FAO occuper une place importante, cela permettra ainsi aux membres ici présents de savoir quels sont les moyens que la FAO doit utiliser pour sa politique.

Revenons à la contribution, le point clé soulevé par le Rapport. J'espère que tout ce que nous avons dit des PIR (Programmes intérimaires renforcés) jusqu'à ce matin est un nœud de problèmes de moyens financiers. La FAO a beau avoir une belle politique, mais si elle n'a pas les moyens de sa politique, cela va être très difficile.

Donc, au niveau des contributions, tous les Membres des États qui ont payé leurs cotisations, ceux qui se sont retirés, ceux qui ont pris du retard, quand nous voyons les chiffres ici, on comprend que la FAO doit avoir des problèmes. Le Comité financier a pu esquisser quelques mesures comme décision qui tendent vers une sanction. Quand on parle d'intérêts pour les retards, quand on parle de remises pour encourager ceux qui sont de bons payeurs, cela ne suffit pas. Je pense qu'avant que l'on arrive à une sanction, il va falloir prendre des mesures de préventions. Ceci permettra à la délégation du Tchad de faire une proposition en réitérant celle de ce matin, qui

consiste à pouvoir avoir un mécanisme d'éveil pour interpeller au fur et à mesure avant qu'il ne soit trop tard les États qui doivent vraiment s'acquitter de leurs cotisations, car on ne va pas attendre le dernier moment ou quelque chose qui ne va pas pour prendre des décisions, en fait des sanctions. Le Tchad fait cette proposition pour ce nouveau mécanisme efficace qui va être un mécanisme d'éveil permettant d'interpeller les États Membres au fur et à mesure afin que tout le monde soit en règle.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Chad. Morocco.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Très brièvement, je voudrais féliciter le Président du Comité financier de ses efforts pour régler le lancinant problème des arriérés des contributions et de retard des paiements qui empêchent à l'Organisation d'aller de l'avant. Nous saisissons l'occasion pour exhorter les États Membres qui accusent de tels arriérés de faire un effort sur eux-mêmes et je pense que la mise en œuvre des Réformes par l'Organisation est le moment propice pour le faire

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I just would like to say that I share the same concern as expressed by Brazil on the area that the sanctions that we put on the developing countries may perhaps aggravate the situation in those countries. What we have to bear in mind is that we have to evaluate whether the measures imposed on those countries can really help encourage timely payment. It is not just to tell us that we are doing something good because the numbers of countries in Arrears has decreased. It may not have decreased because of the sanctions but it may be decreased by other factors so we have to bear this in mind.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

I want to make a proposal to help countries that are having difficulties in making their payments. We can propose that they can schedule their payments either on a monthly or quarterly basis if it becomes difficult for them to pay in bulk. At least spreading the payments out over the year will help a little bit.

Michael GLOVER (United States of America)

I apologize for taking the floor again on this agenda item, but I briefly wanted to refer to a comment made by the Brazilian delegation as I understood it to the effect that the Report for the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Special Session of the Finance Committee indicates that all countries but one present at that Finance Committee Session endorsed the level of the budget found in the PWB proposal before us today. I would like to state categorically, for the record, that the United States did not opine on the level of the PWB at the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Special Session of the Finance Committee, because the United States does not believe that an advisory technical body is the correct form to discuss the level of the budget.

Moungui MEDÍ (Cameroun)

Madam Chair thank you very much and we welcome you there on the hot desk and you know very well that you have the full support of this delegation to perform your duty as you are sitting on that hot seat.

Let me also thank our Chairman of the Finance Committee for a brilliant report and as part of the Finance Committee, I think I endorse fully what is said and I also think that the Finance Committee did its best to come up with concrete proposals to be tabled before the Council and, through it, to the Conference. We all have to support the work of that Technical Committee which did not joke at all when it was deliberating.

Suite en français

Depuis hier, notre délégation suit les débats, globalement, dans tous les sens et toutes les questions qui ont été soulevées. La question du financement du PAI, qui a été mentionné dans cet

ordre du jour également, qui, encore une fois, attire notre attention. Nous avons suivi des positions diverses sur cette question, nous connaissons la proposition du Secrétariat qui a été très finement examinée par le Comité financier et qui a fait des propositions concrètes qui nous ont été présentées hier par notre Président. Mais aujourd'hui, je continue à m'interroger sur des positions un peu diverses encore sur le niveau du financement du PAI. Certains disent qu'il faut que ce soit entièrement financé par les contributions mises en recouvrement et d'autres disent qu'il faut respecter la proposition du Secrétariat.

Madame la Présidente, je voudrais attirer l'attention de nous tous ici, sur le fait que jusqu'à maintenant, aucune de ces propositions, en dehors de la deuxième qui a été faite hier par le Président du Comité financier, ne considère la question budgétaire comme un tout, comme un *package*. Cela devrait être un tout. Si vous considérez le PAI comme élément à part entière du budget, alors il faut savoir comment on le gère.

Je mets sur la table trois considérations, Madame la Présidente. Premièrement, nous ne devons pas oublier que le PAI est un plan qui est limité dans le temps. Deuxièmement, nous ne devons pas non plus oublier que la FAO a des actions prioritaires qu'elle a le devoir de conduire pour ses Membres. Troisièmement, nous ne mettons de côté le fait que le PAI a un caractère prioritaire. Si on considère que le PAI est limité dans le temps et que nous continuons à réfléchir sur l'idée qu'il n'y a pas d'augmentations budgétaires à venir, si on adopte un niveau de budget aujourd'hui, comment va-t-on réfléchir? Comment va-t-on comparer ces niveaux de budget? L'année prochaine, si le PAI y est intégré à 100 pour cent, c'est une question à laquelle il faudrait que nous puissions tous répondre ici. Parce que nous avons besoin de dire au prochain biennium, que nous avons une augmentation de tant, mais une augmentation de tant par rapport à quoi? A ce moment là, le PAI sera exclu de la programmation. C'est une donnée fondamentale, qu'il nous faudra prendre en considération et qui peut certainement alimenter les débats futurs.

Mohammed Abdel RAZIG (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to express our thanks to the Finance Committee through its Chairperson. The Committee is the neutral technical body which can provide the necessary advice for Council.

We found that Members are being urged to pay their contributions. It is necessary that all countries being treated in the same way should all pay in the same way, so the report is judicious and sensible and we should support it. The Finance Committee is best placed to know what the Organization should do because of its expertise, and it has made some proposals.

CHAIRPERSON

It looks like we have exhausted our comments. May I now turn to the Management, first to the Chair of the Finance Committee to respond to the observations that have been made by Members. Thank you.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I do have some comments to make and I will leave the Secretariat to reply on some questions, but I will begin with the measures proposed by the Finance Committee to encourage the prompt payment of contributions. It was not our intention, and I am aware of what I am saying, to say that there are some countries which want to impose sanctions on others.

The Finance Committee looked at it from a technical point of view to find a solution. Madam, on that basis, if we look at paragraph 55 of the Report of the Finance Committee, at the end of the paragraph it says "The Committee recognizes that some countries in arrears are faced by difficult economic situations". That is part of the balanced solution which the Finance Committee is proposing to the Council and secondly the Finance Committee has not proposed introducing any sanctions. It recommended to continue to implement the recommendations which you adopted in the past, and the Finance Committee has just recommended one thing at the moment and that is to implement everything which can be done, subject to these measures being applied in the Finance

Committee and by the constitution of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. So that is what the Finance Committee decided, and the three committees I have mentioned are not more important than the Council and the three Committees pass recommendations to the Council so the Members in the three committees have the same status in the Council, so these matters are still being examined and Members, at our last meeting, made some proposals and we continue to look at them. We continue to do this before we put them formally forward to the Council, and I personally agree that much of the problem lies in the Arrears of payments. In particular, if one of the countries in arrears is one of the larger contributors to the Organization.

We did stress that, however, at a later stage we need to look, in the light of the Report of the Finance Committee, at the adoption of other measures. So, Madam, I have never said that it is necessary to impose interests on payments of arrears, all I said is that the countries in arrears, while we did think of charging them interest on the Arrears, that is all I want to underline, this idea did not get the support of all the Members of the Finance Committee, and when we are looking at measures to be taken in the future, it will have to be looked at again, that for payment of contributions. I made these points in reply to the many questions asked.

As for Working Capital, my view is that the Secretariat, correct me if I am wrong but this Capital, this turnover, depends upon the financial flows in any Organization. We could look at the practices used in other organizations to try to see what the best practices are. It is not an easy matter because each organization has its peculiar circumstances but we could look at them and see if we could get inspiration to encourage the timely payment of contributions to the Organization.

As for human resources, I think that when I spoke, I said that the Finance Committee is always tracking the implementation of the human resources strategy and that has always been on the agenda of our Committee. Some said that we should take account of the financial situation of Members, as I replied in paragraph 55 of the Report of the Finance Committee.

As for the financial situation of the Organization, Madam, as we said in our two earlier reports, we say that it is necessary to look at the Programme of Work and Budget as a whole, as a package. We cannot look at part of it and overlook other parts.

In the discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget we need to look at all these things and I said yesterday that the Finance Committee, when it was dealing with the matters before it, did make some recommendations to the Council and I think that that is good practice which the Finance Committee should follow, and as an example, the After-Service Medical Coverage is a point at issue. If we are going to implement the proposals of a percentage mentioned, well we will not solve it. We will however realize that these obligations on the shoulders of the Organization will grow and so the Finance Committee decided that it is necessary to increase the sum but we did not really decide by how much – we left that to the Council.

So these are the different points which we examined. And we consider that it is necessary to have a higher amount but it is up to Members to decide to what extent the increase will be implemented.

Well, that is all I have to say, Madam, at this juncture and having heard the response of the Secretariat, I will try to look back at these comments and we will ask for the floor again if I see that there is any point which I have not covered.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Sorour. I will now turn to Management, Mr Juneja.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

I would like to start off by providing some background and rationale for all the measures that have been put forward to improve the financial health of the Organization. As several Members have mentioned, these have a significant impact on assessments. A range has been put forward,

with a minimum impact of USD 31.6 million on increased assessments for 2010-2011 and what is quoted as a desirable level of USD 163 million.

Let me clarify that this emanates from a specific request that was made by the Finance Committee to Management some four years ago. In fact the request came from the Representative of the United States of America to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee at the time felt there was a need for a holistic dialogue in the PWB discussions, not just on the proposed programme of work of the Organization, but also on the balance sheet side of the Organization, its financial health and its liquidity.

In making the proposals for the minimum measures to improve financial health, I must underline that the Director-General is strictly following the previous guidance of the Governing Bodies.

The recommendations in the PWB on the funding for the After-Service Medical Coverage is something that emanates directly from the Council discussions since 2000, and the specific funding proposal for After-Service Medical coverage come directly from the recommendations of the Council.

So does the request for the USD 6.4 million replenishment for the Special Reserve Account which was a cash drawdown against the Special Reserve Account in 2006 and which, in fact, was deferred by the Council during the last biennium. The proposals for an increase in the Working Capital Fund fall a desirable level proposal bearing in mind that the Organization has a Regular Programme cash outlay of approximately USD 45 million a month and the present level of the Working Capital Fund barely provides about a fortnight of cash coverage.

Now what the Management is doing is simply putting the facts to you, the Member Nations, who, of course, have the responsibility to provide the resources to the Organization – your Organization. It is up to the Membership of FAO to look at the best practices of others and to look also perhaps at other practices that are followed in the UN System. But our desire is simply that you, the Membership, can take an informed decision in this matter. Of course, deferring the proposed measures to improve the financial health is an option for the Membership. It is, however, important that I also underline that in the same paragraph that several Members referred to, that is paragraph 25 of the Finance Committee Report of its Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session, the Committee stressed that while it might be possible to defer decisions on funding proposals to improve the financial health of the Organization, postponement would contribute to further increases in unfunded liabilities, the accumulated deficit and cash depletion. I am mentioning it to you so that the Membership at the Conference can take an informed decision.

I wanted to turn also to several interventions made about the Director-General's authority to effect transfers between chapters. A question was raised on what basis this was being done and whether this is coming out of the blue. Let me clarify that this matter has been under discussion for well over a year now with the Membership. It was introduced in 2008 in discussions between Management and Working Group 1 and Working Group 3 of the Conference Committee of the IEE. The CoC-IEE Working Groups passed the challenge onto the Finance Committee which first considered the matter in October 2008. Then, the draft PWB which was presented to the Working Groups and the Programme and Finance Committee in July 2009 presented options in this matter, in connection with the proposed chapter structure for the Budgetary Appropriations Resolution. In fact, in these options that were presented with the draft PWB, one of the options had no requirement for such authority for the Director-General. The second option provided some flexibility to the Director-General and it is this option that the Finance Committee considered in July as a basis for its specific proposal in September. So the matter has been tabled for over a year.

More fundamentally, what problem are we trying to solve? I think the important point to note here is that the direction of the discussions in the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE and the Finance Committee have pointed towards a need to align the chapter structure for the Budgetary Appropriations Resolution to the Strategic Objectives and the Functional Objectives that have been discussed under the Strategic Framework and the MTP. In addition, as you heard yesterday,

there is a proposal for a separate chapter for the TCP and a further chapter for the FAORs. Therefore, the situation that we find ourselves in is that while the Director-General had the authority to manage the budget within five substantive chapters in 2008-2009, in 2010-2011 with the direction that the proposals are taking for the chapter structure for 2010-2011, there will be fifteen chapters instead of five. So, one way of looking at the matter is to actually note that in a sense the Director-General's authority to manage the budget has been diluted by two-thirds.

From a practical point of view, I could add that it might be difficult for the Finance Committee, that meets two or three times a year, to pre-approve transfers between chapters when we have fifteen chapters instead of five. Bear in mind, transfers between chapters can happen for technical reasons such as fluctuating exchange rates between the US Dollar which is our function currency and our currencies of expenditure, such as the Euro. So, there is not simply a programmatic reason for chapter expenditure being exceeded or under-spent. Of course, Management would always report to the Governing Bodies on the over-expenditure and under-expenditure between chapters, irrespective of any flexibility that is granted.

Another point I would note, which came up in the discussions in the Finance Committee, is that, in fact, the WHO, which follows a similar process of alignment of its budgetary appropriations with its strategic objectives, has a ten percent flexibility for its Director-General to make transfers between chapters without seeking prior approval from its Governing Bodies. So, essentially, what has been put forward by the Finance Committee is wording that is similar to the practice that is already followed at WHO but, of course with a figure of five percent as opposed to ten percent.

I would like to also turn briefly to a comment made by the Russian Federation regarding the need to carefully review staff costs and entitlements. Let me reaffirm that FAO and its Governing Bodies have signed up to the statute of the ICSC since 1975 and we diligently follow the recommendations of the ICSC.

More broadly, on the comments made by the United States of America on human resources strategy, I would tend to suggest that we have made good progress in tightening the list of indicators in our human resources strategy and its implementation for the next biennium. The indicators are contained in the PWB under Functional Objective Y although I might add that this is still work-in-progress and I am sure that there is an opportunity for improvement as we go along. But to provide some indications, we are seeking to hold ourselves accountable in the HR area by coming up with service-level agreements for HR servicing; in streamlining our procedures; in coming up with an HR management information system; in implementing management and training programmes; implementing PEMS as the Director-General alluded to this morning; implementing a mobility policy and improving gender representation as well as the number of countries that are equitably represented. In all these areas we are preparing baselines and we have come up with proposed targets for two years – the PWB period – and four years – the MTP period.

With regard to the Ethics Officer, we are in the final stages now of the selection. A shortlist has been submitted to the Selection Committee. As for the appointment of the Inspector General, we anticipate that a proposal will be made to the Finance Committee at its meeting in early November.

Regarding the Ombudsperson, this was not a specific request of the IEE and the IPA. So it is not proposed under the net Appropriation for the draft PWB 2010-2011, but we have included that proposal under Core Voluntary Contributions.

Finally, I should like to turn to a question raised by Denmark about our track record for efficiency savings and here perhaps you would allow me to elaborate on the analysis that was done by the Independent External Evaluation in this regard. I am looking at paragraph 1223 of the IEE Report which falls under a section on *Efficiencies and Effectiveness*. I think it is important that I quote this, because there have been so many interventions in the past day on efficiency savings. I quote "the Organization can also be commended for taking a number of positive actions. A quantification of savings was presented for information to the Hundred and Nineteenth Council in

November 2000 and subsequently reported to the Conference in the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003. The PWB 2004-2005 summarized savings arising from efficiency measures implemented from 1994 to publication totalling some USD 120 million per biennium compared with 1994." The IEE in the same paragraph went on to say "the IEE did not try to corroborate the data independently but no evidence was found in any Governing Body records or external audit reports that challenged these figures. In fact, the Report of the May 2005 Session of the Finance Committee states "recognizing that savings estimated at USD 60 million per annum compared with 1994 had already been achieved several Members acknowledged the difficulties in achieving further savings." That was a quote from the Finance Committee. It went on to say "the Report of the May 2005 Programme Committee stated that it recognized that major savings had been achieved in the recent past and it, therefore, requested that the efficiency savings targets for 2006-2007 should be realistic."

I have quoted IEE as well as what the IEE quoted at that time from the record of the Programme and Finance Committees. So, in determining our track record for efficiency savings since 1994, we have taken as a starting point the IEE Report. If we add to that the efficiency savings that were quantified in the PWB 2006-2007 as well as the efficiency savings that were noted in the current PWB 2008-2009, including measures such as the implementation of the Shared Service Centre and the USD 22 million of efficiency savings mandated by the Conference, we come to the figure of USD 170 million per biennium of efficiency savings compared with 1994.

Now, is the past a good indicator of future trends? The RBR concluded that on balance maybe it is not and that further substantial efficiency savings cannot be substantiated.

Nicholas NELSON (Director, Finance Division)

It may be helpful to address a couple of pending queries which were proposed by the distinguished delegate of Japan who asked in essence what is the cash flow outlook at this point. As many of you know, for some time we have been posting a full report on the public website which outlines the cash flow prospects and, as the Finance Committee knows, we continuously adjust those forecasts based on arrivals of funds and in fact over the course of the summer when some very significant arrears payments were most pleasantly received, we did adjust the forecast of potential borrowing from October to November and today, unfortunately, with the current assessments still outstanding, we are looking at the very likely position of borrowing in December of this year unless we receive some final significant current assessments.

Manoj mentioned that our average outflow is about USD 45 million regular programme per month and if you add, the arithmetic comes very quickly. These are large amounts that must be covered by receipt of assessments.

The distinguished delegate of Japan also asked in regards to After-Service-Medical Coverage, how other UN entities are dealing with this issue. The Finance Committee in May of this year looked at a Finance Committee document prepared for them which exhaustively covered the results of the actuarial evaluation of the After-Service and also included in that paper was an overview of the situation in other UN Agencies. An update was also distributed during the Finance Committee Session in May showing the position of similar Agencies to FAO in terms of size, let us say. They have a variety of approaches. Some are very fortunately fully funded for this liability, they are a minority. Some are partially funded, as is FAO, and others are not funded at all. All are seeking, of course, viable long-term solutions because this is an issue that the UN System is facing and recognizes that it needs a long-term approach of course.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

If I just may very quickly thank Mr Juneja for starting to respond to my question on the re-allocation between chapters and what the problem is that we are trying to solve. I take due note of what he said, that it is essentially because the number of chapters have gone up, but I would note that yesterday we heard a lot of questions about how the new system would work, how the new chapters would work, and so on. I am still left with the impression that now is not the time for transparency and dialogue between Management and the Governing Bodies to decrease. Our

starting point is dialogue is good, it increases understanding and assures buy-in for the Director-General's decisions. In the new biennium, the Finance Committee and Council will be meeting even more often than they do now, and Regulation 4.5 b says that the re-allocations can be approved by either the Finance Committee or Council, so in the new biennium, in practice, we would never be looking at a delay of more than a couple of months. So I do not see this as a significant constraint on the Director-General's authorities. Rather I think it is perhaps an opportunity to deepen our understanding of how the new PWB is going to work and so I would encourage Management to use those opportunities and help us understand how resources are being moved to priorities and, this is a transitional PWB, maybe by the time the next PWB we will all be ready to grant that authority, but for now I do not think it is the time to be cutting the Finance Committee or the Council out of discussion.

Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

I would certainly also like to appreciate the clearances provided by the Chair of the Finance Committee and Mr Juneja, and to the latter I think I clearly recognize that this Organization seems to have a quite impressive track record for delivering efficiency gains and savings. My only regret was that the Finance Committee, which we are discussing today, has not had the opportunity during at least the four years that I have been Member of the Finance Committee to really investigate and evaluate and consider what is the scope, and I would obviously to the Management, I would take the very impressive track record from the past as a very good indication also that there is significant scope for further efficiency gains and savings also for the future. Why should it not be like that?

In the meantime, since 1994 the budget of this Organization has increased considerably due to extra-budgetary resources and so on, so why should it not be like that. Mr Juneja calls once again upon the Root & Branch Review to prove this is not the case. But please indulge me, Mr Juneja, and admit that the Root & Branch Review was a limited review of financial support functions. It was not a general review of the scope for efficiency gains and savings in the totality of the Organization.

Please indulge me and admit that.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

I hope my colleague from Denmark is not discrediting the Root & Branch Review Report, which is already there, signed, sent and paid for, or at least I think it has been paid for, or are we increasing our liabilities?

I do not want to fiddle with numbers here, but seeing the document on arrears, it just caught my eye the fact that, and I thank our Chairman of the Finance Committee for talking about not penalising the developing countries that are with potential Voting Rights problems as of the 23 September, Appendix G of document 137/LIM1.

The amount of money that those countries with a potential voting problem, they amount only to seven percent of the total uncollected contributions of the Organization. Seven percent. At the same time, and I am sure that the Finance Committee has looked at that very carefully, on the same document on Appendix I, the largest 25 contributors to the Organization, they amount to over USD 140 million out of the USD 176 million. That is how much they contribute to their Arrears, to the uncollected contributions by the Organization.

So I insist that we need to look at this issue in a holistic manner, not on a just one-track approach and also I would insist that we should aim at getting the most of those that owe the most, let us not go for the smaller ones, let us go for the bigger ones and let us be clear on that and let us go for those that are, in fact, putting the Organization into a difficult financial situation. These were the comments that I wanted to make and I thank Mr Juneja for informing me on the background of the request of the one to five percent shift, but he mentioned the experience of the WHO. Could you probably inform me about that bilaterally, but he mentioned that WHO has a 10 percent limit - how many chapters do they have and how many times have they been in the situation to make

use of that transfer of money- so that we could get the ball rolling and have a better understanding of what are the implications of this.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I would just like to make a little comment. In my opinion all Member Nations have commitments to the Organization whether they are small contributors or large contributors and I hope that I have not been misunderstood in that with regard to the statement made by Brazil.

All Member Nations have commitments to this Organization whether they are small commitments or large commitments, and we must ensure that all Member Nations fulfill their obligations towards the Organization. For the Finance Committee, I have said that this issue is not closed. There are a certain number of ideas that were put forward which need to be analyzed and studied in greater depth and this clearly comes out in the Report that we have presented to Council. The starting point is to say that we are all responsible, we all have responsibilities to the Organization. We do not want to target anybody, we just want to resolve the problem which has been ongoing for a long time. As an example, there is a decision or a recommendation, a decision made by the Council encouraging Member Nations with arrears to pay with a scale of payments and I think that Argentina is an excellent example. Argentina signed an agreement with the Organization to pay on a certain term plan, and we would like to encourage others to do the same. Unfortunately a certain number of Member Nations, both small and large, have not taken the choice to follow that example, for reasons I am not aware of. We are aware that there are economic difficulties that States are going through, especially those with arrears and we do take that into consideration and also that is clearly highlighted in the Committee's Report.

Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I appreciate that at the end of this meeting I would like to make a very brief observation.

Thank you to the Chairman of the Finance Committee to recommend to all of us our commitments whether small or large ones.

I would like to point out to my dear Ambassador of Brazil, my friend, that a very important point he raised regarded taking into account the percentage of the arrears of developing and developed countries. It was a very important point raised by himself in this regard, Madame Chair, so I would just like to remind you and record this very important point by the Finance Committee and by all the Members.

CHAIRPERSON

We discussed many interesting topics relating to the Sessions of the Hundred and Twenty-eight and Hundred and Twenty-ninth Sessions of the Finance Committee, and many subjects were indeed of interest to Members, but generally there was support of the work of the Finance Committee with the following observations.

On the Scale of Contributions, Members noted the status of the contribution as at 23 September 2009 and indeed the concerns that the picture points to only the financial situation of the Organization, and while recognizing the financial situation of many Members, the Committee urged Members to pay Contributions in full and on time, if only to meet the necessary responsibilities of the Organization.

Other matters which arose from the report related to the measures that were recommended by the Finance Committee to encourage timely payment of contributions. The meeting noted the Finance Committee's recommendations and there was support for these recommendations. However, in the same vein, others also observed that they might have a negative impact on developing countries who are in difficulty. Some Members even suggested that there should be more engagement, early warning, encouraging Members and engaging Members. The Finance Committee should continue to explore all possible measures to urge Members to meet their commitments through incentives to encourage prompt payment. The meeting noted the Finance Committee's indication of sending

a signal to Members on the need to meet the obligations to the Organization in a timely manner. For this, the Finance Committee had proposed a re-introduction of the incentive mechanism that was in place before. This was under consideration, and the percentages that were being mentioned were 0.03 percent for the USD and 0.43 for the Euro.

On programming budgeted transfers, the meeting noted that the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed transfers and authorized this, noting that the Director-General would be reporting to the Governing Body the precise amounts transferred at the May 2010 Session of the Finance Committee. Members discussed this at length and some felt that the percentage of 5 percent was high but would settle for a percentage, a presumed thing. This is a matter we are leaving for the Finance Committee to work out with Management. Some felt that in the interests of the IPA, we should continue to monitor this process and still continue to empower the Finance Committee to oversee the chapter transfers. Management confirmed that these transfers would need to be reported to the Finance Committee. Consequently our Governing Bodies will always be in the picture as to what position is being taken seeing that this is what the Membership would like to be assured of.

At the same time, other issues relating to oversight mechanisms were also discussed vis-à-vis the Ethics Office, the Office of the Ombudsman and indeed, clarification of indicators in human resource performance mechanisms. All this was underscored by Members.

Generally, I got the impression that Members of the Finance Committee, on the general level of the budget, didn't seem to have difficulty and I think even now the US Representative clarified the position that was taken by his country on the matter suggesting that this month, the final position was being referred to this Council. So according to this Report, there seemed to have been a general agreement in the Finance Committee recommending to us this general agreement on the budget. It is to be noted that there were differences on the manner in which the IPA financing should be treated, a matter which we are referring to Item 5 to be handled by the Chair of Council alongside other outstanding issues.

I think with that, as regards the measures for improving the financial health of the body, then the Finance Committee noted that Management was proceeding on various Council decisions. Reading the document, I noticed that even Conference had committed itself to be looking at this in this particular budget. Management was proceeding on that understanding and the Finance Committee was recommending this to us to review the earlier positions we had taken on this matter.

I think basically the major issues that were debated I've tried to sum them up. Others are really still work in progress.

With that, I present the Report of the Hundred and Twenty-ninth and Hundred and Twenty-eighth Sessions to the Membership.

Do I see a flag?

Michael GLOVER (United States)

I would just like to respectfully take exception to your summing up that there was quote "general agreement" end of quote, within the Finance Committee on the level of the budget in the PWB. I would respectfully suggest that the Chairman of the Finance Committee clarify this point. To my recollection, we had no discussion in the Finance Committee, Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session and I wasn't at the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session, but I am told that was the case. We had no discussion on the level of the PWB budget.

CHAIRPERSON

Apologies, if that be the case, I beg to withdraw. In any case it is a matter that is still in the Independent Chair's envelope so it is not a matter that I am due to resolve here unless if the Chair of the Finance Committee is in a position to resolve that matter once and for all.

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

I just want to confirm that we did not discuss the ceiling of the budget and the sentence you will find in paragraph 14 says "one Member Nation said that we should take into account expenditure within the framework of a Zero Nominal Growth". But we did not discuss this point in the Finance Committee. There was a difference of view about that point.

Since you have allowed me to take the floor and since it's the last report that we will submit as a Finance Committee, I want to thank all the Members of the Finance Committee for all the work that they have done. It was two years of arduous ongoing work and we discussed many very important points and without the efforts of all Members, we would not have been able to come up with the recommendations which we presented at the last and the present Session of the Council. So I thank all of them. I also thank the Secretariat for all the support given to us in our work.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Could it be clarified if the Finance Committee is meeting again so that it can counsel Council on what they have considered? I do not think the answer is yes. They are not going to be meeting again, so what the Finance Committee should be doing is advising Council on a holistic approach to the budget, not on things that they have not considered. There is a huge black hole there in this Report, because when I read paragraph 14, I quote "the Committee considered the anticipated cost increases aimed at preserving purchasing power in the execution of the Programme of Work, funded from assessed contributions in 2010-2011. If the Finance Committee is going to consider the cost increases, and preserving the purchasing power they were considering the previous budget and they were not talking just in theory. They were certainly scrutinizing the budget looking at the numbers, but now I am surprised to see that, the Finance Committee has not looked at the total cost of the total value of the budget. I heard the Chairman of the Finance Committee last statement in French, and there was a mention of a ceiling in the French translation. Yes I heard the word "plafond". Is that a ceiling? So I am not sure that I don't know what you meant by that because it surprised me. Are we talking about ceilings in the budgetary negotiations? I thought that the Finance Committee would have come with good advice to us in terms of all this because the reading of the paragraph, yes indeed, they have considered how to preserve the purchasing power of the previous budget. It really surprises me and really I encourage the Members of the Finance Committee, maybe next time around because there will be no time until we meet again on this issue to try to have a better performance and come with better clear advice to the Membership as we try to do in the Programme Committee. They should have some self criticism on what they are doing because according to what I am reading, yes indeed, they have considered and approved.

Moungui MEDÍ (Cameroon)

I am sorry to come up as an observer at this concluding time but I think what I am going to say could probably help us in the debate, and if you permit, Madam Chair.

The issue of net appropriation was discussed in the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session. If you allow me, I may read what we thought we should convey as a message to the Council, thus paragraph 38 where I quote "The Committee noted that the proposed level of Net Appropriation was aimed at maintaining the same purchasing power through updating cost increases but in addition including critical incremental requirements under Capital and Security Expenditure", meaning that we are looking at the Net Appropriation and we felt that we can put it before the Council for consideration, with the increases that are earmarked here. In the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session, there was no item *per se* to discuss the Net Appropriation, but I think that it was taken for granted because it was already discussed in the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session. We discussed other issues pertaining to that Net Appropriation, and this will probably feed our debate in the Council. I think we should take note of that, and consider that we have, as a Committee, sent a clear message to the Council for the proposed Net Appropriation in the PWB 2010-2011.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Cameroon. I think when I call on the Chair, I would like him to explain the meaning of paragraph 38 in the Hundred and Twenty-eighth meeting and paragraph 14 in the Hundred and Twenty-ninth meeting because if we read it literally which is what most of us did, we would get a different meaning. Could we please have it from you?

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

If we read the Report as a whole, you will see that there was no general agreement in the Finance Committee about the ceiling for the budget. Paragraph 38 at the end says some Members were concerned about the increase in contributions which would occur and this means that as a Finance Committee we were not able to propose a figure for the budget. I felt in the discussions, in the Committee, the majority felt that that's a political decision and that we as a Finance Committee, we should not take that decision even though that was not my personal view. I think that a political decision should be based on technical recommendations, clear and precise but Members thought that it was a political question and not up to us to decide and that we should leave it to the Council.

Now as for paragraph 14, when we were looking at the needs for 2010-2011, one Member of the Committee asked for the floor and said that the increase in expenditure should reflect Zero Nominal Growth. That doesn't mean to say that all Members of the Committee agreed with an increase in expenditure, and we discussed something, that doesn't mean that we are going to agree or reject it. The point is still open subject to discussion and as I said all Members felt that a definition or determining of a ceiling, the budget is a political question and this is against my personal view. I would like to propose a figure. If it was up to me to decide, I would have proposed a figure.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

I heard three or four times in your statement in the French language through interpretation that there was a ceiling to the budget.

Can you please clarify?

Yasser Abdel Rahman SOROUR (Chairperson, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic)

What I meant is we did not agree in the Finance Committee on a certain level of the budget. There was difference of views inside the Finance Committee and most or maybe all of the Members of the Finance Committee have seen that this is a political decision that should be taken by the Council, not by the Finance Committee and I said clearly that was even against my personal view. I was hoping to reach a clear recommendation from the Finance Committee to the Council on a level of the budget, but it seems that due to either lack of information, they didn't get more information about certain aspects of the budget or they were not ready to approve to say that we agree or disagree with that. Maybe I have seen some of the Members were in need of discussing the issue with their capitals and with their Regional Groups, so these are the two main reasons we did not reach an agreement on a level of the budget.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. Well I don't intend to be the Chair of the Finance Committee. You have done that very ably so I can only say that I would like to thank you very much, Mr Sorour, as the Chair of the Finance Committee and the team that you have worked with over the last biennium. As you indicated, this is the end of your assignment during this biennium. It has been a pleasure to listen to your good Report and to work with you.

Members, you realise that on this last item, I can not conclude anything. I can only pass on to Ambassador Noori the relevant paragraphs that came from the Finance Committee. I understand the Finance Committee does not feel that those paragraphs fully represent their political position.

The paragraphs represent their technical position but their political position is something else, so we will pass on the political position to the Independent Chair with that maybe we can conclude this Item.

II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO (CONT'D)

II. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO (SUITE)

II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO (CONTINUACIÓN)

4. World Summit on Food Security (16-18 November 2009) (CL 137/6)

4. Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire (16-18 novembre 2009) (CL 137/6)

4. Cumbre Mundial sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria (16-18 de noviembre de 2009) (CL 137/6)

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department and Secretary of the World Summit on Food Security)

Thank you very much, Madame Chair and considering the time and in your introduction you have already mentioned key cornerstone of what I would like to say, I would only like to make a very brief introduction and a very special remark to one of the questions raised during the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group. As you all know, and the Chair has introduced it, Council has decided to set up an Open-Ended Working Group to direct management to take action for a transparent, participatory and Member-driven preparatory process, and this Open-ended Working Group should decide on necessary arrangements for the Summit, including its objectives and the outcomes. You all know, because many of you are Members of this Open-Ended Working Group, under the leadership of the elected Co-chairs. The Group has held six meetings and has decided on the concrete date of the Summit, has started to discuss the objectives and the outcomes. The Open-Ended Working Group is currently preparing a Zero Draft of the Declaration. I would also like to mention that WFP and IFAD are active partners in this process. They are participating in the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group and this Open-Ended Working Group has set itself a deadline, end of October, to deliver the Draft of the Declaration.

Madame Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the three Co-chairs and all the Members of the Open-Ended Working Group for their intensive work in the last months, and I will promise the Members of the Open-Ended Working Group that work will continue in the next weeks. During the last meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, the Secretariat has informed the Members about the three planned Pre-Summit Special Events, and in this debate, one Member Nation raised questions regarding organizational arrangements for the World Summit on Food Security, and in particular, this Member Nation questions whether the Pre-Summit Special Events were authorized by the Council at its Session in June. I have, therefore, asked the Legal Counsel to make a brief legal assessment of the situation, and I would like to read the very brief two paragraphs of this statement.

At its Session of June 2009, the Council examined document CL 136/22, entitled, "Proposed World Summit on Food Security in 2009". The Paper was reviewed extensively and contained a section entitled "Organisational Arrangements". This section of the document presented the proposed date for the Conference, and described the Special Events that it was also proposed to organize, as had already been the case, in 1996 and 2002, in the days preceding the Summit, with NGOs, CSOs, farmer organizations, the private sector and national parliaments. In addition, the Council document made explicit reference to five thematic Round Tables. From the legal point of view, there is no doubt that in approving the Summit, under Article VI, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, the Council took its decision on the basis of document, CL 136/22, and did approve the organizational arrangements related to the Summit. As is clear from the letter of the Report to the Council, the Council did approve the proposals set out in the document which is specially referred to in paragraph 84 of the Report of the Council. Therefore, from a legal point of view,

there can be no doubt that in approving the Summit, the Council approved the format outlined in document CL 136/22 including the three Special Events. This was a request of one Member Nation, and I would be happy if you want to do so to distribute this statement in the next Open-Ended Working Group. With this Madame Chair, I would like to end my short brief introduction. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Müller. Where is the information on the World Food Summit preparations? I now request for your interventions on this so that we get some feedback from the Council. I can conclude the item? I recognize Canada, UK. Any other? Can I just check the list please. Canada, UK, Brazil, the Russian Federation, Tanzania. Ok, so far so good. Canada, you have the floor.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you Mr Müller for the information you provided. I think anybody that was at the Council last time knows full well that there are many parts to that document that you referred to that were never discussed. We did spend an awful lot of time discussing whether or not we need a World Food Summit in 2009. We spent a certain amount of time talking about what objectives might be for the Summit whenever it might be held. We certainly talked about how it should be financed, and reached agreement on that. I don't think that gave us time to talk about Pre-Events, unfortunately. I don't think because something was in a document and was never discussed that necessarily means that we all agreed or that is the right way for decisions to be taken and this is not really a legal issue. I am sure your Legal Office is correct. The point that was made in the Open-Ended Working Group was that we need collectively, as Member Nations, to decide what kind of Pre-Events we want and when and how best they feed into a Summit. We never had that discussion. So that's why I wanted the Working Group to have it, and I would note that there were plenty of communications between this Organization and Parliaments long before the Council discussion on the document to which you refer, and that continues to raise issues. When you start from the point, that this is an intergovernmental organization and that before this Organization starts issuing invitations or making suggestions to our Parliaments, it needs the prior approval of the Governing Bodies, and that is a fundamental point of principle that I would hope the Legal Office also understands. Thank you.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

Thank you very much Chair. I just wanted to request that the floor be given to Sweden as Presidency for the European Union. Thank you very much.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

Thank you Madame Chair and thank you to Mr Müller for the information that you have provided.

Madame Chair, I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Twenty-seven Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EC takes note of the work undertaken to date by Member States in the Open-Ended Working Group, as well as the work foreseen in the run-up to the Summit in a few weeks time. We look forward to working on the "Zero-Draft" document which is to be prepared by the OEWG Bureau. The EC is concerned about the lack of progress in meeting the first Millennium Development Goal as well as the target set at the World Food Summit in 1996. It is not acceptable that more than one billion people, one out of every six persons, are hungry and malnourished. The situation warrants swift and decisive action from the international community. The EC is thus of the opinion that the World Summit on Food Security, to be held from the 16-18 of November this year, constitutes an opportunity for the international community to display resolve commensurate with the gravity of the present situation, and its determination to reinforce the political

commitment to accelerate actions aimed at achieving the first MDG, i.e. reducing global hunger and poverty. The EC is of the firm belief that the Summit should build on the strong momentum that has been created by international discussions on food security issues during the past months, most recently at the G8 meeting in L'Aquila and the G20 meetings in London and Pittsburgh. The EC believes that the Summit should have a clear high-level political objective, to launch, without creating new structures and institutions, a new system of governance for world food security through a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security with a reformed Committee on World Food Security as an important component.

The new CFS will serve as an international platform, where high-level political engagement will be combined with scientific expertise. Such a system of governance must have substantial, operational and dynamic linkages to the field level. The system must furthermore promote partnerships and coordination between all UN Agencies, especially those based in Rome, building on already existing initiatives, such as the UN-HLTF and its Comprehensive Framework for Action.

The EC looks forward to the Pre-Summit Events, i.e. the Civil Society Forum, the Private Sector Forum and the Parliamentarians' Forum, as well as the High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050. We believe that the discussions at these Events will serve to inform the Summit about important, wide-ranging and long-term issues pertaining to world food security. The EC will continue to participate actively in the Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the Summit. We are confident that this participatory, inclusive and Member-driven process, including the full participation of WFP and IFAD, will lead to a forward-looking and action-oriented outcome of the Summit that will enhance the international community's ability to respond to the present food crisis.

Thank you Madame Chair.

Renato MOSCA (Brazil)

Thank you Madame Chairperson. Despite my position I am representing Brazil and not Bolivia. Allow me to reiterate the firm commitment of the Brazilian Government to the World Summit on Food Security to be held in November, hosted by this Organization and the other Agencies based in Rome.

As we have declared, Brazil is convinced that the Summit approved during the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the Council is the opportunity to relaunch agriculture through promoting higher levels of investments and food security through stronger political commitments towards the eradication of hunger and reduction of poverty in the next few years. We all agree that it is essential to keep hunger and poverty on the international agenda. Despite the fact that food prices in international markets have decreased during the last few months, alleviating immediate pressure, hunger remains a desperate silent crisis. As this Organization is the centre of the global governance on world food and agriculture issues, it is part of our responsibility and challenge as Governing Bodies' Members to avoid losing momentum. It's time to face hunger, malnutrition and poverty with the same vigorous and sound measures taken by countries in order to mobilise, without delay, efforts and resources to defeat the financial crisis.

In terms of the Summit's results, without prejudice to the efforts in achieving MDG1 in halving hunger by 2015, Brazil strongly supports the commitment of complete eradication of hunger by 2025. More than words this commitment requires mobilisation, coordination, cooperation and appropriate financing. It is not for different reason that Brazil is deeply engaged in the revitalisation of the CFS as the cornerstone of an expected reinforced governance in an effective global partnership on agriculture, food security and nutrition. Madame Chairperson, to my delegation, it is more than time to start discussing the Summit's final declaration, in good faith, to advance in this task and search for a broad consensus on the eradication of hunger. Thank you.

Oleg KOBIAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you, Madame Chair, for giving me the floor. Russia at the Hundred and Thirty-second Session expressed interest in the holding of this Summit and our support has only grown. Our country will be represented at this important Summit which is on the political agenda, and, we will be sending high-level delegates, including the Minister of Agriculture. The Russian Federation undoubtedly supports the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Millennium Development Goal 1, complete of eradication of hunger, and underlines that the international community needs to ensure that we commit to our goal of completely eradicating hunger. We cannot allow this figure of one billion hungry people to continue.

Along with colleagues from FAO, we have taken part in around 20 such events on food security, also on partnership of food security and agriculture which was held on 26 September, the General Assembly of the UN. We feel that such events provide good impetus for preparation of the World Food Summit which, of course, will be the combination of our general efforts and mobilization for the society of the world to fight hunger. Russia highly assesses the work of preparation by the Secretariat, and we would like to say that there will be the opportunity in October at the Committee on Food Security to ensure that the Summit becomes a very significant event which will give tangible results. Taking into account that Session of the Committee on Food Security, we feel that it is possible that we can keep this issue of the global partnership for food security and agriculture on the agenda of the Summit. Thank you.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Thank you, Madame Chairperson. I want to thank Mr Müller for introducing this agenda. And we endorse the document CL 137/6. First, we would like again, on behalf of the Africa Region to express our grateful appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for proposing to hold the World Food Summit this year in view of the threatening current and future challenges to food security, in particular in the developing countries, and Africa being at the centre of this problem.

Madame Chair, we are part and parcel in agreeing that the World Food Summit be funded by the extra-budgetary resources. We in the Africa Region, therefore, are very much thankful to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for generously contributing the estimated cost of USD 2.5 million for the Summit. This has been a straight-forward assured extra-budgetary resource. Thank you to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this contribution. Also, I want to appreciate the leadership of the Independent Chairman in steering the work of the Open-Ended Working Group. Thanks also goes to the Co-Chairs. The process has been quite well-driven by Members in collaborating on various aspects of the Summit. The objectives and possible outcomes which we are still discussing, the possible Declaration and the Reform of the Committee on Food Security are still being negotiated. We in the Africa Region have always said that the Committee on Food Security should continue and remain to be the sole global partnership.

The establishment of the second multi-donor Trust Fund to cover the cost of Trust Funds of the Least Developed Countries is appreciated. And we would like to know what is the status on this issue which was proposed. I hope Management is working on this, or the Secretariat is working on this. Maybe we would like to know more. We would also continue to encourage the cooperation of the three Rome-based Agencies and we would encourage them, in particular, IFAD and World Food Programme, to come with contributions, also in cash. We note that they can also support. They have been approached for support on the participation. We would also like to know what is the progress on this aspect. Madame Chair, the Africa Region will continue to participate actively in the Open-Ended Working Group, and we wish that process success.

José A. QUINTERO GOMEZ (Cuba)

Gracias, Señora Presidenta. Mi delegación quiere reactivar su compromiso con la Organización de la Cumbre Mundial para la Seguridad Alimentaria, solo algunos breves comentarios que nos parecen de importancia y que de hecho son de interés para nuestra Delegación.

En primer lugar nos preocupa la pronunciada demora en disponer del primer borrador de la Declaración de la Cumbre, es apremiante la necesidad de que todos los Países Miembros comencemos de inmediato el debate sobre dicho documento. Debemos tener en cuenta que los resultados de la Cumbre van a depender en gran medida de lo que nuestros jefes de estado logren aprobar en el contexto de dicha declaración.

En segundo lugar, es nuestro criterio que los documentos y la propia Cumbre deben servir para renovar el compromiso político de los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno para la erradicación del hambre y la mal nutrición en el mundo.

En tercer lugar, consideramos que ahora más que nunca es necesario que la Secretaría mantenga un proceso con amplia participación de todos los Países Miembros en la preparación de la Cumbre, así como una total transparencia en la toma de decisiones y con informaciones oportunas.

Por último señora Presidente, es nuestro interés llamar la atención de la Secretaría de la FAO sobre la integración de los Grupos de Expertos que deben elaborar los documentos técnicos de la Cumbre y la necesidad de que en los mismos estén representados también los países en desarrollo, teniendo en cuenta el principio de una distribución geográfica lo más equitativa posible.

Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Thank you again, Madame Chair. Let me first of all join the other delegates regarding the support to the World Food Summit which is going to be held next November. The Islamic Republic of Iran supports this very important issue regarding the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Madame Chair, let me also thank Saudi Arabia for very generously supporting this Summit and also thanks very much to the Secretariat and the Group and also WFP and IFAD having done a very good job so far regarding the preparation of the Declaration for the Summit.

Finally, I would like to refer to the comment made by Canada. Although the more participation, the better, the more the better, comparing the different sectors and also the parliaments and so on, but it is good to consider the governance of the representatives of the different organizations regarding consensus before making any revisions. This is just my observation. Thank you very much.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

Madame Chair, at the outset we would like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous contributions made to finance the organization of the next Summit, the World Food Summit on Food Security in November.

Madame Chairperson, as we are all aware, the world is still experiencing difficult times, facing acute economic crisis subdued by surging inflationary waves and unprecedented crisis of food, energy and commodities. The current crisis we are encountering poses several challenges which are interrelated in our economic, social and environmental dimensions leading to serious repercussions on economic growth rates and standards of living in developed and developing countries alike. Despite the linkage in the dimensions of the crisis and its causes, we have to acknowledge that its adverse impacts in large part are actually rather borne by developing countries. In line with this, Madame Chairperson, we are of the view that there is an urgent need at the highest political level to marshal the global consensus and commitments to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and sustainable agriculture development, as part of the international development agenda. In this regard, international cooperation and collective partnership has to be strengthened to develop strategies to address the problem. Addressing this difficult situation requires that all countries and other sectors have to work together on the basis of equality to formulate collective and comprehensive actions and build commitments for mutual benefit. These undertakings will contribute, facilitating the implementation of all long-term measures in taking food security matters, among others, to reach the Millennium Development Goals on reducing poverty and the number of hungry people in developing and Least Developed Countries.

For this reason, Madame Chairperson, we totally appreciate the Food and Agriculture Organization's initiative to hold the upcoming World Summit on Food Security in November this year. The main objective of Summit should be aimed or directed to encourage action-oriented outcomes that build on actions and efforts already undertaken by Members in previous meetings to address the issue of food security. We are assured that the Summit will act responsibly and address the root and multi-faceted causes of food insecurity by adopting lasting political, economic, financial and technical policies so that all people around the globe can enjoy the most fundamental of all human rights, which is the right to food. Although the situation looks difficult, we are in no doubt, if we work collectively, it is manageable, but there is still a lot of work to do.

Let me, however, highlight a number of policy areas that we feel are important to be discussed further at the Open-Ended Working Group as elements of the Declaration to be adopted in the forthcoming Summit as follows:

First, food security and agriculture policy must be mainstreamed into the development process both at the national and international levels. There must be better synergies between international development support for food security and agriculture and overall development objectives. In this regard, empowering the poor and smallholder farmers in rural areas is important as they are most prone to hunger and malnourishment. Facilitating the access to financing resources such as seeds, water and fertilizers and markets can enable increased productivity.

Second, like the need for better regulation in the financial market, there is also a need to better regulate trading of food commodities in commodity exchanges. This is to ensure that food commodities are not being treated like other capital market investment instruments. Therefore, Madame Chairperson, fundamental reform of world agriculture trade needs to be expedited. Current imbalances in agriculture trade are hampering developing countries and small and resource-poor farmers from gaining access to their own domestic markets.

Third, there is an urgent need to strengthen food security and social safety nets at the national and international levels. The role of the WFP, IFAD and FAO must be guaranteed by ensuring they have adequate buffer stocks in hand for emergencies. Regular cooperation through the establishment of regional mechanisms to safeguard food security should also be strengthened.

Fourth, recognizing the role of leading aquatic resources as an important major renewable source of food and the traditional and essential role played by fisheries in providing high-quality protein required for human use. There is a strong need to put fisheries in the Summit's declaration. We affirm that achieving an optimum long-term contribution of fisheries to economic and social well-being, a concept which includes nutritional and environmental values, as well as poverty evaluation, will contribute to achieving food security.

Fifth, the Summit must explicitly include nutrition in its objective. While food security and nutrition are linked, simply ensuring access to adequate quantities of food does not guarantee adequate nutrition. It is now more pertinent to us that the Summit must conceptualize and address nutrition as an issue in its own right, and link it to agriculture and food security. To achieve these holistic goals, the global governments of our food system need to be reformed without delay. Furthermore, revitalization of the Committee on Food Security represents a real opportunity.

Finally, Madame Chairperson, I wish to highlight my delegation's high expectation on the issue of managing the programme of food security, that there is a need to establish an active global policy for agricultural development and food security. An active public-private partnership in the agriculture sector with adequate funding and speeding up the flow of investment on agricultural infrastructure would greatly contribute to revitalizing developing countries' agriculture sectors and consequently to the betterment of rural development.

To conclude, I should like to emphasize that while actions at international level are central to addressing food security, we continue to believe that a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained action by the international community is needed for an enduring solution to address global food security. We therefore, hope that this initiative presents the beginning of a much more focused

effort by the international community on these issues. Thank you very much, Madame Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for that very inclusive statement. I have quite a number of delegates that wish to take the floor before we close, and I am told there is one little item I have to deal with before I end this evening's Agenda. So can we just give summaries of our statements? Ok, I now call upon Australia.

Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you, Madame Chair. In line with your direction, I will keep these comments extremely brief. First, I would like to announce that I am speaking on behalf of New Zealand as well. Firstly, thank you to Mr Müller for the information he has provided and his efforts, as well as the Secretariat's, to date. It is a monumental task and there is much happening around the world at the moment and fitting this in is quite a challenge. Second, I certainly like to note that we are very happy to see the WFP and IFAD actively involved in this Summit and involved on the podium in the Working Group, and we fully support that.

Thirdly, we would like to reiterate the importance of both Australia and New Zealand as participants in the Open-Ended Working Group attached to this crisis, being Member-driven and also taking into account the broad spectrum of the international fora such as the G8 meetings and the G20 considerations that are feeding into these processes. I will probably leave it there, as I think some other issues that we could raise would be best left to the Open-Ended Working Group. Thank you.

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

I will be very brief. Egypt thinks that it is a very important Summit. It is essential to do away with hunger throughout the world and I thank the Independent Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat for all the work done thus far. We hope to see the Zero Draft of the Declaration because it is important to see the draft resolution. We have received some paragraphs about the vision, but we need the complete document to comment on it. I will not go into the details of what we want to see in the document, we will give our opinions in the Open-ended Working Group. I agree with some things said by Indonesia and, in particular, with regard to food security and international partnership and the importance of not going beyond the results which will stem from the Reform of the CFS, even then though that meeting will take place in October. For the Summit, we want to see a solution to all these problems in October and we want to include them in the Declaration.

GUO HANDI (China)

Thank you, Madame Chairperson. Now its quite late so the Chinese delegation is going to have a very brief intervention. First of all, we congratulate you Madame for your leadership for this afternoon's meeting. As I said, the delegation of China would like to thank the Secretariat, especially Mr Müller, for his extensive presentation and we thank the Secretariat for all the efforts and the preparation work done for the Summit.

The Delegation of China would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generosity. Madame Chair, we believe that if the Summit wants to have concrete results, we need to have the Zero Draft of the Declaration at its earliest, so we can have a discussion in the Open-Ended Working Group. Time is very limited so if we want to have a successful Summit and achieve our targets, we will give our contribution and support on this endeavour. Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan fully associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Indonesia and we also thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous contribution. Thank you.

Chris HEGADORN (United States of America)

I wanted to point out, as Mr Müller had earlier and as others have afterwards, that the Council in June determined the Members would agree on objectives and outcomes of the Summit. We look forward to reach agreement on the Draft Declaration in particular, one that seeks to bring us together and not divide. We hope your report clearly states this is work that remains in progress. We see the principal benefit of this Summit as helping to sustain the political momentum which I believe and hope we all see is currently underfoot and described quite well by the substantive content from several recent high-level events, perhaps starting in June of last year and continuing with the Madrid Summit in January, the L'Aquila Summit this July and the recent events in New York surrounding the General Assembly, including an event co-hosted by the Secretary-General of the UN and my own Secretary of State. We hope this latter event highlights the major effort undertaken by my own Government regarding agricultural development and assistance, and we certainly welcome every opportunity to educate anyone here on its content. Likewise, the High-Level Task Force and its Comprehensive Framework for Action, supported by significant contributions by the FAO and other Rome-based Agencies, make important contributions to tackling global hunger and malnutrition. At the core of all these efforts, we see a number of key principles, particularly the focus on country-led plans aimed at ensuring food security. Other key principles address the need to increase investments aimed at emergency needs as well as medium and long-term developments of agriculture. We also need to improve coordination on issues of food security, not only among UN actors but with development banks, civil society, the private sector and others, particular to support country-led plans.

We also believe this event will provide an important platform with which we can all reaffirm our collective commitments to fulfilling the MDG goals, particularly MDG 1. These goals as you know will be reviewed next year and we should not pre-empt those talks, particularly as they will address the entire set of goals. While the need for increased investment in agriculture is not in dispute, we believe attempting to fix a specific target amount for ODA is inappropriate. If we approach this issue from a prospective that ODA or Overseas Development Assistance is the cause of food insecurity or that food security will be reached simply by a specific target increase, we are being misled. There should be a clear understanding that countries and regions must be at the center of this debate where widespread national consultations are assured and good governance is critical. We hope Member Nations come to this Summit prepared to report on their plans and efforts undertaken to address issues of food insecurity. We also hope to see realisation of a true global partnership that can commit us all to the steps necessary to feed the world's hungry. Thank you.

Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

Our position was well reflected by the EU statement. I just intervened at the end of the session just to remind you that our Government has decided to give some funds to the second Trust Fund in order to facilitate the participation to the Summit. I do not have the figure now, it will not be a huge amount, but I hope that other countries will follow. Thank you very much.

Alexander Müller (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department and Secretary of the World Summit on Food Security)

Thank you very much, Madame Chair. I would like to thank all delegations for their contributions, for their comments and remarks and I would like to very, very briefly introduce three items. First of all, I would like to reaffirm this is work in progress. It is a Member-driven process and there's full collaboration of all three Rome-based Agencies. So it's a very participatory process with the involvement of WFP, IFAD and FAO. Second, the three Co-Chairs have worked intensively all during the day on the Zero Draft and made considerable progress, and I hope very soon, as soon as possible, Member Nations will receive their Zero Draft for the start of the negotiations also involving capitals.

My third very brief remark, I would like to thank the Government of Italy for this announcement to support travel of delegates from Least Developed Countries. There are also negotiations going

on with other countries in the hope that we will make progress. We have until now also made some progress in receiving support in sponsorship. You are informed that RAI will send the TV signals all over the globe without additional cost. This is a considerable contribution to this conference. We are also discussing sponsorships, cars and others for this, and my colleague, Josè Sumpsi, is leading this process. We are also discussing with some private sector companies if they could sponsor, for example, tickets for participants from Least Developed Countries, so we are also making progress in this regard and I am confident, with your support, this is a Member-driven process, we will meet the challenges of organizing this Summit. Thank you very much.

José María VIÑAS SUMPSI (Assistant Director General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Just to confirm this contribution to the second Trust Fund and also the Sponsorship Committee is working well, with the advice of the Legal Office and all the rules to avoid problems, but it is going very well. We also expect that maybe the private contributions could be not just in kind but maybe also cash contributions, some supporting the participation of people from Least Developing Countries. I think these should become concrete in the coming days and weeks. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, I will attempt to sum up what we have just heard. This is work in progress, Member-driven, and the Rome-based Organizations are collaborating on this matter. Allow me on behalf of the Members to thank the Government of Saudi Arabia, the Government of Italy and the other Governments that are likely to come on board in financing the multi-donor Trust Fund and indeed any other participants that may come on board. We have heard many issues that are likely to arise regarding the programmes and the measures for the follow-up, like the Reform of the CFS, and how we could then propel this debate further. But we also had the need to have the Zero Draft as a matter of urgency so that Members can start negotiating. Many Members are now preparing to participate in the Pre-Summit Events so as to ensure the outcome is as the objectives being set. Members are also working together in the Open-Ended Working Group to ensure that this becomes a country-owned programme. The outcome that Member Nations do feel that they have country ownership. I think this has been underscored by others as well. At the end of the day, the reformed CFS should only serve as a platform, but the actual implementation should be at country level and ensuring that MDG 1 is achieved should be our major target. There is reference to recent events, the recent summits and other global initiatives that are already setting the pace, setting the tone for the discussion that we are due to hold in November, and all these outcomes should feed into our preparatory mechanisms. Many welcome the process and see it as a Summit to accelerate the action to fight hunger, to mobilise efforts, and at the same time, they all wish that we do come up with some tangible results at the end of the day. I cannot go into the actual programmatic suggestion that came from some of the present actions that were made because I think this will be part of your negotiations in the open-ended meetings. With that, unless Members have other observations, I would like to say we have closed this item. Okay?

V. OTHER MATTERS**V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES****V. OTROS ASUNTOS****12. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2009-2011**

(CL 137/INF/6)

12. Calendrier des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales 2009-2011 (CL 137/INF/6)**12. Calendario para 2009-2011 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO** (CL 137/INF/6)**CHAIRPERSON**

Then, there is one little item. This one is not hot. I do not think there will be much negotiated discussion, but if you do want to debate, I am at your service. This is Item 12, the Revised Calendar. We have all received the Revised Calendar of the FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions for the period 2009-2011, document CL 137/INF/6. I tend to have concerns of this revision of the Agenda. This Session of Council is requested to take note of the changes made to the Calendar for the Sessions held to date, and be informed of the proposed schedule for the biennium 2010-2011. At the post-Conference Session of the Council, scheduled for Wednesday, 25 November, the Draft Calendar for 2010 will be submitted for approval and the Calendar for 2011 for information. Are there any comments on these drafts that are being circulated to us? Are there any comments that Members would like to make on these drafts that are already being circulated to us?

Okay, thank you very much.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We endorse the Secretariat draft. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Can I now hand you over to the Secretary-General?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been asked to announce that the EU coordination meeting is tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. in the German Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Colleagues, I would like to thank you very much for your patience. I know the extension came without notice but I would like to thank you all for the cooperation and constructive questions. Have a pleasant evening and see you all tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 19:58 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 58

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:58 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137º período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
30 September 2009

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Mr Mohammad ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR,
Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Mohammad ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR,
Vice-président du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammad ELTAYEB ELFAKI ELNOR
Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Very well ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you.

I call the Fifth Meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Council to order.

It is an honour for me to Chair this part of the Session since the time has now come to unveil the portrait of Professor Noori Naeini. As you all know, this is the last Session of the Council that Professor Noori Naeini will chair. As you know, the Red Room is the home to the portraits of Independent Chairpersons who have chaired the Council since 1945. It is right and fitting that Professor Noori Naeini join his predecessors in gazing down on us and those who will follow us at all future Sessions of the Council.

We are joined by His Excellency, the Director-General, and Professor Noori Naeini, whom I now invite to make their way to the portrait for the unveiling ceremony.

May I ask you to remain seated for the ceremony.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Standing ovation

Ovation debout

Ovación de pie

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to give the floor to the Director-General of the Organization. You have the floor, sir.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Professor Noori Naeini is a perfect example of the right person in the right place at the right time. He is the right person in that the scope of his professional experience in the field of development is both deep and wide-ranging. He has a long-standing association with FAO, whether as Permanent Representative of his country over a span of twelve years, or while covering a series of Bureau positions including that of Independent Chairperson of the Council, Chairperson of the CFS and Chair of the G-77, to name but three.

Undoubtedly, Professor Noori Naeini is also the “right person” in terms of a set of personal skills he has brought to the many tasks he has dealt with during his distinguished career. We have all had occasions to appreciate his fine skills in leading negotiations and piloting the multilateral process: as Chair of the Council; in his key role in successfully guiding the negotiation processes which led to the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food; or, more recently, as Chair of the Conference Committee on the IEE.

He has a natural talent for nurturing an enabling environment in which we are all able to give of our best as we strive for consensus solutions for which we can all feel ownership. Nowhere has this consensus-building been more evident than in the FAO Reform Process. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine the CoC-IEE without the wise counsel and forward looking vision of Professor Noori, and we are all extremely grateful to him for that – he was certainly in the right place at the right time. His independence of spirit has made him a *supra partes* point of reference for all of us, Members and Secretariat alike, and I believe this characteristic has set a high benchmark for future Chairpersons of Council.

It is not perhaps widely known that, in a rich and varied professional life, Professor Noori Naeini has translated key development texts into his native Persian. Allow me to conclude by citing from

one such work he translated in 2005, "Freedom as Development" by the Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, and I quote

"Whatever we understand and enjoy in human products instantly becomes ours, wherever they might have their origin..."

A guiding principle which seems to fit this unique global forum perfectly. Indeed, it seems fair to state that excellent ideas and sound proposals for the future of FAO have instantly become those of the Organization through this Council, wherever such ideas and proposals might have their origin. Indeed, it is thanks to the wise stewardship of a Chairperson of the human and intellectual calibre of Professor Noori Naeini that this has been possible.

Although Professor Noori Naeini is still in the midst of completing CoC-IEE work, this last Session of Council chaired by him seems a fitting occasion to express gratitude for the inspiring work completed thus far and to wish him well for the remainder of his term of office and long after.

Thank you, Professor Noori Naeini, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to work again together, in the future, and avail ourselves of your experience, excellent negotiation skills and I should add, also, for your friendship.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much indeed, Mr Director-General, for these words which reflect the truth about Mr Noori who indeed deserves this respect. Thank you very much for this standing ovation. Thank you very much on behalf of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Now I open the floor for the Chairman of the Regional Groups or Members of delegations who wish to take the floor. I wish to give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Although it is difficult for me to discuss and talk at this moment, I will try to explain and say some words in appreciation of the very excellent work that has been done by Professor Noori.

Mr Professor Noori, although we are both Iranians, I feel proud and honoured to have had the opportunity to work closely with you, from whom I learned so much. I would like on my behalf, and on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to seize the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and congratulate you on your excellent work as Independent Chair of the Council and Chair of the CoC-IEE over the last four years. It is obvious that any progress achieved in implementing the IEE Follow-up so far is due debt to the full and active participation of all Member Nations, Working Groups, Management and their flexibility and, of course, it is also due to your patience and flexibility in this respect. There is no doubt that your skilfulness and wisdom have had a significant impact on these issues, particularly your capacity in reaching the consensus of all Members on serious issues with which we have been faced in different Working Groups and meetings - the issues that have already been expressed several times by many representatives and delegations in this room.

I would like, once again, to express my deep appreciation for all your efforts which have been useful for FAO. We all have benefited from your wisdom and good management, Mr Professor Noori, and we are confident that this Organization will never forget all you have done and we wish you happiness and success in your future task, and thank you very much for your patience and attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much distinguished delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran. I have on my list Australia, China, Brazil, Belgium and Egypt, and now could the Representative of Australia take the floor. You have the floor, sir.

Travis POWER (Australia)

I warmly welcome the opportunity to participate in this significant event. However, before I commence my comments on this very happy occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the recent and devastating Tsunami that struck the Pacific yesterday. While I am sorry to raise such sad events now, I think it is important that the Council note that while information is still coming in, there are accounts of more than sixty fatalities across American and Western Samoa with further fatalities in Tonga and other Pacific nations. Very sadly these numbers are expected to rise. Consistent with comments made by Australian Prime Minister Rudd, New Zealand acting Prime Minister Bill English, as well as other world leaders we would like to extend our condolences to those nations affected by this appalling event. Australia and New Zealand have already committed to provide assistance wherever possible and have emergency assets in place to do so quickly. I would like to ask the Council to note this terrible event; to reach out to those countries affected and to offer its condolences to those who have lost loved ones or have been otherwise affected by these terrible events. Again, I am sorry to raise such sad events during this happy time.

Back to the topic we are discussing, and I speak here on behalf of the South-west Pacific Region, I would like to extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to Professor Noori for his immense effort and dedication within his role as the Independent Chair of Council.

From the early 1950s when Australia last held the position of Independent Chair, we appreciate the central and vital role that the Independent Chair provides in creating and maintaining an efficient and effective FAO through their leadership and competence. As my colleagues here understand, FAO is facing great challenges in the current climate of food insecurity and has many difficult and large tasks facing it. A strong Independent Chair of the Council is an instrumental part in the proper conduct of these daunting tasks. Professor Noori has risen to the challenges and demonstrated exemplary guidance for all Members and has been a key element of the FAO reforms. The global food security crisis is far from over; poor household and development countries, who often spend a large proportion of income on food, continue to suffer. When faced with these facts good international citizens must respond and act together. This response can only come from concentrated and cooperative actions from the international community and FAO has a particularly important role to play in this area.

We greatly appreciate the role Professor Noori has played, acting as a bridge between FAO Members and Management and, perhaps more importantly, in many cases acting as a bridge between the Members themselves. He has assisted us in maintaining effective dialogue and better fulfilling our roles towards helping FAO and the broader international community meet these food security challenges.

While we take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks to the outgoing Chairperson, we would also take this opportunity to recall that the incoming Chair will have much work to do and as the work of FAO is work in progress we, as Members, must remain ever vigilant in our work towards food security and the Millennium Development Goals.

On behalf of the South-west Pacific we would like to again extend our thanks, gratitude and heartfelt support to you Professor Noori and wish you well in your future endeavours.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much distinguished delegate from Australia.

Sir, we would like to express our deep sorrow when we heard the news about Samoa and the Tsunami that affected this country and we shall undoubtedly send our sympathy and condolences to those countries hoping that those who are still alive will recover soon.

China, you have the floor, sir.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

On behalf of the Chinese delegation and the Asia Group, we would express our appreciation to the series of excellent work conducted by Professor Noori. We express our sincere gratitude to him. An old friend of our country and of the Asia Group, he has participated in many activities of the Group, which is very impressive. As Independent Chairman of the Council and, in particular, in the process of the FAO Reform and food security, he has conducted excellent work in leading the Organization, in embarking on these activities helping us in resolving many major problems and consensus has been reached on many issues.

Once again, we would like to express our appreciation to his political wisdom and his excellent work. In the course of the past few years, he has been a frequent visitor to Rome which has become the second home to Professor Noori. As we say in China, we hope that Professor Noori would return often to his second home in Rome.

Finally, we would like to wish him good health and happiness, to him and his whole family.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, sir, for these kind words. On my list I have Brazil, Belgium, Egypt, Canada, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Ethiopia, France and Afghanistan. Now Brazil has the floor. You have the floor, sir.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

I would just like you to pass the floor to the delegation of Venezuela, Presidency of the GRULAC.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Me siento muy alagada, muy orgullosa, de que me haya tocado esta oportunidad de hablar a nombre de los representantes de mi región. Agradezco a Brasil.

En primer término, como todos los que me han precedido, quiero señalar que el Dr Noori está dejando en el tiempo, en el transcurso del tiempo que ha permanecido en la FAO en los últimos doce años, está dejando una página muy importante para la historia de esta institución. Le ha tocado estar al frente de Órganos Rectores y ha asumido posiciones de liderazgo en circunstancias difíciles para la Organización pero que, no queda duda, son circunstancias que están abriendo nuevos caminos, nuevos derroteros para el cumplimiento de la importante empresa, misión y proyecto que encierra esta organización de las Naciones Unidas.

Quiero, como lo han hecho otros, igualmente destacar el valioso aporte del Dr Noori y la implementación a través de su palabra, de su intervención y de su conducción, ha servido como un intermediario natural para el diálogo y ha sido un interprete de los Miembros y de la Organización en momentos en que ha habido que aclarar y que ha habido que conciliar diferencias.

Yo me estoy permitiendo parafrasear a un autor venezolano quien señala que “la ONU es un embrión de un estado planetario futuro”, yo me permito decir que en el escenario de la FAO el Dr Noori, a pesar de las diferencias, a pesar de las sensibilidades, a pesar de las valoraciones de estilo, del énfasis expresivo que muchas veces poseemos los Miembros de esta Organización e incluso; y muy importante, a pesar de nuestras visiones políticas, religiosas, ha estado a la altura

de la gran misión que le hemos entregado los miembros para encomendarle la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo.

Queremos en este momento no desaprovechar la oportunidad de agradecer al pueblo Iraní, a su país, por haber permitido que lo tuviésemos acá encargado de estas responsabilidades.

Su papel en los últimos doce años ha servido para aportarle valor agregado a esta institución en términos de su sabiduría, su transparencia, su excelente temperamento. Su papel en estos años presidiendo el Comité de la Conferencia y en el Proceso de Reforma hablan por sí solos y queda para nosotros los Miembros un aporte fundamental de ese esfuerzo y de esta conciliación hacia la búsqueda de soluciones a los grandes retos que tiene en adelante la FAO.

Deseamos lo mejor para sus actividades futuras, las actividades que le corresponda desempeñar, estamos seguros que los seguirá haciendo con esa visión con la que ha encausado su trabajo en la FAO, felicitamos a su familia con la cual se va a reencontrar a partir de este momento por más tiempo.

Muchas gracias, Dr Noori, por todo lo que nos deja a su paso, con el trato que hemos tenido con usted personalmente y profesionalmente en esta institución a nombre del GRULAC. Muchas gracias por todos sus servicios prestados.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you distinguished delegate from Venezuela. You have talked on behalf of the GRULAC and we thank you. And now Belgium has the floor.

Hugo VERBIST (Belgique)

Monsieur le Président. Je vous adresse ces quelques mots au nom de la région européenne. Je suis sûr que tout le monde dans cette salle, qui travaille déjà depuis quelques années au sein de la FAO, rêve parfois d'avoir un jour peut être son portrait dévoilé et accroché dans la Salle Rouge. Mais pour que ceci soit le cas, il faut naturellement l'avoir mérité et vous, Monsieur le Président, probablement plus que tout autre Président indépendant du Conseil avant vous, vous l'avez bien mérité. Et avant de devenir Président indépendant, vous avez eu beaucoup de mandats à responsabilité au sein de cette Organisation et j'aimerais mentionner aussi en particulier le processus de négociation concernant la réalisation du droit à l'alimentation, où vous avez gagné le respect de tous. En tant que Président indépendant du Conseil, vous avez eu la Présidence pendant une période de quatre ans difficiles et mouvementés et une période cruciale pour cette Organisation avec naturellement, l'Evaluation externe indépendante, le Plan d'action immédiate qui forme la base de la réforme nécessaire de cette Organisation y compris un meilleur fonctionnement des Oganés directeurs de cette Organisation et donc, aussi du Conseil. Cette période est d'autant plus cruciale car la crise alimentaire aggravée par la crise économique et financière a démontré que le monde a, plus que jamais, besoin d'une FAO efficace. Monsieur le Président, dans cette période, vous avez, à chaque fois, pris vos responsabilités, non seulement en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil mais aussi en tant que Président du CoC-IEE et co-Président du groupe de travail préparant le Sommet de novembre.

En effet, chaque fois que les États Membres de la FAO étaient à la recherche d'un Président, finalement il n'y avait qu'une personne à qui on pensait, grâce à toutes vos qualités, votre patience, votre sens du compromis, votre amabilité aussi et votre sens de l'humour, qui est aussi important. Vous êtes vraiment apprécié par tout le monde ici et parfois, cela crée un problème, parce que par exemple si on veut créer un Groupe d'amis du Président, tout le monde veut y participer. On pourrait même dire que cette Session plénière est, en effet, en quelque sorte un "Friends of the Chair". Il est donc vraiment dommage de vous voir présider pour la dernière fois une session de ce Conseil. Heureusement, aujourd'hui vous nous supervisez non seulement d'en face mais aussi de côté, donc on vous voit deux fois. Encore toutes nos félicitations, beaucoup de succès à l'avenir et merci beaucoup pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour l'Organisation et pour ses États Membres. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Belgium. You have spoken on behalf of the European Community. Now I give the floor to the distinguished delegate from Egypt. You have the floor.

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

On behalf of Egypt we should like to express appreciation to Mr Noori as Independent Chairperson of the Council and also as the Chairperson of the Conference Committee and I should like to stress here that without his magnanimity we would not have been able to reach the IPA, and we would not have been able to pursue our work within the IEE.

I have learned a great deal personally from Mr Noori. His doors were always open to me when I was a Representative of Egypt to this Organization or as a Chairperson of the Finance Committee. We have consulted a great deal on the ways and means of promoting the work of this Committee, and indeed his counsel was of great value to me.

Thank you very much, Mr Noori, for all your efforts and I wish you every success in your future work. We are confident that whatever function you are given in the future, you will live up to the expectations and beyond.

On behalf of my group and on behalf of myself Mr Chairman, I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much distinguished delegate from Egypt. Canada, you have the floor.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

On behalf of North America we would like to start by saying that we fully share and endorse the fine words and sentiments expressed by the Director-General in your regard, Dr Noori. Other regional groups have spoken before us and we entirely endorse their fine words too. I would just add that while I and the colleagues in my delegation and in the American delegation, have had on general two years or less time with you, it has been a very intense two years, given your Chairmanship not only of the Council but also of the Conference Committee, and in both your Council and Conference roles your calming manner and tones, your wisdom and evident judgement have helped us all achieve vital common objectives.

The best thing one can say about any Independent Chair is that they personally have helped make FAO better. With you Dr Noori, this is most definitely the case and on behalf of North America, we thank you with all our hearts.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, sir. You have spoken on behalf of North America. Now I give the floor to the Representative of the Dominican Republic.

Marío ARVELLO CAAMAÑO (Observador de la República Dominicana)

Es un placer tomar la palabra a nombre de los países en desarrollo agrupados en el G-77 y también como delegado de mi país y como amigo del Prof. Noori. La larga ovación que le hemos tributado es muestra del aprecio, respeto y de la admiración que todos sentimos por él.

En cada una de las múltiples e importantes responsabilidades que el Prof. Noori ha desempeñado en las tres Agencias de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, ha trabajado con excelencia, ha construido puentes, ha sido un maestro de la diplomacia y un campeón del multilateralismo.

El Prof. Noori ha fortalecido a las tres agencias contribuyendo enormemente a su progresiva institucionalización. Su retrato en esta sala, como ha dicho mi colega de Bélgica, servirá para tener presente su sabiduría, su capacidad de trabajo, su liderazgo en una época crucial de transición. Me enorgullezco de que mi nombre esté asociado al suyo en la lista de Presidentes del G-77, profesión que el Prof. Noori desempeñaba al momento de mi llegada a Roma.

En pocas semanas los ministros reunidos en Conferencia General escogerán un nuevo Presidente del Consejo. Si el próximo presidente me honra pidiéndome algún consejo sobre sus nuevas responsabilidades, le diré que yo como Presidente del G77 he hecho algo que le aconsejaría a él o a ella hacer también, y es que piense antes de dar cada paso, qué haría el Prof. Noori.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Sir. The Chairperson of the G-77 and Representative of the Dominican Republic. Indonesia you have the floor, sir.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

First of all I would like to associate myself of the view of the statement made by the distinguished delegate of China on behalf of the Asian countries and also the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the G-77 plus China.

Let me start by citing the Director-General's view on the personal capacities of Professor Noori Naini as the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The Director-General said that Prof Noori is a perfect example of the right person in the right place at the right time. I fully concur with the personal assessments made by the Director-General on Professor Noori's personal capacities.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Professor Noori for his remarkable personal capacity and able leadership that he has shown during his ten years of Chairmanship of this important meeting. His longstanding association with FAO and also his leadership skills are noteworthy. He has managed successfully many negotiations, in particular when he managed the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which is the first legally-binding and fully-operational international instrument for access and benefit-sharing, where Indonesia is one of the beneficiaries and closely worked with all Members during the negotiations.

A strong Independent Chair of this important meeting is vital in managing the broader issues that Members are facing, in particular on how we have to deal with the problems of food security and energy security, and also the issues of the Reform Process that we are still working on.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to express all the best to Professor Noori and every success in the days to come.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much to the delegate of Indonesia and now we give the floor to Ethiopia. You have the floor.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

Please give my slot to Zimbabwe who will speak on behalf of Africa, and I will take Zimbabwe's slot to say a few words later. Thank you.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

First of all, on behalf of Africa, our condolences go to the countries that have been currently affected by the Tsunami.

Coming to the subject on the table, we join ourselves with the G-77 statement that has been made by our Chair and the many statements that have been made by other regions that seek to articulate our views. We could go on for the whole day trying to indicate what we know about this man, but I will just try to give a few pointers to underscore how we see the record of Ambassador Noori in Africa.

For us in Africa, the association with Ambassador Noori spans over a long period, from the time he was our Chair of G-77, as an Ambassador here, and a number of other negotiating fora he chaired during his stay here as a diplomat, right up to this time of the two last biennia that he has chaired as the Independent Chair. He has represented us many times in many concerns as building

initiatives of the G-77 with great success during which he earned the respect of many other colleagues from different regions.

His eventual election to the post of Independent Chair came as no surprise to those who knew him in his capacity because he had come to be associated with consensus-building, having chaired many such meetings from which difficult decisions could be taken. The views and assessments of many groups converged on his choice when the post fell vacant.

Ambassador Noori, your record speaks for itself, as was demonstrated by your election to the second term in which you were unanimously elected with no challenger. That the Members charged the CoC in your hands speaks volumes. You know how we cherish the FAO Reform, and the fact that we could ask you to steer these very delicate and sensitive negotiations is in itself an accolade.

It is with humility personally that I wish to extend the gratitude of my delegation to you, dear friend and colleague, for the outstanding contribution you have made to give impetus to the fight against hunger. The many descriptions that were given by others apply even in this statement, but I will not go into the details.

Mr Chairman, Africa will be forever grateful to you for the many initiatives you have sponsored and that have benefited our continent. Many of us have learned a lot from you as a diplomat but what we have not yet shared with you is how you can afford to maintain your cool in the face of heated arguments, just when all of us are flustered, and sure, now that you are going, you can leave us some notes. We all need that kind of patience at times. Perhaps this is what has distinguished you to be the listener, counsellor, advisor, to bringing a calming effect, as Canada said, and indeed to be a consensus-builder, which attributes have distinguished your Chairmanship.

I wish to join all others in wishing you the best in your future.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Zimbabwe who has spoken on behalf of the Africa Group, and I will give the floor again to Ethiopia.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We also would like to express our deep sorrow to the people of Samoa and send our condolences to the families that have suffered from the calamities.

Now back to Professor Noori. I fully endorse the words of Zimbabwe on behalf of Africa and also the words of the Chair of G-77 and the other groups and also the statements of the Director-General.

We admire the able leadership, wisdom and exemplary guidance of the Council of Professor Noori, his able guidance of the Council and CoC-IEE. We highly appreciate his contribution to the work of FAO so that it is able to better serve the people who need it most.

We wish Professor Noori and family good health and all the best in his future activities.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much to the delegate of Ethiopia and now we give the floor to the Ambassador of France. You have the floor.

Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Cher Professeur Noori, l'hommage qui vous est rendu ce matin est un hommage frappé du sceau de la justesse. Il s'agit, en effet, d'un hommage émouvant et de la reconnaissance juste, d'un homme juste, mais aussi d'un homme élégant dans sa pensée et dans son action. Dans cet hommage, je voudrais, à titre personnel et au nom de mon pays et des autorités de mon pays, faire entendre les petites notes de ma langue et celles de la francophonie qui nous sont chères dans la diversité culturelle, linguistique et géographique de cette maison qui nous est commune.

Je voudrais donner rapidement deux petites notes, une note personnelle et une note plus politique.

Cher Monsieur Noori, la note personnelle est la suivante: dans l'opéra célèbre de Giacomo Puccini, la Bohème, deux personnes qui s'aiment, Rodolphe et Mimi, décident de se séparer mais Mimi est malade et Rodolphe lui dit: "Nous ne nous quitterons qu'à la fin de l'hiver" et Mimi répond: "Je voudrais que l'hiver dure toute la vie!". Nous sommes dans cette situation, de vous rendre hommage, de vous voir partir et de se dire que l'on voudrait quand même que cela continue. Et c'est pourquoi, ce moment est plein d'émotion.

La note plus politique, Monsieur le Président, c'est vous qui nous l'avez donnée. Vous nous avez dit lorsque vous avez ouvert la dernière Conférence, dans votre formidable discours, vous nous avez dit: "Mes chers amis, les progrès que nous avons réalisés ici à Rome, dans le dépassement des clivages ordinaires, que nous croisons dans d'autres organisations, ces progrès sont considérables". C'est cela que vous nous avez dit et nous savons que vous en êtes l'artisan majeur mais vous nous avez dit: "Chers amis, ces progrès sont fragiles" et moi je pense, au nom de mon pays, que le prochain Président du Conseil devra entendre ce message et veiller à ne jamais reculer et à faire en sorte que tous les progrès que vous nous avez fait accomplir soient, non seulement conservés mais que, sur la base de ces progrès, nous puissions construire cette FAO nouvelle que nous attendons de vos vœux. Votre message est donc à la fois un héritage et une ligne de conduite.

Monsieur le Professeur Noori, merci!

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the Ambassador of France. I have on my list Afghanistan, Turkey, Sudan and Austria. Now I give the floor to Afghanistan

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you Chairperson.

Chairperson, as a neighbour of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the country that takes pride of having a son like Professor Mohammed Saeid Noori Naeini, I wish to express, on behalf of the countries of the Near East, our immense gratitude to Professor Noori Naeini for his leadership in handling with such great success the responsibilities of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, as well as so many other important duties that the Members of FAO had placed on his shoulders. He accepted these responsibilities willingly and completed them with the satisfaction of the entire Membership.

Professor Noori Naeini is a unique personality. I am certainly not qualified to list his virtues and I need not to. All I can say is that the countries of the Near East Region are proud of his positive contribution to FAO. He has the respect of the entire Membership. The countries of the Near East Region do not wish to say goodbye to Professor Noori Naeini because we want to benefit from his wisdom in the years ahead. He is a friend of FAO and we wish him to keep in touch.

Thank you, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Afghanistan and now I give the floor to Turkey. Turkey you have the floor.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

Chairman thank you very much.

And I was not planning to take the floor after the declaration of Belgium on behalf of ERG, the European Group, with which we are fully associated. But not only that, we associate ourselves with all the statements that have been made. But I could not just stop myself from expressing one minor point with regard to an experience I had with him.

On my arrival in Rome, I just noticed wide support he had from the Membership, and I asked him, "How do you get support from the North, from the West, from the East, from all around" and

I was expecting a long list of recommendations and his reply was just one word. He said be sincere. I think this could be a clue for the prospective Chairpersons and as time went by, I realized this is indeed what lies behind his success. And so I thank him very much for being so sincere and to be open to all of us and wishing him a very good future.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you delegate of Turkey and now I give the floor to Sudan.

Abdelatif Ahmed IJAMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Chairman. Of course one, this is what happens in life and of course people rotate and alternate. My delegation would like to congratulate and to thank Professor Noori Naeini for this appreciation expressed by all in this Organization, and of course he deserves that and I hope that he will make more contributions in the future as he has done in his past. My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to express its high appreciation to FAO and to its Director-General for this excellent tradition that we pay tribute and homage to people of excellence, to people who have contributed to this Organization and who made things possible and they worked in Society.

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Sudan, and now I give the floor to Austria and Austria will be the last speaker I have on my list. Austria.

Nathalie FEISTRITZER (Observer for Austria)

Thank you very much.

In the name of the OECD, I would like to join the sentiments expressed by the Director-General and the different groups and express our gratitude to you, Dr Noori, for your leadership as Independent Chair of the Council as well as Chair of the Conference Committee, especially in leading the Reform Process for the renewal of FAO. Dr Noori, you have always tried to balance the different positions within our Membership in a constructive and successful way. We managed to agree, thanks to your leadership to the Conference Resolution 1/2008 on the IPA two weeks ahead of the Conference which reflects your wise guidance in the whole Reform process of FAO. We should all try to follow your example.

Thank you very much and all the best for your future for you and your family.

Thank you.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thank you Mr Chair.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by China on behalf of the Asia Group and the statements made by Dominican Republic on behalf of the G-77 and many others.

Words are not enough for us to express our feelings, respect and gratitude that we all have for Professor Noori.

One more word that I would like to add is that you have ably shown the most important quality of Chair of the Council and Chair of the CoC-IEE, that is, the independence which is sure to be a good example for his successor. Personally, it has been a privilege for me to work with him and to learn a lot from him.

We would like to inform you that Thailand is very grateful for all the valuable contributions for our country, our region and the whole world.

We wish you good health and all the best for you and your family.

Thank you.

Moungui MEDI (Cameroun)

C'est une grande joie pour la Délégation du Cameroun de voir le nouveau portrait qui vient d'être dévoilé aujourd'hui et qui nous montre un homme que nous avons respecté depuis que nous sommes ici. En regardant beaucoup des Membres de l'Organisation qui sont ici, je pense pouvoir dire que la reconnaissance qui est faite aujourd'hui au Professeur Noori est une reconnaissance méritée.

Nous avons tous entendu les mots du Directeur général tout à l'heure à son endroit et nous sommes parfaitement d'accord avec toutes les choses qui ont été dites.

Le Zimbabwe a parlé au nom du Groupe africain et nous partageons parfaitement, au nom de notre groupe, tout ce que le Zimbabwe a dit. Et si vous permettez, j'aimerais ajouter une petite touche personnelle du Cameroun. Nous voudrions mettre en relief certaines qualités du Professeur Noori. D'abord son éclairage dont nous avons profité depuis que nous sommes ici: moi personnellement, je suis ici depuis bientôt sept ans et je pense pouvoir rendre compte de cet éclairage qu'il a toujours su nous apporter. C'est aussi un homme de consensus.

Le premier pas avec le Professeur Noori, c'était lorsque l'on négociait les Directives sur le droit à l'alimentation mais alors quelle patience et quel éclairage nous avons ressenti également face à cet homme, tellement ouvert. J'ai été plusieurs fois invité à son bureau pour qu'il m'écoute, une qualité extraordinaire que j'aimerais aussi avoir. Le Professeur Noori est également un grand diplomate, car le diplomate couvre, en fait, tout. Merci, Professeur Noori pour tout cela.

Je peux dire beaucoup de choses sur vos qualités, mais l'expérience que j'ai vécue personnellement avec vous sur des audiences personnelles que vous m'avez accordées et desquelles je suis sorti enrichi, me restera toujours en mémoire. Il faut également reconnaître que l'Ambassade du Cameroun a beaucoup bénéficié de l'éclairage du Professeur Noori et de l'Ambassadeur Kimba qui, à l'époque n'avait pas manqué de lui rendre honneur chaque fois que nécessaire parce qu'ils ont travaillé ensemble de longues années au sein de cette Organisation. Ils se connaissaient très bien et l'Ambassadeur Kimba, s'il était ici, se serait mieux exprimé que moi ce matin.

Au nom de la Délégation camerounaise qui est ici et au nom du Gouvernement camerounais, Professeur Noori, sachez que nous vous portons au fond de notre cœur et que nous saurons bénéficier de ce que vous aurez laissé ici comme bénéfice pour l'Organisation, en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil et Président d'autres Comités que je ne voudrais pas citer ici. Nous vous souhaitons bon vent, Professeur Noori, dans tout ce que vous aurez à entreprendre dès lors que vous aurez quitté vos charges de Président indépendant du Conseil.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Cameroun for these kind words and now I give the floor to the representative of the International Alliance.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

Thank you very much Mr Chairperson.

I am speaking for the International Alliance of Women and also I have been asked to add to my intervention the wishes of the statement of the International Council of Women and also the eight International NGOs that work here together, Women's International NGOs that work here at FAO under the International NGO *ad hoc* Committee.

It was a joy for us, particularly in the Women's Group, to find in Professor Noori someone who welcomed the participation of we the people of what we now know as civil society and I restate this joy that we have in now working with FAO that is attempting to change and to be reformed in

a fully open and democratic manner and we give our sincere thanks to Professor Noori for encouraging us to participate.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you to the Chairperson of the International Alliance for these kind words.

If there are no requests for the floor, allow me to join my colleagues and to give the floor to Mr Noori to address you.

Professor Noori, you have the floor.

Mohammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI (Independent Chair of Council)

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mr Director-General, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends, I will be very brief for a few reasons. First of all, I am overwhelmed and left speechless by your very very kind words and kindness that you have expressed to me and I need to reflect on that.

Secondly, because as the Director-General and some mentioned, I have not finished yet. I have still two days to go and I want to enjoy these two days as I already enjoyed the rest of these four years and we will talk together, and the words of farewell will be left for Friday.

And third, because we have a heavy Agenda in front of us and we have to go back to that and do some useful work.

In my humble capacity, if I have done anything during this term of my office, it has been because of your vision, your knowledge, your dedication and most profoundly your friendship that I have enjoyed it so much during this term of office.

The Representative of Zimbabwe, Ambassador Muchada, referred to my second election but what I have always had in mind was my first election which I won only by one vote, and it was very important to me because when I was talking, thinking about any single country, I said that's the country who has given me the final vote. It was so important and it helped me to be at your service with my full humble capacity, and I thank you all for that.

The thing that I have done is, I have listened, listened to you all, all the friends, the Director-General, to Management of FAO and to staff of FAO and I have learned a lot and I think this is the thing which I am proud of.

Now my portrait is on the wall but I assure you that that's not only the portrait, my heart and my mind is also here in this hall forever, because this is a hall that we all gather to talk about and facilitate the sacred goal of FAO which is Food for All.

Thank you my dear friends.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Well, thank you very much, Professor Noori. Allow me to join my colleagues in the Council in paying homage, to your dedication to the goals of FAO and for Independent Chairperson of the Council and your independence as Chairperson of this Council. Your role as an honest broker in a period of unparalleled change for the Organization as a whole and your wise counsel during many years of this engagement with FAO. Your portrait would be benevolent, and inspiring presence for all of us.

Thank you once again Professor Noori.

And now we will have a short break to allow the Director-General and Professor Noori to leave the room. A very short break and we will do our work after that. Thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 11.00 to 11.16 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 00 à 11 h 16

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.00 a las 11.16 horas

V. OTHER MATTERS (CONT'D)

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (SUITE)

V. OTROS ASUNTOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

13. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 137/INF/7)

13. Évolution des débats d'instances intéressant la FAO (CL 137/INF/7)

13. Resultados de los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO (CL 137/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Let us resume by considering Item 13 of our Agenda entitled: Developments in fora of importance to the Mandate of FAO. The document is CL 137/INF/7. We will resume our work by moving to this Item as I already said. This Item has been added to the Agenda in response to Action 2.31 of the IPA to ensure that the Council is kept abreast of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate, and the dialogue is maintained with other Governing Bodies, as appropriate. In particular, the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based food and agriculture Agencies.

It is our honour here to be joined on the podium by Mr Modibo Traoré, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department; Mr Hazef Ghanem, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department; Mr Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department; and Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General of the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department. I welcome all of you.

It is my pleasure now to ask Mr Modibo Traoré, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department to introduce the first presentation under this item. All the Assistant Directors-General will make their presentations, following which we will open the debates. The presentation that will be made by Mr Traoré is about International Environmental Governance, greater synergy among the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Mr Traoré, you have the floor.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you Mr Chair. Distinguished delegates, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Pesticides and Chemicals in International Trade is a multilateral environmental agreement designed to promote, share the responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals. The Rotterdam Convention grew out of the Voluntary Programme on the Prior Informed Consent, procedure established by FAO and UNEP in 1992. The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in October 2008 in FAO, Rome. As of September 2009, there were 130 parties to the Convention. The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is provided jointly by FAO here in Rome, through our AGP Division, and UNEP in Geneva. There is a core Executive Secretary in each organization. FAO has primary responsibility for pesticides and UNEP for other chemicals. The arrangement for the performance of Secretariat functions, as contained in a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and UNEP, proposed by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO, were approved by the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

which also agreed to review these arrangements at future meetings, if necessary. FAO Governing Bodies were informed of developments concerning the Rotterdam Convention including outcomes of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the decision regarding arrangements for the Secretariat and the related activities of the Secretariat. The Report of the last Session, the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council in 2006 expressed its continued support for the operation of the Rotterdam Convention and its Secretariat. FAO has taken the lead in the development and delivery of technical assistance to developing countries in the implementation of the Convention, particularly with respect to pesticides. A key role has been played by the FAO Regional and Sub-regional Offices that have helped to identify regional differences in approaches to technical assistance and opportunities to build on existing institutions and activities such as the Sahelian Pesticide Committee. In developing the FAO Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, increased effort had been made to integrate work on the Convention with activities on pest and pesticide management, the Strategic Objective B and the Organizational Result Number three. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes are also multilateral environmental agreements. Together with the Rotterdam Convention, these three conventions provide countries with tools to assist in the environmentally-sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

Mr Chair, the Secretariat of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, as well as one half of the Rotterdam Secretariat, are provided by UNEP and located in the same building in Geneva. The Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention is also *quo* Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention. At the request of the respective Conferences of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam, Basel, and Stockholm Conventions have facilitated a process to explore and hence, to promote cooperation, coordination and synergies among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic level.

An Ad Hoc Joint Working Group with representatives of forty-five governments developed a recommendation on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions. The recommendation covers a broad range of topics conserving the operation of the Convention Secretariats, including organizational issues in the field, technical issues, information management and administrative issues, including joint managerial functions as well as decision-making. The recommendation also calls for the organization of simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in coordination with the Eleventh Special Session of the Governing Council, global ministerial environmental forum of the UNEP. The extraordinary meetings are scheduled from 22 to 26 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia. The recommendation adopted by the Conferences invites the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO, to, among other things, explore and assess the feasibility and cost implications of joint coordination or a joint head of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration at the extraordinary Conferences of Parties. The long-term impact of the synergies discussions may result in a rethinking of the status quo with respect to the joint nature of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, and shall ultimately result in either a single Executive Secretariat for the three conventions based in UNEP in Geneva or further integration of the Secretariats.

In view of the fact that the extraordinary Conferences of Parties are being held in conjunction with the Eleventh Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council, it is important that Member Governments are aware of these developments in order that the expertise and the interest of the agriculture sector fully inform those discussions. This process may benefit from more detailed preparatory consultations between national Ministries of Agriculture and their counterparts in Ministries of Environment. Those consultations could cover the role of FAO in providing the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and in supporting the implementation of the Convention towards improved pesticide management in all Member Nations. I thank you.

Hazef GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. I will present to you, talk to you about a Round Table that took place in New York on 23 September at the time of the General Assembly to discuss the issue of international investments in agriculture. This Round Table was sponsored mainly by the Government of Japan, with support from UNCTAD, IFAD the World Bank and ourselves. In preparation for this Round Table, we had organized here at FAO with the relevant organizations and the Japanese Government an Expert Consultation in July to discuss this issue.

The Round Table participants reached a general consensus on the need for some kind of Voluntary Guidelines or Code of Conduct for International Investment in Agriculture. The general view was that we observe a big increase in the interest in investing and cross-border investments in agriculture, especially to achieve food security. So whereas in the past, we saw investments in cash crops, we are seeing now investments to produce food crops and people at the Round Table expressed both concern with some of the side-effects of that investment, but also a lot of optimism that this phenomena could help close the investment gap that we observe in many countries.

It had two conclusions. The first was to ask the four international organizations that are working on the issue to develop evidence-based cause and guidelines through a consultative process, and we are already starting this work with the Bank and UNCTAD and IFAD. The second conclusion of the Round Table was that there should be follow-up discussions of this issue in the coming important fora in 2009 and beyond, especially the World Bank annual meetings, the European Development Days, the World Food Summit, and OECD, UNCTAD, and Global Forum on International Investment. Now, why did the Round Table participants feel that some kind of Guidelines or Code of Conduct is needed? Well as I said before they felt that attracting more international private investment to agriculture in developing countries should, in principle, be a good thing. It should, in principle, help increase production around the world and help improve food security. However, the way many of those investments have been carried out today, have negative social and economic and political consequences. So we felt that there is a need to work together to develop frameworks to maximize the benefits from cross-border investments in agriculture, while trying to eliminate or minimize the cost. The idea also, for an International Code of Conduct or International Guidelines is that they should help and inspire developing countries to put in place their own laws and regulations governing cross-border investment in agriculture and ensuring that they are done in an effective and efficient way.

There are several examples of such Codes of Conduct that were discussed at the Round Table and were alluded to as models that we should try to follow up on, for example, the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Those are the kinds of things that participants in that Round Table were looking at.

Finally I would like to end by just giving you a feel for what are the kinds of issues that are being discussed when we talk about a Code of Conduct or International Guidelines for Foreign Direct Investment in Agriculture. So the possible elements of that Code of Conduct are, actually I have four written up here, but I will talk about seven elements. The four written up here are clear: transparency and accountability; social, environmental and economic sustainability; stakeholder involvement, and recognition of food security and rural development concerns. I would add one more which is very important, the land and resources rights for people in the receiving country. The general thrust of the discussions has been "How can we put in place frameworks that will protect the rights of local people, that would not only protect the rights but would actually help them improve their livelihood and benefit from those investments, while at the same time protecting the investors and helping them in achieving profits? So this is an issue that has been discussed in New York at the marches of the General Assembly. It is an issue that we will continue working on with the other three Agencies that we are partnering with.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much Mr Ghanem. Thank you for this good presentation and now I am happy to give the floor to Mr Ichiro Nomura, the Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in FAO. He will make a presentation on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Mr Nomura, you have the floor.

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

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or Washington Convention, aims to assist in the conservation of species threatened with extinction, or that may become so, by controlling international trade in species of concern.

FAO and CITES have been working closely and constructively together on commercially-exploited aquatic species for more than a decade. One important element of FAO's cooperation with CITES has been on the criteria used to decide whether or not a species should be listed on CITES Appendices I and II. FAO recommendations for improving the CITES listing criteria as applied to commercially-exploited aquatic species were accepted by CITES when the revised criteria were adopted by the Thirteenth CITES Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2004. Since then, FAO has evaluated proposals submitted to each COP for listing commercially-exploited species and advised CITES Parties on the outcome. The advice is generated by an Expert Panel convened by FAO in advance of the COP. The establishment of the FAO Expert Panel and its terms of reference were decided by the Twenty-fifth Session of COFI in 2003. This cooperation between CITES and FAO was formalized in 2006 by a Memorandum of Understanding.

So far, the role of FAO within CITES was generally well-respected. At COP13 and COP14 (held in 2004 and 2007), despite strong differences of opinion among the CITES Member Nations in some cases, the recommendations from the FAO Panel were reflected in the final decisions by the COP. However, recently the interpretation by FAO and its Expert Panel of the listing criteria has been challenged by the CITES Secretariat. It argues that the emphasis placed by FAO on a quantitative determination of species' decline (historical and current) as a basis for measuring conservation status does not always apply since there may be other measures of status. However, no other interpretation has been offered, including measures or guidelines on an alternative interpretation of the criteria. Therefore, the FAO Secretariat is concerned that if these views prevail the requirement for a rigid scientific assessment of proposals to list commercially-exploited aquatic species and the value of the FAO Expert Panel would weaken considerably.

Both Secretariats have tried to overcome their differences by communicating formally and informally with each other. Most recently, upon invitation by the Secretary General of CITES, I travelled to Geneva to discuss the subject of criteria. While the conversation and exchange of views were carried out in an amicable and open atmosphere, no visible progress was made regarding the key issue in question. This issue will be further discussed at the next COP.

COP15, scheduled to be held in Doha (Qatar) from 13 to 25 March 2010, will attract considerable public attention since listing proposals are expected to be submitted on important fish species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna and several shark species. Proposals for sharks will probably include the Porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish which were proposed, but failed to be listed at the last COP, as well as some other species.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Mr Nomura. Thank you very much for this sound presentation indeed. Now we will move to the next speaker, Mr Jan Heino, the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department in the FAO who will give us a presentation on Strategic Framework for Forest and Climate Change. Mr Heino, you have the floor, Sir.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

I am pleased to bring to your attention a proposal, a document compiled by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). This proposal is a coordinated forest sector response to the climate change agenda. I think many of you know the concept of CPF, let me repeat that it consists of 14 UN Conventions, Secretariats and other organizations from the civil society. All have some mandate in forestry and FAO has the chair in this voluntary partnership. CPF Members jointly prepared the Strategic Framework and you can see the cover on the screen. In the firm belief that as we move toward Copenhagen and COF 15, the forest sector must have a strategy that puts forests and trees in the centre of deliberations. In short, we need to keep sending the message to negotiators that there will be no climate change mitigation and adaptation without sustainable forest management. The full document is available in English and the Executive Summary is in the six UN languages, and you can find it outside this room in the Documents Desk. The Strategic Framework not only provides facts and figures on the role of forest and climate change, but it also proposes ways to maximise forestry's contributions to the reduction of emissions and more generally, to sustainable development. The CPF Members hope that it can serve as a resource for quality makers and countries as they prepare for a post-2012 climate regime. Before going into the Strategy per se, allow me to highlight some aspects of the FAO's overall involvement in climate change. First of all, of course, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department coordinates activities on behalf of FAO, and the Forestry Department is responsible for planning and implementation regarding then the Forestry issues.

Allow me to mention another strong and recent partnership; we are one of three partners in the UN RED programme along with the UNDP and UNEP. A senior Forestry Officer from Forestry is seconded to the Secretariat in Geneva and is playing a key role in monitoring RED implementation in nine pilot countries. The programme is also working to align current monitoring and assessment efforts with anticipated future RED requirements; national forest monitoring and assessment and forestry resources assessment, remote sensing service, for example. In addition, we have of course a lot of bilateral cooperation with several countries in this specific field of work. Getting back to the CPF Strategy, let us review some of the facts. Forests account for half of the terrestrial carbon pool and thus play a significant role in regulating the earth's climate. Deforestation, forest degradation and other changes in forests contributes over 17 percent of global annual greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions translate into close to six gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, comparable to the annual O₂ emissions of the United States of America and more than the global emissions of the transport sector. Between 2000 and 2005 an average of 13 million hectares of forests were lost every year, most due to agriculture expansion. The net loss was 7 million hectares. In many regions progress has been made for sustainable forest management, so there is hope. However, more needs to be done in terms of adopting integrated approaches to sustainable development.

For the sake of brevity, I have paraphrased the six key messages contained in the CPF document. Let me only mention three of them. The first is that sustainable forest management is a robust and well-tested framework for reducing carbon emissions while sequestering carbon at the same time. The second reinforces the notion that mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently even though mitigation might have to take precedence in some instances. The third notes that collaboration across sectors, economic incentives and alternative livelihood options are essential in order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. I leave the rest of the messages for you to read if you would like to do so. With this, I would like to repeat that this is one way of FAO working in voluntary partnership in order to make the best impact in this very challenging task of combating climate changes. With this I conclude my presentation. Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, very much, Mr Heino, for this valuable information. Our last speaker is Mr Alexander Müller who is the Assistant Director-General of the Natural Resources and Environment

Department who will submit a presentation on the Ongoing Negotiations of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

Thank you very much Chairperson.

I would like to inform about Ongoing Negotiations of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing for all Genetic Resources, including also Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GRFA), in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I would like to start with the basic consensus here in FAO, the importance, and the very special nature of GRFA. We all know that these genetic resources represent the foundation of the global food system and it is very very broad. It covers crops, farm animals, fish, forestry, trees and soil micro-organisms. We know that many of these genetic resources are the result of many generations of people from many different countries, and genetic resources are shaped and developed through human activities, and farmers play, have played and will play a key role in their management.

We can see an increasing interdependence of countries. All countries depend on genetic resources that originated elsewhere. So, the exchange of GRFA will be fundamental to achieve global food security and sustainable agriculture at a time of increasing hunger and the challenges of climate change. This is the basis for consensus here in FAO.

I would like to introduce the two intergovernmental forums dealing with access and benefit-sharing. Then try to inform you why the ongoing negotiations in the CBD are so very important for food and agriculture.

The basis of the negotiations in the convention on biological diversity are based on four principles. First, States have sovereign rights over their natural resources. Second, the Parties to the Convention shall endeavour to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources. Third, access shall be sub-checked to prior informed consent. Fourth, all countries shall ensure measures to ensure sharing of benefits, on mutually-agreed terms.

If you look at FAO, you can see that the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources here at FAO, is one of the very first systems dealing with access and benefit-sharing. It is a multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing but its scope is related to plant genetic resources, and the ongoing negotiations try to cover all genetic resources. We have the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, an Article VI body here in FAO, and this Commission in its next meeting, 19 to 23 October 2009, will consider access and benefit-sharing policies and arrangements for all genetic resources for food and agriculture in their deliberations.

You might know that the CBD, founded in 1992, has the objectives of conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. FAO, through the Commission on Genetic Resources, cooperates with CBD since 1993, and has a lead role in the field of food and agriculture. Now, CBD, based on decisions made by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 are negotiating these international regimes, bearing in mind the Bonn guidelines, and are trying to negotiate an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Here are the challenges for food and agriculture.

The Member Nations of CBD and the Member Nations of FAO are currently discussing the scope of the international regime, and for agriculture it is very, very important that, on a national level, agriculture and environment are discussing the scope. There are very important questions. Should the international regime cover genetic resources for food and agriculture or do we need a special feature like the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources also for other areas of genetic resources for food and agriculture? You, the countries, you will have to decide and it is a highly political debate currently going on.

The second decision which has to be made is what is the relationship of this international regime with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Is the International Treaty going to be expanded or will the international regime, negotiated currently at CBD, be like an overarching framework also for the International Treaty? And, this is the key message, how will special features of genetic resources, and here special features of genetic resources for food and agriculture, be reflected in the international regime on access and benefit-sharing? So, the decisions made in CBD will have a very, very important impact on the work of you here in the Governing Bodies of FAO and this will also have an impact on the role of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and there is time pressure behind.

The idea that was in the CBD was that this should be decided by October 2010, some people now say maybe October 2011. As you can imagine, all these debates on access and benefit-sharing are highly political and they have a huge impact on food and agriculture.

So to conclude, my main message is, these negotiations in the CBD have major implications for the exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture possibly even for trade in agriculture. FAO and the Member Nations will discuss during the next Commission meeting, how we can ensure that the special feature of agricultural biodiversity will be reflected in any policy at the international level. It is not decided in the CBD, but it is currently under negotiation, and we from FAO, we are ready to offer governments to discuss in a forum on tailor-made access and benefit-sharing solutions for the different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. We offer FAO, FAO's Commission, the meeting in October, as a facilitator to discuss this very important issue on access and benefit-sharing because, as I tried to explain, this is very important for achieving food security. Within the Commission, in the next Session, we will have this intensive debate, we will have a Special Seminar to inform you, the countries, and this is part of our multi-year programme of work.

Thank you very much for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Mr Müller, may I also extend my thanks to all those who submitted their presentations this morning and now I am happy to open the floor to different delegations who wish to comment on this Agenda item. The floor is open. Let us start with Japan, you have the floor Japan.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Thank you, Mr Chairman and thank you for the presentation made by the relevant ADG. Japan generally supports the effort by FAO to proceed coordination with other UN Agencies and I have several comments on each Chapter.

For Chapter 2, the document in front of us refers to the food price issue, but it does not refer to the activities of the High-Level Task Force in which the DG of FAO is a Vice-Chair. The Task Force is now proceeding with the coordination of activities at country level and these activities are undoubtedly important, so I urge FAO to coordinate it with High-Level Task Force in this field.

Secondly, I refer to Chapter 4, the cooperation for a Code of Conduct for International Investment in Agriculture, and I am glad to hear that the Round Table held in New York was a meaningful meeting, as one of the building blocks on this issue and thank you for your cooperation on this Round Table. I fully support FAO activities in this field and I hope you will proceed with the coordination further.

For Chapter 5, CITES in the field of fisheries. I appreciate a lot FAO's contribution to provide valuable advice to CITES and on conservation and the sustainable views of natural resources. This will be a very important role to be played by FAO.

As for Chapter 6, Forestry Coordination, I sincerely appreciate a lot FAO's role played in this field. I heard that FAO has the trust in this community with providing the expertise that was expected by other organizations. I hope you continue to do so in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you distinguished delegate from Japan. Now I give the floor to the distinguished delegate from Eritrea.

Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

Thank you Mr Chairman. Of course, like the previous speaker of Japan, I would like to join him to express my appreciation for the good presentations by all the speakers.

I have one comment especially which will be directed to Mr Ghanem regarding the Code of Conduct for Investment which took place in New York. It is very interesting, but that the Code of Conduct for Investment that we have been talking about, Investment in Agriculture, at a local level by each country encourages investment. However, to my understanding, the type of Round Table which took place to set up a device or a Code of Conduct for Investment is when the food crisis happened, the high prices and countries devised different systems of their own, a restrictive system to protect or to assure that they have some production at crisis and some of them introduced covert protectionism. Then different countries, which were not traditional investors, wanted to invest, and most of them went to Africa. Many journalists reported the land-grabbing system because those investors are investing in millions of hectares, but there was no established system for a conduct which makes an agreement between the investor and the Host Country. So the transnational corporations that intervened in this affair were consulted if they had an opinion, or if there was any Code of Conduct, and there was none existing. They said that one of the means of setting or making an agreement between the investor and the Host Country was that they should share the output. What percentage? They could make an agreement where, for example, if the average yield of that crop was three tonnes per hectare, they could give one percent. But that investor, since they are not the traditional investors, they wanted the flow of their industry to continue and they wanted to take all the investment there so they didn't mind throwing the money and the government, it couldn't give to the people. So they increased the poverty levels of that Host Country. They thought that it would be reduced.

The Round Table which was conducted is not to encourage governments to invest but to introduce international systems – how that investment should not affect the food security situation in that country, how it could contribute and how that land-grabbing – are they the traditional investors or where will the money come from?

So FAO specifically is not only for investment in agriculture but is concerned about large size acquisitions of land and what systems should be introduced. So I will be interested to follow closely, with you, or with any publications that you may find to give some guidance, because so many countries are going to Africa to grab the land. So we would be glad to hear and follow closely with you any outcome.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Eritrea and now I give the floor to Ecuador.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MEDUÑO (Observador del Ecuador)

Quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría por la elaboración del documento CL 137/INF/7 que tiene por objeto mantener informado al Consejo de la FAO sobre los acontecimientos más importantes y desarrollos en otros foros en materia de importancia para la FAO. Gracias también a los Directores por sus intervenciones.

Sin lugar a dudas las sinergias que la FAO crea con otros foros del Sistema de Naciones Unidas son fundamentales a la hora de garantizar su mandato de contribuir a liberar del hambre a la humanidad. Sin embargo, mi delegación quisiera expresar su preocupación por la escasa información proporcionada respecto a los avances del Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, que como bien se señala en el documento,

hasta el día de hoy, es el único instrumento internacional jurídicamente vinculante y plenamente operativo sobre el acceso y la distribución de beneficios.

El señor Müller podría argumentar que su intervención se ha concentrado en el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica porque el Tratado de Fitogenéticos fue aprobado bajo el Artículo 14 de la Constitución de la FAO. No obstante, mi delegación quisiera recordar que no todos los Miembros de la FAO son partes del tratado, de ahí la necesidad de que en el futuro los informes que se presenten al Consejo sean exhaustivos e incluyan los avances de el Tratado.

Por otra parte, permítame llamar la atención del Consejo a la decisión de las Naciones Unidas de celebrar el 2010 como el Año Internacional de la Bio-diversidad que incluirá la celebración de una Reunión Especial de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas dedicada a la Bio-diversidad. Se considera importante que el máximo órgano rector de la FAO envíe un mensaje político sobre la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos genéticos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial y el desarrollo sostenible.

Quisiera agradecer al Departamento de Recursos Naturales, el Señor Alexander Müller, por su liderazgo en este tema de fundamental importancia para el futuro de esta Organización.

Finalmente, permítame felicitar al Señor Nomura por su intervención, que complementa muy bien la información proporcionada en el documento. Mi delegación solicita que su intervención sea puesta a disposición de los presentes de esta sala, pero también de los delegados de la Decimosegunda Sesión de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que conforme su mandato ampliado empezará a incursionar en el tema de los Recursos Genéticos Acuáticos y la necesidad de una evaluación científica rigurosa sobre la catalogación de las especies bien sea de explotación comercial o no. Lo mismo dicho sobre el tema de pesca se aplica al tema de bosques, por lo que agradezco al Sr. Heino por su muy clara intervención.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you delegate of Ecuador. And now I give the floor to Afghanistan. Afghanistan, you have the floor sir.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you Chairperson. I would like to ask for three clarifications; two related to investment and one related to genetic resources.

Regarding investment, I just want to know, is it the intention to produce a soft Code which will be voluntary or a hard Code which will have legal status? And in this Code, will bilateral arrangements between two countries, and the transfer of resources for investment in agriculture, will bilateral arrangements also be subject to this Code?

On genetic resources, we know about genetic resources for food and agriculture and all the treaties, is there any intergovernmental structure at the present time for the so-called international regime?

Thank you Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Afghanistan. And now I give the floor to Pakistan.

Shahid HUSSAIN (Pakistan)

Thank you Mr Chairman. I am very grateful to you for giving me the floor. I first of all thank the presentations made, they are really very informative, telling us what FAO is doing in different fields.

I will now be talking specifically about Chapter 4, International Investment in Agriculture. We are really grateful to FAO, the Government of Japan and the World Bank, for holding this Round Table at a very appropriate time when this issue is becoming very hot particularly in

underdeveloped countries, and we do hope that FAO, in collaboration with other countries, will keep on building consensus on these vital issues.

Mr Chairman, this type of investment is, in fact, inevitable. Not only is it inevitable, it is desirable and beneficial particularly for developing countries like Pakistan and we welcome this move. However, like Eritrea and Afghanistan, we are also concerned about certain issues and I am glad to learn that during this Round Table conference there was a consensus on a Code of Conduct which specifically mentioned transparency, sustainability, and keeping in mind the stakeholders' interests. I think, these are the vital elements for any Code of Conduct because, after globalization of industry and globalization of services, now the time has come for the globalization of agriculture. We cannot escape it but the way we handle it through this type of Code of Conduct, that will determine the fate of this trend and I do hope that FAO will keep on providing us guidance and leadership in this very vital issue which affects the life and liberty of millions of people throughout the world.

One issue which I would specifically mention is, there must be some sort of very clear dispute resolution mechanism in this entire process because, as you know, in normal times the situation will remain normal, there will be no disputes, but in times of scarcity and crisis like we witnessed last year, there will be conflict between two countries and it is here that the role of FAO will become very crucial to ensure that there must be in place a very clear-cut Code of Conduct or some sort of mechanism that could resolve the issues that will arise in times of scarcity.

With these remarks, I welcome these initiatives of FAO, and do hope that we will be benefiting from the initiatives of FAO.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Pakistan and now give the floor to Sudan.

Abdelatif Ahmed IJAMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like to join the previous speaks and congratulate the presenters.

I would like to make two comments, Mr Chairman. My first comment is that the trade in marine resources, if this is not linked with the country plans, I think this agreement will not be really useful. So it is important that FAO should give priority, pay attention and concentrate on it being linked to the country efforts when dealing with trade in marine resources.

As for biodiversity, similarly, no mention has been made to some aspects. I trust that the agreement in general has referred to all the aspects but I think that it is important that there be regulations in place, in order to deal with genetically-modified resources, because they can pose some threats to human beings and animals in general.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Sudan and now I give the floor to Ethiopia.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

Thank you Chair, I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group and I'd like first of all to thank the Secretariat for adding this Item to the Agenda in order to keep the Council informed about other efforts that are going on.

Secondly, also I would like to thank the Assistant Directors-General for the excellent presentations on the various issues.

That said, I would express also the views of Eritrea, Pakistan and Afghanistan in relation to international investment in agriculture. We agree that investment in agriculture is very important, but we also feel the concern of various countries and people about the problems that could be created through international investment in agriculture, and, therefore, the assistance that FAO is

trying to find based on research and on an informed Code of Conduct to help the recipient countries to design proper legislation and policy framework are appreciated.

Also, in relation to genetic resources, as Assistant Director-General Müller has said, I think it is very critical that access and benefit-sharing is brought up to international standards, and that a Code of Conduct be established to help the genetic resources as a whole. In relation to expired pesticides, I'd like to ask the Assistant Secretary-General whether FAO has a requisite capacity to help countries to clear away expired pesticides and the like.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the delegate of Eritrea and you spoke on behalf of the Africa Group. The last speaker on my list is Denmark. Denmark, you have the floor sir.

Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)

Thank you Chair. It is with great satisfaction that I note that this implementation of one of our IEE actions is in very good progress and I complement the Secretariat and the present ADGs for the presentations and also for the selection of relevant issues. As last time, of course, we could always ask for more, and I would have liked to have seen maybe also other international developments mentioned, but the selection is very good.

I would just raise a general question; if these presentations maybe should have some kind of follow-up. For instance the very pertinent issue on the cooperation between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariats. And of course it is of critical interest for this Organization, not only because of the pesticides but the Joint Secretariats, and of course if, as I guess most of us will fully support all avenues for seeking coherence and so on, fine, but we also, as indicated, we also have to be aware that many of the negotiations are not necessarily through our Ministries, the Ministries of Agriculture, but other Ministries, so I fully support that there is a need for consultation at the national level between Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers, typically, of the Environment, in these matters. I would guess that many of us would need maybe some more precise advice on what position, or what argument, should really be prepared to put forward in this inter-ministerial consideration.

The same goes, in principle, for the other subject I would mention, the attempt to promote international, responsible investments in agriculture. It is very difficult to be an observer in this Council having a remote placing and all kinds of processes going on around you.

On the possible Code of Conduct for International Investment in Agriculture, that discussion will probably also continue in other fora, and I think that it should be considered by Mr Ghanem or others to maybe have a follow-up seminar or information meeting or something where we could maybe dig more into the finer aspects of this.

This Organization has a special interest in access and benefit-sharing, not only because of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, but also in a wider perspective. And, of course, there is a risk that our interests and the interests of this Organization are not fully taken care of in the framework of the Convention on Biodiversity. So, in this area there might also be a need for some more direct advice to some of us on how we could avoid risks. Personally, I'm not worried because I have noticed that the crowd discussing these issues in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity is pretty much the same figures as we see locally attending the government meetings of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. But still there is a conflict and my advice is only to repeat that the Secretariat consider a follow-up to these events offering some more precise guidance to those of us who might need it. But thank you very much for the presentations.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the honourable delegate of Denmark. Indonesia, you have the floor now.

Asianto SINAMBELA (Indonesia)

Thank you for the opportunity you give to Indonesia to say some views on this occasion.

First of all, let me join others in thanking the Secretariat for the concise and comprehensive report they have made to us. I am taking the floor simply to say some views because, after reading the whole report here and listening carefully to the presentations made, I have specific elements that I think are pertinent if FAO could work together or intensify its cooperation with other international organizations, such as the WTO in particular. The reasons why I am saying it is necessary to work closely with the WTO, especially on specific issues such as the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, is simply because it has a close relationship with our efforts in mitigating or in tackling the issue of food security and also poverty reduction in developing countries and LDCs.

The problem encountered by developing countries, LDCs in particular, is that commodities depend on developing countries. I think it is pertinent now for FAO to especially intensify its work on technical assistance for developing countries to improve and strengthen their capacity, especially with regard to the quality of specific products to meet the standard required by the importing countries. This is the only way, if FAO works together with other international standard-setting bodies, to facilitate a kind of technical assistance to developing countries and LDCs to strengthen their export capacities. By improving these capacities, I am sure that the problem of hunger and also poverty will be less and less. Indonesia is now working closely with other countries on how to mitigate the issue of poverty reduction and also to improve our agriculture export capacity for the sake of improving rural development. Once there is an improvement in rural development, it means that we have successfully reduced the numbers of hungry people and poverty.

I know that FAO has a series of technical assistance programmes and Indonesia was a beneficiary of these kinds of programmes. However, most developing countries and particularly LDCs have big problems in meeting or achieving competitiveness in the international market when we talk of the share of global markets for specific export products of interest to developing countries and LDCs. So, again I do not know whether it is appropriate if I put a kind of recommendation for the next meeting or for the next year, FAO could work closely or make a kind of cooperation with other international organizations that could assist in improving the capacity of developing countries to strengthen their export capacity.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank the honourable delegate of Indonesia. I would like to say that we only have 15 minutes remaining and we have three speakers on the list and, of course, we have to listen to the responses so I would like to give the floor to Morocco.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. J'interviens au titre du point 3. Ma délégation est préoccupée par le peu d'informations données dans ce document sur le "Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique" (NEPAD) et tient à rappeler que, vu les circonstances de la conjoncture économique internationale et compte tenu de l'approche globale et intégrée des questions économiques, sociales, voire environnementales, le NEPAD offre aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, au continent africain l'opportunité d'une coopération régionale, susceptible d'affronter les défis du vingt-et-unième siècle. Il constitue donc une alternative significative pour relancer le développement durable de l'Afrique. Outre l'encouragement des partenariats préconisés entre les secteurs publics et privés, je pense qu'il était judicieux de préciser aussi quelles sont les mesures prises pour réactiver les divers projets de cette forme de coopération régionale. Enfin, permettez-moi de demander à la FAO de s'impliquer davantage dans ce cadre. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank Morocco and now I give the floor to Guatemala.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Observador de Guatemala)

Le felicito por estar presidiendo esta sesión y quiero agradecer a FAO por las excelentes presentaciones que nos han hecho en esta mañana.

Guatemala será muy breve porque quiero manifestar nuestro respaldo pleno a la declaración que hizo Ecuador, que es de suma importancia para todos nuestros países. Quiero sobre todo resaltar la importancia del Tratado Internacional de Recursos Filogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y el trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Guatemala and the last speaker, the representative of the United States of America. You have the floor, sir.

Ms Suzanne HEINEN (United States of America)

Like others I would like to thank the ADGs for these very useful presentations this morning. I think sometimes it is hard to keep track of all the good work that is being done in FAO and especially this collaborative work.

Just a few comments on a couple of topics. We are pleased to see this collaboration on international investment and agriculture. As Eritrea mentioned, this topic has been somewhat sensationalized in the press and we think it is very important that FAO gives us a good and balanced review of what is actually going on. There is great opportunity for benefits for countries where this investment is taking place, but there is also the possibility of risks and we look forward to seeing more of that work and would ask that you continue to keep us informed of any progress made on the potential Code of Conduct.

We are also very interested and very pleased with the work on the Commission on Genetic Resources. I would like to inform the Members that during the upcoming meeting of the Commission, the United States of America will be sponsoring a Seminar on some of our work on access and benefit-sharing, and look forward to hosting you at that. It will be the Monday of the Conference.

I would like to also join Denmark and Japan in noting that there are many other topics that could have been covered here. We understand that there is limited time but we do believe that we would have benefited as a body by more information on the work going on with the High-Level Task Force.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I thank you, madam. We have thus listened to the last speaker on the list. I thank you for your good contributions and I would like the presenters to respond to the queries and questions and we will follow the same order of the presentation. Mr Traore, you have the floor.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I think we had many comments on the issue of pesticides. I wanted to assure the Representative from Ethiopia that FAO is equipped to assist the countries in the field because the Rotterdam Convention is about exchange of information; it is about advice; it is about strengthening capacity; it is about assisting – not directly in operational activities within countries but with the Regional Bodies like the Sahelian Pesticide Committee and so on. I think we are already doing our best in this field, and our Sub-regional Office and Regional Offices are really involved in this business.

Denmark was asking about more precise information. I think that what I can say is that the negotiations will be carried out by the Governing Bodies of the respective Conventions and I think that if you want, we could provide you with more information but it would be the responsibility of the Governing Bodies to decide to which extent they want this Convention to

come closer to each other. Is it about more integration on the meetings of the Governing Bodies themselves or is it about having a more integrated Secretariat or to have a single Secretariat? I think these are the important questions to be discussed.

Indonesia asked about our partnership with WTO. We are partnering with WTO and of the three standard-setting bodies working on this Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement issues we have in FAO, we are hosting two of them; two out of three – the International Plant Protection Commission and the Secretariat of the *Codex Alimentarius Commission*. They are working here and I hope that in the coming sessions we will have the opportunity to present some of the issues in the framework of this partnership. We were asked to present one item, that is why among the three items presented under the AG Department, the CADEP issue was not presented directly. But I want to ensure you that FAO is closely involved in the implementation of the CADEP and NEPAD process in Africa.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Mr Troaré. Mr Hazef Ghanem, you have the floor, sir.

Hazef GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I will be very brief since I actually agree with all of the comments made on the investment issue.

We believe that private cross-border investment in agriculture is potentially an opportunity, but there are also great risks and that is the idea behind the work that we are doing. The guidelines or Code of Conduct that is being discussed is going to be voluntary. The idea is to provide guidelines to both the receiving countries and investors on ways and approaches that will maximize benefits and minimize the risks. A lot of work has already gone into this. We have produced a paper on experiences jointly with IFAD about six weeks ago. The UNCTAD, with inputs from ourselves, the World Bank and IFAD, has produced its Annual Investment Report this year on investment in agriculture. So, there is already a great deal of work that has been going on, and we plan to continue that work, especially in terms of having a much wider consultation beyond the four international organizations that have been working so that we can get the benefit and wisdom of all the different participants in this area. Yes, the idea from Denmark that we should organize maybe a Seminar on this issue is an excellent one, and we will do that. The issue will be discussed at the High-Level Expert Forum on 12 and 13 October. Investment is one of the issues and the role of private investment will also be discussed by the experts at that time.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Mr Ghanem. Mr Nomura, you have the floor.

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

I will just make a very quick clarification in response to the comment from the distinguished colleague of Sudan.

WTO controlled trade ruling, including trade on fish products. FAO has a Sub-committee on Fish Trade. It does not deal with rule-making. It discusses the practice of trade and the technical assistance harmonization, always based on the trade rules. CITES is completely independent of WTO. CITES under the Convention regulates the trade of species threatened with extinction. When it gets into the commercially exploited aquatic species they have to decide, list or no list, based on the criteria which has a relationship with the biological status of the species. That area is where we have to come into play.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Mr Nomura. Mr Heino, you have the floor.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Actually there was no question to me, only a request from Japan to maintain the leadership role in CPF.

Let me assure you that we will do our utmost to do so and even improve our work through and together with the Members of the CPF.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Mr Heino. Mr Müller, you have the floor.

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

In answering the questions of Ecuador and Guatemala, I have concentrated on fora outside FAO. The Commission and the Treaty are inside FAO, but I consider this as a request for more information and this is very supportive for the work of the Commission and the Treaty and we would have to find a way to inform you better on the work going on there.

Afghanistan asked the question 'What is the role of Governing Bodies; do we have a governance system?' The Governing Body of CBD has set up an *ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to discuss these access and benefit-sharing issues, and FAO is participating in this *ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group and within in the next meeting of the Commission we will inform the Commission on Genetic Resources and we will get guidance. To better inform Member Nations, as was requested by Denmark, and partially answered by the United States of America, we will organize a special Seminar on access and benefit-sharing related to food and agriculture preceding the meeting of the Commission in mid-October. So we try to link our Governing Bodies with the ongoing process in CBD, but in the end CBD will have to decide. This was also a question from Denmark, 'How to better link different Governing Bodies on a national and international level?' Very important is to answer the question 'Do we need a special feature for genetic resources for food and agriculture or should this be covered under an international regime covering all genetic resources?' But this has to be answered by the Member Nations of CBD, and we will try to give technical support.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Mr Müller. I thank the Assistant Director-General who gave us the presentation this morning. We conclude Item 13 of the Agenda. Since the interpretation time is over, we will have to introduce Item 14 of our Agenda in the afternoon in the Plenary Hall.

Before adjourning the Secretary-General has an announcement to make.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to remind distinguished delegates that all your recordings of our proceedings are available in the language of delivery on the Permanent Representatives' Website, to which Permanent Representatives have access.

This afternoon the Council will reconvene at 2.30 pm in the Plenary Hall since the Council will be requested to take a role call vote using the electronic voting equipment installed there.

Secondly, all EU Members are invited to an EU Coordination Meeting in the German Room immediately after this meeting, and delegates are kindly requested to collect their mail which has been left in the country pigeonholes at the Korean Documents Desk located at the entrance to the Nordic Lounge.

The meeting rose at 12:45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:45 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
30 September 2009

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:54 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 54
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14:54 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONT'D)

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

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

5. Strategic Framework 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

5. Cadre stratégique 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 et Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

5. Marco estratégico 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan a plazo medio 2010-13 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto 2010-11 (C 2009/15)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the sixth meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Council to order.

The first item on our Agenda of this afternoon is Item 14, Any Other Matters, which was not considered this morning due to lack of time. Two information documents have been tabled under this item namely: *Implementation of Decisions taken at the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Council*, which is CL 137INF/4, and *Summaries of the Main Recommendations of Regional Conferences held in 2008 and 2009*, which document is CL 137/INT/9.

Let us start with the first one: *Implementation of Decisions taken at the Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session of the Council*, which is document CL 137/INF/4. Are there any delegations who wish to take the floor under this item? I do not see any. This is usually the case.

Let us move to the next item which is: *Summaries of the Main Recommendations of Regional Conferences in 2008 and 2009*, document CL 137/INF/9. Any requests for the floor for this item? I do not see any on this item either.

Now we can move to the next item and the most important item of the Agenda for this Session, which is Item 5: *Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2010-2011*.

On Monday, we agreed to suspend our discussion on Item 5 to give the Membership the opportunity to have a break-out meeting as Regional Groups. I would now like to see what the results are of your discussions in the Regional Groups, if any.

It seems we did not have the opportunity to meet in Regional Groups so there is no request for the floor on this item.

We have to continue our discussion on this Item 5 and we do not have that much time. We are under time pressure and if we have to have a good time management, we have to be disciplined and flexible and I hope that it will be materialized.

My impression is that as we had discussed this issue before we should continue our debate on this item in an open-ended *Friends of the Chair* mode, as was proposed by some of you, starting just now, and I would like to see what is your reaction to this proposal but before that I recognize Sweden.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

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

We recognize the work done already on Decentralization including the delegation of some authority to the Decentralized Offices, improved communications systems, the better integration of Regional Offices to the planning systems etc. FAO's efficiency at country level is a key to the success of the Organization in working towards its objectives.

We agreed in the CoC-IEE that this is still work-in-progress, and we need to continue our joint efforts in the forthcoming biennium.

As agreed in the IPA (Action 3.84), we expect Management to provide us with a review of the Decentralized Offices, with proposals on the decentralized office network in the short, medium and long term. We expect to receive such proposals during the first quarter of 2010.

The EC takes note of the general agreement of the Finance Committee to the proposal, as contained in the draft Budgetary Appropriations Resolution 2010-2011, to introduce a margin of flexibility for the Director-General to make transfers between budgetary chapters. While supporting the principle of introducing flexibility, the EC is of the opinion that this flexibility shall be applied to transfers totalling up to a maximum percentage of five percent for a biennium, both for the giving and receiving budget chapters. The EC stresses the importance that any transfers made should be reported to the Finance Committee and in the budgetary reports for 2010-2011. The experience made with application of flexibility should be reviewed by the Finance Committee which regularly holds several meetings during the year.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sweden for speaking on behalf of EC but you have already started another round of debate on the whole issue which I was proposing to do in another model. Of course we have taken note of your statement.

Those of us who have been here, we have been discussing the Strategic Framework, Medium-Term Plan and Plan of Work and Budget several times before and, I think due to the time pressure, we have to decide either to continue the general debate as we have done it in the Working Groups and in two Sessions of the Council and let us just talk about generalities, talk about everything, or make a choice and just limit our scope of work and work on some parts that we think are useful. It helps Council to make some decisions and bring some recommendations to the Conference as was proposed by Canada at the end of our meeting on Monday. And I think the best way we can do that is first to get your agreement to continue this debate with the *Friends of the Chair* model which means that with a smaller number of spokespersons, but open-ended to participation by everybody.

My proposal is to have a *Friends of the Chair* as usual with three spokespersons per region and open-ended working group and continue our debate on that. If you agree with this then the next step would be, what is to be discussed? So first let us decide on the first Item, and then go to the next, but I see that Brazil has asked for the floor before this.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

I would like to request you to pass the floor to the Dominican Republic who is going to be speaking on behalf of the G-77.

Mario Arvelo CAAMAÑO (Observador de República Dominicana)

Los países en desarrollo deseamos apoyar la propuesta que el Presidente ha hecho para poder avanzar. Si comenzamos a tratar estos temas en el contexto del Consejo, nosotros compartimos su temor de que estaríamos entrando en un círculo vicioso del que no saldríamos antes que los tiempos del Consejo concluyan.

La Unión Europea ha hecho una intervención sobre las Oficinas Descentralizadas. Este es un tema, Presidente, que los países en desarrollo entienden que debe ser tratado en el contexto del *Grupo de Amigos* que usted está proponiendo para preparar la reunión del Comité de la Conferencia del día viernes. Esta es una cuestión que será sometida a la Conferencia de la FAO, y por eso necesitamos tener una discusión que aborde este tema en un contexto en el cual podamos

todos avanzar y no solamente hacer expresiones de qué entendemos y de qué interpretación hacemos del proceso que va a tener lugar de ahora en adelante. Le adelanto que los países en desarrollo estamos en una posición diametralmente distinta de la expresada por la Unión Europea y necesitaremos también el tiempo, Presidente, para tratar esa cuestión en particular en mayor profundidad.

Sobre el *Grupo de Amigos* que usted está proponiendo también con respecto a los temas financieros aún pendientes para la Agenda del Consejo, igualmente apoyamos el que usted pueda convocar a un *Grupo de Amigos* y que en ese contexto podamos avanzar nuestras conversaciones y nuestras negociaciones con el objeto de facilitar el trabajo del Consejo.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you the Chairman of the G-77 and I would like to remind you that this issue of Decentralization is under consideration by the Joint Working Groups One, Two, Three and then CoC-IEE, and I think that at the last meeting, we were very close to an agreement on how to proceed. So, let us keep it for discussion, and then if we come to the *Friends of the Chair* and if you decide that it would be an Item, which I do not recommend, we will discuss it over there, too. For the time being, I thank you G-77 for supporting this proposal, and I want to see if others do agree with that, with forming a *Friends of the Chair* group for having dialogue like conversation because in Red Room and this room, usually the atmosphere is not conducive to dialogue. It is more a forum for monologue. So, if you do agree, we will do that.

I do not see any objections to that – Afghanistan.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Chair, of course we agree with your proposal but the small group, *Friends of the Chair*, should not open the discussion on the three documents because you will be repeating the CoC-IEE and first they are the Council. So, it may be better to say on what areas they should focus. There are only two critical areas: one is the level of the budget; one is the financing of the IPA. If you concentrate on these issues, perhaps some elements for discussion will come out.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Afghanistan.

As I said, now that we have agreement on establishment of the *Friends of the Chair*, as I said next item would be what we discussed. Because if we want to go again to debate everything in one Session, I do not think that we will get too far. So I do agree that we have to limit the scope of our discussion. I made this proposal that you have just made on Monday, if you remember, regarding these two items but this would be open to your decision, to see what would actually be discussed there.

My personal view is that a Strategic Framework and MTP, we have discussed it before although there are different views, but we do not have major problems on that. The main area for discussion would be the PWB, Programme of Work and Budget, but it is still a vast area of discussion and I would be very happy if people react to the proposal by Afghanistan that we can discuss only two items, what is the level of the budget and the other, financing of IPA.

If we could reach some agreement or disagreement on our disagreements, then we might add other issues if we see we have time to do that, but this issue is open for your contribution i.e. what issues to be discussed in *Friends of the Chair*.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes, first of all, to agree with your proposal to form *Friends of the Chair* and to concur with what Afghanistan has just said and at the same time to agree that, broadly speaking, those were the two areas that you have outlined for the purposes of the Council. They were the ones which were more or less hanging when we left after discussion on Monday.

The other item, Decentralization, we also do agree that this is a matter for the CoC-IEE, and we would rather leave it there.

In negotiation, maybe what I would like to request is that we should not restrict it just to the Members of the Council because these are areas which are of interest to everybody. So, when you say open-ended, do we understand that open-ended would also enable Members who are not Members of the Council to participate in this? If that is the case then I think we would agree with you.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, of course, because Council is open to all the Membership so it would be an open-ended Working Group.

Russian Federation you have the floor.

Valery YUDIN (Russian Federation)

We are in agreement with the idea of the creation of a group of *Friends of the Chair* and also with the two issues that you have proposed, which are the level of the budget for the next biennium and also financing of the IPA.

In addition, we have stated in our statement when we were talking about the financial health of the Organization and the Secretariat proposed undertaking particular measures with regard to the working fund and also medical insurance fund and I think that those issues should also be moved on to discussion for this group of the *Friends of the Chair* which you have proposed.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Russian Federation. Any other requests for the floor – Brazil.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Thank you, Chairman, and I fully endorse what was expressed by the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Group of 77.

I understand these two issues, the level of the budget and financing for the IPA. What I just think, I am somehow puzzled, as to what we are going to be discussing on the level of the budget? Are we going to be talking about a ceiling, a level that we expect, or a number, perhaps a magic number, or we are going to be talking about various components of the budget so that we can be in agreement or try to build the agreement that that level is indeed consistent with what we have approved in the IPA, the results-based budgeting and what we expect for the next biennium. So, in that sense, yes indeed, Decentralization as a point. I understand we are still discussing that issue at the CoC, but there are some budgetary issues in the PWB related to the Decentralization issue that will have an impact, almost regardless of what the CoC will say. So we need also to see, but I see you nodding as I am speaking. We are going to be talking on various components probably of the budget, not just regarding whether we have a magic number.

CHAIRPERSON

Definitely the second option is what I have in mind because we cannot just talk about a level or a figure, whatever it is. We have had discussion. Management and the Director-General have proposed a budget, which is a level of budget, and as you said it has different components. So the whole thing will be open to discussion with the hope that we can reach more understanding even if we cannot reach consensus on a magic number, on a level of budget, and get closer to each other with ideas and be prepared to go to the Conference and Commission II with more agreements, more understanding and not just crowding Commission II and not having enough time to discuss issues, and go through long discussions sometimes up to the morning. This is my hope, and I hope that we can contribute to what is expected from Council in the spirit of the Reform, that we come with some useful recommendations to the Conference.

Sweden can ask for the floor whenever you want. There is no need for this indirect contact. When you think you want to speak on behalf of all the EC, please raise your flag and you will be recognized.

Yes you have the floor.

Michael HJELMAKER (Observer for Sweden)

Thank you, indeed, Mr Chairman, for allowing us to circumvent that procedure.

On behalf of the EC, we would simply like to say that we concur with your proposal of creating a *Friends of the Chair* group. Also, with regard to the two main topics that you proposed, while of course recognizing what was said by the Ambassador of Brazil that there will be a need to discuss the various components to be included, such as the financial health and the various aspects related to the overall budget of the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your agreement with that.

United States of America, you have the floor.

Chris HEGADORN (United States of America)

Thank you Mr Chair. I just wanted to weigh in to lend support to your proposal. I think a *Friends of the Chair* discussion, I assume that would be tomorrow, would be helpful, otherwise, I think we would probably end up rehashing a lot of ground we covered earlier in the week. But like others, I think we have some interest in seeing a discussion on the PWB in its holistic sense. I think you are right regarding the Medium-Term Plan and Strategic Framework. I think we have had a fullsome and complete discussion on these issues. With respect to the PWB, however, the whole thing is an interlocking, interrelated document for which the budget level, treatment of IPA, the text of the draft resolution including the issue of inter-budgetary chapter transfers and the items on financial health, among others, need to be considered in that holistic sense. So we would support the *Friends of the Chair* as long as the discussion is open to the entire document. Frankly, we see also some value after what we expect from Management as they have promised on numerous occasions to provide additional information notes on a variety of topics related to the PWB including all cost reductions from USD 60 to USD 38 million in the treatment of the IPA, some detail on the assumptions used on cost increases, etc. So I think that would help us come to the Commission II discussion with a complete picture of the information and give us time to negotiate and communicate with capital and with our colleagues here in the room.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not know whether Management could produce those notes by tomorrow. I doubt it, but we can invite them to be present, and whenever needed, they would provide information that we ask them, whatever is available, and what is not, we ask them to provide it to the Membership as soon as possible, so that we could use it in further discussions up to the Conference. So it seems that we do have agreements and the proposal of the Russian Federation is also a component of what we have discussed, so it would be included in our discussion. With this, we again come to work on the time management.

This afternoon we have to go to Item 10, which is consideration of what has been discussed in CCLM and the reason why we are here in this room is because it needs some electronic votes, and that is why we are here. And also, some of the Regional Groups have asked for some time for consultation before going to the *Friends of the Chair*. Now we know what are the issues that we are going to discuss. So, my recommendation is that now that we have reached this agreement I invite Ambassador Muchada to come and take the Chair to go to Item 10, and I ask you please to be very efficient on that because we need some time after that the interpretation to be used by G-77.

Ms Mary Margaret Muchada, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, took the Chair
Mme Mary Margaret Muchada, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Sagra. Doña Mary Margaret Muchada, Vicepresidente del Consejo

IV. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

IV. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

IV. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

10. Report of the 88th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (23-25 September 2009) (CL 137/5)

10. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (23-25 septembre 2009) (CL 137/5)

10. Informe del 88.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (23-25 de septiembre de 2009) (CL 137/5)

10.1 Amendments to the Basic Texts required for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan for Action for FAO Renewal

10.1 Modifications requises des Textes fondamentaux pour la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO

10.1 Cambios en los Textos Fundamentales que será necesario introducir para la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción para la renovación de la FAO

10.2 Amendments to the Basic Texts required for the Proposed Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

10.2 Modifications requises des Textes fondamentaux pour la réforme proposée du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA)

10.2 Cambios en los Textos fundamentales que será necesario introducir para la propuesta de Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CFS)

10.3 Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission

10.3 Accord sur la Commission des pêches et de l'aquaculture pour l'Asie centrale et le Caucase

10.3 Acuerdo sobre la Comisión de Pesca y Acuicultura para el Asia central y el Cáucaso

10.4 Other Matters arising from the Report of the 88th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

10.4 Autres questions découlant du rapport de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

10.4 Otros asuntos planteados en el Informe del 88.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen,

I table before you Item 10, the Report of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Sub-Item 10.1, Amendments to the Basic Text for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, Item 10.2, Amendments to the Basic Texts required for the Proposed Reform of the Committee on Food Security (CFS), Item 10.3, Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission,

document CL 137/INF/11, Item 10.4, Other Matters arising from the Report of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

As we discussed this, may I please request you to have document CL 137/5 before you. I would like to propose for the onset, that Item 10.2, Amendments to the Basic Texts required for the Proposed Reform of the Committee on Food Security not be considered at this Session given that due to the discussions in the CFS Working Group, it was not possible to prepare the document dealing with the proposed amendments on time for this Session. This document will be reviewed by the CFS at its next Session, between 14-17 October, next month and by the CCLM at a session to be held on 27-28 October of the same month, and will be referred to the Conference directly. If Council is in agreement, we would now consider just the three other Sub- items? Ok. With that then, may I now refer you to Sub-item 10.1 regarding the Amendment to the Basic Texts for the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for the FAO Renewal.

The other would be Sub-item 10.3 regarding the Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, which Council is invited to approve through a roll call vote. In Sub-item 10.4 regarding Other matters addressed by the CCLM, we have the Chairperson of the CCLM here. Perhaps you could lead us to Sub-item 10.1.

Julio FIOL (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos celebró su 88° Período de Sesiones la semana pasado del 23 al 25 de septiembre y me honra ahora presentar y someter a la aprobación del Consejo el Informe de dicho Período de Sesiones. Como usted lo ha señalado, se presentará bajo tres Sub-temas y ahora introduciré el relativo a los cambios en los Textos Fundamentales que serán necesarios introducir para la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción para la Renovación de la FAO.

El Comité ha ya celebrado seis Períodos de Sesiones y ha revisado un amplio número de enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales, dichas enmiendas se encuentran en los Apéndices 2-4 del Informe del 8° Período de Sesiones, y fueron objeto de una revisión final adicional por el Comité en el Período pasado. En este contexto el Comité expresó su apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia que se encuentra en el Apéndice 2 del Informe y que comprende las propuestas de enmiendas a la constitución decidiendo que fuera remitido al Consejo para su posterior transmisión a la Conferencia para la aprobación.

El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos también respaldó el Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia que se encuentra en el Apéndice 3, y que se refiere a las Propuestas de Enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización y al Reglamento Financiero, acordando también que fuera remitido a este Consejo para su posterior transmisión a la Conferencia.

El Comité hizo suyas un conjunto de Resoluciones que se encuentran en el Apéndice 4 del Informe sobre la Implementación del Plan Inmediato de Acción, en particular relativos a los temas de la Conferencia, del Consejo, del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, la Reforma del Sistema de Programación, Presupuestación y Seguimiento basado en los resultados y las resoluciones relativas a las reuniones ministeriales.

El Comité también revisó la definición de Órganos Rectores y acordó remitir todos estos documentos al Consejo para su posterior transmisión a la Conferencia. El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos respaldó una propuesta sobre la Futura Estructura de los Textos Fundamentales que consistirá en un Volumen I con los instrumentos que se modifiquen y un Volumen II que contendrá una nueva estructura tal y como se detalla en el Apéndice 4, letra G del Informe. Al decidir esto, el Comité tuvo en cuenta que algunos instrumentos actualmente incluidos en el Volumen II de los Textos Fundamentales podrían requerir ser enmendados en el futuro, y que la parte S del Volumen II de los Textos Fundamentales sería eventualmente eliminada.

El Comité también solicitó a la Secretaría, dado que se trata de tareas de naturaleza editorial que no involucra ninguna consideración de sustancia que entonces se renumeren según sea apropiado

los Artículos, Párrafos y Sub-párrafos a lo largo de los Textos Fundamentales para concordar las referencias a los Artículos así como introducir notas de pie de página que hagan referencia a las resoluciones de la Conferencia cuando sea necesario.

Desearía invitar al Consejo, a través de su persona, a adoptar todas estas recomendaciones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y, en particular, a remitir dichas Propuestas de Resolución a la Conferencia.

Antes de concluir esta parte del Informe quisiera señalar que el Comité revisó una propuesta sobre los términos de referencia al Comité de Ética, la cual hago presente todavía debe ser revisada por el Comité de Finanzas.

Por último, el Comité hizo una revisión preliminar de los Órganos Estatutarios para que permaneciendo en el marco de la FAO puedan ejercer una mayor autoridad financiera y administrativa. El Comité expresó satisfacción con la naturaleza exhaustiva de esta revisión preliminar y enfatizó que la implementación del Plan Inmediato de Acción en esta materia debía ser vista como un proceso en evolución y que llegará su culminación en el curso de los próximos años. En este contexto, el Comité invitó a la Secretaría a llevar a cabo acciones en las materias de su competencia y a consultar a los Órganos Rectores pertinentes según sea apropiado respecto de los asuntos que deberían ser considerados por los Miembros.

Por último, el Comité enfatizó que en el contexto de este proceso en marcha, los Miembros de los Órganos Estatutarios pertinentes especialmente los Órganos establecidos en virtud del Artículo 14º y del Artículo 6º de la Constitución que disfrutaban de una autonomía funcional sustantiva, deberían ser invitados a considerar esta revisión preliminar y a ofrecer las observaciones sobre los asuntos en revisión.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Fiol, for this presentation and clear explanation of how the CCLM treated the matter. I now open the floor for intervention from Members. I am advised that this is a matter that we discussed at length in groups, but all the same I now table the matter for your consideration. I recognize Sweden.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

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

The EC endorses the Report of the Eighty-eighth Session of the CCLM. The EC would like to lend its strong support to the actions suggested by the Committee in its Report. The EC is of the opinion that the proposed Conference Resolution regarding IPA Implementation correctly reflect the Reform-related discussions of the CoC-IEE Governing Bodies of FAO. As has been pointed out previously by the EC, we are in favour of an Independent Office of Evaluation as proposed by the IEE. We, therefore, support the adoption by the Council of the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation.

The EC attaches utmost importance to the FAO Reform Process. The CCLM plays an integral part in solidifying the legal aspect of this Reform. We would like to express our gratitude to the FAO Secretariat and the Members of the CCLM for their constructive work in preparing the requested changes to the Basic Texts.

Sergio INSUNZA BECKER (Chile)

Muy brevemente, quisiera agradecer al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por el informe relacionado con los temas que tienen que ver con el Plan Inmediato de Acción, así como también a su Presidente.

Mi delegación desea prestar su acuerdo con este Informe ya que ha sido detenidamente examinado y considerado también en el Comité de la Conferencia para la Renovación de la FAO. Por lo tanto, quería expresar nuestro acuerdo con este Informe.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURAN (Observador de Venezuela)

Gracias, señora Presidenta. En primer término agradezco al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y a su señor Presidente Julio Fiol por el Informe, que es tan completo, que ha sido presentado a este Consejo.

En muy breve, señora Presidente y señores Miembros de la mesa, el Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe quisiera señalar que desde la reunión de la consulta técnica que fue celebrada en mayo de 2009, los países de América Latina y el Caribe piensan que se han hecho buenos progresos en la lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada.

Queremos también recordar como lo hicimos en la última reunión cuando se acogió el Instrumento Jurídicamente Vinculante sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto que efectivamente nos reservamos el derecho a reabrir el texto en el futuro. Esto forma parte del Informe de la Consulta Técnica que ha sido entregado a la Plenaria, en la tarde de hoy en la página 3 en el numeral número 18.

Ms Susan HEINEN (United States of America)

The United States also supports this report of the CCLM and wishes to thank the Chair and the Legal Office for very patiently and ably guiding the CCLM through this complicated process of making the IPA a reality.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation does appreciate very much the work done by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. With respect to the matters related to the previous Conference and also regarding the implementation of the IPA, and here it is a matter, as we know them, of making amendments to the Basic Texts. Now on the eve of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters we had some questions regarding certain parts of the Basic Texts. Now, with your kind forbearance, I would like to specify my country's position. We have submitted this position paper in writing to the Secretariat, as well as to the Legal Office. In Russia we say or often say, put it that way, and I shall go slowly here for the interpreters speaking. At times people do get uptight and that can lead to omitting some important aspects.

There are some issues which very important from a legal viewpoint and which do affect the Basic Texts and the Member Nations of this Organization are quite obviously concerned. Now as I was saying, with your kind forbearance I would like to point out that Russia is not opposed to what concerns the mandate of the Director-General, terms of reference of the Director-General. We do agree that consideration should be given to modifications or to changes in that regard, nor do we want to prejudice any of the results of the Session that will take place in October. Now regarding the Regional Conferences, well there, we do feel that in the Basic Texts, in point 6, there is a contradiction with 5, so I am speaking to you about the Constitution here. If we want to change Article 5 of the Constitution, fine, but we have to go back to Article 6 in the Constitution as well. Now regarding the Committees and their obligation to report to the Council and to the Conference, well I tell you, we have everything which has to do with programming, everything which has to do with technical matters and as regards our services for Article 6 or 5, there, too, we would have to see if there is any contradiction between the two. Because on the one hand, we state that the Committees are independent, and then again it is stated that these Committees have to report to the Conference, but not to Council. So, we have certain changes which are not necessarily envisaged. Now from a legal viewpoint, I would like to ask whether it is possible to do this? Is it something which can be envisaged or are people thinking about deleting this from the Constitution, if we do agree on it. Otherwise another question is a question of the drafting of the obligation that is to submit reports to body A or B. Then we have Rule 33 that indicates that reports should be made to the Council. Now, if we want to reinforce this Article in the

Constitution, then all we have is Article 5 that would have to be changed, then you have Article 3 or Article 4 which would also have to be amended. We just have Article 6. Article 6 is not a self-standing or an isolated article. But now we also feel that regarding Article 3, on page 9, we have to come back to this idea of the reporting obligation. Now there is a question of principle that does arise, for example, for the reports which are submitted to the General Assembly of the UN. We have reports to ECOSOC and the UN Assembly, and this is in the wording. We have doubts about this. At the current moment on the FAO Article 7 of the Constitution, we are a Specialized Agency of the UN, under UN constitution, the conditions under which Specialized Agencies will be connected with ECOSOC, depends on a decision between the two parties and therefore we feel that it is necessary to take a bilateral decision. We feel that we are unable to have a unilateral decision, as FAO, and therefore we need consultation on this with the Legal Department of the UN Headquarters in New York.

There are a number of other questions. I will try to be brief. I am sorry that I have taken a lot of time but this is an issue of principle. With regard to the change of the general questions on the Finance Committee, on the Programme Committees and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, I think that the fact is that we need to know what our enemy is, if we are looking at the issue of the number of Members per region, it is not always in accordance with the Constitution. We have here the Basic Texts 2004 and in this we see reflected in the documents CL 137/5, that is, we have a supposed quotation which actually is not in accordance with the wording of the Basic Texts 2004 with regard to, for instance, the Membership of the Programme Committee, it states that it should be 8 plus 2, and the CCLM is also offering the same for the Finance Committee, whereas in the Basic Texts 2004, we have different numbers.

We feel that the issue of the Independent Chairs of these Committees is not quite clear enough and the respective Members of the Finance and Programme Committees, and the CCLM, are independent experts. They no longer represent their geographical areas because we are choosing them as independent experts on the basis of their qualifications, and therefore, their work is to the benefit of all regions.

So, what is in fact the point in that case of having Independent Chairs, and having an Independent Chair, but 12 Members in one Committee. In the CCLM, we have an Independent Chair but he actually is one of seven Members or perhaps we have not quite understood, maybe it is seven plus one, but the CCLM Chair will be more dependent, and the Programme and Finance Committee Chairs will be independent, if you have understood correctly. I would like to draw the attention of respected colleagues to the fact that for the implementation of the IPA, we really need to be much more careful when considering questions which will create the effective basis for the Organization's work over the next few years and, therefore, I think that we need to keep this issue open right to the Conference.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Let me first clarify that as you can see from the report of the CCLM, the item regarding CFS Committee on Food Security has not been addressed by the CCLM. Therefore, all the Russian observations regarding the CFS will be considered by the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters at the end of October. The Committee will have an additional session where the CFS Reform will be discussed. So, in the Report that you have in front of you, CL 137/5 there is no mention whatsoever of the CFS Reform. So, your first part will be part of the discussion which will continue in the Open-Ended Working Group and the Bureau and then we would hope to have some agreement, so that the Committee of Constitution and Legal Matter can revise the issue from a legal point of view at the end of October. Regarding the other Committees, the Finance and Programme Committees and the CCLM, are taking into account that the Committee of Constitution and Legal Matter is a Technical Committee, it is not a political committee. What the Committee did was to put in legal terms what the IPA provided for these two Committees saying that it was only for Finance and Programme Committee. So the fact that we have a number of members, the fact that the Chairperson should act *ad personam*, all these were actions under the

IPA. What CCLM did was to put these in legal format and to see what rules had to be changed for that.

The only initiative if I may say that CCLM took to expand this suggestion of the IPA also to the CCLM itself. If we do this for the Finance and Programme Committee, why not for the CCLM, and this was brought to the attention of the Conference Committee which agreed on that. What the Committee thought was that in presenting these amendments, they were amendments reflecting fully the IPA recommendations and in any case, following the advice of the Conference Committee on the IPA.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En primer lugar nuestra delegación quiere agradecer el espléndido trabajo hecho por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y también por la Secretaría de esta Organización, consideramos que el trabajo que ellos han hecho es fundamental para fortalecer las labores de la FAO, abona en favor del fortalecimiento de nuestros Órganos y de la participación de los Estados Miembros.

Quisiéramos aquí preguntar si en este proceso que ha envuelto a la Organización en los últimos tiempos, el Proceso de Reforma que tratamos de hacer profundo, si los Estados Miembros hemos tenido suficiente tiempo para contribuir a las labores que se llevan a cabo para modificar nuestros Textos Fundamentales. ¿Hemos tenido tiempo para contribuir? También otra pregunta que podemos hacernos es: ¿Los mecanismos con los que ahora contamos?, ¿la estructura que estamos tratando de fortalecer nos facilitan esa contribución? Son las preguntas que mi delegación quiere hacer en este tema tan importante que es cambiar la Constitución de la FAO.

Quisiera referirme a tres puntos que tiene la propuesta que nos ha hecho el Comité, que tanto empeño y esfuerzo ha puesto en sus labores y en el Informe que nos ha entregado. Para aunar la transparencia de esta institución la cuestión de los observadores en tres comités, en el Comité del Programa, en el Comité de Finanzas, en incluso en el propio Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Legales.

Podríamos buscar una manera más directa que los trabajos de estos Órganos podrían aceptar Estados Miembros de la Organización sin mencionar que se puede o no se puede aceptar su solicitud, simplemente decir que se aceptarán Observadores por parte del resto de los Miembros de la Organización. Esa es una cuestión que podríamos hacer.

Otro tema es la propuesta que se encuentra en el Apéndice 4 letra F relativa a la definición de Órganos Rectores. ¿Nos conviene listar los Órganos Rectores o simplemente hacer referencia al Artículo 5 de la Constitución? Esa puede ser una opción.

Podríamos afinar el espléndido trabajo pensando sobretodo que es de particular trascendencia. ¿Cuánto tiempo volverá a pasar para que volvamos a modificar los Textos Fundamentales?

Dejo estas reflexiones sobre la mesa, habría otros puntos específicos que quisiéramos afinar, pero creemos que estas preguntas pudieran ser motivo de reflexión.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Africa Region, we have highest appreciation and give our agreement to the contents of the document tabled and we also thank the CCLM Chairperson for his introduction remarks of this Agenda. As you have already said plus the explanation which has been given by the Legal Counsel, I would testify that the Working Groups and more so the Conference Committee discussed on many occasions all the subjects of this document intensively and reached the consensus to forward them to the CCLM to put them into the legal language which is contained now in this document. Therefore, the Africa Region endorses the amendments made, in view of the prior intensive discussion and the agreement on the various reforms for the way the Organization conducts its business as per IPA recommendations.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MEDUÑO (Observador de Ecuador)

En primer lugar, permítame decirle que es un placer verla a usted conducir los trabajos del Consejo, sobre todo por su dedicación en el Tema de la Reforma. Yo creo que es importante tener una persona con sus conocimientos esta tarde.

Quisiera agradecer al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por su excelente labor, sobre todo por el buen trabajo de la Oficina Legal.

Como correctamente lo señaló el Sr Pucci, el Comité es un Comité Técnico y lo que hace es poner en términos legales lo que es la voluntad política de la Membresía de la FAO.

Como usted conoce, el Tema de la Reforma no es un tema que ha concluido. El tema de gobernanza sigue en debate. El Sr Pucci decía que en este Informe no hay ninguna referencia al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, sin embargo quiero llamar la atención hacia la página 27 del documento en español, donde no solamente hay una referencia sino que se introduce una reforma. Entonces, mi pregunta es: ¿cómo vamos a tratar esto?, ¿lo vamos a tratar a medias o lo vamos a tratar completo para ahorrar? Alguna vez me preguntaban ¿cuál es tu interés en este tema? Mi interés es ahorrarle dinero a la Organización en la publicación de documentos. Terminemos el trabajo, tomemos una decisión y que los Textos Fundamentales que se publiquen sea la versión última a la que hayamos alcanzado en ese momento. ¿Qué quiero decir con esto? Que tal vez no tenemos que ir con tanta prisa, tal vez deberíamos esperar a concluir el debate político, tal vez deberíamos esperar a que ese debate político sea traducido en términos legales por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y recién allí emprender la tarea de hacer la recapitulación y el reordenamiento de los Textos Fundamentales.

Dicho esto, mi Delegación entiende que lo que estamos viendo ahora son todos los temas relativos a la aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción para la renovación de la FAO. Quisiera preguntarle cuál es el estatus del Apéndice 5. El Apéndice 5 no tiene nada que ver con la Reforma de la FAO, sin embargo está incluido en el Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Si estamos tratando el Informe en su globalidad quisiera conocerlo, porque sin duda mi Delegación y otras Delegaciones quisieran pronunciarse sobre el Apéndice 5.

CHAIRPERSON

The one element I can respond clearly to is the factor referring to the CFS. I requested the Membership that on this particular matter. I am not going to table anything for your approval because the matter has not yet been finalized within the Committee itself. It will be dealt with after the next Session of the CFS between 14 and 17 October 2009. The matter will then be referred to the CCLM on 27 and 28 October 2009. Changes to the CFS issues will be dealt with after this consideration by the CCLM. I don't know if I left anything out. The Chair might have something they want to add.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The other question raised by Ecuador is whether we are discussing the entire CCLM report or only part of it.

As was said by the Chairperson of the CCLM, you are now looking only at the issues regarding the IPA implementation. The Agreement on Port State Measures and the other agreement, as well as some other issues will be dealt with afterwards. So, we are now looking only at those amendments regarding the IPA.

Ms Mónica MARTÍNEZ MEDUINO (Observer for Ecuador)

Thank you Madam. I am sorry to take the floor again but just to make it clear. Does it mean that the paragraph that is contained in page 27, part of the resolution that has been proposed in Appendix 2, is going to be deleted, or is going to be put in brackets? Just to clarify what is going to be the status of those paragraphs.

LEGAL COUNSEL

That is what we did regarding the IPA. At the same time we are discussing the CFS Reform on which discussions are still on going. Of course, on 27 and 28 October 2009 the CCLM will put all these elements together and will come up with a proposal for CFS amendments. It is not a question of putting in brackets or not, the Council may note that the discussion on the CFS Reform is still going on and we will have to wait for the report of the CCLM after its Session of 27 and 28 October 2009. Whatever we have here in the Appendix was done on the basis of the IPA. In the meantime, the CFS Reform Process was launched.

You may be assured that the review of the proposed amendments for the CFS Reform will be examined on 27 and 28 October 2009. The CCLM will present a complete proposal at the end of that Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr. Pucci. I now call upon Afghanistan.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you Chair. I don't think I have to say anything, because you yourself explained it, Tanzania explained it, Mr. Pucci himself explained it.

We are only discussing the legal language of the decisions taken by the CoC on the Immediate Plan of Action. No other matter. We are not opening a discussion on the Immediate Plan of Action. Only whether the legal language is correct or not.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Afghanistan. Does that complete the List of the Speakers contributing to this topic. Ghana.

Ms Adelaide BOATENG-SIRIBOE (Ghana)

I wish to endorse the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group and also to add my voice to commend the Chair and the Members of the CCLM for doing a good job.

Since this is work-in-progress, we hope that the team will accomplish the work very well at the appropriate time.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We are very grateful that you have given us the possibility to speak a second time and I would like to thank the colleagues for the fruitful discussion.

I would like to ask the Secretariat to receive some kind of assurance that the Reports of the Committees to the next session will be consulted with Member Nations before the work of the Conference, so that we could give our opinion which could also be taken into consideration and taken into the text, and we would like to hear an assurance on your part regarding that issue.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Russia. With that then, may I ask the Chairperson of the Committee if he has any comments.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I wanted to clarify one point in response to the question by the Representative of Russia. The sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters are now open to silent observers. The Reports are public and are made available to all the Membership as soon as they are approved, and posted on the Website two or three days after adoption. The Membership is informed of the Reports which are adopted in the context of the institutional governance structure of the Organization. There is a possibility for all Members to be informed of all these Reports. In this sense, the Members will have the possibility of being aware of what has been discussed in the CCLM, and this has been the case up to now.

I still wish to clarify one issue which was raised by the distinguished Representative of Russia and also observations that have been made by the Representative of Mexico. The CCLM implemented and drafted a number of legal provisions for the implementation of the IPA. The questions that have been asked regarding the role of Observers in the Committees of restricted membership, and the specific issue that was raised by the Representative of Russia, regarding the allocation of seats to regions, are matters negotiated within the Conference Committee and included in the IPA. We will have difficulties, ourselves, to reopen something which has been agreed.

It is important that the Council should be aware that we have translated into legal texts a number of specific actions of the IPA, and we assume that because these provisions have, in fact, already been presented to the Conference Committee throughout the year, that they reflect the policy agreement which binds the Membership, but if it is not the case then they may need to be reopened.

We have been implementing strictly the Conference Resolution which approved the IPA. So if you wish to reopen the status of the Observers within the Committees, if you wish to reopen the issue of the allocation of seats in the Committees of restricted membership, so be it, but it is a matter for the Members, not for the CCLM.

I wanted, Madam, that these specific issues be clearly brought to the attention of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

This is the Report of the CCLM, which we are being asked to endorse and forward to the Thirty-sixth Session of Conference in November.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Una consulta, ¿está usted sólo preguntando si endosamos en su totalidad el Informe? o ¿sólo por lo que se refiere a las propuestas del Plan Inmediato de Acción?

CHAIRPERSON

I am sorry. I indicated that we are discussing Item 10.1 just on the IPA and those are the proposals for which I am seeking your indulgence to be submitted to Conference. I would like to conclude our discussions on the Amendments to the Basic Texts relating to the IPA.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Madam Chairman, we highly appreciate the work done by the CCLM, the task was not simple both from a technical and a legal point-of-view, and they have completed it to the best of their ability. However, taking into account that in this part of the Report of the Committee, Item 10.1, the comments and proposals put forward by the Russian Federation to the Secretariat were not taken into account, we cannot join a consensus on this and approve the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, particularly with regard to the IPA.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to invite Mr Fiol, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, to take the floor.

Julio FIOL (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Tengo la impresión de que, lamentablemente, los comentarios de la Federación Rusa no llegaron al CCLM. Si dichos comentarios fueron hechos en el marco de los Comités de la Conferencia y no fueron recogidos, realmente no tengo cómo saberlo. Al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, repito, no le llegaron estos comentarios.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I would still wish to provide some elements of information.

The Secretariat did receive a note on the Committee on Food Security. But this matter, as we have seen, is not being handled now. This matter will be examined by the CCLM at the Session at the end of next month.

The Secretariat did not receive any written note on the question of the Membership of the Programme and Finance Committees, but the Secretariat was informed of some concerns of Russia regarding the Membership and the allocation of seats within the Finance and Programme Committees and within the CCLM. I presume that this was mainly for the Finance Committee. The Secretariat did not consider itself in a position to act upon some proposals or observations that went beyond the decisions taken by the IPA and approved by a Resolution of the Conference. This is why we consider that, if the Council wishes to reopen this matter, or bring the matter to the attention of the Conference Committee, it is a matter for the Council. We, as Secretariat, do not consider that we have a mandate to open this matter as we have very clear decisions of the IPA. That being said, we are in your hands, and the decision is yours, it is not a decision of the Secretariat.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Our task is certainly not to put obstacles in the way of the work of the Council and we want to ensure that we all reach our mutual aims. Therefore, in any case, we will not be recommending to the Conference all of the amendments to this text, because a significant number of amendments on the Committee on Food Security are missing, and the task is to put forward for approval of Organization, a consolidated text.

Therefore, perhaps we need to be working on a draft decision that could be bringing the Report of this Session forward, and would contain proposals on working further on issues such as the CFS, and also a Report with an Annex with the full text in its new drafting of the Basic Texts of the Organization and that would be put forward directly to the FAO Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Russian Federation.

I wish to confirm for the record, as I indicated in my introduction, we are not discussing the CFS amendments here but we are registering the fact that there will be a discussion of the CFS discussion before we get to Conference, and I am sure that this inclusion will be in the Report of this meeting because this is the way this meeting resolves to deal with the work of the CFS which we all consider to still be work in progress, until the CFS itself has met in mid-October and concluded on the subject. We cannot foreclose the debate that will take place there. So, with your indulgence, this is why we have separated them into items – an item that is dealing specifically with the IPA, an item that is dealing specifically with the CFS, but which items will be contained in our report. So, I am merely requesting the meeting to find closure on the item referring *per se* to the decisions pertaining to the IPA.

So with that and the observation that has been made by the Russian Federation to be included in the Report, could we say we proceed on that understanding?

Sra. María Del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

Yo le agradezco sus aclaraciones y agradezco el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. También agradezco el trabajo realizado por el Departamento Jurídico y le agradezco especialmente, Presidenta, su esfuerzo por separar las cuestiones.

Creo que los que estamos aquí presentes entendemos que estamos trabajando sobre la reforma que tiene que ver con el PIA y con los cambios constitucionales que tienen que ver con el PIA, el Plan Inmediato de Acción. En este sentido mi Delegación apoya el trabajo realizado por el CCLM y también queremos apoyar lo que usted ha dicho con respecto al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Nosotros tendremos oportunidad de trabajar sobre la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria durante los días 14 y 15 de octubre. Luego se reunirá el Comité de Asuntos

Constitucionales y Jurídicos, el 27 y 28 de octubre para tratar esta cuestión. Por lo tanto, reitero mi agradecimiento por su esfuerzo por separar las dos cuestiones.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Argentina. With that then I think we have said for the record how the two items will be dealt with in our Report. I thank you.

In that case we have agreed on the Amendments for the Constitution contained in Appendix 2 concerning proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and the Financial Regulations in Appendix 3, concerning the Functions of the Conference, the Council, the Independent Chair of the Council, the Reform of Programming, Budgeting, Results-Based System, Ministerial Meetings and Proposed Definitions of Governing Bodies in Appendix 4.

With that I take it Council will entrust to the Secretariat the tasks of any editorial refinement that may be necessary to bring our document in line.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Now we go to Item 10.3 *Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission*. I invite Mr Fiol to introduce the Sub-item, please.

Julio FIOL (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Lamentablemente tengo la impresión de que los comentarios de la Federación Rusa por lo menos al CCLM no llegaron. Ahora si fueron hechos en el marco de los Comités de la Conferencia y no fueron recogidos, realmente no tengo cómo saberlo. Al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos no llegaron.

CHAIRPERSON

I notice a Point of Order from the Russian Federation.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Just a short comment as we have here as background to underlying document CL 137/INF/11 whereas CL 137/INF/11 is dealing with another subject, *Legally Binding Instrument on Port State Measures*. Could you please advise us what underlying document will be for Item 10.3?

CHAIRPERSON

My apologies, in fact the mistake is mine. The Secretariat had drawn to my attention that there was an error in the reference document and I should have read that reference document as per document CL 137 OD/3. The correct document we should work with is CL 137/5 and it is on this document that I am inviting Mr Fiol to make his introductory remarks, please.

Julio FIOL (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

El Comité revisó tanto el Borrador de Acuerdo que crea la Comisión de Pesca y Acuicultura de Asia Central y el Caucazo como también un Borrador de Resolución que se presenta al Consejo y que se encuentran ambos en el Apéndice 4 del Informe. El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos consideró que ambos textos eran apropiados jurídicamente y decidió remitirlos a este Consejo para su aprobación en virtud del Artículo XIV párrafo 2 de la Constitución.

Quisiera señalar que algunas menciones se efectuaron durante la consideración del tema en relación a las implicaciones de colocar a la Comisión bajo el marco de la FAO en vista del actual Proceso de Reforma. Si bien la Comisión propuesta se beneficiaría del apoyo de la FAO principalmente a través de la Oficina Sub-regional para Asia Central, debemos destacar que el acuerdo prevé un presupuesto autónomo y eventuales Miembros han expresado su compromiso,

en el sentido de apoyar el financiamiento de las actividades de la Comisión en el contexto de lo que dispone el Artículo 4 del mismo tratado.

Quisiera llamar la atención de los Miembros del Consejo respecto a que tanto el Borrador de Acuerdo como el Borrador de Resolución del Consejo deben ser aprobados por este Consejo por medio de votación, que debe contar con la mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is now open for debate on Sub-item 10.3. Can I have a list of speakers please? I recognize Brazil.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

Regarding the need to vote, I understand the rule; I have read it. The question is that if the Council decides to approve this by acclamation, do we need to go to a vote? Then there will be no dissenting voices. So, if we do by acclamation, do we have to go through the process of voting? I understand that two thirds majority when there is some opposition, but if we acclaim this agreement for the creation of the Commission do we still need to go to a vote? I stand to be corrected and that is why we have a Giuliano and our friend, Tavares, here, but I think if we go for acclamation we could dispense with the vote.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I will speak in favour of this Agreement. Perhaps my statement could be just a little bit of background to this Agreement.

Fisheries and Aquaculture is an important sector that can contribute to the food security in countries of Central Asia and Caucasus and neighbouring territories. However, we note that the fisheries and aquaculture sector, especially the inland fisheries in the region, has suffered severely from inadequate investment and implementation of sound policies. In fact, some studies indicate that in CIS countries, fisheries production decreased by around 60 percent in the last two decades.

Thus there is an urgent need to establish a regional cooperation framework to improve the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region. Therefore, we believe the agreement on establishment of this Commission is a timely step forward in this respect. We believe that this regional commission will help to improve the fisheries sector in the region by facilitating effective cooperation to strengthen institutional support services, and improve productivity and better governance. It needs to be also noted that the Commission would be open to the countries neighbouring the states of the region.

We have witnessed a very efficient period of work during the preparatory phase of the establishment of this Commission. All meetings and work were completed in less than a year from the initiation. Thus, we commend the staff at the Sub-regional Office, the Secretariat and Legal Office for the efficient mission undertaken. We believe this regional initiative will be a good example of an efficient regional cooperation in view of the strengthened decentralized functions of the Organization.

Finally, I can reiterate the support of Turkey for the work of the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, as well as for the work of this specific Commission.

Please allow me to thank all the Members, if, of course, they approve, the Agreement. I would also thank the support of the Membership.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation is pleased with the initiative to create this Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission because these are fundamental activities as far as FAO is concerned and the region, and in this way it will be possible to develop this extremely important sector of human endeavour in fisheries in the region.

Now, in order to dot the i's and cross the t's, we would like to hear the Secretariat regarding the ways and means for the financing of this Commission. Reference is made to the Regular Budget stating that the Member Nations do finance the activities of the Organization but we would like to know what the precise budgetary consequences are for the Organization. If the Secretariat would be so kind as to give us some enlightenment on that, it would be most welcome.

Now, we would also like to draw your attention to this Article 4 which may not be sufficiently precise with respect to the zones and transborders. At the end of Article 4 – in waters at the transboundary areas bordering the countries of the Central Asian and Caucasus, that might not be precise enough, so we are just wondering if other countries that may not respond to what is said at the end of Article 4 could be party to that Agreement or not. I agree. First question: budgetary impact for FAO for financing this Commission and the second question: other waters within the transvalley water basins bordering the territories that insist on having an impact on Membership because we are talking about transboundary water basin bordering the territories of the Central Asian and Caucasus at the end of Article 4. Could others be on the Commission as well?

Travis POWER (Australia)

My comments are not in substance on this issue, but more in process and perhaps reflecting my newness to this Organization. I guess that I, like many other delegations here, have little information on this proposal and I guess little forewarning that we were expected to vote on this issue. So, while I certainly do not wish to withhold a consensus view on this issue, I would like to register my concern that perhaps there could be enhanced communication on issues around the need for voting and on an issue of substance that perhaps we need to vote on more information than just a few paragraphs explaining the history and origins of this proposal.

I would like to stress that my comments should not be taken in any way as critical or non-supportive of the proposal, more just questioning whether there could be better communication in future on issues of this order.

CHAIRPERSON

You are not out of order. This is a topic that was discussed more in a Technical Committee and naturally most of us who did not participate in that Technical Committee would be in your boat.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I would like to thank you for explaining the background about this Agreement and this possible Resolution.

Fisheries in Central Asia are affected because of the bad policies that were carried out two or three decades ago, especially the Arab Sea which was practically becoming dead. Now world attention is to revive it. So, this is very important. But I also agree with my friend from the Russian Federation that Article 4 should be not a closure of the States listed, but should provide the possibility also for inclusion, in future, of other Members, including the Russian Federation and definitely if you take the Caspian Sea you have to think of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the waters of Central Asia where the rivers originate. Other countries may also be involved, including my own.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comments?

With that then I would like to refer the matter first to Management, and then to the Committee.

Mr Nomura there were some issues that were raised pertaining to implication on the FAO budget regarding the establishment of this Commission and also the need to clarify whether others could also join the Commission. Some requested details just to get background information on this proposal so that when they make recommendations to their Delegations for voting, the Delegations know what they are voting for. So, I would like to invite you to explain that to them.

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

First, with regard to the procedure, I am not in the position to be able to speak ably. Probably our office can address this matter. Number two, in substance I am not the most qualified person, to be frank with you. As the distinguished delegate of Turkey stated, it was the result of a very strong aspiration of the region concerned to establish some mechanism. To be frank, none of us here in the Fishery Department were, in fact, at that meeting. Most of the staff in FAO who were involved were in the Sub-regional Office and in the Regional Office, Budapest and Turkey, so I have to be very open.

So what I am telling you is what I have heard. When you look at the report of the CCLM, please refer to paragraph 58. It refers to the need for self-financing. It is a prototype caveat and the provision that they should not expect FAO to contribute financially to an Article XIV body. We expect them to be self-financed. Now that issue had been extensively discussed among the Members - what kind of form they would like to create. It is not us as a Secretariat who recommended Article XIV. There could have been other options such as an independent intergovernmental organization outside FAO. Nonetheless, FAO would be requested to provide technical assistance. We repeatedly stated to the Members that whether or not it was Article XIV or outside, the level of FAO assistance would not differ so much. Nonetheless, Members unanimously opted, Members who participated in the consultation, unanimously opted for Article XIV. So we follow their guidance, that is the first thing.

The Membership is articulated in Article 1. I do not know the background, why Article 4 is so defined. I am sorry I do not have the answer, I do not want to be irresponsible. It was the result of the negotiation among expert participants, they agreed and if I may add, I am sure the Russian expert was a part of that.

On the budget, when you look at Article 9 Finance, it remains to be seen. We have to make a scheme of budget and a level of the budget. Of course, since it is an Article XIV body FAO will be a part of it and we will assist as much as possible from the Regular Budget or hopefully extra-budgetary funding. For that matter, we appreciate very much the very strong initiative on the part of the Turkish Government to finance some activity before a full-fledged Secretariat is established. They will discuss this under the Financial Regulations, which they have to complete and agree on the budget level and allocation of the contribution. That is how I see it.

LEGAL COUNSEL

My intervention is limited to procedural aspects only. I will limit my intervention to the question that was raised by the Representative of Brazil and the Representative of Australia and, in particular, regarding the question of voting.

The Draft Agreement on the Central Asian Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission is to be established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and, more specifically, is to be approved under Article XIV paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

In accordance with this provision the Council may, and the rules adopted by the Conference by a vote concurring by at least two thirds of its Membership, approve and submit to Members, regional agreements and so on.

These provisions are further developed in the General Rules of the Organization, especially in Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a). Rule XII paragraph 7 (a) provides in particular that whenever a two-thirds majority is required, a roll-call, a nominal vote must be taken. So you can read in this Rule that vote by roll-call shall be taken if a majority of two thirds is required by the Constitution of these Rules.

In fact, the Council has not approved recently any agreements under Article XIV of the Constitution. It did so for the last time in 1999, and at that time there was also a vote and these regional agreements were approved through a roll-call vote. This is why we are here because we have these facilities, the possibility of having electronic voting.

This is, Madam, what I can say regarding the procedural requirements for the adoption of this agreement under the framework of FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

There was a question whether others would join the Commission, could you respond in terms of Article 4?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Article XXIV.2, the Council may by a vote concurred in by at least two-thirds of the Membership of the Council approve and submit to Member Nations agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture which are of particular interest to Member Nations of geographical areas specified in such agreements and are designed to apply only to such areas.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, i.e. a vote where the names of the Member Nations are recorded shall be taken when a majority of two-thirds is required.

Given that the present Membership of Council is 48, there must be at least 32 members casting an affirmative vote. If this condition is not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Una consulta nuevamente para nuestro Asesor Jurídico. Quizás yo escuché de manera muy rápida lo que él nos explicó. Me queda muy claro que conforme al Artículo V, párrafo 3, la Conferencia, y leo "la Conferencia no puede delegar las facultades que se estipulan en los párrafos 1 y 6 del Artículo XIV". Yo entiendo que la Conferencia está obligada a votar. Lo que perdí de la explicación tan amplia y completa que nos dio nuestro Asesor Jurídico, es, si el Consejo está obligado a votar, porque si no es el caso tenemos la propuesta del distinguido Embajador de Brasil.

Fazil DÜŞÜNCELİ (Turkey)

My comments may be perhaps some additions to those of Secretariat.

Firstly, with regards to budget arrangements, at present there is a kind of a tentative value work programme that I am aware of and in this work programme, the cost foreseen for the Regular Budget is only in kind contribution of twenty percent time of the Fisheries Officer in the Sub-regional Office to be devoted as Secretary of the Commission. Turkey will, of course, substantially support that activities of the Commission. I cannot give you a figure now, but I can say it will be substantial.

Regarding the coverage defined in Article XIV, I am not really a good English speaker or writer but I did have some consultation with our colleague who led this process. Also as background document information, the Commission is open to Russia, Iran, and neighbouring territories very clearly. In fact, Russia and Iran took part in the preparation activities, and in meetings. It also includes China, and it is also open to Pakistan and Afghanistan, if they wish to join the Commission.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I quite agree with what Turkey said, but the Legal Counsel did not say what Turkey said.

CHAIRPERSON

And now I wish to refer the question that has just been posed by Mexico to Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Article XIV of the FAO Constitution has various paragraphs.

Paragraph 1 states *"the Conference may, by two thirds of the majority of the votes cast and in conformity with the Rules adopted by the Conference, approve and submit to Member Nations Conventions and Agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture"*

Paragraph 2 refers to the Council; that is you, now:

"The Council, under rules to be adopted by the Conference, may, by a vote concurred by at least two-thirds of the Membership of the Council, approve and submit to Member Nations :

agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture which are of particular interest to Member Nations of geographical areas specified in such agreements and are designed to apply only to such areas;

supplementary conventions or agreements designed to implement any convention or agreement which has come into force under paragraphs 1 or 2 (a).

So, whenever it is a global treaty or agreement it is the Conference that has the authority to approve it. This authority cannot be delegated to the Council in accordance with Article V, paragraph 3 of the Constitution which says that *"The Council shall have such powers as the Conference may delegate to it, but the Conference shall not delegate the powers set forth in paragraphs 2, 3 and 11 of Article II, Article IV, paragraph 1 of Article VII, Article XII, paragraph 4 of Article XIII, paragraphs 1 and 6 of Article XIV and Article XX of this Constitution,"* and you see paragraphs 1 and 6 of Article XIV.

So we are not here in the presence of a global agreement. In fact, the Agreement on Port State Measures has to be approved by the Conference because it is a global agreement concluded under paragraph 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution and the Conference cannot delegate authority to approve that Agreement to the Council. This is a regional agreement, which the Council has the power to approve or not to approve, on the basis of the Constitution. But this is not a delegation; the authority of the Council to approve this Agreement is established directly in the Constitution. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for clarifying the issue. As has been explained to us, Council has been asked to vote on the Draft Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission contained in Appendix 6 to the CCLM Report. I would like to invite the Secretary-General to take the floor on the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Article XIV.2, the Council may by a vote concurred in by at least two-thirds of the Membership of the Council approve and submit to Member Nations agreements concerning questions relating to food and agriculture which are of particular interest to Member Nations of geographical areas specified in such agreements and are designed to apply only to such areas.

Under Rule XII paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, i.e. a vote where the names of the Member Nations are recorded shall be taken when a majority of two-thirds is required.

Given that the present Membership of Council is 48, there must be at least 32 members casting an affirmative vote. If this condition is not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest we proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution on the Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission set out in Appendix 6 of CL 137/5.

Ms Williams, you have the floor on this matter.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We first must ascertain that we have a quorum. May I ask all Council Members present in the room to press the green button on their desks, it is the one on the left of the yellow and red

buttons. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of Council Members present. Have all Council Members pressed the green button?

I am advised that there are 41 Council Members present in the Hall.

We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in Appendix 6 of document CL 137/5.

Council Members are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them.

Green if they wish to vote in favour, Red if they wish to vote against, and Yellow if they wish to abstain.

Please vote now.



FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

30/09/2009
17:01:24

Vote on:
Vote sur:
Votacion para:

Resolution 1/137: Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
Résolution 1/137: Accord sur la Commission des pêches et de l'aquaculture pour l'Asie centrale et le Caucase
Resolución 1/137: Acuerdo sobre la Comisión de Pesca y Acuicultura para el Asia central y el Cáucaso

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votación Nominal

	Present/ Présents/ Presentes	48
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos		44
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida		32
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables		44
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra		0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones		0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta		4

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, CUBA, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR,
Votes Pour: ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, MALAYSIA,
Votos Favorables: MEXICO, MOROCCO, NIGER, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, REP. OF KOREA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAUDI
ARABIA, SENEGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SUDAN, TANZANIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, U.K., U.S.A.,
UKRAINE, URUGUAY, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: BANGLADESH, BOLIVIA, IRAN, REP. OF MOLDOVA
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd
Stephen Dowd

I shall now read the result :

Present: 48. No. of votes cast: 44. Majority required: 32. Votes for: 44. No reply from four Member Nations. Abstentions: None.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, the motion has been carried and thank you, Mrs Williams.

Let us now move on to the last part of the CCLM Report.

This is Sub-item 10.4. Other Matters arising from the Report of the 88th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I invite Mr Fiol to introduce this Sub-item.

Julio FIOLE (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

El último grupo de temas considerados por el Comité en este Período de Sesiones se refiere a cuatro aspectos principales.

El primer aspecto es el Borrador de Acuerdo sobre medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No declarada y No reglamentada. El Comité expresó su conformidad con el Borrador de Acuerdo y con el Borrador de Resolución que se remitirán a la Conferencia, y acordó transmitirlos a este Consejo para su aprobación, de conformidad con el Artículo XIV, Párrafo 1 de la Constitución. Dicho Borrador de Acuerdo es el resultado de un largo proceso de negociación que está descrito brevemente en el Informe y que, en particular, requirió la convocatoria de una Consulta Técnica que se reunió en diversas ocasiones. Este Informe de la Consulta Técnica deja constancia de las posiciones y de las declaraciones de varios de sus Miembros y se encuentra también a disposición de este Consejo. Consecuentemente quisiera invitar al Consejo a transmitir el Borrador de Acuerdo a la Conferencia para su posterior aprobación.

El segundo tema se refirió a los procedimientos relativos al desempeño de la FAO, de las funciones de terceras partes beneficiarias bajo el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. El Comité analizó el texto y concluyó que se incluían salvaguardias adecuadas para proteger la autonomía de la Organización y su inmunidad y jurisdicción y que las mismas aseguraban que la FAO no incurriría en ninguna responsabilidad que fuera más allá del nivel de recursos disponibles en la reserva operacional de la tercera parte beneficiaria. El Comité destacó que este acuerdo constituía un muy buen ejemplo de las sinergias entre órganos establecidos al amparo del Artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO.

El tercer tema que examinó el Comité se refiere al arbitraje comercial llevado a cabo en relación con el Programa Petróleo por Alimentos, lo que se denominó el Caso GRANUCO versus la FAO. El Comité manifestó su total apoyo al enfoque adoptado por la Organización al rechazar la opción de llegar a una transacción extrajudicial frente una demanda claramente infundada y que además habría sido inapropiado bajo las circunstancias particulares del caso. El Comité consideró que a lo largo del proceso la FAO había manejado el caso eficientemente y de una manera prudente y correcta demostrando un alto grado de responsabilidad en vista de los fondos que tuvo en fideicomiso durante la proceso.

El último aspecto se refiere al informe que preparó la Secretaría y que da cuenta de las actividades desarrolladas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos desde su creación en el año 1957. Este contiene una reseña de las más destacadas actividades del Comité, y dado que este Comité operará próximamente bajo una nueva estructura, los Miembros del Comité quisieron dejar expresa constancia de que esperaban que dicho modelo sea tan exitoso como el que ha operado hasta la fecha.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for the presentation.

I would like to open the floor for discussion but before I do so, Mr Mekouar has a few announcements to make which he wants to reach as many people as possible. Thank you. Mr Mekouar.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the Chairs of the G-77 and the European Regional Groups, both Chairs inform their constituencies that they would be meeting right after the Council Session. The G-77 will be meeting in this room with interpretation to work towards the facilitation of the work of the *Friends of the Chair*, and the European Regional Group will be meeting in the German Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Now, I would like to take the lists of the countries that wish to intervene on this subject. So far I have Chile and Iran.

Sergio INSULZA BECKER (Chile)

Mi delegación desea expresar su satisfacción por el acuerdo alcanzado para producir el documento de Acuerdo que estamos considerando en este momento y que se realiza en el marco de la FAO. Valoramos el trabajo y el gran esfuerzo hecho por la Consulta Técnica en búsqueda de consenso y acuerdo durante la preparación del documento que en este momento se nos propone.

La Delegación Chilena que participó en la Consulta Técnica expresó la importancia que mi país asigna a este documento pues constituye un paso importante para el combate de las actividades de la Pesca Ilegal, No declarada y No reglamentada.

El documento que se nos somete es un buen documento, resultado de las consultas y del consenso al cual fue posible llegar y al cual todos los países contribuyeron sin renunciar a las cuestiones que cada país considera fundamentales. Por ello damos nuestro acuerdo para que este documento y el Proyecto de Resolución sean transmitidos a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

Debo mencionar, sin embargo y sin perjuicio de lo anterior, que mi país así como otros ha dejado constancia en el documento del Informe que acompaña el acuerdo sobre algunos aspectos que, a nuestro juicio, requieren aclaración.

Por último, mi país desea expresar su esperanza en que este Acuerdo pueda ser ratificado lo más rápidamente posible por los Países Miembros de manera que pueda entrar plenamente en vigencia en el plazo más breve posible para que sea eficaz y combatir la pesca ilegal.

Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I apologise but I raised my flag referring to a new Sub-item, but it was not considered Madam Chair. Because I beg your permission, I would like to go back to the Item which you finished a few minutes before. The object for that is the statement made by Afghanistan regarding the explanation of territorial boundaries inside of Central Asia. In that sense, it means automatically that Iran should be included. So that is my appeal through you, Madam Chair. Again Iran should be included in Article 4 after Azerbaijan, Turkey and so on. Just according to the concluding remarks made by Afghanistan, when you were talking about these boundaries, it means the Caspian Sea. Automatically, Iran should be included in this area. That is my opinion, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. Without reopening debating that, I seem to have heard that in this agreement, Iran could join this Commission if it so wished. That is the record that we do have following the explanation which we received during the process.

Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We absolutely support the Representative of Chile in the statement on the current nature, the topicality, the importance of undertaking this important document on regulating illegal fishing and we also call upon Member Nations as rapidly as possible to ratify this important Agreement. This current agreement on Port-State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is currently a compromise, a state of play that was achieved as a result of intensive diplomatic and legal work and consultations. Now there are, of course, some issues with it. In the opinion of Russia, it would be appropriate to give a legally-correct definition to IUU Fishing. Today, we only have a reference to the International Plan of Action for prevention and combating such kind of illegal fishing.

But our second comment is with regard to the fact that this Agreement, as envisaged, has a request for Flag States with regard to the legality of the fish coming in to boats in their ports, and this actually is not clear enough and also does not ensure the legally-binding nature of this approach. In addition, we think that this Agreement is a very important step forward and we would like to underline our support. We would call upon all to ratify it urgently so that it can come into force rapidly. We hope and expect that, when it does come into practice, by that time we will be able to improve on the issues that I have mentioned.

Alaa ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

With regard to the Draft Agreement on Port-State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Egyptian delegation does not have instructions. While this draft has been finalized by the Group of Experts, it is being studied by the competent legal authority in Cairo. The Egyptian delegation will not block the consensus to forward the Draft Agreement and its relevant Resolution to the Conference, on the understanding that it reserves the right to provide amendments to the Draft Agreement before its adoption by the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

The list has changed. Let me just read it out to you so that you are aware. The Members of Council that have requested the floor are Mexico, United States of America, Senegal and Brazil, and one Observer, Ecuador.

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En nombre de mi delegación quiero expresar el reconocimiento de México a la FAO por haber convocado a la Tercera Consulta Técnica para redactar un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto, Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada, en la cual participaron varios Países Miembros de esta Organización.

Deseo reiterar el compromiso de México con los esfuerzos que emprenda la comunidad internacional para combatir a la Pesca INN con independencia del área donde ésta se realice. Mi país reconoce que la opción de instrumentos que tengan por objetivo eliminar o reducir dichas prácticas pesqueras es la vía más apropiada para favorecer la cooperación internacional. De allí que resulte necesaria la más amplia participación de los Países Miembros en estos instrumentos.

La representatividad de la Membresía de un instrumento internacional resulta fundamental para el logro de sus objetivos, por lo cual, es de total importancia que sus disposiciones reflejen de manera equilibrada los intereses y preocupaciones de los países involucrados en la negociación, con miras a asegurar que el contenido del texto se atenga a su objetivo manifiesto y sobretodo que no rebase las prácticas pesqueras que está convocado a regular.

Bajo la óptica de México, el Proyecto de Acuerdo que resultó aprobado en la Consulta Técnica del pasado agosto, contiene disposiciones que buscan atender el problema de la Pesca INN, dotando a los Estados Rectores del Puerto de los instrumentos necesarios para afrontar los efectos que ésta tiene en la sustentabilidad de las pesquerías.

No obstante, consideramos que este proyecto también contiene disposiciones que no son claras y que por ello quedan sujetas a interpretaciones subjetivas que podrían incluso resultar inconsistentes con otros criterios previamente acordados a nivel multilateral, tal situación motiva serias preocupaciones a México. Como ejemplo, destaco un elemento que constituye la parte medular del Acuerdo y que es la misma de la definición de Pesca INN.

Al comentar los Artículos 1 y 3 del Texto, varias delegaciones, incluyendo la nuestra, señalaron la conveniencia de utilizar la definición de Pesca INN que establece el Plan de Acción Internacional adoptado en el marco de la FAO en 2001. Quiero recordar que el PAI adoptado en 2001 fue el resultado de un arduo y largo proceso de análisis y consensos en el que se empeñaron muchos países, y por ello creemos que contiene los elementos necesarios que deben incorporarse en la definición de Pesca INN de los instrumentos.

Reconocemos que debido a las distintas modalidades en que ciertas flotas pesqueras practican la pesca, la definición podría ser actualizada a través de un mecanismo transparente y participativo.

Mi delegación quiere dejar constancia de su preocupación ante el hecho de que algunas disposiciones del Proyecto de Acuerdo podrían propiciar interpretaciones subjetivas contraponiendo justificadamente las obligaciones de las autoridades nacionales derivadas de su propia legislación, con las obligaciones que les impone el texto. Asimismo podría crear obligaciones cuyo cumplimiento impondría cargas económicas considerables y quizás innecesarias a la luz de la problemática que se atendería en una determinada situación.

Esto último es derivado de un problema de definiciones del Proyecto de Acuerdo que consiste en asumir que la Pesca INN se presenta por igual en todas las latitudes, con la misma intensidad y forma, lo cual, sobra decir, no es exacto, por lo cual tememos que, de aprobarse el texto actual, es mismo, podría perder efectividad.

Tal como México lo anunció al término de la Consulta donde se terminó de elaborar el Proyecto del Acuerdo sobre Pesca INN, mi país ha emprendido la labor de revisar el texto por lo que, de ser el caso, nos hemos reservado el derecho de presentar las consideraciones a que hubiese lugar durante la Conferencia de la FAO a celebrarse el próximo mes de noviembre.

Por otra parte, consideramos conveniente llamar la atención acerca del procedimiento utilizado para la elaboración de este Proyecto, que busca ser jurídicamente vinculante para quienes lo suscriban. Dicho procedimiento se ha caracterizado por su celeridad. Al respecto, estimamos que ante el grave problema de la Pesca INN los países deben adoptar medidas normativas prontas, tanto como sea posible, para garantizar un acuerdo eficaz, pero no al punto de que dicha celeridad inhiba la adopción de un convenio plenamente consistente con otros instrumentos y la aplicación universal del mismo. Al respecto, resulta indispensable mejorar la planeación de este tipo de ejercicios incluyendo un equilibrado componente presupuestal.

Finalmente, queremos hacer un llamado a la Membresía de la FAO para que en el futuro, cuando decidamos continuar codificando el derecho pesquero internacional con miras a continuar promoviendo el aprovechamiento sustentable de los recursos pesqueros, desarrollemos mandatos claros que den lugar a procesos de negociación incluyentes y que propicien la más amplia participación de todos los países. Esto facilitará de manera significativa la adopción, observancia y eficacia de futuros instrumentos internacionales.

La posición de la delegación de México, al igual que la de otras delegaciones, quedó plasmada en el Informe de la Tercera Consulta Técnica, en particular en su Apéndice E. Como se recordará, en aquella ocasión, teniendo en cuenta que el COFI se reuniría hasta el 2010, se ha considerado la conveniencia que los Países de dichas costas fueran examinados de manera previa, a fin de que la próxima Conferencia de noviembre pudiera examinarlos.

En ese sentido, consideramos que el Informe completo de la Tercera Consulta Técnica debe ser documento de este Consejo e incorporarse en la lista de documentos que examinamos.

Agradecemos la distribución oportuna que se ha hecho en los diferentes idiomas, en particular en Español. Asimismo, consideramos, debe ser enviado a la próxima Conferencia. Lo anterior, desde

nuestra perspectiva, evitará que tratemos de suplir la ausencia del Informe en este Consejo buscando que quede constancia de nuestras exposiciones.

Cabe señalar que el propio Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en el párrafo 55 indicó que el Informe de la Tercera Consulta Técnica se presentaría al Consejo y a la Conferencia. En ese marco, la delegación de México no puede en este momento adoptar la Resolución que ha propuesto el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos ya que, como señalé anteriormente, el Proyecto de Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada, está siendo examinado detenidamente por las autoridades de mi país, quienes aún no han tomado una decisión al respecto y, por ello mismo, consideramos que la decisión deberemos tomarla durante la próxima Conferencia.

En este sentido, quisiéramos proponer en concreto, en el Apéndice 5, en la versión española, página 45, donde se dice "La Conferencia aprobó la siguiente Resolución", nosotros proponemos que diga "El Consejo examinó la siguiente Resolución y la envió a la Conferencia para su consideración".

CHAIRPERSON

Before I call on the next speaker, please may I request that we try to keep within the time limits that we have set for ourselves. The interpretation time that I have for this slot is almost coming to an end, and I still have about eight Member Nations that are interested in contributing to this debate.

Ms Susan HEINEN (United States of America)

Very briefly, the United States supports this agreement on Port-State Measures for Legal Fishing. We believe this Agreement represents a lot of hard work and compromise by all the parties involved and it deserves the consideration of the Conference. In this regard, we would like particularly to commend the hard work of Brazil and in particular the Brazilian Chair of the Technical Consultation for his excellent leadership. We understand that there are still some concerns, and we welcome the full report being made available to all Members. We very much hope that Member Nations will forward this to Conference for adoption, and therefore allow for its own ratification.

Papa Cheikh Saadidou FALL (Sénégal)

Je ne voudrais pas être long pour respecter le temps de parole, comme vous l'avez dit, compte tenu du temps très court qui nous est imparti et des sujets importants que nous devons aborder.

Je voudrais simplement, au nom du pays que j'ai l'honneur de représenter, le Sénégal, vous dire que nous apprécions et que nous soutenons ce Projet d'accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port visant à prévenir, à contrecarrer et à éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée.

Nous sommes un Pays côtier, comme la plupart des Pays africains ici et tout le monde sait qu'aujourd'hui la protection de nos mers et les pillages qui s'y déroulent sont de nature à pénaliser fortement le développement économique et social de nos différents pays. C'est pour cette raison que, pendant très longtemps, nous nous sommes battus pour effectivement arrêter ces pillages quand on connaît les moyens très limités dont nous disposons, contrairement à d'autres pays qui peuvent protéger leurs côtes. Mais, tout le monde est conscient qu'aujourd'hui les Pays africains n'ont pas les moyens qu'il faut pour protéger leurs côtes contre les pillages systématiques. C'est pour cette raison que nous appuyons fortement cette décision, même si nous savons qu'il y a des imperfections dans le texte au plan juridique. Notamment, comme l'a souligné quelqu'un toute à l'heure, il serait utile qu'on définisse de manière très claire ce qu'est la Pêche Illicite Non-déclarée et Non-réglémentée, pour éviter toute équivoque et ambiguïté qui pourraient résulter d'un texte dont la clarté ne serait pas effectivement avérée.

D'autre part, nous avons aussi pensé qu'il fallait insister sur le caractère contraignant de ces dispositions et éviter surtout que cela vienne en contradiction avec toutes les Résolutions qui ont été prises dans ce domaine.

Nous réitérons donc notre appui total à ce texte et à sa soumission à la prochaine Conférence, en pensant que d'ici là, nous aurons largement le temps de nous consulter à ce sujet pour améliorer, au plan juridique et au plan technique, ces dispositions, qui sont pour nous essentielles, surtout quand on connaît les ressources extrêmement limitées et la raréfaction de celles-ci au niveau de nos pays dues justement à ces pratiques illicites de pêche que nous condamnons tous.

Voilà les quelques mots que je tenais à dire au nom du Sénégal et du Groupe africain.

José Antônio MARCONDES (Brazil)

This Draft Agreement comes out of as a result of a process which was open, transparent and with a great participation of Member Nations. We are very proud of the work undertaken and the contribution that Professor Fabio Hazin, Brazilian national, who chaired these consultations. We stand ready as others have spoken before me to transmit this Draft Resolution to Conference for approval, under Article XIV.1 of the Constitution.

Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Observador de Uruguay)

Mi delegación quiere agradecer al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por la labor cumplida respecto de este tema y también sobre otros.

Mi país participó activamente a lo largo de la labor de la Consulta Técnica convencido de que el Acuerdo constituye un esfuerzo histórico para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada.

Finalmente, obedeciendo a su mandato y para no repetir otros conceptos, mi delegación puede asociarse a lo expresado por la distinguida delegación de Chile en todos sus términos.

GUO HAINDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The delegation of China believes that to prevent and avoid Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing activities and to promote the world fishing resources protection and rational use, we welcome that FAO establishes this Port-State Measures Agreement to Prevent IUU. We would like to thank all the FAO staff and all the delegations for their efforts. We believe that the administration and management of a port concerns many sectors and many departments of a country. Every country has different rules and regulations, so if we have rational Port State Measures, they will be in favour of eliminating IUU. And we will be in favour of allowing legal fishing vessels to enter countries' ports, and we will also promote the international trade of aquaculture products. We really hope that the adoption of such an Agreement which promotes a friendly cooperation among countries in the field of fisheries and not create any new barriers in international trade.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MEDUÑO (Observador de Ecuador)

En primer lugar, permítame sinceramente agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y a todos los Miembros del Comité y la Secretaría por su paciencia, por su transparencia y por la forma cómo condujeron de manera correcta este tema cuando el Comité lo analizó. Quisiera recordar, sobre todo, el párrafo 55 del Informe de la Consulta Técnica y el Proyecto de Acuerdo se presentarán al Consejo y la Conferencia.

Para nosotros el informe de la Consulta Técnica es un cuerpo fundamental para entender la magnitud del Acuerdo que se someterá en el mes de noviembre a consideración de los Países. Aquí se ha dicho que es una consulta que fue ampliamente participativa, es cierto, pero apenas fueron 92 Países Miembros los representados. De ahí que mi delegación considera fundamental el que se formalice y se distribuya el Informe de la Consulta Técnica.

Este informe da la visión completa de lo que ocurrió en el proceso de negociación del Acuerdo. Agradecemos la propuesta hecha por el Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos de que sea el Artículo XIV.1 y que sea la Conferencia la que decida sobre este Acuerdo.

Mi relación no va a repetir lo que ya dijo México, estamos totalmente de acuerdo con esa posición, creemos que este debate era importante en el Consejo, creemos que el Órgano Rector con capacidad de adoptar este instrumento jurídico vinculante, es la Conferencia, creemos que así como la delegación de Egipto y otros no tienen instrucciones, la sesión de hoy es importante, justamente para que otros países conozcan, para que aquéllos que no estuvieron en el proceso de negociación se informen de lo que ocurrió ahí, se informen de lo que vamos a adoptar en noviembre.

Igualmente, para no alargar más, solamente quería recordar que ya la Embajadora de Venezuela a nombre del GRULAC se refirió a una parte del Informe en el que expresamente consta que el GRULAC se reserva el derecho de reabrir el texto. Quisiera que también eso conste. Gracias.

Francisco COY (Colombia)

Muy brevemente, para no agotar el tiempo de interpretación. Primero de todo agradezco al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por el Informe que ha presentado. En este respecto y en línea con la declaración que hicimos con otros países de América Latina al final de la Consulta Técnica quiero respaldar las declaraciones que han hecho previamente México y Ecuador en el sentido en que reservamos nuestra posición hasta la Conferencia. En tanto, nuestras autoridades están aún revisando el texto que fue acordado a nivel técnico durante la Consulta Técnica del pasado mes de julio.

Mohamed Abdelrazig ABDELAZIZ (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Madame Chair, Sudan has taken due note of this Report and I would venture to add, did take part in the preparation thereof. Therefore on behalf of our country, we too fully agree that this text be submitted to the Conference so that they can make final decision thereupon.

RI SONG CHOL (Observer for Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

I just found out in the Report that the name of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not correct. In particular, I refer to paragraphs 35 and 37, 38, 39.

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

We shall make the necessary corrections, and we also appreciate very much your strong support. I do not have to repeat that it is the result of very hard and lengthy negotiations. We note that the importance of the Report of the Technical Consultation in its entirety to many delegations, and we can assure you that the Report of the Technical Consultation, with the necessary corrections, as I just mentioned, will be made available to Conference as well. In our view, it gives the right for some delegations, if they further wish to reopen debate because it was written in the Technical Consultation. With that caveat, I think, Chairman, the view of our Secretariat is that you can recommend and the floor can agree that this Resolution with the attachment be forwarded to Conference for adoption.

CHAIRPERSON

Listening to the interventions this afternoon, most people feel this is a historical step that we are taking and many are quite emphatic that we should endorse this and recommend it to Conference. True, there are some who still want to consider this *ad referendum*, once they still discuss some areas of the Report with their delegations and confer within the Membership. Everyone considers this as work-in-progress, and this is a result of lengthy negotiations that have been carried out extensively and which are heralding a new era in this particular sector. With the comments that you have made and the Report that has been tabled to us from the CCLM, I would like you to take it from this point that we submit our comments on this Report to the Conference. And that various delegations will continue to discuss the elements that require clarification. Everyone could regard it as work-in-progress. In fact, most regions looking at it, listening to regional perspectives, most

regions do appreciate that it is work-in-progress, but work-in-progress in the right direction. With that then, I take it that we have agreed on the way forward.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

This brings us to the end of Sub-item 10.4 and work for this afternoon. But before concluding, allow me on your behalf to thank Mr Fiol and the CCLM for the work they have done for the betterment of this Organization. I wish to express our appreciation for the work the entire Committee has performed over its more than 50 years of activity and in particular, once more again, the work it has accomplished this year in connection with the Implementation of the IPA. We would like to thank our Legal Counsel for being ready to hold our hand when we were sliding. I pass on the floor to the Secretary-General for a brief announcement.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Yes Madam, actually I have no further announcement other than what I already said earlier, which is that the European Regional Group is going to meet after this session, in the German Room and the G-77 will be meeting here. In addition, I would like to mention the fact that the sound recordings of our proceedings are available in the language of delivery on the Permanent Representatives' Website to which all Permanent Representatives have access. Regarding the Drafting Committee, it should be meeting tomorrow afternoon at a time to be announced later on, depending on progress made in processing the Draft Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to remind you that the Open-ended *Friends of the Chair* of Council will meet at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow in the Red Room. As was announced earlier on, the G-77 Members are requested to remain behind, while the European Regional Group is requested to go to the German Room. The meeting is now adjourned and I wish you a good evening. Thank you very much for the participation.

The meeting rose at 17:46 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 46

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:46 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137º período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 October 2009

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 12.22 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 12 h 22
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 12.22 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (CONT'D)

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

III. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (CONTINUACIÓN)

5. Strategic Framework 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Medium Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15) (Cont'd)

5. Cadre stratégique 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan à moyen terme 2010-13 et Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 (C 2009/15) (suite)

5. Marco estratégico 2010-19 (C 2009/3), Plan a plazo medio 2010-13 y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto 2010-11 (C 2009/15) (Continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

To conclude Item 5 of the Council, we have had a consultation on Item 5 previously. We thoroughly talked about it and I made a summing up which still stands valid. We established *Friends of the Chair*. We discussed the financial components of the Programme of Work and Budget, namely cost increases, IPF funding, financial health of the Organization, chapter transfers and efficiency savings. We had fruitful discussions on each of these issues. Management provided new information which was very useful to us. We decided in Council that this mechanism should be continued up to the Conference to try to bring the views of the Membership closer to a consensus as much as possible, and, if possible, to some consensus on all the issues and its Report would be presented to the Conference. That is the only thing that I have to say. Do you agree with this conclusion? Thank you very much, so decided.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

With this we come to the end of the discussion on this Item. For your information, the Drafting Committee would meet at six o'clock this afternoon because the Report should be ready and we try to make the report as short as possible and just in the spirit of IPA with recommendations and decisions and not with the discussions, as was also emphasised with some of our friends lately. In addition to that, we do have a meeting of *Friends of the Chair*, for CoC-IEE. So the issues of the Council have been finalised.

We do not have anything else for the Council until tomorrow afternoon, then we announce the adoption of the report. We do not know what time it would be, it will be tomorrow afternoon when we adopt the Report of the Council. So, we do have some time this afternoon and tomorrow morning, but I would like to use it for completion of the work on CoC-IEE, the Report of the Conference Committee on the Independent External Evaluation. This afternoon at 3:30 p.m., we meet as *Friends of the Chair* that were established in the CoC-IEE, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., for two hours as *Friends of the Chair* to discuss a few paragraphs which are still outstanding. Then, on Friday morning, which is tomorrow, at 9:30 a.m. we meet as Working Groups 1 to 3 to discuss again the few outstanding items, and then immediately after that, we reconvene as CoC-IEE to adopt the Draft to be celebrated tomorrow night on the Eighth Floor of FAO of which you have already received the invitation. Thank you very much, have a good lunch and see you here at 3:30 p.m. as *Friends of the Chair* of CoC-IEE. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 12.32 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.32 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session Cent trent-septième session 137° período de sesiones
Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009 Rome, 28 septembre - 2 octobre 2009 Roma, 28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre de 2009
EIGHT PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 October 2009

The Eight Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.30 hours
Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 16.30 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends.

Good afternoon welcome to the eighth and final meeting of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of FAO Council.

Before starting our work or business on the Agenda, I have invited Mr Laurent Thomas, Director of the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division to make a brief presentation on the FAO response to the recent disasters which have struck the Asian Pacific Region this week. On my behalf and on your behalf, we extend our sympathy to those countries and to the people of those countries as well.

Laurent THOMAS (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

I wish to report on the situation of the recent disasters which struck Asia during this week with terrible consequences for the people of Samoa, Tonga, American Samoa, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

In Samoa the magnitude eight earthquake struck off at 6.49 am local time, Tuesday 29 September. This was followed by a destructive Tsunami with waves of five to seven metres high. They entered the island of Tuwan Maile, inside of the island. This was the strongest and longest earthquake ever experienced in the history of the island.

Samoa is a very small country with the livelihood of the population depending mostly on agriculture, fisheries and eco-tourism. The disaster has devastated the country, especially the rural communities, with their livelihoods completely destroyed. The Prime Minister noted the devastation course was complete. In some villages absolutely no house was standing, as achieved within ten minutes by the very powerful Tsunami.

Many of the villages affected were fishers and planters of Tahoe and Root Crops. The plantations were totally destroyed and fishing boats and gears were destroyed or swept away by the waves.

The death toll stood yesterday at 160 persons and we have hundreds confirmed injured out of a population of about 179 thousand persons. The death toll is likely to climb as the search for survivors continues.

FAO has joined that National Disaster Management Team for an assessment of the situation and the needs. We have fielded immediately an experienced emergency coordinator who is right now on the island to join the national authorities and the UN Country Team, to assess the situation and prepare an estimate of the rehabilitation requirements.

For this purpose I have approved the funding of USD 100 thousand from the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities, in order to start immediately the needs assessment.

In Tonga, the Government has declared a state of emergency for New Tongatapu, the closest island to Samoa. Here again, thousands of people have been affected and the Government reports that about ninety percent of all houses are destroyed. FAO is getting ready to field a mission to assess the situation and the needs.

In American Samoa, there are at least 22 confirmed fatalities in Pago Pago, the capital and the US President, Barack Obama, has declared a major disaster and the related US disaster agencies are now coordinating a response.

In the Philippines, tropical storm Ketsana, (Ondoy) has hit Quezon province on 28 September. The Government has declared a state of emergency. According to the latest information we have, more than 277 people are dead, more than 50 people missing and over 1.8 million people have been affected by the disaster. The vast majority of the population affected by the disaster are farmers, fishers that are deriving their livelihood from agriculture or fishing. So far the Department of Agriculture reports over 133 thousand hectares of crops Luzoroy have been affected. We know that the bulk of this crop is rice, but there will also be an impact on corn

farming. It is extremely urgent to get the farmers back to the fields for the next rice planting season that starts now in October and November. Any delay could negatively impact on the livelihood and food security of the population.

FAO is joining the UN Country Team and the Government for a rapid assessment of the situation and, as the lead for the Agricultural Cluster, has proposed already an estimated USD 4 million of needs for the provision of agriculture, fisheries inputs to help restore the production.

FAO is establishing an Emergency Coordination Unit within its Representation in Manila and we have also approved USD 60 thousand from the Special Emergency and Rehabilitation Funds to establish the Emergency Coordination Unit and start the needs assessment.

It is very sad to note that a new growing typhoon, Pedang, is moving towards the Philippines and it may well be that within the coming days we could have further damage in the country.

Indonesia. On 30 September a serious earthquake struck Indonesia. The earthquake struck first on 30 September and it was followed the next day by another earthquake. The death toll is dramatically increasing and we have reports of more than 1 100 people dead. A rapid assessment on the impact on the livelihoods of the farmers and fishers is being undertaken by FAO within the UN Joint Mission to Padang. A response plan is being prepared in cooperation with the UN Country Team and should be ready by 7 October for submission to the international community.

FAO has employed its international staff from the Banda Aceh office to join the UN Disaster Assessment Coordination Team and we are finalizing the assessment of the situation and the needs. The Cluster System has been activated and FAO is leading the Agricultural Cluster through the FAO Representation.

In Vietnam, typhoon Ketsana hit the country on 29 September. It has caused considerable damage to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The number of casualties has risen to 92 and the Government estimates the damage already to more than USD 120 million. More than 21 thousand hectares of rice fields, 11 thousand hectares of sugar cane, 25 thousand hectares of forestry, 2 thousand hectares of agriculture have been damaged. FAO is participating in the joint UN Government Assessment Teams and we should be in the position to fully report on the exact amount of damage and the needs. The FAO Emergency Coordination Unit in Vietnam is supporting preliminary response actions.

Strategic Objective I : improve preparedness for an effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies will be the theme of the general debate of the forthcoming Thirty-sixth FAO Conference.

I would like to recall that the proportion of human injuries, food crises represented 10 percent of food emergencies during the eighties; it has reached today almost 70 percent of the food crisis.

FAO tried to indicate that while in the eighties we had 50 floods a year, today we have more than 200 major floods in the world, every year. These tragic events in Asia remind us of the importance for FAO to invest even more in building the capacities of our Member Nations and partners in preparing for and responding to emergencies. With your support FAO is committed to improve its performance in this regard in close partnership with relevant government institutions, NGOs and UN Organizations and in particular with WFP and IFAD.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 137/REP/1 - CL 137/REP/14)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 137/REP/1 - CL 137/REP/14)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 137/REP/1 - CL 137/REP/14)

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Thomas. Thank you for your report and thank you for reminding us of our responsibilities towards these emergencies which we will discuss in the next Conference. Now we

will proceed with the adoption of the report. Please ensure that you have the relevant documents before you. The document is CL 137/REP, which is divided in two parts. One part covering Items 1 to 7 and another covering Items 8 to 14. I would now like to invite Ms Rita Mannella, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the report. Ms Mannella, you have the floor.

Ms Rita MANNELLA (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Thank you very much, Professor Noori.

Last night we finished the drafting of this Report. We finished quite late, so I have to announce a couple of omissions and deletions which we need to do due only to mistakes due to the late hours. But before going into the specific details of the Report, I would like to mention the fact that we worked very well together last night. All the group of colleagues who were in the Drafting Committee were very motivated and the atmosphere was very, very nice and very professional. I need to thank all the Members of the Drafting Committee because it was really interesting to have this experience which I really recommend to everybody. It is an experience that really makes you understand how important our work is and how important is the weight of each word in our profession. Last night, I really appreciated the fact that so many people know this kind of skill so well. Actually the draft presented by the Secretariat was of such excellent quality that we really had to refine a bit what was already written. I must confess that I was amused and very happy of the fact that the people in the group were so careful about the weight of each word. I really want to thank them for this very interesting and important experience and, of course, also the Secretariat.

Unfortunately due to the late hour because we were finishing quite late, there are a couple of practical mistakes which do not reflect the discussion we had last night. So, if we can make some corrections, I checked with the Secretariat, they did not make some omission and did not add one addition. So, there will be a deletion in document CL 137/REP/10 Item 10.1, in paragraph number 3, there should be a deletion of the sentence after the word "containing". We should delete "a long series of."

Then in paragraph 6 of the same document, we should delete the whole sentence after the "the Council noted that" so the whole sentence "as regards the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)". So the sentence should read that "The Council noted that the proposed amendment to the Constitution" and so on and so forth. In the one before the last sentence, after the "CFS" there is an addition "Reform which would be forwarded to the Conference", and then it will continue as it was "and that the proposed amendment for the implementation of the IPA would have to be adjusted as required."

CHAIRPERSON

This is paragraph 6 of CL137/REP/10. As the Council noted that, after that "*...as regards the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)...*", this part will be deleted. So it would read "*The Council noted that the proposed amendments...*" and then it stands as it is, and to the penultimate line, the line before the last, which starts "*The CFS...*" add "*CFS Reform which would be forwarded to the Conference*". So "*CFS Reform which would be forwarded to the Conference and that the proposed amendments...*" then again the rest of the sentence stands as it is.

There are some requests to please go over the last part that you read. Once again, explain exactly where and what.

Ms Rita MANNELLA (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

REP/10.4 regarding Other Matters arising from the Report of the 88th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, paragraph 4, the Drafting Committee last night agreed to delete the words "after some Members, in particular the words of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean", because there were other countries which made statements and so this wording does not reflect the reality of the meetings during the Council, and so there was only the proposal of deleting of "the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean".

CHAIRPERSON

Okay. Is the deletion clear to everybody? Guatemala.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Observador de Guatemala)

Podría leer, por favor, el párrafo tal y como debe quedar, si fuera tan amable la Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Ms Rita MANNELLA (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

The Council noted that some Members had made a number of statements which were recorded in the report of the Technical Consultation. The Council further noted that the Report of the Technical Consultation would be forwarded to the Conference. One Member indicated that he could not take a position on the Draft Agreement.

CHAIRPERSON

So, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Ms Rita Mannella, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and all the Members of the Drafting Committee for doing an excellent job. Please consider that they adopted the Report only in one session which, in the history of FAO, is the first time. Of course it was an extended session which went beyond midnight and we appreciate all the efficient work that you have done.

In the spirit of the IPA you avoided re-opening debate on the items and focused on the decisions taken by Council and have produced a Draft Report which should meet with the approval of Council.

Now, with this, the floor is open for your comments and suggestions.

Alaa EL DIN WAGIH ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairman. I should like to extend my thanks to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for her guidance and leadership in our session yesterday. Her efforts helped us finish this work in a very reasonable span of time. I thought we were going to stay up until very late after midnight. I should also acknowledge here that all the amendments made by her right now reflect what took place in our session yesterday. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I suggest that we adopt this report *en bloc* as it is. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I do see the flag of the United States of America and I would like to offer the floor to them.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Let me first begin by thanking you and all of my distinguished colleagues for the warm welcome that has been extended to me over the past couple of days as I have arrived here in Rome. It is amazing the amount of work that this team had put together and this document in this Draft Report of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Council reflects an Organization that has a Membership intent on real and ambitious Reform over the next biennium. The hardest work on agreeing on what must change has already taken place with the adoption last year of the Immediate Plan of Action. While some work remains to be done in the lead up to the FAO Conference in November, we must reach agreement on a realistic and reasonable budget that all of our taxpayers could afford during this precarious financial times, that guarantees strict budget discipline while ensuring full funding for the IPA across the entire Membership.

In this spirit, Mr Chairman, I would ask that the Council consider the following amendment to paragraph 9 of the Council Report. Before the last sentence, the United States would ask for the insertion of the language that would read "the Council did not reach consensus on the PWB 2010-2011 budget. Therefore, the Council decided that the Friends of the Chair should continue. " and it would read as printed thereafter.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador. On behalf of myself and the Council we want to welcome you to our meeting and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation between the United States, FAO and its Members and Council. Welcome to the Meeting.

Now, would you please, once again, specify where we should insert that that exactly because we have too many numbering paragraphs.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The insertion of the language that would read "the Council did not reach consensus on the PWB 2010-2011 budget. Therefore the Council decided that the friends of the Chair should continue," and would read as printed thereafter.

CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of myself and the Council, we welcome you to our meeting and look forward to a fruitful corporation between the United States and FAO and its Members and the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. We were expecting the Director-General to have a few words with the Council. He is on his way. We will wait for a few minutes please. Meanwhile, Sweden asked for the floor.

Michael HJELMÅKER (Observer for Sweden)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. The European Community certainly supports the *en bloc* adoption of the Report. We would, however, for future reference like to make a brief comment about the general format of that report. While certainly appreciating the work done by all the Members of the Drafting Committee and of course its Chairperson, we think that the Reports from the Governing Bodies of this Organization should be, as also reminded by you yourselves Mr Chairman, that it should be more concise and action-oriented than the Report we have just approved. We would therefore like to encourage other Member Nations, as well as other Members and the Secretariat to join us in making efforts in that regard in the future. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. While I do agree with the general spirit of your statement, I must remind you that the Report is lengthy due to the legal aspects and the Amendments to the Basic Texts which usually cannot be very short. Other parts are really very short, and it is very difficult to make it much shorter. Generally I do agree with you, and I appreciate the work that has been done. As I mentioned, this is the first time that we have the other parts so concise and to-the-point. There are not too many things that could be deleted, there is no "one country said that" and "the other country mentioned that..." as we usually have in the Report. There is no sign of this in this Report, and I really appreciate this.

At least we have started in the spirit of the IPA to have very good reports. We usually used to have at least three sessions of the Drafting Committee, but this time we managed it only with one. That is what sets an example of improvements and efficiency of the Organization. Now we have

time until the Director-General arrives if anybody else has any general statements we welcome them.

Okay, Mr Director-General, I would like to invite you to add a few words to the Council at the end of a successful and very intensive working week.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Well Mr Chairperson, just to congratulate all of you and to express my gratitude for the excellent work that was done effectively by consensus in a very short time and to assure you that on our part we will do our best to be worthy of such action on your part keeping always in mind that we have more than 1 billion hungry people in the world and that we need to feed 9.2 billion persons by the year 2050. I have always been told that when I make a speech and there is something to eat after, I better make it short. As there is the Reception, so I stop there. Thank you for your kind attention, and wish you well, and those who are returning home safe trip home. Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much.

Before adjourning our meeting of this Council, I would like to have a few words of appreciation to you all.

As this is the last Council Session I shall chair since first elected to this post in November 2005, allow me to take a few moments to reflect on the past four years – four years in which the Organization has undergone an external evaluation of a scope and depth that is unparalleled in the United Nations System of organizations. This is something we should not underestimate.

To the blunt question of “Does the world need FAO?”, the IEE Report replied in 2007 with just four words: “Yes, without a doubt”.

The Report went on to exhort the Membership to make this Organization “fit for the Twenty-first Century” – responding to the emerging, and complex challenges of present times in a way that only a global organization with the mandate and experience of FAO can, with the required degree of legitimacy and authority.

Through the Conference Committee for the follow-up to the IEE, Members then took full ownership of the IEE recommendations, turning them into an agreed Immediate Plan of Action for a renewed and a strengthened Organization, firmly committed to going down the path of Reform with Growth.

As we approach the 2009 Session of the Conference, a session in which many of the IPA actions will be reflected in new rules of the Organization, I feel we are well on the path to making FAO “fit for purpose”, and undoubtedly the Council has played its unique part in this process, and it is on this particular aspect of the Reform that I would like to focus.

The Culture Change being enacted in FAO as a result of the IEE and the IPA takes much inspiration from the concept of “learning organization” – and I feel something of this has entered into the way the Council has worked, both on its own and jointly with Management, thanks to the Reform Process.

The common effort towards making FAO fit for its unique purpose has made us all part of something that goes beyond our single roles as representatives of Member Nations. We have, in a sense, become more connected, more adept at listening attentively and respectfully to each other. I hope this spirit prevails in the future, because it has undoubtedly helped us learn a very great deal from each other.

Indeed, listening carefully often reveals that hidden underneath our apparently insurmountable differences lays more common ground than we might have initially suspected – and this is hardly surprising if we consider our overarching wish to rekindle FAO, which we all have at heart.

I believe Council is following the advice of Mahatma Ghandi to “*Be the change you want to see*”. We are “*being the change*” when we accept to work in different ways, to be more flexible and responsive to the real needs of the world’s hungry, to be more action-oriented in our debates – thereby reflecting what we are in turn asking of FAO. Let us continue to “*be the change*” because through our joint efforts we can do much to nurture the human talents, skills and knowledge this Organization is home to.

Of course, we work well when there is unity of purpose – as has surely been the case during the months of reform. From the start of the process, I felt a groundswell of support – whether from you, the Members, or from the staff at all levels. Indeed, FAO’s “human capital” is the best measure of its true worth, and I feel Culture Change is bringing this key asset of the Organization to the fore.

Let me conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have shared the vision of renewing this Organization. No one can doubt the commitment of the Membership and the staff of FAO to setting new standards of excellence in one of the world’s key multilateral organizations. Likewise, no one can doubt the importance of this Organization in tackling global crises in food and agriculture – crises which affect one billion of our fellow human beings.

It has been a personally enriching experience to serve this Council as its elected representative. Thanks to the positive attitude and spirit of cooperation of Council Members over the past four years, my work has been made less daunting than it would have otherwise been, and I am deeply grateful to all of you for this. It has also been a source of satisfaction for me to see how our bonds with Management have gone from strength to strength, and I believe this will be a lasting legacy from this unprecedented period of working together, so intensively, on the Reform. I am deeply grateful to the Director-General for his sincere cooperation throughout the Reform Process and for his friendship which was a major factor in our success. May I also thank Ali Mekouar for his untiring support of the Reform Process and efficiency of the Council. Ali has been a point of reference for the CoC-IEE, and is an example of the mix of high professional standards and deep commitment to be found in FAO. My thanks to Ali and all his team which for the sake of brevity, I don’t name them.

I would like to thank you for the kind and thoughtful words expressed following the unveiling of my portrait in this room just two days ago. As I told you then, my heart and my mind will be ever-present in this forum, since it is here, in this room, that the interests and rights of the voiceless millions of the hungry of this world should be recognized, respected and protected.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, I am overwhelmed.

Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

I will be very brief. I wanted to intervene on Wednesday morning to personally congratulate you for your extraordinary work but since a colleague of mine utilized some of the finest opera words of my fellow citizen, Giacomo Puccini, to express our feelings, I preferred to stay quiet as I thought they were just perfect.

Dear colleagues, the achievements of this Council, the conclusion of the work of the CoC, the CFS and the World Food Summit document discussions prove that we should be very proud of the quality of the existing relationship between our delegations and regional groups. We should also be proud of the fruitful, productive, professional environment we are working in and with the level of understanding and cooperation between us and the FAO Secretariat. Let me say in this respect that we really owe a lot to you, dear friend Noori, in the way you assisted these processes

in the past few years with wisdom, fairness and leadership, but now it is up to us to keep up the good work as many important tasks still lie in front of us. The continuation and the implementation of the Reform Process to begin with, a Process we have strongly supported, a Process that is necessary to help FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies we so care about, to become more and more efficient, pivotal and capable of better responding to the challenges of food insecurity. Professor Noori, someone said that Rome is already your second home, I am afraid that I am not in a position to give you the keys of the Eternal City, but I can assure you that you will always be remembered and welcome here as a true and esteemed friend.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank you all once again for covering so much ground this week in a spirit of cooperation, and I wish those travelling back to their capitals a safe journey home.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I would like to remind you that the Director-General and I had the pleasure to invite you to a Reception to be held at 19:00 hrs this evening on the Eighth Floor of Building B to celebrate the successful completion by the CoC-IEE of its Report to the Conference. I look forward to seeing you at this Reception. For the time being, however, I declared the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 17.24 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h24

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.24 horas

