

June 2012

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联合国
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Food and
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Organization
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Organisation des
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pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-fourth Session - Cent quarante-quatrième session -
144.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 11-15 June 2012

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

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PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012

**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

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(11 June 2012)**

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(15 June 2012)

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
11 June 2012

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.47 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.47 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Veuillez prendre place pour travailler confortablement.

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la 144^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO et souhaite la bienvenue aux 49 membres du Conseil et aux autres observateurs de cette session.

En particulier, je souhaite la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Conseil, l'Algérie, le Cameroun, le Danemark, l'Equateur, la Guinée, la Pologne et le Togo.

J'aimerais aussi accueillir les six Ministres Présidents représentant la présidence des Conférences régionales qui font corps avec le Conseil. Bienvenue et mes salutations à tous, avec le meilleur souvenir des Conférences régionales qui se sont déroulées ces dernier mois.

Avant de commencer nos travaux, je donne la parole à Monsieur Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil, pour une brève annonce.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

L'Union européenne participe à cette session, conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

La déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, qui figure dans le document d'information CL 144/INF/8, est portée à l'attention des membres.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour commencer nos travaux, permettez-moi une courte intervention avant de donner la parole au Directeur général.

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à cette 144^{ème} session du Conseil et je lance d'emblée un appel pour que nous soyons attentifs, unis et solidaires, mais également concis et précis dans une ambiance constructive.

Nos recommandations et conclusions doivent être les plus pertinentes possibles pour l'Organisation.

Il nous revient de poursuivre la mise en place d'une FAO forte pour un monde meilleur.

Je souhaite également la bienvenue à notre nouveau Directeur général, même s'il y a six mois qu'il est Directeur général, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, dont c'est la première participation au Conseil en tant que Directeur général.

Depuis sa prise de fonction le premier janvier, chacun a pu constater les améliorations substantielles qu'il a immédiatement mises en place en matière de transparence et de rétablissement de la confiance, deux éléments essentiels de la bonne santé de l'Organisation.

Soyez-en remercié, Monsieur le Directeur général. Il s'agit là d'une évolution déterminante pour la montée en puissance de votre action et de celle de la FAO toute entière.

En début d'année, le Programme alimentaire mondial s'est également doté d'une nouvelle Directrice exécutive. Je félicite Madame Ertharin Cousin pour sa nomination, et je lui souhaite plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Elle connaît bien la FAO puisqu'elle siégeait au Conseil.

Depuis la précédente session de novembre, plusieurs étapes importantes ont été franchies.

Je n'en citerai que deux:

L'adoption des Directives volontaires sur les régimes fonciers par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le déroulement des cinq Conférences régionales, ou plutôt six, en y ajoutant la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du nord.

Sans rentrer dans le contenu détaillé de ces sessions, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour souligner l'implication grandissante des acteurs de la société civile, incluant le secteur privé dans les débats multilatéraux de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

C'est un élément extrêmement positif qui ouvre un peu plus l'Organisation vers les bénéficiaires de son action; qui la rapproche encore plus du terrain, et améliore son efficacité, notamment à travers la transmission du savoir et l'appui aux politiques nationales.

Le renforcement du processus de Décentralisation, qui est au menu de notre session, s'inscrit en cohérence avec cette évolution. Nos débats ne devraient en être que plus riches et conclusifs cette semaine.

Dans le même temps, la contribution déterminante de la FAO en 2012 à l'Année internationale des coopératives participe également à ce mouvement en faveur d'une grande implication de la société civile dans nos réflexions. C'est le gage d'une meilleure perception des besoins des plus démunis et des réponses que l'Organisation peut apporter.

Sur le plan institutionnel, le semestre qui vient de s'écouler a mis en évidence, de mon point de vue, deux éléments importants:

Premièrement, le fait qu'une FAO dynamique nécessite que les éléments, les forces qui la composent soient complémentaires et interagissent en permanence. Management, États membres, personnel et acteurs de la société civile: cet ensemble fait de la FAO une entité unique et performante. Il est souhaitable que chacun soit conscient de sa place et de son rôle dans l'équipe, communique avec son environnement et soit réactif.

Gouvernance et management guident cette équipe, chacun selon des attributions différentes dont la réunion détermine le cap à suivre.

Nous disposons d'une gouvernance forte qui ressort du processus de réforme. Il nous revient de la préserver, tout en nous assurant également d'un management fort, lui aussi, afin de garantir un équilibre dans le pilotage de l'Organisation.

Deuxièmement, le fait que la poursuite de la modernisation des Organes de gouvernance passe notamment par un travail intersessionnel plus substantiel et mieux organisé, les dispositifs informels permettent plus de flexibilité et limitent les coûts. Ils peuvent être encouragés, dans la mesure où ils s'inscrivent en complément des sessions formelles.

Les bureaux des Comités techniques se renforcent et s'équilibrent au plan de la représentation régionale.

L'ensemble concourt ainsi à mieux donner suite aux conclusions des sessions, à mieux préparer les échéances à tenir et à faciliter le travail du secrétariat et l'action du Directeur général.

Pour terminer, permettez-moi de souligner notre responsabilité: l'*accountability*, selon l'expression anglaise. Nous avons tous des comptes à rendre sur la mission qui nous a été confiée et sur les moyens qui ont été mobilisés pour l'accomplir.

Soyons prêts à cette étape de restitution qui, avec la transparence, se doit de constituer le fil directeur de notre action.

Je nous souhaite collectivement une session du Conseil la plus fructueuse possible.

L'agenda est chargé, je dirai même très chargé, les enjeux concernent aussi bien des aménagements de court terme que le cadre stratégique à l'horizon 2019.

Commençons tout de suite, et je vous remercie de votre attention.

Maintenant, j'ai le plaisir, en l'accueillant une nouvelle fois, d'inviter le Directeur général à prendre la parole. Monsieur le Directeur général, vous avez la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr Luc Guyau, His Excellency Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Asia, His Excellency Ismat Dursun ogly Abasov, Minister for Agriculture of Azerbaijan, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Europe, His Excellency Rigobert Maboundou, Minister for Agriculture and

Livestock of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Africa, His Excellency Ambassador Hassan Janabi, representing the Minister for Agriculture of Iraq, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for the Near East, His Excellency Mr Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of State for Agriculture of Argentina, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Latin America, Distinguished Ministers, Members of the Council, Colleagues of FAO and UN Agencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honored to address this Council for the first time as your Director-General.

These first months in office setting the Organization on a renewed course have been a busy, challenging, and fruitful time. So far I have discussed our common challenge with Permanent Representatives, Ministers and Presidents from over 130 countries. I have met a large number of partners, international agencies, regional bodies, private sector, civil society, and nongovernmental organizations, and cooperatives.

I have been on mission to 15 countries seeing first-hand the work we do in the field. As you know, it's different to see things with your own eyes than to read or to see a video about them. I encourage Members to visit our field projects to better understand the importance of FAO assistance. Of these travels, let me highlight my mission to Somalia. It marked the first time a Director-General of FAO stepped in the country. It was a sign of my commitment to ending hunger and scaling up our assistance to the most food insecure nations. In Somalia, a combination of good rains and coordinated and dedicated efforts of the international community, including the work FAO did with Sister Agencies World Food Programme and UNICEF, allowed us to overcome famine conditions in only six months. However, those gains are still fragile. We need a sustained effort to prevent the repetition of such a tragedy. We cannot avoid droughts but we can put in place measures to prevent them from becoming famines.

During the first semester, we have also organized five successful Regional Conferences, that are now an integral part of FAO's Governing Bodies. These Regional Conferences had a record high-level attendance. I thank all the countries for their participation. The Reports of each Conference will be presented at this Council by their respective Chairpersons. They are Ministers and high-level authorities that will serve as Chairpersons until the next Regional Conference cycle in 2014.

We have been able to advance on important administrative issues during these first months contributing to the more efficient Organization we all want. For the sake of time, I will not list them here, but I can assure Members that we continue to look for more efficiency gains and ways to streamline our work to get better value for money. We have also advanced in substantive issues related to our core mission to eradicate hunger. Let me mention just one battle we won together: the endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. It is a breakthrough agreement that was negotiated during three years by governments, civil society and the private sector. It provides us a starting point to improve the lives of rural populations and fishery folk around the world.

I call upon our partners to express their support to these Guidelines, and I reaffirm to Governments that FAO is ready to assist in their implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this session you will discuss issues that will determine FAO's future capacity to contribute to a food secure world. They include Decentralization, Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, and FAO's Strategic direction. These issues reflect my vision for FAO based on the five pillars of my campaign that I first presented to the Council in April 2011.

Last December, I addressed you again, this time as your Director-General Elect. What I laid out to you then is exactly what I have been working on since January. First, working in an open and transparent manner informing and consulting Members and the Governing Bodies, formally and informally. Second, strengthening partnerships. We are doing this by increasing collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies and other UN international and regional partners, and by implementing an "open-door" policy in FAO to welcome civil society and private sector organizations that share our vision of a world without hunger. Third, adding a bottom-up approach to our traditional planning, incorporating the suggestions of the Regional Conferences in the proposals that you are discussing.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Transformational Change Process I started will allow FAO to respond to the challenges the world is facing today making the Organization more efficient and more focused, and improve our performance, results and impact.

Transformational Change includes a Strategic Thinking Process that has led to the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework, which you will discuss at this Session. We have already identified 11 global trends and seven challenges. From these trends and challenges we looked at the comparative advantage of FAO and then derived five cross-cutting Strategic Objectives. They represent a major break from our current set of objectives prepared years ago that basically replicates FAO's existing structure. We seek your guidance on these proposed five Strategic Objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, Decentralization is an important aspect of FAO Reform. There is now a consensus that it is possible to strengthen our Decentralized Offices without weakening technical capacity and normative work at Headquarters and that both are relevant and complementary. I am extremely pleased to note that at its last session, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees agreed to the proposal you are being presented for discussion and decision. Support came from the G77 plus China and OECD countries alike, setting aside the traditional division that frequently exist between them. I want to highlight that as I promised at the last Council Session, this Decentralization proposal does not cost one extra cent to the Organization.

We have identified additional efficiency savings in our current Programme of Work and Budget that will allow us to strengthen Decentralized Offices and update our strategic planning and monitoring capacities and bolster multi-disciplinary technical activities. The efficiency savings identified to implement these proposals amount to a total of just two percent of our approved budget. It is a very small amount especially when compared to what we can achieve with it. Looking at this number should make us consider whether we have been making a tempest in a teacup over these last months. Let's recognize that the real problem is the lack of trust that remains on the part of some countries. I am doing my best to provide you all the information requested, hoping that transparency will help solve this pending issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, one part of the further adjustments of the Programme of Work and Budget includes a revision of the Organization's and structure, as requested by the Immediate Plan of Action, the well-known IPA in FAO's dialect. At this Session, we are proposing adjustments to the Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations and to the Human Resources Management Division.

I want to briefly address the proposed review of our human resources structure, as some Members have expressed concern about this.

The Independent External Evaluation (IEE) that FAO undertook in 2007 recommends: "the modernization of Human Resources Management Division to make it less a process facilitator and more of a strategic partner, building Human Resources strategies and advising and supporting Senior Management".

The proposal I'm making is in line with the importance the IEE and most Members give to the Human Resources function, also recognized in the IPA. It is also an integral part of the transformational change I am promoting, and which the Programme and Finance Committees endorsed at their last meeting just a few days ago.

You elected me to lead this Organization. You gave me a mandate for change. To make these changes, Management needs to be able to manage Human Resources, that are FAO's greatest assets, properly.

Ladies and gentlemen, bridging the divide between developed and developing countries that has prevailed in the past and regaining the trust of all Members and I highlight this, ALL Member Nations in the Organization are among my main concerns. As I told Council last December, and I quote, "One symptom of this lack of trust has been the increased time that Member Nations spend looking into details that do not correspond to the role of guidance expected from Governing Bodies. Rebuilding trust must be based on the recognition that we, the Member Nations and the Secretariat have shared goals and complementary responsibilities, as clearly established in our Constitution", end quote.

The support you have given to the proposals I presented, and the frank conversations we have had along the way, make me believe we are succeeding in rebuilding trust. I don't expect us to agree on everything all the time. I need and expect from you, guidance and the freedom to manage the Organization in my own style within the limits and with the accountability established by our Basic Texts. Article VII of FAO Constitution states: "Subject to the general supervision of the Conference and the Council, the Director-General shall have full power and authority to direct the work of the Organization".

This is not about concentrating power. This is about being responsible and accountable to Members for all of FAO's work. Let me remind you that I proposed a set of procedures that, if approved by Members, would limit the room for action that Director-General, including myself, have during the transition period, something neglected in the past. As you have had the opportunity to note, my management style values corporate action, teamwork, bottom-up initiatives, partnerships, streamlining, and timely action. I assess Management and staff members by the work they do, and not by the post they have.

In the spirit of FAO's global mandate, I see no Brazilian, no American, no Italian, no French, no Chinese, no Canadian, but only International Civil Servants. The two Deputy Directors-General, DDGs in FAO's dialect, have been given specific instructions to take the lead in several cross-cutting actions in the Operations and Knowledge arms of this Organization. I want them to act as coordinators in their areas, not as one more unnecessary layer in the Organization.

The Assistant Directors-General, or ADGs in our dialect, have been instructed to do specifically that: assist me in their capacity as heads of the different Departments and Regional Offices of FAO.

That's why all ADGs now have direct access to me as do the DDGs. I ask you not to waste time debating over my style nor get involved in micro-management. That is Secretariat business. Judge me by the proposals I am making and by the results of my work. Let's use our meeting to discuss the important challenges we have in front of us. I need your guidance on the best way to face them.

Ladies and gentlemen, the current situation in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa is a daily reminder of how critical the food security situation in the world still is and should make us ask of ourselves why, in a world with sufficient food, over 900 million people still suffer from hunger. I know these are difficult economic times for all of us, but in the end, the choices we make are political choices.

I thank those countries that place Africa and food security among their top priorities and urge others to do the same. Likewise, I call on developing countries to step up their cooperation as well. In this regard, I want to recall that at the request of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa and the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, the Secretariat is detailing proposals for regional food security trust funds to be funded, primarily, by countries and by the private sectors of the affected regions.

Despite the dark clouds of the financial crisis, there is very good news that I would like to share with you. Food prices began to fall in the face of the good harvests and increase in stocks. That means that we should expect a reduction in the number of hungry people in the world in 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, from the meetings that I have had with you here in Rome and at the Regional Conferences and during my travels, I know that I can count on the full support of most of the FAO Members to implement the actions that you elected me for. Our Organization has an enormously important role to play in the world. We need to be prepared to continue to adjust the ways in which we operate. I look forward to continue working closely with you and the entire Member Nations that you represent.

Let me close as I did in my two previous statements to the Council, recalling that "I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together."

I wish you fruitful deliberations. Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur le Directeur général, je vous remercie. Je voulais le faire au nom du Conseil et de tous les membres. Je crois que des applaudissements nourris suffisent à ce remerciement complètement partagé.

Merci aussi, comme vous l'avez dit, de prendre le temps d'être le plus souvent possible pendant ce Conseil mais on comprend tout à fait qu'à certains moments vous devrez vous engager ailleurs. Vous aurez toujours l'occasion, si nécessaire, de reprendre la parole sur tel ou tel sujet, pour confirmer une chose ou pour en expliquer une autre.

Je rappelle aux délégués que pour demander la parole, il leur suffira d'appuyer sur le bouton rouge en-dessous du microphone, le voyant clignotera jusqu'au moment où le délégué prendra la parole. L'ordre des orateurs sera automatiquement enregistré et affiché sur l'écran au-dessus du podium.

J'invite à présent le Secrétaire général à donner un bref compte-rendu sur la documentation de cette session du Conseil.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

La documentation de cette session du Conseil comprend 22 documents principaux, dont 11 rapport de réunions qui sont achevés après ou peu avant le 16 avril, date prévue pour la soumission des documents à traduction. La moitié des documents principaux, c'est-à-dire 11 sur 22, ont pu être publiés avant ou à la date limite de distribution, le 14 mai.

Deux semaines avant l'ouverture de la session, soit le 28 mai, un total de 19 documents était disponible. Les trois documents restants furent publiés il y a une semaine.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

1. Adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du calendrier

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous aurons l'occasion sans doute de revenir sur ces publications, puisqu'un certain nombre d'entre vous m'a fait part du regret de ne pas avoir tous les documents en temps.

La pression des Membres et de moi-même étant permanente, j'essaye d'améliorer les choses les une après les autres.

Nous commençons l'adoption du premier point à l'Ordre du jour, avec l'Adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du calendrier de la session, présentés respectivement dans les documents CL 144/1 et CL 144/INF1 Rev.1.

L'Ordre du jour provisoire a été communiqué aux membres du Conseil le 12 avril, en même temps que l'invitation à la présente session.

Je voudrais attirer votre attention sur l'addition de deux rapports du Comité financier au point 11, puisque ses 144^{ème} et 145^{ème} sessions ont eu lieu le mois dernier pour la première, et le vendredi 1^{er} juin pour la seconde.

Ensuite, je propose qu'au point 25, Autres questions, nous procédions à l'élection de deux candidats au Comité du Programme pour la Région Europe, car l'Allemagne et la Belgique ont informé l'Organisation qu'elles se retiraient du Comité du Programme.

Je voudrais aussi demander l'avis du Conseil sur le point trois. En effet, le Rapport sur l'exécution du programme 2010-11 n'a pas pu être discuté lors de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier qui s'est tenu le 31 mai et le 1^{er} juin, puisque les documents n'étaient pas arrivés suffisamment tôt. Nous restons cependant dans la procédure normale puisque ces documents doivent être présentés au plus tard au Conseil du mois de novembre. Donc, comme ils n'ont pas été discutés aux Comités du Programme et financier, simplement présentés, je vous propose de reporter ce point en fin de session, c'est-à-dire après le point 22, et si nous en avons le temps, et je l'espère, sans

discussion. Les procédures des Comités financier et du Programme durant le 2^{ème} semestre seront représentées et discutées au Conseil du mois de novembre.

Voilà les propositions que je vous fais concernant l'Ordre du jour provisoire.

Y a-t-il des demandes de parole?

Sur cette proposition d'Ordre du jour, y a-t-il des remarques? Pas de remarques? Pas d'objections, l'Ordre du jour est accepté. En outre, comme les Représentants permanentes le savent et comme indiqué dans l'Ordre du jour, nous aurons l'honneur de recevoir son Excellence Monsieur Evo Morales Ayma, Président Constitutionnel de l'état plurinational de Bolivie, plus tard dans la matinée.

Pendant la discussion du point 8, nous risquons fortement d'être obligés de suspendre la séance mais j'en ai informé les Membres, et donc, il y aura une partie du point 8 qui sera représentée en début de séance.

Je voudrais vous informer, à la demande du Directeur général, de l'excuser de se retirer au moment où le Président arrivera dans cette institution, pour le recevoir et nous rejoindre par la suite. Donc, le Directeur général sera sans doute absent au moins pour une présentation. Veuillez l'en excuser, mais nous lui transmettrons tout ce que vous avez dit, rassurez-vous, et les adjoints sont là.

En ce qui concerne le Calendrier de la session qui figure dans le document CL 144/INF/1 Rev.1, j'attire votre attention sur l'encadré des annotations destinés à nous aider à bien gérer le temps et structurer les discussions sur ces points particuliers. Ainsi, certains thèmes ne seront pas abordés aux points traitants des rapports de conférence: les Comités du Programme et les Comités financiers et de leurs réunions conjointes, mais ils seront examinés dans le cadre des points spécifiques suivants:

- Plan d'action immédiate, au point 4.
- Le point 5: Structure et fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés.
- Le point 6: Autres ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget.
- Le point 7: Ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé.
- Et le point 18: Années internationales.

Les références aux paragraphes concernés sont indiquées en italique dans le Calendrier. Nous en reparlerons dans le détail lorsque nous aborderons ces points.

Au point 8, Conférences régionales, que nous aborderons ce matin, j'inviterai les Présidents des Conférences régionales à donner un aperçu du rapport de chaque Conférence régionale sans ouvrir le débat sur leur contenu.

Nous passerons ensuite à l'examen des points spécifiques, que je viens de citer et enfin, mardi nous reviendrons sur le point 8 pour terminer la discussion et tirer les conclusions appropriées sur l'ensemble des rapports des Conférences régionales.

Les Présidents des Conférences régionales et les présidents des régions ont été informés de tout cela, ainsi que vous-mêmes.

Par ailleurs, comme convenu au moment de l'Adoption de l'Ordre du jour, nous procéderons au point 25, Autres questionss, l'Élection des deux candidats pour la Région Europe qui siègeront au Comité du Programme.

Y a-t-il des questions ou des remarques sur ce Calendrier?

Je n'en vois pas. Le calendrier est donc adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee**2. Élection des trois Vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction****2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je passe tout de suite donc au point 2: Élection des trois Vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Après consultation, comme d'habitude, entre les groupes régionaux, les trois Vice-présidents proposés sont:

- Son Excellence Monsieur Carlos Vallejo López de l'Équateur.
- Son Excellence Monsieur John Asitha I. Perera du Sri Lanka.
- Monsieur Travis Power, de l'Australie.

Y a-t-il des objections?

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, je félicite les trois Vice-présidents, que je contacterai pour voir comment les faire participer activement pendant cette semaine. On peut d'ailleurs les applaudir. Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, nous avons reçu une candidature pour la Présidence venant de l'Uruguay. Et pour les membres, les pays suivants ont été nommés comme membres:

l'Afghanistan, l'Algérie, l'Argentine, l'Australie, la Chine, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Danemark, l'Équateur, les États Unis d'Amérique, la Fédération de Russie, la République de Corée.

Y a-t-il des commentaires sur cette candidature à la présidence et les membres pré-désignés?

S'il n'y a pas de commentaires, il en est ainsi décidé et je vous propose de les applaudir pour les encourager.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme je l'ai dit dans la lettre du 2 mai dernier, et conformément à nos Méthodes de travail, j'invite les membres à faire des interventions concises et ciblées et autant que possible, des déclarations de groupes de pays, ce qui permettra d'éviter des répétitions. Je tirerai les conclusions des débats afin de faciliter la rédaction du rapport de la session, qui, comme convenu, consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations. Les débats figureront intégralement dans les Procès verbaux des sessions.

Le Secrétariat s'efforcera aussi de produire des rapports concis portant essentiellement sur les décisions et les conclusions du Conseil. J'espère que la tâche du Comité de rédaction sera ainsi facilitée, lui permettant d'achever ses travaux plus rapidement. Bien sûr, le Comité de Rédaction a tout le temps, mais nous ne sommes pas obligés de battre des records de longévité à chaque fois qu'il y a un Conseil. Durant les derniers Conseils, on a essayé de simplifier les choses, et j'ai cru comprendre qu'on mettait une demi-heure supplémentaire.

Il était 7 heures, 8 heures, 9 heures. On peut faire 5 ou 6 heures. Monsieur le Président, je compte sur vous.

Je vous demande également de bien vouloir remettre à l'avance vos interventions au Secrétariat, de préférence à l'adresse courriel indiquée dans l'Ordre du jour, afin que les interprètes, que je salue, puissent les rendre au mieux dans les autres langues. De même, la qualité de l'interprétation sera améliorée et les interventions orales se feront à un rythme raisonnable.

Enfin, je rappelle que vous pouvez remettre la version intégrale de vos interventions pour inclusion dans les Procès verbaux et présenter oralement une version plus condensée. Dans ce cas, une annonce sera faite à cet effet.

Je n'ai pas prévu pour l'instant de limitation de temps de parole de chacun d'entre vous lorsque que vous vous exprimez. Je m'en remets à votre responsabilité. Mais, si vraiment nous devons avoir des débordements, je vous ferai à ce moment là des propositions pour limiter le temps. Je crois que nous pouvons nous responsabiliser les uns les autres. Mais je vous informe que si c'est nécessaire, je reviendrai devant vous pour que nous prenions une décision de limiter le temps, c'est-à-dire, efficacité avant tout.

14. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters:

14. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques:

14. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos:

14.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

14.1 Invitation à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressée à des États non Membres

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

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le point 14, Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne le sous-point 14.1: "Invitation à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressée à des États non membres", je passe la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Une invitation à participer en temps qu'observateur à la 31^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, tenue à Hanoi, au Viet Nam, du 12 au 16 mars 2012, a été envoyée à Singapour et au Brunéi Darussalam à la demande de ces deux pays non membres de la FAO.

Les deux pays ont envoyé une délégation à la dite Conférence régionale.

14.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization

14.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation

14.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie pour cette information. En ce qui concerne le point 14.2: "Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation", je redonne à nouveau la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le Directeur général a reçu une demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation de la République du Soudan du Sud, par une lettre du 27 janvier 2012. En attendant la décision de la Conférence concernant cette demande, et conformément à l'article XXV.10 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et aux paragraphes B1, B2 et B5 des principes régissant l'Octroi du statut d'observateur aux nations, le Conseil peut autoriser le Directeur général à inviter les pays à présenter une demande d'admission à participer en qualité d'observateurs aux sessions de ce Conseil ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation qui l'intéressent.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Conseil a-t-il des objections à inviter la République du Soudan du Sud à participer en temps qu'observateur aux sessions du Conseil et aux réunions régionales et techniques qui l'intéressent? Y a-t-il des remarques ou des demandes d'explication? Ou des propositions?

Si cela n'est pas le cas il est ainsi décidé, la demande d'admission de la République du Soudan du Sud.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius is speaking on behalf of the Africa Group, and endorses the request of the Council and authorizes the Director-General to invite the Republic of South Sudan to participate in an observer capacity in appropriate Council meetings, as well as regional and technical meetings which may be of interest to the Organization.

Ms Nerissa J. COOK (United States of America)

The United States is a strong supporter of the Republic of South Sudan joining the community of Member Nations at FAO. Given the importance of food security to the Republic of South Sudan, it is gratifying to see the new nation's application to join the FAO. We look forward to the Conference approving the admission of the Republic of South Sudan and to working with the Republic of South Sudan at future sessions of the FAO. In the meantime, we welcome them to the Organization in an observer capacity.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU: Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement. The EU welcomes the application for Membership of the Republic of South Sudan.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il un autre membre du Conseil qui veut intervenir à ce sujet? Si tel n'est pas le cas, et comme vous l'avez vu. Oui? Le Chili.

Excusez-moi. Comme vous le voyez, j'ai laissé le Mali en dehors de la prise de parole, parce ce qu'il ne fait pas partie du Conseil, donc, je donne prioritairement la parole aux Membres du Conseil. Et quand le Conseil a fini d'intervenir, je peux donner la parole aux observateurs. C'est pourquoi je n'ai pas mis le Mali.

Mais le Chili a demandé la parole.

Sr. Oscar GODOY ARCAYA (Chile)

Como presidente del GRULAC, quiero manifestar nuestra complacencia por el ingreso de la República de Sudán del Sur a nuestra Organización.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puisque tout le monde a pu s'exprimer, la Demande d'admission de la République du Soudan du Sud sera soumise à la prochaine session de la Conférence en juin 2013. Je profite de cette occasion pour donner la bienvenue aux délégués de la République du Soudan du Sud qui sont parmi les observateurs de la session. Toutes mes salutations et celles du Conseil.

8. Regional Conferences: Overview by Regional Conference Chairperson

8. Conférences régionales: Récapitulatif par les Présidents des Conférences régionales

8. Conferencias Regionales: Presentación general por los presidentes de las conferencias regionales

8.1 Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 March 2012)

8.1 Rapport de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 12-16 mars 2012)

8.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Hanoi [Viet Nam], 12-16 de marzo de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au point 8, pour les Conférences régionales, et nous le commençons par les interventions des Conférences régionales. Nous aurons les autres points sur la Décentralisation, et nous reprendrons demain matin le point 8 sur la finalité des rapports des Conférences régionales.

Comme convenu, nous ne débattons pas maintenant du contenu des rapports des Conférences régionales, qui seront traités dans les points spécifiques, comme je le rappelle, le point 4, le point 5, le point 6 et le point 7.

Nous allons commencer ces présentations et je donne la parole au Ministre représentant la Conférence régionale d'Asie et du Pacifique qui s'est tenue à Hanoi en mars 2012.

J'ai donc le plaisir d'inviter son Excellence le Ministre Monsieur Cao Duc Phat, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural au Viet Nam et Président de la Conférence régionale, à prendre la parole.

Mr Cao Duc PHAT (Chairperson, Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Council regarding the outcomes of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific which was held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam from 12 to 16 March 2012.

The Conference was attended by 300 delegates, including 19 Ministers and eight Vice-Ministers representing 39 Member Nation delegations, plus 34 delegates as Observers.

The Final Report includes a Summary of the Main Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Council, and another for the attention of the Conference. Please refer to Council document CL 144/5.

In reference to the agenda item on Areas of Priority Actions for the Asia and Pacific Region for the biennium 2014-15, the Regional Conference:

1. Reconfirmed the relevance of the Regional Priority Framework for Asia and the Pacific and the current focus of FAO's work in the region;
2. Supported the Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director- General to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization;
3. Agreed that the recommendations of the five Regional and Technical Commissions could be considered the regional priorities for the sub-sectors they addressed and encouraged FAO to forge stronger links between the Regional and Technical Commissions and the related regional and global bodies;
4. Emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries so as to achieve measurable progress through the effective and efficient use of available resources on a limited number of activities aligned with FAO's comparative advantage;
5. Reiterated the need for FAO to allocate an increased share of financial resources to the Asia and the Pacific Region commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges of achieving food security for the nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry who live in the Region;

6. Emphasized region-specific needs related to increasing agricultural production and productivity including the appraisal of a regional supplemental stipend to promote agricultural knowledge-sharing and technology transfer in making small-scale farmers more competitive, harmonizing policies for food security and bio-energy development, managing trans-boundary pests and diseases, and facilitating efficient markets for food;
7. Highlighted new and emerging challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change and the frequent devastating natural disasters occurring in the Region, and requested FAO support in dealing with these challenges.

Considering Decentralization Issues, the Regional Conference:

1. Welcomed the proposals on Decentralization;
2. Supported proposals for a more Decentralized Office network in FAO with strong country leadership and greater empowerment of Regional and Country Representatives, including an integrated approach to delivery of emergency projects and operations;
3. Requested additional dialogue and information as the Decentralization process unfolds.

With respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Conference recommended the acceptance of the offer of the Government of Mongolia to host the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2014.

For the first time, civil society organizations attended the Regional Conference and were given the opportunity to speak. Their interventions were good and well-received by delegates. CSO participation added value to the deliberations.

The Regional Conference appreciated the efforts to develop a Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 in order to frame the work of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and encouraged further refinement and elaboration with respect to its purpose and functions, reference period and inclusion of the measurable indicators.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

8.2 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26-30 March 2012)

8.2 Rapport de la 32^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Buenos Aires, Argentine, 26-30 mars 2012)

8.2 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Buenos Aires [Argentina], 26-30 de marzo de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Président du rapport de cette Conférence, qui était la première.

Je donne donc sans plus attendre la parole au Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes qui a eu lieu à Buenos Aires en mars 2012, et dont le document de référence porte le symbole CL 144/7.

Je donne la parole à M. Lorenzo Basso, Secrétaire à l'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche du Ministère de l'agriculture de l'Argentine, Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Sr. Lorenzo R. BASSO (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Es un gusto para mí estar en este Consejo y es un gusto que esté presente el señor Director General José Graziano da Silva. La República Argentina agradece la oportunidad de dirigirse a este Consejo de la FAO como presidencia del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Lo hacemos como representantes de la Región y en una oportunidad histórica

porque nuestro Director General es originario de nuestra Región y conoce perfectamente los problemas de pobreza y hambre que padecen aquí a pesar de que América Latina y el Caribe son excedentarios en la producción de alimentos.

Quiero expresar nuestro beneplácito y el de América Latina y el Caribe por el proceso de pensamiento estratégico, consultivo y participativo que ha iniciado en esta nueva etapa y que comienza con esta gestión en la que la Región se ha comprometido a trabajar fuertemente con el Sr. Director General para el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Organización.

Teniendo en cuenta la coyuntura actual que todos conocemos, es importante destacar el desafío que constituye garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en estos próximos años. De acuerdo con las estimaciones de la FAO, vamos a tener que incrementar de un 70% la producción de alimentos para alimentar a más de 9 mil millones de personas en el año 2050. Quiero reiterar nuestro compromiso en la lucha para garantizar esta seguridad alimentaria y la región. Como todos sabemos, está comprometida con este quehacer. Quiero destacar también el trabajo que se ha realizado en el marco del G20 en donde la FAO ha prestado una excelente colaboración a través de la Iniciativa AMIS y en donde hemos podido participar activamente en las reuniones del Ministro de Agricultura del G20 en México.

La región está convencida de que la solución para la seguridad alimentaria es más alimentos para más personas, y para ello debemos, por un lado, aumentar la inversión en agricultura, desarrollar mecanismos para atender a todas las problemáticas a las que se enfrenta la agricultura familiar, incluidas las cuestiones de género y las comunidades originarias. También tenemos que incrementar la producción y productividad agrícola de manera sustentable a partir de la innovación y la transferencia de tecnologías, igual que fortalecer la cooperación internacional. En ese sentido, las propuestas de la Cooperación Sur-Sur son elementos fundamentales para salir de la actual situación hacia un desarrollo sustentable en donde el que da y el que recibe cuenten con experiencias, historias y capacidades similares.

Es importante, por otra parte, incrementar la transparencia de los mercados internacionales y, en ese sentido, vamos a insistir en la conclusión de la Ronda de Doha.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, queremos que resulte imperioso concluir el proceso de Descentralización, teniendo particularmente en cuenta que para cumplir los objetivos propuestos es preciso un correcto financiamiento de las actividades previstas. En ese sentido, estamos dispuestos a hacer un uso eficiente de los recursos, entre ellos las propuestas que han surgido de la Conferencia del IICA (Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura) el pasado año y en nuestra Conferencia Regional en Buenos Aires, en donde trataremos de articular con el IICA todas las acciones posibles en común.

Por último, también quisiéramos señalar que Argentina pretende tener un rol activo en este período, el período que media entre dos Conferencias Regionales, teniendo en cuenta que ha presidido esta última. A tal fin, es intención nuestra iniciar un proceso interactivo con los Miembros de América Latina y el Caribe que contribuya a fortalecer las acciones del GRULAC en Roma, los trabajos que se realicen en la Región en la Sede Regional en Chile y con cada uno de los Países Miembros de nuestra Región. Para ello, estamos pensando en una serie de actividades que van a comenzar con una encuesta, al igual que se hizo en el G20. Hablamos de una encuesta a cada uno de los Países Miembros para relevar las necesidades específicas que tiene cada uno y las inquietudes que cada uno de ellos tienen. Igualmente, queremos tratar de generar puntos focales concretos en cada uno de los Países Miembros para poder tener un mejor contacto e interacción a lo largo de estos dos años que me va a tocar presidir la Conferencia Regional.

Vamos a impulsar una plataforma virtual e interactiva que pretende estar actualizada permanentemente en la Región; la elaboración de un *newsletter* que nos mantenga a todos los Países Miembros de la Región actualizados; y también pensar en algunos Comités Regionales, para fortalecer más allá de la CODEGALAC (Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe), la COPESCAL (Comisión de Pesca Continental para América Latina) y la COFLAC (Comisión Forestal para América Latina y el Caribe); pensar en algún Comité de Agricultura que no tenemos, uno de nuevas tecnologías y otro que pretende analizar los problemas de agua y energía para el desarrollo sostenible. Toda esta

articulación entre países-región GRULAC y la FAO en Roma es importante que la tengamos en cuenta.

Este conjunto de medidas que propone nuestro Director General abre un mejor camino para la FAO, un camino que construimos entre todos, alentados por el cambio innovador que nos propone el Director General con decisión en compromiso.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

*8.3 Report of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe
(Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-20 April 2012)*

*8.3 Rapport de la 28^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe
(Bakou, Azerbaïdjan, 17-20 avril 2012)*

*8.3 Informe del 28.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa
(Bakú [Azerbaiyán], 17-20 de abril de 2012)*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Je passe la parole au Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe. Son Excellence M. Ismat Dursun ogly Abbasov, Ministre de l'agriculture de l'Azerbaïdjan et Président de la Conférence régionale.

Mr Ismat ABASOV (Chairperson, Regional Conference for Europe) (Original language Russian)

On behalf of the European and Central Asian countries, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here and to have the opportunity to address the Council regarding the outcomes of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

The 28th Regional Conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 19 and 20 April 2012, and was attended by 46 delegations from the Member Nations of the Region, along with 18 Observers. Ten Member Nations were also represented at the Ministerial level.

The Regional Conference Report is available as Council document CL 144/6, and it provides a Summary of the Main Recommendations on programme and budget matters that require the Council's attention (you can find that on page 5 of the document).

Therefore, I will limit myself to a short presentation of the main conclusions reached by the Regional Conference following intensive discussions.

With regard to the Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and Areas of Priority Action, the Regional Conference appreciated the lessons learned from the implementation of the programme during the 2010-11 period.

The Regional Conference supported the Independent Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director-General to determine the future strategic direction and priorities of the Organization. It emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on the key challenges that countries faced, and it found that the main issues in the Region were consistent with the global challenges of the Regional Conference.

The Regional Conference requested that six main regional priorities be taken into consideration in reviewing the FAO Strategic Framework and in preparing the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17, relating to:

- strengthening food security and nutrition;
- providing policy advice to governments in support of sustainable intensification of small farm production;
- managing natural resources, including climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- controlling animal, plant and food-borne pests and diseases;
- providing of policy and institutional support for Member Nations to enter into regional and global trade and standard-setting bodies, as well as organizations of regional economic cooperation; and
- providing support and building of global and regional public goods through applied research in the areas of food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Finally, the Regional Conference requested that FAO prepare Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) as a tool for the strategic delivery of assistance and country-specific development, coordinated with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in close collaboration with International Financing Institutions, civil society and the private sector.

With regard to the item, "Update on the Status and Vision of Decentralization in the Region", the Conference:

1. fully supported the enhancement of the Organization's impact through improved and well-designed decentralized structures. At the same time, however, it emphasized that this should not jeopardize the technical capacity of Headquarters and other Departments;
2. supported both the emphasis on value for money to be achieved through the increased use of cost-sharing agreements with Host Governments, and the efforts to ensure the presence of competent FAO Country Representatives;
3. agreed with the proposal to transfer responsibility, management and accountability for operations related to emergency and rehabilitation activities to the Decentralized Offices;
4. noted the proposal for positioning decentralized FAO resources in the Region in order to achieve greater impact, including the proposal that FAO should establish two fully-fledged FAO Representations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and two Assistant FAO Representative positions in the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan. It also supported the focus on the most needy countries in the region, and requested that cross-cutting themes such as gender and climate change be addressed.

With reference to its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) the Conference:

1. recognized the central role of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) as a technical preparation body for the ERC, and the important role of the ECA as a consultative body between the ERC sessions;
2. endorsed the MYPOW and encouraged further refinement and elaboration in consultation with the Member Nations and partners in the region;

Concerning its Rules of Procedure, Member Nations underscored that they should reflect the new role of the Regional Conference as a integrated part of the FAO governance system. It was stressed that the procedures should also address the possibility of the ERC exercising oversight on the various regional bodies; e.g. EIFAAC (European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission), EFC (European Forestry Commission), GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and CACFish (Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission).

The Regional Conference accepted the invitation by Romania to host the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe in 2014.

The Session of the Regional Conference was preceded by a consultation meeting with Civil Society Organizations and Representatives of the Private Sector, where they actively participated in the discussion. The Regional Conference recognized the importance of the CSOs' participation, and welcomed the efforts to incorporate new actors in the rural development debate, since civil society had always played an important role in this context.

I would like to also highlight that an intensive inter-sessional consultation process between the Regional Conference sessions had been underway both with the Europe Regional Group (ERG) and with Members Nations, which are not represented permanently in Rome. This process is very important to prepare the Regional Conference and to increase its effectiveness. Furthermore, the

experience from the Baku Conference clearly demonstrated that an additional day would be important to allow sufficient time for discussing policy and regular issues on the Agenda.

I thank you for your attention, and stand ready to provide further information on the deliberations and recommendations from the 28th Regional Conference for Europe as the FAO Council may request.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

8.4 Report of the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

(Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012)

8.4 Rapport de la 27^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique

(Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 avril 2012)

8.4 Informe del 27.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África

(Brazzaville [Congo], 23-27 de abril de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président, et sans plus attendre, je passe la parole au Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique. J'invite donc son Excellence Rigobert Maboundou, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage du Congo et Président de la Conférence régionale, à nous présenter le rapport.

M. Rigobert MABOUNDU (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs, à mon tour j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de vous présenter les conclusions symboliques des travaux de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour l'Afrique qui s'est tenu du 23 au 27 avril 2012 à Brazzaville, République du Congo.

Cette Conférence régionale a été historique à la fois par l'importance et la qualité de la participation des 49 sur 53 Pays membres et d'autres institutions ou organisations partenaires représentés au plus haut niveau. Permettez-moi de souligner que la collaboration et le partenariat entre la FAO et mon pays, le Congo, lors de la préparation et durant la Conférence ont été exemplaires.

L'occasion m'est également offerte de renouveler les remerciements de son Excellence Monsieur Denis Sassou Nguesso, Président de la République, du Gouvernement et du peuple congolais, à toutes les parties prenantes, et en particulier à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO et le Président du Conseil dont la présence active durant la Conférence lui a conféré un éclat particulier. Nous sommes convaincus que les assises exceptionnelles de Brazzaville ont marqué l'histoire des relations entre la FAO et l'Afrique, mais également entre les États membres.

En ma qualité de Président de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale, j'ai le plaisir de confirmer aux Membres du Conseil de la FAO, réunis pour sa 144^{ème} session, que le Rapport final adopté et présenté exprime relativement clairement les conclusions de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale. Vous trouverez d'ailleurs les conclusions dans le document CL 144/4. Cependant, il faut indiquer, Monsieur le Président, qu'au cours de la Conférence régionale il s'est avéré un petit décalage entre la version anglaise et la version française, et malgré tous les efforts que le Secrétaire a fait pour restituer les conclusions des travaux – d'ailleurs, je l'en remercie infiniment – il se trouve encore de légers problèmes pour lesquels vous allez m'autoriser à reprendre la parole lorsque nous allons passer à la partie débat de cette présentation.

La Conférence régionale a été une belle opportunité de recevoir la société civile dans la quête des pays du monde pour la sécurité alimentaire et dans le renforcement de leur collaboration avec la FAO. Je dois signaler que la contribution de la société civile a été remarquable de la même manière qu'elle a été la première à contribuer à un Fonds spécial qui a été mis en œuvre dans le cadre de l'élimination de la faim en Afrique. La Conférence régionale a permis également d'échanger sur les enjeux de la mise en œuvre du Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine sur le partenariat public-privé, pour le lancement des programmes agricoles afin de soutenir les moyens d'existence et de créer de la richesse et aussi le Cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

En outre, la Conférence régionale a permis aux États membres de partager leurs préoccupations communes pour cette sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, la réduction de la pauvreté et le développement durable avec justement la possibilité de l'extension des problématiques jusqu'aux forêts, à la pisciculture et autres. Une attention particulière a été portée sur la Corne de l'Afrique et le Sahel, qui a conduit à l'adoption d'une Déclaration de Solidarité et d'action vers l'élimination de la faim en Afrique. Cette Déclaration dite de Brazzaville, adoptée également par la Conférence régionale, consacre l'engagement des États membres à faire mieux face à des multiples défis.

Au delà des recommandations relatives aux points 3 à 7 et 18 de l'Ordre du jour de la 144^{ème} session du Conseil, je sou mets au Conseil les recommandations concernant les autres points pertinents à savoir:

1. La Conférence régionale a appuyé et adopté le Programme de travail pluriannuel 2012-15 de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, car il renforce le rôle de la Conférence régionale comme entité de gouvernance de la FAO. En outre, les relations entre la Conférence régionale, les partenaires et les autres Organes directeurs de la FAO doivent être analysées.
2. La Conférence régionale a invité la FAO à élaborer des mécanismes de suivi pour veiller systématiquement à la mise en œuvre de ces recommandations et faciliter des contacts réguliers entre le Président de la Conférence régionale, la Direction Générale de la FAO, les Ministres africains et le Groupe africain des représentants permanents auprès la FAO. À cet égard, la Conférence a recommandé un appui soutenu au Président de la Conférence régionale tant par le Bureau régional pour l'Afrique que par le Bureau d'appui à la Décentralisation de la FAO.
3. La Conférence régionale a convenu de tenir sa 28^{ème} session en Tunisie en 2014, à une date qui sera fixée d'un commun accord avec les autorités de ce pays.
4. La Conférence régionale a proposé le thème «La jeunesse africaine dans l'agriculture et le développement rural» ainsi que divers thèmes de discussion pour la prochaine Conférence. De surcroît, des mises à jour ont été demandées au sujet du partenariat public-privé, la Décentralisation de la FAO, le processus du Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine et sa mise en œuvre.
5. La Conférence régionale a félicité le Président indépendant du Conseil dont le mandat arrive à terme en juin 2013, et elle a recommandé la désignation d'un candidat africain pour le prochain mandat. La Tanzanie a proposé un candidat, son Excellence M. Wilfred Ngirwa, ancien Représentant permanent de la Tanzanie auprès de la FAO et Président des Représentants du Groupe africain. J'insiste pour dire que la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique a approuvé la proposition par acclamation.
6. Enfin, la Conférence régionale a apprécié la création par la FAO d'un Fonds fiduciaire pour la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique qui sera financé par les contributions des États membres intéressés, surtout les pays producteurs de pétrole.

Pour conclure, je voudrais vous réaffirmer mon engagement, en tant que Président de la 27^{ème} Conférence Régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, de ne ménager aucun effort pour un suivi permanent des recommandations et des actions à mener jusqu'à la prochaine Conférence régionale.

Dans la paix, la stabilité et la communion avec la nature, les États membres aspirent à faire avancer la réflexion africaine sur les enjeux de la centralité de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts, de la pêche et de l'environnement dans les processus de développement économique.

Aussi, notre *crédo* pour cette 27^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique qui est «De la Vision à l'Action pour une agriculture africaine performante» nous mobilise déjà tous pour aller de l'avant et mieux contribuer aux succès partagés par les États membres et la FAO.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Ministre. On me signale que le Président Evo Morales Ayma est dans nos murs, il va nous rejoindre dans quelques minutes. Je m'excuse auprès des deux intervenants du Proche Orient et de l'Amérique du Nord, leur intervention sera reportée à 2 h 30 cet après midi. C'était convenu, nous ferons comme ça. Je suspens la discussion sur le point 8 pour l'accueillir bientôt, mais je vous demande de suspendre la séance sur place. Cela veut dire que si je suspens la séance, il faudra peut-être attendre 3, 4, 5 ou 7 minutes.

Vous savez le protocole, c'est comme ça. Mais évitez de vous déplacer, pour ne pas avoir besoin de rappeler toutes les troupes par la suite. Je vous en remercie.

The meeting was suspended from 11.15 to 11.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 15 à 11 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.15 a las 11.25

Address by His Excellency Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Allocution de M. Evo Morales Ayma, Président de l'État plurinational de Bolivie

Discurso del Excmo. Sr. Evo Morales Ayma, Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Excellences, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai le grand plaisir à présent de souhaiter la bienvenue à son Excellence Monsieur Evo Morales Ayma, Président de l'État plurinational de Bolivie qui nous honore aujourd'hui de sa présence dans cette enceinte du Conseil de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, vous venez d'un pays où l'agriculture tient une place des plus importantes et la Bolivie est également productrice d'une plante dont la graine possède des propriétés nutritionnelles extraordinaires, le quinoa ou *Chenopodium quinoa*. Bien qu'il ressemble à une céréale, il appartient en fait, comme son nom latin l'indique à la famille des Chenopodiacees tout comme la blette, la betterave ou l'épinard. Le quinoa a été cultivé depuis des milliers d'années dans les Andes et il est devenu un aliment de base dans la région. Et c'est pour promouvoir la connaissance et les avantages de son utilisation dans l'alimentation au niveau mondial que sous l'impulsion du Gouvernement bolivien, l'année 2013 a été déclarée Année Internationale du Quinoa.

Je vais donc sans plus attendre donner la parole au Directeur général, M. Graziano Da Silva.

Monsieur le Directeur, vous avez la parole.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Don Evo Morales Ayma, Señor Luc Guyau, Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO, Señoras y Señores,

Es para mí un inmenso honor invitar al Señor Don Evo Morales, Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, a recibir la distinción de Embajador Especial del Año Internacional de la Quinua.

La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ha declarado el año 2013 como el "Año Internacional de la Quinua".

La gestación de este año empezó cuando nos reunimos por la primera vez con su Excelencia Sra. Nemesia Achacollo Tola, Ministra de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras en la oficina de la FAO en Santiago de Chile y con los embajadores de los países de la zona Andina. Nos planteamos el propósito de impulsar su Año Internacional como un medio de hacer llegar este valioso alimento a todo el mundo.

El esfuerzo que la FAO está realizando para potenciar la quinua es parte de una amplia línea de trabajo que hemos desarrollado para recuperar cultivos tradicionales y olvidados como medio para combatir el hambre y promover una alimentación más sana.

Ante el desafío de alimentar a la población del planeta y el contexto del cambio climático, la quinua aparece como una alternativa para aquellos países que sufren de inseguridad alimentaria y sobre todo los que no disponen de abundantes recursos de agua.

La riqueza de la quinua no sólo está en los granos de sus coloridas panojas. Su valor está en el conocimiento acumulado por los pueblos Andinos, lo que ha permitido preservar sus diversas variedades, mejorar su rendimiento y desarrollar una gastronomía de la quinua, que tendrán la oportunidad de disfrutar durante la degustación dentro de unos momentos. Esta es la verdadera riqueza que nos ofrece “un fruto sembrado hace miles de años” como señala el eslogan del Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Señoras y señores, desde la puesta en marcha del Programa de los Embajadores de Buena Voluntad de la FAO, en 1999, estos nombramientos reconocen la importancia del papel desempeñado por diversas personas en la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria.

Hoy, Su Excelencia Don Evo Morales Ayma se une oficialmente a la FAO en la promoción del Año Internacional de la Quinua.

En su calidad de Embajador Especial de la FAO, respaldará los esfuerzos de la Organización dirigidos a erradicar el hambre, y, en particular, a difundir las cualidades del "grano de oro", la quinua.

En reconocimiento a su labor en fomentar el rol de la quinua en la concepción de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional y en la erradicación de la pobreza y el hambre, tengo el privilegio de nombrar a Don Evo Morales, Embajador Especial para el Año Internacional de la Quinua, y le invito, por favor, a ponerse a mi lado.

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Directeur général. Je vous donne à présent, après ces applaudissements, adressés en mon nom et au nom du Conseil, toutes nos félicitations pour cette nomination de Monsieur Evo Morales Ayma que j'invite maintenant à prendre la parole.

Sr. Evo MORALES AYMA (Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Muchísimas gracias por la palabra. En primer lugar me gustaría saludar al Director General de la Organización Mundial de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, a toda la Directiva, a las Ministras y Ministros presentes, a las Embajadoras y Embajadores y a todos los representantes de los países del mundo ante la FAO. En nombre del pueblo boliviano y también en nombre de los países andinos, quisiera agradecer a las Naciones Unidas por el nombramiento del año 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua. Recuerdo exactamente las partes sobresalientes de las Naciones Unidas para designar el 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua resaltando el valor nutritivo de la quinua como alimento natural.

Se reconoce a los pueblos indígenas andinos por sus conocimientos y prácticas tradicionales de vivir bien y en armonía con la naturaleza. Han mantenido la quinua controlada, protegida y preservada en su estado natural, incluyendo sus numerosas variedades cultivadas localmente como alimento por las generaciones actuales y las venideras.

Después de tantos años, las Naciones Unidas reconocen este producto, este cereal, como uno de los alimentos más importantes. Pero también quiero brevemente explicar primero mi experiencia, desde mi niñez, como pequeño productor de la quinua el lugar donde nací, Orinoca, del ayo Sur-Ica, del departamento de Oruro, Bolivia. Mi pueblo no era tan productor de quinua para el comercio, sino más como alimento de la familia y de la región. Como siempre los niños en las áreas rurales, desde el momento en que tenemos uso de conocimiento o desde que empezamos a caminar, siempre trabajamos para la familia, sea en la agricultura como en la ganadería. Y dentro de ese cuadro que tenía, por ejemplo, mi padre viajaba a la ciudad de Oruro y un poco chantajeaba a mi padre. Mi padre decía: «usted va a porcar la quinua». Yo decía: «vamos a porcar la quinua, vamos a decir hoy a la quinua a condición de que usted me traiga ajedrez o pelota de básquet». Bueno, mi papá se comprometía a traer ajedrez o pelota de básquet y nosotros trabajábamos con mi hermano menor desyerbando la quinua.

Pero repito una vez más, era más para el consumo familiar o de los vecinos; y Orinoca era —y hoy día es—, más productor de quinua que de papa. Estas vivencias nos indican la importancia que tiene la quinua para la vida misma. Sin embargo, durante años la quinua estaba mal vista al igual que el movimiento indígena. Recordar ese pasado es prácticamente recordar una discriminación a la quinua. Y ahora, después de tantos años, se recupera y se reconoce a la quinua como uno de los alimentos más importantes para la vida. Durante años de colonialismo, se despreciaron nuestros alimentos ancestrales. Al igual que los pueblos indígenas, nosotros estábamos amenazados con el exterminio. También nuestra música lo estaba, y nuestras formas de vivencia en colectividad, nuestra vestimenta, hasta nuestros alimentos eran despreciados. Hay otro producto u otro ganado como los auquénidos que todavía se están recuperando. Como la quinua, algunos norteamericanos intentaron patentar a la llama. Lo mismo sucedió con los auquénidos, que gente distinta a los bolivianos también intentaron patentar.

Asímismo, me gustaría saludar a las fuerzas sociales del movimiento campesino indígena originarias, que continúan con una batalla permanente para que se reconozca la quinua como un producto de los pueblos indígenas y que por miles y miles de años han sostenido y nos han sostenido como pueblos en los Andes. Hoy, durante el proceso de descolonización valoramos nuestros propios alimentos y recuperamos nuestra identidad alimentaria para vivir bien, especialmente con la quinua y la carne de llama. Hace un momento, al Secretario General de la FAO y a mi Canciller, comentaba brevemente que en la próxima ocasión, con seguridad, esta Organización como también las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos internacionales, reconocerán la importancia que tiene la carne de llama. Según estudios, tiene cero de colesterol. También me acuerdo que durante mi niñez estaba prohibido vender la carne de llama: el indio era tan despreciado como su ganado. Tenía que vender de manera oculta la carne a las cuatro, a las cinco o a las seis de la mañana en las orillas de la ciudad de Oruro. Yo acompañaba en el año 1971 a mi padre, en esas andanzas por la vida, porque con la sequía se acabó la alimentación: si no había producción, tampoco había alimentación en toda la zona del Altiplano. Tuvimos que viajar desde Orinoca pasando por Oruro (una semana de caminata) detrás de cincuenta llamas como arrieros. Desde la ciudad de Oruro hacia el departamento de Cochabamba, o sea, una semana y media de caminata. Dos idas y dos vueltas durante el año para traer un poco de maíz, no solamente para la familia sino para la comunidad. Querría mencionar que mi padre era muy solidario, tanto que hasta robaba a mi madre para regalar a los vecinos, los tíos o los familiares de la comunidad.

Pero entonces, ¿qué hacíamos para proveernos de ciertos recursos económicos? Dado que estaba prohibido vender la carne de llama en la ciudad, vendíamos en las orillas de la ciudad de Oruro, de madrugada a amigos de mi padre y un poco también a quienes vivían entrando en la ciudad. Y casualmente ahora sabemos que este señor era el padre del Gobernador del Departamento de Oruro, que también seguramente santo tito estaría de niño, uno vendiendo carne y el otro comprándole carne. Sus hijos: uno presidente, ahora gobernador, y el otro gobernador de la ciudad de Oruro, ¿cómo es la vida! Esto es para un poquito reflexionar.

Estoy segurísimo que en las próximas reuniones la llama será otro debate aquí —un organismo que trabaja el tema de la alimentación para las Naciones Unidas— y en las Naciones Unidas. Con seguridad serán también nuestros ministerios, no solamente el de Bolivia sino también el de la región andina como Perú y Ecuador a plantear esta situación.

Nuestra quinua es un legado ancestral. Por lo menos hasta ahora sabemos que la quinua se produce desde hace 7000 años, en donde los pueblos andinos desarrollaron su propia ingeniería y genética y las técnicas de cultivo necesarias para su producción en armonía con la Madre Tierra. Existen muchas crisis en el mundo: financiera, energética, ecológica, pero especialmente alimentaria. Y saludo a esta Organización, que seguramente con mucho conocimiento esfuerzo, sacrificio y compromiso trabaja con los pueblos del mundo desde aquí para aportar y resolver el alimento. Mi respeto y admiración por esta labor. Por eso estamos aquí convocados por ustedes y dirigidos por el Director General de la FAO. Frente a la crisis alimentaria mundial, los pueblos andinos tenemos las soluciones y algunas respuestas. Con seguridad no van a ser todas pero la quinua es una alternativa digna para la seguridad alimentaria con soberanía. La quinua logra buenas cosechas con menos lluvias, y es muy resistente también a las heladas. En Orinoca, por lo menos desde mi niñez y parte de mi adolescencia, llegaba la helada y acababa con el cultivo de la papa pero no con el de la quinua. La quinua es un alimento ideal.

La FAO ha catalogado a la quinua como uno de los cultivos promisorios de la humanidad por sus múltiples beneficios para la nutrición. La Organización Mundial de la Salud la calificó como el grano de oro. Algunos estudios de la NASA de 1993, recomiendan incluir la quinua en la dieta de los astronautas, considerándose como un alimento ideal para los viajes espaciales de larga duración. Posee los veinte aminoácidos, incluyendo los diez esenciales para el desarrollo humano. Tiene 40% más de lisina que la leche, desarrollando las células del cerebro humano. Tiene un elevado contenido de vitaminas y minerales, a pesar de que por mucho tiempo el grano de oro, la quinua, fuese solo utilizado como comida para los indios.

También me gustaría contarles algo de mi historia. En el año 2008, hubo escasez de arroz en Bolivia. Lamentablemente, por algunos especuladores, comerciantes, intermediarios, se había preferido vender arroz más barato fuera de Bolivia, motivo que fue parte de una batalla económica. Esto fue por la clase política aunque todos me echaban la culpa a mí: «que por culpa del Evo, por culpa del Gobierno no hay arroz», a pesar de que hubiera arroz. Pero reitero una vez más, que era parte de una batalla económica. Y en el Palacio yo he prohibido comer arroz, «cuando falte arroz para el pueblo» -les dije- «hay que comer quinua en el Palacio». Algunas secretarías y algunos colaboradores del Palacio no querían comer quinua y yo no lo podía entender, pero ahora creo que faltaba información para valorar este alimento. Sin embargo, poco a poco ya vamos superando este problema. Ahora lo que ocurre es que es cotizado por consumidores selectos en EE. UU., Europa y Asia. Si nuestra quinua se va a Europa y otros continentes, todavía no saben apreciar a la quinua en Bolivia. Por supuesto, en el movimiento indígena y el popular no tenemos mucho problema pero la clase media y la clase alta, tienen mucho miedo a comer quinua porque tienen metido en la cabeza que es el alimento del indio, entonces, «¿cómo vamos a comer el alimento del indio?». Pero yo aprecio la valoración que existe desde aquí. También sabemos que la Reina Sofía de España de acuerdo a una información por sus cualidades nutritivas, usó este alimento en el matrimonio de sus hijos.

Bolivia y los países andinos ofrecemos al mundo un aporte vital para alimentar sanamente a las generaciones actuales y futuras con la quinua. Es decir, un futuro sembrando hace miles de años: la quinua. Un regalo de los Andes hacia el mundo: quinua. Al margen diremos que de esas cualidades que tiene la quinua, estuve repasando algunos estudios sobre la quinua. Por ejemplo reduce la anemia con los minerales que proporciona; no contiene gluten; posee fibra que ayuda en la baja del colesterol. Y el 89% de sus ácidos grasos son no saturados, por lo que es ideal para mantener la dieta equilibrada y completa. Seguramente los científicos que tienen muchos conocimientos seguirán investigando sobre las cualidades de la quinua. Pero puedo asegurarles que como productor, no tan gran productor, como pequeño productor y consumidor, realmente la quinua es un alimento muy importante para el ser humano. Y por eso, saludamos nuevamente esta decisión tomada por las Naciones Unidas y el trabajo de ustedes al proponer desde aquí, 2013 el Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Señor Director General, nosotros hicimos algo en Bolivia. Por primera vez, que yo sepa, el Estado ha garantizado una pequeña suma para incentivar el cultivo de quinua en Bolivia. El año pasado fueron diez millones de dólares y créditos totalmente blandos para fomentar el cultivo, la siembra y la cosecha y todavía no hemos pasado la etapa de industrialización. Saludamos al pueblo peruano, al pueblo ecuatoriano que también son productores de quinua. Estamos hablando de un producto de los Andes, de Sudamérica. ¡Qué bueno sería trabajar juntos! No solamente pensando en el movimiento indígena, no solamente pensando en los Andes, sino en la humanidad que habita en este planeta Tierra. Puede ser un buen aporte del movimiento indígena su conservación. Imagínense tantos años de cultivo sin la presencia del Estado, menos de la comunidad internacional.

Este día para mí es un hecho histórico - desde el momento en que las Naciones Unidas reconocen 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Ahora, Embajador, muchas gracias. Bueno, vamos a saludar esta iniciativa de ustedes. Pues cómo ver desde los Andes aportar para la vida. Es un gran deseo. Pero además de eso, en esta crisis alimentaria, en Bolivia para los productos más esenciales, los productos que faltan, hemos empezado a dar créditos con 0% de interés, por ejemplo, para maíz, trigo, soya, arroz, para los pequeños productores. Inclusive los productores pueden pagar con sus productos, no siempre monetizando. Eso nos ayuda bastante para garantizar alimentos. Todavía tenemos mucho que hacer. Últimamente hemos empezado con el

programa MiAgua, Más Inversión para el Agua, en donde tratamos de llegar a todos los municipios, especialmente a las áreas rurales, con agua potable o agua para riego. No es mucho para ustedes, seguramente para muchos países, pero llegamos con trescientos mil dólares del gobierno nacional en los casi 337 municipios de Bolivia. Y algunos municipios, en Pando, en Beni, anteayer (hoy día es lunes, ¿no?), sí, ayer, estaba en un municipio y me decían «Gracias a este programa los pobladores tienen el 100% de agua potable». En Cochabamba, como el alcalde del departamento me decía: «gracias al programa MIAgua ahora nuestros hermanos que vivían en Europa y en EE. UU. están retornando a su municipio para cultivar productos agropecuarios».

Gracias al programa MIAgua ahora, desde la ciudad de Cochabamba, los migrantes del campo a la ciudad están retornando a sus áreas rurales para producir, porque en algunos lugares estamos garantizando suficiente riego.

Es el segundo año que estamos implementando, justamente para evitar que profundice la crisis alimentaria, y para internamente resolver produciendo. Y ahí tenemos algunas pequeñas experiencias que nos va bien felizmente en Bolivia. No es suficiente, estoy convencido; lo saben mis hermanos del campo, los hermanos indígenas y las campesinas de las áreas rurales en Bolivia, pero sí son políticas muy acertadas. Seguramente muchos de ustedes han debido informarse de los bonos y rentas. Hemos creado una renta llamada Renta Dignidad, para que las personas que tienen más de 60 años mensualmente reciban 200 bolivianos. No es mucho pero es un alivio, especialmente para la gente abandonada. Inicialmente este programa era tan importante para las personas de la tercera edad, pero ahora, donde llegamos con el programa MiAgua, ese es más respetado, más reconocido que la Renta Dignidad, que es la renta para las personas de tercera edad. Muy sorprendido, pero es un gran aporte para que no pueda seguir creciendo la crisis alimentaria, y desde ahí quisiéramos compartir estas experiencias que hemos traído.

Yo quería expresar una preocupación con relación a los derechos de la Madre Tierra. Es nuestra obligación defender los derechos de la Madre Tierra. Estoy convencido de que el ser humano no puede existir sin el planeta Tierra. Tal vez el planeta Tierra puede existir mejor sin el ser humano, pero también en los últimos años estamos viendo una especie de fundamentalismo ecológico - el ambientalismo o nuevo colonialismo. Nosotros queremos, por supuesto, el desarrollo con equilibrio, pero respetando los derechos de la madre tierra. Ese también es un aporte del movimiento indígena no solamente de América sino del mundo. Y quisiéramos de manera conjunta desarrollar políticas que permitan beneficiar a los sectores más olvidados, que era el movimiento indígena. Por ejemplo, cuando queremos desarrollar una planta hidroeléctrica, tenemos oposición del movimiento indígena o campesino de la zona. Agentes externos, con el pretexto de defender el medio ambiente, inclusive financiado por algunas empresas transnacionales, se oponen a una planta hidroeléctrica u otro trabajo que se puede hacer. Imagínense quienes hemos vivido con mechera, es decir, sin energía eléctrica. Claro, los fundamentalistas, ecologistas, tienen buena luz y aire acondicionado en sus casas, pero hay familias campesinas e indígenas que no conocen luz, sí obligado a desarrollar cuidando el medio ambiente, consultando, por supuesto, estas políticas.

Y por eso sería importante también, Señor Director General de la FAO y a toda la Directiva, a todos ustedes compartir problemas, experiencias, pero pensando primero en ese equilibrio entre seres humanos, el equilibrio entre el ser humano con la Madre Tierra o con el planeta, si alguno no acepta el término de la Madre Tierra. Yo no soy experto, por supuesto y como autoridad electa con grande sorpresa, porque yo jamás en mi vida había soñado ser ni Diputado y menos Presidente. Casualmente el sector más despreciado, humillado, es el movimiento indígena campesino, acusado de ser Bin Laden andino, acusado de ser terrorista, de ser narcotraficante, de ser asesino. Pues en 2005, ganamos las elecciones. Sorprendido, pero muy contento también porque ahora he entendido que la política realmente es una ciencia para servir a los pueblos. Ser autoridad electa o designada ya no es en Bolivia beneficio ni negocio. Ser autoridad repito, no es negocio ni beneficio sino esfuerzo, compromiso con los pueblos, con mi pueblo. Y ahí cambiamos. Dignificamos a la política si la política es la ciencia para servir al pueblo y no para servirse del pueblo, igual que cómo redoblar esfuerzos para el bien de mi pueblo y desde ahí compartiendo, con ustedes para los pueblos del mundo.

Nuevamente quisiera agradecer al Director General por esta designación. Estaremos junto a ustedes trabajando, compartiendo nuestras experiencias para los pueblos del mundo. Muchísimas gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie infiniment, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur L'Ambassadeur spécial du quinoa, mais avec la foi que vous exprimez la détermination, je peux dire devant tout le monde que vous êtes aussi un ambassadeur de la lutte contre la faim dans la monde. Merci de votre présence.

*8.5 Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East
(Rome, Italy, 14-18 May 2012)*

*8.5 Rapport de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient
(Rome, Italie, 14-18 mai 2012)*

*8.5 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente
(Roma [Italia], 14-18 de mayo de 2012)*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de ne pas suspendre la séance, puisque nous avons gagné un peu de temps dans le déplacement et je crois pouvoir penser que nous avons le temps d'écouter nos deux amis du Proche Orient et de l'Amérique du Nord avant que les chefs de délégations et Ministres Présidents des Conférences rejoignent le Président et le Directeur Général dans la Salle d'Indonésie pour partager le quinoa sous ses différentes formes.

Donc nous avons presque une demi heure, mais comme les interventions sont prévues d'environ dix minutes, nous avons le temps de les écouter maintenant. Je donne donc la parole, pour la Conférence régionale du Proche Orient à Monsieur Janabi, parce que le Ministre n'est pas présent. Ensuite on aura l'intervention pour l'Amérique du Nord.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Representative for Chairperson, Regional Conference for Near East) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to apologize for the impossibility of the Minister of Agriculture to attend because of reasons beyond his control, otherwise he would have been here to present this report. On his behalf however I would like to say that I am pleased that he and the Iraqi Government are to present this Report of the 31st Regional Conference for the Near East which took place in Rome from 14 to 18 May 2012. The full Report can be found in document CL 144/8.

First of all I would like to point out that this Regional Conference was supposed to have taken place in February in Baghdad, as per the decision made by the 30th Regional Conference in Khartoum under the former Director-General of the Organization. In light of the latest events in the Arab world, however, and after Mr Da Silva became Director-General of FAO, there was an agreement between the Government of Iraq and the Regional Office to postpone convening this Regional Conference to a later date. Further events took place in that part of the world, and this made it necessary to offer to the Iraqi Government the possibility of celebrating this Regional Conference in May, but in the city of Rome. It was necessary for this to take place so that the Regional Conference could effectively contribute to making the necessary inputs for the Council. This concern by the Director-General was discussed by the Near East Group and was approved. This also involved the agreement of the Iraqi Government, which accepted the concerns voiced by the Director-General, and decided to support them. The Government therefore continued to provide its ongoing support to FAO for the benefit of all Members. This Regional Conference was quite successful and met with excellent representation. It was attended by 25 delegations and more than 20 observers, and 12 countries were represented at the Ministerial level.

A series of important points were on the Agenda, among which was regional and global policy, to also be presented to the Conference next year, as well as the areas of priority actions for the Programme of

Work and Budget. We also discussed a series of documents relative to the regional priority areas for the two periods 2012-13 and priority actions for the region for 2013-15, as well as the areas of activities for the period 2014-15. The Conference made the following recommendations:

It welcomed the transparency for the Organization. The Regional Conference insisted on the main issues of interest to all countries concerned and concurred with the five regional priority areas for the Region, namely the reinforcement of nutrition and food security, increase of production including a programme of rural development and good governance of natural resources including resources vis-à-vis climate change and programmes to prepare and to deal with natural catastrophes.

The Regional Conference also voiced its concern over the low assignment of resources in the Technical Cooperation Programme, requested that there be an increase in the Programme of Work and Budget 2013-15 and also made an emotional appeal for there to be more resources in that direction. The Regional Conference also agreed to enhance regional and local participation by CSOs and NGOs in setting forth the areas where collaboration and cooperation would be possible.

With respect to Decentralization, the Regional Conference supported the proposals to reinforce the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization at the national and regional levels, and to pursue and focus on activities according to the concrete needs of Member Nations.

The Regional Conference also supported the measures for Decentralization, including the transformation of the Sub-Regional Offices into technical offices while maintaining multi-disciplinary teams in order to provide technical support to National Offices.

The Regional Conference also accepted the integration of the multi-disciplinary team for the Sub-regional Office for the Near East into the Regional Office for the Near East, while strengthening priority areas for the Region, and recommended the establishment of an additional Sub-regional Office to be hosted by the Republic of Lebanon. This matter would be raised at the FAO Conference in its next session in 2013. The Regional Conference noted the proposal to create a Regional Trust Fund for FAO Regional Offices to enhance the Organization's effectiveness in responding to regional, sub-regional, and country-specific requests. If established, the Regional Trust Fund should not affect the appropriations to the Region on other funding resources.

The members of the Regional Conference also discussed the current membership coverage between Council, RNE and NERC, and the Near East Regional Office. Membership coverage is not fully consistent, and we note that the current coverage has some merits and can create opportunities, fostering inter-regional cooperation.

The Regional Conference recommended that the current membership coverage should include the possibility of ensuring cooperation among regions. Therefore, the Regional Conference proposed that current membership coverage should remain unchanged at present, for the Conference and Council.

The Regional Conference also recommended re-establishing the Agricultural Extension Post in the Regional Office for the Near East, and also recommended that this post could also extend its activities in order to uncover and find genetic resources.

With regard to the Multi-year Programme for Work for 2012-15, the Regional Conference endorsed it warmly. We recognized the importance of the active participation of NGOs and CSOs during the Regional Conference. This was much appreciated and we believe they were able to provide excellent contributions. We urge countries to increase participation in that sense.

In its closing, the Regional Conference made a declaration expressing its full support to the Strategic Thinking Process and Decentralization launched by the Director-General, at the national and regional levels, and called upon FAO to establish a Regional Trust Fund to address regional priorities in the Near East, taking into account our five priorities, the needs of the countries and recent developments in the region.

We applaud the flexibility on the part of the Iraqi Government in convening a celebration at the original site of the Regional Conference in Baghdad. The Government retains the right to host the Regional Conference in the future. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

8.6 Input from the Informal Regional Conference for North America

(Ottawa, Canada, 3-5 April 2012)

8.6 Contribution de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord

(Ottawa, Canada, 3-5 avril 2012)

8.6 Aportación de la Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte

(Ottawa [Canadá], 3-5 de abril de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci votre excellence Monsieur Janabi. Je donne donc la parole au Président de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord, Monsieur Blair Coomber, Directeur général des relations, des politiques et des consultations multilatérales, Agriculture et agro-alimentaire du Canada.

Mr Blair COOMBER (Chairperson, Informal Regional Conference for North America)

As we all know, the Regional Conferences are playing a bigger role in the Organization's budget decisions. FAO has asked input and views from all regions on the Organization's priorities, and how the next budget should be designed. Seeking that input is an excellent idea.

To make our contribution, the Members of the FAO's North America Region, Canada and United States, met from 3 to 5 April 2012 in Ottawa. I am pleased to provide you with an overview of what we discussed. The United States and Canada have chosen to host informal regional meetings to discuss the FAO's work and governance and to share these views. It is our hope that our region's views will be integrated in the same manner as other regional perspectives on FAO priorities, budgets, and governance.

The meeting last April convened representatives from Canada and United States and staff from the FAO Liaison Office and Headquarters via teleConference, video Conference, and in person. Observers from all FAO regions were invited to attend. Representatives of two Regional Groups were in attendance. In addition, representatives from civil society, private sector organizations, and research centers were also in attendance for discussion on the Committee on World Food Security on 5 April 2012.

Our Informal Regional Conference considered a number of issues. Here are some of the meeting's key outcomes. FAO document CL 144/LIM/4 provides a full report on this event. We agreed on the critical importance of the FAO's normative work and, in particular, the support for science-based standards for food safety and plant health. Data collection and analysis and capacity-building to help the country's statistical collection were also seen as important.

The North America Region also recognized the need for global agricultural productivity to increase rapidly to meet anticipated demand by 2050. We agreed that FAO should increase its support to countries on innovative agricultural products and practices, including biotechnology, to increase agricultural productivity and improve food security.

The North America Region further agreed that the Organization should focus on its comparative advantages, in particular, its technical expertise and knowledge. Further, FAO was encouraged to partner with other agencies, centers of scientific and technical expertise, and, when relevant, the private sector, in order to achieve its objectives.

Our Region discussed FAO Decentralization. We stated our expectation that a fully transparent and constant plan on Decentralization be tabled at the Programme of Finance Committees for consideration and approval. We are pleased to see FAO taking steps in this direction.

During our meeting, a half-day session was held on the Committee on World Food Security. Members of civil society participated, and the discussion focused on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition and the mapping of food security and nutrition actions at country level. This dialogue was particularly useful to hear the views from civil society members, in addition to sharing

their views with officials from the United States and Canada. Participants were encouraged to provide views on the Mapping of Food Security and Nutrition actions through available mechanisms.

Lastly, we discussed the possibility of seeking the approval of the FAO Conference to create a formal, Regular Conference of the North America Region. We are mindful that doing so would create some new costs for FAO. A final North America regional decision in this, if necessary, will be taken at a later date.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci bien au représentant de l'Amérique du Nord, nous arrivons à la fin de nos travaux de ce matin, j'ai une demande d'intervention de l'Algérie, mais je ne sais pas s'il est disponible pour le faire avant déjeuner ou juste après le déjeuner. Attendez, vous pouvez le faire maintenant?

Bien, le représentant de l'Algérie a souhaité une courte intervention que nous ferons en début d'après midi nous nous retrouverons donc à 14:30 ici.

D'ici là les chefs de délégations et les présidents des conférences régionales sont conviés à partir de midi et demie à une dégustation de quinoa et donc je dis bien les Présidents et les Chefs de délégations.

Merci bon appétit, la séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
11 June 2012

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.33 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 33
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.33 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames, Messieurs, le quorum étant atteint, nous commençons même si nous ne sommes que 26 puisque c'est le quorum minimum, cela fera venir ceux qui sont un peu en retard. J'ai une demande de parole avant de commencer les points à l'Ordre du jour de l'Algérie, à qui je confie tout suite la parole, pour une courte intervention.

M. Mohammed MELLAH (Algérie)

Permettez moi tout d'abord, au moment où le Conseil de la FAO tient sa 144^{ème} session d'exprimer les remerciements et la reconnaissance de mon pays à la FAO et à Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, qui s'est distingué depuis son arrivée par son dynamisme et l'efficacité de son action qui, je suis certain, permettra à notre Organisation de se hisser au seuil des espérances de ceux qui par centaines de millions dans le monde, attendent que la communauté internationale s'engage concrètement à leurs côtés pour soulager leurs souffrances.

Il n'est pas excessif de dire que l'insécurité alimentaire est le défi majeur de notre siècle, car elle est la pire des insécurités. Elle oblige ses victimes à souffrir en silence alors que les actions menées jusque-là par la communauté internationale ont montré leurs limites devant l'ampleur de cette insécurité.

Mon pays est convaincu que l'arrivée de Monsieur José Graziano da Silva à la tête de notre Organisation ne manquera pas de créer le momentum nécessaire à la mobilisation des ressources et à la synergie des initiatives dans le cadre d'un partenariat global contre l'insécurité alimentaire, dont le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) est le fer de lance.

L'Algérie a toujours été au rendez-vous de la solidarité internationale. Elle croit à des actions concrètes et solidaires pour apporter l'aide attendue par les centaines de millions de victimes de la faim, qui elles ne peuvent pas attendre. Elles ont besoin de notre aide souvent dans l'urgence.

C'est dans ce cadre que l'Algérie s'acquitte de son devoir en apportant son aide alimentaire aux pays du Sahel les plus touchés par la sécheresse et les changements climatiques, mais aussi par la précarité découlant de l'instabilité et de l'insécurité que le terrorisme international a malheureusement étendue à cette région.

Mais il n'y a pas que la population du Sahel qui attend aujourd'hui de nous une attention particulière. Beaucoup d'autres pays africains attendent nos gestes de solidarité pour les aider à prendre en charge les besoins exponentiels, croissants de leurs populations.

C'est ainsi qu'en 2010, mon pays a apporté dans le cadre d'un partenariat avec le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), une aide alimentaire en faveur de six autres pays africains victimes de l'insécurité alimentaire. Mon pays n'a fait que s'acquitter de son devoir envers cette Afrique, qui a tant donné à l'humanité et à notre civilisation.

Mais la prise en charge de l'insécurité alimentaire ne peut être le résultat d'actions ponctuelles ou d'initiatives isolées. Il y a nécessité de fédérer les efforts aux plans régional et international. C'est dans ce cadre que mon pays a accueilli en février dernier une Conférence Euro-méditerranéenne sur la sécurité alimentaire. La Méditerranée doit se distinguer, du fait de ses atouts et de sa position, en jouant un rôle primordial dans cet effort de mobilisation au plan régional auquel le Directeur général de la FAO n'a cessé d'appeler depuis son arrivée à la présidence de la FAO.

Mon pays continue également de jouer pleinement son rôle pour que le Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD), et plus particulièrement le Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA), donnent des résultats concrets sur le terrain.

En sa qualité de Président du Groupe des 77, plus la Chine à New York, l'Algérie joindra ses efforts à ceux des autres membres de la communauté internationale pour faire de la prochaine Conférence Rio+20 sur le Développement durable un succès. Car, il est évident que la problématique du développement durable est liée directement à celle contre l'insécurité alimentaire. Si nous gagnons la bataille du développement durable, nous réussirons certainement à prendre en charge une grande partie des défis liés à cette lutte contre la faim.

La politique de renouveau agricole et rural menée par mon pays depuis quelques années s'inscrit dans le cadre de cette logique, qui fait de la sécurité alimentaire une priorité nationale. Nous avons assuré en grande partie nos besoins. Nous avons créé, grâce à cette politique une dynamique d'emploi, notamment des jeunes et des femmes, mais nous avons encore comme d'autres pays beaucoup à faire pour diminuer la facture de nos importations.

Monsieur le Président, mon pays apporte son plein soutien à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, pour toutes les initiatives courageuses qu'il a lancées depuis son arrivée à la tête de notre Organisation.

Il se félicite du processus de réflexion stratégique lancé en janvier 2012, visant à fixer les futures orientations stratégiques de la FAO et à préparer le Plan à moyen terme 2014-17. Mon pays souscrit également au Cadre stratégique révisé 2010-19 et au processus de Décentralisation, ainsi qu'aux Ajustements apportés au Programme de travail et de budget 2012-13.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

4. Immediate Plan of Action – IPA annual report for 2011 and direction for 2012

4. Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) – rapport annuel 2011 et orientations pour 2012

4. Plan inmediato de acción (PIA): Informe anual sobre el PIA correspondiente a 2011 y dirección para el año 2012

LE PRÉSIDENT

Ceci dit, nous sommes sécurisés donc nous pouvons commencer notre réunion de cette après-midi. Nous l'attaquons par le point 4: le Plan d'action immédiate: rapport annuel 2011 et orientations pour 2012. C'est le document CL 144/10. Comme annoncé, nous allons tenir compte aussi des éléments se référant à ce point contenu dans les Rapports des Conférences régionales, du Comité financier et de la Réunion conjointe des Comités du Programme et financier du 7 mai, ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans le calendrier provisoire.

J'invite donc David Benfield, Directeur de l'unité de gestion des programmes d'exécution du PAI introduire ce rapport.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, IPA Programme Management Unit)

The IPA Annual Report for 2011 consists of two parts. The first part of this Report is the Annual Report on IPA implementation performance during 2011. In this part of the Report, the good progress that was anticipated in the Report to Council in November 2011 is confirmed, and 81 percent of the 274 actions were completed by the end of 2011.

This good progress regarding IPA actions completed is substantiated by description of the key achievements of the IPA programme during 2011. IPA project leaders have been requested to attend this afternoon's session of Council to answer any specific questions you may wish to raise on any particular IPA project.

The Report also notes that the final expenditure for 2010-11 totalled USD 40.4 million against the gross budget, excluding savings of USD 44.9 million, leaving an unspent balance of USD 4.5 million. And this balance has been carried forward to 2012-13, as authorized by Conference in July 2011.

The second part of the Report describes the new direction for IPA implementation in 2012. In January 2012, the Director-General confirmed his commitment to ensuring a successful and full completion of IPA implementation, and provided a new direction to FAO renewal.

This new direction focused on three main activities. First, the move from implementation of IPA actions to realization of benefits. In this regard, a major benefits realization initiative has been launched in 2012 to identify and report on the benefits accrued and accruing from implementation of the IPA programme.

Secondly, to accelerate the Reform Process. Management intends to accelerate implementation of the remaining IPA actions and complete as many as possible within 2012.

And third, to mainstream IPA actions into the work of the Organization. While Management efforts to date have resulted in a significant acceleration of the Reform Process, there are a small number of major IPA actions that will not be completed by the end of 2012, and these will be integrated and mainstreamed into the normal work of the Organization.

The Annual Report also updates Members on the findings of the external assessment of the IPA programme undertaken under the auspices of the Office of the Inspector General by Mannet consultants. The report contains the Management summary of this Mannet report in all languages and the web annex provides the full Report, which is available, for reasons of economy, in English only.

The Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees on 7 May discussed this Report and requested Management to provide their written comments. As was indicated at the Joint Meeting, Management welcomes the proposed shift to organizational strengthening recommended by Mannet in the Report, and the recommendations for future action. And Management notes that these broadly support management decisions already taken, and the new direction for Reform established by the Director-General in January 2012.

However, at the Joint Meeting, Management expressed concern regarding the conclusions drawn by Mannet from their review of Reform progress to date, and especially with their observation that the Immediate Plan of Action document was poorly designed as a basis for transformation. Written comments on the Report have been provided by Management, and these have now been posted on the Permanent Representatives Web site.

Management is aware that the next formal Progress Report to the Governing Bodies will take place in October 2012, but will make informal presentations to Members during the summer, covering the Management comments on the Mannet Report, the progress achieved to date with IPA acceleration and with IPA mainstreaming, and initial development on benefits realization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande maintenant à Cecilia Nordin et MOUNGUI MÉDI de bien vouloir nous rejoindre pour faire leurs commentaires sur ce sujet là, des conclusions de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Excusez-moi, j'aurais dû vous faire venir plus tôt. Cela aurait été un plaisir. Cecilia Nordin, Présidente du Comité du Programme, va nous faire le point sur le rapport de la Réunion conjointe.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As Mr Benfield said, this was the main item on the agenda for the Joint Meeting on 7 May. Although the Joint Meeting was pleased with the contents of the document, we regretted its late arrival and we also concurred that the IPA has to be successfully finished in the near future. We supported the shift to outcomes and benefits, welcoming the Strategic Thinking Process to continue in FAO – to have a culture of continuous improvement as stated there. And we also underlined, in this context, the need to protect FAO's competences as a global knowledge organization, especially when expressing its comparative advantages. We also underlined the need for a continuing culture change of that sort, looking at impact and at indicators.

We also highlighted the need for sequencing of actions and integration of action plans and noted that this full and comprehensive acceleration of implementation, risks have to be considered and taken on board. We also recognized the increased efforts that we as Member Nations needed to make in certain areas. We also read with interest the External Assessment of the IPA Programme, the so-called Mannet Report and, indeed, as Mr Benfield said, we wanted to have Management's response in order to align the implementation of IPA with the findings. I am happy to hear that there are now written comments on the Web site which I personally have not had time to look at. But I am sure that we will all look at it with interest as well as listening to the information seminars. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

In addition to reviewing substantive progress of individual initiatives of the IPA, we reviewed, at the 143rd and 145th Sessions, the Human Resource Strategy, the implementation of the Global Resource Management System, and implementation of an Enterprise Risk Management Framework.

I will say that beyond that, the Finance Committee at its 143rd Session considered the financial aspects of the IPA implementation reported in the IPA Annual Report for 2011 and direction for 2012. My colleagues of the Finance Committee here could substantiate and confirm the recommendations that the Committee made. One of them was to endorse, within the context of the 2012-13 approved PWB, the 2012-13 total IPA budget, totalling USD 40.2 million net, which included the unspent balance of 2010-11, approximately amounting to USD 1 million, carried forward to 2012-13 as per the decision of the Conference implemented in Resolution 5/2011. The Committee noted also in its review, during 2012-13, that all IPA projects would be implemented in accordance with the plans to accelerate the Reform Process as set by the Director-General on the new direction for 2012, and requested that the implementation of the IPA during 2012-13 be executed in a rigorous manner so as to assure that there were no requests for carrying forward IPA funding from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

Dear Members of the Council, these are the decisions we arrived at at the 134th Session of the Council, which we are submitting to you now for approval. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président, la présentation comme nous avons souhaitée, succincte, rapide, puisque vous avez eu les documents, qui ont été anticipé au Comité. Je remercie les uns et les autres de cette brièveté qui permet d'assurer la discussion. Comme convenu, les Présidents des Conférences régionales qui ont quelques éléments à apporter au débat peuvent le faire tout de suite ou à l'intérieur du débat, puisque maintenant je vais donner la parole à l'ensemble du Conseil sur ce sujet.

Si un Président de Conférence régionale veut dire une chose supplémentaire sur ce point-là, je lui cèderai la parole.

Je rappelle aux Membres du Conseil qu'il faut appuyer sur le bouton rouge pour que votre nom soit indiqué sur l'écran. Le bouton rouge clignote jusqu'au moment où vous prenez la parole.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

The North America Region appreciates the work of the Secretariat on the full implementation of the remaining IPA actions. It has been underlined to Member Nations on a number of occasions that many of the remaining actions are complex. We reiterate our concern with the number of actions that face significant delays in implementation, with five due to be completed only by 2013.

We strongly recommend that the Secretariat make every effort to complete all IPA actions before the next Conference. Successful acceleration, completion, and mainstreaming of the IPA with corresponding integration into both the practices and the policies of the Organization can only result in improved effectiveness and efficiency. We expect the IPA to be concluded within the agreed timeframe, and its earlier completion would be seen positively. But we do not want to see quality of implementation sacrificed for speed. It may be determined that the full timeframe is required for implementation, and we would accept that as well.

At the end of this period, we would expect to see remaining IPA items and their costs mainstreamed into the next Programme of Work and Budget. However, mainstreaming should not imply any lessening of interest in the results and impact of the implementation of actions taken under the IPA and the need for ongoing monitoring by Member Nations. In this regard, we particularly welcome the change in emphasis to identifying the outcomes and benefits of the Reform Process, rather than just the completion of the actions.

We do request that the Secretariat outline the timeline or expected process to ensure Member Nations are informed on the results of the IPA benefits exercise. We welcome the prospect of a briefing on this subject soon. We also recognized, during our Informal Regional Conference that Member Nations

have responsibility for moving forward on IPA actions related to governance, and look forward to progress in that regard as consensus may allow.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I will certainly try to be brief but, as you know, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and the acceding country to the EU, Croatia. The candidate countries to the EU: Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU notes that the Finance and Programme Committees already assessed the Annual Report. We would like to thank the Secretariat for making the assessment of the IPA Programme available alongside the document CL 144/10. We appreciate the progress made, but we also concur with the conclusion in the Marnett Report that efforts now must be made to one, complete and mainstream all IPA actions and, two, enable the desired fundamental and systemic changes to be truly anchored in the IPA vision and measures in the Organization.

Culture Change, as mentioned in paragraph 82, remains a vital objective. This is one of the most important opportunities for the Director-General to renew the culture within FAO. What kind of leadership will he show to realize the desired Culture Change and improve the impact of FAO? The EU invites the Director-General to present his ideas and strategy on this.

An integral part of Culture Change is communications between Management and staff, between staff and staff, between Headquarters and the Field, and between the Organization and its Members. All of these communications avenues must be open for clear, transparent two-way communication in order to build consensus, understanding, and trust. Furthermore, we look forward to the results of the benefit realization initiative launched by Management to truly see how the IPA has promoted efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in the Organization. It would be interesting to see figures on, for instance, what savings the common procurement team mentioned in paragraph 40 have taken place.

Efforts in Human Resources management must continue to aim for a modern and efficient structure where timely recruitment is made on merit, experience is gained both at Headquarters and in the Field, and mobility works both ways, and where staff is trained to shoulder both accountability and technical responsibilities. We strongly encourage to make the gender aptitude and responsibility for both Management and work a core competence, and to have the Organization report back to Member Nations about this.

The awareness of risks and their management has grown, which will affect the sustainability of actions positively. This trend must continue until risk awareness is truly mainstreamed. The increased reliance on information and communication technologies must be considered both in the light of smoother, cheaper operations and the risk levels involved.

As concerns the OIG's Risk-based Audit, we would like to be certain that it conforms to international professional standards and not just general compliance. As we are nearing the completion of the IPA implementation, we support Management's efforts to go beyond the Renewal Process prompted by the IEE and transform FAO into an organization that is constantly identifying and implementing better and fully transparent ways of working, as it is indicated in paragraph 115, and thus be in a position to address changes in conditions and new challenges.

We also invite FAO to come forward with concrete steps toward transparent and results-oriented cooperation with the private sector and research institutions. The Finance Committee expressed, one month ago, concerns about the difficulties in implementation of individual IPA projects such as results-based budgeting, results-based management, and IT. We would like to be informed about appropriate steps taken by the Secretariat in this regard.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we take the opportunity to reiterate the need to protect FAO's competences as a global knowledge organization, to further develop its normative capacities, to preserve its comparative advantages, to maintain its Centre of Excellence, and to strengthen its convening capacities and ability to execute agreed technical programmes.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Secretariat for this paper. I think it's a really good summary and a good analysis of the status of the IPA.

Australia has long been a supporter of the IPA and the reforms it helps bring to FAO. Australia certainly recognizes the good progress made towards completion of the IPA process over the last year. In particular, we want to give support to the Director-General's new effort to conclude most of the outstanding IPA actions by the end of this current year.

However, we want to clearly reiterate our view that all IPA actions should be completed by the end of 2013 as agreed. In this regard, we note the concern by the Finance Committee about difficulties in implementation encountered by individual IPA projects, such as results-based budgeting, results-based management, and IT projects.

We strongly support the request from the Joint Meeting that the implementation during 2012-13 be executed in such a way to ensure there is no need to carry forward IPA funding into 2014-15. Despite this urgency, we want to see full, comprehensive, and timely implementation of all IPA reforms, with its outcomes echoing through the Organization. The conclusion of the IPA should not be a rubber-stamping process. Australia encourages FAO to move to a post-IPA Reform mentality where FAO will start a process to embed a culture of ongoing and continuous reform within the Organization.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind the Council that there remain a series of IPA actions that are the responsibility of Member Nations. Australia recognizes the leadership of the Independent Chairperson towards successful conclusion of these actions, and we want to support his proposal to establish a Working Group to advance these issues, including identification of the desirable qualifications for the posts of Director-General and negotiations towards agreeing on a budget at the Council before the next Conference.

It is, however, important that this meeting of the Council makes clear its requirements in order to deliver on its responsibilities. In particular, in order to reach an agreement on the level of the budget of the Council in April next year, the draft PWB must be made available to Member Nations well in advance of this date. We suggest a deadline of end 2012 or early 2013 be set, and written into the Report of this Session of the Council.

As we said in the last meeting of the Council, it is crucial that we consider the results and outcomes of the IPA, not just actions and outputs. Australia looks forward to receiving the outcomes of the benefits realization initiative which will seek to quantify these benefits.

Australia welcomes the External Assessment of the IPA undertaken under the auspices of the Office of the Inspector General, the Marnett Report, and commends the FAO Management for its release. This is an important Report and makes a series of significant findings and recommendations regarding the IPA. The Marnett Report outlines strategies on Decentralization and Strategic Framework and other key areas of reform which are associated with the IPA Reforms. In particular, the Report finds that FAO needs to establish a clear organizational vision, and notes the IPA may not be having the desired effect of fundamental change.

We look forward to Management's response to this Report which now seems to be posted on the Permanent Representatives Web site and for the opportunity for the Programme and Finance Committees to carefully study this Report and the Management response.

Finally, it is time that we begin to turn our eyes to the future after the IPA. As we noted above, FAO needs to embed a culture of continuous improvement within the Organization. This will be no simple feat and we cannot simply assume that it will continue to happen. We do not advocate an IPA Part Two, but we do request that the Secretariat and Member Nations begin to discuss what might happen from 2014 onwards.

Perhaps the Secretariat could prepare a paper for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees in either November 2012 or April 2013 on post-2013 Arrangements. For example, perhaps the IPA Programme Board could continue this work under a new name to oversee

improvements in practices, processes, and results. Such work would also need to reiterate ongoing support to the reforms implemented in the IPA.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I thank the Secretariat for the introduction of the paper. Mr Chairperson, since the Regional Conference did not discuss the IPA, I see no reason why the provisional timetable lists paragraph numbers on IPA from the Reports of the Regional Conferences. In any case, none of the paragraphs listed touch on the IPA.

Chairperson, by December 2011, some 80 percent of the 274 IPA actions were completed. The remaining 20 percent were expected to be completed in the current biennium. Both the Director-General and the Membership wish to see the completion of the IPA actions by the end of 2012. In this respect, we welcome the actions proposed in the Director-General's Bulletin of 19 January 2012, and the creation of the IPA Programme Board. We also share the remarks in the Report of the 143rd Session of the Finance Committee, especially the statement that there should be no carrying forward of IPA funds from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

It should be pointed out that the percentage of under-spending is higher for project number 5, reform of programming, budgeting, and RBM; project number 22, enterprise risk management; and project 23, Culture Change. We do not think that the Membership is satisfied with the Review of the Statutory Bodies, and more work is needed to complete the review for further consideration by the CCLM and the Programme Committee.

Mr Chairperson, we maintain our position of 7 May on the Marnet Report which was that the launching of the study was premature because the benefits of the IPA actions were not available. One cannot assess the impact of the IPA without knowing its benefits. We are still waiting for the benefits of the IPA to be assembled, verified, and shared with the Membership.

Chairperson, the IPA was membership-driven under the umbrella of the CoC-IEE and chaired by your predecessor, Professor Noori. The Plan of Action is a negotiated product of Membership and not of the Secretariat. Therefore, I find it odd that in the Methodology section of the Marnet Report, I am referring to page two, there is no mention of the team contacting the Membership for their views on the IPA. I represented the Near East Region in the CoC-IEE and I was never approached for any meeting with the Members that conducted the Marnet study. Members of the Programme Committee were not approached, and I presume the same applies to members of the Finance Committee. We do not think this is the proper practice on a topic which is of great interest to Membership.

Chapter three of the Marnet Report, Assessment of the IPA Reform Programme, comes up with conclusions, which were not substantiated by concrete evidence. There are many such conclusions, but I wish to outline a few for the interest of the Council.

Bottom of page 12 says, and I quote "We believe, however, that a major opportunity was lost in 2008-09 to retain the Organization's strategic priorities and to tackle the strategic choices and dilemmas the FAO was facing".

Third paragraph, page 14, and I quote "FAO has not yet drawn up a coherent and comprehensive picture of organizational design."

Second paragraph, page 16, and I quote "There seems to have been little attempt to assess FAO readiness for shared security, prioritization, sequencing, or capacity to absorb individual IPA actions."

I could go on to more text. The final one I will quote is on page 28, and I quote "The IPA accomplished much, but the change process was flawed."

Mr Chairperson, the overall recommendation and the seven other recommendations of the Marnet Report amount to starting the Reform of FAO afresh. We do not think it is wise to embark on another Process of Reform while the Organization is still to consolidate and internalize the benefits of the current Reform Process initiated through the IPA. We, therefore, do not attach much weight to the recommendations of the Marnet Report. We also find the Management comment on the Marnet Report not sufficiently critical. In fact, somewhat accommodating.

M. José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cap-Vert)

Permettez moi tout d'abord de rejoindre les paroles très sages et bien élaborées avec lesquelles vous avez si remarquablement salué notre très cher Directeur général Monsieur Graziano Da Silva, aussi bien que de remercier celui-ci de l'intervention si inspiratrice qu'il a faite devant cet organe, laquelle sans doute nous guidera dans le chemin que nous devons parcourir ensemble comme des partenaires dont la confiance réciproque ne cessera de croître.

Continues in English

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. Let me start our intervention on this Agenda Item by thanking FAO for the work that it has been doing towards full implementation of the IPA. We find that this Report gives a clear and complete assessment on accomplishments and benefits, quantitative progress, change management, and financial performance as we progress towards the complete implementation of IPA which resulted in quantitative progress and which is anticipated to actually take place with the completion in 2011 of more 78 IPA actions that, together, with 143 actions implemented in 2009 and 2010, brought the completed IPA actions to a total of 221, or 81 percent of the 274 actions comprising the integrated IPA Programme.

It is also worth noting that of the 41 of the 53 actions not yet completed, 71 percent are on track, two actions are proposed for deletion, one is reported as having minor delays and nine are reported as having major delays. In this respect, we reiterate our firm belief that progress cannot be measured just quantitatively but also, and above all, by the quality of the results we achieve that have to have a real impact on the lives of those who are the main and more direct beneficiaries of FAO actions aimed at promoting agriculture and food security for all.

In this context, we express much appreciation for the focus that has been put on benefits from the implementation of IPA actions aimed at contributing to the vision of the Reform Process and benefits, as well as on minimizing the risks associated with them. In this respect, we welcome the new direction as described in the second part of the Report by the Director-General to move from implementation of IPA actions to benefits of IPA, that is, to accelerate implementation and complete as many actions as possible in 2012 and to mainstream IPA in the work of the Organization.

We highly appreciate and encourage the efforts that the Director-General is putting together to move the entire Organization, meaning staff, Management, Members, and other stakeholders to make sure that IPA is implemented sooner rather than later.

We do support the Culture Change that is taking place for it is every day that passes, more an organization where knowledge has the same value as operational activities. We believe that this is very important for the future of the implementation of IPA. Having participated both in Luanda and the Brazzaville Regional Conferences for Africa, you witnessed the importance that our continent attaches to the Decentralization as one of the most important, if not the most important, key issues for FAO actions.

As you also know, the Africa Regional Group defended consistently this view throughout the CoC-IEE process. Therefore, we support the stand taken by the Director-General. I would therefore like to thank him and the Secretariat for having taken this on board and for having made efforts that envision delivery of our call that savings resulting from the implementation of the regular budget be applied to the real needs of the developing countries, especially in Africa, and first and foremost in a comprehensive Decentralization process. If we really want to have Reform meaningfully impact on our regional programme, especially at country level, the Africa Regional Group understands that this has to be done after adequate and agreed organizational rules and procedures are implemented. However, we also firmly believe that rules and procedures will only do good if they serve a purpose instead of becoming, themselves, the ultimate goal, the end for which we so heartily work together in promoting agriculture and food security in the world.

As a consequence, we would like to place the full confidence and support of our group behind the Director-General when it comes to the proposals that he made to make some structural changes in the Organization so that it can better adapt to the challenges that it has to face and to be more agile and fit to deliver the services that we, and especially the poor and hungry people, deserve. Even if we didn't

know how qualified he is or if he had not yet shown us how committed and how up to the responsibilities he is, one of the rules of democracy, which we believe to be a must in the Organization, asks for trust between electors and elected. We believe that all of us are willing to cooperate with him and strengthen the great capital of confidence that we were already able to build between us.

Last, but not least, in approving the measures proposed, we will be doing nothing else but demonstrating willingness to engage with a person who, through his actions, was already able to be such a great partner by listening to all in a continuous basis, and who has the necessary wisdom and constructive independence to take the decisions that we elected him to take when we gave him this mandate.

M. Essimi MENYE (Cameroon)

Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour la production de ce document qui donne des informations sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate en 2011 et traite des aspects quantitatifs et qualitatifs de celle-ci, tout en faisant des suggestions sur de nouvelles orientations données dans ce domaine en 2012.

Nous accueillons favorablement le rapport d'évaluation du PAI produit en janvier 2012, qui a examiné les sept Principes constitutifs du changement organisationnel de la Réforme de la FAO. Le Cameroun reste parfaitement solidaire de la déclaration que vient de faire la délégation du Cap-Vert sur ce document, notamment en ce qui concerne les aspects relatifs aux progrès dans la mise en œuvre des actions, y compris les recommandations tenant au rattrapage des actions connaissant un retard d'exécution.

Revenant sur le Rapport d'évaluation du PAI, il nous a paru opportun de rappeler le constat des évaluateurs sur le principe des leviers de changement, qui constituent l'ossature du processus de changement, basé sur les questions organisationnelles systémiques. Les évaluateurs ont fait le constat selon lequel, bien que les équipes de changement aient accompli un travail impressionnant depuis l'approbation du PAI, le résultat reste limité en raison du fait que le projet sur le changement de culture a opéré de manière isolée. Ceci reste une préoccupation majeure, même pour les États Membres, car la réponse des gestionnaires au Changement de Culture reste en deçà des attentes.

Le Cameroun soutient fortement l'idée du renforcement des capacités des processus organisationnels, y compris la mise en place d'une Politique de mobilité du personnel à l'échelle institutionnelle, le développement des capacités « redditionnelles », l'implication des gestionnaires à haut niveau dans le pilotage du processus de changement et la mise en place d'équipes pluri-disciplinaires.

Compte tenu des enjeux actuels et futurs de l'Organisation, la mise en œuvre des actions en suspens du PAI restent une nécessité, et nous encourageons le Secrétariat à prendre des actions appropriées pour ce faire, et si possible, en rendre compte au début de l'année 2013.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report. The Chinese delegation has seen that in 2011, the IPA activities have been implemented in a serene fashion up until the end of the year. Some 221 actions have been implemented, which is 81 percent of all of them.

Thanks to the implementation of the IPA, the Secretariat has made progress in terms of results-based management, integrated management, human resources management, and the reform of the administrative management system, Decentralization, and Culture Change.

The Chinese delegation agrees with the action of the Director-General to accelerate Reform. In light of the fact that implementation of the IPA has now entered a critical stage, we call on the Secretariat to carry out the reforms in a consolidated fashion, to benefit from the fruits of this process and to enable staff members to benefit with an emphasis on Culture Change.

There is a need to improve risk management so we may achieve the desired results. Savings also have to be made in programme implementation.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran thanks the Secretariat for a very comprehensive report and presentation of the document on the Immediate Plan of Action. The report is comprehensive and provides a good and clear picture of the Reform achievements, and especially provides information on the way forward.

I would like to thank the Director-General on behalf of the Near East Group for the new direction and the efforts undertaken. We totally endorse these proposals, especially the benefits realization which puts the Reform in context, and provides insights into the real spirit of FAO renewal. We appreciate the fact that the Director-General has mentioned in his statement that he has decided to maximize the benefits of the Reform by taking into account the changes and complementarities of the different actions in the IPA. This is what the Reform is about, and the real return in our heavy investment in terms of time and money will be realized only when it is considered through a comprehensive and holistic framework. Let me also thank the OIG for its transparency in publishing of the so-called Mannet Report. We do understand that this, as a Management Report, could have been used only by Management in the appropriate way. Its wide distribution is a good sign of Management's decision in being transparent and looking for mutual trust between Secretariat and Membership.

I understand that the Response to a Management Report is a new development in this organization, and the Near East Group thanks the Secretariat for the Response to this Report. We are all happy to see that the Report, in many aspects, endorses the new directions for FAO renewal, and it is encouraging to see that it is also consistent with Mr Graziano's five pillars and his statement during the last session of the Council.

We also agree with the explanation of the Secretariat that the Reform has had a profound positive impact on the business of the Organization. The impacts are present in the daily life of the Organization, from the geographical regions and the Regional Conferences to all deliberations here in the Council. The performance of the Secretariat has undergone major changes and has significantly improved.

Mr Chairman, we definitely agree with the conclusion of Mannet that the Reform has not had a deep effect on FAO. On this, I will not go into detail and only stress that the Near East Region fully agrees with the explanation provided by the Secretariat in this respect in response to this Report.

Mr KANG Hyoung-seok (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea congratulates the Secretariat and the Chairman in the implementation of IPA during 2011. In particular, we note that many of the key IPA achievements for 2011 are in the human resources area. We expect that the corporate Mobility Policy will be finalized and fully implemented at the earliest possible convenience.

With the expansion of the Junior Professional Programme, we expect that there will be a great opportunity for young qualified candidates, in particular those from the under-represented countries, to have the possibility of being selected to serve as JPP. Having said that, with 80 percent of the Renewal programme actions completed, we would like to encourage Management to accelerate implementation of the remaining actions and complete as many as possible within 2012 to ensure no requests are carried forward into the next biennium.

In this regard, we welcome the new direction for 2012 which focuses on the need to bring the FAO Renewal to a successful conclusion, as well as on the need to accelerate the Reform Process. We all support the shift in the focus of IPA implementation to that of outcomes and benefits. Regarding benefit realization initiatives, we expect more details will be provided to Members.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

India compliments FAO for taking action and informing us of the progress made so far in the implementation of IPA, and for substantiating the key achievements and benefits.

Having said that, we are concerned by the findings of the Mannet Report commissioned by the Office of the Inspector General regarding the late progress in respect of managing of regions, enterprise

resource management, human resources management, and IPSAS, and the newly-created acronym GRMS. We agree with the observations of some of the Members that sharing of this Report is an increasing sign of transparency within the Organization in an effort to build trust with the membership.

We ask Management to give priority to human resources management and its strengthening in view of the fact that FAO is a knowledge organization, and its assets comprise qualified and competent human resources. We also encourage Management to implement the IPSAS-compliant accounting system, and set up the Global Resource Management System within the newly-defined timeline, that is, by the end of 2013.

We are especially encouraged by the special interest exhibited by the Director-General to hasten the organizational strengthening process and to usher in change for rapid organizational development. We are hopeful that actions not yet completed will be mainstreamed and progress to this effect reported to the next Session of the Council in December, after discussions in the Programme and Finance Committees. With these observations, we would like to endorse the document contained in CL 144/10.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Me sumo a la felicitación del Informe. Sin embargo hago tres observaciones. Hago más las palabras del Director General, no puede seguir la FAO reformándose eternamente y da instrucciones a la unidad de gestión del programa PIA (Plan Inmediato de Acción) para agilizar las reformas.

Es de entender que este Consejo, con determinadas atribuciones y otras atribuciones del Director General, autorizó la puesta en práctica del Plan Inmediato de Acción, que llevamos cuatro años. Un Plan de Acción tiene tres etapas: la elaboración de las medidas, la puesta en práctica de las medidas y la evaluación de los resultados de las medidas puestas en práctica. Y del Informe lo que tenemos es que de las 274 medidas propuestas para reformar la FAO, en 221 de ellas se ha terminado su elaboración. El mismo Director General dice que una de las cosas fundamentales es incorporar las medidas del plan en el trabajo de la Organización. Bien, a mi me gustaría recomendar, como Consejo, dos cosas: uno, un cronograma de actividades para esta unidad de gestión que nos diga cuándo las últimas 53 medidas que están por estudiarse o que se están ya estudiando llegarán a su término. Dos, quisiera la incorporación de las medidas en la ejecución y un Informe del Director General que nos diga los beneficios, los resultados obtenidos y las ventajas que ha logrado la FAO después de cuatro años de estudiar medidas de cambio, para no seguir cambiando la FAO eternamente.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We appreciate the comprehensive report in which we can see that the IPA actions are steadily proceeding. We endorse the document as many Council Members stated, and we also appreciate the elaboration by Mr Benfield and his team.

We do not go into details but would like to make one general comment on the progress achieved in this year. We understand that the main focus of the document is on the annual reporting for 2011, and that therefore most of the descriptions are the achievements made in the last year. However, this is the first official report of Director-General Graziano Da Silva, and the IPA is by all means one of our priorities.

So, we think that more emphasis could have been put on the progress under the leadership of new Director-General Graziano Da Silva. In other words, the Report could have demonstrated what the Director-General has emphasized since the beginning of this year. They are: 1) benefits are being realized; and 2) accelerated actions are being taken towards a successful conclusion of the IPA.

In this context, we appreciate that the Report includes Part II, although the description of Part II does not include concrete examples of progress. Paragraph 139, the last paragraph of the main text, says that progress will be shared with Members in an Informal Briefing during the second quarter of this year. So we wish to be briefed on the full picture of progress at an opportune occasion, regardless if it is formal or informal.

In this connection, we appreciate the comments of Management to the Mannet Report. We read it through during the lunchtime today while digesting quinoa, and it is worth discussion at a different opportunity as the Australian Vice-Chairperson said.

Finally, we thank again the Secretariat for its efforts and look forward to the next Report to the Council, which will highlight the benefits achieved and the effects of accelerated actions.

Sr. Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Mi delegación agradece este Informe anual sobre la aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción (PIA) que revela los progresos que se han alcanzado en su aplicación durante este último año. Desde que la FAO se embarcó en el ejercicio de Reforma y se diseñó este Plan, se ha estado aplicando. Al mismo tiempo, la Organización ha elegido un nuevo Director General que nos ha dado su visión sobre este ejercicio del PIA en su Boletín del 19 de enero de 2012.

Mi delegación comparte su orientación general de que la FAO no puede pasar el tiempo indefinidamente reformándose. Este ejercicio debe de concluir de la mejor manera posible en los plazos previstos. Mi delegación quisiera que para este ejercicio tuviéramos un Informe Final en la Conferencia de 2013, es decir, no llevarlo hasta el fin de ese año sino ojalá podamos tener un Informe Final de todo el Plan para la Conferencia.

También compartimos el punto de vista del Director General de que es importante pasar a los beneficios concretos que da el Plan Inmediato de Acción y no quedarnos simplemente en la aplicación de las medidas o los programas que fueron aprobados. Estamos de acuerdo todos en que la Organización se sometió a este ejercicio de Reforma para lograr un cambio sistémico global. En ese sentido, el Informe plantea dudas muy significativas sobre cómo está permeando este cambio sistémico global en toda la Organización. Me parece que ese deberá ser el mayor interés de parte de los Países Miembros en los próximos meses para ver cómo se logra ese cambio sistémico global. Queremos una Organización en donde exista una mayor comunicación entre el Director General y los Países Miembros, entre la Sede y las Oficinas en el terreno, una Organización que ante todo sea más eficaz, más eficiente en erradicar el hambre de nuestro planeta, y que esta Organización lo haga, desde luego, con mayor transparencia y rendición de cuentas.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Realmente no pedí la palabra, la máquina se activó por sí sola. Pero no obstante, aprovecho para agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por este Informe realmente amplio que efectivamente refleja los avances del Proceso de Reforma de la FAO.

Mi delegación efectivamente suscribe lo ya dicho por el Embajador Barbosa de Cabo Verde en nombre del Grupo de África, así como los comentarios de ayuda hechos por Camerún.

Sr. Gustavo O. INFANTE (Argentina)

Me uno al reconocimiento que han efectuado muchas delegaciones respecto al excelente trabajo de la Secretaría y a la transparencia con que se ha manejado el Director General en relación a este documento. Respalamos el documento CL 144/10, pero queremos destacar dos puntos: uno es que entre las medidas que sufren mayor demora en cuanto a su aplicación, se encuentran varias que están referidas a Reforma de los Órganos Rectores, y que ello nos lleva a pensar sobre nuestra responsabilidad como Países Miembros de la Organización. Y el segundo comentario es que compartimos la decisión de la Secretaría y del Director General en acelerar la aplicación de las Reformas.

Me alegra que las delegaciones que se han manifestado previamente compartan este interés en alcanzar resultados rápidamente.

Estoy convencido de que tenemos que mantener un criterio similar cuando consideremos otras propuestas e iniciativas del Director General. Estamos todos involucrados en un profundo Proceso de Reforma de la FAO que debe avanzar de manera integral. Es muy positivo, entonces, que avancemos rápidamente con el Plan Inmediato de Acción, y también será muy positivo que lo hagamos con otras iniciativas y propuestas del Director General.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je note que des recommandations qui ont été faites dans ce contexte précis pour que le rapport Mannet, qui est encore sous sa forme brute, soit redistribué et que le Comité du programme et le Comité financier se penchent dessus lors de leur prochaine session.

Nous prenons note de cela et nous attendons, au niveau du Comité financier, des directives du Conseil à cet égard. Nous avons également retenu l'idée qui a été émise, je pense par l'Australie, que le Secrétariat prépare un Rapport sur l'après 2015 pour le PAI. Nous attendons également de recevoir des indications, des directives et des conseils sur cette question. Je pense, pour ma part, que ce sont les éléments essentiels que nous avons pu retenir des interventions dans la salle.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, IPA Programme Management Unit)

Thank you very much, and thank you for your wealth of comments. It is extremely helpful to us to obtain your feedback in this way, and I would like to pick up on five or six general themes that came from the questions. The first theme I would like to pick up on is timing. There were some concerns expressed about carry forward from 2013 to 2014-15.

Let me make it clear. In terms of the acceleration programme, we are looking to complete as many of the IPA actions as possible by the end of 2012. Now, we will be holding an Informal Briefing, but in our work to date, we have only single numbers of IPA actions that won't be completed by the end of 2012. Now, yes, they are some of the more complex and difficult actions, but at this point in time, there is no reduced commitment to all IPA actions being completed by the end of 2013. So we are talking about accelerating, with a view of completing as many actions as possible by the end of 2012, and all IPA actions by the end of 2013.

I would also like, in that context, to address some concerns that were expressed about GRMS and IPSAS as projects that are subject to further delays. Can I say that the IPSAS project itself is not subject to further delay. The date of compliance with IPSAS standards has been put back by 12 months, and this is because to have ensured compliance with IPSAS by the stated date would have meant applying many resources to manual processes. Those processes, however, could be automated if we delay by 12 months, or the date of IPSAS compliance. And the reason that this is so important is because those resources are required to assist us within the GRMS project, in ensuring that we deploy one single corporate administrative system to all of the Decentralized Offices, including the Country Offices.

Now, when we look at this from a benefits delivery perspective, that tradeoff is a very good tradeoff, that is, to delay the date of IPSAS compliance so that those resources can be applied to making sure that we can deploy a single administrative system, which is a fundamental part of the move towards greater effectiveness and delivery at the Country Office level within 2013.

So there was a choice here, and we have received the Report from the Office of the Inspector General that also recommended delaying the date of IPSAS compliance. The project itself has not been subject to any further delays. It is intended that we will deploy the system at Headquarters in October-November of this year, and that we will have the system deployed in all offices of the Organization by the end of June 2013. That is the tradeoff in terms of the IPSAS date, but I would emphasize that the project has not suffered any further delays. It is a question of being benefits-driven, rather than sticking to the original timeframe.

In terms of the Enterprise Risk Management project, commitments were given there in the paper to the Finance Committee in terms of the proposed dates for achieving full implementation of ERM. If I can move, perhaps, to the statements about continuing the Reform, the Director-General, in fact, has made a statement that we cannot continue reforming forever. The Reform has to be systemic. It has to be mainstreamed in the Organization. We do not wish to finish this Reform in 2012 to start another Reform in 2013. It has to be mainstreamed into the Organization, and part of the way that this Organization functions.

So I think that's a very important point about what we'll be looking at beyond this Reform. And, indeed, you will see in the response to the Mannet Report that we are looking at mainstreaming some of the ongoing activities from the Reform. We will be looking at how to mainstream Culture Change

within the Organization. One of the criticisms to date has been that it's been seen as a separate project. So how do we mainstream Culture Change in the Organization? The Mannet Report also looks at the concept of an organizational development unit to support organizational strengthening. And we will be considering, during 2012, how to mainstream support for organizational strengthening.

So when we talk about beyond the Reform, we are talking about a changed Organization and the way that we will mainstream many of the ongoing activities from the Reform into our normal work. I think it was Afghanistan that said that perhaps the Secretariat had been rather accommodating in its response to the Mannet Report. The words we use are that Management has expressed some concerns and when you read the full response, you will see that we do not agree with some of the comments made by Mannet, particularly relating to the work to date on Reform. They do state that the IPA raised very high expectations among Members, Managers, and staff. They believe these were and are unrealistic and they make a statement that there is no way that the IPA, as designed, could bring about the transformation and renewal that Members were seeking when they adopted the IEE recommendations.

One of the items that we find missing from that is the huge beneficial effect of developing the IPA in terms of Members' relationships among the Membership, and also Members' relationships with Management. We do, however, go on in our response to state that we disagree with much of what they say about the benefits that will accrue from the Reform to date. I am personally working on this benefits realization so there are some very deep and transformational changes that I believe in, although they are described as being more at the surface.

But when we look at the recommendations that they are making for moving forward, then we find much greater alignment with their proposals for organizational strengthening, such as the Director-General launching the organizational strengthening process. I believe the documents that were considered relating to the Adjustments to the PWB, the Strategic Thinking process and Decentralization, are a fundamental part of organizational strengthening. They go on to make recommendations in terms of strengthening the field network and making sure we deliver on IPSAS and human resources management. And then they talk about levers of change. In our response, you will see that we have indicated the degree, with which we concur with those recommendations, and we indicate the actions that are taking place to support them.

The next point I would like to make is a point raised by Japan, about an Informal Briefing during the second quarter of the year. We would have liked to have briefed you during the last Informal Session on the IPA, but it was taken up with more substantive matters of Rio+20, etc. It is certainly our intention to arrange informal sessions with you during the summer period, and the items that we would like to discuss with you relate to our response to Mannet regarding the acceleration and the mainstreaming of activities, progress with benefits realization and Governing Body responsibilities in completing the Reform Process.

The final point I would like to make relates to the request for a Final Report at 2013 Conference. At the end of 2012, we will be producing a final comprehensive report on the IPA and FAO renewal, including a complete and comprehensive assessment of all of the benefits that have accrued or are accruing as a result of the IPA implementation.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Very briefly, there were several questions concerning savings arising from the IPA, and I would like to confirm that we are on track to realize all of the planned savings from it. These are summarized and quantified in Table 4, that comes just after paragraph 108 of the document, and amounts to USD 10,550,000 for 2012-13. This includes the full extent of the savings from the Common Procurement Team with the Rome-based Agencies which are also on track to be achieved. In 2011, the Common Procurement Team issued six tenders and awarded seven contracts, taking advantage of the combined purchasing power of FAO, WFP, and IFAD, and we are progressing with more tenders and contracts in 2012.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il me revient la tâche d'essayer de tirer des orientations pour préparer le Rapport. Elles sont de plusieurs niveaux, de tout ce que vous avez dit, mais aussi de faciliter le travail du Conseil jusqu'à la Conférence pour exécuter les points qui sont restés en rouge dans les tableaux qui ne sont pas exécutés.

Certains points ont été répétés par plusieurs d'entre vous, d'autres ont été juste soulignés, mais ils sont quand même dans les sujets qui ne sont pas terminés. Je me suis donc permis de faire un récapitulatif à la fin qui rassemble le tout pour nous permettre de le réaliser.

Je fais le point de ce que nous pourrions dire:

En point 1, le Conseil se félicite des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du PAI en 2011 et des nouvelles orientations pour 2012, et accueille avec satisfaction les nouvelles informations sur les résultats de l'Évaluation externe du programme du PAI ainsi que le compte-rendu financier comprenant le solde non dépensé de 4,476,000 dollars que la Conférence, à sa 37^{ème} session, avait autorisé à dépenser pendant le biennium 2012-13.

En point 2, le Conseil note que 81% des actions du PAI ont été achevées et 77% des actions en cours le seront à la date fixée. Il exprime le souhait que l'Organisation accélère le processus de Renouveau.

En point 3, le Conseil souligne que pour renforcer la FAO comme Organisation dont la gestion est axée dans les résultats, il est essentiel que les actions qui ne seront pas achevées en 2012 fassent l'objet d'un compte rendu détaillé à présenter au Conseil, précédant la 38^{ème} session de la Conférence en 2013, sur la base d'un échéancier communiqué aux Membres à l'avance.

En point 4, le Conseil accueille avec satisfaction les efforts du Secrétariat en vue d'insérer les acquis du PAI dans les activités du Programme ordinaire de l'Organisation, tout en maintenant la plus grande transparence dans ce processus, notamment au moyen de réunions informelles avec les Membres.

En point 5, le Conseil recommande que les Rapports à venir rendent compte de la concrétisation des avantages plutôt que de l'exécution des actions et note qu'une initiative a précisément été lancée à cet effet en 2012.

En point 6, le Conseil encourage le Secrétariat à poursuivre ses efforts en vue de la réalisation des bénéfices du PAI. Cela inclus en particulier, le Changement de Culture qui est tributaire de nouvelles mesures de gestion du personnel, comme la mobilité.

En point 7, j'ai rassemblé ici les différents points qui permettront au Conseil de terminer les actions qui sont en cours, puisqu'on nous dit, par exemple, que nous devons fixer le niveau de budget au Conseil d'avril. Il faut que nous ayons suffisamment tôt les éléments pour pouvoir le faire. J'ai donc récapitulé un certain nombre de choses qui sont, dans le cas du PAI, perçues comme encore inachevées. Donc pour assurer sa mission dans les échéances, s'agissant de la Réforme de la programmation et de la préparation du budget, le Conseil demande que le Projet de programme de travail et de budget 2014-15 soit communiqué aux Membres de l'Organisation le 31 janvier 2013. Le Conseil demande également que le Secrétariat communique aux Membres de l'Organisation une note présentant les modalités de préparation et d'organisation de la Réunion informelle sur le financement extra-budgétaire prévu par le PAI, au plus tard en septembre. Le Conseil souhaite aussi disposer d'un Calendrier provisoire des travaux du Comité de l'éthique indiquant notamment les dates d'examen des rapports des CQCJ, le Comité financier et le Conseil. Le Conseil demande aussi au Directeur général de procéder à la nomination du Médiateur au plus tôt. Voici donc les mesures qui sont perçues comme n'étant pas terminées, que j'ai récapitulées pour que nous puissions arriver à les faire avant la Conférence de 2013.

Et en point 8, le Conseil a demandé que le Secrétariat prépare un document présentant les grands axes de l'action post-PAI, qui a été évoqué par plusieurs d'entre vous.

Voilà comment j'ai essayé de rassembler tout ce que vous avez dit sur le constat du travail réalisé, sur les perspectives et le troisième point, sur les moyens qui nous permettent à nous, le Conseil, de pouvoir répondre dans les temps aux propositions du PAI.

C'est donc ce que je transmettrai pour écrire le compte-rendu, qui sera transmis au Comité de rédaction. Je vous remercie. Nous avons traité ce point en une heure trois quarts. Il nous reste une heure et quart pour traiter du point relatif à la Décentralisation, mais comme c'est un sujet important, je ne pense pas que nous pourrions réussir à le traiter en une heure et quart. Aussi, je vous propose de continuer le travail sur la Décentralisation jusqu'à la fin de la discussion. C'est à dire que, nous prendrons une ou deux heures de plus pour nos discussions si cela s'avère nécessaire.

Nous n'engageront pas d'autre point ce soir et terminerons le point sur la Décentralisation en heure et en temps. Même si nous sommes contraints de continuer après 5 h 30 sans interruption, nous avons discuté avec les interprètes afin qu'il n'y ait pas d'interruption.

Donc, c'est bien compris nous continuons après 5 h 30 jusqu'à la fin de la discussion. Je suis d'ailleurs content que le Directeur général nous ait rejoints pour nous parler de la Décentralisation, non pas, comme il me l'a dit à plusieurs reprises, qu'il ne s'intéresse pas au PAI, bien au contraire, parce qu'il pense que c'est un élément essentiel. Il dit simplement une chose. Il faut réformer mais il y a un temps pour la Réforme et il y a un temps pour l'action. Je crois que nous sommes tous d'accord sur ce point, mais il y aura toujours la nécessité d'ajouter quelques éléments. Je crois donc que ce dont nous avons discuté pendant l'heure et demie était tout à fait dans ce sens là, et le souhait est que tous les rapports qui concluent les différents points soient prêts pour la Conférence de 2013. Il a également dit que les points qui n'auraient pas été établis seraient présentés dans un Rapport Spécial pour en expliquer les raisons, si nécessaire.

5. Structure and Functioning of Decentralized Offices

5. Structure et fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés

5. Estructura y funcionamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de passer au point 5, sur la Structure et fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés. Les éléments pertinents des rapports des Conférences régionales, de la Réunion conjointe des Comités du Programme et financier seront également pris en considération. Je donne tout de suite la parole à Manoj Juneja, Directeur général adjoint chargé des Opérations pour présenter ce point.

Ensuite, s'ils le souhaitent, le Président du Comité du programme, le Président du Comité financier ainsi que les Présidents des Conférences régionales pourront intervenir avant ou pendant les débats.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

At the last Council, Mr Graziano da Silva declared that he considered "Decentralization one of the most crucial and Strategic Objectives of the Reform Process". Documents CL 144/15 and the related annexes on the FAO Web site demonstrate the strength of this commitment by outlining the concrete steps that are being taken to enhance the tangible impact of FAO's global knowledge on people's livelihoods.

The Director-General remarked in his statement this morning that he is extremely pleased at the outcome of the discussions on this topic in the Regional Conferences and at last week's Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Regional Conferences discussed regional-specific actions and their main proposals are duly reflected and incorporated in the proposals that you are discussing.

Last week's Joint Meeting also underscored the common thinking that exists between Members and the Secretariat regarding what needs to be done to enhance the performance and results of FAO's Decentralized Offices, and how these changes can be achieved.

The proposals in the paper are built on a number of principles including:

First, that more effective country performance requires fixing past problems, which may require a judicious reallocation of FAO's finite resources.

Second, that FAO provides unique global expertise and knowledge, and Decentralization will not come at the expense of weakening FAO's technical capacity at Headquarters.

Third, that Decentralization will be accompanied by suitable arrangements for accountability and internal control policies.

The proposals on Decentralization build on ongoing corporate actions which affect the entire Organization. First, corporate and national planning and priority-setting will be improved to ensure a direct line of sight from the top-down and from the bottom-up planning processes. From the top, we seek clear flows between Strategic Objectives, the MTP, the PWB, and regional priorities. These need to meet up with the ongoing Country Programming Frameworks and country work plans which will guide all of FAO's work at country level. This approach to priority-setting will provide a foundation to ensure that global public goods are transformed into country-level results.

Second, programme delivery will be integrated along the full spectrum of emergency rehabilitation development, and responsibility for programme execution will be unified. It is planned that by mid-2013, FAO Representatives will be responsible for all national projects with operational support from the Regional Offices and guidance, advocacy, and policy coordination by Headquarters. We look forward to providing a Report on Lessons Learned in the process by the end of 2012.

At Regional and Sub-regional Offices, actions are ongoing to strengthen technical backstop capacity, as well as administrative and management support to Country Offices. This is being done through a critical review of positions, skills mix, and improved information systems. Integration with Regional and Sub-regional economic bodies, including Regional Economic Integration Organizations, will also be enhanced.

At Country Office level, a number of key actions are being implemented including improvements in the selection, training, and mobility of FAO Representatives, closer integration with other UN Agencies, and improved administration and management in view of greater delegated responsibilities.

As the Director-General noted this morning, the proposals before you will not cost one extra cent to the Organization. They are fully accommodated within the existing overall regular budget appropriation. Cost implications for many of the proposed actions are negligible, and essentially entail a new, more country-focused way of working.

Some actions that have cost implications include:

- enhanced support to Regional and Sub-regional Offices in some key areas such as planning;
- partial funding from the Regular Programme of some Emergency Coordinators who are currently also working as FAO Representatives;
- progressive end of outposted Technical Officer Scheme for FAORs,
- reinforced collaboration with Regional Economic Integration Bodies;
- reinforced country presence in selected countries through additional National Assistant FAORs, where needed;
- temporary programme development positions in high-priority countries; and
- temporary partnership development positions in some middle-income countries, where requested.

I should highlight that many of these positions are temporary, and their continuation is conditional on a development of a field programme. As such, they will provide an opportunity to test a new model of country presence.

The cost implications are set out in Table 1 and amount to USD 10.4 million. This Table appears in paragraph 59 of the document. This figure of USD 10.4 million is equivalent to one percent of the total Regular Programme budget for this biennium. So, approximately half the savings that have been identified in the Further Adjustments to the PWB 2012-13 are reallocated towards the Decentralized Structures. This goes to substantiate that FAO's technical capacity at Headquarters is not being weakened by these proposals.

In conclusion, we are very pleased that the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of 31 May 2012 commended the Secretariat for the quality of the document, and supported the general

thrust of the document and the proposals contained therein. I thank Daniel Gustafson for the key role he has played in the preparation of these proposals. The Secretariat has taken full note of, and will duly act on, the requests, as set out in the Joint Meeting Report in document CL 144/16.

We look forward to your guidance as we work together to enhance the tangible impact of FAO's global knowledge on the ground, on the poor and vulnerable people's livelihoods.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je donne la parole à Cecilia Nordin, qui a présidé la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier des 31 mai-1^{er} juin, pour présenter son Rapport sur les points relatifs à ce sujet.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As Mr Juneja already said, we discussed this last week. We had a very interesting rich discussion and I think we will have it here as well. The Joint Meeting, as also stated by Mr Juneja, supported the general thrust of the document, and we did thank the Secretariat for its excellence.

One item that we discussed quite a lot was the arrangements for accountability and transparency, particularly for human resources, recruitment and management and also for impact assessment. We underlined the need for enhanced internal corporations as budgets and responsibilities are decentralized and we asked to have additional information regarding the control and accountability mechanisms for the next Session of the Finance Committee. I was happy to note that Mr Juneja said that we will have this additional information. Furthermore, we encouraged the Secretariat to continue the partnerships with all relevant partners, as well as the processes of concrete programming frameworks which are very important to successful Decentralization.

We hoped that this process will be finished at the end of 2012, and we also look forward to the Report that Mr Juneja promised us. We also underlined the importance of fully integrating gender concerns in all work, at all locations, and also the need for well-defined criteria for both the opening and closing of individual Country Offices, as well as capacity-building at the Decentralized Office levels, both the accountability and for technical expertise.

We commended the processes put in motion to maintain FAO Representatives and recruit them on the basis of merit, and underlined the importance of mobility in strengthening the Organization, both from Rome to the Decentralized Offices and from the Decentralized Offices to Rome, and also between different regions.

We supported the transformation of Sub-regional Offices into Technical Hubs, and the expertise provided would have to be adapted to local needs. We also supported the development of emergency and development operations integration. We would like to see a report on how that is going and what lessons can be learned, especially when it comes to integrating the elements of control and accountability. And also, we, again, requested a paper outlining the comprehensive post structure and the related funding sources of the Decentralized Office Network. I hope that is also included in the promise made by Mr Juneja.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Representative for Chairperson, Regional Conference for Near East) (Original language Arabic)

We certainly appreciate the excellent introduction given to us by Mr Juneja. With regard to Decentralization, we want to ensure that it doesn't have a negative impact on the Organization's capacities. I would also like to support the comments made by Madame Nordin van Gansberghe.

FAO has Regional and Sub-regional Offices in various developing countries and here in Rome. We may agree or disagree on many matters, but developing countries perceive FAO through the local offices with whom they have their daily contacts. The strengthening of the capacities of these offices is of utmost importance for this reason. They are a link with the Member Nations and we have to realize that there are also limited resources available. We think that enhancing the Decentralized Offices has to go hand in hand with an increased technical capacity of the Offices, at both the regional and national levels.

We also have to ensure that specialized human resources are available in the Near East as well as in other areas of the world. I think that the strengthening of the technical capacity has to go hand in hand with the financial resources that will make it possible to benefit from them. How can we draw on the capacity and experience of P5s and well-trained Representatives if they do not have the financial resources necessary to exercise their activities?

We have also noted, as Madame Nordin van Gansberghe stated in her comments, that the programmes in our countries are quite good despite the emergency situations which may also occur. We feel that it is necessary to integrate this approach with other national and regional programmes.

Another point, Mr Chairman, if I may, regarding the performance evaluations of the Near East Office: FAO has drafted a Report on that Office and has made various recommendations which have been approved by Management. Here we would like to support the request made by Lebanon regarding the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Working Group. Our Regional Conference also called on enhanced capacities for the team, for example, by establishing it in Cairo.

We would also recall that the Sub-regional Office for the Gulf and Yemen also exists, and has received the general support of the United Arab Emirates which cover the costs of that Office. We feel that further financial resources must be mobilized for this Office to be able to succeed in its efforts.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me touch on the establishment of a Trust Fund. Our Regional Conference was actually held in Rome with various Ministers, as well as official delegations, present from the region. This has made it possible for us to have very detailed discussions and we would ask the Secretariat to bear in mind the decisions that have been made during the Regional Conference, as well as reservations which may have been expressed, and to move ahead with the establishment of such a Fund.

M. Rigobert MABOUNDOU (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Je voudrais dire qu'en ce qui concerne la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale, les participants ont beaucoup insisté sur trois thèmes que j'aimerais amplifier ici en séance plénière.

En premier, la planification et la définition des priorités plus solides. Il est évident que l'avantage que nous tirons de la Décentralisation doit aller de pair avec la prise en compte de plus en plus poussée, par la FAO, des priorités des États, telles quelles sont définies dans les politiques nationales. Et cela paraît être une chose très importante.

Deuxièmement, il faut un Réseau de Bureaux décentralisés plus souple, offrant un nouvel équilibre entre les Bureaux des Pays et les Bureaux Régionaux d'une part, les Bureaux Régionaux et les Pôles techniques d'autre part. Cela veut simplement dire qu'en réalité, il ne faudrait pas que l'approche comptable prenne le dessus, surtout en ce qui concerne l'Afrique sur l'approche technique. Cela nous paraît très important parce que c'est là où l'on trouve les pays avec une demande de développement beaucoup plus importante, et évacuer les questions sous prétexte qu'il y a des problèmes comptables, conduirait nécessairement à faire manquer aux pays en voie de développement d'Afrique des capacités et même des potentiels de développement que peut offrir la FAO, ce qui serait tout à fait dommage.

Troisièmement, il doit y avoir un modèle intégré d'exécution du Programme, prévoyant entre autre une meilleure gestion des ressources humaines afin d'améliorer l'efficacité, qui est la préoccupation de tous, la responsabilisation et l'impact au niveau des pays. Et c'est un point très important, Monsieur le Président, parce que ce serait une sorte de saut dans le vide si l'action de la FAO dans les différents pays, telle qu'elle se développe à travers les bureaux de la Représentation, ne pouvait pas avoir d'impact, évaluable de surcroît. Il faut nécessairement que cette présence puisse, tout au moins du point de vue des opinions, surtout de la société civile, apparaître dans le rapport action-efficacité pour que la FAO apparaisse utile, non seulement vis-à-vis des États, mais aussi de ceux qui sont bénéficiaires de cette offre de développement comme, par exemple, les paysans ou bien les opérateurs agro-pastoraux. Sinon, nous aurons toujours un pouvoir sur les mots, mais pas un pouvoir sur les choses et ce serait dommage. Et au moment où la rénovation se fait au niveau de la FAO, de tout ce qui a été dit sur le rapport précédent, il est de plus en plus important que nous allions vers l'action, plutôt que vers les mots, parce que j'ai comme l'impression que dans nos séances, on parle beaucoup, alors que de l'autre côté, on attend beaucoup d'action.

Il faudrait que cela soit retenu et la Conférence régionale de Brazzaville a beaucoup insisté sur cet aspect. Enfin, il faut aussi retenir qu'il ne faudrait pas que ce qui va se faire au niveau de ce processus, se fasse au détriment de la réduction des capacités du Siège, parce que nous avons aussi besoin de renforcer les capacités d'intervention du Siège.

On voit très bien qu'il y a des suppressions de postes. Il faut tirer la sonnette d'alarme pour qu'un équilibre soit tenu entre la nécessité d'améliorer la capacité d'intervention du Siège à travers la réduction des postes, mais aussi pour retrouver de l'autre côté cette capacité d'intervention, pour qu'effectivement tous les pôles soient bien tenus.

Sr. Lorenzo R. BASSO (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

La 32.º Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe respaldó el proceso de Descentralización de la FAO y enfatizó la importancia de que la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas cuente con recursos materiales y humanos suficientes para vincular adecuadamente este proceso con los Países Miembros. También valoró el papel de la Descentralización en el oro de una mejor comunicación y coordinación con otras Agencias de Cooperación Internacional, como el caso del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) para trabajar dentro de un enfoque nacional en el apoyo de la estrategia de desarrollo más que en acciones puntuales de carácter asistencial. La Conferencia regional concordó con las propuestas específicas para América Latina y el Caribe, las cuales incluyen: mantener la actual Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas; fortalecer las Oficinas Nacionales con prioridad a las ubicadas en países de bajos ingresos y dando atención preferencial a aquellas con necesidades especiales como el caso de Haití; procurar vías para orientar los esfuerzos de las Oficinas en países de ingreso medio y alto con el necesario acuerdo del Gobierno para impulsar la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular; lograr mayor eficiencia en las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales aprovechando las capacidades técnicas en todas las Oficinas de FAO en la región, más allá de las fronteras sub-regionales; promover mayor colaboración con la sociedad civil, con el sector privado y con las universidades; ampliar la movilización de recursos y el desarrollo de proyectos en la Región, principalmente a través de la modalidad fondo fiduciario unilateral (UTF); ubicar los recursos humanos de la Organización en atención a su capacidad particular y a las necesidades de los países, y también considerar debidamente el uso de las capacidades nacionales.

La Conferencia recomendó también fortalecer, dentro del proceso de Descentralización y la flexibilidad administrativa, la Cooperación Sur-Sur y la Cooperación Triangular como ejes fundamentales dentro de las acciones de la FAO. Finalmente, se recomendó que los eventuales cambios en el estatus de las Oficinas Nacionales se lleven a cabo en acuerdo con los Gobiernos Huéspedes, considerando los aportes que los países han realizado y dentro de una solución de continuidad que evite la alteración de las actividades en curso.

Ms Nerissa J. COOK (United States of America)

Speaking on behalf of the North America Region, the United States thanks the Secretariat for the efforts they have made to develop the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network document. This is a good description of the FAO vision for a better functioning network of Decentralized Offices. We applaud FAO's efforts to shift emphasis toward country-level impacts and to focus on linking FAO's global expertise, knowledge products, and leverage with the needs and priorities of countries and regions.

We are supportive of the plan to increase the Professional competencies of FAO's Representatives at country level, to improve their career planning, to implement a rotation plan, and to make them the Managers and budget holders for their respective Country Programming Frameworks. This should help to integrate the continuum of emergency rehabilitation and development at that level.

Integration with other UN Agencies and with regional economic bodies such as ECOWAS in West Africa is necessary, and we would appreciate more details on what form this will take. We note that the West African example will almost certainly require the wholesale move of the technical team from Ghana to its proposed base in Abuja in Northern Nigeria. Security and logistical concerns, as well as financial implications, must certainly play a role in this decision.

The US supports the ongoing FAO Decentralization effort, and we reiterate the following points from the North American Informal Regional Conference. We would like to see a more detailed plan of Decentralization, along with costs for consideration and approval. Any changes to the adjusted 2012-13 Programme of Work and Budget must be vetted by the FAO approval process according to FAO Rules and Regulations.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I wanted to thank Mr Juneja for his introduction on this important issue and also, perhaps, to recognize the efforts of Mr Gustafson in the last six months or so in bringing us forward on this issue.

Australia very much supports the new emphasis of the debate on Decentralization. It seems to have moved from Decentralization being the goal in itself, to improved country performance being the goal, and this is a very welcome change.

Decentralization reforms remain one of the key outstanding actions of the IPA and priority must be given to implementation. We, therefore, very much support the idea of increasing emphasis and support for those countries most in need, and where FAO can make the greatest possible impact. FAO currently has a field presence spread very thinly across many countries, limiting its effectiveness in any one place.

Australia supports the paper presented and the recommendations it contains. We also support the recommendations of the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on this issue. We wish to make four key points about Decentralization, and bring them to the attention of the Council.

Firstly, on accountability, Australia supports devolution of responsibilities, but must be sure that the concomitant level of oversight controls and other checks and balances are put in place to ensure that such devolution is handled well. A recent review by the FAO Inspector General found that controls in more than half of the Decentralized Offices are either deficient or seriously deficient. This cannot continue. The discussion of these controls is limited in the paper, and considerations are of a general nature.

We, therefore, reiterate the request of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees for a specific paper on the controls and accountability framework in place in the Decentralized Office Network to ensure that everything functions appropriately. We appreciate Mr Juneja's confirmation of this paper.

Our second point regards merit-based selection and performance management. Australia very much supports improvements in performance management, and the renewal of contracts on the basis of positive performance. We welcome the merit-based selection for FAORs, including independent management competency testing. FAO's recent efforts to improve the situation should definitely be recognized.

Our third point relates to the role of the Regional Offices and Regional Representatives. It is a simple point, which is that Australia emphasises that under this Decentralization model, the Regional Offices will have a very important role to play, not only to coordinate region-wide activities but to supervise the actions and performance of each of the countries and some Regional Offices within its area. We suggest that the Council reiterate this role and the importance of high-performing regional Representatives.

Country Programming Frameworks. Establishing a system of Country Programming Frameworks will be crucial to prioritize actions at country level and to underpin a decentralized network, but these CPFs need to be a document that align with FAO's Strategic Objectives, and should not be just a wish list for governments. Establishing a system of Country Programming Frameworks will be crucial if we are to prioritize action at country level and achieve real results.

Finally, as the Co-chair of the Southwest Pacific Region, Australia welcomes the increasing focus on Small Island States as these states often have limited capacity and have particular needs. The proposed new resources in the Pacific are very welcome, and will supplement the existing, but small, presence that FAO has in the Region.

We note the suggestion that the Sub-regional Offices become Technical Hubs rather than focus on specific areas. We support this proposal in general, but question the reality of such a proposal for the office in Samoa, given the extensive distance from this Office to that of Asia.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

In a nutshell, Decentralization means bringing FAO closer to the needs of the countries. Therefore, it is important to know what the Regional Conferences say. The FAO Regional Conference made the following comments and observations on Decentralization.

One, they said there should be greater support for strengthening Decentralization, but not at the expense of weakening the technical capacity of FAO Headquarters.

Two, requests were made for better autonomy and authority of the Decentralized Offices, but also with full responsibility for accountability in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

Three, the leadership quality and dynamism of the Regional Representatives, the Coordinator of Sub-regional Offices, and the FAORs was considered an essential element in the effectiveness and impact of Decentralization. Hence, greater attention needs to be given to their recruitment, which brings us to a sound HR development policy which the Director-General wishes to put in place.

Four, to maintain the current fully-fledged Country Offices. Some Regional Conferences requested additional Country Offices. These are primarily in Asia and the Pacific Region and in Central Asia.

Five, there was strong support for transforming Sub-regional Offices into technical hubs, with a multi-disciplinary team tailored to the requirements of the countries that it is expected to serve.

Six, a strong FAO Country Office was endorsed which should be capable of producing a good CPF, enhanced partnership, and which should mobilize resources, especially under unilateral trust fund projects.

Seven, to make the FAOR the budget holder of development and emergency projects.

Eight, the Regional Conference highlighted some other issues also, namely, the emphasis on gender empowerment, South-South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation and recruitment of local expertise, when available.

In addition to what the Regional Conference said, we would like to emphasize the following five additional points. First, we think it is important to re-examine the criteria justifying the opening of Country Offices. We feel that the scope of the CPF should be the determining factor in deciding whether a fully-fledged Country Office is needed or not.

Second, we welcome the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 which allow for an additional sum of USD 10.4 million in support to Decentralization.

Three, we think the balance in the distribution of net appropriation between Country Offices and the Regional and Sub-regional Offices is crucial. I think this point was also made by the Chairperson of the Africa Regional Conference.

Four, we think it is advisable that the Coordinator of the Technical Hub be a person specialized in policy work, and with sufficient field experience.

My final point is that Decentralization has its value when it performs under one flag, that means one FAO. For this reason, the contact between different units in the Regional Offices and their counterparts in FAO Headquarters is indispensable. This historical link needs to be protected even though the Technical Officer in the Regional Offices will be reporting directly to the regional ADG.

Sr. Antonino MARQUEZ PORTO E SANTOS (Brasil)

Muy brevemente, mi delegación apoya el documento y las propuestas sobre la estructura y operaciones de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas. El documento contiene aspectos relacionados a la nueva visión sobre la Descentralización que nosotros consideramos muy positiva. Brasil espera que el esfuerzo de la Descentralización permita a la Organización también de fortalecer su actuación como centro de capacitación y de difusión de conocimientos, tecnologías e innovaciones, apoyando y

estimulando también la formación de las Redes regionales o más ampliamente actuando entre las situaciones de investigaciones académicas. En este sentido, pensamos que es muy buena la idea contenida en el documento CL 144/19 relativo al establecimiento de la Plataforma intergubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicios de los eco-sistemas.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Mr Chairman, we appreciate the spirit with which you are chairing our meeting and welcome the Director-General to this discussion, which is very important to the Africa Group. His intervention this morning was clear and inspiring. It set the tone for our common endeavor to make this Organization effective and efficient in the fight against hunger and poverty that still affects a great number of people in the world, particularly in developing countries.

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group and first of all, I would like to associate the Africa Group with the intervention made by the chair of the Regional Conference for Africa, the Minister of Agriculture whom we welcome. We really appreciate the hospitality of the people and the Government of the Republic of the Congo and the way that he really guided the work of the Regional Conference.

Allow me, to express our appreciation to the Secretariat and to Mr Juneja for the clear presentation of this important document and for its good quality and detail. Let me preface my remarks by noting that the African continent is still faced with enormous challenges in addressing issues of food and nutrition security and aid. The continent of Africa is blessed with abundant natural and human resources which, if well employed, can ensure that Africa feeds itself.

The recent and ongoing events in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa, where hundreds and thousands of people are faced with famine as a result of drought and famine, demonstrate the urgent need for FAO and the international partners to strengthen the resilience and the preparedness of countries to withstand such shocks. The Africa Group, therefore, considers the Decentralization of FAO activities as a timely action to respond to the mid- and long-term needs of FAO Member Nations at country level.

In this regard, the Africa Group endorses the proposals for the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network as suggested by the Joint Meeting of Programme and Finance Committees. We believe that for FAO to maximize its impact on the lives and livelihoods of people, it needs Member Nations. The Organization's normative and standard-setting work must lead to development.

Last, with regard to the actions to strengthen capacity in the Decentralized Network, we welcome the ongoing review of staff to ensure that they have the necessary competence to fulfill their tasks, and that their career paths now include rotation in the Decentralized Offices to ensure that these Offices are served by the best and the brightest. This is where FAO impacts have to be measured.

We, however, hope that one of the competences that will be developed is one of fundraising. As Country Offices must become more adapt in finding innovative ways of funding programmes, given the current financial climate.

The second competence is gender mainstreaming, as our food and nutrition security programmes on the continent still fail to empower women and provide productive assets that will enable them and youth to be more productive. FAO must lead by example in this regard. Lastly, the FAO personnel must be competent at communicating the strategic thinking that underpins FAO's Strategic Objectives.

The Africa Group commends the work that was done by the Secretariat to provide a more detailed overview of the decentralized process. Therefore, while overcoming the specific actions proposed by the Report as contained in paragraphs 46, 47, 48 and 49, which advance some of the changes to be undertaken in the framework of strengthening the capacity of the Regional Offices for Africa, we feel, as requested by the Regional Conference for Africa, that the Secretariat should continue to apprise Member Nations of the major changes proposed in implementation. We expect to have a flexible and efficient mechanism to respond to the aspirations of people in need.

To conclude, we therefore encourage the Director-General to proceed in the direction outlined in the paper, while continuing to apprise Member Nations and partners of ongoing developments.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am indeed honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member states. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We also welcome document CL 144/15, Structure and Functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network, and we note the observations made during the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We also very much appreciate the clear presentation here today by Mr Juneja.

After years of discussion on Decentralization, without a properly-defined purpose, we welcome that Decentralization is recognized as a tool to improve the Organization's performance and impact in achieving goals at country level. It should also be seen as a way for translating knowledge, norms, and standards developed by FAO into country-owned policies.

What is requested of Council is actually quite demanding. We are supposed to assess whether the proposals presented will contribute to improved planning and priority-setting, to enhanced resource mobilization for a more flexible and efficient Decentralized Office Network, to a better balance between regional Technical Hubs and Country Offices, to better integrated development emergency and rehabilitation activities, and to improved human resources management. In short, do we think that the proposal will enhance the performance, accountability, and impact of FAO?

Based on the assessment made during the European Regional Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in mid-April and supported by the opinion of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committees, and noting that the expansion of the Decentralized Offices Network are fully financed, we actually think that this is the case.

With respect to the proposed changes in the Decentralized Network, the EU recalls that during the Reform Process, considerable efforts were put into the formulation of eight specific criteria now included in the IPA. These conditions should perhaps be reconsidered, but we will support the Finance and Programme Committees in their request for objective criteria and baselines before further changes are implemented.

We compliment in general the focus on upstream work and priority-setting with emphasis on policy analysis and guidance to governments on agricultural, forestry, fisheries and food security policies, provision of rural public goods and institutional capacity-building. We also commend the proposed catalytic role of FAO in South-South Cooperation, facilitation of cooperation at regional or sub-regional levels and the increased partnerships in the elaboration of Country Programming Frameworks. In this context, we invite FAO to come forward with concrete steps for a policy of transparent and result-oriented cooperation with the private sector and research institutions in order to create adequate capacity through private sector involvement at the decentralized level of the Organization.

We agree on the need for a flexible and responsive country impact-centered network. We also welcome that the expertise should be provided through moveable teams and that "one size does not fit all." The balance between, on one side, the need for decentralized multi-disciplinary teams while maintaining the critical mass of technical expertise, and on the other side, achieving the objective to function as one Organization with efficient work within Headquarters, is critical. Regarding these issues, we feel that further information on the two-way links, exchanges of experience, and reporting procedures between Headquarters and the Regional Offices would be useful, preferably presented before the next sessions of the Finance and the Programme Committees.

Regarding the proposal to transfer responsibility, management, and accountability for operations related to emergency and rehabilitation activities to the Decentralized Offices, the EU is, in principle, favorable to a better integration of development, emergency, and rehabilitation activities. We observe that the Organization is fully aware that a successful roll-out of this model requires the building of capacity in the Field, as well as oversight and audit procedures. We would like to be fully informed

about the impacts and lessons learned, as well as the costs involved, by the end of this biennium. And we note with satisfaction that the management seems prepared to accommodate that request for the end of this year.

The EU supports the increased use of cost-sharing agreements with Host Governments. We consider it very natural that large and middle-income economies become resource partners to FAO, and not beneficiaries. We fully support that further expansion of the Decentralization Network depends on extra-budgetary resources provided by Host Governments.

The staff issues are soundly dealt with. Obviously, FAO Representatives need to be competent and up to the challenge to deliver products and services needed by the Member Nations while furthering cross-cutting issues such as gender, climate, and nutrition. In this regard, we welcome the recent steps taken by the Director-General to enhance the procedures for the identification, interview and selection of FAO Representatives taken in a transparent manner.

Extensions of contracts should, as suggested, be based on performance. Career development should include geographic rotation, including to and from Headquarters, and service in a Decentralized Office.

It is envisaged that administrative support for procurement, Human Resources management, and finance will be established or strengthened at the regional level. The EU recommends that the Organization explores possibilities for sharing services with other partners within the UN System. The EU is also convinced that the potential for further efficiency gains from Shared Services at the global level is far from exhausted.

Regarding the specific proposed structure, we utilized the European Regional Conference to confirm our positive approach to the proposals regarding our own Region. While fully supporting the focus on the most needy countries, we will be equally sensitive to the opinions of the directly concerned countries in other Regions. The EU takes note that the offices in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey will be opened under the condition of high cost-sharing agreements with Host Countries.

In conclusion, we would like to stress that we fully support all endeavors to enhance the impact of the Organization through improved and well-designed decentralized structures. But Decentralization should not jeopardize the Headquarters' technical capacity, or the ability to execute the agreed technical programmes and provide global public goods.

In the report "Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Food and Agricultural Policy", which was discussed in the Programme Committee in May, it is recommended that FAO protects the excellent policy work conducted at the global level. The EU has noted the very clear promises in paragraphs 2 and 62, that Decentralization will not come at the expense of weakening Headquarters technical capacity, and we intend to follow up on that clear promise.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We compliment FAO for finally coming up with proposals for the strengthening of the Decentralized Office Network without requesting additional resources and by focusing exclusively on efficiency gains. We may recall that we have spent many years speaking about this issue, and it is heartening to note that the Director-General, after taking charge, has taken upon himself the task to accelerate the process of Decentralization. He has come up with very concrete proposals. This is, indeed, a step forward to reduce the trust deficit that exists between Rome and the capitals of many Member Nations.

We applaud the Director-General for translating the dream of many Member Nations into reality by accelerating the pace of the Decentralization process, and for making FAO visible and relevant at the country, sub-regional and regional levels. We welcome that the present proposal is clearly best to translate the normative work into better delivery at the country level. We are especially pleased that the Regional Conference guidance has been completely subsumed into the proposals. In fact, it is heartening to note that the discussions and the deliberations that took place at the Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference have been fully internalized and its recommendations accepted. And today, with the approval of the Council, they will be getting implemented very soon.

We also welcome the fact that Decentralization will not take place at the expense of weakening the technical capacity of FAO. We compliment FAO for integrating the development and emergency activities at the country level. We note with satisfaction the improvements regarding the selection and employment of FAO Representatives, and we urge institutional strengthening to support Decentralization, including the implementation of GRMS.

As Decentralization is not an end in itself, we would like to see in the future the broad contours of partnership of Triangular Cooperation, South-South Cooperation, raising of resources, and partnerships with the private sector at the country level once the Decentralization processes are firmly rooted on the ground. We are also looking forward to further enhancement to the Decentralized Office Network and to examine, in greater depth, the role of Liaison Offices in the future.

With these observations, we fully endorse the proposals contained in document CL 144/15.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing CL 144/15. Completion of the FAO Reform Process and Decentralization is one of the five pillars of the Director-General. From the document, specifically in paragraphs 11 to 34, we can see that FAO will improve performance, results, and impact at the country level, by reducing fragmentation, integrating all aspects of its work between Decentralized Offices and Headquarters, between normative and global knowledge products and through its actions in the Field and along the emergency rehabilitation developing continuum, and by promoting cooperation between FAO and its partners

According to the request of the previous Council and Governing Body meetings, the Secretariat and the Director-General have already taken a series of initiatives. The delegation of China supports all the initiatives of the Director-General and, at the same time, we hope that the Secretariat does not see the setting-up of a Decentralized Office Network as a mere redeployment of human, technical, and financial resources. The Secretariat should do its utmost to increase and integrate with country-level networks and human, technical, financial resources, in improving FAO's performance, results, and impact at the country level.

Regarding South-South recruitment for regional and country-level offices, stress should be placed on gender balance and equal geographical representation, especially representation from developing countries. We also urge strengthening training for staff of country-level offices to increase their capacity.

Finally, we can feel that Decentralized and Country Offices will serve to increase South-South Cooperation.

Mr Dr. Ir. HERMANTO (Indonesia)

First of all, we would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the Report. The Decentralization issues of FAO are a critical element in improving the Organization's performance through greater efficiency, accountability, transparency, and impact while providing support to Member Nations. We also wish to reiterate the aim of making FAO responsive to the needs of Members by introducing more results-based spending and priority-setting.

We would like to point out that all Regions, including Asia and the Pacific Region, need to have equal attention. The Regional and Country Offices need to be strengthened in order to better address the needs of the Member Nations, particularly the most vulnerable countries. This will require the highest quality of human resources and appropriate financial support.

The regional representation needs also to be observed at all levels of the Organization. With regard to the Technical Hub, it is necessary to receive further information on their mechanization and implementation, since these are new proposed schemes for FAO's structure.

We, therefore, would like to propose to the Secretariat to prepare a paper on Decentralization issues, especially on the Technical Hubs, to facilitate our common understanding.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

We thank the Secretariat for the well-prepared document and presentation. According to IPA, Decentralization is a critical element in improving the Organization's performance and a means of achieving greater efficiency, accountability, and transparency, as well as providing support to Member Nations.

In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of the role of Decentralized Offices in the country programme process and the necessity of the engagement of the Member Nations, as well as the close linkage between FAO's resource mobilization strategy and the country programming process.

We believe that Decentralization could not be seen as a goal of the Organization. Decentralization is one of the ways that ultimately should facilitate the modernization of the FAO's task and mandate in defeating hunger and upgrading the farmers' livelihoods and facilitate access of final users, which are small holder farmers, to FAO services. Clearly, it should aim to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and exploiting appropriate tools for serving the poor people and establishing food secure communities.

We strongly support the vision and new conception of the Director-General concerning the definition of Decentralization which refers to final results and goals, and not only to physical movement. In this regard, we praise the decision of the new Director-General to complement the development and emergency responsibility in the FAO representations.

Since one size does not fit all, we think the strong Country Office proposal with adequate numbers of technical staff and clear line of country priority and with the support of a technical hub, that could be flexible either inside or outside of the region, would provide a better management structure than the standard traditional settings.

With this arrangement, technical staff from technical hubs would have the means to provide service to any country from other regions in the framework of South-South Cooperation. Therefore, a more flexible Decentralized Office with strong Country Office leadership, coupled with Representatives of the highest quality in all countries are required to be able to lead the CPF process, coordinate technical inputs, mobilize resources from strategy partnerships, and manage sizable integrated development and emergency programmes.

Finally, we believe that the technical capabilities and quality of work of Headquarters should not be sacrificed to the process of Decentralization.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We appreciate that the Secretariat prepared the document which illustrates the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices. We welcome the actions being taken and projected and endorse the general direction, recognizing that inputs from relevant Governing Bodies including the Programme and Finance Committees and Regional Conferences are duly reflected.

We would like to make three general comments as a reminder, although they are touched upon in the document and have also been covered by many Council Members. First, we should recall that Decentralization is a means to deliver better, and Decentralization itself is not an objective. In this sense, we should examine if the scheduled actions are consistent with the Strategic Objectives which we are currently reviewing.

Second, we should ensure a reduction of fragmentation. We are not constructing many headquarters around the world. We believe in the words of Management which are: one, the functions of the networked FAO Offices in total will be strengthened; two, the functions of the headquarters will not be weakened; three, monitoring and oversight will be strengthened to ensure Decentralized Offices with delegated authority and budget responsibilities will function properly.

Third and last point, the structure of Decentralized Offices must be dynamic, and the Offices should flexibly be expanded or shrunk depending on the changing needs of beneficiaries. In this sense, flexible budget allocations and staff mobility are the keys and a principle of opening and closing of country offices is required.

Having said that, we thank Mr Juneja for the presentation. We miss Mr Gustafson today, and we look forward to the next Progress Report.

Mr KANG Hyoung-seok (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to extend its appreciation on the efforts of the Director-General and FAO Management regarding the implementation changes at FAO to improve its performance, results, and impact on the ground. We support the initiatives to strengthen the functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network, which reflect the feedback and recommendations from the Regional Conferences.

Having said that, we have four points to highlight.

First, Decentralization means a shift in emphasis toward measurable country-level impact for better delivery and value for money. It is needed to strengthen the capacity of the FAO Officers and staff in the Field. The active role of regional ADGs in resource mobilization and partnership with the regional stakeholders is critical. Regional ADGs should play a critical role in such activities as coping with the transboundary animal diseases in conjunction with the FAO representatives in the Region. Considering the critical role of FAO Representatives at country-level, we expect the selection of FAO Representatives to be finalized soon after the Council.

Second, accountability, monitoring, or internal controls should be highlighted together with the delegation of authority. Maintaining the delicate balance between the two is the key to success of the Decentralization effort. Coordination between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices is also important in order to avoid organizational fragmentation.

Third, Decentralization should not be conducted at the expense of technical expertise of Headquarters. In this regard, we appreciate continued messages from Director-General and Senior Management in this direction.

Finally, regarding improved planning and priority-setting, given the importance of strengthened Country Programme Frameworks in FAO's country-level work, we expect CPF will reflect country's priorities, as well as FAO's Strategic Objectives and that they will be in place by the end of 2012.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGÜERO (Cuba)

Cuba apoya todo el trabajo realizado por la FAO en torno a la Descentralización y, en especial, el empeño que en ello ha puesto el Director General con énfasis en el aprovechamiento de los conocimientos y la experiencia de los recursos humanos que existen en las diferentes regiones.

Sobre este importante proceso clave en la Reforma de la FAO, solicitamos que se mantenga información periódica a los Países Miembros y demás partes interesadas, en especial, sobre las medidas para el fortalecimiento y desarrollo de las Oficinas Regionales, Sub-regionales y Nacionales, incluido lo relacionado con los recursos necesarios para la realización de sus actividades.

Sr. Miguel RUIZ CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Agradecemos el Informe de la Secretaría, y la estructura y el funcionamiento de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas. Apoyamos todas las propuestas que contiene. Consideramos que es un paso adelante en este esfuerzo de Descentralización. Consideramos que la FAO puede llevar a cabo una Descentralización exitosa que no reduzca la eficacia de los servicios que provee a los Países Miembros.

Apoyamos este esfuerzo del Director General porque solamente a nivel de cada país se puede medir si la FAO ha sido eficaz en el desempeño de su mandato. La FAO es una Organización basada y promotora de conocimientos y es, sobre todo, una Organización que debe dar servicio a los Países Miembros. No creemos que la FAO esté en riesgo en este ejercicio de Descentralización, pero desde luego apoyamos a aquellos que piden información precisa, constante y transparente sobre la forma en que la Secretaría procede en cada paso en este ejercicio.

El fortalecimiento de las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales fue una demanda explícita de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, que se celebró recientemente en Buenos Aires.

Mi delegación quiere subrayar su pleno apoyo a las medidas que ahí se acordaron, y que están contenidas en los párrafos 55 y 56 de este Informe.

La Descentralización exitosa depende en gran parte del nivel y la capacidad de los Representantes de la FAO en las Regiones y en los Países. Por lo tanto, sí creemos que este es un esfuerzo muy importante: el perfil y los nombramientos de los funcionarios que estarán a cargo de estas Oficinas. Hay que fortalecer la capacidad administrativa de estas Oficinas. Hay que realmente asegurarse de que haya una modernización y uso de tecnologías modernas en el desempeño de sus labores. La Descentralización bien ejecutada fortalecerá la capacidad de la FAO para elaborar los diagnósticos a nivel de cada país, que a su vez permitirán promover Cooperación Sur-Sur, Cooperación Triangular y promoción de las mejores prácticas para aumentar la producción sustentable de alimentos en cada país para comparar aquellos factores que llevan al éxito con aquellos elementos que lo impiden. También, la mayor capacidad de la FAO promoverá la cooperación regional, sub-regional y a nivel de cada país con centros de investigación, el sector privado y organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I wanted to thank the Secretariat for document CL 144/15 presented to the Council. As we understand it, the measures proposed by the Director-General contained therein meet the goals of the Reform Process that has been implemented by the Director-General, Mr Graziano Da Silva. This has been confirmed by the representatives of the Regional Conferences who have told us about the decisions taken by those Governing Bodies where this policy received full support at the regional and sub-regional levels.

We think that this policy of making FAO more active at the regional and sub-regional levels will make it possible to considerably enhance food security by targeting the use of scientific experts and management expertise to specific conditions on the ground and with local support of countries. In this connection, we think that the Organization must retain its vertical hierarchy because feedback is very important.

Furthermore, exchanges of knowledge and standard-setting should be strengthened. What is very important is that in the process of Decentralization, the Director-General is supported by efforts of Member Nations, and this should be based on full transparency.

The Russian Federation supports the measures proposed by the Director-General on Decentralization.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We would also like to compliment the Secretariat for a very comprehensive and clear document. Mr Chairman, the subject of Decentralization has been under discussion for a number of years, and we are pleased to see that finally we have concrete proposals for making Decentralization a reality. We compliment the Director-General for giving priority to the subject and personally leading this exercise immediately upon taking up his office.

We support the proposals contained in this document as the implementation would lead to improved planning and priority-setting, a more flexible and strengthened Decentralized Offices Network, and an integrated model for programme delivery. We also note and support the changes for the selection and rotation and career development of the FAO Representatives. We endorse the emphasis being placed on internal control and accountability, as previous reviews in FAO of this aspect always suggested that before imparting or delegating functions, systems of internal control should be put in place. We are pleased to see that FAO is giving importance to this aspect.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Mr Chairperson, bear with me for taking the floor again but when I intervened, I really omitted some ideas that the Group is requesting me to flag. So I am coming back to say that the Group is requesting me to say that the Organization must take into account the priorities when it comes to Decentralization, priorities of Member Nations and regions through improved results-based planning and priority-setting. But this exercise, however, requires greater coordination and partnership with regional organizations, governments, farmers, pastoralists, fishers, civil society organizations, and the private sector, as well as the UN System, development organizations and research institutions.

In this regard, the Africa Group hopes that the Country Programme Frameworks will be an instrument to mobilize all stakeholders at country level, including development partners, and will lead to more coherent actions at country level. The Africa Group is happy to report that the number of Country Offices is well advanced in creating such kinds Country Programme Frameworks. The Africa Group also welcomes the integration of development of the emergency and rehabilitation activities, as we believe that this integration better responds to the needs of the communities and individuals. The only hope in the midst of a crisis is that they will be able to plant again, so that they can begin to rebuild their lives.

The Africa Group also notes with satisfaction FAO actions to strengthen collaboration and more active and sustainable engagement with the African Union and the African regional economic communities in order to strengthen the capacity of the Regional Office for Africa to develop regional strategies.

We also support the strategy views of TCP, but hope that there will be a paper provided on this issue. This paper should include better guidance on how to improve, and capacity-building to enable Country Offices to be fully in charge of project management, and consequently avoiding uncertainty and delays in delivering results.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Observer for Bangladesh)

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for this document and the Director-General for finally submitting a concrete proposal for the strengthening of the Organization's Decentralized Office Network, which is based on the principle of leveraging the normative and technical capacity of FAO to improve capacity at a country level in line with the priorities of its Members.

We have a number of comments regarding this paper. Number one, we need to be assured that the integration of emergency and development activities is carried out in a way which assures the continued capacity for resource mobilization and the effectiveness of response to crisis situations.

Number two, it is crucial to ensure that technical capacity in Decentralized Offices is supported adequately by the relevant administrative functions.

Number three, it is fundamental that a robust accountability framework ensures that appropriate control, monitoring, and reporting is maintained in Decentralized Offices.

In addition, we are happy to note the following about the paper. The Secretariat has listened, especially through the discussions in the Regional Conferences, to the needs of individual regions and sub-regions in terms of tailored requirements and priorities. The normative and technical capacity at Headquarters is not weakened. The process of selection and management of FAO representatives is strengthened. Planning and operational capacity at regional level has been enhanced, and the increased use of partnership and support to Member Nations are realities on the ground.

Above all, Mr Chairperson, we welcome the concrete nature of the proposals to meet the urgent needs of Members at the country level in the manner that does not recur overall incremental budgetary resources. Mr Chairperson, my delegation supports the Director-General's mission for the Decentralized Offices Network, and endorses the proposals contained in document CL 144/15.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

We thank the Secretariat for the submission of the document CL 144/15 on the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network. We also thank Mr Juneja for the introduction to the paper. We endorse the statement made by Mozambique on behalf of the Africa Group. We also share Mozambique's appreciation of the Minister of Agriculture of Congo Brazzaville, and also thank his country for hosting the Africa Regional Conference.

We would like to reiterate that in taking the specific actions by region as proposed in the document, Member Nations and other stakeholders are apprised of the details during implementation. We further would like to emphasize the point that in the interest of all Member Nations, regardless of the level of their development, that FAO, as a knowledge organization, remains Centre of Excellence, and its technical capacity to generate global normative product is kept intact.

However, we feel that the global product generated by FAO is not produced for its own sake. It is for the use and benefit of Member Nations and therefore has to be brought down to the field level for the benefit of the countries. This can be done through the Decentralized Offices Network, as proposed by the Secretariat. That is why we give our full support to this proposal by the Secretariat. We expect that global normative products generated by FAO have to be transformed into country-level results through the Decentralization of this Network.

And, finally, we compliment FAO for the proposal to integrate emergency rehabilitation and development.

Sra. María Victoria SALCEDO (Observador de Colombia)

Colombia agradece también a la Secretaría y valora enormemente el esfuerzo y el producto de este trabajo sobre Descentralización. Concordamos plenamente con lo expresado por el Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina, así como con lo manifestado por las otras delegaciones en Brasil, Cuba y México especialmente en lo que respecta a que solamente en cada país es posible medir el impacto que está teniendo el mandato de la FAO.

Reiteramos la necesidad de introducir una perspectiva clara y tangible que conduzca a ajustar con mucha agilidad los programas para que respondan adecuadamente a las especificidades de cada Región e incluso de cada país.

Insistimos que los mandatos de las Agencias de Naciones Unidas no pueden seguir siendo un traje de talla única que puedan aplicarse a todas las situaciones. Muy diferentes son las problemáticas entre una y otra región; y muy diferentes las lecciones aprendidas también. Instamos por esto a promover la Descentralización de la planificación para dar un mayor margen de programación, flexibilidad y coordinación a las agencias locales.

Finalmente, Colombia está de acuerdo con la afirmación que se hace con respecto a que la Descentralización supone mucho más que una simple reasignación de los recursos entre la Sede y las Oficinas sobre el terreno. Más bien describe un cambio de prioridad hacia la obtención de efectos a nivel de los Países Miembros y se centra en la vinculación de los conocimientos especializados de carácter mundial, los productos del saber y la influencia de la Organización con las necesidades y prioridades de los Países Miembros y las regiones. Para mi país, la Descentralización es la mejor plataforma de sostenibilidad. La Descentralización es un voto de confianza en las regiones, y un voto de confianza al mandato que todos hemos dado al Director General.

Ms Makbule KOCAK (Observer for Turkey)

Turkey also would like to thank the Secretariat for the very well-prepared documents on Decentralization. We know that the decision to pursue a policy of further Decentralization was based on three objectives:

- to bring to the Organization's technical and operational expertise much closer to those countries and regions where the need is greatest;
- to reduce the costs; and
- to make the best use of national capacities which have increased substantially over the last decades.

Today, the Reform Process began several years ago, must be completed and the Organization's internal Reform should come to a satisfactory conclusion as the Director-General already indicated.

As you know, after his Excellency Graziano Da Silva has taken office as the new Director-General of FAO, the FAO Reform Process has gained momentum. The strengthening of Decentralized Offices was recently discussed during the Regional Conferences held last month.

The outputs of the Regional Conferences highlighted that more importance should be attached to Regional and Sub-regional Offices as integral parts of the FAO governance, and especially Sub-regional Offices and Country Representations should be strengthened.

In this context, Turkey supports increasing the FAO presence in our Region. We support the opening of two fully fledged FAO Representations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and two Assistant FAO

Representative posts in the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan, and the proposed posts in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

As regards the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme, the Republic of Turkey provided the financial support of USD 10 million in five years for the projects in the Region. Additionally, our Government pays USD 300,000 annually to meet the operational costs of the Sub-regional Office.

The agreement regarding the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme is in the process of renewal for another five years. Moreover, negotiations of a similar cooperation agreement in the area of forestry for a period of five years are almost concluded. With the starting of these Programmes, the total contribution of Turkey to the Region will be increased significantly.

In the document, we have seen that a new post in Turkey is also proposed. However, there is no mention of the Country Office of Turkey in document CL 144/15 or Annex. However, there is a Country Office in Turkey and we would like clarifications about this new suggestion before taking a decision because we are worried that this proposal could decrease the capacity in the Region, and could have negative effects on Decentralization.

We believe that this proposal should be further studied with all its aspects and should not be put on the table for final decision before giving a further look into the issue.

Ms Madina KARABAEVA (Observer for Kyrgyzstan)

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent prepared documents. The Kyrgyzstan Government supports the proposals of the Director-General in strengthening the Decentralization process, which are contained in document CL 144/15.

As part of the FAO Reform, the Sub-regional Office in Ankara covers Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries. The FAO Office in Bishkek was established in 2009 and the Sub-regional Coordinator based in Ankara was appointed as FAO Representative. The Assistant Representative is a national and has limited authority and capability. Besides this, the staff includes one programme officer, one administration clerk, and the driver. This is definitely not sufficient to effectively monitor, coordinate, and implement the current 12 country projects, and the 11 regional, and four projects that are under development.

The FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in Baku recommended the FAO Council to open a fully-fledged Representation in Kyrgyzstan. Thus, the opening of a fully-fledged office in Kyrgyzstan is a matter of highest importance and significance for both FAO and the Kyrgyz Republic.

We are grateful to the Member Nations of the Region for their understanding and selection of Kyrgyzstan in the number of priority countries for the opening of a fully-fledged representation. We do not object to the proposal including items calling countries to make contribution and to cover the running costs of fully-fledged offices. However, we all understand that in this case, we are talking about countries with stable economies able to share knowledge, resources, and innovation. Nowadays, unfortunately, the Government of Kyrgyzstan doesn't have the capacity to finance the costs of office and staff. Nevertheless, the Kyrgyzstan Government is ready to make a contribution toward these expenses and to provide the office for FAO.

Given the priority attention and significance to cooperate with FAO, the Kyrgyzstan Government has signed the debt-restructuring plan with FAO for a fourteen-year period. Kyrgyzstan kindly requests Members Nations of the FAO Council to strongly support the decision of opening fully-fledged representation office in Kyrgyzstan, and make recommendations to the Conference in June 2013 to this effect.

Ms Tonje Liebich LIE (Observer for Norway)

We agree with many of the points already made, in particular, in the statement by the European Union. Important points have also been made by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in the Report from their 111th Special Session. However, we would also like to make one additional remark.

We do support the ongoing integration of development and emergencies, as the two are interlinked. However, in this process, it is crucial to ensure that the conditions are in place so that FAO can continue its very important and often excellent work in emergencies, including early recovery, and resilience.

In the future, FAO Country Representatives will have a very important role in facilitating the FAO's work in emergencies. It is as essential that FAO Country Representatives in crisis-prone areas have a thorough knowledge of humanitarian issues and can cooperate effectively with humanitarian, as well as developmental, actors.

Additionally, as emergencies are often unpredictable, it is important that a flexible Human Resources system is adopted which allows for the safe deployment of the best people to where they are most needed as soon as a crisis arises.

Providing effective support to such a flexible and operational system requires that FAO ensures that the necessary dedicated critical mass of competence and capacity is maintained, defined, and available at Headquarters and throughout the Organization.

To this effect, we support the request by the Joint Meeting that a Report on Lessons Learned is submitted to the Membership by the end of 2012.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, nous aimerions, tout d'abord, remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous a été soumis sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour. Nous souscrivons l'objectif général des actions envisagées portant sur l'amélioration de la planification et l'établissement des priorités, une plus grande flexibilité du réseau des Bureaux décentralisés, ainsi qu'un modèle intégré d'exécution du programme et le suivi et la supervision.

Il importe toutefois que toutes ces actions ne se fassent pas au détriment aux capacités techniques du siège auprès duquel il convient de maintenir une masse critique de capacité.

Pour nous, un élément essentiel de la Décentralisation est le développement de partenariat avec toutes les autres parties prenantes et notamment avec le secteur privé.

Sur le plan des actions envisagées, nous soutenons particulièrement celles concernant la sélection sur la base des compétences des Représentants de la FAO, l'amélioration de la Mobilité professionnelle, le Renforcement de la formation du personnel, ainsi que l'intégration renforcée des programmes autour d'un nombre limité des priorités.

Mr Beda Machar DENG (Observer for South Sudan)

The Republic of South Sudan has appreciated your decision of allowing this country to be an Observer in the Council. That is very much appreciated. With regard to the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Office Network, it is a good gesture for good governance, strengthening transparency and accountability for the effective and efficient delivery of services to the needy. It is the right time for Decentralization to be implemented by FAO.

Mr Chair, I wish to thank those who supported the Republic of South Sudan as an Observer to this Council Session, including the EU and the United States of America. For those who kept quiet, this meant that everything was fine. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Soudan du Sud. Je n'ai plus d'orateur inscrit. Quelqu'un souhaite-t-il intervenir à nouveau? Si tel n'est pas le cas, je demande à la Présidente du Comité conjoint, Cécilia, si elle a quelques éléments à ajouter dans le cadre de la discussion. Il a été fait rapport à son intervention, donc, la parole est à vous si vous, le désirez.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Very briefly, I would like to congratulate the Members of the two Committees. I see the opinions that we put in the Joint Meeting document broadly reflect the opinions expressed here in the room. It does show that we have worked very well together.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Cécilia. Je donne donc la parole à Monsieur Juneja pour faire des commentaires sur les nombreuses questions et les nombreux soutiens qui ont été apportées.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Thank you, Mr Chairman and I want to thank at the outset the many Members who have made interventions supporting the guiding principles and the specific actions that have been proposed in the Decentralization documentation.

As you know, this is an iterative process. We have been guided by the deliberations of the previous Council some six months ago. We have been guided by the Director-General's vision on Decentralization and, of course, have been guided by the outcome of the Regional Conferences. The overriding rationale, as you have noted, is to deliver country impacts by transforming our global knowledge products. This is where we, as an Organization, have our greatest comparative advantage.

It will also entail integration of our emergency and development activities, flexibility in organizational design, emphasis on partnerships, adequate, well-trained, and accountable FAO Representatives, and broader links with some of the cross-cutting exercises such as the Strategic Thinking Process which you will be talking about later this week, and the implementation of new systems such as the Global Resource Management System which was touched upon earlier today.

But what is important, I think, is the collective broader recognition that what we need to do to successfully decentralize, is to recognize that we have to move in multiple areas - what we refer to as people, process, organizational design, culture and systems. And we have tried to put these facets together, also in the Implementation Plan which is contained in the Web Annex that is also before you. This Implementation Plan could serve as a basis for - or at least an element for - further progress reporting to the Council, along the lines that you have requested.

Members have also recalled how long Member Nations and Management have been talking about Decentralization. In fact, some of the delegates I see in the room today will recall that we had a Decentralization Evaluation in 2003-04. Some of the actions that are contained in this document before you today stem from outstanding recommendations in that Evaluation, which was concluded eight years ago.

We're therefore very pleased that the Council acknowledges the sense of urgency in moving quickly with the proposals. We hope that you will allow Management to move swiftly with the recommendations that have been put forward, acknowledging that some of the actions that have been put forward will require some more review by the Legal Office, while others may require discussions with Host Governments and the like. But the important thing is that we receive an unequivocal signal from you that we can move with a clear sense of direction and purpose, and report to you periodically.

We will not have the answers to every single question that you pose to us, but if we recognize our common sense of urgency, that some things need to be done quickly, then we should be free to also learn by doing, with refinements and some adaptations as needed.

There were many interventions concerning the kind of tension that might exist between Decentralization and the Headquarters technical capacity. We would really like to move the discussion away from this tension, because we don't believe there should be a tension. The Decentralization Process can only be truly successful when FAO's field activities are seamlessly connected to its global knowledge products. We, therefore, must emphasize that the two are necessary complements. They are not competing objectives.

In the proposals that you have before you, I have outlined also in my introduction that there is no reduction in Headquarters technical capacity. I don't think that we should anticipate this for the future either because of the complementary nature of the Headquarters technical capacity and our effectiveness and impacts at field level.

Denmark and several others also talked about two-way links between Headquarters and Decentralized Offices, and this builds on what I have just said. We have proposals in this documentation, for

example, on functional technical networks which are communities of practice and more between the Technical Officers at Headquarters and Decentralized Offices. We have to draw some very strong links with our Mobility Policy, so that we allow Headquarters-based staff to gain country-focused experience, and *vice versa*. We also talked about the support and involvement that is needed from Headquarters staff in various initiatives, including successful Country Programming Frameworks.

So, these two-way links need to be strengthened. They need to be welcomed, and there are certainly no desires on Management's part, and there should be no desire on the part of the Membership as well, to create a divide between what has been described in the interventions today as the Headquarters technical capacity on the one hand and the Decentralized technical capacity on the other hand. We truly have to function as One FAO, as was also demanded by the Immediate Plan of Action.

As I mentioned earlier, this has been an iterative document, and we have taken careful note of the recommendations of the Regional Conferences. These have been reflected in Section Three of the paper, and have been quantified in Table One which appears in paragraph 59. Every Regional Conference called for additional resources for their Region. What we have sought to do is to incorporate the highest priorities expressed by each Region. We cannot satisfy every country that has intervened today, but we do believe, and I think that is the consensus of the Council as well, that we have, indeed, reflected the highest priorities conveyed through the Regional Conferences.

Admittedly, the Regional Conference of the Near East had not been held when we were finalizing the document but, based on the intervention made by Ambassador Janabi this morning and the documentation that you have before you just now, I think you would agree that even for the Near East Regional Conference, the outcome of that Regional Conference was nevertheless anticipated and duly reflected in paragraph 57 of this document.

I have also taken careful note of the guidance and the requests made by Members in the Joint Meeting and this is contained in paragraphs 11 through 13 of document CL 144/16 which you are including as part of your discussions under this item.

Many Members have commented on the guidance of the Joint Meeting. The Joint Meeting calls on Management to come back to you with further information on accountability, with further information on progress in integrating emergency and development operations, and so on. Based on your reactions today, we are committed to coming back to the Council through the respective Committees, reporting on progress on Decentralization as we implement the proposals that you endorse in this document.

There were also many interventions concerning flexibility and, as you will see from the documentation, this has been an overriding attribute of the proposals that have been put forward for Decentralization. Our starting point is contained in a guiding principle in paragraph 14 - that all resources in the region are used to ensure more effective and efficient delivery at country level. Building on this, then, the documentation confirms a desire to move away from the notion of Sub-regional Offices to Technical Hubs, Technical Hubs that are also able to provide services outside the countries of the Sub-regions.

In my introduction, I referred to more flexible FAORs, more flexible Country Offices with temporary positions. The documentation also talks about possible cost-sharing arrangements with Host Countries, and we talk about flexibility as we integrate emergency and development programmes at country level. I should, therefore, like to underline that flexibility is embodied in the design of the Director-General's proposals on Decentralization.

There were also several comments made about criteria for opening Country Offices. Here I would reflect in particular on a request made by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and an observation made by Afghanistan. For Country Offices, the IEE had called for application of firm criteria and the Membership spent hours, weeks, months, and actually years of discussion, and the matter did not really progress to everyone's satisfaction. I would hope that you would also see fit to conclude that the discussion on Country Offices and criteria for opening and closing Country Offices has progressed. We talk now about a flexible model for Country Offices. You have talked about the fundamental role of the Country Programming Frameworks, and the underlying Country Action Plans. This is what will define the extent of and the importance of FAO's service to countries.

What we therefore hope and look forward to is a different kind of discussion with the Membership on country coverage. Just like today, we're having a different type of dialogue on Decentralization itself because it has been framed in a different fashion than it was previously.

There were several interventions on the quality of FAORs and, indeed this is one of the critical success factors that have been identified in the Decentralization proposals. Here I would like to inform you, as several of you know, that the Director-General Bulletin 2012/25 has been finalized and is available on the Permanent Representatives' Website. It refers to preference being given to candidates, if possible, who have already worked in FAO. It refers to the selection process of FAORs comprising the ADG Regional Representatives so that the Regional Representative is himself or herself empowered and accountable in overseeing the FAORs, including their performance. The Director-General Bulletin talks of conducting a competency-based interview and, in particular, an assessment, an independent external assessment, of managerial competencies. And, furthermore, the Director-General Bulletin talks of the importance that will be given to the evaluation of performance of the FAORs. So, therefore, this is a very clear signal that, indeed, the quality of FAORs is an area to which the Director-General attaches a paramount importance and on which action has been taken.

Finally, just one point of clarification that was raised by the United States of America in connection with the collaboration with ECOWAS in Abuja. I wanted to clarify that the proposal here is not for additional resources. We already have a presence in Abuja, and the proposal as contained in paragraph 46 is to modify the terms of reference of the FAO Representative to reflect this new role.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie d'avoir répondu le plus précisément possible à toutes ces interventions qui ont été nombreuses, complémentaires, positives et, comme l'a dit Cécilia, tout à fait en lien aussi avec le travail qui a été fait au Comité conjoint.

Je vais essayer de faire, malgré la richesse des interventions, la synthèse de tout ce que vous avez dit pour donner une orientation au Conseil.

En premier point, le Conseil a manifesté son accord sur l'orientation générale du document et les actions spécifiques portant sur les questions suivantes: amélioration de la planification et de l'établissement des priorités, un réseau de bureaux décentralisés plus flexible, un modèle intégré d'exécution du programme.

Au point deux, le Conseil rappelle que le renforcement du fonctionnement du réseau de bureaux décentralisés ne doit pas mener à un affaiblissement des capacités au siège. À ce sujet, le Conseil fait sienne la volonté du Secrétariat de mener son action dans l'unité.

En trois, le Conseil souligne la nécessité d'accompagner le processus de Décentralisation avec un renforcement de redevabilité, transparence et cohérence de l'Organisation, l'importance de renforcer la coopération et l'échange de connaissances internes entre le Siège et les bureaux décentralisés car les budgets et les responsabilités seront décentralisés et les connaissances techniques seront plus dispersées.

À cet effet, le Conseil demande la mise en place de mesures concrètes de suivi des performances des Bureaux décentralisés, l'importance de planifier des partenariats avec les Organismes régionaux d'intégration économique et d'autres organismes régionaux avec les institutions nationales et régionales, les Agences de l'ONU y compris, les Agences basées à Rome ainsi qu'avec le secteur privé, les universités, les organismes de recherche et la société civile.

L'importance des Cadres de programmation par pays (CPP) pour établir les priorités sur la collaboration entre les Gouvernements et la FAO sur la base des priorités des pays. Les cadres de programmation de pays devront être mis en place dans la mesure du possible d'ici la fin de l'année 2012 afin de fournir l'information nécessaire pour la préparation de la mise en œuvre du prochain PTB et pour servir de guide flexible pour l'emploi des ressources des Bureaux de pays. L'importance de la formation du personnel dans les Bureaux décentralisés à la fois pour assumer les nouvelles responsabilités et pour fournir l'expertise technique et ce dans un contexte de parité homme femme.

En quatre, le Conseil insiste sur l'importance de la coopération Sud-Sud et de la Collaboration Triangulaire dans le cadre des activités décentralisées de l'Organisation.

En cinq, le Conseil se félicite du processus de recrutement et de prolongation de contrats des représentants de la FAO basé sur le mérite et souligne l'importance de la mobilité du personnel professionnel entre le Siège et le Terrain. Le Conseil appuie la transformation des Bureaux sous-régionaux en Pôles techniques, et note que l'expertise fournie devra être adaptée aux besoins locaux. Le Conseil soutient l'intégration des opérations de développement et d'urgence et attend un rapport sur les leçons apprises sur le processus.

Enfin en pour conclure, le Conseil se réjouit de l'intention déclarée du Secrétariat de fournir un document décrivant les mesures de contrôle en place, visant à assurer que la gestion des Bureaux décentralisés s'effectue dans l'efficacité, la transparence et l'intégrité. Le Conseil a également noté l'intention du Secrétariat de fournir une liste détaillée de tous les postes affectés aux Bureaux décentralisés.

Je vous propose de transmettre cela au Comité de rédaction du rapport. Je pense avoir noté l'ensemble même si cela fait beaucoup de points.

Merci pour cette discussion, merci pour votre engagement positif sur un sujet très important, comme il a été dit qui n'est pas un sujet nouveau, mais qui a mis du temps à mûrir et que chacun voit important à se mettre en place. Nous arrivons à la fin de nos travaux d'aujourd'hui. Comme je vous l'avais promis, une information avant de lever la séance, en fin de session, c'est-à-dire tout de suite, les Membres de l'Union européenne sont invités à aller à une Réunion de coordination dans la Salle de l'Allemagne.

Je vous convie donc à nous retrouver demain matin à 9h30, et je vous demande de faire comme cet après midi où nous avons commencé à 14h33. Demain matin, je vous propose de gagner encore une minute et de commencer vraiment à 9h30.

Merci, bonne soirée, bonne nuit et reposez-vous bien.

The meeting rose at 18.23 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 23

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.23 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
12 June 2012

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.33 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 33
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.33 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la troisième séance de la 144^{ème} session du Conseil.

Avant de commencer nos travaux, je rappelle aux Membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait, qu'ils doivent s'inscrire au Centre de la Turquie situé à l'entrée du bâtiment A. Je souhaite comme hier vous rappeler que vous fassiez le maximum pour que vos interventions soient courtes et précises, et je vous remercie d'avoir respecté les consignes que nous nous sommes fixées. Si nous pouvons procéder de la même façon aujourd'hui, nous arriverons à bon port ce soir, compte-tenu de l'Ordre du jour qui est quand même bien copieux.

6. Further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13

6. Autres ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013

6. Nuevos ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons sans plus attendre examiner le point 6 - Autres ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13. Le document de référence est le CL 144/3.

A nouveau nous tiendrons compte des références faites à ce point, contenues dans les rapports des Conférences régionales et de la Réunion conjointe des Comités financier et du Programme du 31 mai et du 1 juin, et de la 145^{ème} session du Comité financier, telles qu'indiquées dans le Calendrier provisoire.

Je donne la parole à Boyd Haight, Directeur du Bureau de la Stratégie, de la planification et de la gestion des ressources, pour introduire ce point.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

As he emphasized in his speech to the Council on Monday, the Director-General has launched several initiatives to implement his vision for transformational change of FAO. Four of these initiatives have a bearing on the current Programme of Work and Budget for the 2012-13 biennium: first, on the direction and priorities for the future through improved strategic planning which you will consider under your next agenda item; second, improved delivery of results at country-level through enhancements to the Decentralized Offices Network which you considered yesterday; third, streamlining and efficiencies in FAO's work through a critical review of the post structure, particularly in administrative areas; fourth, on functional improvements to communications and partnerships and the Human Resources management with majors to be pursued in the future.

You will recall that the 143rd Session of the Council in December 2011 considered Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 arising from decisions of the Conference. At that time, the Council approved a revised post establishment and budgetary distribution. It noted that further budgetary transfers could result from work planning and efficiencies during the current biennium. It requested that the source of the USD 6.5 million in budgeted savings be identified as a priority, mainly in Functional Objective X, on collaboration with Member Nations and stakeholders, and Functional Objective Y on administration.

The Council noted that the Governing Bodies could examine and adjust the Programme of Work and Budget throughout 2012, and it underlined that all further adjustments be handled in accordance with priorities and agreed procedures. Therefore, the Director-General has prepared the further adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 in line both with his vision for transformational change of FAO and with the decisions and guidance of the Council. The further adjustments are made within the overall budget level of USD 1,005.6 million decided by the Conference in June 2011, and they ensure full implementation of the Programme of Work.

The further adjustments fall into three categories. The first category is work planning. The normal Secretariat exercise of operational work planning at the beginning of the biennium has resulted in a minor reallocation of resources among strategic and Functional Objectives to better implement the Programme of Work. The amounts and reasons for the reallocations are provided in Annex 1 of the document.

The second category is cost savings. The focus of the further adjustments is on administrative cost savings and their reallocation to the technical work of the Organization. Let me reemphasize this point. There is a net transfer of USD 21.2 million out of Functional Objectives X and Y and into the Strategic Objectives to strengthen the technical work of the Organization, both at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices.

These savings come from two sources. First, the quantification of the USD 6.5 million in savings that were budgeted across the Strategic and Functional Objectives in the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, pending the identification of the source of these savings. These process savings have now been found as described in the document, mainly in Functional Objective Y, which has allowed us to shift some of the saved resources to the Strategic Objectives.

The main source of savings has been a critical review of posts at headquarters which found USD 19.3 million of additional savings, including from the abolition of 88 budgeted posts. Eight of the abolished positions are professional posts in Technical Departments at Headquarters. All of these posts are vacant. Some have been vacant for many years. Their abolition does not compromise the delivery of the Programme of Work, as their functions are carried out by non-staff human resources in their place.

All these savings have been reallocated to four main areas of work. First, strengthening the capacity of the Decentralized Offices to deliver results on the ground, as you discussed yesterday. Second, for interdisciplinary technical work in five main areas: for catalyzing teamwork and cross-cutting areas related to the emerging Strategic Objectives, laying the groundwork for the eventual transition; in developing institutional capacity in the core functions to help us focus our work on the Organization's comparative advantages; on priority corporate technical areas of work identified by the Regional Conferences; on multidisciplinary and time-bound commitments not included in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, such as preparations for Rio+20; and on follow-up to recent evaluations of FAO's work such as on nutrition, on tenure rights and access, and on policy assistance. The third main area of reallocation is the strengthening of the strategic planning capacity of the Organization to address critical gaps in this area of work as recognized both by the Director-General and by the Governing Bodies. Finally, we've reinvested the savings from the abolition of four posts related to Headquarters Security back into the Security Expenditure Facility for corporate security requirements.

The third category of adjustments in the document is structural. The Director-General is proposing two adjustments to the Organizational Structure consistent with FAO Reform and the IPA. First, the Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations is transformed into the Office of Communication, Partnerships, and Advocacy to bring together these functions previously spread among several units and make them more coherent, efficient and effective. This will ensure that FAO speaks with one voice in all media. It will provide the means for the formation and strengthening of meaningful partnerships, and it will raise the profile of key areas of work through advocacy, gender equality, Alliances Against Hunger, and the Right to Food. This adjustment contributes USD 2.1 million to the savings generated by post abolitions.

Let me now turn to the proposed adjustment to the structure of the Human Resources Management Division. Both the Director-General and the Governing Bodies have identified effective management of Human Resources as one of the highest priorities of the Organization. Various initiatives related to the reform of Human Resources management in the IPA have focused on this function fulfilling two distinct roles: a strategic business partner function focused on Human Resources strategy and policy, and an operational and supporting role focused on Personnel Administration. The review of placement of these two roles in the organizational structure is in line with the IPA, which for the Headquarters structure called for a review of reorganization with a view to further improvements during 2012.

The experience of two years of the Human Resources Management function with the current structure and reporting mechanisms has identified a number of areas for improvement, including decision-making on policy and strategy and internal governance. With respect to Human Resources policy and strategy, it is fundamental that the decision making and internal governance are driven by the Director-General of the entire Organization including for the Decentralized Offices.

As Mr Graziano Da Silva said yesterday "Management needs to be able to manage human resources, the FAO's greatest asset." Thus, the strategic business partner function needs to be separate from the

operational side of the Organizational Chart. Likewise, the transactional and operational role of the current Human Resources Management Division belongs in the department responsible for other administrative actions of the Organization. This ensures synergies and efficiencies including with the Global Resources Management System, and will provide opportunities for rationalization of human resources transactional requirements in the future.

The work planning exercise, the further savings and their reallocation, and the institutional strengthening measures together result in a revised budgeted post establishment and structural changes, and a revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter in the further adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for review and approval by the Council.

Yesterday the Director-General assured you that he will continue to look for more efficiency gains and ways to streamline our work to offer better value for money. In this regard, the Council is invited to note that the Director-General intends to present further proposals for savings and institutional strengthening to the 145th Session of the Council in November 2012 as part of his drive for Transformational Change of the Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Haight. Pour les éléments concernant ce point dans le Rapport de la dernière Réunion conjointe des Comités du Programme et financier, je donne maintenant la parole à Monsieur MOUNGUI MÉDI, Président du Comité financier, qui a co-présidé cette Réunion conjointe le 31 mai et le 1^{er} juin. Je rappelle que les Présidents des Conférences régionales pourront aussi s'exprimer directement sur ce point. Monsieur Médi vous avez la parole.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to report the outcome of the discussions that took place on 31 May to 1 June 2012 for a Joint Meeting of the 111th Session of the Programme Committee and 145th Session of the Finance Committee on Further Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget. I will also, further on, report on the outcome of the discussion of the 145th Session of the Finance Committee that took place on 1 June 2012 on matters relevant to Further Adjustments also to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.

This Joint Meeting globally expressed satisfaction with Further Adjustments to the Program of Work and Budget 2012-13, and supported the Director-General's vision for Transformational Change. The Joint Meeting also welcomed the fact that the guidance and decision of the Council had been followed in preparing the proposed Further Adjustments and supported the revised post-establishment and the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary charter as reflected in Table 4 of document CL 144/3.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the further savings identified of USD 19.3 million which allowed for the free allocation of resources from administrative to technical areas of work from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices and for interdisciplinary activities. The Joint Meeting supported measures for institutional strengthening and requested further clarification on the transformation of the existing Human Resources Management Division.

At this 145th Session, the Finance Committee reviewed the Human Resource Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2012-13 on the proposed vision of the Human Resource function. The Committee similarly requested further information and clarification in order to facilitate further consideration of the proposal. The Joint Meeting noted that further proposals for institutional strengthening within the context of transformational change would be submitted to the 145th Session of the Council through the Programme and Finance Committee.

I must say here that the room is still open for discussion on this issue of the Human Resources Division, and we are seeking true guidance from this Council on the way forward. We think that with your guidance the members of the Finance Committee will do due diligence to come up, certainly, with the proposed final adjustments in that Division. Probably also here the Council might take a decision on that, and we wish that what should happen here in the Council is for the Council to take a decision. Hopefully, we can reach a consensus decision. It has been a very debated topic, but the message that was given from my perspective is that there are not big issues that need to be resolved.

Probably it is a question of providing the right information at the level of the Council for a better understanding of the process proposed by the Director-General. So Members of the Council, I advise you on the need to take a decision regarding this issue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de donner la parole à l'ensemble des membres du Conseil, je demande si les Présidents des Conférences régionales ont une communication à faire sur ce point? Ils peuvent le faire maintenant où plus tard, comme ils le souhaiteront.

Non, bien. J'ouvre donc la discussion sur ce point. Je vous rappelle, vous appuyez sur le bouton, votre nom s'indique et ça s'arrête de clignoter lorsque vous avez fini de parler. L'Ouganda.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda is honored to take the floor to contribute to this debate on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. I would like to point out a fact for correction in paragraph 21 of the document CL 143/3. The 143rd Session of Council was held in November-December 2011, and not 2010. We wish to point that out so that it is corrected.

In paragraphs 4-9, the Africa Group notes the Director-General's efforts in instituting transformational changes and institutional strengthening of FAO through 2012, as well as efforts to identify additional areas for greater efficiency and value for money, particularly in administration.

In paragraphs 10 and 11, we note that in line with the guidance of the 143rd FAO Council of November-December 2011, Management has taken measures to abolish some 88 posts at Headquarters and has proposed to establish 41 positions at Decentralized locations. We also note that Management proposes to establish three positions at Headquarters to enhance the strategic planning capacity.

As illustrated in paragraph 13, these measures had as priority to find USD 6.5 million in efficiency savings primarily under Functional Objectives X and Y. FAO has also again identified further savings of USD 19.3 million from Functional Objectives X and Y for reallocation to strengthen the FAO Decentralized Offices Network and other priority programmes of the Organization.

We note the work planning 2012-13 as contained in paragraphs 14-18 and particularly underscore paragraph 16 and 17 which indicate the progress made in allocating an additional USD 2.5 million over and above the earlier allocation of USD 2.7 million for Strategic Objective K on Gender. From paragraphs 19-32, we acknowledge that allocation of the savings of USD 34.5 million from IT implementation is in conformity with paragraphs 2, 10 and 11 of the 143rd Session of the Council. We note the reallocation of savings in Table 2 in paragraph 52 and paragraph 53, and particularly welcome Management's efforts for further allocating the resources to facilitate the implementation of Decentralization, as detailed under paragraph 54-56.

Our colleague from Mozambique adequately elaborated Africa's position on the importance of Decentralization yesterday, which we strongly associate ourselves with. As noted in Table 4 and paragraph 71(f), substantial net savings arising out of work planning issues and further savings were realized for Strategic Objectives X and Y. We also note some net savings realized from Strategic Objectives B and I. Regarding adjustments to the structure of the Human Resource Management Division, paragraph 45 indicates that the Division which currently contains 72 posts will be split into two. Having stated that, part (a) of the same paragraph indicates 19 posts and part (b) 43 posts. When we added those they totaled 62. It is not clear from the documentation where the remaining 10 posts have been absorbed.

Through our long experience with FAO Reform we appreciate that transformational changes demand close consultation and collaboration between Membership and Management.

We believe that the ongoing Transformational Process will maintain these virtuous consultative processes to ensure sustained mutual trust, transparency, accountability, and new ownership over advanced transformational processes and outcomes. We will count on planned reporting of the transformational process to the 145th Council Session during December 2012.

In the view of the above, the Africa Regional Group would address the Programme and Finance Committees for considering the further adjustments in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. As required in Section G of the Report, we take note of part A and approve parts B and C of paragraph 73. In the same vein, the Africa Regional Group notes the transformational changes taking place in FAO and at the Director-General's direction, acknowledging that these efforts will continue with more focus placed on defining more areas for greater efficiency. We look forward to receiving progress reports on internal controls in the 145th Council Session in December 2012 as illustrated in paragraph 74 of the Report.

Mr Chairman, also before us for discussion and decision are specific sections of the Reports of the various Regional Conferences held earlier this year. In this regard, it is our pleasure to highlight that the priorities of the African Regional Conference are illustrated in paragraphs 47-56 in document CL 144/4, the plan being harmonization as articulated by the honorable Minister of Congo, the Regional Chair, yesterday morning.

Again, as required of Council, we would like to endorse the following sections in the Reports of other Regional Conferences and relevant stakeholder committees: paragraphs 37-47 and 53-58 of the Report of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference as detailed in document CL 144/5, paragraphs 44-52 of the Report of the Regional Conference for Europe in document CL 144/6, paragraphs 31, 35 and 39 of the Report of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference in document CL 144/7, paragraphs 34-44 of the Near East Regional Conference as documented in CL 144/8, and paragraphs 8 and 16 of the Informal Regional Conference for North America in document CL 144/LIM/4. We also endorse paragraphs 4-6 of the Joint Meeting Report in document CL 144/16 and finally, paragraphs 7-9 of the Report of the 145th Session of the Finance Committee in document CL 144/20.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU notes the pertinent observations to documents CL 144/3 made by the Programme and Finance Committees in their Joint Meeting of 31 May-1 June 2012, as just highlighted by the honourable Chair of the Finance Committee. We can, in general, welcome the fact that the guidance and decisions of the Council were followed in preparing the further adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. We appreciate the efforts toward efficiency savings, and the overall shift of USD 21.2 million from Functional Objectives X and Y to the technical Strategic Objectives resulting from the further adjustments.

We support the emphasis on the multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting approach, and support the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter, as reflected in Table 4 of document CL 144/3. With regard to the Human Resources Management function, the EU is hesitant to engage in micro-management, and takes note of the legal opinion. That said, we also recognize that the clear and transparent presentation of Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 has been guided by the results-based Strategic Framework adopted by FAO Conference in 2009. The agreed Framework will still guide the Organization for some time. The EU notes that the very first Programme Implementation Report for 2010-11 is based on the results-based framework from 2009. The next PIR for 2012-13 will also have to follow the results-based programme planning, monitoring, and reporting system put in place under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.

The long consultative process based on the findings of the Independent External Evaluation and leading to the agreed IPA produced many valuable outputs. The results-based programme planning, monitoring, and reporting system which formed the basis for the Strategic Framework for 2010-19 and then the Medium Term Plan 2010-13 include a set of 11 Strategic and two Functional Objectives to be achieved by Members with assistance from FAO, and 54 Organizational Results for achievement by FAO.

We recall that the operational plan for achieving the two-year target in the Medium-term Plan is the Programme of Work and Budget. The structure of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 agreed at Conference in 2009 was based on the Strategic Framework. We also recall that this structure,

with minor modifications, has been maintained in the present Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13, agreed in July 2011.

We note that further proposals for institutional strengthening within the context of Transformational Change of FAO reflecting further efficiency savings will be submitted to the 145th Session of the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees. We can ensure that the EU is prepared to engage constructively in the continued Reform Process.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

Since the one 143rd Session of the Council in 2011, the Secretariat, while taking into account the decisions of the Council which consisted of making adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, has designed a number of measures.

First of all, it includes a strategic process to determine the future strategic orientations for the Organization. Secondly, it proposes improvements to the structure and the operation of the Decentralized Offices. Thirdly, critical assessment of the structure of the permanent posts has taken place. This was carried out to find a way of optimizing the use of resources and enhance efficiency. Fourthly, measures aimed at improving the management of human resources, communication and partnerships, strategic planning and inter-disciplinary efforts have also been undertaken.

Through these nine measures, we have managed to achieve a savings of USD 19.3 million and these savings will be allocated to strengthen the Decentralization effort as well as other projects such as those relating to inter-disciplinary activities. We are very happy with these measures and the results obtained. We would like to be able to continue with the Reform Process, and the transformation of the Organization to achieve even greater savings and greater efficiency gains.

In principle, we support the shifting of these savings as well as the restructuring of the Human Resources Management Division. Of course, we need to take into account the experience of other UN Agencies to date, but it is the Director-General who is in charge of the human resources of the Organization. We believe this practice is in line with the Basic Texts. The Chinese delegation supports the proposals of the Director-General and of the Secretariat, and we would like to make sure that the process of transition continues smoothly.

We would like to also make two comments on the inter-disciplinary fund of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13. This has to do with paragraphs 61 and 65 of the Report. We took note of the Report of the 110th Session of the Programme Committee and the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture. These Reports emphasized the importance of the agricultural heritage, and we encourage FAO to continue its efforts in this area. We would invite the Council to instruct the Secretariat to find funding from this interdisciplinary fund to support these activities.

As you know, this would promote agricultural bio-diversity, protection of eco-systems, sustainable development in agriculture and food security. Of course, these are works that cover various disciplines. Currently, FAO is undertaking work in these areas. FAO has implemented a project in ten countries including Algeria, China, Chile, Tunisia, Peru, Philippines, India, Japan, Tanzania, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. These projects were an excellent example of inter-disciplinary activities, and had very positive impacts on local eco-systems and economic and social development of the countries involved. They were highly valued.

For example, again, they have had a positive impact on bio-diversity, small farmers, cultural heritage and agricultural landscape. We think that FAO should draw inspiration from the experience of the UNESCO with respect to the protection of world heritage and cultural and natural heritage. We should strengthen the efforts of the Secretariat and provide it with sufficient human resources to transform these projects it is implementing into programmes in protecting heritage and to enhance the status of these projects.

We should also make this work the top priorities of this Organization. We also need to make developing countries and developed countries more involved in ensuring the protection of our agricultural heritage for the benefit of human kind as a whole. We would like our comments to be reflected in the Report of this Council.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We resolutely support the four elements of the Director-General's reason for transformation and institutional strengthening which we will be discussing in our next Agenda Item, so I will not touch on it.

We support the adjustment in net appropriation for 2012-13 as summarized in Annex 1. The shift amounts to USD 9.1 million, which is less than one percent of the net appropriation of one billion and 5.5 million. As stated in paragraph 16, these resource shifts are mainly the repositioning of activities under appropriate organizational results, promoting collaborative work across organizational units and multi-disciplinary streamlining. The adjustment arising from this planning exercise adds USD 6.1 million to the technical work of the Organization, and we consider this as a welcome sign.

However, it should be emphasized that with the exception of Strategic Objective K, these shifts in net appropriations are in the nature of refining, retuning, and refitting of activities, and do not signify programmatic changes.

As requested by the Governing Bodies, the Director-General has identified efficiency savings of USD 6.5 million from the 2012-13 net appropriations which are listed in Table 1 of the document. Out of this sum, 72 percent comes from Functional Objectives X and Y and the remaining 28 percent is spread across all chapters. We commend the identification of these efficiency savings.

Further efficiency savings of USD 19.3 million have also been identified. These consist of USD 13.9 million from the abolition of 76 posts, of which 53 are currently vacant. Another saving of USD 5.4 million is expected from the non-staff costs of the abolished posts. The main reduction in established posts is from the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department. However, Regional Offices will gain 12 Professional posts, and Country Offices 7 Professional and 13 national posts. With these additions, the percentage share of Decentralized Offices in total staffing of the Organization will go up from 40.9 to 42.6 percent. This is a good development.

We support the allocation of these efficiency savings among the four items as listed in Table 2. We also look forward to the additional efficiency savings promised by the Director-General, to be submitted to the Council in December. My final comment is related to the structural proposal.

It is proposed to split CSH into two separate units. One is the Office of Human Resources with 19 posts and headed by the Director of CSH. This Office will report directly to the Director-General. The other unit, CSP, with 43 posts, will perform the day-to-day functions of administration but will be linked to the OHR for guidance.

We support the establishment of the OHR directly reporting to the Director-General for the following four main reasons. One, the technical resource base of the Organization has been under stress for many, many years and in some technical areas, it has reached a breaking point. The finding of several corporate evaluations indicate the weakening and disappearance of core staff in some important technical areas of work of FAO. For example, the evaluation of FAO's role and work in nutrition indicated that FAO's Professional staff working on nutrition is less than one-third of the WHO Professional staff engaged in nutrition. Also, some recent initiatives by FAO are badly in need of additional Professional staff. For example, the coordination of the Water Platform is delegated to one Professional staff member who is expected to devote 30 percent of his time to other activities.

The increasing concern about staff quality is another issue. For example, the recent evaluation of FAO's role and work in food and agriculture policy mentions that Policy Officers are seen as generalists, and can be captured for use in a variety of other jobs including administration. The point to stress is that there are some serious gaps in the Human Resources policy of the Organization that needs to be addressed seriously and urgently. If these gaps remain, FAO will be putting itself in serious danger of being unable to fulfill its core functions. In short, FAO is in need of a long-term, man-power planning strategy to be able to maintain its competitive edge among many other existing and upcoming players in the fields of food, agriculture, and natural resource management.

Such a long-term planning can be done by a unit which is detached from the provision of routine human resources function and which works under the guidance of the Director-General who leads the Organization and who is accountable to its Membership.

Last week, the Distinguished Ambassador of Uganda wisely advised the Membership in this room that we should trust the Director-General to lead the way in Human Resources development of the Organization. We hope the Membership will support his wise recommendation.

Two, we support the rationale for the creation of OHR which is to dovetail the human resource policy of FAO to better serve the Organization's strategic direction, to raise the quality of its normative work, to create a viable base that enables the Organization to respond to new challenges, to engage in new partnership, and to significantly impact at the field level. We do not think that the addition of another box to the existing five boxes reporting directly to the Director-General, that is, OED, OIG, LEG, OCP, and OSP, is a cause for concern.

Three, as was explained by Mr Manoj Juneja last week in this room, the creation of OHR will not need additional resources because it is primarily a matter of resource transfers. Also, the creation of OHR in the Apex would not endanger the well-established procedures already in place for the recruitment of FAO staff, including the posts of Director and above, gender and regional balance, staff recruitment, staff evaluation, rotation and training of staff, etc. Moreover, the work of OHR would remain under the scrutiny of the Finance Committee.

Four, I am sure the Legal Counsel will confirm that the creation of OHR is within the authority of the Council. Finally, we also support the adjustment in OCE by delineating its three distinct functions, that is communications, partnership and advocacy and collaboration with the UN System and the other two Rome-based Agencies. It would seem that each function calls for a different skill.

Mr Dr. Ir. HERMANTO (Indonesia)

My delegation welcomes the further Adjustment to Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. We particularly welcome the adjustment to increase the budget for food security and better nutrition, livelihood improvement and rural development, sustainable management of land, water and generic resources and improved response to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture, including the sustainable management of forests and trees, and improvement of the quality of food safety at all stages of the food chain.

My delegation shares the vision expressed by the Director-General to prioritize on hunger eradication, which has high peak levels during emergency situations. Therefore, providing strong safety nets that can buffer shortages of food especially during the emergency situations should be incorporated in all food security initiatives. In the Pacific Region, home to two-thirds of the world's population and about one-fourth of the world's under-nourished people, we must give proper attention to enhancing these food security initiatives. In this regard, my delegation appreciates the increase in adjustments by the Organization to the PWB 2012-13 for the Asia and Pacific Region.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

We welcome the document and further adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget contained in document CL 144/3, based on the Director-General's rationale for transformational change and it also builds on the IEE and IPA discussions.

We welcome the fact that the Council request for any proposed transfer of resources across budgetary chapters to be kept in line with Financial Regulation 4.5, has been complied with. We are happy to note that FAO has identified savings of USD 6.5 million from within Functional Objectives X and Y, the details of which have been clearly outlined in Table 1 of the document. We welcome the further identification of savings of USD 19.3 million by carrying out a critical review of the post-establishment and structural adjustment.

We support the measures for institutional strengthening at Headquarters, in particular establishment of a dedicated strategic planning capacity. It is heartening to note that USD 10.4 million have been proposed to Decentralized Offices and USD 6.8 million to inter-disciplinary activities. We would appreciate it if more information could be provided regarding the exact manner in which resources will be deployed for the Multilateral Development Fund (MDF) and the Innovation Fund (IF). Just like the distinguished delegate of China said, we would like to encourage FAO to utilize the resources available under these funds for the preservation and conservation of the globally-important agricultural

heritage sites that have been a source of food security to mankind over the centuries. We want FAO to replicate them through programmatic interventions.

On the issue of human resource management, it is worth noting that the Governing Bodies and the Membership have time and again identified effective management of human resources as one of the highest priorities for the Organization. The IPA indicated that the HR management needs to be transformed into two distinct roles: one, a strategic business partner totally focusing on HR policy, and two, an operational and supporting role focused on personnel administration. The revised Headquarters structure, including the structure of the Apex, was endorsed by the Conference in 2009 as part of the IPA. However, that very Conference that endorsed the IPA has also requested a review of re-organization of the Headquarters structure with a view to further improvements to be carried out in 2012.

It is our understanding that keeping this in mind, the restructuring of the HR Management Division has been proposed. We, therefore, lend our support to the proposed restructuring of the HR Management Division to segregate the strategic policy regarding senior level appointments from the routine functions of the HR Office, like personnel management and administration.

We all know that FAO is a knowledge organization and that it disseminates knowledge products. In other words, knowledge is the core business of FAO. Unlike other organizations where investment in land, building, and machinery are considered assets, in FAO it is the other way around. Here investment in human beings is considered an asset. We must end up with the right individuals and motivate them to give their best to the Organization. That calls for a dynamic and professional approach to Human Resource Management, and a structure which receives the attention of the topics of the Organization.

Beyond the merits of the case, my delegation would like to emphasize that we firmly believe that as Governing Body Members, we should not get involved in micro-managing the Organization. The Director-General is an elected representative, and we must place our trust in him. At a time when the Director-General himself is trying to build bridges and trying to improve trust with countries by delegating his own powers and authorities concentrated in Rome to the Regional, Sub-regional, and Country Offices, we as Governing Body Members should not be seen as concentrating power in our hands. After all, reorganization of a Department is an internal matter and best left to the wisdom of the Chief Executive Officer. Therefore, we must empower the Director-General, give him the ability to manage human resources in the manner he best sees fit and make him accountable only for results.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General and FAO in response to the decisions and recommendations of the last Session of the Council to identify further savings in the Organization. We welcome the proposal on budget revision and restructuring. We hope that the reduction in number of staff at Headquarters for cost-saving purposes, as well as internal restructuring, will not create any negative impact on the existing structure and the technical work of the Organization, in particular for human resources management.

We also encourage FAO to further identify additional areas for greater efficiency and savings, as mentioned in the document. We look forward to seeing these results.

Lastly, we thank the FAO for the additional allocations for the Asia and the Pacific Region, as requested by Member Nations, due to the poverty and the malnutrition of two-thirds of the world's population living in this Region. Therefore, Thailand fully supports the proposed budget adjustment allocated in the chapters, and shown in Table 4.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Querría decir algo específico sobre el tema y algo general. Quisiéramos felicitar a la Secretaría por la presentación y sobre todo felicitar al Director General por identificar los ahorros de aproximadamente 19 millones de dólares. También querríamos felicitarle por apoyar la reasignación de los recursos para los objetivos identificados, especialmente para potenciar la estructura de las Oficinas Descentralizadas. Queremos también felicitar a la Dirección general por el nuevo esquema de reestructuración de la División de Gestión de Recursos Humanos. Del ahorro de 19 millones de

dólares salta a la vista que hay 54 cargos que han estado vacantes, no utilizados ¿deficiencia? ¿falta de capacidad operativa en esas áreas? En definitiva, no es solamente el ahorro de los 19 millones de dólares ahorra. Hay un ahorro acumulado no utilizado de los presupuestos anteriores, y habrá que ver en qué se utilizó y si se llegó a utilizar o sigue existiendo como ahorro. Eso con relación al tema específico.

Creo también que el Director General avanza dinámicamente en esta nueva estructura de la FAO. Señores Delegados, la FAO ha vivido épocas. Con todo el respeto, la consideración y el conocimiento de lo eficientes que fueron esas épocas: la época Saouma y la época Diouf duraron 18 años cada una. Cada una tuvo sus bondades, y cada una tuvo algunos defectos. Ahora hemos nombrado un nuevo Director General y no es simplemente el cambio de director; yo diría que es un cambio de época. Y ese cambio de época significa algo que acaba de decir el delegado de India, por lo cual le felicito, y a lo cual me sumo, es decir, la confianza en el Director General para cambiar de época, para darle una visión diferente a la FAO en su forma de trabajar en los países. Es importante apoyar al Director General en su nueva estructura, fijando políticas generales y compartiendo su criterio de no caer en las minuciosidades, por ejemplo si son tres funcionarios más en un Departamento o dos menos en otro - en definitiva, apoyarle en la política de reestructuración. Es de entender que el Director General aplicará estas políticas con la ayuda de la alta eficiencia técnica de sus funcionarios. Alguna razón técnica tiene que haber cuando el Sr. Graziano da Silva plantea la división de la actual oficina de Gestión de Recursos Humanos en un Departamento pequeño adscripto a la dirección general para achicar políticas y designar los altos cargos de la FAO, y otro Departamento encargado de los asuntos rutinarios del personal.

En definitiva, señores delegados y señor Presidente, lo fundamental es fijar políticas. Una de las grandes políticas que debe tener siempre la FAO es actuar en los países en estrecha relación con los planes de desarrollo de cada país y no con programas aislados que muchas veces no se enmarcan en la política que esclarece el gobierno central. Es también lograr mecanismos nuevos de paliar el hambre, y una prueba de ello es el Cuerno de África. Hay riego, hay capacidad de riego y hemos propuesto ya varias veces la necesidad de crear en la FAO un estudio para lograr el gran Fondo Internacional del Riego y Rehabilitación de Tierras. ¿Estudiamos ese tema? ¿Lo podemos convertir en una política de la FAO?

Vuelvo nuevamente a lo que dije inicialmente: es necesario apoyar al Director General en la creación de una nueva época para la FAO.

Mr Romeo RECIDÉ (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to align ourselves with the statements made earlier by China on further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. In particular we concur with the recommendations, also made by China, India and Indonesia, in providing funds for agricultural heritage systems. The Philippines is privileged to have one of the recognized globally-important agricultural heritage systems, the ancient Ifugao Rice Terraces. As FAO describes it, the Terraces are one of the country's only remaining highland mountain eco-systems that showcases the ingenuity of the Ifugao people and their remarkable agricultural farming systems which have retained the viability and efficacy of the 2000 year-old organic paddy farming. The continued existence and viability of the rice terraces is a manifestation of a strong culture/nature connection, marvelous indigenous engineering systems, innovation and determined spirit of the Ifugao to maximize the use of the mountain as land for food production.

We are very grateful for FAO's initiative to develop dynamic conservation management approaches and assist national and local stakeholders in the conservation and adaptive management of the systems and their components. We urge that the outreach be undertaken beyond the identified pilot sites in a number of countries: Philippines, Peru, Chile, China, Tunisia, Algeria, Kenya, and Tanzania. In this regard, we are pleased to note that in June last year, Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi in Ishikawa, Japan were added and designated by FAO as globally-important agricultural heritage sites.

In closing, Mr Chairman, we also associate ourselves with Indonesia and Thailand in expressing appreciation for allocating additional resources for the Asia and the Pacific Region in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Sra. Silvia María ALVAREZ ROSSELL (Cuba)

Cuba apoya las propuestas presentadas, las cuales dan respuestas a las orientaciones del 143.º período de sesiones del Consejo, resaltando los ahorros logrados por un monto de más de 25 millones de dólares en actividades vinculadas a los Objetivos Funcionales y que han sido reasignadas a actividades de los Objetivos Estratégicos como la Descentralización.

Respecto a la propuesta de ajuste de la estructura de la División de Recursos Humanos y de la Oficina de Comunicación y Relaciones Exteriores, Cuba apoya ambas propuestas como parte de los ajustes necesarios que deberá continuar realizando el Director General para llevar adelante su gestión al frente de la Organización, basada en su profunda visión renovadora.

Nos sumamos también a las declaraciones hechas por otras delegaciones respecto a que esta aprobación es una muestra de confianza en el Director General que hemos elegido.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document submitted to us, CL 144/3. We feel that in this document the Secretariat has set forward a fairly well-founded set of proposals. We support the concepts included in the document of the Director-General with respect to restructuring and institutional strengthening of the Organization.

We consider that in the proposed document, sufficient account is taken of the comments and proposals voiced by the Member Nations and meetings of the Governing Bodies. We also note the savings measures which are geared toward resolving the essential tasks of FAO. The Russian Federation supports the reallocation of resources for 2012-13, as well as the improvements regarding human resource management. In this regard, we feel that the Council can and is entitled to accommodate the Director-General's wishes, and commends the decision on this account at this Session.

Furthermore, we would like to make one further comment. In paragraph 24 which refers to quantification of savings, reference is made to savings stemming from fuller integration of language services. We welcome this. We welcome the merging of the Translation and Interpretation Services. At the same time, we would like to stress that it is our view that full integration of language services should not have an impact on or impair the effectiveness and quality of translation and interpretation. We need to have proper manning of the translation and interpretation services.

Mr KANG Hyoung-seok (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea welcomes the further Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, and supports the revised post-establishment and revised distribution of the net appropriation by Chapters as reflected in Table 4 of document CL 144/3. We welcome the further savings of USD 19.3 million emanating from the critical review and the reallocation of resources from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices, as well as the strengthening of interdisciplinary work in the Organization.

Regarding the Multidisciplinary Fund, we support the request of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to provide detailed information, particularly on the process and criteria for selecting projects. As for measures for institutional strengthening we generally support the measures proposed by Management. We appreciate the efforts of Management in undertaking a critical review of human resources posts, which has resulted in the abolition of 11 posts and related savings in the Human Resources Management Division.

Regarding the proposal for the structure of Human Resources Management Division, we think this needs to be decided based on Management's judgment regarding the most effective way to manage the human resources of the Organization. We would like to underline that since the proposal envisages the creation of two reporting systems, it is important that the new structure operates in such a way that the two units can work harmoniously.

Sr. Gustavo O. INFANTE (Argentina)

Vamos a hacer una intervención breve que se inicia brindando nuestro respaldo al documento CL 144/3, y agradeciendo todas las gestiones que ha desarrollado la Secretaría para presentarlo, y los trabajos que continúan en función del mismo.

Consideramos que estamos en un proceso de intensa Reforma de la FAO, que hemos también analizado en el día de ayer, cuando considerábamos el Plan Inmediato de Acción, el cual estuvimos de acuerdo en acelerar para que pueda llegar a una rápida conclusión. Y también estamos muy de acuerdo con las nuevas iniciativas que en el marco del cambio transformador que impulsa el Director General han sido presentadas a nuestra consideración.

Estas iniciativas han sido presentadas por el Director General, cumpliendo las propuestas que expresara en su campaña. Las acciones que han seguido a estas iniciativas han sido desarrolladas con transparencia y han sido consideradas extensamente en las reuniones de los Comités de Finanza y del Programa, y en las Reuniones Conjuntas de ambos Comités. En ellos se ha brindado abundante información en respuesta de las solicitudes de los Miembros; y también se han llevado a cabo seminarios y reuniones informales con la participación de las altas autoridades de la FAO que tienen a su cargo estas gestiones, donde se nos han brindado informaciones complementarias.

Tenemos así en marcha un Proceso de Pensamiento Estratégico que ha sido reconocido y respaldado por todos los Miembros de la FAO y por las Conferencias Regionales. Tenemos también un proceso de Descentralización que ha sido reconocido como necesario y cuya ejecución ha sido también reforzada, y ha sido muy analizada y complementada con medidas propuestas por los distintos Miembros en cuanto a su aplicación y a la rendición de cuentas que tiene que estar asociada a este proceso.

También hemos considerado el conjunto de ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto (PTP) para 2012-13, que está recibiendo, por lo que entendemos de las expresiones de las distintas delegaciones, un apoyo considerable y decidido. Y tenemos esta propuesta concreta de reestructuración de la División de Gestión de Recursos Humanos a la cual respaldamos. Y la respaldamos porque tiene un fin estratégico, y porque se complementa con el resto de las iniciativas y forma parte esencial del Proceso General de Reforma y Reestructuración que está impulsando el Director General.

En alguna de las reuniones que mencioné, se ha dicho que se tiene la impresión de que el Director General está pidiendo un cheque en blanco. No me parece que esa sea una expresión apropiada porque esta decisión se propone y se va aplicar en el marco de los muchos instrumentos que guían y reglamentan a la FAO. También ha sido mencionado aquí por distintas delegaciones que no se propone una modificación en los procedimientos ni en los criterios con los cuales se va a estar seleccionando y nominando al personal.

También se ha mencionado y se ha solicitado la necesidad de mayor información sobre este tema. Esa es una solicitud respetable, y estamos seguros de que la información va a ser provista por la Secretaría, como lo han hecho hasta ahora. Pero eso va a demandar tiempo, y el tiempo es muy valioso para la marcha de la transformación de la FAO en la cual todos estamos embarcados y cuya urgencia entiendo que todos compartimos. Entendemos que la información disponible es suficiente para apoyar la propuesta del Director General. No podemos dejar que este tipo de información o requerimientos genere demoras en un proceso que necesita ser aplicado con rapidez.

Yo creo que –si me permiten hacer una metáfora– siempre que hablamos de seguridad alimentaria, de alimentación, podemos asociarlo a una buena mesa. Yo creo que la Reforma de la FAO se puede comparar en este momento con una mesa. Tiene cuatro patas: el Proceso de Pensamiento Estratégico, el cual todos respaldamos y estamos siguiendo con atención; el Proceso de Descentralización, que ha sido reforzado por las consideraciones en este Consejo; los Ajustes que se proponen para el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-13; y entiendo que la cuarta es justamente esta Reestructuración de la División de Gestión de Recursos Humanos.

Una mesa con una pata floja no sirve, y por eso respaldamos la reestructuración que propone el Director General.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Quiero dar la bienvenida a los señores Ministros de los países que han asistido a este 144.º período de sesiones del Consejo, a los Embajadores, Representantes Permanentes, Delegados y a los Observadores.

Quisiera iniciar esta intervención agradeciendo las presentaciones realizadas en esta sesión sobre los nuevos ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-13, del documento CL 144/3. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela considera que los ajustes presentados contienen medidas concretas que permitirán fortalecer la Organización y mejorar la ejecución y el impacto de los programas en concordancia con las decisiones del 143.º período de sesiones del Consejo y de la Conferencia de la FAO de 2011.

Agradecemos el trabajo realizado por el Director General y su equipo en la determinación de nuevas fuentes de ahorros por eficiencia. Tomamos nota con satisfacción de la prioridad de los 6,5 millones de dólares en ahorros provenientes de los Objetivos Estratégicos X e Y, además de los ahorros adicionales de 19.3 millones de dólares en dichos Objetivos Funcionales, en especial los 10,4 millones de dólares asignados al fortalecimiento de las Oficinas Descentralizadas de la FAO, que es algo tan ansiado y esperado en esta Organización. Estamos de acuerdo con los 6,8 millones de dólares para la labor inter-disciplinaria, 1.1 millones de dólares para la planificación estratégica y 1 millón de dólares para los gastos de seguridad.

En cuanto a los ajustes estructurales de la Organización, compartimos lo mencionado en el párrafo 43 del documento, la gestión eficaz de los recursos humanos consideramos que esta es una cuestión de absoluta prioridad para la FAO, porque el personal representa la mayor proporción de los bienes y la capacidad que ha acumulado esta Organización en su historia.

Acogemos con satisfacción la asignación de los recursos presupuestarios al Objetivo Estratégico K, a todos los niveles, en concordancia con la auditoría sobre cuestiones de género, en especial para promover un trabajo interdisciplinario, conectando el trabajo de género con el desarrollo.

Reconocemos que durante las deliberaciones relacionadas con la Evaluación Externa Independiente y el Plan Inmediato de Acción, se observó que la ubicación de las funciones en la estructura de la Organización debería reflejar la importancia del área de recursos humanos, de una forma más visible.

Apoyamos la propuesta del Director General y de la Secretaría en concordancia con lo establecido en los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO, concibiendo este periodo, en donde nos han presentado estas propuestas, como un periodo de transición para promover un ajuste estructural y de la plantilla de la actual División de Gestión de Recursos Humanos (CSH) a fin de garantizar una simplificación de los procesos internos de Gobernanza; potenciar las actividades de carácter estratégico, político y consultivo para promover las medidas rápidas y eficaces sobre las nuevas iniciativas y mejoras en aras de un enfoque coherente que permita aumentar eficiencia y eficacia de los recursos humanos y mejorar la capacidad técnica de las unidades descentralizadas. Creemos que esta propuesta de cambio permitirá gestionar los recursos humanos de manera transparente y con mayor capacidad de respuesta respaldando la orientación estratégica de la Organización y de sus programas.

Por otra parte, los ajustes propuestos en la estructura de la Oficina de Comunicación y Relaciones Exteriores (OCE) reforzaran la función de comunicación en el seno de la organización y concederán la mayor importancia a las cuestiones de Género, de Alianza Contra el Hambre, la Malnutrición y el Derecho a la Alimentación; estableciendo de manera clara una diferenciación entre comunicación y difusión, promoción de asociaciones y colaboración con el sistema de naciones unidas.

En conclusión, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela por lo antes expuesto, respalda la aprobación de las medidas propuestas presentadas en el documento CL 144/3. Respaldamos así mismo las intervenciones hechas por algunos oradores que nos han antecedido tales como la intervención de Ecuador, Argentina, India, Uganda, China, Afganistán y otros. Estas medidas garantizarán para el 2012 una continuación de la transformación de la FAO y su refuerzo institucional para permitir resultados mejores en los programas; sobre todo en el terreno, como lo requieren los distintos países en desarrollo, que ameritan una contribución directa de la FAO en el terreno, en la agricultura, en la materia de nutrición y en materia de seguridad alimentaria.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Thank you, Secretariat, for providing and presenting the document. Without going in detail, we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13, document CL 144/3. We are supporting the item raised by distinguished Chinese delegate, and also other delegates, concerning the protection of agricultural heritage because of its importance for the benefit of mankind. We expect FAO to consider it as its work priority.

We are looking forward to see the change in two figures which the Secretariat has given in the document on the Programme Implementation Report for 2010-11 (C 2013/8). The first figure is about the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 which gives the contribution of the budget for different parts of the Headquarters and other expenditures as 68 percent, or 2 percent higher than in 2008-09. And Field Programme expenditures related to TCP and SPFS were 8 percent in 2010-11, compared to 11 percent in 2008-09.

We expect this to be reversed for the 2011-13. Also, I want to consider the Tables on this document, and especially the distribution of approved TCP resources in the Near East which is the lowest in the Region at USD 9.1 million despite the situation of the Region. Because we have a lot of problems, we expect for this amount to be increased.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

We, too, would like to thank Boyd for his presentation this morning, as well as his significant efforts over the last months in this regard. The United States supports the Director-General in his actions to continue to streamline the FAO, and thanks the Secretariat for taking the initiative to identify an additional USD 19.3 million in efficiency savings above and beyond the USD 6.5 million requested by the Member Nations.

The US Government is grateful to the Director-General for his sincere efforts to bring needed change to FAO, and we encourage the Secretariat to continue to streamline the Organization and increase its efficiency. We endorse the requested reallocation of these savings to the Decentralization effort and other priority areas, especially to gender issues.

Our concern with this paper centers on the requested change as listed in paragraph 45; namely, having the Human Resources Director report directly to the Director-General. While it has been said that this is legally in line with organizational regulations, we don't think that this suggested change meets the spirit of the IPA. We would prefer that the Director-General's Human Resources Reform Plan be adequately reviewed by the Finance Committee so that a fully-informed decision could be taken that supports the Director-General's goals in a manner that enhances the chances of Human Resources Reform success at FAO, particularly regarding greater transparency on Human Resources issues, gender flexibility and effectiveness, transparent and merit-based recruitment at all levels, and retention of the very best staff, full and consultative implementation of the mobility policy, better communication, and forward-looking state-of-the-art policies and strategies on Human Resources.

That said, this would be with the agreement that this Body reaffirms the principles of the IPA, particularly those related to Headquarters structure as found in paragraphs 46 through 48 of the IPA and reiterated at the 36th Session of the Conference in document C 2009/7. We are prepared to make what we consider an exception, and go along with the Director-General's request, provided that a comprehensive written analysis of the impact of this change as well as all aspects of the Director-General's Human Resources Reform initiative is made to the spring Session of the Finance Committee, and subsequently to the Council.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, on savings, we very much want to give credit where credit is due. We, as Member Nations, have been demanding that FAO show this is an Organization focused on cost-efficiency and value for money. And we are very pleased to see that in addition to the savings found in the last PWB, almost USD 20 million worth of recurrent savings have been found primarily from Functional Objectives X and Y. This is a very welcome development, and we applaud FAO for making such bold cuts. A lean and efficient Organization is a much more desirable investment destination for donors.

In terms of the expenditure of these savings, we support the overall transfer of resources to the Decentralized Offices and to the Multidisciplinary Fund, as outlined in the paper. On the Multidisciplinary Fund, we certainly support the concept, but at this stage have little information about how it will work, what it will be used for, and how decisions on its expenditure will be made.

In particular, we are very interested to hear more about this Fund and the criteria used for determining which projects are funded. The current list of priorities in the paper seems, to us, a little bit arbitrary. For example, International Years are supposed to be funded under extra-budgetary resources, not through core funding. Projects funded under this Multidisciplinary Fund need to focus on cross-cutting strategic issues, and it should not be a Fund for unfunded commitments.

We, therefore, very much support the request of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees that detailed information on the Multidisciplinary Fund, including the process and criteria for selecting projects, be provided to the next regular session of the Joint Meeting.

In terms of the structural changes proposed in the document, we continue to have a range of questions about the proposed split of the Human Resources function with the associated establishment of the Office of Human Resources in the apex structure. This issue was, of course, discussed in both the joint programme and finance committee and separately in the finance committee where it was agreed that further information was required before these committees could form a position.

We appreciate the effort of the Secretariat to arrange, at very short notice, a briefing session for member states on this important issue. Unfortunately, there was still not enough time for the Secretariat to answer questions by member states. In the end, we feel this issue has been taken somewhat out of proportion. It is important to look at this issue in the context of decisions we are seeking to take in this Council meeting.

For example, we have endorsed a new Vision for Decentralization already, and a whole suite of substantial changes and new positions to support this Vision. We are currently considering around USD 20 million in savings primarily from the administrative arm of FAO, and the results and expenditure of these funds, mainly in the Decentralized Office Network. And we're about to consider, for the first time, five new draft Strategic Objectives for the Organization that have the potential to substantially reform the role and functioning of FAO.

Yet, in contrast, more than 100 people turned up to hear about one minor aspect of the deliberations and consensus decision of the Programme and Finance Committees. Overall, Australia remains committed to further changes within FAO to make it a more efficient and effective organization. Improvements to Human Resources policies are one important aspect of this. Issues regarding performance management, mobility, recruitment processes and timeframes, rewards and recognition policies, and the Competency Framework for staff are high priorities that must be resolved.

The decisions about staff need to be made with staff. Transparency is paramount not only for Member Nations but for staff as well. On this basis, we will not oppose a consensus on this issue, but request that further detailed reports on the progress of these Human Resources issues, particularly the ones I have just mentioned, be provided to the forthcoming meetings of the Finance Committee.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada is fully supportive of the initiative taken by the Director-General to identify additional savings and improvements in efficiency through these adjustments. We are very encouraged that streamlining the Organization is moving forward in this way.

Canada is also supportive of the reallocation of savings to the Multidisciplinary Fund. Having said this and with an expectation that we will be increasing the use of this fund, we request the FAO Secretariat to provide Member Nations, through the Programme and Finance Committees, with further details on criteria and selection process, as well as the process for evaluation and assessment of results and benefits.

With regard to the provisions and the adjustments related to the proposal to revamp the Human Resources function by splitting it into two units with one located in the Apex and reporting directly to the Director-General, we have listened carefully to the Director-General's statement yesterday when

he addressed this issue and read the additional information that has so far been provided to us. We have decided to accept his assurances that this is the only way forward to accomplish the needed reforms in that part of the Organization and that he needs to do this expeditiously.

We continue to have reservations. As the Director-General noted yesterday, we may not always agree. We are disappointed that our questions posed both in the Finance Committee and last Friday in the Informal Briefing remain largely unanswered in our view. They were and are intended to allow us to make an informed judgment on the proposals put to us by the Director-General and are, in our view, a normal response to the request for advice as Member Nations.

We remain concerned that the perception of this change will be a negative one as regards the responsibilities of the Director-General and also the potential for overburdening his time. There should, nevertheless, be no doubt that we are wholeheartedly behind the goals of this policy as outlined, and, with greater transparency on human resources use across the board with both Member Nations and staff, greater flexibility and effectiveness, more rapid decision-making, transparent and merit-based recruitment at all levels, and retention of the very best staff for the Organization, including through due regard for gender equality, full and consulted implementation of the Mobility Policy, better communication with both Member Nations and staff, and forward-looking state-of-the-art policies and strategies on human resources.

We have advocated this here as well as in other UN Bodies. Therefore, we request that the Secretariat provide as soon as feasible, but no later than the session next spring, to the Finance Committee for due consideration prior to Council, a Progress Report on the Implementation of these Measures and, most importantly, how they are accomplishing these results outlined by the Director-General as driving this change.

Trust is a two-way street. Just as the Director-General asks the Member Nations to trust him to do his job well, we ask him to trust us to have the best interests of the Organization in mind. To understand and accept that we, as Member Nations and donors, must and will continue to exercise the due diligence required of us by our Governments and our tax payers. In doing so, we look forward to close collaboration with the Director-General and the Secretariat.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We appreciate that the required savings of USD 6.5 million have been quantified. Also we basically support the reallocation of USD 19.3 million for strengthening the Decentralized Offices and for other prioritized areas. We hope that FAO carries out its function as a knowledge institution with efficient use of resources.

We have two comments. First, we should like to discuss the expansion of Multidisciplinary Funds. As the Republic of Korea and Australia stated, we would like to be informed of the criteria and process of selecting interdisciplinary work to be financed from the Multidisciplinary Fund. We support expanding the Multidisciplinary Fund, and further expansions could be foreseen since it is still lower than the target level which is 5 percent of the net appropriation. However, when we think about expanding the Fund, the criteria to be used and the discipline to be exercised should be shared among Members. For example, expenditure for International Years in paragraph 65 should be re-examined with a view to be excluded, and new cross-cutting activities such as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) should be included, as per the statements by the delegations of China, India, and Iran.

Now, apart from the Agenda, we thank Philippines for referring to the GIAHS site in Japan, Satoyama and Satoumi in Noto Peninsula. We wish to take this opportunity to say that Japan is prepared to host the next international GIAHS Forum scheduled to be held the next year.

Now, moving back to the Agenda, we have a comment regarding adjustments of the Human Resources Division. We appreciate the intention of Management to promote institutional strengthening while streamlining the number of staff. We also appreciate that Management held an Informal Briefing last week for clarification purposes. We think that all of us are proceeding towards the same direction. However, we still think that further discussion is needed to address concerns such as, if the split Human Resources Division will work efficiently, and why the Director-General can make faster

decisions under the new setting when he already receives a direct report from ADG CS, Corporate Services on all decisions. There is always a flip side to everything, so we recommend that advantages and disadvantages be discussed thoroughly in the next Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Director-General repeatedly says that he would regain trust of Members, and we think this consultation process is the way for strengthening our mutual trust. We expect that the Director-General frankly communicate with Members for our informed consent, and not justify the proposal by referring to the Basic Texts.

Having said our concerns and our position, and having listened to the comments of the Council Members, we don't wish to block the consensus and follow the majority. At the same time, we request that the updated information and results achieved be provided to the Governing Bodies through the Finance and Programme Committees.

Finally, we welcome the news that further measures for institutional strengthening will be developed and that further savings are being sought for enhancing value for money. We look forward to a proposal for discussion later this year.

Mr Olyntho VIERA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation supports the proposals contained in document CL 144/3. We commend the additional savings of roughly USD 19 million. With regard to the organizational changes proposed, our delegation supports the Director-General's initiative and considers it important to allow him the necessary latitude to implement his vision in the short-term.

The Brazilian delegation takes note of the comments made by other delegations in the sense that there is a consensus being built in this direction. We understand that all the measures taken will be presented to the controlling Governing Bodies, so we commend the proposals presented and support the document.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We support these adjustments and the Director-General's vision for transformational change which he has put forward in the document. We are pleased to note that in line with the guidance of the Council, savings of USD 6.5 million, mainly under Functional Objectives X and Y, have been achieved. A further savings of USD 19.3 million has been identified, also mainly from Objectives X and Y. We welcome and commend the fact that these savings are reallocated from administration to technical areas of work, as well as from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices.

We note that overall about 88 posts have been identified for abolition. While we support these measures, we hope that in identifying the abolition of these posts there has also been a review of the structure of the business processes of the Organization. Such a review is essential, since it is widely accepted that the major cost of administration in any organization is the structure of its business processes and procedures. Unless such a review is undertaken to eliminate obsolete and inappropriate rules, over a period of time there is a danger of a creep back in the staffing at Headquarters.

With regard to the proposal on Human Resources, it has always been emphasized by both the Governing Bodies of FAO as well as the Secretariat, that the FAO staff are the most valuable asset of the Organization. Hence, success in enhancing FAO's operational and institutional efficiency and effectiveness depends to a large extent on the way in which the Organization's workforce - i.e. the Organization's most vital resource - is managed and deployed. This is so because an organization survives and thrives because of the capabilities and performance of its people. The activities to maximize those capabilities and performance are of the utmost importance. As Member Governments we should therefore be ensuring that FAO has an effective and responsive Human Resources function. As to how this should be achieved, these are details and should be left to the Director-General. We should not fall into the trap of micro-management.

Coming to the implementation of the proposals, there may be instances where little changes here and there are required. We cannot be expected each time for the Director-General to come back to Member Governments, because that would be real micro-management.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

L'Algérie se félicite du document CL 144/3 relatif aux ajustements apportés au PTB 2012-13.

Mon pays appuie pleinement ces ajustements en vue du renforcement institutionnel et l'amélioration de l'impact sur l'exécution des programmes.

L'Algérie approuve les budgets révisées, ainsi que la nouvelle répartition des crédits ouverts entre les Chapitres budgétaires présentés au Tableau 4.

Mon pays appuie pleinement les propositions du Directeur général relatives aux ajustements structurels, notamment ceux concernant la Division des ressources humaines.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Observer for Bangladesh)

I would like to thank Mr Boyd Haight for his introduction and I also thank the Secretariat for this clear and transparent document. My delegation welcomes the Director-General's vision for the transformational change of FAO as outlined in his speech of yesterday, and which is a driver for the proposals set out in the document. We welcome the fact that the Council's previous guidance and decisions have been followed and the required USD 6.5 million of savings has been identified under Functional Objectives X and Y. We are also very pleased with the identification of an additional USD 19.3 million, noting that these too have been found mainly under Functional Objectives X and Y as a result of the critical review of post structure and the search for efficiency savings measures.

My delegation fully supports the proposed reallocation of the resources available to strengthen the Decentralized Office Network in the amount of USD 10.4 million as we recalled in yesterday's debate. We also support the reallocation of resources to inter-disciplinary activities by use of the Multidisciplinary Fund in the amount of USD 6.8 million in line with areas of priorities emerging from the Strategic Thinking Process. We would also like to second the delegations of China, India, Philippines, and others in encouraging FAO to utilize the resources available under these funds for the preservation and conservation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites that have been a source of food security to mankind over the centuries and to replace them into programmatic interventions.

We support the measures for institutional strengthening both at Decentralized Offices and at Headquarters, including the structural adjustments to the existing Office of Communications and External Relations, to the current Human Resources Management Division and for the strengthening of the Strategic Planning capacity. We find the proposal for the Human Resources Division to be logical and well-thought through. The reallocation of Human Resources leadership strategy and policy in the Apex is fundamental. It will improve decision-making and address the issue of internal governance. Furthermore, with regard to human resources, we note that the proposal in question is in line with the guidance provided by the Membership in the discussions following the IEE and in the IPA.

Above all, Bangladesh supports the critical necessity for the Director-General to manage the Human Resources of FAO, which is its greatest asset, without undue and unnecessary interlocation and micro-management from us, the Membership. My delegation recognizes that the concrete proposals in the document represent only a very small percentage of the net appropriation approved by the Conference in 2011. At the same time, we welcome the enormous change in mentality that underlines the proposal to strive to provide greater value for money, more efficiency, and effectiveness in the management of the Organization, the improvement to delivery at country level, the transparency in the operations of Management, and the strengthening of FAO's strategic planning capacity.

In light of my comments, we endorse the proposals contained in document CL 144/3, and we look forward to reviewing further proposals for transformational change at the next meeting of the Council in December.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

We welcome the document CL 144/3 on Further Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. We also commend the clear and concise introduction of the document made by Mr Boyd

Haight. We endorse the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We commend them for that.

That said, we would like to add a few points in regard to the restructuring of the Human Resources Management Division. First of all, we recognize that this proposed action by the Director-General is within his mandate. We'd like to refer to the Constitution of FAO, Article VII.4 which says, and I quote, "Subject to the general supervision of the Conference and the Council, the Director-General shall have full power and authority to direct the work of the Organization". I am referring to the Basic Texts, because these are the guides of both the Governing Bodies and Management.

Secondly, the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) in its Report of September 2007 and on the basis of which we, Members have drawn up the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), recommended under Recommendation 8.1, paragraph 1342(b), page 344, the "modernization of the Human Resources Management Division to make it less of a process facilitator and more of a strategic partner building human resources strategy and advising and supporting senior management". The proposal that the Director-General is making, therefore, is in keeping with the importance that Members attach to human resources development and management, and which has been incorporated and then made into a Plan of Action.

The Director-General has time and again, beginning with his campaign for the post of the FAO Director-General, informed Members of his vision for FAO. He has been explaining to Members that he has begun a transformational change process, which includes a Strategic Thinking Process, in order to determine the future strategic direction of FAO. The Director-General deserves the full trust and support to determine that strategic direction of FAO, which is consistent with the FAO Reform Process and IPA.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Nous nous félicitons des ajustements apportés au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 et appuyons la vision du changement transformationnel de la FAO.

Nous nous félicitons également du fait que les 6,5 millions de dollars d'économie à rechercher ont été trouvés et qu'ils l'ont été avant tout au niveau des Objectifs X et Y et que des économies supplémentaires de 19, 3 millions de dollars ont été trouvées grâce à un examen critique des postes et aux ajustements structurels.

Nous sommes favorables à la réallocation de ressources résultant d'économie, en faveur des activités interdisciplinaires, afin de renforcer la collaboration entre les disciplines.

Nous nous félicitons également des mesures prévues pour le renforcement de l'institution, et soutenons l'objectif recherché d'une gestion plus efficace des Ressources humaines.

Nous souhaitons toutefois que les ajustements prévus soient mis en œuvre de manière transparente, et que des informations à cet égard soit fournies régulièrement aux Organes directeurs.

Ms Catherine MCGREGOR (Observer for New Zealand)

New Zealand would like to add its voice in support of the statements made earlier by Australia, the United States of America, Canada and Japan, especially those comments from the United States of America in respect of reinforcing the principles and spirit of the IPA when important decisions are being made concerning the operations and administration of this Organization. The desired outcome of the IPA has, after all, always been to achieve genuine improvement in the Organization. We very much welcome the efforts of the Director-General to find further significant savings in the Programme of Work and Budget, and congratulate him on this achievement.

Concerning the proposed changes to the Human Resources management structure, we have heard and appreciate the Director-General's reasons for wanting to make these changes, but in our view we have not seen enough evidence or information to justify that the approach proposed is the best one. Good questions have been asked by some previous speakers which may help to clarify the rationale for the changes. We remain hopeful that answers will be provided in due course to these questions. It is claimed that certain benefits will result from the proposed changes, but we would still like to see a clear rationale for them.

We, too, have concerns about the perceived transparency of the new process that is being proposed and also, purely from a practical management point of view, we are concerned that the proposed changes would lead to an unwieldy span of control for the Director-General with the number of direct reports being greater than is conventionally found to be manageable.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'autres intervenants, je demande au Président du Comité financier s'il veut faire quelques commentaires.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je voudrais remercier le Conseil pour les directives qui nous ont été données en tant que Membre du Comité financier. Tous ces Membres du Comité financier, qui sont ici représentés au Conseil, ont également suivi ce que le Conseil a pensé du travail que nous avons effectué lors de notre session et de la session conjointe sur cette question des Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 (PTB).

Monsieur le Président, avec certainement les observations qui nous seront données par d'autres Membres du Comité financier, nous voulons retenir quatre orientations précises.

D'abord, la première orientation sur les autres ajustements au PTB, notamment la réallocation des économies engagées par chapitre budgétaire. Nous avons noté qu'il y a un consensus général dans la salle, et que le Conseil sur ce point n'a pas hésité à donner carte blanche au Secrétariat pour pouvoir mettre en pratique ces réallocations.

Nous avons également suivi comme deuxième point les questions du fonds multidisciplinaire. Il est vrai que, même durant les sessions du Comité financier, cette question a été évoquée et la conclusion de ce jour est la même que nous avons eu lors de la notre du Comité financier: à savoir, que les Membres auraient besoin davantage d'informations, notamment en ce que concerne les critères d'allocation. Nous pouvons attendre ces informations du Secrétariat et je pense pouvoir parler au nom des Membres du Comité financier pour dire qu'en attendant ces éléments, nous pouvons déjà nous préparer à leur examen lors de notre session du printemps 2012.

Le troisième point concerne les autres ajustements au PTB. Le Directeur général et le Secrétariat nous ont promis des Ajustements supplémentaires dans le PTB. Nous demandons une certaine flexibilité pour que le Directeur général soit suffisamment opérationnel au moment où il est en train de prendre ses fonctions et lors de la mise en œuvre du premier biennium de son mandat. Nous prenons acte que le Directeur général a fait cette demande et que le Conseil ici présent a entériné la demande, nous attendons les propositions à cet effet que nous examinerons durant notre Conseil au printemps 2013.

Le quatrième point traite des ajustements structurels. Comme je l'ai dit au début, c'est une question difficile et qui reste controversée. Nous avons suivi les indications des délégations, celles qui supportent entièrement cette proposition, celles qui y mettent un petit bémol et celles qui exceptionnellement l'acceptent. Nous pensons pouvoir dire qu'au final il n'y aura pas de blocage pour la décision sur les Ressources humaines en ce qui concerne la division de la gestion des Ressources humaines et le Bureau de la Communication et des relations extérieures.

Le Comité financier se réjouit de cette décision finale du Conseil. Je pense que c'est une décision de sagesse, parce que le Directeur général qui commence son mandat a besoin d'être conforté dans cet exercice du mandat. Imaginez-vous un peu que nous n'ayons pas conduit cette proposition, cela aurait été un mauvais signe notamment pour les Organes de gouvernance.

Donc au nom du Comité financier, nous nous réjouissons et nous attendons donc le rapport et d'autres propositions ou bien des rapports sur la mise en œuvre des ajustements structurels lors de notre session du printemps 2013.

Voilà donc, Monsieur le Président, les recommandations qui ont été faites. Je vous remercie et merci au Conseil une fois de plus.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

I would like to sincerely thank all delegations who have spoken to support the Director-General's transformation process which, of course, goes beyond these adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and which we will also be discussing in the next Item on your Agenda. In particular, in relation to this Item, the support for the savings and the reallocations, I was heartened to hear several comments that this should take place within the results-based frameworks that have been approved. These will continue to be considered by the Governing Bodies and implemented by the Secretariat, because these provide the means for us not only to measure how we more efficiently and effectively deliver our programmes but how we are actually able to get impact and results, which is what we are aiming to do in the Organization.

With respect to the efficiency savings, I believe when the Director-General addressed the Joint Meeting two weeks ago, he mentioned that this is not an easy process and, indeed, we are paying close attention to the impact of efficiency savings on the services that we deliver. So, for example, as regards the Russian Federation's concern on language services, certainly, we are not aiming to compromise the delivery of our language services, rather to make them more efficient. And we have the opportunity of the Global Resources Management System implementation to review our business processes and continue to find means to deliver our business services inside the Organization more efficiently. So, we are indeed paying close attention to the impact of these savings.

We have listened very carefully to the guidance provided and I must say, and I have said this on previous occasions and at the Regional Conferences, it is very heartening to hear guidance more than questions. In other words, this is a debate among the Members rather than with the Secretariat.

But the guidance that we will be sure to take on board is, first, to ensure that the technical work of the Organization is protected and continues to be enhanced by these transformation processes. We've made progress in these adjustments, and the intention is to continue to make progress. Secondly, we shall come back to the Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees at their fall sessions with more information on how we are implementing the Multidisciplinary Fund: the process, the criteria for selection, the expected benefits of the projects that we shall go forward with.

And third, we shall come back in the spring of next year with more detailed information not only on the measures taken for the improvement of the Human Resources Management function between the two offices, but also the benefits that are being realized. Furthermore, I believe – and the Chair of the Finance Committee could correct me if I'm wrong – that the Finance Committee receives, at every Session, a Report on the progress being made in the implementation of the Human Resources Management Strategy, which is the corporate strategy that drives all of our work related to Human Resources Management.

There were some specific questions. One in particular that Uganda had asked regarding clarification on the number of posts that were abolished in the Human Resources function. There were 11 posts abolished. However, one post was brought over from the Office of the ADG of the Corporate Services Department, which means there is a net abolition of only ten posts in the Human Resources Management function. So the numbers add up, because of the transfer from one unit to another. The net abolition comes to ten, rather than 11 posts.

LE PRÉSIDENT

À l'issue de ce long débat et des échanges entre les délégations et le Secrétariat, il me revient d'essayer de faire une conclusion proposée au Comité de rédaction. Je vais donc vous faire une proposition en six points.

Premier point: «Le Conseil se déclare satisfait que ces indications et décisions aient été mises en œuvre et approuve le budget révisé en ce qui concerne le nombre de postes et les changements structurels, ainsi que la nouvelle répartition des crédits ouverts entre les chapitres budgétaires.»

Deuxième point: «Le Conseil note avec appréciation que des économies supplémentaires pour un montant de 13,3 millions de dollars aient pu être dégagées principalement dans les Objectifs fonctionnels X et Y.»

Troisième point: «Le Conseil approuve la proposition d'ajustements structurels de l'actuelle division de la gestion des ressources humaines, en particulier la scission en deux unités responsables, respectivement, des Gestions de stratégies et de politiques et de l'Appui à la gestion des ressources humaines.»

Toutefois, certains Membres ont exprimé des préoccupations concernant notamment le lien avec le PAI. Ils ont souhaité la plus grande transparence dans le suivi de ce dossier. Le Conseil demande qu'un rapport d'étapes lui soit présenté lors de la Session d'avril 2013 à travers le Comité financier et la réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du programme.

Ce rapport insistera particulièrement sur les points suivants au nombre de cinq:

- (i) la transparence dans la gestion du personnel, incluant la célérité dans la décision afférente;
- (ii) le recrutement et la rétention du personnel le plus compétent en tenant compte de la parité homme, femme;
- (iii) le développement et la mise en œuvre au niveau stratégique de politiques de gestion du personnel modernes axées sur les résultats;
- (iv) la mise en œuvre de la politique de la mobilité du personnel; et
- (v) la communication avec les Pays Membres et le personnel lui-même sur les principaux aspects des politiques du personnel.

Quatrième point: «Le Conseil a salué l'allocation de crédits supplémentaires au Fonds multidisciplinaire, et souhaite que les activités financées par ce fonds supportent les pays en développement dans leurs efforts visant à protéger le Patrimoine agricole comme source vivrière universelle.»

Le Conseil a demandé, par ailleurs, que le Secrétariat précise les critères selon lesquels les activités financées par ce Fonds seront déterminées, et les mesures envisagées pour l'exécution de ce Programme.»

Cinquième point: «Le Conseil prend note également du fait que le processus de changement transformationnel de la FAO sera poursuivi par le Directeur général en 2012 avec pour but de rechercher d'autres possibilités de réaliser des gains d'efficacité et d'optimiser l'utilisation des ressources, en particulier dans l'administration.»

Sixième et dernier point: «Le Conseil demande que les nouvelles propositions de renforcement institutionnel, notamment une stratégie et une approche coordonnées des activités de mobilisation des ressources et d'assistance au politique, et des initiatives visant à améliorer le contrôle interne, soit élaborés et présentés au Conseil à sa 145^{ème} session en décembre 2012.

J'espère ne rien avoir globalement oublié et d'avoir été le plus fidèle possible au riche débat que nous avons eu puisque nous avons débattu pendant 2 heures et demi sur ce sujet et qu'il y a eu plus de 30 interventions. Cela montre d'ailleurs tout l'intérêt que le Conseil porte au financement et au management de cette maison et c'est bon signe.

Je considère que nous ne sommes pas en retard, nous avons fait notre travail, même si la fin de la journée va être difficile à gérer, mais ce n'est pas un problème quand on prend du temps sur des sujets vraiment de fond. Ce que nous avons fait ce matin, et je vous en remercie.

Cet élément sera transmis pour être discuté dans le Comité du rapport. L'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I just wanted to clarify on the Multidisciplinary Fund. I am a bit reluctant to endorse particular activities we should invest in or not invest in before we know what the criteria for projects are. It seems we are putting the cart before the horse, so I prefer us to consider through the usual processes, the Finance and Programme Committees, the policies and criteria and processes for the Multidisciplinary Fund before we decide which kind of activities we should allocate that to.

Ultimately, of course, it is up to the Director-General, I think, and his decision-making processes to determine where it goes. So I would be reluctant for us to give too much direction to him on how to spend some of that funding. There is also a question on that— and this is the kind of discussion we need to have - about whether is this recurrent funding or is this one-off project, and things like that. If it is recurrent funding, if we fund a recurrent project through the Multidisciplinary Fund, then surely we're going to have to go and find the same amount of savings in that same biennium to replenish the Multidisciplinary Fund. So, there are some very complicated issues we need to be careful with before we start to just decide where we should be spending this money.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que par rapport à votre demande, si on fait référence à l'examen par le Comité du Programme, plus particulièrement, et financier, cela vous agréerait?

L'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I think you already had that in there. Perhaps the part I was questioning was the particular focus on agricultural heritage sites. In the absence of knowing how we fund that now, and what the criteria are for this Multidisciplinary Fund, etc, I am questioning how we can decide to direct funding into that kind of activity. If we're starting to talk about what activities we should or should not fund, I certainly spoke about not funding International Years. I'm just reluctant to become very specific now.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose que dans la deuxième phrase où l'on parle de: «supporter les pays en développement dans leurs efforts visant notamment à protéger le patrimoine agricole comme source universelle», le tout étant sujet à l'approbation du Comité du programme et du Comité financier.

Cela vous va-t-il? Donc, on ajustera cela dans le Comité de rédaction, et on a bien entendu la remarque qui a été faite. Je peux donc clore ce point de l'Ordre du jour. Merci de votre participation active.

7. Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework

7. Ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé

7. Esquema del Marco estratégico revisado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il nous reste une demi-heure avant le déjeuner, et nous allons parler du point 7 de l'Ordre du jour. Et merci à Monsieur Haight et aussi à Monsieur Médi sur l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique. J'ai dit merci à Boyd Haight mais il a pris un contrat pour toute la matinée au moins donc je vais tout de suite lui redonner la parole, pour qu'il nous présente le document. Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, les Présidents des Conférences régionales qui voudront donner un avis sur ce sujet pourront le faire.

Monsieur Haight, vous avez la parole.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

As the Director-General mentioned in his opening remarks yesterday, he has launched a transformational change process to allow FAO to respond to the challenges the world is facing today and to make the Organization more efficient, more focused, and to improve our performance results and impact. A key part of the transformation is the Strategic Thinking Process to determine the future, strategic direction, and priorities of the Organization, starting with the review of the Strategic Framework.

Why are we reviewing the Strategic Framework? We've embarked on this review as well as the preparation of the next four-year Medium Term Plan 2014-17, in line with FAO's cycle of strategic planning. We have much to learn from our experience during the past two years. We are improving our strategic planning process to be able to set clear priorities and focus the Organization's Programme of Work on a limited number of activities. We aim to align our programmes and objectives, with a clear line of sight between our Programme of Work on the ground and the

achievement of our common goals within a robust, results-based approach. And we are taking into account country and regional needs from the outset to achieve demonstrable results on the ground.

In this introduction, I will touch on key aspects of the review of the Strategic Framework and also try to clarify a few matters that have been raised by Members in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance committees and in our Informal Briefings in the past two weeks. It is important to recall at the outset that the Council in its last session in November-December 2011 endorsed a set of five guiding principles for the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium Term Plan. These principles which guide the Strategic Thinking Process include: identifying fewer priorities, aims, and challenges, and thus fewer Strategic Objectives; applying a multi-disciplinary country focus in identifying priorities that are cross-cutting and build on country and regional priorities; leveraging comparative advantages and core functions; improving the connection between FAO's global public goods and our normative work with regional and national needs; clarifying and rationalizing results and development outcomes based on one FAO-wide set of Strategic Objectives; and engaging staff at all levels, coupled with the framework of internal accountability.

So, how is the process unfolding? It started with FAO's agreed vision and goals. These provide the high-level aspiration of a world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all. The Strategic Thinking Process has identified the major global trends and the main challenges the countries must address to achieve the agreed vision and goals of the Organization, and the process is identifying the Strategic Objectives and the action plans that will guide the Organization's Programme of Work for the future.

Let me elaborate on four key aspects of the process that have resulted in the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework to be considered by the Council today, and that will guide the road ahead.

First, how did we move from the main challenges to the proposed Strategic Objectives? We started by identifying the major trends and main challenges through a staff working group and an Organization-wide staff survey. Initial drafts of this work were reviewed by an External Strategy Experts Panel. The 11 global trends identify major contextual changes that Member Nations and the international development community will face in the near future. From these trends, seven development challenges have been identified that have special significance and urgency, taking into account FAO's broad mandate but not necessarily representing areas of focus for the Organization. This was followed by a consultation over the last three months with the Regional Conferences on the relevance and the regional specificities of the development challenges identified, and to inform the debate on regional priorities for FAO's work.

We then derived a set of proposed Strategic Objectives starting from the challenges as conditioned by the Regional Conference inputs. The analysis involved three main steps that were developed by a second Staff Working Group, and reviewed by the Strategy Experts Panel. First, we considered the implications of the changing development environment for FAO's work, in particular, the UN development programming principles related to enhanced country leadership, sustainability, capacity-development, and focus on results and impact. Second, we undertook a review of FAO's core functions which are our a unique means of action to achieve results in the context of the evolving development environment, and taking into account the Organization's basic attributes. This will ensure that we have the capacity to maintain and delivery FAO's knowledge, public goods, and services for impact globally, regionally, and at country level. Then, third, taking account of the first two steps, we applied FAO's comparative advantages to the seven development challenges, asking three questions. What needs to be achieved to address the challenge within FAO's mandate? And then narrowing down, what are FAO's comparative advantages and capacities to act to the core functions, taking account of the roles, capacity, and performance of other actors and partners? And then, finally, what are the potential areas for focus of FAO's action in the future?

This analysis, which is made available as a Web Annex to the main document, allowed us to move from the seven challenges to the five proposed Strategic Objectives that you will find in the document and which speak for themselves. First, to eradicate hunger, food and security and malnutrition. Second to increase production in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in an economic, socially and environmentally-stable manner. Third, to improve the livelihood of rural populations, in particular

women and youth, to enhance employment opportunities and increase access to production resources. Fourth, to enable more inclusive and efficient food systems at local, national, regional, and international levels. And fifth, to increase the resilience of rural livelihoods to threats and crisis.

Second, how will we elaborate the action plans including the regional aspects? The Action Plans will be the results frameworks where we specify the priority areas of action regionally and globally for FAO's work in the four-year period 2014-17, contributing to the Strategic Objectives. They will include a clearer linkage to indicators and targets between the outputs of FAO's work at all levels and the outcomes and impact in the Strategic Framework. The Action Plans will aim to align FAO's normative and standard-setting work with country-level priorities, determined through the Country Programming Frameworks.

The elaboration of the Action Plans has been undertaken starting this month by five Working Groups of staff led by Senior Managers, and tasked to consult widely in the Organization. The Action Plans will take into account the guidance provided by numerous stakeholders, the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees, Programme and Finance Committees and Council, as well as consultation with the regional and global collaborators including the Rome-based and other UN Agencies and Regional Economic Integration Organizations.

Third, how will we handle the transition from the current to the Reviewed Strategic Framework at the end of this biennium? We are, of course, fully implementing the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13, contributing to the current set of 11 Strategic Objectives in the Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and we will continue to do so until the end of this biennium. We recognize the need to ensure a smooth and transparent transition from the current four-year results frameworks in the Medium Term Plan 2010-13 to the new framework that will be in the Medium Term Plan for 2014-17, in terms of areas of work that will be continued or dropped and new areas of work, as well as accountability for results and allocation of resources.

Finally, let me elaborate on the road map ahead of the Governing Bodies. First, the Technical Committees that are still to meet this year, the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forestry, will consider the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and provide priorities for their sectors. Then, their guidance along with the other Technical Committees, the Regional Conferences, Programme and Finance Committees, and this session of Council will be taken into account in preparing the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the Action Plans for the outline of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17. These documents will be considered by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the next Session of Council in December, providing a second round of review.

The Secretariat will then prepare the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the full Medium Term Plan 2014-17, as well as the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. All three documents will be ready in time for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees in March, and the Council in April 2013, as per the schedule of planning documents in the Basic Texts of the Organization. The documents will then be transmitted to the Conference for approval in June 2013.

The Governing Bodies are playing an important, in fact, a critical role in shaping the main challenges for the future and providing input for the formulation of FAO's Strategic Objectives and Action Plans. As the Secretariat moves forward in preparing the Organization's planning documents, we look forward to receiving the Council's comments on the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and, in particular, the proposed Strategic Objectives.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de donner la parole à Moungui Médi, je voudrais seulement vous signaler que demain nous aurons la discussion sur le Comité de sécurité alimentaire mais, en ce qui concerne le Cadre stratégique, nous l'avons adjoint ici puisque nous pouvons discuter aussi de l'affectation du CSA dans ce point de l'Ordre du jour, ce qui n'était pas le cas dans le premier écrit. C'est ce que je voulais simplement ajouter.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Mr Chairperson and Members of Council, we've just heard the introduction to this topic, which is the outline of the Review Strategy Framework. I am pleased now to report the outcome of the discussions

that took place in the Joint Meeting of the 111th Session of the Programme Committee and 145th Session of the Finance Committee. The meeting took place from 31st May to 1st June 2012.

I will not deliver a lot at all - let me put it that way - on the discussions *per se*, but I'll come back to the main suggestions or recommendations that the Joint Meeting made to the Council. The Joint Meeting welcomed the presentation of the outline of the Review Strategy Framework contained in five proposed Strategic Objectives for the future work of the Organization and reviewed the trends, challenges, core functions, and comparative advantages identified. The Joint Meeting supported the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General, and took note of the related roadmap of the major planning document during 2012-13. The Joint Meeting also welcomed the start of the broad and consultative process, and encouraged further involvement of the staff. A formal constitution with the Membership and to further subsume guidance from all Regional Conferences, including the North America Informal Regional Conference.

The Joint Meeting underlined the importance of the concept of comparative advantage. I must confess here that it was hotly-debated, and was like being in an economic classroom at that point, but finally we agreed on the general concept and we underlined the importance of the concept in the review of the Strategic Framework in preparation for the next Medium Term Plan. We also highlighted the need for a clear line of sight between FAO Strategic Objectives and work on the ground, and emphasized that the Action Plan should be developed using a robust results-based framework.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the eradication of fewer and more cross-cutting Strategic Objectives. It provided feedback on further development of FAO Strategic Objectives, and looked forward to their elaboration in the Review Strategic Framework to be submitted to the 145th Session of the Council in December 2012 via the Programme and Finance Committees.

This is the outcome of our Joint Meeting, and I thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme convenu, s'il y a un Président de Conférence régionale qui sur ce sujet là veut faire une communication, maintenant ou au cours du débat, mais en priorité maintenant, je lui donne la parole. Des Présidents de Conférences régionales? Pas pour l'instant?

Il nous reste encore dix minutes, il faut utiliser notre temps au maximum. Je vous propose donc de commencer les interventions, mais je vois que vous fatiguez puisque personne ne veut la parole. Je ne vais pas clore le débat. Voilà, merci à l'Argentine et merci au Danemark. Ce seront sans doute les deux seules interventions pour ce matin.

Sr. Gustavo O. INFANTE (Argentina)

Simplemente para hacer una breve referencia a que hemos manifestado en reiteradas oportunidades, es decir, nuestro apoyo al Proceso de Pensamiento Estratégico y a la elaboración del Marco que estamos considerando. Yo voy a reiterar lo que expresamos en oportunidad de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas cuando dijimos que el esquema propuesto es un satisfactorio primer paso en la elaboración de un necesario Marco Estratégico que contribuye a una mejor priorización de las acciones de la FAO basadas en sus ventajas comparativas.

Dicho esto y reiterado el apoyo a todo el proceso, Argentina continuará participando en el mismo porque nos parece que es necesario en esta y en la próxima etapa de elaboración de más detalles de los Objetivos, ser cuidadosos con definiciones y con el tratamiento en la autorización de determinados términos como por ejemplo "economía verde" que todavía no tiene una definición aceptada o negociada a nivel internacional, así como otra referencia como a temas que realmente nos preocupan como la definición de estándares privados, la consideración de la excesiva volatilidad de los precios, que es también es una preocupación de Argentina. Pero no quiero entrar en un *micro-management* de los términos en estos momentos, así que finalizo reiterando el respaldo que damos a este documento.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU (Croatia) and the candidate countries for the EU (Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey) align themselves with this statement.

The EU notes the pertinent observations made by the Programme and the Finance Committees in their Joint Meeting on 31 May-1 June, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General of FAO in January 2012. The Strategic Thinking Process has focused on the macro-economic, social and political context which the Organization operates in. The interesting results reflecting the discussions of all the Regional Conferences are presented in detail in a number of Annexes placed on the Web site. The analysis has further identified 11 major global trends and 7 challenges that will have a direct incidence on the general areas of FAO's mandate. We compliment the Organization for the work and, in general, we support the conclusions and the importance of the identified major trends or challenges for FAO while concurring with the Joint Meeting that FAO should not necessarily address the challenges alone. We are looking forward to further dialogue on these challenges in the context of discussions on the expected revision of the Strategic Framework 2010-19 in preparation for the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and, indeed, in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15.

In this context, the EU would like to mention that it seems that too little emphasis has been given to the sustainable management of natural resources in the Strategic Thinking Process. The EU would like to see more weight given to the contribution of agriculture, fishery and forests to the third Global Goal of FAO.

During the process, five rather general cross-cutting objectives have been identified and it is indicated that these objectives after being developed into fully-fledged proposals eventually will constitute the Strategic Objectives for the future work of the Organization. We are ready to further discuss these proposed Strategic Objectives, in particular their formulation and definition, so as to have a common understanding and avoid possible overlapping. The EU looks forward to a broad and inclusive consultative process, also regarding the translation of all three of FAO's priority areas of work in agriculture, forestry and fisheries into Action Plans, including objectives, outputs, indicators, targets, baselines and instruments.

However, we can already state that there is a general feeling among Member Nations that some important issues over time seem not to have been sufficiently taken into account. For example, one of these is the need for a more integrated approach to sustainable natural resource management. It is essential that the Framework will capture this broader context that is expected to receive new impetus from the Rio+20 Conference. At the same time, more attention should be given to forests, not only as far as increased production is concerned, but also as a crucial contributor for achievement of all of the three global goals of FAO. Natural resource management in agriculture, fisheries and forests are a cornerstone of the bio-based green economy. Our objectives should underline this fact to enable us to fully appreciate the multiple roles that agriculture, fishery and forestry play in FAO's work, and their crucial contribution to sustainable development.

For FAO's strategic direction, it may be useful to develop a Mission Statement that articulates FAO's unique role in promoting food security and nutrition through its normative, programmatic and humanitarian work.

That said, we note the present Strategic Framework still guides this Organization. The EU has already welcomed the very first Programme Implementation Report for 2010-11. The next PIR will also follow the results-based programme planning, monitoring and reporting system put in place under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's Renewal, adopted by FAO's Conference in 2009.

Once again, we recall the lengthy consultative process based on the findings of the External Independent Evaluation and leading to the IPA produced many outputs. The results-based programme planning, monitoring and reporting system was the basis for the Strategic Framework 2010-19 and for the Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and includes a set of 11 Strategic and 2 Functional Objectives to be achieved by Members with assistance from FAO, and 54 Organizational Results for achievement by FAO itself. We also wish to remind the Council that the operational plan for achieving the two-year

targets in the Medium Term Plan is the Programme of Work and Budget. The structure of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 agreed at Conference in 2009 was based on the Strategic Framework. We also recall once again that this structure, with minor modifications, has been maintained in the present PWB for 2012-13, agreed as late as in July 2011.

The results of strategic thinking and most evaluations indicate that, in principle, the current Strategic Objectives are not out-dated, but instead they should be reworded and tightened.

Another fundamental question is how FAO will translate the agreed Strategic Objectives, the immense technical, normative and standard-setting capacity and decentralized network into impact on the ground.

We believe FAO should put more emphasis on up-stream activities and the elaboration of Country Programme Frameworks as a tool for effective delivery. In doing this, it should seek inputs not only from the countries themselves, but also from within the UN System, International Financial Institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors, universities and research organizations, the civil society and the private sector. CPFs should constitute a country-specific capacity development scheme, and serve as the basis for specific advice from FAO or others to interested Member Nations.

Besides guiding countries in the transformation to a more sustainable agricultural and rural development, a careful elaborated CPF, suitably linked to other relevant Country Programme Coordinating Frameworks, such as the UNDAF, should assist countries in accessing available funds.

As demonstrated in Trend 5 of the Web Annex of the Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework, the role of investment in agricultural and rural development is very important. We invite FAO to come forward with concrete steps for a policy of transparent and results-oriented cooperation with the private sector and research institutions, in order to provide countries the action-oriented means to channel investments in a sustainable manner, in line with a country's policy that is beneficial to local rural populations.

In conclusion, we would also encourage that FAO integrates the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Security in its Strategic Framework.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais vous demander deux informations avant que vous ne partiez, je vous rappelle que de 13h00 à 14h00 dans la Salle de l'Iran, nous avons une manifestation parallèle: «IMPACT - Du savoir à l'action - domaines d'actions prioritaires illustrés par des exemples de réussites».

Je vous signale aussi que vous devez prendre vos dispositions pour une séance supplémentaire de ce soir. En ce qui nous concerne, nous l'avons pris. Nous essaierons de faire comme hier, c'est-à-dire, sans discontinuité, donc de 2:30 heures jusqu'à la fin de notre Ordre du jour. Si le temps nous est permis, nous aurons un *Side Event* en fin de la deuxième séance sur les Criquets pèlerins en Afrique. Si tel n'était pas le cas, nous l'aurons demain.

Je vous souhaite un bon appétit et à 14h30 précises, l'Algérie aura la parole.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
12 June 2012

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.35 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

7. Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework (continued)**7. Ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé (suite)****7. Esquema del Marco estratégico revisado (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Bienvenus pour cette séance de l'après-midi.

Comme convenu, je vais donner la parole en premier lieu à l'Algérie, qui était en tête des intervenants tout à l'heure, mais qui à l'occasion du déjeuner s'est vue non pas déclassée mais reportée plus loin.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du document CL 144/14, relatif à l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé. Le Groupe Afrique appuie le Processus de réflexion stratégique lancé par le Directeur général en janvier 2012, fixant à fixer les futures orientations stratégiques de l'Organisation et se félicite du Cadre stratégique révisé de la FAO pour la période 2010-19.

Le groupe se félicite également des sept grands défis recensés en matière de développement auxquels les pays doivent faire face et confirment que ces grands défis correspondent bien aux conditions qui prévalent dans la région. Notre groupe prend note des cinq Objectifs stratégiques tels que présentés dans ce document, au fin de l'élaboration du Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 de l'Organisation.

Tenant compte des résultats obtenus lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, qui c'est tenue au Congo Brazzaville du 23 au 27 avril 2012, le Groupe invite la FAO à axer ses travaux sur les principaux défis que les pays doivent relever, de manière à aboutir à des progrès mesurables et ce, par l'emploi efficace et efficient des ressources disponibles.

Le Groupe africain invite également l'Organisation à mettre l'action sur les domaines d'actions prioritaires de la Région, mis en exergue lors de la Conférence régionale, particulièrement les points suivants:

- intégrer les priorités de l'Union africaine à celles de la FAO et inviter l'Organisation à cibler l'allocation des ressources budgétaires et humaines plus importantes aux problèmes prioritaires de la Région Afrique;
- le soutien que peut apporter la FAO aux pays de la région pour la révision et l'élaboration de politiques de commercialisation agricole, nationale et sous-régionale. L'avantage comparatif de l'Organisation qui devrait particulièrement porter sur le développement de projets d'investissements pour les infrastructures agricoles et la fourniture de conseils sur la conception et la gestion de ses infrastructures, telles que les systèmes d'irrigation, les marchés intermédiaires, les installations de stockage et la transformation agricole;
- bien cibler les interventions de l'Organisation sur le terrain en fonction des avantages comparatifs, en particulier dans les domaines liés à la réduction des pertes après récolte, au renforcement des capacités des systèmes nationaux de contrôle des aliments, à l'amélioration de l'utilisation de l'eau et de l'irrigation, au développement de l'aquaculture, à la collecte et au classement des statistiques agricoles;
- promouvoir la coopération et les partenariats avec les organisations du secteur public et privé;
- soutenir la mise en œuvre du programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine, le PDDAA, ainsi que les activités de la FAO dans la Région en accordant plus d'importance à la question du GAR dans la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'Organisation dans la Région.

Le groupe africain dit attendre avec intérêt les discussions futures sur le cadre stratégique révisé, ainsi que la feuille de route qui y est relative, aux fins de sa finalisation pour approbation par la conférence en 2013.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'engagement du Directeur général de la FAO lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, à travailler en partenariat avec les États Membres pour tenter de

trouver une solution aux difficultés de l'agriculture en Afrique et à aider le continent à subvenir à ses propres besoins alimentaires, en vue de devenir le grenier alimentaire pour le monde.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Australia welcomes this strategic review and feels that it's a very good start to an important process. We have long called for a substantive re-examination of what FAO is and does. In our view its resources are spread too thinly across a too broad range of issues, activities, and countries. To be more effective, we feel that FAO needs to focus on a smaller number of priorities where it can make a real and substantive change. For this reason, we deeply appreciate the opportunity to feed into this process and note that it is a significant issue requiring careful consideration among a wide range of Agencies and capitals, and a wide range of countries here in Rome. We support the findings of the Programme and Finance Committees on this issue.

Australia generally supports the headlines of the trends and challenges, but not entirely the text beneath. As we have consistently noted in other meetings, these trends and challenges and objectives are beyond the capacity of FAO alone to address. In fact, there are global challenges facing world agriculture and are primarily the responsibility of national governments. We'll need to be extremely careful that we are realistic in our ambitions for FAO, or else we'll set the Organization up for failure. FAO's role in comparative advantage will need to be carefully defined and will need to carefully consider the role and functions of other organizations, in particular WFP and IFAD, to avoid duplication. The revised Strategic Objectives should include clear targets and indicators for results and outputs so that FAO can measure its progress against each Objective.

While the strategy broadly supports and encourages the Strategic Framework, we understand the paper will be further refined. It is in this refinement that our interest lies. Specifically, we end on our clear expectation that this process will lead to substantive change in what FAO does, and not a reshuffling of its existing activities under new objectives. We don't want old wine in new bottles. The draft Strategic Objectives are still very broad, leaving little scope to narrow FAO's activities or field of influence. The revised Objectives are the first steps in identifying the areas where FAO should prioritize and deprioritize its efforts. In this regard, an explicit discussion of what FAO will not be doing might be beneficial.

In terms of the five Strategic Objectives described in the paper, we'd like to make the following comments. Firstly, we very much support the smaller number of more cross-cutting Strategic Objectives, and we urge that this model be retained. A second point is we note an overall shift from technical work on agriculture towards social policy and development issues. These are certainly important issues, but it's hard to see FAO's role in some of these issues and hard to make and measure progress. All countries, both developed and developing, have a need for FAO. FAO is the only UN Agency to work on the issue of global agricultural good, and this should be included in its activities.

We feel that discussion of trade facilitation as a solution is missing and protectionism needs to exist. Estrada consistently argues against protectionist measures. We certainly welcome a greater focus on trade facilitation, and the role of trade at local, national, regional, and global levels.

A third point, fourth one in fact, relates to the core functions of FAO and where FAO has clear comparative advantages. In our view some of these seem underrepresented in the text of the headings, similar to comments made by the European Union, the management of natural resources which in our view is very separate from sustainability, is strangely absent. For example, there is no real home for issues such as genetic resources. Although food safety is mentioned a number of times in the global challenges, it does not appear to be covered sufficiently in the Strategic Objectives. Similarly, emergency work, too, gets little coverage.

We feel these issues could be better included in future drafts. In future drafts, we also suggest that practical approaches to resolving this work rather than legalistic or route-based approaches be approached. Finally, a few last points. There is some incongruence between the Strategic Objective headings as drafted. One is a target of 0% hunger, but others say to increase productivity or production, and things like that. This reiterates our point about the need for clear targets to be sought

for each Objective, and also I guess we need to clearly understand what happens if these targets are not met.

In a technical sense, the terminology could do with some improvements. The paper seems to make interchangeable use of terms such as small farms, family farms and smallholders. We'll give the example of Australia, where 98% of farms are family-owned, but not many as smallholder farms in the sense that it's understood here in FAO.

Finally, I'll end with two simple questions. Recognizing that we're not adopting or endorsing these five Strategic Objectives at this meeting, when we next consider these Objectives in December, exactly what endorsement is being sought? Will it be just the headline objectives or the full text beneath or will there be a much more elaborated system that we're being asked to sign onto? My second question is when can we expect information on the Functional Objectives of the Organization?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bon, j'en profite pour vous rappeler, que si vous avez un texte, vous pouvez l'envoyer, vous devez l'envoyer au Secrétariat pour les interprètes, et de faire un débit un peu plus ralenti pour s'assurer de la bonne traduction. Merci.

Ce n'était pas une remarque qui était faite à l'Australie, mais peut-être un peu quand même. Voilà. Merci.

Bien alors, la Thaïlande, qui va tenir compte bien-sûr des éléments que j'ai évoqués.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

We support to include regional priority challenges and the specific need to take into account rebuilding the FAO Strategic Framework. We recognize the importance of the Framework for CPFs, for prioritization and further collaboration between the Organization and Member Nations. We request FAO to forecast its actions in the Region. We do hope that the Strategic Framework will affect the needs of Member Nations in line with FAO's mandate and cooperate the advantage.

Sr. Gustavo Aníbal ÁLVAREZ GOYOAGA (Uruguay)

Damos la bienvenida al esfuerzo emprendido por la Secretaría para proveernos del documento CL 144/14 que contiene un esquema del Marco Estratégico Revisado, así como expone la visión de la FAO para el futuro.

Creemos que en la generalidad obvia de un documento de este tipo se exponen muchos lineamientos que podemos compartir. Entendemos también que esta es una labor en proceso que necesita de las contribuciones de todos los actores, tales como las Conferencias Regionales, los Comités Técnicos y los Miembros de la FAO en su conjunto, entre otros. En este sentido, si bien podemos coincidir con la enumeración de los Objetivos Estratégicos, según lo consignado en el documento referido, creemos que es importante mantener un enfoque horizontal que incorpore al análisis un acento en el manejo sostenible de los recursos naturales, lo que nos permite coincidir en algunas de las expresiones hechas públicas por el señor representante de Dinamarca en nombre de la Unión Europea, y algunas de las expresiones formuladas por el representante de Australia.

En este contexto, entendemos que la silvicultura juega un papel fundamental por su importancia económica, social y ambiental, pero particularmente por su contribución a la sostenibilidad ambiental. Creemos que la incorporación íntegra del concepto del manejo de recursos naturales y de los servicios ambientales conexos enriquecería la discusión y completaría el enfoque elegido. De emprenderse este ejercicio, creemos que se reflejaría mejor el papel fundamental que cumple la silvicultura en el marco de las prioridades y objetivos, junto a las otras actividades que inciden sobre nuestro entorno con el adecuado equilibrio entre todas ellas.

M. Essimi MENYE (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun, en prenant la parole dans le cas de l'examen du document relatif à l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé, reste entièrement solidaire de la déclaration que venait de faire l'Algérie sur la question.

Nous appuyons l'effort du Secrétariat dans la mise en place d'un Processus de réflexion stratégique et consultatif large ayant abouti à cette ébauche, qui est une base de travail essentielle dans le processus global de planification.

Ce processus participatif qui intègre également les contributions des Conférences régionales confère au document produit une grande légitimité.

Le Cameroun reconnaît qu'il s'agit d'un travail en progression dans les étapes à venir, sans critique, et mérite l'adhésion de tous, au moment où le Directeur général après six mois en poste, fait des propositions pour donner une Orientation stratégique à l'action future de l'Organisation.

Tout en reconnaissant que la FAO doit jouer un rôle important dans l'élaboration des normes relatives à l'alimentation et l'agriculture et assume une responsabilité particulière dans le fonctionnement des accords et conventions conclus, conformément aux articles XIV et XV de l'Acte constitutif, le Cameroun est d'avis qu'une stratégie d'intervention dans les pays devrait, en priorité, considérer les aspects de renforcement des capacités pour le développement des politiques, stratégies et programmes, l'assistance à travers des programmes de coopération technique bien ciblés, qui traduisent dans la réalité les axes de politique et de stratégie des pays et les activités liées aux urgences.

A ce titre donc, le Cadre stratégique devrait envisager une intégration des aspects normatifs et opérationnels, y compris les urgences.

Le Cameroun est prêt à contribuer à la finalisation de ce Cadre stratégique, qui devra d'ici à décembre 2012, présenter un Plan d'action axé sur les résultats intégrant la nouvelle vision sur la structure et le fonctionnement des nouveaux bureaux décentralisés.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

On behalf of the North America Region, we wish to thank the Secretariat for generating this document and for all the hard work they have done in developing the Strategic Framework and its five Strategic Objectives. Obviously, significant thought and energy has been dedicated to this process. North America supports the direction of the Strategic Framework which we acknowledge is still a work in progress, including the outline of its five Strategic Objectives. We share the view that 11 Strategic Objectives contained in the current framework are too many, not focused, and do not promote an effective thematic cross-sectorial approach.

As colleagues have said, we are also very supportive of the findings and the report from the Programme and Finance Committees on this item. However, we want to express a concern that until now, the processes involved only limited consultation with Member Nations. We expect Member Nations to be extensively consulted as the process continues. We note that the key purpose of results-based budgeting is to identify estimated costs for achieving intended results so that the Secretariat and Governing Bodies can make informed programme and budgeting decisions. The linkage of resources to intended results also provides a solid basis for assessing programme performance both during implementation and post-facto.

We expect this budgeting element to be included in future interactions and look forward to the full development of concrete, tangible, measurable results that will guide the activities into the next biennium. We understand that the new Strategic Objectives have been based on the seven global challenges FAO has identified. We agree that most but, not all, of the challenges identified in this document are global challenges that FAO faces in implementing its mission to eradicate hunger. However, we do not believe that every challenge should represent priority areas of future work for FAO.

Chair, we would just like to ask for a couple of areas of clarification. With regards to the main global challenges, we see that examples of regional priorities are inserted throughout the section. However, we note that the North America Region had an Informal Conference which also produced an explicit set of regional priorities that have not been incorporated yet, as outlined in CL 144/4 document Appendix C. As highlighted in the 111th Special Session of the Joint Finance and Programme Committee Report, we ask that they be given the same consideration as those of other Regional Groups.

In the Core Function section on paragraph 76, number 4 and I quote, “facilitates, promotes, support better governance and policy dialogue for development of effectiveness at global, regional, and country levels”. We find this a fairly ambiguous statement and we ask that maybe the Secretariat provides some clarification. In the Main Global Challenge one, Increasing Production in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries is addressed, but we believe we should include and emphasize a holistic approach of maintaining the natural eco-systems, combatting deforestation, and continuing awareness of climate change and its impact on agricultural production and food availability.

In Main Global Challenge two, Eradicating Food Insecurity, local production of agriculture and forest products are emphasized. However, we note that the important aspect of agricultural productivity is not mentioned at all, and that is a concern to us.

Chair, we have some general points we wish to make before we get into the specific Strategic Objectives. Outcomes of global public policy, technical work, and its related normative activities are not well-defined, including the need for increased capacity-building activities to effectively implement global standards at the regional and country level. This must be better reflected.

On point two, Innovation and More Effective Technology Transfer, we feel that knowledge transfer is essential in ensuring success and achieving results, yet this element is not explicit across the Strategic Objectives. This may be found possibly in the Action Plans that are forthcoming, but we’re making it a point that has to be at least identified in the next version.

Gender and the role of women are certainly not addressed in great detail, and must be effectively incorporated. Reliable data for decision-making is an essential element in ensuring appropriate options are considered by relevant decision-makers. This, too, is not well reflected in the Strategic Objectives. Specifically, under Strategic Objective two, FAO should be an advocate for increased agricultural productivity, innovation, and the use of technology, including biotechnology. In addition, we note that in some cases, local conditions do not allow for the efficient and sustainable production of these products.

In those cases, imported products may be more appropriate. Also, in regards to Strategic Objective two, we believe this Strategic Objective should more clearly recognize the importance of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, including forests and fisheries, which is one of FAO’s mandates as well as fundamental in the long-term sustainability of food production and poverty alleviation.

Chair, the conservation and restoration of forests is critical to human well-being, and stronger attention needs to be paid to the eco-system services that forests provide. For instance, forests have a central role in maintaining water and soil quality and in regulating the climate, all of which are critical for the health of agricultural systems. In fact, the focus on increased production in draft Strategic Objective two may actually be counterproductive for forest management. We would point to the example of REDD + initiatives under the Climate Change Agenda, in which forests are not valued for production, but quite the opposite. Therefore, given the need to counterbalance the production-focused Strategic Objective and the very unique role of forests, the North America Region would suggest modifying the current draft Strategic Objective two to achieve a better balance between production, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources, and we have a suggested revision for the FAO Secretariat to note.

And I quote “This is for the chapeau for Strategic Objective two. Promote the sustainable management of natural resources for the conservation of biodiversity, enhancement of eco-system services, and increase production in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.”

Just two more points. On Strategic Objective four, there should be more inclusive agriculture and food systems at all levels. We believe this section would benefit from a discussion on the need to better links to markets, and the role of efficient and effective trade within the food system. I know my colleague from Australia mentioned that. The increased emphasis to agriculture-related infrastructure, like improved storage to reduce post harvest losses, should also be mentioned.

With regards to Strategic Objective five, we note that the statement that a majority of the world’s poor are in the state because of shocks. We are interested in the source of that figure.

Finally, chair, this is my last point and I apologize that I went on a bit longer. The North America Region would like to reiterate our strong interest in ensuring that the renewed Strategic Framework explicitly highlights how FAO's normative and standard-setting work is clearly integrated within the respective Strategic Objectives and aligned to regional and country-level priorities. To this end, the North America Region would like to request the Secretariat, through this Council, to outline through the detailed action plans that are forthcoming, for each Strategic Objective, how these normative and standard-setting activities will be implemented when it reports back to the Programme and the Finance Committees in the fall with a more robust Strategic Framework.

Mr Romeo RECIDÉ (Philippines)

The delegation of the Philippines welcomes the new Strategic Framework proposed by the Director-General, at the time the response to the cost-cutting nature of the challenges faced in the implementation of the FAO mandate. May we just highlight, Mr Chairman, a point on the scope of the Framework, a point that has been deferred to earlier by the EU, by Australia, Uruguay, Canada, and others.

The Philippines expects that the new Strategic Framework to be fully inclusive of the four major mandate areas of FAO, namely food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. For many countries including the Philippines, forests form a key, vital resource contributing to food security as well as to crucial green infrastructure that protects the soil, regulates the water cycle, hosts most of the world's biodiversity, and stores a huge amount of carbon and, through it, addresses climate change.

Forest-based products are going to play a crucial role in moving towards the development of bio-based materials and promotion of low-carbon economies while enhancing green growth. We encourage FAO to review the present document of strategic planning with the end view of broadening the methodology, elaborating further on the sustainability principles, and assuring a balanced treatment among the four mandate areas of FAO, as well as its three global goals.

The Philippines would welcome governance and forests to be identified as one of the Strategic Objectives, in the light of their key relevance in the development and sustainable use of natural resources.

Mr Dr. Ir. HERMANTO (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to indicate my appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the good quality and comprehensive document provided to us. We also share our view with the previous speakers about the importance of this Report to the framework issues in preparing the Organization's Medium Term Plan 2014-17.

In considering the statement of the first Strategic Objective, Eradicate Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Malnutrition, several aspects should be considered as follows. First, the problem statements should also be stated in line with efforts in achieving the first of the Millennium Development Goals, which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Number two, regarding for food insecurity, we would like to remind all that there is a habit of overconsumption and excessive food waste in some parts of the world. Meanwhile, there are still millions of hungry people in other regions. In this regard, the campaign of balanced food and nutrition is essential to change the eating habits and help the household effort since the economic development of some countries in the Region is growing at a faster rate.

Certainly, we support the need for strong, quality commitment and partnership among the key decision-makers in the governments, civil society, private sector, and the development partners. Furthermore, for the second Strategic Objective, we also welcome the effort to give priority to improving the effectiveness of production systems, tackling sustainable agriculture productivity growth, and narrowing the gap for small-scale producers and women who already generate most of the world's food. We realize that increasing agriculture production on a sustainable basis is one of the essential factors of lasting global food security. Therefore, to achieve the increased production, it is necessary to raise the agricultural productivity primarily through boosting investment, in infrastructure and actively adopting effective agriculture technology policies.

Sr. Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Mi delegación agradece este documento CL 144/14 elaborado por la Secretaría. Es un buen documento que identifica las principales tendencias mundiales que afectan la producción agropecuaria y pesquera a nivel mundial, identifica correctamente los desafíos a los que nos enfrentamos como comunidad internacional y propone una redefinición de Objetivos Estratégicos para la FAO. El documento selecciona solamente cinco Objetivos Estratégicos, y apoyamos esa reformulación porque demasiados objetivos diluyen su utilidad. Si todo es prioridad, nada es prioridad.

Para nosotros, el principal Objetivo Estratégico es el número uno: erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición. Si concentramos la labor de la FAO en este Objetivo número uno, los cuatro Objetivos restantes se supeditarán necesariamente al primero. Para eso existe la FAO, para ayudar a los países a lograr la erradicación del hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición. La Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que se celebró en Argentina el marzo pasado, definió un conjunto de prioridades propias de nuestra Región y reiteramos aquí nuestro pleno apoyo. La FAO puede y debe apoyar la definición de mejores prácticas para que los países adopten y apliquen políticas agropecuarias y pesqueras de éxito. Tenemos que saber cuáles son los obstáculos que se oponen a incrementar la producción agropecuaria y pesquera en un momento dado y en un país determinado, y la forma en que otros países han tenido éxito superando esos mismos retos u obstáculos.

El Grupo de los Veinte se reunirá la próxima semana, 18 y 19 de junio, en Los Cabos, en Baja California, en México. Uno de los cinco temas que los líderes abordarán será precisamente promover el aumento sostenible de la producción agropecuaria y pesquera en todo el mundo, y la forma en que los Países Miembros pueden cooperar para apoyar sobre todo a los países en desarrollo a alcanzar ese objetivo. Se espera que los líderes del G-20 adopten un conjunto de recomendaciones elaboradas por sus expertos, quienes recibieron el apoyo de nueve Organismos Internacionales, incluyendo en forma muy destacada a la FAO.

El Director-General, Sr. José Graziano da Silva, ha sido invitado por el Gobierno de México a participar en esta Cumbre. Es la primera vez que el Director-General de la FAO ha sido invitado a asistir a una Cumbre de los líderes del G-20, y con esta decisión tratamos de evidenciar la importancia que le damos tanto al tema “la seguridad alimentaria” como a la labor de la FAO a favor del mismo.

Esperamos tener la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes más adelante las decisiones que los líderes del Grupo de los Veinte adopten sobre seguridad alimentaria.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you, Secretariat for providing the valuable document outline of the Review of the Strategic Framework. We are fully in support of the document, but we would require some clarification about the first of the five Strategic Objectives, as clear Strategic Objectives are used to operationalize the goals of the Organization. The Strategic Objectives are normally here to provide guidance, and how the Organization can use its comparative advantages in moving towards the higher goals.

In this regard, the Strategic Objectives should be specific and measurable. Otherwise, there is no way of determining whether it is helping the Organization to move toward the Organization’s mission. In this context, Mr Chairman, we believe that Strategic Objective one does not seem to have the consistency of the other four Objectives. In other words, Strategic Objective one on Eradicating Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Malnutrition tends to be quite broad, and can be described as a goal that represents an aspiring, overarching, and emotionally-driven destination and mission of the Organization.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Dear colleagues, the Russian Federation supports in its entirety document CL 144/14, the outline of the Review of the Strategic Framework. We consider that overall, it is a document which means progress, and provides a step forward, in particular with regard to the definition of the major challenges, how these can be met, and how we can focus the resources of FAO. But it is clear that

when we are talking about the challenges or Strategic Objectives, they do not only concern FAO. They concern, above all, Member Nations. This was already mentioned today, and we agree with that stand.

Now, we would have some observations to make here if I may particularly challenge Strategic Objective three, Improve the Quality and Balance of Food Consumption and Nutrition. There, we believe that maybe it would be possible to better define a certain number of things, in particular, the context in which we are combatting hunger and malnutrition because, indeed, one of our key objectives, within the framework of the 11 development goals, is indeed, a reduction of poverty and hunger. In this respect, we cannot forget that in the world, thus far, there are one billion people suffering from hunger.

With regard to the major challenges of improving the quality and balance of food consumption and nutrition, well, first and foremost, I think it must be primarily focused on those one billion people suffering from hunger. Then, I'd also like to share another observation with you.

Strategic Objective two mentions forestry. And it is stated that forests play a very important role with regard to water resources, in combatting climate change. At the same time in this Strategic Objective, there is also mention of development of forestry production. I don't know if it's really coherent. Maybe here we should ensure that there is greater coherence in what is being said.

Another observation regards the text on terminology, the terminology that we use in FAO and in other international documents. While this terminology should be used here in the Council of the FAO, in particular, in English, when we talk about food and nutrition security, and food and nutrition, I would like us to change this terminology and, within the document, to refer to what is mentioned in other international documents.

And here I would like to mention paragraphs 85 and 86. In English it reads 'food and nutrition security' and in the same paragraph the term is also used as 'food security and nutrition'. Given that it was agreed that in the Committee on World Food Security, we decided to talk about food security and food security and nutrition in English, we would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to correct this drafting in our documents. Taking into account these corrections, we are quite prepared to support this document.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

No puedo dejar de felicitar al Director-General por este proceso de reflexión tan transparente y abierta, buscando Objetivos Estratégicos nuevos para la FAO. Mi país hará llegar pronto observaciones que están analizando las diferentes entidades de mi Gobierno. Sin embargo, quisiera expresar dos comentarios que tienen que ver con la planificación. He escuchado ya a dos representantes de países amigos hablar sobre el Primer Objetivo. Ese es el Objetivo global. Ese es el que en planificación se llamaría el Objetivo general: erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición.

Para cumplir ese Objetivo general se trazan cuatro Objetivos intermedios, Objetivos operativos, que son aumentar la producción agrícola, mejorar los medios de vida, crear un entorno propicio e implementar la resistencia. Y de esos Objetivos Específicos, vendrán los planes y proyectos y las actividades en la pirámide de planificación. Entonces el primer Objetivo es el Objetivo general y global: erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición.

Quisiera hacer algunos comentarios porque el desafío es muy grande. Por ejemplo, aumentar la producción agrícola se topa con dos grandes conceptos aparentemente contradictorios: la agricultura orgánica y la masificación de la agricultura con tecnología química. La una es más sana, es de más baja producción y por lo tanto más cara. La otra corre riesgos por el uso excesivo de productos químicos. La utilización masiva de las semillas genéticamente modificadas puede incrementar brutalmente la producción. Sin embargo, habrá que medir muy cuidadosamente la importancia que puede tener en la salud de los seres humanos las semillas genéticamente modificadas. No estoy criticándole el proceso, me parece necesario, pero estoy hablando de cuidar científicamente el manejo. Pero hay un tema que a mí me preocupa y que yo permanentemente sostengo. Nada que se relacione solamente con la actividad agrícola, pesquera y forestal, sin tomar en cuenta todo el entorno, dará resultados positivos en la erradicación del hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Los Gobiernos, y la

FAO debe insistir ante los Gobiernos la promoción de políticas de desarrollo rural integral, sin vías de comunicación diferentes.

Sin una educación masiva en el sector rural, la transferencia de tecnología es más compleja. Sin una salud adecuada para la población rural, serán los jóvenes siempre expulsados del campo e incrementarán los migrantes en las ciudades.

En definitiva, si no se convierte al sector rural en un atractivo sector para vivir y trabajar no tendremos resultados. No solamente es cuestión de mejorar los ingresos. Es cuestión de tener servicios complementarios que permitan un mejor desarrollo de la agricultura. Sólo así, con programas integrales de desarrollo del sector rural, lograremos masificar la producción agraria y cumplir con el gran objetivo de erradicar el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria.

Sr. Gustavo O. INFANTE (Argentina)

Me disculpo por pedir nuevamente la palabra, pero me alegra mucho que estemos sosteniendo una sesión en la cual hay tanta participación activa con relación al Marco Estratégico. Por lo tanto, aprovecho también para hacer una intervención que va a ser breve pero que se extiende un poco más en los puntos que expresé inicialmente.

En la ocasión cuando mencioné por primera vez nuestro respaldo al Marco Estratégico, también hice un comentario sobre cuestiones relevantes que preocupan a la República Argentina. Por ejemplo, en el Objetivo 2, que habla de aumentar la producción en la agricultura, la pesca y la silvicultura de una manera económica, social y ambientalmente sostenible, en el párrafo 95 se menciona el concepto de “economía verde” que, como ya dije, no es una definición consensuada a nivel internacional.

Para la República Argentina, continúa vigente el paradigma de desarrollo sostenible, entendiendo dicho concepto como aquel que balancea e integra tres pilares: el económico, el social y el ambiental, los cuales son interdependientes y que se apoyan mutuamente.

También queremos comentar que en el marco del Objetivo 2 no aparecen referencias a la innovación tecnológica, la cual es una clave para el logro de dicho Objetivo. En relación con el Objetivo 4, que menciona habilitar sistemas agrícolas y de alimentación más eficientes e inclusivos a nivel local, nacional, regional e internacional, en el párrafo 108 se hace mención al cumplimiento de normas privadas que proliferan a gran velocidad. Al respecto, es preocupante que se aliente al cumplimiento de normas privadas que constituyen en muchas ocasiones barreras comerciales nocivas para el desarrollo. En ese sentido, quisiera recordar lo expresado por la Delegación Argentina en la última sesión del Comité de Agricultura de la FAO realizada el 21 de mayo pasado, cuando hicimos una presentación sobre “Obstrucción del acceso a mercado mediante reglamentos que no tienen justificación científica o técnica de manera incompatible con los acuerdos de la OMC”. Brevemente recuerdo que en ese momento la Delegación Argentina expresó, entre otros puntos, su preocupación por el avance de los estándares privados, los cuales no se ajustan a las reglas internacionales y debilitan el principio de regulación estatal. También se señaló que las restricciones en las importaciones de este tipo tienen un impacto directo en la seguridad alimentaria porque obstaculizan el comercio y el acceso a los alimentos, debilitan la inversión en el sector agrícola, sobre todo en los países en desarrollo con fuerte potencial productivo, y afectan seriamente la inversión en innovación tecnológica. En relación al mismo párrafo, el párrafo 108, se reiteran los comentarios efectuados previamente en cuanto a la dimensión ambiental.

Finalmente, es importante señalar que en general a lo largo del documento se habla de los precios altos y volátiles, cuando estimamos más correcto utilizar la expresión “precios altamente volátiles” como fue utilizada en el marco de la 37.º Conferencia de la FAO del año 2011.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We consider this document to be a solid document, but we still think it is work in progress. It is not a final document so what we say is the preliminary reaction to the document.

The point of Part 2 I am making is we highly appreciate the introduction by Mr Boyd Haight because he clarified many of the issues that the Membership wanted to know. We also thank the Chair of the

Finance Committee for clarifying what the Joint Meeting said, though, unfortunately, I missed the Joint Meeting on this item.

Chairperson, let me also thank my colleague from Denmark who spoke on behalf of the EU. I share the points which he covered in his statement. Let me reiterate some of these points. The Reviewed Strategic Framework is by no means a break with the current Strategic Framework. However, it has its own cutting edges, and these cutting edges were quite well explained by Mr Boyd Haight in a very logical manner. The new Strategic Framework will still be results-based. The reason does not change, and neither do the three global challenges of FAO.

That said, let me say that the logical Strategic Thinking Process is a good one because it is intended to consolidate the Reform of FAO, assemble the tools for the new Strategic Framework 2010-19 and in preparation of MTP 2014-19 reinforce FAO's leadership relevant to its mandate, strengthen its partnership with other stakeholders, and for the common good, strengthen the capacity of the Organization to assist Member Nations in coping with the new challenges.

Chairperson, we subscribe to the treatment of the 11 global trends, although we don't think number 11 is really a global trend because it started as rural party, with facts, perspectives, actions required. However, for some reason, three other trends with implications for global culture and food consumption are not among the list. One is the aging population in the Northern Hemisphere, and the rising unemployed youth in the Southern Hemisphere. These developments are complicating level markets. To these developments, we must add rising illegal immigration and the increased dependence of a growing number of households on developing countries.

Two is the continuation of agriculture subsidies in both developed and developing countries, with their undesirable consequences on the economic reliability of agricultural investment for small-holders.

Three is the rising burden of food and fuel subsidies on the national debt of many, many developing countries whereby funds which should be allocated to development are diverted to satisfy consumption.

We note the ten global challenges of the document have now been reduced and the current document has now seven. We go along with these seven. We have no problems with it. We also support the attributes to FAO, six FAO attributes as explained in paragraph 74. We think that the treatment of comparative advantage is indifferent to challenges as explained in paragraphs 40 through 42 of CL 144/14 Web Annex, and subsequently elaborated extensively in the metrics page 10 to 28 which are well done.

We note that the number of core functions is now one less than those mentioned in document C 2011/3. The new version consisting of seven core functions has a bit more narrative than the previous ones, and we think this may be an advantage. However, it is surprising to note that the three important global tasks expected from FAO by developing Member Nations are missing from the list of core functions. These are technology transfer, innovation, and interdisciplinary work. We wish to recommend their inclusion.

However, we do not consider innovation and interdisciplinary work as FAO's attributes. We wish to treat them as FAO's Core Functions. That said, we do appreciate Core Function 2 and Core Function 4 which, to us, appear to be newly-included.

We find Section F towards FAO's Strategic Objectives to be in need of further clarification. I do not wish to comment on the five Strategic Objectives. This clarification could include the following: 1) To what extent and in what way the formulation of the five Strategic Objectives has benefitted from the Strategic Thinking Process? Think linkage between the seven global challenges and the five Strategic Objectives, in other words. What group has been followed that led to the selection of the five Strategic Objectives? 2) It is important to provide assurances that there is no obvious core left between the five Strategic Objectives. 3) It is important to explain the process to be followed in the formulation of organizational results related to the five Strategic Objectives and their association, targets, and indicators of achievement. 4) It is necessary to make it crystal clear that the reworked Strategic Framework will be as much results-oriented as the current one. 5) It shall be necessary to give an indication as to how cross-cutting issues could be dealt with in the very wise Strategic Framework and

the MTP 2014-19. And, finally, an indication involving work sharing between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices under the MTP will need to be provided.

Each Regional Conference has indicated areas of priority relevant to the needs of the mission. The COAG meeting last week identified eleven technical areas of priority, and added them to its mandate. The CCP decided on six areas of priority for its future work. Here is a priority that was expected from COFO, COFI and CFS. It is expected that all proposals emerging from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees will be incorporated in the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2014-19 for presentation and approval by the 147th Session of the Council in May.

Here, we share the point made by Canada that the Reviewed Strategic Framework is still a work in progress. We would, therefore, suggest an Informal Consultation with Membership on the package of priorities before the December Council Session.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We thank the Secretariat for presenting the outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework. Further refinements are necessary but it is a good start of discussion for preparing the next Medium Term Plan.

First of all, we would like to briefly repeat three of our comments made in the previous meetings, including COAG. First, trends, challenges, and Strategic Objectives should be logically consistent in themselves. Second, challenges and Strategic Objectives, and measures to be taken should be accurately distinguished. For example, Strategic Objective one, Eradicating Hunger, is an ultimate goal and Strategic Objective two, Increasing Production, looks rather like a measure to eradicate hunger. Third, in the process of examining Objectives, not only 'what needs to be done' but also the 'who', 'how', and 'by when' should be taken into account as preliminaries. Through a pre-screening, we can check if Objectives are truly within the mandate of FAO, and if the Objectives are not too ambitious.

Next, we would like to make two general comments for the sake of contributing to the process. Firstly, since we are trying to define cross-cutting Strategic Objectives, each Strategic Objective should not be independent, but should co-relate to the others and a synergy should be created among them. At the same time, Objectives should fully reflect the situations of FAO's respective comparative advantaged areas which are not only food and agriculture but also forestry, fisheries, and natural resources, as many Council Members stated. For that purpose, reflecting the observations of the Technical Committees, including the forthcoming ones, will be indispensable, as Mr Haight mentioned in the morning session. In doing so, every Member Nation and every FAO staff member will be aware that they are responsible for achieving all Objectives, not just a single Objective.

Lastly, the Director-General stresses that we need to leave behind the dichotomies of normative work versus technical operations, and emergency versus development. We need to put this golden saying in practice and embed it in the Strategic Objectives. In this process, priority areas indentified or to be identified in the Technical Committees should be duly taken into account, as Afghanistan stated.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I'd like to thank the Secretariat for having provided us with this document. We think that this is a good document. Ever since the new Director-General's term started, the FAO started a process of strategic reflection and we think that this process is closely linked to the elaboration of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the future Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15.

First of all, we endorse the analysis on global tendencies, including the 11 main tendencies, the challenges and the five Strategic Objectives. We can also agree, in principle, to the integrated and multi-disciplinary objectives, but we do hope that the Secretariat will continue consultations with Member Nations in order to finalize these Strategic Objectives during the next Session of the Council.

At the same time, we are trying to establish organizational results and indicators to measure these results. In the course of the process of elaborating the next Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, we hope that the Secretariat will be able to incorporate and better configure the shift between the former Strategic Objectives and the new ones.

Mr Shobhan K. PATTANAYAK (India)

India welcomes the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General and the document contained in CL 144/4. We note that the timing and principles of the Strategic Thinking Process are consistent with what was endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees, and the Council in November-December 2011.

We welcome the broad and consultative nature of the process. We compliment Mr Boyd Haight. He has lost his voice because he has presented this item on several occasions, the first in the Green Room at the beginning of the year, subsequently at the Regional Conference I have attended in Hanoi, but I don't know how many of the Regional Conferences he has attended, then the COAG followed by the CCP, the Programme and Finance Committees, and today the Council. We still have the COFI and the COFO sometime later this year, and the document will also be presented there.

We welcome the role of the Technical Committees, recalling that some of them have endorsed the document, and the future Technical Committees are also going to do the same. We welcome the integration of the regional perspectives but, as noted by some of the distinguished delegates of other countries, we desire that the priorities identified in these Technical Committees be fully integrated in the revised paper that is going to come up in November. We welcome the broad analysis on the 11 global trends, and the seven main challenges, noting that they are relevant to FAO's mandate, and the basic attributes, core functions, and comparative advantages.

We are fully in agreement that at present, there are too many Strategic Objectives and that there is the need to have fewer, and it is in this direction that the work has commenced. We look forward to further elaboration of the Strategic Objectives over the coming days, and the revised Strategic Framework in November.

Last but not the least, we are fully in agreement with the observations of Argentina regarding the use of certain words like green economy, and the proliferation of private standards. This needs to be carefully included in the text. With these observations, we would like to endorse the further elaboration of the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Observer for Bangladesh)

My delegation recognizes the fact that the outline presented to us today is fully in line with the planning cycle we endorsed at the Conference in 2009, and is consistent with the process and timeline endorsed by the Council at the end of last year, as outlined by Mr Haight in his opening remarks.

Bangladesh welcomes and supports the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General to meet the required review of the current Strategic Framework and the preparation of the next MTP. We are pleased to note its logical construction, and its intense, broad, and consultative nature, and we welcome the findings of the process thus far.

Specifically, on the process itself, Bangladesh welcomes the extensive participation of FAO staff with two different dedicated groups having developed the trends and challenges and the basic attributes, core functions, and comparative advantages, respectively. We are pleased to note that the results of the unique Corporate Survey among all Professional staff of FAO were incorporated in the deliberations of the Main Challenges. We welcome the fact that, while expertise across Departments has been tapped to develop outputs for the process both at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices, Senior Management has also been involved.

Finally, we are pleased to note that more cross-cutting teams of FAO staff are actively involved under the leadership of Senior Managers in the deliberations on the Strategic Objectives. In addition, Bangladesh finds the guidance of the External Experts Panel provides us with a degree of comfort, and the consultation with global collaborators and other partners is an enlightened element in the process.

We also welcome the unprecedented and concrete bottom-up notion of the process with the guidance of the Regional Conferences being considered. We are also pleased with the necessary consultation with the Technical Committees, as well as with the Finance and Programme Committee and the Council.

With regard to output of the process thus far, my delegation endorses the formulation and relevance of the 11 global trends outlined in the paper, and we welcome the seven global challenges as relevant and important in relation to the mandate of FAO.

As discussed at the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees two weeks ago, we recognize the fundamental importance of the concept of comparative advantages in developing the five Strategic Objectives we have been presented with in the document. I know that even the definition of comparative advantages is a particularly difficult enterprise, and I commend the Secretariat for its topical and insightful efforts in this regard.

We are pleased the Secretariat recognizes that no single Agency or actor can tackle the enormous challenges we all face, and the Strategic Thinking Process gives due importance to meaningful partnership with other development actors. FAO has a unique position in agricultural development and in the case of Bangladesh, it has played a very important role over the years. But in order to be effective in delivering its mandate, FAO must work with others including other UN Agencies, Member Nations, civil society organisations, NGOs, cooperatives and research institutes.

My delegation welcomes the choice and state of the five Strategic Objectives presented to us in this paper. This is fully in line with our view for fewer and more cross-cutting Objectives for the future work of FAO. In this regard, we ask the Secretariat to note a number of observations in respect to the Strategic Objectives.

Number one, the need for robust results-based planning, management, and reporting framework, the formulation of adequate and entry-level programmes, plans arising from each Strategic Objective, consideration of how to incorporate the existing Functional Objectives in the future, and consultation with partners and collaborators in further elaborating the existing Objectives. We do not expect detailed responses to these issues right now. We know that the Secretariat must address them when the present Reviewed Strategic Framework is presented to Council later this year.

With regard to the road map of further consultation with the Membership as outlined by Mr Haight earlier, we would like to note that finalization of the Reviewed Strategic Framework, preparation of the next Medium Term Plan, and development of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 are difficult activities. Accordingly, while we would like to start the debate on the content of the next PWB and particularly of the proposed budget level as soon as possible, we recognize it is unrealistic to have a meaningful proposal in place by the end of this year, or even in the first two months of 2013. We would much rather prefer that the Secretariat undertake a thorough analysis of our guidance and ensure that a robust results-based framework is in place, and that a clear line of sight is constructed between Strategic Objectives and activities before submitting the next PWB for debate.

Therefore, our clear recommendation is that the next PWB be ready in time for review by the Programme and Finance Committees in March 2013. We are pleased overall with the Strategic Thinking Process, and we endorse the Strategic Objectives presented to us. We look forward to elaboration of the objectives and more details of the results-based framework for development of Action Plans and programmes at the next Session of the Council.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour le document présenté sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

Nous nous félicitons du Processus de réflexion stratégique lancé par le Directeur général afin de fixer les futures orientations stratégiques de la FAO et notamment, le fait que les défis mondiaux sont liés aux attributions, aux fonctions et avantages comparatifs de la FAO.

Nous nous félicitons également du lancement d'un large processus de consultation et nous souhaitons que les États Membres de la FAO continuent à être étroitement impliqués dans ce processus de consultation.

Nous appuyons la diminution à cinq des Objectifs stratégiques. Ces Objectifs, tels qu'ils sont maintenant formulés, sont toutefois très larges et la FAO ne sera pas en mesure de tout faire. Des domaines d'actions prioritaires devront donc être clairement définis.

A cet égard, nous aimerions faire deux remarques. La première, c'est que chaque Objectif stratégique comme l'a remarqué le délégué du Japon, devrait être, selon nous, lié ou reflété selon l'avantage comparatif de la FAO.

La deuxième remarque, c'est comme relevé par l'Union européenne et d'autres intervenants, une plus grande attention doit être accordée, selon nous, à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, y compris les forêts, dans l'Objectif stratégique numéro 2.

Mr Jostein LEIRO (Observer for Norway)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway.

The Strategic Objectives we worked on today were agreed upon only three years ago, and are only now beginning to show results. Nevertheless, we support the overall idea of focusing on prospective objectives in reviewing the strategic goals. An equally important objective is to formulate proposals that lend themselves to identification of indicators that are both measurable and relevant against defined baselines. We should avoid objectives and indicators which cannot be measured and where baselines are difficult to develop.

We therefore encourage the Director-General in the presentations of the next Medium Term Plan and revised Strategic Framework to focus more on comparative advantage, and to develop Action Plans based on a robust results-based format and meaningful partnerships with other UN Agencies, regional institutions, civil society organisations, cooperatives, and the private sector. Furthermore, it is vital that all offices of FAO covering agricultural, forests, and fishery comprehensively participate in the formulation of these Action Plans.

We are concerned that there are some important cross-cutting themes that we do not see adequately reflected in the outline used in the Strategic Objectives. First, gender equality is crucial for fighting hunger and undernutrition and, indeed, for achieving all suggested Strategic Objectives including improving food and nutrition security, rural livelihoods, and increasing agriculture productivity. For this reason, we will strongly encourage making gender a more visible and integral part of all the Strategic Objectives.

New strategic goals for gender and gender streamlining should *inter alia* be consistent with FAO's new gender policy, the results from the FAO Gender Audit, and the recommendations from the Gender Evaluation on FAO.

Second, increasing agriculture productivity and food availability in a sustainable way must be at the heart of the revised Strategic Framework and central to FAO's efforts for global food security. The theme is to a certain extent addressed in the outlined Strategic Objectives. However, we believe it should be even more visible. It should also be developed on the basis of the discussions and outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference.

Thirdly, FAO is an organization with very important normative functions as part of its mandate. The normative functions also, to a large extent, define FAO's comparative advantages in its operational work. We are concerned that the normative functions of FAO are not sufficiently emphasized in the outline, and recommend that this be corrected and clarified in the next version of the proposed revised Strategic Framework.

And, fourthly, there is a need for a more integrated approach on sustainable development. In this respect, the proposed Strategic Objectives should capture the transformation of the development paradigm more clearly by highlighting an integrated approach to natural resource management as a core area of FAO's work. This includes giving forests and fisheries more prominence in the work of the Organization, and putting forests and fisheries in a broader context to be able to fully appreciate their role as a contributor to a bio-based green economy and food security in efforts to protect soils, and water, as well as in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

It is therefore important that the contributions from the forthcoming COFI and COFO Sessions are properly and visibly reflected in the next version of the Strategic Objectives of the Organization. A

final point, the new Strategic Framework will not be successful unless there is ownership to the Strategic Objectives throughout the Organization, at Headquarters as well as at the country level.

In the process leading up to the new Strategic Framework, a participatory and transparent process must take place both internally in Administration and externally with the Governing Bodies.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Observador de Bolivia)

Estaba escuchando las intervenciones de los otros participantes colegas, pero me parece importante lo que es la parte de posicionamiento de la Estrategia que se ha presentado en la FAO. Yo concuerdo sinceramente con este trabajo que se viene haciendo en los cinco Objetivos Estratégicos. Para nosotros, igual que para los demás países de América Latina, especialmente para Bolivia, el tema del alimento es esencial y de vital importancia.

En la discusión que se ha hecho en la Conferencia Regional en Argentina, se ha hecho énfasis en la participación no solamente de los Ministros del área, sino también de la sociedad civil, de la parte legislativa. Creemos que es la participación de estos tres entes a donde nosotros tenemos que dirigirnos, ya que ha sido una idea muy buena porque hemos tenido la voz de la sociedad civil, y hemos tenido la voz de la parte legislativa. Para nosotros fue una estrategia interesante.

Pero es muy importante también la participación de la mujer que venimos ya discutiendo desde los años anteriores. Tenemos la misma discusión en nuestros propios países y creemos que la agricultura familiar sin la participación de la mujer no puede ser. Nosotras como pequeñas agricultoras en las zonas de dónde venimos, hemos trabajado plenamente en la agricultura, porque es la mujer quien trabaja en la agricultura familiar. En el sector privado, la participación se hace en las organizaciones o el sector privado en mayor escala. Pero la producción en menor escala cuenta principalmente con la participación de la mujer porque la mujer está en la agricultura, y la mujer está en la casa.

Creemos por eso que es importante la igualdad de género que nosotros ya estamos aplicando en nuestro país con muchas de las políticas, de modo que la participación de la mujer sea importante. Si queremos realmente una revolución productiva necesitamos la participación de la mujer. Necesitamos una equidad de género en la que la mujer no solamente tenga derecho al acceso al trabajo o a los créditos familiares, sino que también tenga acceso a la tenencia de la tierras. Esta es una de las políticas que estamos implementando en Bolivia porque nuestra constitución nos permite la aplicación de la igualdad de oportunidades para hombres y mujeres.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Argentina referred to some interesting issues in the document. Price volatility and some trade issues are, to some extent, addressed in the identified challenges, challenge five, as well as in Strategic Objective four.

And even if we fully agree that this Organization has a clear mandate and certainly should contribute to mitigate the negative effects of high and excessive volatile prices for vulnerable populations, we also have to remember that trade issues are not well-defined within the mandate of this Organization. I will just remind the colleagues that the assessment of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and in their additional session of 31 May-1 June, it was agreed that even if the seven challenges were relevant, the consequence should not necessarily be that this Organization should address all of them, and certainly not alone.

And I would just reflect that we are not here today to discuss trade issues. If these issues reappear during the fall sessions, we will certainly need to comment on them.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Let me at the outset thank sincerely the Council for the guidance given, and also for recognizing the work we did in the Joint Meeting on this issue. I think globally, the Reviewed Strategic Framework is a work in progress, and being a work in progress, we want to thank the Council for its broad investment in the entire process, as it is. It has been a consultative process that is still ongoing. We think that probably that process will take us to a better document during our next meeting.

We recognize that the issue of increased productivity which was also identified during the Joint Meeting has not been very well tackled in the document, as was also noted by the Council. I think the Secretariat should take note of that, and follow up. As regards other issues, such as the management of natural resources including management and governance of forestry, these were issues that were introduced by the Council here. We think that the Secretariat will help us when we will be looking at the next document on these issues.

There is something that was introduced by a few Members here about the integration of the old Strategic Objectives and the new Strategic Objectives presented in the document. The main idea is that the number of Strategic Objectives should be reduced to the very minimum, so that there are cross-cutting issues that are taken into consideration. And each of the Functional Objectives are to be considered by the next meeting.

These are, Mr Chairman, some of the issues that I have outlined in the discussion. We would be happy to receive some guidance on them. We look forward to the next discussions on the way forward and also to the next session of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

On India's observation about the number of times that the process has been presented, this is in fact the eleventh time that I have had the opportunity to present to one group or another of Members the Strategic Thinking Process and its varying elements, which I think is a clear signal that this is a consultative, participatory, and transparent process.

Of course, we have a long way to go to get to the final version of a Strategic Framework, as well as a Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. As the Chair of the Finance Committee said, this is a work in progress. I think we all recognize that. The kinds of comments you have provided today are a signal that you are reading carefully, that you are building on past comments, but we still have a ways to go in respect to some of the wording and the logic of the Strategic Objectives, as well as the concepts and their consistency, and the presentation and on the results framework. I am speaking about the improvements to the results framework that we intend to put in place as we elaborate on what we are calling the Action Plans, which we all know now as Organizational Results. As regards the outcomes with the indicators and the targets of what we intend to achieve, I regret that we will not be speaking about the Programme Implementation Report in this Council. We have found areas for improvement in our indicators and targets based on the first two years of experience, and we will build them into the Action Plans that we'll be developing and which you will see at the next Council.

I wanted to clarify several issues. The Joint Meeting had the opportunity to hear also from the leaders of the five Working Groups and the Study Team on Governance, but I don't think that we have time to go into an in-depth discussion on this matter now.

The Philippines asked a question regarding the scope. In fact, several of the delegations have raised the concern, about whether fisheries and forestry will be included in addition to agriculture and food. Certainly, the scope of the Framework relates to the mandate of the Organization but also on where we need to focus. The whole point of doing a results-based framework is to prioritize, and use the core functions and comparative advantages. Staff members of the Organization who work in fisheries and forestry are included in the working groups that are now embarking on the elaboration of the Strategic Objectives and the Action Plans. So they will have the opportunity to engage equally with their colleagues. The area of sustainable natural resources is one that we are hearing clearly we need to do a better job of reflecting.

In terms of the normative work, several delegations asked that this clearly be reflected and it will be, but we shall also reflect this point in the results frameworks to show how we will translate our normative work into action on the ground. Otherwise, our development work and the mandate of FAO would not be fully achieved.

The Russian Federation made a comment about the wording of food security and nutrition, or food and nutrition security, and certainly we'll aim for consistency, recognizing that also this is part of an ongoing discussion in CFS.

Also, we need to more clearly represent the role of gender and address it across the Framework. Concerning the core function relating to governance, we have formed a study team to look at how we can address the issues that have been raised in trend nine, as well as the seventh challenge. We recognize that governance of food and agriculture is a key component in addressing the overall goals that we're trying to achieve. It's not an Objective of the Organization, but the extent to which FAO can bring to bear some of its attributes to address governance issues where it is appropriate is very important. So you will be seeing more on this in the next round.

And that brings me then to the question about what you will see in November. We will be elaborating on these five Strategic Objectives in terms of what is the problem to be addressed, what can FAO best address within its core functions and comparative advantage. And then, we will provide an outline of the action plans, the headline results, and the organizational results we intend to achieve. Although I do not want to commit to this now, we are going to aim to develop indicators for the Objectives. The results Action Plans will also have a regional component so we can more clearly reflect the regional priorities that come from all of the Regional Conferences, including the issue which was raised by Canada for the Informal North America Regional Conference. Since we do not have specific actions in North America, it would be, perhaps, at a more global normative level.

Concerning the elaboration of the Functional Objectives, here we have some work to do because while the Basic Texts clearly require that we have an administrative budget, which is represented by Functional Objective Y, which is formulated in the results-based fashion, Functional Objective X contains a mix of the core functions, management functions, direction functions, evaluation, internal audit. So we are going to be looking at how much of that can be represented across the Strategic Objectives, and how much will need to be represented as a Functional Objective.

Concerning the Technical Committees, it's been noted that COFI will take place in July and COFO will meet in September. Here we are going to have a timing issue because COFO meets just before we are going to have to finalize the documents. I believe there will be some discussion about the timing of the Programme and Finance Committees for the fall session, and this might help provide enough time to take into account the views of COFO as well as the time we need to elaborate on the Action Plans. Council is going to have to advise on the Strategic Objectives and the headlines of the Action Plans in December and give us the go-ahead to use them to prepare the Medium Term Plan and, in particular, the Programme of Work and Budget.

We cannot prepare the Programme of Work and Budget if we don't have a program structure in place. So this will be a critical discussion that we have to take in December that would allow us to move forward with preparing the budget proposals that you would see in your April session, through the March sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees.

There was a very specific question asked about Strategic Objective five on Resilience. Either it can be taken up bilaterally by Mr Thomas, or we could answer it here. I will leave it to your discretion, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take the floor on the Strategic Objective for which we are quite passionate, the question of increasing the resilience of rural livelihoods. There were two comments in fact, one made by Canada about the little coverage of FAO emergency work under the Strategic Objectives. The response is that we will be addressing the root cause of the problems under SOFI, which will demonstrate better integration of the work activities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. What we are going to do is to try to handle crises from a different perspective, not being only reactive but also addressing crises from a disaster risk management perspective, that is, looking at preparedness, prevention, early warning, and responses that address the root causes of the problem.

Then there was another question from Canada. Where does the statement that the majority of today's poor or their poverty status due to shocks come from? The response is that the statement comes from discussion within the Strategic Objective five team, with colleagues from the academy, partners and organizations involved in the conceptualization of resilience. Shocks were understood within the wider definition, that is, economic shocks, shocks due to climate change, shocks due to conflicts, the spread of disease, etc.

According to the World Bank, in 2011 alone disasters resulted in losses of over USD 265 billion. These economic losses had direct impacts on the livelihoods of millions. Let's not forget that the SOFI 2010 highlighted that in the 22 countries in protracted crisis, the proportion of hungry people is much higher than in the rest of the world. In fact, today over 200 million people in these countries are suffering from food insecurity. We could use many examples to show that shocks are provoking poverty. I could take an old example even speaking of the food chain emergencies to substantiate the same argument. Some economists believe that the acceleration of extreme poverty that led to the French Revolution in 1789 was due to the outbreak of Rinderpest. It was due to the outbreak of Rinderpest, and you know that we eradicated Rinderpest and this was celebrated last year.

We could mention many other examples. The reality is that, when you derive your livelihood from agriculture, pasturism, fisheries, you lose your livelihood if a disaster strikes. You can fall into poverty and become destitute.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I'm sorry to take a few seconds of the Council to come back to an issue which is presented in the Report of the Joint Meeting. I would have liked Cecilia to have been here because she witnessed the discussion on that issue. It was mentioned by many here, this issue of comparative advantage. The way it is put in our Report is that the Joint Meeting accorded importance to it. Whichever way you look at the word "importance", it might trigger some discussions. So I am just trying to warn the Membership that we have to look at it in a positive way, so that there are no difficult discussions on this issue.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Sorry to interrupt you in your probably fine summary but as pointed out, some of us have listened to this presentation a number of times, not 11 necessarily, but a number of times. On all the occasions, the same plan has been presented. At all occasions, a number of pertinent questions and concerns have been voiced. We have to admit that to you, but you are not saying different things in different meetings. We are offered the same explanation for our questions. Now, as clearly stated in paragraph 83, during the fall all these questions will be answered and elaborated explanations provided regarding more precise targets, etc.

My question is, will the same document be presented in December? Will it be exactly five Strategic Objectives? Could it be considered that there will be four or maybe six Strategic Objectives? Does it make any impact that today a number of concerns have been raised regarding natural resource management and things like that, not currently reflected in the document? I'm assuming that all our questions will be answered in due time, but within the same framework as we have known now for a couple of months. Could you elaborate a little bit on that before the Chair provides his summing up on this Agenda Item?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je souhaiterais répondre avant de donner la parole à Monsieur Haight. En effet, Monsieur Haight a déjà présenté 11 fois ce rapport, mais étant très respectueux de la gouvernance à la FAO, il attendait les conclusions du Conseil afin de préparer un rapport qui tienne compte des conclusions qui seront prises de façon définitive vendredi.

Monsieur Haight souhaiterait-il cependant ajouter quelque chose à mes propos?

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

Indeed this is actually only the third time that I've presented the draft Strategic Objectives. The previous times were only the trends and challenges, so this is not the same document and presentation that was seen by the Regional Conferences and the first two Technical Committee meetings. As to whether or not there will be more or less Strategic Objectives, well let's see how the Chair sums up in terms of the acceptance or the views on the five current Objectives. I'm not in a position to say whether there will be more or less when we come back in December, but the sense I'm getting is the appreciation for fewer Objectives than we have currently. And perhaps the issues that have been raised

here are more about how we formulate the five Strategic Objectives that we have proposed, rather than adding or subtracting any one of them.

In terms of what the document will look like, I would expect it would have far less on the trends and challenges. It would focus on the Objectives and the Action Plans. The trends and challenges are what they are. We need to move forward with the actual formulation of the Objectives and the Action Plans, which is where the rubber hits the road. It's where we have to be clear about what the Organization is going to do in the next Medium Term Plan.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous devons terminer nos travaux et je ne donnerai donc plus la parole à quiconque. Compte tenu de la richesse des conclusions, il est impossible de reprendre point par point toutes les interventions.

Je formulerai donc, de façon globale, un certain nombre de positions exprimées par le Conseil, mais le contenu de toutes les interventions est bien noté et pourra être inséré dans les réflexions qui suivront si nécessaire. Comme vous le savez, nous sommes en phase de préparation du document, et nous n'approuverons pas un texte définitif aujourd'hui.

Je souhaite vous proposer 10 points.

Point un. Le Conseil prend note des observations de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sur l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique et donne son appui au Processus de réflexion stratégique lancé par le Directeur général, appréciant le caractère inclusif et consultatif du processus et encourage l'Organisation d'autres consultations formelles et non-formelles avec les Membres, permettant de poursuivre le dialogue.

Le Conseil prend note de la bonne articulation de ce processus avec le cadre stratégique et les objectifs stratégiques existant.

Point deux. Le Conseil note que les 5 Objectifs stratégiques proposés dans le document CL 144/14 sont encore à l'état de projet et pourront faire l'objet de modifications dans le cadre du processus de consultation.

Point trois. Le Conseil prend note de la feuille de route indicative relative aux principaux documents de planification pour 2012-2013.

Point quatre. Le Conseil se déclare satisfait de constater que les priorités et spécificités régionales ont été prises en compte dans la formulation des produits du processus de réflexion stratégique, invitant le Secrétariat à intégrer d'avantage les indications de toutes les Conférences régionales, y compris la Conférence Régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord, dans les produits du processus. Le Conseil demande que les préoccupations des Comités techniques soient également prises en compte, en particulier dans le domaine de la gestion durable, des ressources naturelles, dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de la forêt, des ressources génétiques et de la sécurité sanitaire dans le contexte global du changement climatique.

Point cinq. Le Conseil se déclare favorable à la définition d'objectifs moins nombreux et plus transversaux, et souligne l'importance du concept d'avantages comparatifs dans l'examen du cadre stratégique et l'élaboration du prochain Plan à moyen terme.

Point six. Par contre, le Conseil demande que la prochaine révision de ce document décrive de façon plus détaillée le lien logique entre les 7 Grand défis Globales et les 5 Objectifs stratégiques.

Point sept. Le Conseil recommande d'établir et de développer des partenariats fructueux avec d'autres organisations du Système des Nations Unies, instituts de recherche, organisations de la société civile, coopératives et secteur privé afin d'atteindre les futurs Objectifs stratégiques et de renforcer le niveau d'investissement et d'innovation dans le secteur agricole, incluant la pêche, la forêt et l'élevage.

Point huit. Le Conseil insiste sur la nécessité d'une ligne de visée claire entre les Objectifs stratégiques de la FAO et les activités de terrain, afin que les activités normatives de la FAO aient un impact au niveau des pays. A cet égard, le Conseil encourage la FAO à intégrer ces Objectifs stratégiques dans les cadres de programmation par pays et les mécanismes de coordination de terrain.

Point neuf. Le Conseil souligne que les Plans d'action devraient être élaborés en utilisant un cadre axé sur les résultats, ainsi que des définitions claires des produits, des résultats et des indicateurs.

Point dix. Le Conseil, prenant en considération la demande exprimée par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, lors de sa 38^{ème} session du 11 mai 2012, demande que les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts, dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, soient prises en compte lors de l'élaboration de l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé.

Ceci résume, me semble-t-il, tout les éléments qui ont été évoqués et qui seront transmis au Comité de rédaction. La fédération de Russie demande la parole.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Mr Chairman, I completely agree with your summary of this discussion and I completely agree that the issue raised by the Russian Federation on terminological adjustments is a technical matter and doesn't necessarily require a reflection in a specific decision. This will be done in the future. Thank you very much.

8. Regional Conferences (continued)

8. Conférences régionales (suite)

8. Conferencias Regionales (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous reprenons le point 8 relatif aux Conférences régionales, avec, en début de séance, une présentation globale par les Présidents des Conférences régionales suivie d'une discussion sur chaque point. Nous devons ensuite endosser les rapports des Conférences régionales. Nous ne pouvons apporter aucun amendement à ces rapports, mais les Présidents des Conférences régionales et le Secrétariat répondront aux questions que vous pourriez avoir.

Nous allons commencer la discussion sur le rapport de la 31^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, qui s'est tenu à Hanoi au Vietnam.

Y a-t-il des questions ou des remarques spécifiques, en particulier sur la partie régionale?

Mme Célestine BA-OGUEWA (Gabon)

Je voudrais, au nom de la Région Afrique, pour laquelle ma délégation a l'honneur d'intervenir sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour, me féliciter pour le rapport qui nous est présenté.

A cet égard, nous notons la mise en évidence de recommandations directement adressées au Conseil, ainsi que celles soumises à la Conférence régionale conformément à l'esprit des rapports des Conférences régionales.

Monsieur le Président, les énormes progrès accomplis dans la Région en matière de réduction de la sous-alimentation depuis plusieurs décennies méritent d'être salués, tout comme les efforts en cours afin que le droit à l'alimentation ne soit plus un simple vœu pieu dans cette Région du monde.

Il convient de souligner que ce rapport fait ressortir les principaux défis à relever pour réduire fortement la sous-alimentation dans la Région, à défaut d'y éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté.

Il s'agit, entre autre, de l'intensification et de la diversification durable de l'agriculture, de la gestion harmonieuse des ressources naturelles et de l'adoption de mesures efficaces face à l'instabilité des prix des denrées alimentaires dans un contexte de perturbations climatiques exacerbées.

La Table Ronde Ministérielle sur la politique visant à remédier à l'instabilité des prix des produits alimentaires est l'illustration de la volonté des États de la Région à mieux faire face à la flambée des prix.

Les positions politiques adoptées dans ce Rapport montrent qu'il est urgent de mettre en place des mesures qui permettent le mieux rentabiliser le travail des petits exploitants, au travers, notamment, du développement des chaînes de valeurs, avec un accent particuliers sur la réduction des pertes après

récolte, afin d'assurer une meilleure sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des populations dans la Région et d'intégrer ses producteurs aux marchés agricoles.

Compte tenu de la spécificité géographique de la Région, il convient de se pencher sur les contraintes de production que connaissent les agriculteurs de pays comme les pays insulaires. La prise en compte de la gestion du risque des catastrophes dans les stratégies visant à garantir la pérennité de l'agriculture et des ressources naturelles; le développement d'un secteur d'élevage qui soit respectueux de l'environnement et de la santé humaine; la mise en place de cadre d'exploitation durable de la pêche et de l'aquaculture; le renforcement d'élaboration de normes en matière de santé animale et de sécurité sanitaire des aliments; la gestion efficace de l'eau et la productivité agricole des terres arides sont autant d'autres priorités de la Région.

Monsieur le Président, la Région Afrique est tout à fait heureuse que la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique ait rappelé l'importance des Commissions techniques régionales. Elles demeurent en effet un outil indispensable et efficace dans l'accomplissement de la mission de l'Organisation. Pour une meilleure évaluation au plan local du soutien apporté par la FAO aux États membres, particulièrement les pays en développement, la Région Afrique appuie la demande d'établissement de liens entre les activités et les produits de l'Organisation d'une part et entre les résultats et les impacts au niveau des populations cibles, des activités menées dans nos États.

Monsieur le Président, la Région Afrique appui ce Rapport et demande son adoption.

M. Jean Marc TELLIANO (Guinée)

Monsieur le Président, la République de la Guinée se félicite de sa participation à la 144^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO. Je profite de cette occasion pour vous réitérer la pleine disponibilité du Gouvernement guinéen de collaborer étroitement avec la FAO au sein du Conseil durant notre mandat.

Je voudrais ensuite féliciter le Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique pour la remarquable présentation du rapport de la 31^{ème} session de cette Conférence régionale.

Ensuite, il me plaît d'exprimer la solidarité et l'appui de ma délégation à la déclaration faite par le Gabon au nom de la Région Afrique.

Sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil, il convient de souligner que ce rapport prend en compte les préoccupations majeures de la Région et des perspectives des développements dans le cas de la Coopération Sud-Sud.

En effet, dans le domaine de la coopération, l'Asie disposant d'une grande expérience en riziculture peut partager cette expérience avec d'autres pays en développement à travers des programmes de coopération technique, avec la facilitation de la FAO.

C'est un autre secteur spécifique sur lequel la Région Afrique trouve un intérêt évident pour développer la filière rizicole à travers le transfert de technologies. À titre d'illustration, l'expertise technique vietnamienne s'est avérée efficace dans la mise en œuvre du projet d'amélioration de la production de riz et de légumes en Guinée, dans le cadre de l'accord tripartite: Afrique du Sud-Guinée-Viet Nam.

Monsieur le Président, après ce commentaire, en droite ligne de la déclaration de la Région Afrique, la délégation de Guinée soutient l'approbation par le Conseil du Rapport de la Conférence régionale de l'Asie et du Pacifique.

Ms Stephanie ELDER-ALEXANDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to note that in paragraph 23 of the Report of the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, it is noted that the Regional Conference recognized the special needs of Small Island Developing States in addressing food and nutrition security issues in the context of frequent natural disasters, emerging impacts of climate change, fragility of land and marine eco-systems, threats from invasive species, limited freshwater supplies, and high costs of transportation.

The importance of coconuts in Small Island Developing States was particularly emphasized and, therefore, Trinidad and Tobago supports the position of the special needs of Small Island Developing

States as stated. This is because the Caribbean shares similar concerns as those of the Asia and Pacific Region. In particular, the Caribbean Sub-region is characterized by small islands and coastal states and are highly vulnerable to natural, climatic, and economic shocks. The Caribbean Sub-region is also identified as having some of the following main characteristics: high food import bills, rising and volatile food prices, high levels of poverty, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases, and increased intensity and frequency of natural disasters and climate change.

As such, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to note the Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and reiterates its support for the special needs of Small Island Developing States as articulated in the Report.

Mr Asitha PERERA (Sri Lanka)

My delegation joins other delegations in congratulating the Director-General on the emphasis on the Strategic Plan, refreshingly new ideas in that area, by cost-cutting, economizing, optimizing use of resources, etc., and you for the commendable work you yourself have been carrying out as the Independent Chairperson of the Council for the past few years. My delegation also wishes to congratulate the election of two other Vice-Chairpersons, respectively from Ecuador and Australia, representing the various regional groups.

At the outset, Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the substantial work that has been carried out by all FAO Regional Offices, in particular, the comprehensive work carried out in Sri Lanka and the able leadership of the Director, Mr Patrick Evans, and the Member Nations in successfully organizing the Regional Conferences which are considered an integral part of the democratic and participative consultation process of the Organization, and established within the ambit of the FAO Governing Body structure.

At the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in March 2012, the High-Level Consultation comprising all Member Nations in the Region focused on policies to address food price volatility in the Region and identified priority areas which should be taken into account in preparing the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, as well as in relation to longer-term objectives. It is, indeed, noteworthy to highlight the key aspects which were underlined by the Ministers.

While reconfirming the relevance of a regional priority framework for Asia and the Pacific and the current focus of FAO's work in the Region, they supported the Strategic Thinking Process initiated by the Director-General. They also emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges aligned with the Organization's comparative advantages, and requested FAO to focus on knowledge services through technical assistance, information sharing, policy advice, standard-setting, investment planning, capacity-development, and the facilitation of South-South Cooperation.

They also highlighted that new and emerging challenges related to the adverse effects of climate change and the frequent, devastating natural disasters occurring in the Region, and requested FAO support in meeting these challenges. They also emphasized regional specific needs related to increasing agricultural production and productivity, including promoting rice as the main staple of the region, promoting agricultural knowledge sharing and technology transfer, making small-scale farmers more competitive, harmonizing policies for food security, focusing on bio-energy development, managing trans-boundary pests and diseases, and facilitating efficient markets for food.

They also supported proposals for a more Decentralized Office Network in FAO with strong country leadership and greater empowerment of regional and country representatives, including suggestions for an integrated approach to programme delivery related to emergency projects and operations. In this regard, they requested additional dialogue and information as the Decentralization process unfolds.

My delegation wishes to flag a few of the additions that are more relevant to Sri Lanka. It is of the view that the Secretariat attaches high importance to these areas, with a view to helping the countries in the Asia region. And they are for FAO to facilitate the development of systems for mapping food security and nutrition actions, to announce coordination and alignment of the policies and programmes of government agencies and development partners, that the FAO help Member Nations in addressing

key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources sustainably, and promoting effective responses to food price volatility.

We request FAO to also assist Member Nations in developing, strengthening, and enhancing programmes and activities related to agricultural research and extension, gender, disaggregated statistics, market information services, governance, and regulation of the livestock sector, animal health, and food safety standards, sustainable management of forests, fisheries and water resources, transparent and open, efficient trade of food, cost-effective safety nets for the most vulnerable, and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

We also request FAO to help Member Nations in engaging in sustaining agricultural intensification and diverse creation of crops through participatory development of strategic analysis, facilitation of knowledge integration, promotion of capacity development, and to transfer of technology and other genetic materials, and facilitation of global and regional cooperation.

We also call upon the FAO to provide assistance in value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction including documentation of successful models, and to acknowledge the importance of post-harvest loss reduction, and value chain development.

We also call upon, finally, donor agencies and developed countries to provide the required financial assistance and resources to the FAO to undertake these important projects that target towards the poorer in the Region.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

We appreciate that FAO includes the regional priorities and specific needs to the full version of Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation recognized the critical role of the Asia and Pacific Region in producing more food for feeding the world in the near future. Indeed, we request FAO to assist Member Nations in addressing the challenge of increasing agricultural productivity as specified in paragraph 14 of the Report of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, and especially in improving further management and enhancement of dry land agriculture productivity as well as in adapting to and mitigating climate change, and to the creation of an improved early warning system. We also request FAO to provide assistance in various developments regarding post-harvest loss reduction for smallholder farmers, especially in developing the technical capacity of smallholder farmers in the Region.

Lastly, we wish to thank FAO for promptly responding to our request in developing a regional rice strategy, including providing a rice expert to the Asia Region.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

First of all, we appreciate the dedication and hospitality of the Host Country, Viet Nam, the Asian Regional Chair of Thailand and also the FAO Secretariat, including the Regional and the Country Office.

The preparation for the Regional Conference was a trial-and-error process because it was the first Regional Conference in which other regions followed, and it was also the first experience in convening a Regional Conference as a Governing Body. But, as a consequence, it was successful and we are very pleased that we could produce a lot of outputs. We also appreciate that the Secretariat has made efforts to reflect inputs from all Regions into the global policies and frameworks, such as Decentralization and the Strategic Framework.

At this opportunity, we would like to make one comment which we have experienced since the Regional Conference. The Regional Conference discussed cross-cutting issues such as natural disasters and marine ecosystems. However, we have the impression that once those inputs are delivered to Headquarters, they tend to be divided into individual pieced issues to fit the existing Departments and Divisions which are tasked to address them. We hope that those inter-disciplinary regional issues are dealt with by inter-departmental teams at Headquarters because we are now trying to identify cross-cutting Strategic Objectives as we discussed under the previous Agenda Item 7.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique n'est plus ici aujourd'hui, puisqu'il a dû regagner son pays, mais les interventions qui viennent d'être faites ne demandent aucune réponse, sauf peut être la dernière. Je voudrais vous féliciter, en particulier, d'avoir effectué des interventions croisées, c'est-à-dire provenant d'autres Régions. C'est cela la FAO, bien que chaque Région ait ses priorités, elle s'appuie aux autres et partage son expérience.

Nous ne pouvons apporter des amendements au Rapport, puisque c'est le Rapport de la Conférence régionale. Nous allons donc l'endosser et toutes les interventions à cet égard seront insérées dans le procès verbal correspondant.

Monsieur Juneja va répondre à la dernière intervention, qui portait sur la gestion des questions posées au Siège.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Allow me to first of all thank the Representative from Guinea for sharing his experience on a successful South-South Cooperation Agreement between Viet Nam, Guinea and FAO in rice production. Scaling up, multiplying, and replicating South-South Cooperation Agreements is indeed a priority for FAO as you know.

We've also taken note of the interventions by several Members on the common challenges that are faced globally by the Small Island Developing States, including dealing with natural disasters, the impacts of climate change, fragile eco-systems, and the importance of coconuts. Again, this goes to emphasize along the lines of what the Representative of Japan said that, irrespective of how we are organized, the Organization itself must function geographically and programmatically as one, as one FAO, sharing best practices, sharing knowledge, and delivering impacts across all Regions in a consistent fashion.

In order to do this, of course, the proposals for Decentralization which you discussed yesterday provide a greater focus on regional and country challenges for all staff of the Organization, irrespective of where they are located and, therefore, including Headquarters.

Culture Change initiatives have also tried to emphasize teamwork which is also equally important for dealing with cross-cutting initiatives. Follow up to the Employee Survey that was conducted last year also pushes in a similar direction. Finally, as the Representative of Japan mentioned, the Strategic Thinking Process and the design of more cross-cutting Strategic Objectives will facilitate the work of the Organization in dealing with cross-cutting challenges, both in the Regions and at Headquarters.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am really seeking your guidance because we would certainly also like to comment a little bit, and endorse the very good Report from the European Regional Conference and if there is the time, I am prepared to do that.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Non, vous interviendrez sur la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, nous étions sur la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique.

Il y a en effet eu des interventions sur la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique provenant de pays, comme le Gabon ou la Guinée, qui n'ont pas participé à cette Conférence, mais qui exprimaient leur soutien. Je propose donc, s'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, d'endosser le Rapport de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique.

Y a-t-il des questions en ce qui concerne la Conférence pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes? Nous passerons ensuite les autres Conférences régionales, puis je vous proposerai une résolution globale qui ressort des travaux de chacune des Conférences régionales.

M. Calixte Batossie MADJOULBA (Togo)

Ma délégation intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil relatif au rapport de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, tenue à Buenos Aires du 26 au 30 mars 2012.

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Président et les participants à cette Conférence régionale pour la qualité du travail effectué, reflété dans son Rapport final.

Monsieur le Président, la Région Afrique note sa satisfaction sur le contenu du Rapport qui prend en compte la principale question relative aux politiques et réglementations mondiales et régionales, mais surtout les problématiques liées à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, ainsi que les questions relatives au programme et au budget.

En ce qui concerne les questions spécifiques, il est à noter des éléments d'appréciation figurant également dans le Rapport, notamment l'adaptation au changement climatique et l'atténuation de ses effets en vue de réduire la vulnérabilité de la population et des secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la pêche et des forêts.

Il faut également mentionner les questions relevant de la Décentralisation et du renouveau de la FAO en vue d'une parfaite coordination des activités sur le terrain.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique appuie les recommandations issues de cette Conférence régionale tout en souhaitant leur mise en application effective.

Ms Stephanie ELDER-ALEXANDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago endorses the Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and in that regard, we would just like to make one point and that is to emphasize the priority of disaster risk management associated with climate change and the need to develop new instruments for managing such risk.

In particular, for the Caribbean, this would involve strengthening cooperation, coordination, and institutional capacities, and capabilities for disaster risk management based on a sound, statistical, and data management system promoting climate-smart agriculture, fisheries, and forestry best practices on a platform of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, improving disaster risk management systems through the use of early warning systems and disaster management plans, promoting the development of risk transfer instruments for disaster risk management including insurance products, improving systems and mechanisms to address Praedial Larceny, improving the database system for information collection, processing, and dissemination, and improving natural resource management for sustainable use of land and water and, finally, promoting the development of certified and quality germplasm and genetics.

Again, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago endorses the Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

First of all our delegation wants to, since we have the floor, to take the opportunity to express our support for the Reports of all the Regional Conferences and our satisfaction with the priorities they have identified which are very much in line with the views that we also have for this Organization.

Specifically, on the Regional Conference for the Latin America and the Caribbean, the Brazilian delegation congratulates and thanks the Argentine Government for the excellent organization of the event and supports the adoption of the Final Report. We also take this opportunity to endorse the focus on the main regional priorities of food security and nutrition, climate change, and environmental sustainability, family farming, and animal, vegetable, and nutritional safety. We also commend the importance of preserving the Haitian Programme keeping in mind that FAO has maintained its relevant role in the development of local production, especially that directed to the food security through such as activities carried under the umbrella of the World Food Programme and other partners.

Things like gender, rural youth, and indigenous peoples are of great importance and in this sense we know that in Brazil the gender issue also encompasses gender identity. With regard to the South-South cooperation, the Brazilian Delegation supports the standardization of the accounting reports among the international organizations and understands that such a measure is an important condition for the introduction of new partners in the international cooperation domain. Furthermore, the Brazilian Government supports the suggestion in paragraph 25 of the Report that FAO should organize a debate on the standardization of the concept of food sovereignty, which is already part of the Brazilian legal system.

Sr. Lorenzo R. BASSO (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

En realidad, no quisiera tener que leer el Informe ni un resumen del mismo en función del tiempo de los distinguidos Miembros del Consejo. Me parece que quiero agradecer los comentarios de los delegados de Togo y de Trinidad y Tobago, igual que del delegado de Brasil en apoyo a esta Declaración de la Conferencia. Yo preferiría que si hay preguntas se continúe con la modalidad que lleva adelante el señor Presidente. Y si fuera necesario, leer esta Declaración.

Yo en el día de ayer hice una Declaración más de tipo general y destacando la importancia que vamos a dar a la continuidad de las acciones en estos dos años sobre esta Conferencia Regional. Lo he conversado directamente con el señor Director General para poder avanzar en algunos de los puntos que hemos marcado en estas Conferencias Regionales y llegar así al 2014, a la próxima Conferencia, con algunos objetivos cumplidos de acuerdo con nuestra Dirección Regional con sede en Chile. Por lo tanto, preferiría no leer el Informe, y sí escuchar los comentarios que existan respecto a él.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous en avez fait une présentation globale du Rapport hier lors des différentes discussions, et je vois qu'il n'y a pas d'autres questions. Je vous propose donc d'endosser le Rapport de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Nous allons maintenant discuter de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe. Je vous propose que le Président de la Conférence réponde aux éventuelles questions et commentaires sur le rapport après vos interventions.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

We can, of course, join the endorsement of the Reports of the Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conferences. I also have to mention that the European Union and its 27 Member States and also Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement that we can certainly also endorse the comprehensive and detailed Report from our own Regional Conference, the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe. The Regional Conference was kindly hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in Baku from 17 to 20 April this year. It was very useful and it enjoyed the wide participation of Ministers and high-level representatives from most of the Member States in the Region. We are very grateful for the competent reporting the other day from the Chair of the Regional Conference. We also very much appreciate the hospitality of the Government of Azerbaijan.

At the Regional Conference we agreed to support the following proposed priorities for work of this Organization in the European Region: strengthening food security and nutrition, providing policy advice to governments in support of sustainable intensification for small farms, natural resource management including climate change, mitigation and adaptation, control of animal, plant and food-borne pest and diseases, policy and institutional support for entry of Member States into regional and global trade and standard-setting bodies and regional economic cooperation organizations, and supporting and building global and regional public goods in the areas of food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

We think actually that FAO should further focus its work on its comparative advantage in providing global public goods and policy advice through its normative and analytical work in line with the

essential functions of advocacy, communication, capacity development, and knowledge sharing, as well as policy advice to countries.

The EU also encourages the ongoing implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, as well as the implementation of the newly adopted Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests.

I have to mention that practical reasons prevented verification by participants of some parts of the Report before finalization, and therefore we would request that one important omission could be reflected in the Report from this Council Session. I am referring to the suggestion that the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds in the future should report directly to the European Regional Conference. The proposal was launched by the Austrian delegation during the Ministerial Roundtable, but unfortunately is not fully reflected in the Report. As I said, we endorse the Report anyhow but, if we just could have a mention in the Report from this Council Session, we will be satisfied.

Finally, we would favor a common reflection within the European Region on the format and modalities of the Regional Conference for Europe in order to improve its organization and facilitate discussions and links with the European Commission on Agriculture for the next Regional Conference for Europe to be held in Bucharest in 2014.

Mme Hazar SASSI (Tunisie)

Au nom de la région Afrique, nous nous associons à l'appui exprimé par la Conférence régionale aux efforts de Décentralisation engagés par le Directeur général, tout en soulignant la nécessité de ne pas compromettre la capacité technique des Bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux. Nous prenons bonne note également de la demande de mise au point des systèmes de cartographie des actions engagées en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition dans la Région afin d'améliorer le système d'information et de communication en la matière. Nous partageons enfin le souci exprimé en ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture. Nous soulignons la nécessité de consolider ce rôle et d'éliminer toutes les barrières qui empêchent l'accès des femmes aux terres et aux financements.

Monsieur le Président, la Région Afrique appuie ce Rapport et demande son adoption.

Mr Ismat ABASOV (Chairperson, Regional Conference for Europe) (Original language Russian)

Dear colleagues, I wish to thank all of you for everything that you have stated with regard to this Conference. If there are any questions, I'm quite happy to answer them otherwise I already made a presentation yesterday. The Regional Conference for Europe in 2014 will be held in Romania as you know. I won't take up too much more of your time, so if you have any questions I'll react with great pleasure. Otherwise, thank you very much.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas d'autres questions? Nous endossons donc ce Rapport et j'informe les représentants de l'Union européenne que les demandes formulées sont inscrites, enregistrées mais ne peuvent pas être intégrées dans le Rapport puisqu'il a été voté par la Conférence régionale. Bien sur c'est noté pour que cela puisse continuer.

Nous passons à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique.

M. Essimi MENYE (Cameroun)

Merci, Monsieur le Président, de donner la parole à la délégation du Cameroun qui intervient au nom de la Région Afrique sur le point de l'Ordre du jour relatif au rapport de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique tenue à Brazzaville en avril dernier.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique pour les sujets abordés au cours de cette session. Le Cameroun est très sensible aux questions de transfert de compétences et adhère aux projets de Décentralisation de la FAO qui participe d'un souci d'efficacité et d'efficience pour cette institution. Notre pays est solidaire de toutes les actions en faveur du transfert du pouvoir des

ressources humaines et de ressources financières au bureau régional pour l'Afrique, aux Bureaux sous régionaux et aux Bureaux des représentations de la FAO dans les pays.

Le défi ici est donc la concrétisation de cette importante recommandation et surtout la détermination et l'élaboration de tous les canaux nécessaires et la mise en œuvre du processus de cette Décentralisation, au bénéfice final des couches sociales les plus défavorisées. Il est donc urgent pour mon pays et pour toute l'Afrique de clarifier le contenu et le nombre de pôles techniques, ainsi que le mode de fonctionnement dans ce vaste chantier pour une appropriation et une application du processus par nos Représentations régionales et sous régionales. Une attention particulière devrait être accordée à la formation et au renforcement des capacités de nos Bureaux sur le terrain par la FAO, ainsi qu'à l'utilisation des compétences locales afin de garantir un succès à la réalisation du projet de Décentralisation de la FAO. Le Groupe africain encourage et soutient à cet effet les efforts de la FAO dans le processus de la Décentralisation et demande l'adoption du rapport de la 27^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

M. Rigobert MABOUNDOU (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

J'ai eu l'occasion de présenter globalement ce rapport hier, peut-être faut-il que j'ajoute que je remercie, au nom du gouvernement de la République du Congo, tous les États qui étaient présents à cette 27^{ème} Conférence régionale parce que, Monsieur le Président, il faut le souligner, cette Conférence intervenait quelques semaines après la tragédie que nous avons connue, et qui nous a coûté la mort de nombreux congolais et de nombreuses victimes. D'ailleurs, le Président de la République m'a chargé de remercier tous les États qui se sont inscrits dans une longue chaîne de solidarité et pour nous permettre de puiser dans cette exemplaire solidarité pour remonter moralement la situation dans laquelle nous nous sommes retrouvés. J'ai également indiqué hier qu'en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 75 de notre rapport CL 144/4, il y a un complément qu'il faut faire, Monsieur le Président, parce que les rapports ont aussi ceci de spécifique, c'est qu'ils doivent restituer fidèlement les événements tels qu'ils se sont déroulés. Alors, il faut ajouter à ce paragraphe 75 le fait que la proposition qui a été faite a été approuvée par acclamation.

Je ne peux pas faire l'économie de ce bout de phrase parce que c'est bien cela la réalité telle qu'elle s'est déroulée, et on ne peut pas en changer. Pour le reste, Monsieur le Président, comme l'a dit le représentant du Cameroun, la même chose que pour les interventions qui ont précédé, il reste que pour ne pas seulement se limiter au pouvoir sur les mots. Donc, pour passer à l'action il faudrait que tous les efforts qui ont été faits pour produire ces recommandations puissent passer dans la possibilité de les appliquer. Autrement dit, nous souhaitons que nous puissions mettre dans la balance du succès de ces recommandations tous les efforts et tout l'engagement de la FAO pour qu'effectivement notre agriculture sorte de la passe difficile dans laquelle elle se trouve.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas de questions, je dirais la même chose que pour les autres Conférences régionales. L'évocation du rajout que vous voulez faire sera inscrit dans le cadre de l'intervention, et donc nous endossons le Rapport de la Conférence régionale tel qu'il a été voté.

Y a-t-il des questions ou des remarques sur le Rapport de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient? La Tunisie.

Mme Hazar SASSI (Tunisie)

Au nom du Groupe africain, je voudrais remercier le Président pour le Rapport de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale.

Pour le Groupe du Proche Orient, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour les préparatifs de la Conférence régionale.

La 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient s'est occupée des questions pertinentes pour cette Région, particulièrement les ressources naturelles, le changement climatique, en plus de toute une autre série de questions concernant le Programme, le Budget et la Décentralisation pour le plus grand bien de cette Région.

Je voudrais me concentrer sur un certain nombre de recommandations, auxquelles le Groupe régional du Proche-Orient a vu la nécessité d'allouer les ressources consacrées à cette Région, et cela pour le plus grand bien de la Région.

Nous entérinons également la proposition du Directeur général visant à mettre sur pied un Fonds fiduciaire pour promouvoir le développement de cette Région. Et nous tirons l'espoir que les bailleurs de fonds voudront bien apporter des contributions à ce fonds.

Pour ce qui est du suivi de la sécurité alimentaire, nous espérons que ce processus sera concomitant avec ce qui est fait déjà par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous voudrions entériner ce qui a été proposé par la Conférence régionale visant à allouer des sommes pour faire face à l'augmentation des prix des produits alimentaires, notamment des céréales. Et il faudrait avoir une base de données pour la Région.

Pour ce qui concerne le processus de Décentralisation, nous nous rallions à la recommandation faite par la Région.

Nous recommandons également ce qui figure dans le Rapport à propos de la Décentralisation et du Bureau sous régional.

Enfin, nous voudrions demander à l'assemblée d'accepter les recommandations qui figurent dans le Rapport de cette Conférence régionale.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation at the outset would like to welcome all the reports of the Regional Conferences which indeed reflect the new role of the Regional Conferences in taking part in the governance of the Organization, giving it the necessary direction in setting out the priorities according to each Region and looking into the various means and ways of reforming the Organization, namely through Decentralization, the promotion of the role and efficiency of the Organization and the implementation of these activities. Therefore, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Government of Iraq and we would like to congratulate Iraq for the success achieved in chairing the Regional Conference held in May. We would also like to pay tribute to its sound Chairmanship.

We believe as an Egyptian delegation that the Regional Conference was successful in the above-mentioned areas, and that the priority areas should be promoted in the Region, especially the empowerment of young people and women, keeping with the social changes in the Region of paramount importance to young people. We also stress the need to look into the food security and multidisciplinary issues related to the Regional Office in Cairo. We believe that there is a need to buttress the Regional Office in Cairo in addition to establishing a Sub-Regional Office in Lebanon. Furthermore, we endorse the recommendation whereby more resources would be allocated to the Near East Region, and we also welcome the idea of establishing a Trust Fund to promote development projects in the Region.

We also recommend that the FAO should coordinate with the CFS in order to enable food security. We should also like to see more activities undertaken in the Region before the end of 2012 as far as food security is concerned. We hope that the Secretariat will give us the information related to the activities in this field. Finally, we would like to endorse the Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to congratulate you for the sound Chairmanship and my congratulations and thanks go to the Secretariat. May I express my appreciation and thanks to the Government of Iraq for the sound preparation of the Near East Regional Conference. I should also like to thank the Secretariat of FAO for its contribution in the success of this Regional Conference. On behalf of my country, I would like to endorse what is contained in the Report of this Regional Conference, in addition to the other Regional Conference Reports.

We believe that they are fully aligned with the objectives of this Organization. However, I would like to stress some points which were already mentioned by my colleagues. First, we need to focus on the

five priority areas as set out in the Report. We hope that they shall be taken into consideration when the regional priority framework is set up. We also endorse the establishment of the Fund for the Region hoping that this shall not be done to the detriment of activities in other Regions. We would also endorse the need for further efficiency by the Organization. We support the request submitted by Lebanon in order to host a Sub-Regional Office, and this request shall be submitted to the Conference next year.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like first of all to congratulate the Iraqi Government for successful leadership of the Conference for Near East and for preparing the Regional Conference document.

We welcome the Strategic Thinking Process launched by the Director-General to determine the future strategic direction of FAO following the recommendations made by Regional Conferences and all the challenges facing the Region, including a number of regional specifics and priorities for each Region which will be evaluated. These initiatives will provide the opportunity for bottom-up planning and programming. As other delegates have mentioned, in the Regional Conference for the Near East the five broad regional priorities were underlined in enhancing food security and nutrition, fostering agricultural production and rural development, sustainable natural resource management including fisheries and agriculture, responding to climate change, and promoting preparedness for and with responses to agricultural and food emergencies. In this regard, we request these items as endorsed by Regional Conference to be achieved under the PWB 2012-13.

One of the most important assets of the Near East Region, is the unique genetic resources. Genetic resources can play a crucial role for attaining broad food security and also for the adaptation and mitigation of climate changes in the future. Due to its importance, the Regional Conference supported the establishment of the Regional Commission of Genetic Resources to serve as a regional platform for developing harmonized views, policies, and initiatives on the conservation and utilization of genetic resources and implementation of relevant international treaties, conventions, and protocols.

In this regard, we expect FAO to assist the Region in establishing the so-called Commission in a proper manner and at the earliest convenience.

Mr Basel AL KAYED (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to congratulate the Government of Iraq for this great achievement and for its sound Chairmanship of the Regional Conference for the Near East. I should also like to emphasize what has been already said by the distinguished delegate from Tunisia, namely the need to increase the share to the Region of the budget of the Organization, in addition to the establishment of the regional trust fund, in meeting the needs of the Region.

Furthermore, I would like to express our readiness to cooperate with the Organization in order to promote food security in Jordan and elsewhere in the Region.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Representative for Chairperson, Regional Conference for Near East) (Original language Arabic)

I do not have much to add quantitatively as it were, since I have already submitted my Report yesterday and we have already listened to the excellent contributions by a number of delegations from our Region. Indeed, they supported the Report and the recommendations that we have submitted. Therefore, since there are no questions submitted, I do not have any responses to give.

However, now, Mr Chairman, since I have the floor, I would like to speak as a representative of Iraq. Mr Chairman, my intervention now is on behalf of Iraq.

The Near East Region is a tumultuous region since it has witnessed a number of social problems because of unemployment, poverty, and the lack, in technological terms, of job creation activities in the rural areas. Indeed, this state of affairs has created new conditions in the Region. Therefore, it is no longer valid to deal with these issues according to the traditional practices. This applies to the countries themselves and the international organizations.

Therefore, I believe that FAO has additional responsibilities to bear because of these transformations and events that took place in the Near East Region. This would help the Near East Region to be in the forefront of the movement of the transformation, and it should not remain lagging behind. Therefore, I believe that the needs of our Region should be taken into account. I am saying this because I attach a great deal of importance to the presence of FAO in the Region. I might recall something which is not old, namely, the Evaluation made by FAO covering the Regional Office of the Near East Region. On the basis of this Evaluation, we concluded that the reputation of the good name of the Organization has suffered as compared to UNDP or WFP. There are, of course, possible reasons behind this bad name. However, we do see the need to attach more importance to the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices so that the Organization can play its positive role in this part of the world.

I would like to recall that in our Report, there is proposal to establish a Sub-regional Office in Lebanon. We endorse this proposal and in this connection, provided the necessary resources are allocated to this Bureau in order to help it undertake its activities. I am saying so as Chairman of the Regional Conference, and I am speaking even though the representation of FAO in my country is not in my country, but in Oman. I am saying this also to invite you to accept and endorse what is contained in this Report, in a positive spirit and with the utmost decisiveness at the same time.

The idea of convening the Near East Regional Conference in Rome was positive because we were able to interact as delegations and as Secretariat and we did not anticipate these positive discussions. There were a great deal of discussions about whether this Regional Conference should be held in Baghdad or in Rome or elsewhere. However, eventually, holding it in Rome was a success, and I believe that it gave us a great sense of importance about these Regional Conferences. As I have said in the meeting of the G77, I invite the other Regions to think about holding their Regional Conferences in the Headquarters of FAO because it can be a very positive experience.

I would like to make some observations concerning the Arabic text of the Report. There are some mistakes and in order to save time, I shall not bother you with the details of these mistakes, but submit them to the Secretariat directly.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Thank you Mr Chairman and allow me to say that as Secretariat, we accept the recommendations of the Near East Regional Conference Report in a very positive spirit indeed. There were several calls for increased resources for the Region, as reflected in the Regional Conference Report. We acknowledge that similar calls were made in the Reports of other Regional Conferences.

It's not easy to deal with such requests under the Regular Programme which provides for a fixed envelope, which is what one may describe as a zero sum game and which, therefore, provides limitations in the room for maneuver within the Regular Programme. The Decentralization document which you endorsed yesterday, in paragraph 59, provided an indication of the additional resources under the Regular Programme that have been proposed for the Near East Region: two posts under the Regular Programme and USD 800,000 in additional resources.

However, there are some immediate actions we can take and we are taking to accelerate activities in the Region. Specifically, we are speeding up the filling of vacant Professional posts in the Region. There are six Professional posts which will be given priority for filling in the Regional Office. That includes, for example, an Animal Production and Health Officer, and a Policy Officer, and there are two Professional posts in the SNO Sub-regional Office, a Water Resources Management Officer and Rangelands Resources Management Officer, which will be given priority in recruitment. That, of course, will lead to an acceleration of activities.

I think we should also give attention to the fact that Headquarters does also provide services to the Near East Region. I would give the example of investment formulation work that is carried out by TCI for the benefit of the Region. I make this point because I think it is important in our discussion to not focus too much on resources which are physically located in a Region, but to actually look more broadly at services that are provided to the Region irrespective of where those services are coming from.

But we also have to look beyond the Regular Programme, and I think here it is very important that as an Organization and as Membership, we include the donor community and emerging partners, and look at the possibility of extra-budgetary resources that may be available given the challenges that have been so eloquently put forward by the Representative of Iraq.

Of course, aside from these extra-budgetary resources from the donor community, as has also been mentioned and determined by the Regional Conference itself, we have the creation of a Regional Trust Fund. Here I would like to confirm our commitment in supporting that, and to confirm that when established, this will not affect the appropriations to the Region from FAO and from other funding sources.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de ces précisions qui correspondent à quelques questions qui ont été posées. Je vous en remercie. Je vous propose après tous ces commentaires qui sont notés, d'endosser ce Rapport, bien sûr à l'exception qui a été faite concernant les corrections linguistiques éventuelles pour l'arabe. Donc ce Rapport est endossé.

Je vous propose aussi de présenter la contribution de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord. La Guinée.

M. Jean Marc TELLIANO (Guinée)

Ma délégation intervient au nom de la Région Afrique. Sur le point de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil relatif à la contribution de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord tenue à Ottawa au Canada du 3 au 5 avril 2012, je voudrais avant tout féliciter les participants de cette Conférence pour la qualité du travail abattu que reflète son Rapport final. La Région Afrique note sa satisfaction sur le contenu du Rapport qui prend en compte les principales questions de politique et de cadre réglementaire au niveau mondial concernant l'alimentation et l'agriculture ainsi que les activités récentes du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Il y a lieu de faire remarquer la forte participation aux travaux de la société civile des secteurs privés et des institutions de richesses qui ont un certain avantage comparatif sur le plan des technologies. S'agissant des questions spécifiques, des éléments d'appréciation figurant dans le Rapport méritent d'être évoqués, tel l'intégration des questions normatives dans les priorités régionales ainsi que d'autres domaines pour lesquels la FAO dispose d'un avantage comparatif et la nécessité de définir les priorités au delà des aspects techniques, en donnant plus d'importance dans le cadre de l'action globale de la FAO à la gouvernance de la programmation.

Il est par ailleurs proposé par cette Conférence, l'officialisation éventuelle de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique du Nord pour une décision à prendre ultérieurement, c'est-à-dire la prise en compte des préoccupations de la Conférence de l'Amérique du Nord dans le même cadre que les autres Conférences régionales.

Monsieur le Président, tels sont les commentaires formulés sur le rapport de la Conférence régionale informelle de l'Amérique du Nord pour lequel ma délégation au nom de la Région Afrique soutient son adoption.

Mr Blair COOMBER (Chairperson, Informal Regional Conference for North America)

I will be brief as I gave my Report as well yesterday. First of all I would like to thank Guinea of behalf of the Africa Group for their support for the North America Informal Regional Conference Report. We would like to thank FAO for engaging and participating in our informal meeting, our Informal Regional Conference, and for the inclusive nature with which you have taken on our Report. We also wish to thank the European Regional Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group for participating as observers in our meeting, and hope all Regions can participate in our next Informal Regional Conference.

We once again wish to state our strong interest in ensuring our priorities as identified in Appendix C of our Report we included in the Strategic Planning Process and the work of the Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions nous considérons que la contribution de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord est donc dûment notée.

Je vous propose une conclusion globale à ces présentations, basée sur des éléments qui concernent tout le monde et qui sont extraits des rapports des Conférences régionales.

Le Conseil a examiné et endosse les conclusions des cinq Conférences régionales, qui se sont tenues au cours des mois de mars, avril et mai 2012, et les conclusions de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord sont dûment notées. Vous avez peut être compris qu'à plusieurs reprises on fait une différence puisque c'est tout à fait logique compte tenu de la réglementation. Il y a une réunion informelle et des réunions formelles, mais nous voulons les associer globalement avec des différences juridiques pour bien que ce soit clair pour tout le monde. En sus des aspects propres à chaque région qui sont ainsi avalisés, le Conseil prend acte des demandes et recommandations formulées par les Conférences régionales et par la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord sur les sept points suivants:

1. la nécessité pour la FAO de concentrer son action dans les domaines où elle dispose d'un avantage, notamment la diffusion des connaissances par le biais de l'assistance technique, les conseils en matière de politique, le renforcement des capacités et la facilitation de la Coopération sud-sud;
2. l'importance de veiller à ce que l'action de la FAO tienne compte des actes transversaux relatifs à l'égalité homme-femme, aux jeunes ruraux et aux populations autochtones;
3. la préparation par la FAO de cadres de programmation par pays qui permettent d'améliorer l'efficacité de l'assistance fournie et de renforcer de façon plus stratégique les capacités des pays selon leurs besoins en coordination avec le plan cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement et en étroite collaboration avec les institutions financières internationales, la société civile et le secteur privé;
4. que la FAO assure une consultation régulière des parties prenantes, ainsi qu'une coordination pour la planification et la programmation des priorités et leur suivi;
5. que la FAO facilite une plus grande collaboration au niveau régional et sous-régional et resserre les partenariats avec des entités participant au développement, y compris avec des organisations régionales et des organisations de la société civile, afin de définir des domaines d'action en synergie et renforcer l'efficacité avec laquelle les programmes sont exécutés dans les Régions;
6. l'importance de concentrer les efforts de la FAO sur les avantages comparatifs que sont ses compétences techniques et ses savoirs, de veiller à ce que la FAO joue un rôle de chef de file dans les domaines relevant de son mandat et de nouer des partenariats avec d'autres organismes;
7. le Conseil recommande que les conclusions des Conférences régionales soient prises en considération lors de l'élaboration du Cadre stratégique révisé 2010-19, du Programme à moyen terme 2014-17 et du Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2014-15.

Ce sont donc les sept recommandations que le Conseil fait à partir de vos discussions et des aspects globaux des rapports des Conférences régionales.

Après ces conclusions, si vous le permettez, je voudrais à titre de Président indépendant du Conseil faire quelques commentaires et remarques sur les Conférences régionales. J'ai eu la chance de pouvoir participer à toutes les Conférences régionales, sauf à la Conférence informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord, durant toute la durée de ces Conférences que ce soit à la réunion des experts ou à la réunion ministérielle. Je dois dire qu'à titre personnel ce fut un temps très fort, et j'en ai retiré plusieurs éléments qui m'ont paru importants. D'une part, on a eu la participation d'une majorité de pays, en particulier à celle de l'Afrique qui a battu les records en nombre de Pays Membres et de Ministres présents; c'est ce qui donne de la force à la FAO et à sa représentation régionale. D'autre part, on a eu une participation massive, forte et active de la société civile qui je crois, au moment où nous parlons de Décentralisation, est très positif pour rapprocher encore la FAO du terrain, chose que nous souhaitons tous, car notre objectif dans l'unité est d'être au plus près des intéressés.

Je voudrais vous remercier tous, en particulier les Pays Hôtes pour l'accueil et la disponibilité qui m'ont été réservés.

Deuxième point, à l'occasion d'une discussion avec le Directeur général, nous avons convenu que nous organiserions d'ici la fin de l'année un travail entre les Présidents de Région et les Secrétariats pour faire une critique dynamique sur le fonctionnement et sur l'amélioration du fonctionnement des Conférences régionales pour 2014. Il est grand temps de le faire, et nous verrons comment diffuser les initiatives de certaines Régions qui méritent de l'être dans d'autres, comme les Tables Rondes, où les Ministres s'expriment directement sans préparation préalable, les échanges avec la société civile, et autres choses très intéressantes. Ceci dit sans rien ôter au travail fait pour préparer les interventions des Ministres, mais par moments ces espaces permettent de respirer et cela s'avère très positif.

Troisième réflexion, sur ce que nous venons de vivre depuis hier matin, car nous avons longuement discuté avec les membres du Secrétariat de l'organisation pour la restitution du travail des Conférences régionales afin d'éviter la lassitude et insuffler plus de dynamisme. Et je ne regrette pas d'avoir passé du temps pour montrer l'unité d'action entre le travail des Régions, le travail de la FAO sur les sujets de fonds et la restitution que nous venons d'en faire cet après-midi. En tant que Président, je suis très satisfait de cette journée et demie, presque deux jours, et ne pouvais espérer mieux. Je vous remercie donc pour cette contribution.

Comme nous avons du retard, si tout le monde est dynamique nous terminerons notre Ordre du jour comme prévu, à l'exception de l'Année internationale du quinoa qui est reportée à demain matin.

10. Report of the 110th Session of the Programme Committee (7-11 May 2012)

10. Rapport de la 110^{ème} session du Comité du Programme (7-11 mai 2012)

10. Informe del 110.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (7-11 de mayo de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Étant donné que M. Médi, Président du Comité financier, a dû s'absenter quelques instants, nous passons au point 10, « Rapport de la 110^{ème} session du Comité du Programme », qui va être présenté par Mme Cécilia Nordin van Gansberghe, Président du Comité du Programme.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I was thinking that I would just do the three paragraphs for the Joint Meeting but we will get back to that. Mr Médi has a very good reason for not being here, so let's look at document CL 144/11 which covers the meeting that we had at the beginning of May. I want to say there were several items there that were very, very interesting. We did talk about the Progress Report and the Action Plan for the prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks. That is an interesting item because we want to be kept informed of what is actually happening and we heard very good reports about the FAO One Health Action Plan and the partnerships that FAO has established. The comment that the Meeting made to the Secretariat was to rank the priorities based on the input and the resources needed, and also to keep up the good work on partnerships.

The Director of Evaluation, Mr Moore, will be leaving the Organization next year due to, may I say, natural causes and, of course, this post is extremely important. Mr Moore has done a fantastic job and we need somebody equally qualified if possible to take his place. The Programme Committee stated that we are prepared to assist in this work, and two of our members will be assisting the Secretariat by sitting on the recruitment panel.

We also had several evaluations and if I may start with the one on FAOs work on Tenure Rights and Access to Land and other Natural Resources, along with the Management Response, and this is of two-fold interest to me and to the Members. First, we learned exactly what is being done and the comments from an External Evaluator along with the Management Response to what they think about their recommendations and what is about to be done. This Evaluation was of a very good quality and was also very timely. You all remember that we were happy to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines at the beginning of May. We highlighted the need for continued work on the global level which, as we stated several times, needs a critical mass at Headquarters, as well as the need to enhance the delivery at impacted country level and also the importance of the clear vision and coherence strategy. FAOs role as a neutral actor in this matter is very, very important. We hope that the knowledge transfer and

capacity-building can be further enhanced. Also, partnerships are an important part of this work, as well as the need for prioritization.

Then we come to what I personally would see as the highlights of our meeting, the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in Food and Agriculture Policy and the Management Response. If you, like myself, sometimes have difficulty to explain to capital what FAO does, it is an excellent document to ask people to read because it gives an extremely clear picture of what FAO does and what it really does very, very well. We appreciate the evaluation and methodology, as well as the positive Management Response.

The recommendations touch on what we've already talked about in the Decentralization. Accountability structures need to be further strengthened in the Decentralized Offices. Policy work is one of the most important core functions of FAO, which is why the maintenance of human resources competences and recruitment are very vital points. We need to increase efforts and activities at the country level and, as we've also said earlier, there needs to be an impact assessment culture so that we actually know whether what FAO is doing is having a true impact at the country level.

Policy work must be integrated across both geographic and sectorial areas. Any structural changes in transfer of resources must be based on thorough functional analysis. Again, we highlighted the need for partnerships, and that's the future focus on the Organization's work. We spent this morning discussing this, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the evaluations, which should be integrated into the work that we're presently doing in this area. The relationship between Headquarters and Decentralized Offices is obviously vital. You have heard this before. We need to focus on benefits and impacts.

We had another Evaluation of FAO's response to the July 2010 floods in Pakistan, along with the Management Response. It was clear from this Evaluation that conditions were extremely challenging so we commended the high quality of work of the Organization that they carried out. There were some recommendations that FAO has taken onboard for future work concerning the time required for the start-up of emergency programmes, the development of standard operating procedures, how you can better target beneficiaries, and of course integration of gender considerations, as well as monitoring and evaluation of emergency programmes. In this Evaluation, it was very clear the key role that the FAO Representative plays, which also highlights what we discussed in the Decentralization, the increased professionalization of the FAORs, their recruitment on merit, etc. We also commended and underlined the importance of continued work to increase the resilience.

We also had a synthesis of Evaluations to see if we could learn something by putting together different Evaluations, and this concerned major emergency and rehabilitation programmes in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Haiti. We're now integrating emergency and development activities which we commended, while emphasizing that monitoring evaluation and accountability is vital. Gender considerations need to be accelerated. Cross-cutting themes need also to be considered in countries in protracted crisis situations.

Then we had a follow-up to Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water. Well, you know we have the Evaluation. We have the Management Response, and then what happens? This time there was a new validation process that was suggested by FAO to show how the implementation process of the recommendations was going, constraints faced and actual programme results. The Programme Committee was favorably impressed by this new validation process, and recommended that it should be used in the future for major Evaluations, and obviously, with an eye to the costs involved.

As far as the work on water is concerned, we confirmed its importance along with the Water Platform and we underlined the importance of the normative products because we saw that these are widely used outside of the Organization. We also highlighted the need for partnerships and, especially in this context, with international financial institutions. We underlined the need to safeguard Headquarters capacity to develop these normative public goods, in particular for coordinated water programmes. Learning from this, we asked that the estimated cost of implementation of recommendations should be provided in all evaluations because it's very easy to make recommendations, but recommendations usually carry a cost.

We had a new item here as we had some time. We had a presentation on decent rural employment which was favorably received, and we will see if we can have any more presentations. This is obviously something that can only be done if time allows.

I was particularly pleased that there was an online forum established for the Programme Committee. The idea is that when you read Evaluations, you will have seen they are quite lengthy and there are several questions that come up. Maybe you don't understand where this figure comes from, or anything that is a practical matter. The idea was that you would put that on the net, and the Secretariat could answer these practical questions in their presentation so that we would spend time discussing matters of substance. I think that is an idea that we will continue to explore.

During our meeting, I reminded members that for the continuity of work it's important that the Members who are elected on an individual basis have and take the opportunity to participate in the Programme Committee meetings during their mandate. I think that is an important point. Furthermore, as Mr Haight has already mentioned, you do know that we work with a very compressed schedule so just to inform you in advance of the Agenda Item 21, we are discussing whether we could move the Programme Committee meeting slightly later in the year in order for the Committee to have all the papers that we have all understood will be vital for the future of FAO in very good time.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I'm honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The EU recognizes the importance of the global evaluations scrutinized at the 110th Session of the Programme Committee. We would particularly like to mention the evaluation of FAO's role and work in Food and Agriculture Policy. This is as also highlighted by the Programme Committee. This is an excellent document, and also for people not acquainted with the Organization. By reading you have the opportunity to get a clear picture of what FAO does best. As also mentioned, it discusses its global policy work and it also gives some clarification on the conditions for FAO to carry out this work.

We very much agree with the statement that analytic groundwork is a pre-requisite for being able to offer assistance in formulating effective policies and in encouraging efforts to improve FAO's work in this respect. It is good to see that Management accepted all six recommendations. However, three common themes emerged from this Evaluation, as well as from other Evaluations. There's a lack of sufficient coordination or discussion between all levels of staff. There's a lack of organizational accountability and incentives. There seems to be no systematic monitoring of follow-up. We underlined the importance of addressing these issues in an integrated and structural way across the Organization. We are especially looking forward to the way Management will implement concrete incentives to improve effectiveness, as well as their financial implications.

Regarding the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's work on Tenure Rights and Access to Land and other Natural Resources, we would like to underline the importance of FAO intensifying its efforts to get Governments to integrate in gender rights and access. Approximately 50 percent of the global population is female, therefore, it is not helpful that the document refers to women as one of many disadvantaged groups. Otherwise, we commend the excellent work of FAO on this topic as acknowledged in this Evaluation, and support FAO future work on these issues fully integrating the Voluntary Guidelines and the Responsible Governance of Tenure, of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, as we know was endorsed by CFS on 11 May this year.

We note with concern that the item on nutrition had to be postponed due to the late distribution of the document. In this regard, we would like to recall that according to the Preamble of the Constitution of FAO raising the level of nutrition is the first purpose for which the Organization has been established. However, we commend the attempt to facilitate the work of the Committee by creating an online forum for the Committee, and encourage Programme Committee members to make greater use of it to exchange ideas prior to meetings primarily on evaluation matters.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose les conclusions qui peuvent être envoyées au Comité de rédaction.

Le Conseil endosse les conclusions et recommandations du Comité du Programme relevant de son mandat. En particulier, il note que le mandat du Directeur actuel du Bureau de l'évaluation expire le 31 août 2013, et approuve le calendrier pour le processus de recrutement du prochain Directeur conformément à la Charte du Bureau de l'évaluation.

Le Conseil souligne l'importance du rôle de la FAO dans le domaine des Régimes fonciers, des droits applicables à la terre et autres ressources naturelles et de l'accès à la terre, et demande qu'à sa 145^{ème} session, un rapport lui soit soumis sur les progrès dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations de l'Évaluation.

Le Conseil rappelle que les activités de la FAO en matière de politique alimentaire et agricole font partie de ses fonctions essentielles les plus importantes et demande que le travail de l'Organisation, y compris la mise en œuvre des recommandations de l'Évaluation, soit intégré dans le Cadre stratégique révisé pour 2010-19, le Plan à moyen terme 2014-17, et les cadres de programmation par pays.

Enfin, le Conseil reconnaît la qualité du travail effectué par l'Organisation lors des inondations au Pakistan. Il souligne le rôle joué par les Représentants de la FAO dans les grandes situations d'urgence et la nécessité d'intégrer d'avantage les activités relatives aux situations d'urgence et celles concernant le développement. Il faudra ajouter ce point au cadre de programmation par pays.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Well it does not bother but as you notice honorable Chair, there was not a very rich discussion in all of this afternoon on this important issue. We made some observations, and I failed to see them in your summary. For instance, we made a comment on the regrettable incidence of the late documentation for the Programme Committee, which is unfortunately a more general problem, as you very well know Mr Chair, that the necessary background documentation for the work of the Programme and the Finance Committees and also other Committees, including the Joint Meetings are very often late. This situation hampers their work and the advice this Council is expecting from these Committees on pertinent issues. That was one observation we made.

Another observation was that the many Evaluations dealt with at the 110th Session seem to flag a common theme. From these Evaluations, and also from other Evaluations, it would seem that unfortunately there seems to be a lack of sufficient coordination or discussion between all levels of staff. There seems to be a lack of organizational accountability and incentives, and there seems to be no systematic monitoring of follow-up on the Evaluation activities of this Organization.

What we could hope for is that as the Management very positively has taken onboard all the recommendations, we would certainly like to see some progress in this regard in the future. I am certainly in your hands, Mr Chairperson, as to how this should be reflected in the summary, but I would like to see it reflected somehow.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'hésite à faire apparaître ces observations dans un rapport sur un Comité spécifique. Je préférerais qu'elles soient enregistrées d'une façon globale parce-que ça ne concerne pas que le Comité du Programme, comme vous l'avez dit: le Comité financier, les Comités conjoints, voire sur quelques sujets le Conseil.

Je proposerais de reprendre demain les deux éléments que vous avez évoqués sur la coordination et le retard, dans le chapitre consacré aux suites à donner aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil ou dans celui consacré aux Méthodes de travail du Conseil, et de mettre en chapeau la recommandation sur les aspects de retard. Ceci permettrait de maintenir ensemble les éléments de la Gouvernance qui sont concernés par ce sujet.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Yes, as I said we are certainly in your hands and it's fine with us to have it addressed in a more horizontal way tomorrow when we are talking about the late documentation. When talking about the what seems to be no systematic monitoring of follow-up on the many very good Evaluation activities conducted in this Organization and their concomitant financial and cost implications, perhaps we could benefit for the last time from the presence of Mr Moore in this meeting. Maybe we could have a

comment, is it true or is it not true? Is it the feeling that we fully utilize the outcome of evaluations in this Organization, and monitor and follow-up on all the findings? If it is not the case, I would still like to have it reflected in the Report from this Council that there seems to be a problem here.

Mr Robert MOORE (Director, Office of Evaluation)

I'm an evaluator so let me try and be factual here with what happens. As you probably know, every Evaluation gets done by FAO whether it's an Evaluation for the Governing Bodies or a project evaluation or a country evaluation, which may not be individually reported to the Governing Bodies, receives a Management Response where Management has to provide its overall reaction to the evaluation and then systematically one-by-one goes through the recommendations and says whether they are accepted, partially accepted, or rejected. If they are rejected, Management has to give a reason why. If accepted, then the actions that are supposed to be taken are supposed to be listed there, enumerated, with the responsibility for who is going to take them, and the timeframe for doing so.

Obviously, with any line of work sometimes this is done better in some cases than it is in others. I should think that the ones that are done for the Governing Bodies, which receive the greatest scrutiny, might be of a reasonable quality most of the time, but in addition because you're asking about the follow-up. There is a follow-up report that is required to be done for each and every Evaluation that is performed by the Organization, whether it's a Project Evaluation or one for the Governing Bodies. Such follow-up reports are done after one year for most Evaluations, but two years for those for the Governing Bodies because those are considered generally to be more strategic, and maybe it takes a bit more time to observe the effects of the implementation of the recommendations.

Now it has been said on occasion in the Programme Committee by some of the Members that they felt there was a tendency for FAO to always say that they accepted the recommendations. Sometimes there was some lack of precision in the Management Responses and in the follow-up reports which are also prepared by Management. I think that it is appropriate that Management should prepare the follow-up reports. But because of this observation made by Members of the Programme Committee in the past, at this last session we instigated for the first time a verification process on the implementation of the recommendations in one of the follow-up reports, which was the evaluation on water which the Chair of the Programme Committee reported on here, where we had a consultant who was a subject matter expert but who did not participate in the actual Evaluation and had not been directly working for FAO on water matters, come in and essentially say whether this follow-up report, which had been prepared on water, was accurate or not in terms of the actions that had been taken.

And so his report was then made available to the Programme Committee. His conclusion was that it was primarily accurate, although, you know, he did have some comments on the implementation of a few of the recommendations.

There is follow-up that is done on the Evaluation and the implementation of the recommendations of the Management Responses, and these are the steps that are being taken. It's up to the Members of the Governing Bodies to say to what extent this is being done well, and if there are suggestions for improving how we're doing it, we would certainly entertain them.

I would just add that in the discussion in the Programme Committee on this first Follow-up Report that we did on water, one of the conditions that they put on it, in fact it appears in the report, is that this sort of implementation should be done in a cost-effective way. We had some discussion about this in the Programme Committee. It was my view and I think that of the Committee members as well that, in this particular case, it was a cost-effective operation. We would keep that very much in mind in looking at future Evaluations by using the same or similar processes.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Une conclusion est proposée comme suit: le Conseil a noté que, par ailleurs, le Secrétariat aurait avantage à mettre en place un système de suivi des recommandations, des évaluations qui soient plus consistantes et qui incluent des mesures d'imputabilité et de coordination à tous les niveaux au sein du personnel.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

We don't have to discuss this at great length if it is the Programme Committee or the Secretariat which has taken initiatives to improve the monitoring and follow-up on evaluations. I got the impression from Mr Moore and also from the Chairperson of the Programme Committee that it has been discussed in the Programme Committee, and that the Programme Committee had suggested certain actions. And, of course, it goes without saying that these actions would be taken in full agreement with the Secretariat. So, how we reflect this in the Report is not of paramount importance for us.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le rapport ainsi que la proposition faite pour le Comité de rédaction sont adoptés.

**9. Reports of the Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee
(7 May and 31 May-1 June 2012)**

**9. Rapports des réunions conjointes du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier
(7 mai et 31 mai-1^{er} juin 2012)**

**9. Informes de las reuniones conjuntas del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas
(7 de mayo y 31 de mayo-1 de junio de 2012)**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de retourner au point 9 qui est le Rapport des réunions conjointes des 110^{ème} et 111^{ème} sessions du Comité du Programme et des 143^{ème} et 145^{ème} sessions du Comité financier du 7 mai et 31 mai et du 1^{er} juin.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just thought we could be chronological and I chaired the meeting on May 7 and there is not much to say because, as you know, the main part of that meeting was spent discussing the IPA for 2011 and future directions. So there are actually only two items left in that Report, and the first one is progress on implementation of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and that dovetails very neatly with what was just said. The document reached the Committees extremely late, so we did note the successful completion of TCP Decentralization, the enhancement of quality assurance mechanisms, and the development of new reporting and monitoring tools. And we underlined the importance of aligning TCP with the Strategic Framework. Then we discussed the policy for proclaiming and implementing International Years and you will find the entire policy in the Report that we reviewed and endorsed. The most important point there might be that these Years should be very carefully considered and that they should not follow too closely on each other but that they should have a true impact. They should not be proclaimed unless full financing and all organizational arrangements have been confirmed.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Nous avons dans le cadre du Comité conjoint, notamment la réunion qui s'est tenue du 31 mai au 1^{er} juin 2012, discuté de la question des autres ajustements à porter au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13, ainsi que de la question de l'ébauche du Cadre stratégique révisé et de la Structure de fonctionnement des Bureaux décentralisés.

Il nous restait à examiner le rapport sur l'Exécution du Programme 2010-12. Ce rapport a été simplement présenté, et nous devons nous mettre d'accord sur ses modalités d'exécution. Vous aviez proposé qu'une simple présentation soit faite à ce sujet en fin de session. Ceci est tout ce qui nous reste à voir dans le cadre de la Réunion conjointe.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We want to thank the Secretariat for the document and the presentations by the two Chairs of the Finance and Programme Committees.

Mr Chairman, we note that in paragraph 6 of this Report, the Joint Meeting expressed disappointment in having received the document very late.

We also note, Mr Chairman, that the same sentiment of receiving documents late was voiced during consideration of the IPA Annual Report for 2011-12, as was stated in paragraph 3 of document CL 144/13. Paragraph 1 of document CL 144/16 also indicates that the Joint Meeting decided to defer discussions on the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11 due to the late availability of the document.

The Africa Regional Group encourages the Secretariat to always avail meeting documents to Members in a timely fashion for the Governing Bodies to be effective in their future work. We concur with your guidance that you have just voiced to the European Group that this be considered later during the Working Methods of the Council.

With regard to document CL 144/13, Cape Verde yesterday expressed the views of the Africa Regional Group and Agenda Item 4 with which we strongly aligned the statement. We also endorse the Joint Committee views and recommendations on Progress on Implementation of the TCP as it was stated in paragraphs 6 and 7. Finally, Mr Chairman, we support the adjustment of the proclamation and implementation of International Years as indicated in paragraph 8, bearing in mind that it will, again, appear for discussion under Item 18 of the Council Agenda.

With these comments, Mr Chairman, the Africa Regional Group endorses the two Joint Meeting Reports.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Just to thank the Council for supporting us in having documents on time because it is extremely frustrating not to have the good time to prepare them well. All of the Members of my Committee and of Mr Médi's Committee work very, very hard to both digest the contents of the documents, and consult with the Regional Groups, and with capitals. So if we do get the documents on time, the whole process of governance, I believe, is considerably smoother. So it is extremely important that we do, and it is very helpful if we get them on time.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

The EU has benefitted from this Report in our substantive discussions on many substantial items. This is a very good Report, and we will also come back to the outcome of deliberations on the Joint Meeting of 7 May regarding the International Years under that Agenda Item. So at this stage, just for the record, we thank the Secretariat for the Reports, and recommend them for endorsement by the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose les conclusions suivantes.

Le Conseil approuve les conclusions et les recommandations formulées par les participants à la Réunion conjointe.

Le Conseil demande que lui soit soumise pour examen lors de la prochaine session, des mesures susceptibles de renforcer le Programme de coopération technique, qui soient en phase avec le Processus de réflexion stratégique et compatible avec les cadres de programmation par pays.

Voilà ce qui sera transmis en plus au Comité.

11. Reports of the 143rd (7-11 May), 144th (14 May), 145th (1 June 2012) Sessions of the Finance Committee

11. Rapports des 143^{ème} (7-11 mai), 144^{ème} (14 mai) et 145^{ème} (1 juin 2012) sessions du Comité financier

11. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 143.º (7-11 de mayo), 144.º (14 de mayo) y 145.º (1 de junio 2012) del Comité de Finanzas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Maintenant, nous passons au point 11, sur les Rapports des 143^{ème}, 144^{ème} et 145^{ème} sessions du Comité financier. Monsieur Medi, vous avez la parole.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

To the Members of the Council, at the outset, let me first recognize the hard work that was done by the Secretary of the Finance Committee and his team. I think there was a change when we started in this set of meetings in the number of secretaries. We now have a new Secretary in the name of David. They were a little bit, you know, inquisitive as to whether or not he would be able to perform, and I must tell you that he did well and he had the Committee to deal with, which was challenging.

Having said that, I am going to report on three meetings: the 143rd, the 144th, and the 145th Sessions of the Finance Committee. The reports that I am going to discuss here are presented in documents CL 144/12, CL 144/17, CL 144/20 and CL 144/LIM/2.

Mr Chairman, while our 143rd and 145th Sessions dealt with FAO issues, the 144th Session was a special session convened to deal exclusively with WFP matters. Our Report on WFP matters has been submitted to the World Food Programme Executive Board for its consideration, and this was done last week. Mr Chairman, what I am going to present here are the main highlights of the Report of the Finance Committee, except those issues that were already discussed under Items 4 and 6 of our Agenda.

Let me begin by discussing the financial matters, and firstly, the financial position of the Organization. The Committee reviewed the financial position of the Organization, and it noted that based on Member's prior year payments, there was a potential requirement for recourse to borrowing by the Organization to meet its cash obligations in the final month of the year, unless payments were made by the relevant Members. The Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of Assessed Contributions to assure that FAO continued to meet the increasing cash requirements for its Programme of Work.

The Committee reviewed the rules and regulations currently in place to improve the timely payment of Contributions and Arrears, and urged the Secretariat to continue to remind Members of their financial obligations and confirm the existing regulations regarding loss of voting rights in case of no payment on Assessments for more than two years, and that these regulations would be rigorously applied.

Mr Chairman, I conveyed this message at the Regional Conference for Africa which took place in Brazzaville and it was well received. The Committee commented that the Organization should therefore encourage payment of arrears by emphasizing the moral obligation of Members to pay their Assessed Contributions. In this respect, the Committee proposed that even greater visibility be given to the status of Contribution and Arrears, including making positive and public appreciations of Members paying their contributions on a timely basis. The Committee conveyed its willingness to journey forth with the Secretariat in approaching Members with outstanding contributions to encourage their settlement or to seek Repayment Plans.

And we also reviewed the Report on Investments for 2011 and in so doing, the Committee welcomed the positive performance to date and suggested a review of long-term investment policies at a future date, when markets stabilized, and cautioned about investment expenses being higher than investment returns for short-term investments.

Now turning to budgeting matters, we reviewed the Annual Report on Budgeting Performance and the Programme on Budgetary Transfer in the 2010-11 biennium. The Committee took note of the final 2010-11 budgetary returns based on the Audited Accounts of the Organization, and requested that the unspent balance of USD 8.7 million be carried forward as decided by the Conference in 2011.

The Committee also approved a final budgetary transfer as presented in the documents that you have in front of you, CL 144/12. And you will note that these are decisions that the Committee can take, and it took the decision to approve those budgetary transfers.

Turning to human resources, the Committee reviewed the Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2012-13, and noted the substantial achievement in the 2010-11 Human Resources Strategic Framework. The Committee underscored, in particular, the performance management system and the Competency Framework, and reiterated the need to promote a merit-based selection process which secures increase of geographic representation and gender balance among the workforce of the Organization.

Now turning to administrative and information systems framework. We reviewed two reports, the Progress Report on Implementation of the Global Resource Management System and the Progress Report on the Enterprise Risk Management Framework.

In reviewing the Progress Report on Implementation of the Global Resource Management System, the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that current project objectives include IPSAS compliance and that the R-12 upgrades continue to be fully integrated and work delivered by the planned project target date and within the reported budget estimate. The Committee requested that the new 2014 deadline for IPSAS compliance be rigorously upheld.

In reviewing the Progress Report on an Enterprise Risk Management Framework, the Committee requested the Secretariat to accelerate progress in order to ensure complete implementation by the end of 2013 as scheduled.

In response to a previous request by the Finance Committee and endorsed by the Council, the Committee reviewed the criteria and procedure for selection of external candidates to the Ethics Committee, and concluded that the current criteria and the procedure whereby the Finance Committee and the CCLM made their respective submissions to the Council should be maintained. And I must here recognize the effort made by the Chair of the CCLM, Ambassador Janabi, to ensure that we have a close dialogue on this issue so that we can come to a fruitful and respectful conclusions. I think he was very instrumental in that decision. Let me recognize it here.

Turning now to oversight, the Committee reviewed and confirmed the proposed arrangement for the Selection and Appointment of the External Auditor for the six-year period starting with the biennium 2014-15, and requested the Secretariat to proceed with inviting proposals from the Member Nations of FAO.

The Committee also reviewed the 2011 Annual Activity Report of the Office of the Inspector General. In so doing, it requested that in the context of the review on implementation of the current Audit Report Disclosure Policy, FAO Management examine the possibility of changing the access policy so that copies of the individual Office of the Inspector General Report could be made available to Members upon request. This would not be easy, but it was a specific request from the Committee.

The Committee felt, given the nature of those reports, that they should be disclosed to Members easily. The Committee encouraged Management to continue in its efforts to implement all outstanding recommendations, particularly those recommendations from prior years of lengthy duration.

The Committee also reviewed a progress report on Implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations, and requested that an update of the status of implementation of the recommendations be included in the Progress Report to be presented at its October 2012 Session. The Committee further requested that action regarding the Host Country Agreement be accelerated. We will report on progress to this effect at the Committee's next regular session.

The Committee endorsed the Director-General's recommendation on membership of the Audit Committee to extend the term of Mme Ndiaye for two additional years; Mr Zimmerman, for one additional year, and to appoint Ms Carolyn Dittmeier as a new member for the initial period of two years. The extensions and appointment would be made by the Director-General, effective from the date of approval by the Council.

As regards the improved methods of work and efficiency of the Finance Committee, the Committee noted information provided by the Independent Chairperson of the Council on the modalities for Field Visits by Members of the Council. The Committee supported a principle of organizing pragmatic field visits for members of the Committee which were relevant to its mandate and which would enhance and inform the Committee in the performance of its work. I think this is crucial, and we are seeking the Council's guidance on this issue. The Committee also noted the frequent scheduling of Special Sessions of the Committee, and requested that work of the Committee be programmed as quickly as possible within the ambit of regular session.

In other matters and in other business, the Committee examined the proposed Amendment to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization, following a request by the CCLM

for its financial implications to be examined. The Committee requested that comprehensive information on the financial implication of this proposal be presented at its next regular session when the proposal would be reconsidered.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, overall, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization. On behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation, again, to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us this opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanation you may have regarding the Report, and I hope that some of the issues for which we are seeking your approval will be considered positively at this session.

On a personal note, to end, let me really thank the members of the Committee because they were very, very productive, each and every one, and I think they should all be recognized as very hardworking.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En complément de ces informations, je voudrais informer le Conseil qu'à la date du 6 juin, 46% des sommes dues en dollars et 36% des sommes dues en Euros ont été versées dans les caisses de l'Organisation. Nous sommes donc dans une situation où 59% des contributions dues pour l'année 2012 doivent encore être versées, alors que le montant des arriérés a nettement diminué pour atteindre 18.000.000 de dollars.

Cependant 44 États Membres ont encore des arriérés de contribution pour 2011 et pour les années précédentes, et 16 États Membres risquent de perdre leur droit de vote à la prochaine session de la Conférence, en vertu de l'article III.4 de la Constitution de l'Organisation. Ceci est pour information, puisque nous n'avons pas à prendre de décision sur ce point-là.

Mme Célestine BA-OGUEWA (Gabon)

Le message est bien passé, nous allons nous atteler à payer les cotisations parce qu'il y va de notre survie à tous. La délégation gabonaise, que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, intervient sur ce point au nom de la Région Afrique. Comme vous le savez, le document CL 144/17 présente le Rapport de la 144^{ème} session du Comité financier ayant examiné les questions concernant le Programme alimentaire mondial dont le Conseil d'administration s'est tenu la semaine dernière. Notre intervention s'articulera uniquement sur le document CL 144/12.

Force est de reconnaître que, au-delà du déficit structurel et du fonds général dont les Membres connaissent bien les raisons et qui va se réduire sur une longue période, suite à la stratégie de maîtrise des coûts mise en place par le Secrétariat, la situation financière de l'Organisation est un réel sujet de préoccupation permanente. Faut-il rappeler que le point sur la situation financière de l'Organisation, notamment le niveau de recouvrement des Contributions au programme ordinaire de la FAO est un point récurrent aux travaux du Comité financier. Il est cependant rare que le Comité fasse état d'une bonne situation financière. Pourtant toutes les contributions, quelque soit leur niveau, quelque soit leur provenance doivent être réglées dans leur intégralité dès le début de l'année, comme le stipule l'article V paragraphe 5.5 du Règlement financier de l'Organisation.

Pour une meilleure compréhension de tous les Membres, il serait fort souhaitable que le Secrétariat explique dans des termes simples le fonctionnement du fonds général et les lignes qui existent entre ce fonds et les obligations de l'Organisation au titre des divers plans concernant le personnel.

Par ailleurs, le Rapport fait ressortir que les dépenses d'investissement des placements à court terme sont plus élevés que leur rendement. Doit-on comprendre que le portefeuille de placements sera dorénavant composé d'une partie de plus en plus importante de placements à long terme, quand on sait qu'au regard de l'instabilité des marchés financiers, ceci présente un risque plus élevé?

Indépendamment de ces observations, nous approuvons les recommandations du Comité relatives au suivi de la situation financière et au contrôle.

Pour ce qui est du cadre des systèmes administratifs, la Région Afrique, tout en déplorant le retard pris dans la mise en œuvre du Système mondial de gestion des ressources humaines, note que le plan d'exécution révisé de ce programme permettra de réduire les risques liés à l'introduction des normes

comptables internationales pour le secteur publique, et que la nouvelle date de publication des états financiers conforme à ces normes est dorénavant fixée à janvier 2014.

Pour conclure, la Région Afrique prend note des décisions du Comité, sur les autres questions examinées au cours de la 144^{ème} session, et demande au Conseil d'approuver ce Rapport.

Ms Charlotte Raae TEODONIO (Denmark)

Thank you Mr Chairperson. I'm honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the Finance Committee for the excellent report on important financial and administrative issues and can, in general, support all the pertinent observations and recommendations from the Finance Committee. We support the request from the Finance Committee regarding timely and detailed documentation in all languages and recall that FAO Council depends on the informed advice from the Finance Committee on important and often complicated financial and administrative issues.

For the EU, human resources policies in FAO are one of the cornerstones of Reform within FAO. We acknowledge the progress made through the Immediate Plan of Action and implementation of the 2010-11 Human Resources Strategic Framework. The EU appreciates the Report of the Finance Committee on the Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2012-13, and supports its recommendations. First and foremost, it is our firm belief that human resources policies are basically the responsibility of Management, but we consider a continued and credible dialogue with staff is key in order to keep them up-to-date with the Reform and support for possible future changes. This is of the utmost importance, since staff is essential for FAO.

The present process of restructuring FAO is one of the most important opportunities for the Director-General to renew the culture within FAO. The EU would like to have a view on what kind of leadership the Director-General will show to realize Culture Change and improve the impact of FAO throughout the world. The EU invites the Director-General to present his ideas and strategy on this. We attach great importance to a Performance Management System linking competencies to performance and career development and we request Management to diligently pursue finalization and implementation of this system.

The EU fully supports development of a motivated staff based on a merit based selection and a continued learning programme to keep skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities at the required level. Personnel mobility between Headquarters and Field Offices should become an integral part of career development within the Organization. We particularly emphasize the need for more equitable gender balance as approved by Council and Conference. The EU is hesitant to engage in micro-management. With regard to the proposed restructuring of the Human Resources Management Division, the EU takes note of the Legal Opinion.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Thank you very much, and sorry for asking for the floor at this late stage. We just wanted to echo the words of compliments by Mr Médi to the Secretary. We would like to thank Mr David McSherry and his team for their dedication. I see him back in the room. We would also like to thank Mr Nick Nelson and all the Management for their cooperation. We of course endorse the Report.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Parfois les gens redoutent les chiffres, car ils sont parfois très difficiles à accepter, mais je pense que le Comité a produit des rapports que vous avez appréciés. Ceux qui ont pris la parole, le Gabon, le Danemark, le Japon, ont soulevés des questions d'ordre technique qui s'adressent au Secrétariat. Nous espérons que les recommandations qui ont été faites par le Comité ont été entendues par le Conseil. Monsieur le Président, nous attendons vos conclusions sur cette question.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Voici les conclusions proposées. Le Conseil, approuvant les rapports des 143^{ème}, 144^{ème} et 145^{ème} sessions du Comité financier, sur la situation financière, exhorte tous les États Membres à verser dans leur intégralité et en temps voulu les Contributions mises en recouvrement, de sorte que la FAO puisse continuer à financer les dépenses d'exploitation nécessaires à l'exécution de son programme de travail; approuve les recommandations du Comité financier concernant les démarches à venir pour encourager le versement des Contributions de l'année et des arriérés.

Pour les questions budgétaires, le Conseil note que, conformément aux articles 4.1 et 4.5 du Règlement financier, le Comité financier a autorisé des transferts budgétaires des chapitres 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 et 13 en faveur des chapitres 6 (1,5 million de dollars), 8 (1,65 million de dollars), 9 (0,7 million de dollars), 10 (1,3 million de dollars), et 11 (4,55 millions de dollars). Il est important d'inclure ces chiffres, car c'est une acceptation du Conseil.

Au sujet des ressources humaines, le Conseil prend note des conclusions du Comité financier concernant le Cadre stratégique et le Plan d'action pour les ressources humaines pour 2012-13, et invite le Directeur général à rendre compte des progrès réalisés au titre du Changement de culture, notamment au moyen de la Politique de mobilité du personnel.

En ce qui concerne le cadre des systèmes administratifs et informatiques, le Conseil souligne l'importance de veiller à ce que les principaux objectifs de la mise en conformité aux normes IPSAS, le passage au R12 d'Oracle et la mise en œuvre d'un Système de gestion des risques de l'Organisation soient réalisés conformément au calendrier prévu et dans les limites des prévisions de dépenses.

Le Conseil prend note de la décision du Comité de maintenir les critères actuels et les procédures pour le choix de candidats externes pour le Comité de l'éthique.

En matière de contrôle, le Conseil approuve la prolongation de Mme Ndiaye pour deux ans et celui de M. Zimmermann pour un an, et nomme Mme Carolyn Dittmeier pour une période initiale de deux ans, comme membres de la Commission d'Audit de la FAO.

Le Conseil prend note de la décision du Comité financier confirmant les modalités proposées pour la sélection et la nomination du Commissaire aux Comptes.

Enfin sur les questions diverses, le Conseil approuve les indications données par le Comité au Secrétariat dans tous les autres domaines relevant de sa compétence, ainsi que les initiatives destinées à améliorer les Méthodes de travail du Comité.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je crois que la conclusion est bonne, mais il y a une petite coquille, que je pense pouvoir corriger, sur les questions financières. Je pense que vous avez dit tout à l'heure qu'il faut que les Membres payent en temps voulu. Je ne pense pas que « voulu » est à sa place ici, ce que nous disons au Comité, c'est que les Membres doivent pouvoir payer leurs contributions à temps, parce que si l'on met « en temps voulu », cela veut dire que chacun peut décider de le faire quand il veut.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'accepte le terme « à temps », nous sommes d'accord.

18. International Years

18. Années internationales

18. Años Internacionales

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose de passer au point 18 de notre Ordre du jour qui est les « Années internationales ». Pour commencer, je vous propose de prendre le document CL 144/13, concernant le projet de politique pour la Proclamation et la célébration des Années internationales. Mme Cecilia Nordin va commenter le rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As I said, it is the Proclamation and Implementation of International Years which you will find in Annex 1 of CL 144/13. That policy has two parts. The first one consists of the criteria for selection of themes, and the second one concerns procedures to be followed and other prerequisites. There are six criteria to be followed. The subject should be consistent with the principles listed in the United Nations, should address the priority concerns, should involve concrete actions, and they should be in intervals of at least two years between two International Years. The proclamation of International Years should only be considered when celebrations of a shorter duration, such as a week or a day, would not be enough. An International Year should not be proclaimed when there is a World Conference on the subject. Regarding the procedure to be followed, there should be an adequate Think Tank for consultations, and in general there should be a period of two years between the Proclamation and the beginning of the International Year. The International Year should also not be proclaimed unless there has been full financing and all organizational arrangements have been confirmed. There should be effective coordination of the activities of the United Nations Organizations and other Bodies. Each year should have objectives, so that they will have practical results. The arrangements for Evaluations of International Years should be established beforehand. That is a short summary of this policy, and I now hand it back to you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avez-vous des remarques ou des questions, non pas sur les années internationales, mais sur la décision et la procédure?

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Just a reminder not to refer to Council when we talk about the guidelines. They are actually guidelines not established by FAO, but by Equinox in New York.

So, in this context, I think we just need to understand that eventually, all of these International Years have to be approved by the UN General Assembly. It's ECOSOC that actually has the guidelines, and we have endorsed them from the perspective of FAO.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Hablo en nombre del Grupo de África precisamente para apoyar la propuesta del documento de los Años Internacionales y, sobre todo, los criterios y las directivas que habría que seguir para declararlos internacionales. Efectivamente, estamos de acuerdo con la idea de que los temas deben ser corrientes y que se deben celebrar cada dos años pues hay que tener en cuenta también la celebración de otros eventos que no coincidan con el Año Internacional. Y sobre todo que cada Año Internacional tenga objetivos claros.

Nosotros queremos añadir que no solamente hay que tener objetivos claros sino que se definan actividades sostenibles y que no solo se limiten al año sino que promuevan que la visión del tema de este pueda seguir teniendo su curso normal. Quiero decir con esto que la celebración del Año Internacional no solamente se quede en él, sino que conlleve y defina que se hagan más sostenibles a largo plazo y que efectivamente el tema siga teniendo vigencia a lo largo de la vida debido a la importancia de este.

Ms Charlotte Raae TEODONIO (Denmark)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes document CL 144/INF/7 Rev.2. We note all of the information provided regarding activities related to International Year of Forests - 2011, International Year of Cooperatives - 2012, International Year of Quinoa - 2013, International Year of Family Farming - 2014. We would at the same time like to recall the report of 7 May 2012 from the Joint Meeting of the Programme and the Finance Committees regarding the proposed policy on the proclamation and implementation of International Years.

In the context of previous regional consultations, the Joint Meeting reviewed and endorsed a rather detailed FAO policy on proclamation and implementation of International Years as an Annex to the Report from the Joint Meeting. The policy encompasses guidelines regarding criteria for selection of themes and recommended procedures to be followed and other requirements prior to the FAO Conference, possibly calling for the proclamation of the International Year.

The EU suggests that this agreed policy should be submitted directly to the 145th Session of the Council in November 2012 for endorsement.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think what Equatorial Guinea said was very pertinent, and I hope that that will actually be included in the implementation of evaluation and follow-up.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose le compte rendu suivant: le Conseil approuve le projet de politique sur la proclamation et la célébration des années internationales, tel qu'il figure dans l'Annexe 1 du document CL 144/13, intitulé Politique de la FAO sur la proclamation et la célébration des années internationales. Nous verrons par la suite l'autre point concernant les années internationales. Y aurait-il autre chose à inclure dans le rapport?

Mr Michael V. MICHENER (United States of America)

The United States thanks the FAO Secretariat for producing document CL 144/INF/7. The United States recommends that under the Annex, procedures to be followed and other requisites, item 3, be strengthened to read "an International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing and all organizational arrangements are confirmed".

International Years can put significant stress on the budgetary and human resources of an Organization. Therefore, the entire impact to the organization needs to be understood before a decision can be made. This information should be a mandatory part of the submission.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de reprendre pour rendre compte de ce qu'ont dit le Danemark, les États-Unis et la Guinée, afin d'inclure plus de précisions dans la déclaration du Conseil. Nous reprendrons tout à l'heure après la discussion sur les différentes années internationales. Nous pourrions adopter le document, mais je crois que vous souhaitez ajouter quelques éléments supplémentaires. Nous le ferons par la suite.

Ms Cecilia Nordin van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Sorry. I'm just slightly confused because in the Joint Meeting Report from 7 May, Annex 1, on the procedures to be followed, item 3 has the text exactly as just read out by the United States. An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing, which, in principle, should be based on voluntary contributions, and/or organizational arrangements are confirmed. So, that is exactly what I said.

18.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Forests (2011)

18.1 Évaluation de l'Année internationale des forêts (2011)

18.1 Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Bosques (2011)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous acceptons donc le dossier tel qu'il a été présenté et nous passons à l'« Évaluation de l'année internationale des forêts ». M. Rojas Briales, Sous-Directeur général du Département des forêts, va nous présenter les commentaires que nous discuterons.

Sr. Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (Subdirector General del Departamento Forestal)

Seguidamente les presentaremos las principales actividades desarrolladas a lo largo del Año Internacional de los Bosques, y especialmente lo que sería una visión de conjunto.

Como ustedes saben, la Asamblea General declaró 2011 el Año Internacional de los Bosques e identificó el Foro Forestal de Naciones Unidas, que forma parte de DESA en Nueva York, como el

punto focal para la implementación del Año y a la FAO, en tanto que Presidente de la Asociación Colaborativa de Bosques (CPF) como entidad de apoyo a la implementación.

El objetivo principal del Año era aumentar la conciencia social sobre la gestión, conservación y gestión sostenible de todo tipo de bosques para el beneficio de generaciones actuales y futuras. Ya han visto lo que era el logo del Año Internacional. No se identificaron recursos previamente, tanto humanos como económicos, y el Departamento Forestal de la FAO pudo reajustar su presupuesto existente y destinar unos 250,000 dólares para esta actividad.

Si evaluamos el resultado desde uno de los principales productos, que fue el *spot* que ustedes ya vieron en anteriores ocasiones, producido en unas nueve o diez lenguas —las seis oficiales más alguna más—, y que ha sido distribuido por cadenas muy importantes como la CNN, EuroNews, etc, en algunos casos cientos de veces. El valor en publicidad ha sido catorce veces el presupuesto invertido, pero evidentemente ha habido muchísimas más actividades que solo el *spot* de treinta y sesenta segundos.

El lanzamiento del Año fue conjunto por todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas en Nueva York, los días 2 y 3 de febrero, organizado por el Foro Forestal de Naciones Unidas y donde tuvimos el honor de compartir con la Premio Nobel de la Paz, Wangari Maathai, una rueda de prensa pocos meses antes de su fallecimiento. En Roma, unos días después, presentamos el lanzamiento del Año Internacional junto con la principal publicación estrella forestal de la FAO: “El Estado de los bosques del mundo 2011”, que había sido la principal publicación también presentada en la apertura del Año Internacional en Nueva York en el propio espacio de la Asamblea General donde tuvo lugar, así como una publicación específica de la revista *Unasylva* sobre el Año Internacional. Se elaboró lo que sería un *toolkit* para comunicadores, un instrumento informático en forma de información basada en web o en forma de un DVD que se envió a todos los Países Miembros, a las Representaciones de FAO y a unas cien organizaciones con las cuales trabajamos en partenariado para apoyarles en su desarrollo de actividades, sean nacionales o sectoriales, sobre el Año Internacional de los Bosques, disponiendo a través de este mecanismo de todo tipo de información útil desde lo que fue la lona que vieron en el edificio de FAO durante medio año, lo que serían los ficheros correspondientes para hacer carteles, información, fotografía y demás elementos de base que pudiesen reforzar la actuación de comunicación de los países y otras organizaciones forestales durante el año. También se creó una página web específica donde se alojó toda esta información, incluido este *toolkit* de apoyo.

Se produjeron cinco videos temáticos de unos diez minutos sobre proyectos y actividades forestales desarrolladas por la FAO. Quisiera insistir en que solo el primero, el de Filipinas, fue hecho con recursos del Programa regular, mientras que los otros cuatro, el de Senegal, el de Ecuador, el de Mongolia y el de Ruanda fueron desarrollados con fondos de proyectos. Y además, el primero de Filipinas, obtuvo paralelamente en la última conferencia el mejor premio por proyecto de cooperación técnica, denominado *Edouard Saouma Award*. Y también el de Mongolia ha sido presentado este mediodía en la sesión de *Impact*. También se produjo un video conjunto de estos cinco que se presentó en la clausura del Año Internacional.

Con los fondos del anterior bienio de innovación se desarrolló una aplicación móvil para Iphones, Ipad, etc, que permitió encontrar mucha información sugestiva para generaciones jóvenes sobre los bosques incluido un *quiz*, y hacer donaciones. Se prepararon proyectos Telefood a los cuales están entrando los primeros recursos desde que esta aplicación móvil está disponible desde principios de este año.

Los Embajadores de la FAO, como Anggun y Lewis, han sido muy activos durante 2011 para promocionar todos los aspectos relacionados con el Año Internacional de los Bosques en diversos Países Miembros, inclusive la visita a Haití. También se desarrollaron actividades para el personal de la FAO con una jornada de repoblación forestal en colaboración con el Gobierno italiano en Castel Fusano a las afueras de Roma. Las Oficinas Regionales y la estructura descentralizada de FAO han sido muy activas en todo tipo de actuaciones, destacando la iniciativa de Asia de lo que sería la *Miss Earth* y aprovechando un concurso parecido a Miss Universo pero con un componente ambiental muy importante. Lo lleva a cabo una fundación de Filipinas. Se destinó *Miss Earth* 2011 a los bosques con un impacto muy importante.

A través de la Asociación Colaborativa de Bosques, el CPF, que engloba a las principales organizaciones globales, las tres convenciones de Río, las principales redes de investigación forestal y las principales agencias de Naciones Unidas, el GEF y el Banco Mundial, se actuó conjuntamente en comunicación forestal para evitar mensajes contradictorios y competencia en los medios, identificando unos veinte temas organizados por los meses del año, y para cada cual de estos temas se identificó una agencia responsable, que fue la que redactó y emitió el correspondiente comunicado de prensa, con lo cual se pudo conseguir una gran actuación de comunicación y evitar la competencia. Hubo muchos eventos en los cuales FAO fue el principal o uno de los principales actores, y destacaría desde el centenario de la Red Silva Mediterránea en Avignon, la Semana de Bosques Secos de África, la Reunión sobre las tres cuencas tropicales en Brazzaville (Congo), la Conferencia sobre Arte en Madera organizada en India y el Día Forestal temático en la Cumbre de Cambio Climático en Durban.

Se cerró el año aquí en Roma, a la cual estuvieron todos ustedes invitados el día 20 de diciembre, presentando un libro en inglés sobre árboles frutales del bosque amazónico y plantas útiles, redactado por investigadores de CIFOR, en concreto Patricia Shanley, que fue un éxito muy importante y una contribución concreta a la interfaz entre bosques y seguridad alimentaria. También tuvimos los primeros resultados de los análisis por imágenes de satélite de la evolución de la cubierta forestal, desarrollado directamente por FAO, y la entrega del Árbol de la Vida, que fue ubicado gracias a una generosa entrega por parte del jefe del servicio médico de la FAO, en la planta baja del Edificio B.

¿Cuáles son los siguientes pasos? Ya se ha comentado anteriormente que los Años Internacionales deberían tener un eco y una creación de capacidades y no quedarse solo en ello, en los trescientos sesenta y cinco días que corresponden. La Conferencia de la FAO aprobó proponer a la Asamblea General el establecimiento del Día Internacional de los Bosques a partir del año que viene, en tanto y en cuanto el Día Internacional de los Bosques fue propuesto por FAO en el año 1971 pero, por falta de un procedimiento formal en Naciones Unidas decayó y, aunque cuarenta países, por lo menos, vienen celebrando el 21 de marzo como Día Internacional de los Bosques, este no existe formalmente en el calendario de Naciones Unidas y estamos intentando que esta resolución de FAO se implemente en la próxima Asamblea General, y agradeceremos todo su apoyo para que así sea.

Un segundo aspecto que estamos haciendo es que toda la capacidad de comunicación que se construyó en el Departamento Forestal se viese reforzada y mantenida en el futuro, porque entendemos que la necesidad de comunicar la actividad forestal ubicada en zonas muy remotas y muy lejanas a la población mayoritariamente urbana es clave. Y, por otro lado, como evidentemente nuestro objetivo no es reforzar la propia FAO, sino reforzar los países, estamos desarrollando diversos proyectos de creación de capacidades, sea en los países o sea a través de las Comisiones Forestales Regionales, reforzando y creando redes de comunicadores forestales en las regiones que puedan aprovechar la riqueza de experiencia del Año Internacional de los Bosques.

Aquí tienen todos los *partners* con los cuales trabajamos a lo largo del Año Internacional, y solo me resta agradecerles su atención y desear que esta velada no sea demasiado larga para ustedes.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Primero querría comentar de manera general que parece que se va a presentar un solo documento al Consejo que conlleva todos los aspectos relativos a los Años Internacionales que es el CL 144/INF/7. Quizás sería bueno que todos los ponentes hablaran de una sola vez porque hay un solo documento que se dirige al Consejo. El Grupo de África ha preparado justamente una sola declaración para todos los Años Internacionales, y sería bueno hacerlo así.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je pensais tirer les conclusions point par point, mais je vous propose de passer en revue toutes les Années internationales, puis vous ferez vos interventions, et enfin je tirerai les conclusions.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

I can actually hold my comments until the end as well. I was going to be specific regarding forestry, but it could apply for the others. So if you wish to do them all at the same time, I am okay with that as well.

Ms Stephanie ELDER-ALEXANDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

I just want to take the opportunity to note the significance of the International Year of Forests 2011 in highlighting the need for the sustainable management of forests and the role of forests in the mitigation of environmental impacts and in providing benefits to future generations.

I just wish to make three comments on the role that the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has taken in respect of that year just passed. We have joined our global counterparts in commemorating the International Year of Forests through a series of programmes and activities which highlighted the natural resources and the need for good environmental practices by all persons. In February 2011, the Honourable Minister for Housing and Environment announced that the major activities would include the launch of the Forest Fires Protection Plan, in February the celebration of World Forestry Day, and finally a National Tree Planting Ceremony where 110,000 seedlings were planted.

In keeping with the main theme of the International Year of Forests, "Forests for the People", Trinidad and Tobago has launched a community initiative known as the Community Green Space Challenge. This challenge is aimed at engaging the national community through civil societies to transform neglected and abandoned spaces within their neighborhoods into green spaces for the entire community to enjoy. And we are pleased to say that our activities have been in keeping with those recommended by FAO.

18.2 International Year of Cooperatives (2012)

18.2 Année internationale des coopératives (2012)

18.2 Año Internacional de las Cooperativas (2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas de commentaires sur ce point, je vous propose de passer à l'Année internationale des coopératives, et je cède la parole à Mme Marcela Villarreal pour présenter le sujet.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

I will not make a formal presentation because I think it's quite late in the day, so I will spare you this. I'll just give you a little bit of an update because you will remember that we spoke about this the last time in Council, and I wanted just to bring up a couple of ideas.

You may remember, just to refresh your minds, that the UN declared 2012 to be the International Year of Cooperatives in order to raise awareness of the major role that cooperatives play in poverty reduction, employment generation and, of course, very importantly for us, in food security. They actually play a massive role, and we sometimes forget this important role. Just for an example, the 300 largest cooperatives in the world generate USD 1.1 trillion. That's absolutely a huge sum per year, and they employ 100 million people. And here we're talking only about the 300 largest cooperatives. Therefore, the cooperatives overall have a massive role in moving towards poverty reduction and, very specifically, in helping us attain our objectives of a hunger-free world.

Now FAO is the lead agency on the agriculture sector cooperatives because, of course, there are a number of cooperatives in other sectors. We do that in very close collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies but also across the UN with many other partners. Internally we have an Inter-departmental Working Group which looks at cooperatives and producer organizations from all of the areas of work of FAO. We do have a main goal throughout this year to strengthen agricultural cooperatives and, very specifically, to help governments understand what they need to do in order for them to create an enabling environment for cooperatives to be able to thrive. So this is the main goal that we at FAO would like from the International Year.

Now we have been producing a number of normative products, and I would just like to mention one of them which I think is particularly important called "Building Innovative Rural Institutions for Improved Food Security". Here what we have is a collection of good practices that of course help governments and partners to implement and improve them from their own point of view. This we did in collaboration with IFAD. You may have heard throughout the Regional Conferences that the Director-General has consistently referred to the International Year of Cooperatives in his

interventions. We have also been participating in a number of different events. I won't go over them one-by-one, but for example in the IFAD Farmers' Forum, we were looking at the inclusion of youth in farmer organizations.

We were present at the Commission for the Status of Women, looking at cooperatives and women and the role of rural women's organizations in ending poverty and hunger. Just last week there was a half-day event here, actually in this very room, during the CCP with the presence of the President of Costa Rica and many other important participants, where we introduced two new FAO Ambassadors who are going to be helping us promote the role of cooperatives. They are Roberto Rodriguez from Brazil and Elizabeth Atangana from Cameroon.

This year the topic of the World Food Day is going to be about agricultural cooperatives, and it's going to be called "Agricultural Cooperatives: Key to Feeding the World". There's also going to be a side event during the CFS. Last week we were at the General Assembly of the World's Farmer Organization with whom we are partnering in order to see what we can identify as factors to promote enabling environments in assisting cooperatives. We were also present in a number of the Governing Bodies, including COAG, but also very soon COFO and COFI. Naturally we will also be present in Rio+20. That is just a brief update of what we're up to in the International Year of Cooperatives.

18.4 International Year of Family Farming (2014)

18.4 Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale (2014)

18.4 Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose de passer tout de suite à la présentation de l'Année de l'agriculture familiale.

Ms Caterina BATELLO (FAO Staff)

So there will be a few slides, but only a few. The International Year of Family Farming is only in 2014, so we are quite confident you will hear about this year many, many more times. The objective of the implementation of this International Year is to promote and help guide the contribution of family farming and smallholders in eradicating hunger and in reducing rural poverty to obtain sustainable development in rural areas and food security.

According to the FAO Resolution which was adopted on 2 July, subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 November, a few points were important. We would like to recall that more than 3 billion people live in the countryside and that 2.5 billion of these are women and men, farmers, pastoralists and fishermen. We believe that family farming is the basic unit for the environment and management of land and all its biodiversity. It is also a fundamental pillar of integral development. It is recognized that the progressive deterioration in farming income and its effect on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms due to migrations to large cities.

It is obvious that over 75 percent of un nourished people live in rural areas, and family farmers produce up to 80 percent of food supply in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, we have this paper submitted to Council. Some of the goals of the International Year of Family Farming will be to increase the public awareness about this venture in the large sense, including smallholder farming and fisheries and their contribution not only to food security but also to better nutrition, poverty alleviation, employment and livelihood, as well as to increase knowledge regarding the diversity and the complexity of the different production systems that exist throughout the world.

We will identify and promote science and technologies, including traditional knowledge and sustainable production systems of many family farms, by bringing together public and private sector organizations and building stakeholder partnerships. Technical support will be provided to implement concrete policies and actions at global, regional, and national community levels in ensuring sustainable development of family farming. It will be important to develop a mechanism for cooperation and resource mobilization to cover an estimated budget between USD 2 million and USD 2.5 million.

In achieving this goal, FAO has established an Inter-departmental Task Force with representatives from all the Divisions in FAO, and soon with representatives from different Regional Offices. We will

also develop an Informal International Steering Committee composed of Permanent Representatives of Member organizations of FAO, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, to define the different objectives, plans and activities on how we can collaborate with FAO in celebrating this International Year of Family Farming.

Some of the planned outputs that will be prepared are multi-donor and multi-partner project proposals. We are already working on this International Year of Family Farming Fact Sheets, as well as a major technical Report on aspects of Family Farming in 2014. This will probably take the form of the SOFA, with data and information concerning the role of family farmers, smallholders, pastoralists, and fisher folks and their impact on food security, environmental services and livelihoods. Of course, we will also produce a dedicated Website.

It was very inspiring to understand today and to learn from what was done by the International Year of Forestry, and we emulate some of the activities from this very good example. The programme will promote active policies at all levels on behalf of the sustainable development of family agriculture, including fishing, and will encourage governments and international institutions to develop concrete strategies towards this end.

The paper that you have before you reports a possible Calendar of Events, and FAO has already developed an estimated budget that you may consult at will.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous donne tout de suite la parole pour vos commentaires sur l'une ou l'autre des Années internationales ou sur l'ensemble. Je vous convie à être le plus bref possible, mais vous devez pouvoir vous s'exprimer.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

I guess my comment is more general in nature. The example provided by our colleague from Trinidad and Tobago was an excellent example of impact/results. Today we had a presentation, we had a side event that was entitled "IMPACT", and it talked about the various elements and how FAO provides technical expertise with some form of outcome and result at the country level. The first presentation, and with all due respect to my colleagues from Forestry, seemed that it was more focused on activities and outputs, and less so on results and impacts.

For the International Year of Forests in 2011, Cooperatives in 2012, and Family Farming in 2014, this is a general comment that when you are looking at proposals for International Years, it's important to define your baseline right up front. We anticipate defining these objectives. We anticipate working out these activities, and we will report back based on the result/impacts.

I'll give an example, to say that we invested USD 250,000 and in return got USD 3.5 million worth of media/TV/airtime is good, but what was really the impact of that? Did we increase people's knowledge of the role of forest and climate change? Were we able to measure that and define that? I don't know, but those are the types of questions that I think we need to ask and I think Members should be asking the FAO Secretariat when these future International Year proposals come forward. So it's a general comment, but I think we would really appreciate seeing the impact/results.

Ms Stephanie ELDER-ALEXANDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

I have already commented on the International Year of Forests in my country. I just want to make two points; one regarding the International Year of Cooperatives and the other regarding the International Year of Family Farming. First, in respect of the International Year of Cooperatives, we currently have 10 items on the calendar. It is hoped that these items such as the lecture series and the educational activities of debates and our essay competitions in our nation's schools will serve to impress upon our nation the importance of the role of cooperatives during that particular year and beyond.

Next, I just want to say that our country wishes to note the International Year of Family Farming in the Caribbean will focus its attention on small-scale farming in rural areas. This is because we endorse the concern for improving the livelihoods of the populations living in rural areas, including smallholder farming. This is because of the fact that most of the farmers in Trinidad and Tobago are smallscale

producers. The last agricultural census conducted in the year 2004 revealed that with 18,951 holdings, 53 percent were less than two hectares in size. The integration of small-scale producers into the value chain can improve their efficiency and competitiveness in terms of production and marketing.

Finally, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to note that the small-scale agriculture has been identified as a priority area for FAO action in the Region. We are pleased to see that the focus would include the five main following points: promoting institutional strengthening of producer organizations, improving productivity along the value chain, promoting backyard and school gardening, improving access to markets, and promoting land reform mechanisms to facilitate small producers. It is along these five lines that our activities will be focused.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Como es un tema de información, permítame en nombre del Grupo de África integrar breves comentarios generales. Tengo que felicitar a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de estos documentos, y concretamente a los presentadores, al Sr. Rojas por el Año Internacional de los Bosques, la Sra. Villareal por en Año Internacional de las Cooperativas y a la Sra. Batello por el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

El Grupo Africano quiere manifestar su reconocimiento por la importancia de los Años Internacionales y los objetivos por los cuales son declarados por la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Yo creo que en el fondo se circunscribe las necesidades de aumentar la concientización sobre esos temas, por su contribución al desarrollo económico, la sostenibilidad ambiental y la erradicación de la pobreza. Suscribimos enteramente la declaración de Canadá, en el sentido de que es una preparación mucho más clara para que con los Años Internacionales efectivamente la declaración de años tenga resultados efectivos.

Felicitamos a la FAO por el Plan de Trabajo y las acciones implementadas en el marco de la celebración del Año Internacional de los Bosques, como ya lo presentó el Sr. Rojas en el 2011. Reconocemos que muchas decisiones de la FAO trabajaron para aumentar la visibilidad y la importancia de este año a través de diferentes actividades y actos publicitarios. Muchas de estas actividades fueron coronadas con éxito, hay que reconocerlo, en muchos países de África. Y en el nivel de repercusión de la medida, fue significativa la sensibilización sobre la importancia de los bosques, la necesidad de promover la gestión sostenible de los mismos en beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Reconocemos que los bosques para las personas —como fue el tema de este año—, con el que se puso de relieve la relación dinámica y la relación imprescindible que existe entre los bosques y las personas.

El Grupo de África acoge igualmente con satisfacción el proceso y el Plan de Acción definido para la celebración del Año Internacional de las Cooperativas. África reconoce la importancia de las cooperativas como entidades que promueven la mayor participación social, y sobre todo de las capas sociales más vulnerables como las mujeres, los niños y las personas con discapacidades. Las cooperativas constituyen un marco adecuado para promover el nivel económico y social y ambiental y un factor fundamental para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza en los países subdesarrollados. Creemos que la FAO y otros asociados deben seguir prestando apoyo a los Países Miembros, y en sus esfuerzos procrear, en todos los propicios al desarrollo de las cooperativas, proporcionando asistencia, capacitación, asesoría y promoción de intercambio de experiencias y mejores prácticas, como un mecanismo para hacer frente a la debilidades institucionales de las zonas rurales, promoviendo el desarrollo económico y social y así mejorando la seguridad alimentaria.

Quiero seguir agradeciendo a la FAO por la prestación de este documento que recoge la síntesis de los tres Años Internacionales, y de verdad concreta el Grupo Africano quiere conocer la importancia de la agricultura familiar para la erradicación del hambre y la reducción de la pobreza en el ámbito rural. Los congratulamos por la declaración del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (año 2014), lo cual queremos facilitará la prestación de mayor atención a este sector de agricultura familiar y de agricultura de pequeña escala, tan vital para nuestros pueblos por constituir el que produce más de 60 por ciento de los alimentos que consumimos concretamente en África. Y es un sector sumamente importante para conllevar un desarrollo sostenible en las zonas rurales. Por tanto, se requiere que se

preste muchísima atención a la agricultura familiar y a la agricultura en pequeñas escalas sobre todo en nuestros países, sobre todos en los países menos desarrollados.

Y quería, antes de terminar, prestar atención al documento. Parece que ha habido un pequeño salto en el párrafo número 35 del documento en el subtítulo *posibles asociados estratégicos para el Año Internacional*. En vez del *Año Internacional de la Familia*, se ha puesto *Año Internacional de la Quinoa*. Yo creo que la Secretaría puede corregirlo. En el párrafo 35, el pequeño epígrafe; creo que ha habido un pequeño lapsus de salto en la denominación de los dos Años Internacionales.

Sr. Presidente, quiero terminar señalando la necesidad de evitar la banalidad de los Años Internacionales como muchas veces se ha señalado, y la importancia de movilizar recursos necesarias para que los Años Internacionales tengan un carácter sustancial, conllevando a resultados concretos. La celebración de los Años Internacionales debe procurar que cuente con planes estratégicos sostenibles de acción, y con programas efectivos de largo plazo para garantizar la continuidad de las mismas.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like to just support what the Canadian delegation has mentioned. I think that many Member Nations may be interested in the International Years you have presented here according to their social and cultural circumstances. Therefore, I recommend that the role of FAO should be to encourage the Member Nations in question to have their International Years proclaimed.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

While listening to the intervention by Canada, a question came to mind. We would like to ask if the resources for the International Day of Forests are secured in advance. We would like to ask what are the financial implications of the International Day of Forests.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avez-vous quelques commentaires? Veuillez être brefs, car je vous rappelle qu'il y aura un court événement parallèle dans 10 minutes à la suite de la séance sur les criquets pèlerins.

Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

We appreciate very much the different comments that have been made and especially the country-led activities that have been shared, including that of Trinidad and Tobago. And regarding the specific requests and the proposals by Canada and then by Japan, it is true that this would be the ideal setting. Unfortunately, we inherited neither programme nor strategy nor the budget for the International Year. We practically had to set it up in the first week of the year as we realized that the lead agency was a little bit weak, and we had to request additional support.

Nevertheless, the results will be shared through the evaluation that is going to come. The communications effort was very effective. I forgot to mention that the Regional Office in Bangkok together with the Chinese government promoted a considerable number of activities with youth groups in China.

We are going to take advantage of COFO in late September to make a more realistic assessment of outcomes, including how Representatives valued our support to the communication activities. We now have a much stronger communication capacity than we had in the past, and I think this will surely be useful for future outreach activities of our principal normative products.

As regards Japan's request on the International Day of Forests, we want to strengthen them through corporate communication capacities. If you go through all the International Days that exist officially, and if you consider that forests cover 31 percent of the world and are critical environmental assets, that provide livelihoods raw material for the populations. More than 40 countries celebrate the International Day of Forests, and this is hardly a measurable cost. Surely the International Year has certain costs, but celebrating a single day in a coordinated manner has really irrelevant cost implications.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

I'd also like to thank very much the intervention by Trinidad and Tobago with the very concrete examples offered. I would also like to say that I couldn't agree more with Canada, Equatorial Guinea and Iran regarding the need to have much more results-based activities to be able to assess what we are doing in terms of impacts and results.

However, International Years usually deal with two aspects that make it difficult to assess the results. One of them is advocacy. It is quite difficult to demonstrate and to say that our activities had an effect of x or y. Also, how do you demonstrate that global public goods have a result and impact?

However, for the International Year of Cooperatives, we do have an Action Plan, and the way we would like to measure our results is by ascertaining how many countries are generating enabling environments that, through our work, we are assisting in establishing the conditions for their own cooperatives and producers' organizations to be able to thrive.

So we do have a results orientation in mind, but we are aware of the difficulties of concretely measuring the impact of International Years.

Ms Caterina BATELLO (FAO Staff)

We appreciate very much the statements of Trinidad and Tobago and Equatorial Guinea on behalf of Africa as regards the International Year of Family Farming. We will certainly work towards better defining the baseline and understanding and identifying expected impacts and results, as suggested by Canada. We have time ahead of us, so we are currently defining the programme and we will certainly take your comments into consideration as we develop our work plan.

And the last point, we will check carefully paragraph 35 for a possible typographical error. I didn't find it, but we will come back to you when we identify it and modify it, if necessary.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pendant que je lis les projets de conclusion, je propose à ceux qui présentent l'événement parallèle de se mettre en place.

Je propose ceci, le Conseil a entendu les présentations faites aux sujets des quatre Années internationales (celle de demain sera ajoutée ensuite), et plus particulièrement, reconnaît que les produits et services fournis pendant l'Année internationale des forêts (2011) ont permis une plus grande prise de conscience de la gestion durable des forêts et encourage la FAO et ses Membres à promouvoir l'établissement d'une Journée internationale des forêts.

En ce qui concerne l'Année internationale des coopératives (2012), le Conseil reconnaît le rôle fondamental des organisations de producteurs et des coopératives agricoles et alimentaires dans la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le rôle de la FAO, comme facilitateur entre les différents acteurs pour les aider à développer et renforcer leurs capacités techniques et institutionnelles.

Nous ajouterons demain l'Année internationale du quinoa (2013).

Le Conseil appuie les préparatifs de l'Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale (2014), dont le but est d'attirer l'attention mondiale sur le rôle que l'agriculture familiale joue pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et réduire la pauvreté des populations et sur son importance comme unité de base pour la gestion environnementale des terres et de la biodiversité.

Le Conseil invite l'ensemble des Organes directeurs, Conférences régionales, Comités techniques, etc., et les États Membres à s'associer à la promotion des Années internationales. Le Conseil invite le Secrétariat à anticiper et mesurer l'impact de ces Années internationales, afin d'en maximiser les retombées concrètes. Voilà les éléments qui seront transmis pour le rapport.

Notre session de l'après-midi est close. Nous commencerons demain matin, impérativement, à 9h30. Je cède la place pour la présentation sur le criquet pèlerin qui menace l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

The meeting rose at 20.27 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 27

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.27 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
13 June 2012

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.34 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 34
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.34 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**13. Report of the 94th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
(19-21 March 2012)**

**13. Rapport de la 94^{ème} session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
(19-21 mars 2012)**

**13. Informe del 94.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos
(19-21 de marzo de 2012)**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour à tous. Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la cinquième séance de la 144^{ème} session du Conseil. Nous essaierons de clore en six heures, mais, si tel n'était pas le cas, nous prolongerons un peu, l'objectif étant le dialogue, l'information et l'échange. Avant de donner la parole au Président du Comité du CCLM, je voudrais d'abord accueillir nos collègues du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), qui vont traiter le point 19 juste après le point 18, les remercier d'être avec nous aujourd'hui et vous faire une petite communication. A la demande des représentants du personnel et conformément aux règles en vigueur avec l'accord du Directeur général, nous entendrons cet après-midi une communication de dix minutes maximum, sans débat, d'un représentant du personnel sous le point "Autres questions".

Nous commençons donc maintenant par le point 13 à l'Ordre du jour, à savoir le Rapport de la 94^{ème} session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui a eu lieu du 19 au 21 mars 2012. Le document est le CL 144/2 et j'attire votre attention sur les recommandations du CQCJ concernant les critères et procédures pour la sélection des Membres extérieurs du Comité de l'éthique que vous trouverez aux paragraphes 12 à 15 du rapport, ainsi qu'aux paragraphes 23 et 24 du rapport de la 143^{ème} session du Comité financier. Monsieur Janabi, vous avez la parole.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I would like to thank the Legal Counsel, Mr Tavares, who assisted our Committee and enabled the Session in question to take place under proper conditions and to produce the results expected since many items were tackled in the course of the meeting. My colleagues have told me that our next meeting will be a bit longer, and could last a few more days.

The Committee met between 19 and 21 March 2012 and tackled three essential items. The Committee took a close look at document CCLM 94/2 entitled "Proposed Amendments to Rules 38 and 40 of the General Rules of the Organization", which is also annexed to the Report CL 144/2. These amendments or changes have to do with the proposal to amend the period of candidature for the position of Director-General, that is the duration of that and this is in Rule XXXVII.1(b). The objective was to reduce that duration, in the course of which people could present candidacies to the post of Director-General, to 3 months instead of 12 months; that is an entire year.

In addition, there was a proposal that this duration would come to an end, would expire 30 days prior to the beginning of the Session of the Council, referred to in sub-paragraph (c) of that text. At the moment, this is a 60-day period prior to the Session of the Council. So with these changes or proposed amendments, the duration of the candidacy timeline would be reduced from 20 to 7-8 months before the end of the term of office of the Director-General currently in office. It was felt that it was necessary to limit this duration of time because the previous period of time was extensively long and dragged out, and did not serve the aims, purpose, and objectives of the Organization or the Member Nations of the Organization.

Second of all, a certain number of transitory measures were proposed regarding the election of a new Director-General. Within that context, certain restrictions were suggested regarding the prerogatives of the Director-General, for example, the appointment to D2 and above positions, that are also in line with the election of the Director-General.

It was also proposed to display strict rules during the transition period regarding appointments. In effect, the Director-General must be able to make sure that the Director-General Elect obtains all the information relative to policies, activities, and endeavors of the Organization, as well as the exact picture of the Human Resources situation in the Organization. In addition, the Director-General Elect should be able to enjoy a certain amount of financial management support during this period, the

period of time when the two Directors-General are side by side in the Organization. It is, therefore, during this period that certain changes had to be made to Article XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization.

In the past, the period during which the Director-General Elect worked side by side with the outgoing Director-General was a rather long period of time and there were no specific measures, provisions, or arrangements regarding that six month transition period between the incoming and outgoing. We don't feel that this should be repeated in the future because this period of the co-existence of Director-Generals in the future should be at the most six weeks.

In addition, we ask that the Finance Committee to take a close look at the financial impact of these suggested and proposed changes, especially the new paragraph 6 that will be added to Rule XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization. The Finance Committee also examined this during its last meeting, because the Finance Committee also had to take a look at the Financial Rules. If I'm not mistaken, Mr Médi will join us up here on the podium to present the observations of the Finance Committee on that matter.

The Council is called upon to take note of the fact that this issue will be reconsidered during the next meeting of the CCLM. To that end, we do not ask you to make a decision at this time, that is to say, during this Session. We look forward to receiving more information and inputs from the Finance Committee because it's quite possible that the financial impact or implications of said changes will be outlined.

Our meeting also tackled another important issue which was the report on consultations underway at present regarding Action 2.9 of the IPA with regard to Statutory Bodies established pursuant to Article XIV of the FAO Constitution in order to enable said Statutory Bodies to exercise greater financial authority while remaining within the framework of FAO. This Report deals with the status of ongoing consultations regarding this issue.

The Committee asked the Secretariat, on the basis of a questionnaire that had been sent out to the Permanent Representatives of Member Nations regarding all of the documents that were examined in 2009, to draw up a list of outstanding questions that the CCLM would have to take into consideration and give its opinion at its next meeting in the fall of 2012.

The Council takes note of the fact that the CCLM at its next Session in the fall shall revisit the contents of the report to be submitted by the Finance and Programme Committees. At the end of my statement, I would perhaps ask the Legal Counsel to provide some additional clarifications regarding this matter.

We tackled a third matter dealing with the application of the criteria and procedure for the selection of external members of the Ethics Committee. Now these criteria and procedures were prepared in line with the request of the Finance Committee at its 140th Session. At its last Session, this Council was informed of the comments and opinions of the two Committees. Our Committee, as well as the Finance Committee, submitted our opinions and we focused on the need to revisit the criteria and the procedure for the selection of new external members of the Ethics Committee. I think you shall recall as well that the last time around we were able to reach agreement on the essential principles that caused no dispute or discussions in either Committee. As we see it, this is an enormous step forward. Therefore, it would seem that we should be able to reach a definitive agreement on the aforementioned criteria and procedures.

We focused our attention on the six criteria, at our last meeting, when selecting external candidates. I will run through them quite quickly and they are in paragraph 13 of our Report. First of all, there should be no former officials of FAO. It would be desirable to avoid candidates serving or having served with the other UN Rome-based Organizations. The candidates should have knowledge of and experience in ethics and in the United Nations System. There should be gender balance and regional balance, hence, there should be at least seven candidates, with one candidate from each of the FAO geographic regions. This is in order to comply with these regional balance criteria. In the case of candidates holding more than one nationality, one nationality would be recognized. Last time around, there was one candidate who had three nationalities, so only one nationality will be recognized in line

with the practice followed by office holders in intergovernmental organizations. The last criteria is the usefulness of private sector experience.

Our Committee decided that these proposals should be brought to the attention of the Finance Committee, and this issue gave rise to a rather lengthy discussion among the members of the CCLM. These issues have been forwarded to the Finance Committee for consideration within their specific remit, and we proposed to carry out informal consultations among the members of the two aforementioned Committees. This comes down to discussion between the Chairpersons of the CCLM and the Finance Committee. After the presentation of candidates by the Director-General, the two Chairs would meet and reach agreement on the possible basis for a joint recommendation to the Council.

If this procedure or *modus operandi*, is adopted, it will not be necessary to make any official change to the General Rules of the Organization. This proposal is an effort to streamline procedures to save time, but it does not mean that the Chairpersons of the two Committees will make a decision without consulting the members of the respective Committees. The meeting between the two Chairpersons is of an informal nature, and the members of the two Committees may also take part in the consultations.

Perhaps the Chairperson of the Finance Committee could give you an overview of his Committee's position on this matter. In brief, the two Committees and the Council would have to agree on a certain formula. If an agreement is reached, it would not be necessary to propose any amendments to the General Rules of the Organization. We have time before us to discuss and to reach an agreement that would be shared by all members of the Committees.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I want to provide some highlights on the issues that are before the Council and which were presented by Ambassador Janabi. The CCLM addressed, as Ambassador Janabi has explained, three issues. One, the issue of the amendments to the General Rules of the Organization on the matter of the transition; two, the question of the Review of the Statutory Bodies and three, the issue of the Ethics Committee.

I wanted very briefly to provide some highlights on these points and on the manner in which the Administration sees them.

Regarding the question of the amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization, as you will recall the Director-General last year had made a number of proposals on this topic, which addressed some past debates in the Organization. It is in this spirit that we made a submission to the CCLM. One of the proposals that we made concerned restrictions on the authority of the Director-General to make senior appointments towards the end of the term of office. The other proposal concerned a number of facilities to be extended to the Director-General Elect during the period of time when there would be an outgoing Director-General and a Director-General Elect. This period in the future will be of some six weeks' duration.

These proposals reflect the commitment that was taken by the Director-General during the last Session of the Council. These proposals involve self-limitation of his authority, and were made in the interest of FAO. Whether or not they should be approved is a matter entirely for the Membership. The Organization has nothing at stake on this matter. Some doubts were expressed as to whether there should be a clear restriction on the appointment authority of the Director-General. There were also queries regarding the financial implications of these proposals, and the request for a full assessment of these financial implications was made at the Finance Committee. So this matter is back before the CCLM and before the Finance Committee. I wanted to make this point very clear, that the CCLM and the Finance Committee will re-examine this issue again. As I said, it's an issue that is entirely for the Members to decide.

Regarding the question of the Review of the Statutory Bodies, we are committed to bringing this exercise to a close. It has been ongoing for a number of years, and we'll have a detailed submission that will be made to the CCLM. The detailed submission will also be made to the Finance Committee and we shall also be reporting to the Programme Committee. We are still a bit uncertain about the format of the submission to the Programme Committee, as compared to the submissions to the Finance Committee and to the CCLM but we are committed to bringing this matter to a close. It is an issue that

has been on the table for the past three to four years and we think that we should try to make progress on this matter.

As regards this question of the procedure for the selection of external members of the Ethics Committee, you may recall that at present there is a procedure where the CCLM and the Finance Committee make separate recommendations to the Council. The Council agrees on a number of candidates. With the agreement of the Council, the Director-General appoints the external members of the Ethics Committee. The Council, at its last Session, presumably because there was a risk of having conflicting recommendations, requested that we should revisit this procedure. This procedure was therefore reexamined by the CCLM and by the Finance Committee.

The CCLM proposed that in order to establish a basis for a common recommendation by the two Committees there should be consultation through the Chairpersons. However, the Finance Committee, when reviewing the matter, considered that the present procedure should remain intact. Under the circumstances, we consider that we would retain the current procedure and the matter does not seem to be of such an urgency now that we have the members appointed. So we'll see how we'll address this matter later on.

These are the three clarifications I wanted to make on the matters that are before the Council. I would say that they are not before the Council, since we have still an ongoing process.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Tavares, et Monsieur Médi s'excuse, il est en train d'arriver parce qu'il a eu quelques problèmes de déplacement. Je vous propose d'engager la discussion et Monsieur Médi interviendra si nécessaire pour expliquer ce qui a été dit au Comité financier, qui est conforme d'ailleurs à ce qui vient d'être dit. Vous avez la parole pour faire vos apports. En effet, comme cela a été dit, nous n'avons pas forcément à prendre des décisions précises sur certains points, mais nous pouvons nous permettre d'éclairer le débat.

Mr Gregory S. GROTH (United States of America)

We would like to thank the CCLM Chair Janabi and Legal Counsel Mr Tavares for their excellent work with the CCLM. The United States thanks the Secretariat for the effort they have made to bring the suggested changes, issues, and recommendations to the Council after consideration at the CCLM, the Finance Committee and Programme Committee.

Although document CL 144/2 reflects the current state of play at the time of these three Committee meetings, we look forward to receiving additional details and rationales for these suggested changes. We are particularly concerned that these changes could have negative financial effects on FAO by creating some additional costs, both financial and opportunity costs, that have not been completely considered. We look forward to receiving this supplementary information in a timely manner that will allow study of the reworked proposals, time to consult with capitals, and adequate preparation before the next round of CCLM, Finance Committee, and Programme Committee Sessions.

We are looking forward to receiving additional details from the Secretariat, in a timely manner, and then discussing the issue of FAO's Article XIV Statutory Bodies at our fall 2012 meeting.

On the issue of the nomination and selection of external non-FAO candidates for the FAO Ethics Committee, we note that despite the recommendation by the CCLM to consider streamlining the confirmation of the CCLM's deliberations and choices by the Finance and Programme Committees in short order, the Finance and Programme Committee members have instead opted to maintain their prerogative of considering all nominees, looking at those recommended by the CCLM and then having some internal discussion before agreeing with or suggesting alternate choices. However, we do not foresee a situation where substantial differences of opinion would arise in this selection process as long as Director-General Graziano da Silva, who nominates the list of candidates, and the CCLM, which makes the first cut, both abide by the criteria established by the CCLM in late 2011.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa Group thanks the Chairperson of the CCLM and the Legal Counsel for the very clear presentation.

The Africa Group acknowledges the Report of the 94th Session of the CCLM, and endorses a Draft Conference Resolution set out in the Appendix containing the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization, and agrees that it be forwarded to the Conference for approval.

The Africa Group also notes that the CCLM examined report on the status of the ongoing consultations with Statutory Bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and would review the matter again at its Session of fall 2012.

The Africa Group welcomes the proposal that the CCLM referred to the Finance Committee, concerning the criteria to be applied by the Director-General and the procedure to be followed for the selection of external members of the Ethics Committee.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU endorses the proposed amendment to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization. The EU concurs with the view of the CCLM that the current duration of the nomination period for the position as Director-General is too long and not in the interest of the good administration of FAO. The EU, therefore, welcomes the proposal of limiting the nomination period to three months, ending at least 30 days prior to the session at which the candidates are to address the Council.

The EU also welcomes the decision that the Finance Committee examine the financial implications of the proposal aimed at ensuring that the Director-General Elect is informed of policies, programmes, staffing, and activities of FAO prior to taking office.

The EU supports a smooth transition and handover from the period of election of a new Director-General to him/her taking up post. We deem the insertion of the new text in Rule XL.2 appropriate.

The EU welcomes the review of Statuary Bodies with a view to allowing them to exercise greater financial and administrative authority while remaining within the framework of FAO, undertaken in response to IPA Action 2.69, and notes that the CCLM has examined a report on the status of the ongoing consultations with the Statuary Bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and that the CCLM will review the matter again at its fall session in 2012. It is important to ensure a clear distinction between administrative and technical matters. Accountability and oversight mechanisms should be in place when increasing the financial and administrative authority of those Statuary Bodies, while preventing additional bureaucracy.

The EU supports the proposal concerning the procedure for the selection of external members of the Ethics Committee, especially as regards consultation by the Chairperson of the CCLM and the Finance Committee in order to come up with an agreed list of candidates for the Ethics Committee to forward to Council for approval.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Quiero agradecer su presentación al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, así como al Asesor Legal. El Ecuador apoya los criterios para la selección de los miembros externos del Comité de Ética y refrenda las propuestas de enmienda del Reglamento General. Respecto al tema del apoyo administrativo y técnico a la transición al nuevo Director General, el Ecuador quiere señalar que ese es un aspecto muy importante y, las implicaciones financieras que esto conlleve actualmente en estudio por el Comité de Finanzas, son inevitables por lo que la Administración debería prever su inclusión en el presupuesto oportunamente.

Ms Therese BAPTISTE-CORNELIS (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done so far, and we note the Report of the 94th Session of the Committee on the Constitutional and Legal Matters.

While we recognize that such proposed amendments may entail financial costs among others, we do agree that in the issue of effective team dynamics and human resource management, this may be necessary and reflect best practices. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago endorses the Draft Resolution containing Proposed Amendments to General Rules of the FAO, and we agree that it should be forwarded to the Conference for approval in due time.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Japan appreciates the hard work of the CCLM and also thanks the Chair, His Excellency Mr Janabi, and Legal Counsel, Mr Tavares, for their presentations. We think the matters discussed in the CCLM are very important for the future of the Organization.

Firstly, with regard to the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization, we fully support the opinion of the United States and other Council Members.

Secondly, we have a comment on the review of the Statutory Bodies. We welcome that the consultation process is under way, and appreciate that the Secretariat sent a questionnaire to listen to the opinions of Members. However, as was discussed in the CCLM and the Finance Committee, we cannot standardize the Statutory Bodies that have different natures, different histories, and different financing mechanisms. Thus, in addition to the current consultation process, we recommend that we make additional efforts to listen to the opinions of parties and stakeholders concerned in the spirit of IPA.

For example, we can have an informal consultation to listen to the opinions of the Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies, and we can also listen to the Secretary of each Statutory Body. Detailed documentation reviewing administrative and financial areas, to be prepared by the Secretariat, will also be useful in this endeavour. We look forward to continuing the discussion.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia supports the work which has been performed by the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters. We are grateful for the Report which has been submitted by the Chair of the Committee and to Mr Tavares for the additional explanations.

We support the amendments proposed to Rules 37 and 40 of the General Rules of the Organization and consider that they will substantially improve the situation related to the election of the highest official of the Organization, and allow for a quicker and more efficient transition for the newly-elected Director-General to take on the actual activities of the Organization. We consider that questions of administrative, technical, and, in particular, financial support for this transitional period and for the work of the Director-General will be further elaborated by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and at its fall session. We shall receive more information on that score at that time. We endorse the positive assessment that has been given of the work of the Committee, and we also endorse the amendments.

On the question of the procedure of the elections for the Ethics Committee, we wholeheartedly support those proposals and feel that they will serve the cause of the Organization.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you, Ambassador Janabi and Mr Tavares for this presentation. These are actually quite important issues for FAO.

Statutory Bodies and the review of Article XIV Bodies, are issues that are particularly important to my delegation. We have submitted our questionnaire on the functioning of the Article XIV Bodies but, as others have said before, it is very difficult to generalize across all Article XIV Bodies. So we think there is a need to have further dialogue on this issue. We look forward to seeing the paper that will come forward from the Secretariat to the CCLM later this year.

We generally support this concept of clarifying some of the transitional issues and remember the difficulties this caused last year on this sensitive issue. What has happened is that the Finance Committee has asked for some more information on the financial aspects of these transitional measures. I think that it also, perhaps not explicitly, but also requested further work from the CCLM to clarify exactly what some of the arrangements might be. We look forward to further consideration of this issue in the second half of this year, with the view that this would go to the Conference in June next year.

We support the comments and the views of the Finance Committee in terms of the members of the Ethics Committee.

Sr. Alan Romero ZAVALA (México)

México apoya el Proyecto de Resolución con enmiendas a los artículos XXXVII y XL del Reglamento General de la Organización. Consideramos que, con estas enmiendas, se logrará que el proceso de elección de un nuevo Director General sea más corto y transparente, y permita una transición expedita y ordenada de la administración. En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, reiteramos la importancia de que el Comité de Finanzas revise el detalle del impacto financiero que esto pueda tener. México apoya, asimismo, que se tome nota del examen efectuado sobre los órganos estatutarios y la sugerencia de que el tema se trate nuevamente en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en otoño del presente año.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Président du Comité financier)

Je voudrais d'abord revenir sur la question du Comité de l'éthique. Nous avons examiné cette question au niveau du Comité financier. La principale question était de savoir s'il fallait, puisqu'on avait déjà examiné les critères avec le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, maintenir ces critères ou pas. Nous nous sommes inspirés du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui avait essayé de travailler avec l'aide de son Président puisqu'on avait eu une consultation au préalable sur la question. Sur la base des consultations informelles entre le président du CQCJ et moi-même, une proposition de critères a été examinée par le CQCJ. Nous avons examiné en profondeur ces mêmes critères au niveau du Comité financier. Les Membres du Comité financier ont convenu que c'était des critères valables, et qu'il n'était pas question aujourd'hui de pouvoir les changer. On pouvait les maintenir en l'état et continuer à les examiner un peu plus tard. Il a également été demandé au Président du CQCJ et à moi-même de continuer la discussion.

Pas plus tard qu'au début de cette semaine, nous avons discuté de la manière d'aborder cette question dans le futur. Ces critères restent maintenus pour le moment, et nous pensons que le Conseil peut aussi entériner cette décision de les maintenir. Pour ce qui concerne les mesures transitoires, je pense qu'au niveau du Comité financier nous sommes prêts à examiner toutes les incidences financières de cette mesure. Nous attendons donc la production d'un document qui va servir de base de discussion.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I welcome the comments of all distinguished delegates. They have all been very understanding and supportive of our work and there are no differences as such. The distinguished delegate of the United States, who is himself a member of the CCLM, has contributed very, very constructively to the discussions. I agree with his conclusion that, for example, when it comes to the external Ethics Committee members, no substantial differences are expected because those issues have been discussed thoroughly in the past two Sessions of our Committee and will be discussed further.

Regarding the Statutory Bodies, we all agree that the implications, financial in particular, should be examined by the Finance Committee. However, of course, the transition is very important. Like in the relay race, where people hand the stick to the next fellow who is on full speed, we need to consider this in our Organization. I don't think any Member of this Organization would like to see a stop of this fast-moving machine, which is the FAO, just because of minor financial implication that could be sorted out with the diligent work of the Finance Committee.

Mr Olyntho VIERA (Brazil)¹

Our delegation would like to congratulate the Chair and the Secretariat of the CCLM for their work and presentation. As we support the reform from the CCLM, we would like especially to highlight the importance of the “Amendments to Rules XXXVII and XL of the General Rules of the Organization”, as agreed in and proposed by the CCLM. The approved amendments confer to the FAO Director-General the latitude and the flexibility that is needed for management and planning. We believe this will better enable a new Director-General to fulfill the mandate that was conferred upon him or her and facilitate the transitional process.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S’il n’y a pas des autres questions, je vous propose de lire le projet de conclusions. Le Conseil approuve le rapport de la 94^{ème} session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et note que les amendements proposés aux articles XXXVII et XL du Règlement de l’Organisation seront réexaminés par le CQCJ et le Comité financier à leur session de l’automne 2012 sur la base d’information additionnelle que le Secrétariat s’est engagé à produire. Le Conseil examinera à nouveau ce dossier en novembre, lors de sa prochaine session, tenant compte des éventuelles observations des deux comités. Le Conseil prend note également que le CQCJ examinera à sa session de l’automne 2012, les conclusions du Rapport sur l’état d’avancement des consultations en cours sur les Organes statutaires établis en vertu de l’article XIV de l’Acte constitutif. Ces conclusions seront aussi présentées au Comité financier et au Comité du Programme à leur session d’automne 2012.

Enfin, le Conseil prend note de la proposition du Comité relative à la procédure de sélection des membres extérieurs du Comité de l’éthique qui a été transmise au Comité financier. Ayant également pris note de la position du Comité financier sur ce point exprimé lors de la 143^{ème} session, le Conseil recommande que les procédures actuelles, selon lesquelles, chaque Comité fait sa propre recommandation au Conseil, soient maintenues.

18. International Years (continued):**18. Années internationales (suite):****18. Años Internacionales (continuación):**

18.3 International Year of Quinoa (2013)

18.3 Année internationale du quinoa (2013)

18.3 Año Internacional de la Quinua (2013)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au point suivant et reprenons à présent le point 18 sur les Années internationales. Je demande à M. NeBambi Lutaladio, Fonctionnaire principal de la Division de la production végétale et de la protection des plantes, de nous présenter le point 18.3 - Année internationale du quinoa (2013).

M. NeBambi LUTALADIO (FAO Staff)

I am very pleased to introduce this item on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Year of Quinoa. The Secretariat is grateful for this opportunity to share with you the progress that has been made toward observance of the International Year of Quinoa in 2013, and to provide a summary of expected requirements for its successful implementation.

Quinoa is a staple food crop that has been cultivated in the *altiplano* of the Andes for more than 7000 years. Quinoa is a flowering plant that is grown mainly for its edible seeds. It is sometimes considered a cereal, because of the seed’s grain-like appearance, and sometime an oil seed, because of its high oil fat content.

Quinoa cultivation is expanding, the main producers being Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, but it is also found in the United States of America and Canada. Quinoa is also cultivated in some parts of Europe, including the United Kingdom, Italy, and France. It is also highly attractive as a crop for other regions

¹ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request*

of the world, owing to its extraordinary adaptability to extreme ecological conditions and outstanding intersect characteristics.

Quinoa is a truly climate-smart crop. It has broad genetic variability and adapts to adverse climate and soil conditions. It grows in temperature range from -4 to 35 °C and from sea level to 4000 meters. It grows in high land and in low lands. It tolerates drought and resists salinity. It is also known for its nutritional qualities. It provides all of the necessary amino acids and is rich in minerals.

The initiative for International Year of Quinoa came in 2011 at the 37th Session of the FAO Conference when the Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed and the Conference adopted a Resolution aimed at having 2013 declared the Year of Quinoa. Subsequently, the 91st Session of the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Year, and invited FAO to facilitate its implementation in cooperation with other partners.

The main objective of the International Year is to focus world attention on the important role that quinoa biodiversity plays thanks to the crop's high nutrition value and its contribution to food security, nutrition, and the eradication of poverty. The Year will also be providing an opportunity to prepare the technical basis and formulate policies for the conservation and sustainable use of quinoa worldwide, to recognize the contribution of Andean indigenous people as custodians of quinoa as a food source for present and future generations and to enhance lasting international partnerships and cooperation among public, non-governmental, and private stakeholders in the quinoa crop and cropping systems.

The expected output of the year are increased awareness of what quinoa is and how it can contribute to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, better understanding of quinoa market opportunities and concerns, and chances to link indigenous community quinoa producers to markets and to expand existing markets, improved scientific and technical knowledge, and exchange of information and knowledge about quinoa, programmes and projects to promote the strengthening of the quinoa culture beyond Andes to other countries of the world.

The strategy for implementation of the International Year of Quinoa is to engage partners and the entire international community in country-driven activities throughout the world. This will include information generation, dissemination and exchange, knowledge announcements through research and specialized publications, organization and support of scientific Conferences, exhibitions, and cultural events on the theme of quinoa and related issues, and creation of a mechanism for cooperation and resource mobilization.

These activities will need to be implemented at local, national, and international levels. Among the strategic partners that have been identified to work with the Secretariat for the International Year of Quinoa, we have Bioversity International, the International Potato Center, Via Campesina, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the World Food Programme, IFAD, and other Agencies of the United Nations System as well as interested donors and financial institutions, research institutions including CIRAD in France, INEF in Bolivia, and INIA in Peru.

The technical Secretariat is provided by the FAO Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, with the support of FAO Headquarters in Rome. To encourage global collaboration and cooperative participation, an Informal International Coordination Committee has been established as the Governing Body of the International Year of Quinoa. It is composed of Government Representatives of Member Nations and strategic partners with strong interests in quinoa. The International Coordination Committee provides the technical Secretariat with general guidance for the implementation of the Year. It also identifies persons to be nominated and Special Ambassadors for International Year of Quinoa, and promotes the creation of National Quinoa Committees.

Major events for the Year include the International Year Launch at the UN General Assembly in New York, quinoa exhibits, and traveling exhibitions, a Quinoa Forum, an International Symposium, and several other important events that are being planned at country and regional levels. The full International Year calendar is being prepared, and it will be available on the IYOQ Web site.

With regard to the provisional budget for the International Year of Quinoa, a mentioned Donor Trust Fund is being developed and a fast track mechanism will be established by FAO Technical

Cooperation Department to enable donors and partners to support the implementation of the International Year of Quinoa.

While the options for the activities and the corresponding budgetary requirements are limited, the minimum budget required to implement key activities over the period from 2012 to mid-2014 is estimated to be USD 2.6 to 3 million. These funds will be used to implement the activities listed in the Action Plan provided in Annex 1 of the document that has been distributed to the Council.

In conclusion, investing in the International Year of Quinoa will contribute to achieving food security, fighting hunger and malnutrition, alleviating poverty, enhancing livelihoods, protecting the environment, and achieving the UN Minimum Development Goals. The International Year of Quinoa presents a unique opportunity for farmers, consumers, environmentalists, governments, international agencies, and stakeholders from civil society, NGO, and the private sector to work together towards those shared goals.

We would like to thank this opportunity to wish you all a happy International Year of Quinoa in 2013.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Ministra de Desarrollo Rural de Bolivia)

Para mí, es un día muy importante. Hacer el manifiesto después de haber recibido la información de nuestro Presidente, ahora de nuestros representantes de la FAO, en el cual se hizo el inicio ya de esta presentación también. Pero más allá de que en el año 2011, en esta misma sala, fuera aprobada la propuesta que lanzamos a través de la Región Andina, ahora se lo agradecemos a todos los participantes. Si bien en ese entonces hemos tenido algunas posiciones, Sr. Presidente, de que todavía no se entendía este lanzamiento importante que era el Año Internacional de la Quínoa. Nosotros como país, o como países de la Región Andina, porque hoy día no solo Bolivia produce la quínoa, apoyamos la iniciativa. También están los hermanos peruanos, los hermanos chilenos, ecuatorianos. Está en Canadá ya en la parte de la producción. Hace un par de meses Egipto nos decía que ya están haciendo la investigación en la producción de la quínoa. Australia, que en su momento nos decía que cuántos productos íbamos a ofrecer, ahora también está interesada. Pero nosotros no quisiéramos hablar en cantidades si no que quisiéramos ver cómo, ante este cambio climático que hoy nuestro mundo está viviendo, podemos ofrecer este producto - un producto andino que durante muchos años ha sido solamente comida de los hermanos indígenas de los países andinos, que ha sido conservado milenariamente por nuestros abuelos, nuestros ancestros, y que hoy queremos compartir con la población mundial.

Pero también quisiéramos compartir el producto con los Ministros de agricultura, los Vice-Ministros, y Embajadores, que hoy están con nosotros en esta reunión tan importante. Queremos saber cómo podemos transmitir este producto que tenemos - un producto sano, un producto altamente resistente, un producto que se cultiva en las alturas de las zonas andinas. En base a los estudios que han hecho los científicos y los estudiosos, ya sea del sector de la sanidad que del medio ambiente, se trata de un producto nutritivo, un producto sano, un producto que no contiene colesterol, un producto que podemos compartir con el mundo entero. Se trata de un producto que ustedes, los estudiosos, la comunidad científica, los Ministerios de Agricultura de los Países Miembros que están aquí hoy, pueden explorar. Quisiéramos compartir también los conocimientos que ustedes tienen con los nuestros como productores campesinos indígenas de la zona andina.

Yo quisiera con esto, Sr. Presidente, también agradecer a todos y a todas las que están aquí hoy para promover este Año Internacional de la Quínoa que se llevará a cabo en 2013. Quisiéramos la cooperación, y la socialización que tiene que ver con muchos de nosotros, y ustedes nos pueden apoyar. Pero estamos ofreciendo también la posibilidad de transmitir al mundo entero estas semillas. Así como la base de nuestra alimentación es la papa, ¿por qué no hacer lo mismo con la producción de la quínoa de aquí en adelante? Por eso creemos que esta campaña no solo tiene que ser el año 2013 y no solo tiene que ser el año 2014; si no que quisiéramos que la quínoa se convirtiera en un alimento más en el mundo entero. Porque hoy día el cambio climático nos está azotando. A veces hay muchas lluvias, a veces hay mucha sequía. Y el producto de la zona andina que tenemos ha sobrevivido durante miles de años, y nuestros abuelos han producido este alimento que necesita poquísima agua pero además es resistente y un alimento muy bueno.

En este sentido, y con estas palabras, solamente quiero agradecerle a todos estos hermanos y hermanas que están presentes en esta sala, en esta sesión de la FAO, los cuales han tenido muy pocas dudas. Seguramente muchos de ustedes, hermanos, ni siquiera han probado este producto porque por segunda vez estamos haciendo la degustación de la quínoa. Pero ofrecemos y además les invitamos a que visiten Bolivia, Perú, Chile, Ecuador o Canadá y vean la producción que se está realizando.

En ese sentido, Sr. Presidente, muchísimas gracias por esta cobertura. Muchísimas gracias también a la FAO por este nombramiento que dieron a nuestro país y a nuestro Presidente como Embajador de la Quínoa. Y nosotros, desde luego, estaremos de pie trabajando. Nos estamos trasladando al encuentro de Rio+20. Vamos a estar allá con los movimientos sociales compartiendo y degustando. Nuestro planteamiento es socializar a todas las organizaciones sociales del mundo porque la vía campesina está en esa reunión. Va a estar con doscientos cincuenta participantes de los países del mundo, las organizaciones indígenas, y seguramente van a haber muchos Ministros de Agricultura también.

Quisiéramos compartir y agradecer desde aquí el apoyo que nos dio la FAO desde el inicio. Y vamos a estar al pie, paso a paso haciendo el seguimiento. De antemano, les agradezco que ya tenemos la primera partida de la contribución de recursos. También tenemos la parte de la difusión en muchos idiomas. Vamos a seguir haciendo eventos en todas las actividades que haya y vamos a estar de frente también recibiendo los apoyos, las cooperaciones, en la parte de la difusión, la degustación, y sobre todo, la parte de la propaganda que nosotros percibimos. Y hasta ahorita tenemos mucho apoyo. Estamos firmes, y vamos a seguir adelante.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame le Ministre, et je crois que les applaudissements suffisent simplement à vous remercier et à vous dire combien chacun d'entre nous partage ce soutien pour l'alimentation mondiale et votre force de conviction, comme celle du Président lundi matin, nous montre la détermination de votre pays et des paysans du pays, mais bien-sûr aussi des pays voisins.

Je donne la parole à M. Mario Arvelo Caamaño, le représentant de la République Dominicaine, pour nous faire une brève présentation sur le quinoa.

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Dominican Republic)

Minister Achacollo Tola asked me to share with the Council my personal journey with quinoa. It started two years ago, and I'm going to present it in three very short chapters; one on the Incas, one on the science behind the quinoa, and one on the product itself. I also promised at the Conference last year that I was going to be making a personal contribution. I have already signed up out of my own pocket a graphic designer, a photographer, and a cook, so we will be offering for the International Year of Quinoa a book of recipes, including a couple of my own.

Continúa en Español

Durante su máxima expansión, el Imperio Incaico ocupó dos millones de kilómetros cuadrados y gobernó sobre veinte millones de personas. El alimento predilecto de sus habitantes fue la quinua. La quinua es una planta anual de hojas rómbicas y flores dispuestas en racimos. Sus semillas, muy abundantes y menudas, son comestibles. Sus hojas también pueden ser ingeridas; se asemejan a las de su pariente cercana, la espinaca. La quinua es una fanerógama, es decir, una hierba que florece. Sus tallos crecen entre uno y dos metros antes de coronarse de flores. Su presencia se extiende a Norteamérica: una de sus hermanas biológicas, la *chenopodium nuttalliae*, se cultiva en México.

La quinua salvaje alimentó el pastoreo en los valles de la Cordillera Andina hace siete mil años. Hace cuatro mil años fue domesticada e incorporada al consumo humano. En Bolivia, se encuentran más de tres mil ecotipos de la quinua; es decir, organismos adaptados a diversos micro-ambientes. Contrario a la percepción común, según lo explicó el Dr. NeBambi Litaladio, del personal de la FAO, hace un momento, la quinua es un seudocereal, y no un grano, aunque sus semillas de dos milímetros de diámetro lo parezcan. Los Incas la llamaban *chisaya mama*, “la madre de todos los granos”.

Los conquistadores, que decretaron la supresión de muchas usanzas autóctonas, estudiaron con atención los rituales de la siembra y la cosecha de la quinua. Con anterioridad a la llegada de los ejércitos europeos a los valles andinos hace cinco siglos, el Emperador de los Incas utilizaba un

machete de oro macizo para plantar la primera semilla de cada ciclo. El cultivo y la ingesta de la quinua estaba en el centro de la tradición incaica. Los nuevos gobernantes tomaron nota de su valor simbólico en la política, la cultura y la religión del Imperio derrotado. La estrategia de ocupación incluyó la prohibición de la siembra, el comercio y el consumo de quinua.

Algunos de los científicos más talentosos del mundo trabajan para la NASA, la agencia aeroespacial de Estados Unidos. Hace medio siglo la NASA recibió el encargo de viajar a nuestro satélite. Veinticuatro de sus empleados han orbitado la luna, y doce han caminado sobre ella. A partir del éxito de su programa lunar, la NASA proyecta realizar viajes interplanetarios para continuar avanzando en la exploración del cosmos. Nuestra próxima frontera es uno de nuestros planetas vecinos. Venus, que arde por encontrarse demasiado cerca del sol, queda descartado. Marte, donde el agua está presente en forma de hielo subterráneo y en los casquetes polares, ofrece mejores perspectivas.

Cincuenta y seis millones de kilómetros nos separan de la superficie marciana. A bordo de la presente generación de cohetes, y con el impulso de la fuerza primordial del universo, la gravedad, una visita de ida y vuelta al planeta rojo tomaría treinta y seis meses. Los pasajeros, reclusos en una cápsula, avanzarán a diez kilómetros por segundo en un vacío surcado de asteroides y carente de oxígeno. Reciclarán el aire y el agua y llevarán comida para al menos tres años. Cubrir las necesidades alimentarias de los viajeros interplanetarios es clave para que una misión de tal complejidad tenga éxito. Un adecuado menú galáctico es imprescindible para que la humanidad pueda, algún día, llegar hasta otro planeta y colonizarlo. ¿Qué alimentos llevarían a bordo los navegantes del espacio?

Para empezar, uno que contenga la mayor cantidad de nutrientes y el mejor balance entre ellos, que aporte altas dosis de energía, proteínas, vitaminas, carbohidratos, fibras, minerales y todos los aminoácidos esenciales, es decir, los que el cuerpo no produce por sí solo y deben ser ingeridos.

Los genes del mejor alimento deben contener una amplia biodiversidad para resistir con mayor eficacia las infecciones virales y bacteriológicas, el ataque de depredadores y las variaciones del clima. Ha de ser un alimento que minimice exigencias y maximice utilidades; que sea de fácil siembra, recogida, almacenamiento, transporte y empaquetado, sin que sea preciso someterlo a refrigeración o añadirle conservantes. El mejor alimento debe ser de producción simple y económica, siendo capaz de crecer, madurar y reproducirse en condiciones adversas de suelo, humedad, elevación y temperatura. Un alimento que no necesite cuidados especiales y que pueda prescindir de fertilizantes e infraestructura de riego. Además de todos los elementos concretos y objetivos, sería ideal que el mejor alimento resulte agradable al paladar, posea versatilidad en sus combinaciones y muestre flexibilidad para ser ingrediente en una amplia variedad de recetas.

El estudio de la NASA titulado: *Quinua, un “nuevo” producto con potencial para CELSS*, tiene la palabra *nuevo* entre comillas, indicando que se trata de un redescubrimiento. CELSS es el Sistema de Soporte Vital Ecológico Controlado. Sus objetivos incluyen determinar si la vida como la conocemos podría ser exportable a otros mundos, si es posible desarrollar la agricultura más allá de nuestra atmósfera, si existe un alimento que contenga todos los componentes necesarios para sostener una vida activa y saludable.

El documento 3422 presenta las conclusiones de la NASA sobre esta última cuestión: el veredicto de los científicos es que no existe un alimento de tales características. El documento añade que “si bien ningún alimento en particular puede proveer todos los nutrientes esenciales, la quinua es el que más se acerca a ello tanto en el reino vegetal como en el animal”.

Los biólogos han determinado que la quinua es el mejor cultivo del globo terrestre y que también supera en valor nutricional a la carne de todos los animales: los que crecen en las granjas, los que pastan en la pradera, los que nadan en el mar y los que vuelan entre los árboles.

La ciencia ha establecido que la quinua es el alimento más completo del planeta, y por eso será la primera semilla plantada en los mundos del futuro.

En la Cordillera Andina, a más de tres kilómetros sobre el nivel del mar, en las cercanías de Ayacucho, hay un pueblo que se llama Quinua, y la sabana adyacente es la Pampa de la Quinua. Allí, en la Batalla de Ayacucho, también llamada Batalla de Quinua, las tropas bolivarianas al mando de Antonio José de Sucre derribaron el Virreinato. Habían transcurrido casi tres siglos desde la caída del

Imperio Incaico. De esta acción surgirían las Repúblicas de Bolivia y Perú. La independencia trajo un repunte en el consumo de quinua. En el progresivo acercamiento de la humanidad surgido de la ocupación europea, las tierras del continente latinoamericano ya habían ofrecido al resto del mundo el tomate, la papa y el maíz.

Hoy la quinua continúa siendo redescubierta gracias a la publicidad que genera al ser incorporado a los alimentos para bebés e ingerida por vegetarianos, diabéticos, celíacos e intolerantes al gluten, así como por atletas, nutricionistas y cosmonautas. El año pasado renovamos el compromiso de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición declarando 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Mario, de nous avoir bien indiqué que le quinoa est «une plante qui vient de loin et qui peut aller loin». Nous avons pu voir sa diversité, je crois que le choix qui a été fait de soutenir ce développement est tout à fait conforme aux missions que nous avons à la FAO, c'est-à-dire, essayer de nourrir au mieux le monde quantitativement et qualitativement. Je crois que c'est cela l'essentiel.

Avez-vous quelques commentaires? Je crois, qu'après tout ce que nous avons entendu, nous sommes confortés dans ces actions-là. Je vous remercie Madame la Ministre, je vous remercie Mario. Et, nous intégrerons dans le projet de conclusion d'hier soir sur les Années internationales... excusez-moi... la Guinée équatoriale.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

El Grupo Africano no puede desperdiciar esta oportunidad, sin aprovechar para agradecer a la Ministra de Desarrollo Rural de Bolivia, Sra. Nemesia Achacollo Tola, y a la brillante presentación del Sr. Mario Arvelo Caamaño, Embajador de la República Dominicana. También queremos felicitar al Dr. NeBambi Lutaladio por su presentación. El Grupo Africano reconoce la importancia de la planta y efectivamente hemos aprobado que se declare un Año Internacional de la Quinua. Como se destaca, la quinua es un alimento natural con un valor nutritivo elevado y la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua pone de manifiesto el reconocimiento internacional de la importancia de este alimento, no solo para los pueblos indígenas andinos, sino como potencialmente importante para otros pueblos indígenas y campesinos.

El Grupo Africano cree que la FAO y otras organizaciones deben seguir prestando apoyo a los Países Miembros en sus intentos de promover mecanismos que hagan frente a las debilidades institucionales de las zonas rurales, promoviendo el desarrollo social y mejorando su dieta alimentaria. El Grupo Africano saluda la decisión de las Naciones Unidas por la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua, y considera esa medida como un paso concreto en la búsqueda de mecanismos de cara a la erradicación del hambre y la promoción de la producción de alimentos. Alentamos a la FAO para que preste debida atención y tome medidas adecuadas para la celebración, el próximo año 2013, del Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Queremos señalar que los Años Internacionales, como dijimos ayer, no deben quedarse solo en su declaración y celebración, deben conllevar programas concretos y mecanismos de evaluación de sus impactos a largo plazo. Los objetivos de los Años Internacionales deben ser bien claros y las medidas de financiación para esos Años deben ser igualmente bien establecidas. Nos congratulamos por las medidas establecidas para la celebración efectiva del Año Internacional de la Quinua el próximo año 2013.

Y como no pudimos hacerlo en su momento debido, termino brindando en nombre del Grupo Africano, las felicitaciones sinceras a su Excelencia, Evo Morales Ayma, por su nominación como Embajador Especial de la FAO para el Año Internacional de la Quinua. Deseamos, Señora Ministra, que transmita nuestras felicitaciones al Señor Presidente de Bolivia.

Sr. Antonio BAYAS (Chile)

Quisiera en primer lugar saludar y felicitar a la Sra. Ministra de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras de Bolivia por su brillante presentación y su entusiasmo, que le vimos desde el año pasado, en promover este producto agrícola que es de nuestros Andes. Quisiera también felicitar a nuestro amigo el Embajador de República Dominicana por su presentación. Y algo más, quiero informar que en concordancia con lo que se está preparando para el Año Internacional de la Quinua, la Oficina Regional para América

Latina y El Caribe de la FAO, con sede en Santiago, organizó una teleconferencia para impulsar y dar inicio al Comité Internacional de Coordinación. En aquella ocasión, que fue hace unos pocos días, se eligió como Presidente de este Comité Internacional a Bolivia, justamente por ser el país impulsor de esta iniciativa, y se nombraron Vice-Presidentes y Relatores, siendo justamente los Vice-Presidentes Ecuador, que entiendo va a organizar una Conferencia Mundial sobre la materia, Perú y Chile, y como Relatores Argentina y Francia. Este fue el primer paso que se dio en la Oficina Regional para dar inicio a los preparativos del Año Internacional de la Quinua. A su vez, mi país está preparando también una serie de actividades para comenzar el próximo año a fomentar y dar a conocer este producto, que, tal y como explicaba el relator que nos dio a conocer las características y propiedades de la quinua, efectivamente se da en distintos climas, porque en Chile aparte de en el norte, hay una variedad de la quinua que está en la zona sur del país, zona lluviosa y más bien fría, que es la zona exactamente de la Araucanía. Y esa variedad de la quinua ha sido exportada en semilla a Europa. Entiendo que en Francia y en otras partes se está produciendo en base a eso. Por lo tanto, junto con agradecer la Ministra, quería dar a conocer estos primeros pasos que se están dando en América Latina, y especialmente en Chile, para promover este Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Sra. Carla Stella Maris CHIRINOS LLERENA (Perú)

El Perú como productor de quinua y de las diversas variedades de quinua se congratula y felicita por la Declaración del año 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua. El Perú también desea felicitar las acciones de Bolivia, de la Ministra de Agricultura, en su función de promoción de la quinua como un cultivo que nos permitirá combatir el flagelo del hambre y combatir también la inseguridad alimentaria. El Perú desea también comprometer su apoyo a las labores de su promoción a través de diversas acciones conjuntamente con la FAO y con Bolivia. El Perú es un país productor de quinua y, en ese sentido, reiteramos nuestro compromiso en las labores de promoción.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Thank you very much, Madame Minister for the presentation and congratulations to you for your efforts. I would like to thank Ambassador Mario Arvelo for his presentation. He has convinced us that quinoa is better than caviar, at least in terms of maintenance. Anyway, we all welcome the International Day of Quinoa

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Yo no voy a felicitar a la Ministra porque sería como felicitar a mí mismo. Sí quisiera agradecerle por la iniciativa de Bolivia de haber pedido, promovido, aupado y empujado a que la FAO designe el año 2013 como el Año Internacional de la Quinua.

Los países Andinos somos los dueños de la quinua. Nuestros aborígenes son los que vivieron, cultivaron y consumieron ese producto. Yo tengo la suerte de comer un día por semana la quinua. Así que no le felicito, le agradezco Ministra, y estamos juntos en esta noche.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous, et comme j'avais commencé à le dire, nous intégrerons dans les conclusions d'hier concernant les Années internationales, les deux paragraphes suivant. «Le Conseil note les préparatifs pour l'Année internationale du quinoa en 2013 qui a pour objectif principal de promouvoir la connaissance des propriétés nutritionnelles du quinoa et de son rôle en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de biodiversité. Et «Le Conseil reconnaît le rôle de la Bolivie, qui rallie les gouvernements, les instituts de recherche, la société civile et les petits producteurs dans ses préparatifs.»

Je vous rappelle que nous avons, en conclusion de nos conclusions concernant les années internationales, souligné la nécessité de mobiliser l'ensemble des Organes directeurs des pays sur l'ensemble des Conférences des Années internationales et aussi demander au Secrétariat de mesurer l'impact de ces Années internationales.

Je vous remercie, Madame le Ministre. Merci, Mario. Merci à chacun d'entre vous.

19. Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2011**19. Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2011****19. Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2011****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons donc au point 19 de l'Ordre du jour avec quelques excuses auprès des membres du PAM, pour qu'ils nous fassent le Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur les activités de 2011. Vous avez le document concerné: C 2013/INF/2. Je donne la parole à M. Amir Abdulla, Directeur exécutif adjoint du PAM pour présenter ce point à l'Ordre du jour.

Mr Amir ABDULLA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I am pleased to have an opportunity to present the Annual Report of the WFP on its activities in 2011. The document before you was approved at the WFP Executive Board in February earlier this year, and as you are probably aware, the report is in line with the 2004 General Assembly Resolution 62/206 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development.

In line with the UN General Assembly resolutions on System-wide coherence and the TCPR, now extended to a quadrennial review period, WFP has remained fully engaged in humanitarian activities, sustainable food security, nutrition, improving progress and achieving the MDGs, and basically ensuring better responses to humanitarian needs.

The Report is before you, and it will also go before the ECOSOC. I would just like to pick up some highlights from that paper. There are many details, but I would like to stress some of the key points. The WFP has participated in the United Nations Chief Executives Board, the CEB, and Subsidiary Bodies, the UNL, the UN High Level Committees on Management and Programmes and, of course, the undg. These have been high on our agenda with WFP continuing to be an active player in driving the Reform to leverage UN capacities both in relief and in development, and of course, in transition post-crisis and peace-building settings.

Within the HLCM, there has been continued focus to improve effectiveness and efficiency throughout the UN System. This has also been done regarding new security arrangements, human resource arrangements and joint projects on improving efficiency. We have also contributed to identifying best practices and operating effectiveness within the UN.

We have remained active in the undg-led Reform effort and worked in enhancing country-led programming through the undaf process. We have also worked with FAO and ILO on guidelines integrating food security and nutrition within undaf by supporting enhanced collaboration at the UN country team level and within the Delivering as One process.

We have also remained an active partner on the UN High Level Task Force (HLTF) on the global food security crisis, which has continued its work in coordinating inter-agency approaches on key food security issues.

In 2011, inter-agency and multilateral collaboration has, as in previous years, remained a key feature of WFP's interventions. Included in these are our emergency food and nutrition operations, safety nets for the most vulnerable and support to smallholder agriculture. The activities continued to provide specific attention to capacity-development, South-South Cooperation, disaster risk reduction, and gender-focused activities. All of these rely on strong networks and effective partnerships. So working through an inter-agency or multilateral mechanism is a natural way of trying to achieve success in those areas. No one Body can do all of that alone.

Nutrition interventions, of course, take into consideration roles of other UN partners, primarily within the UNICEF, WHO and FAO. But we also perform other work with non-UN partners in this area through the NGO community. We continue to strongly focus our attention and support in improving mother and child health and in decreasing child mortality which are key if we are going to reach the MDGs. WFP has been very proud to house the REACH partnership, the Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger, with our FAO, WHO, and UNICEF partners. Much work has been done in this area at country level, and we remain committed to enhancing our efforts there.

WFP has taken on the Chair of the standing committee on nutrition. Deputy Executive Director Mr Romero Lopez Da Silva holds the chair at the moment. We are working on developing partnership frameworks in the areas of nutrition for our own policy implementation, and we're working on a partnership framework which will draw on the individual nutrition policies of the key actors: WFP, WHO, UNICEF and FAO. We will keep our activities in line with that policy and also with the SUN, Scaling Up Nutrition movement, in which WFP's Executive Director plays a principal role.

Partnerships with other UN Agencies such as the World Bank are closely followed. Wherever possible, we are updating and renewing our MOUs, memorandums of understanding, with these Bodies or we are negotiating and establishing them with other Agencies. We have MOUs with a wide range of agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and WHO. And, of course, I will say a lot more in due course on our collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies. In a sense, partnership begins at home here in Rome, so I'd like to give special attention to that effort.

But at the country level, we have been directly involved in 83 joint UN programs in 47 countries. These are at varying degrees of development and varying stages of the partnership. Where they work well, the application of joint UN programming contributes to efficiency gains that allow common practices within the UN country teams. It ensures that they are in line with Government priorities, and where possible, we have also worked on harmonization and simplification of business processes to streamline operations for those with whom we are working. We have done this in areas such as finance, procurement and IT at country level within UN country teams.

We have also developed, maintained and further enhanced and developed work with our NGO partners, regional entities, and especially over the last year with the private sector. We have an annual consultation with the NGO communities, and these have proven to be very useful. We intend to pursue an even more strategic direction in those areas. We have many gatherings of those working in the Food Cluster coordination as well.

Regional collaboration remains an important item that you will find in the Report. We collaborate with many regional entities, the AU including CAADP, and Bodies such as IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC in bolstering effective country-led actions in countries where these bodies are active.

The Rome-based Agency or RBA collaboration is a specific priority in our partnership arrangements. At our own Executive Board last week, we had the honour of having the Director-General of FAO attend and speak at the opening session. In his statement, as well as in that of our Executive Director, they reaffirmed the Rome-based Agency collaboration, making sure that we keep that collaboration central to our efforts in achieving food security and nutrition for all.

Since April of this year, the heads of FAO, WFP and IFAD have been meeting on a monthly basis. We're into June so that makes the third meeting later this month. And at the Deputy level, we are meeting even more frequently than that, both picking up actions that arise from their meetings and also preparing items that we feel we need Agency head agreement before actions are taken through our respective Organizations.

We have worked on many areas together, and we have pursued very focused collaboration efforts on a broad range of issues. These have included a very coordinated approach to the Rio+20 Summit which is coming up in a few days, and on activities within the G20 and the G8. We have also looked for areas of collaboration, both at a programming level but also at an administrative level. We have already been working on joint procurement and we want to extend that further into other areas where we might save in administration costs, including those that may appear mundane but can actually result in significant savings, such as travel, implementing joint hotel policies and joint purchasing of tickets, and things like that.

On a higher plane, for Rio+20, the Common Rome-Based Agency position has been developed as joint events are being organized, including an event during the thematic segment of the Conference on 19 June and an official High-level Rome-based Agency Event on Food Security and Nutrition on 21 June. We certainly hope that many of your principals attending the Rio+20 will join those events.

The 2011 State of Food Insecurity, the SOFI Report, on price volatility was a true joint production by FAO, IFAD and WFP. We have had very strong collaboration through the joint FAO/WFP Food Security Information System strategy and the implementation plan that is now being taken forward.

In the areas of resilience building, disaster risk reduction, and also on the WFP P4P activity, there is significant input from both of our Rome partners. WFP and FAO co-lead the Global Food Security Cluster that is really starting to kick in and become very active now, and supports the global humanitarian community on responses to food security issues in major emergencies. More recently, WFP and FAO have intensified direct collaboration on field level responses in emergencies. For example, joint in-country task forces were set up following the Haiti earthquake of a few years ago, and another one for the floods in Pakistan. Now they are being even more dynamically pursued in the Horn of Africa where we took a very common approach, and are now being developed in the Sahel crisis where there is a need to look beyond the immediate emergency response into medium-term and long-term plans that can actually contribute towards reductions in future crises.

We had joint operation activities with FAO in 86 projects in 50 countries, and with IFAD in 11 projects in 9 countries. We believe in and welcome the supportive role played by the European Union through the EU statements of intent for joint activities, which I hope will help these numbers to increase across the three agencies.

A word on these operational activities. As we have seen in the Horn and the Sahel, the approach to collaboration and working together, is to have an effective design from inception. It's not good enough to just have a WFP project, and then look for a niche for FAO or IFAD within that project. For this to be of true value, we need to make sure that the collaboration begins at an earlier stage in the analysis process, through the assessment process and then finally through the actual design or intervention. That is how you get true collaboration, and our recent activities, particularly in the Horn and in the Sahel, have focused more on this.

The World Food Programme, of course, remains heavily engaged in the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS, together with FAO and IFAD as well as with other partners, and we see this as one of the key mechanisms for keeping the world's attention and focus on this important issue.

Allow me to end this presentation with a mention of WFP and its core activities in humanitarian response. There were, when we presented this Report that is before you to our own Executive Board, a lot of comments and questions for more information the Transformative Agenda of the IASC, and WFP's role within that. For those of you who would be interested in receiving more details, there was a paper that went to our Board last week that provided these details.

Many of the major emergency responses launched recently have been done so with the Transformative Agenda which prescribes for what is known as a level-three emergency. They have been undertaken in this context. Our own responses in the Horn of Africa, Pakistan, and across the Middle East, North Africa, and more recently Sahel and Syria, have all had that rationale.

The humanitarian review which was launched early in 2011 by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Valerie Amos, and the IAFC principles led to the adoption at the end of the year of this new Transformative Agenda, and WFP has been fully engaged in that process. We obviously have a lot of experience and capacity on the ground. Our leadership within the Logistics Cluster, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, and more recently, the co-leadership with FAO on the Food Security Cluster has meant that we needed to play a significant role in the Transformative Agenda.

This Agenda covers the areas of humanitarian leadership through the humanitarian coordinator system, ensuring coordination and accountability. Reforms need to be put into place by the operational agencies to ensure that the humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams and clusters are able to undertake the work they need to do for us all to deliver better.

WFP is a member of a small steering group of Principals convened by Valerie Amos to guide this implementation phase and provide a point of contact for the group of interested donors. The IAC Working Group is directly engaged in organizing implementation around the areas of leadership, coordination and support systems, and we are working in all of these areas. WFP has also assumed the co-Chair of the Needs Assessment Task Force. Within each of those areas, there is a body known as a

champion leading the process, not with their Agency hat on but across the board. David Katrund who is the Director of Emergency for WFP, plays that role in one of those Bodies. There are many more details in that rather long Report before you.

I hope I have given some highlights of the paper and also addressed, particularly as regards the humanitarian area, some of the things that may not have been highlighted in that paper but were raised as questions when our own Board reviewed it. Our Executive Director is actually in Haiti today, or she would have been honoured to come and present the Report in person.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie et c'est avec regret que nous ne pouvons avoir la Directrice générale qui était habituellement dans la salle où elle aurait changée de positionnement, mais vous lui transmettrait nos salutations.

Je donne la parole aux membres qui souhaitent soit faire des commentaires ou poser des questions aux représentants du PAM sur le rapport.

Ms Elisabeth KVTASHVILI (United States of America)

The US would like to flag the continued excellence of WFP's worldwide interventions that positively impact millions of people. I would also like to flag and note with emphasis the priority that Amir made in his statement on nutrition, on partnership and collaboration especially with the Rome-based Agencies. That's music to many of our ears. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Committee for the Report, and we fully support and endorse the Report and request that it be forwarded to ECOSOC.

Mr Olyntho VIERA (Brazil)

We are pleased to receive in this Council the Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities. My delegation wishes to thank Mr Abdulla for his presentation and for the Report which shows that WFP continues to maintain the high degree of dynamism and professionalism it is known for.

Brazil is a member of the Executive Board, and we can attest to the high level of debate and work that is carried out there. Brazil, along with many others, has been defending both here and on the Executive Board a greater level of collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies. This is why we are extremely pleased to hear of the measures for increased coordination announced by the FAO Director-General and the WFP Executive Director from policy and planning to logistics and execution. Therefore, we endorse the Report, and look forward to even closer work between the two Agencies.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We would like to echo the interventions by the United States and Brazil. We do not have much to say, but we want to endorse the Report. We would also like to congratulate the new Executive Director on an excellent start and the accelerated actions to date. We welcome the success of the annual Executive Board last week. We are also pleased that we met the Director-General in the auditorium of WFP last week. We hope that the collaboration between the big brother and little sister will be closer.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Nosotros nos sentimos parte de este Informe que ha sido presentado esta mañana. Solo quisiéramos señalar tres temas.

El primero es que nos satisface mucho el trabajo de colaboración y coordinación que lleva a cabo el PMA, no solo con las Agencias en Roma, sino también con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y con el Grupo de los 20 con el objeto de mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición de las poblaciones vulnerables.

Como ustedes saben, la colaboración cercana ha hecho que temas muy importantes que han manejado por varios años el PMA sean ya incluidos como una parte importante en materia de seguridad alimentaria en la agenda del Grupo de los 20. Tal es el caso de la eliminación de impuestos para la exportación de alimentos con fines humanitarios.

En segundo lugar, nosotros quisiéramos señalar que la semana pasada, durante la presentación del Informe de Trabajo de 2011 del PMA, nosotros reconocimos de manera muy amplia los grandes esfuerzos del Programa en proporcionar asistencia alimentaria a 99.1 millones de personas en 75 países, y de manera particular, en centrar sus atención hacia los niños, los cuales constituyeron el 64% de los beneficiarios y, quienes junto con las mujeres, representaron el 84% del total atendido por el PMA el año pasado.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, quisiera solo destacar la exitosa realización de la Sesión de la Junta Ejecutiva la semana pasada, la primera de la nueva Directora Ejecutiva al frente del PMA.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVIMOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of the Near East Group, I would like to thank you for the presentation and the Report. It praised WFP activities in general in assisting hunger and food disaster victims. Regarding this Report, we particularly appreciated the following activities: partnership with other relevant Agencies, Rome-based Agency cooperation, capacity-building, collaboration in country-led projects while acknowledging the country ownership, using capacity of CSOs and the private sector, moving from food aid to development, and in this regard the expansion of cash and vouchers, and local and regional food choices and P4P activities, preparedness and disaster risk management, emergency responses with link aid, development activity for upgrading the livelihood of the poor.

M. Essimi MENYE (Cameroun)

Merci de me donner la parole, la délégation du Cameroun parle pour la Région d'Afrique sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

Le Rapport d'activités annuel 2011 du Programme alimentaire mondial soumis par le Conseil d'administration du PAM au Conseil économique et social et au Conseil de la FAO sur ses activités en 2011 fait une analyse des résultats du PAM conformément au Plan stratégique pour 2008-13. Ce Rapport montre que le PAM a accompli des progrès importants au regard de ses Objectifs stratégiques. À savoir, premièrement, sauver des vies et protéger les moyens de subsistance en situation d'urgence. Deuxièmement, prévenir la faim aigüe et investir dans la préparation aux catastrophes et l'atténuation de ses effets. Troisièmement, remettre sur pied les communautés et reconstituer leurs moyens de subsistance après un conflit ou une catastrophe ou dans les périodes de transition. Et enfin, réduire la faim chronique et la dénutrition. En 2011, le PAM a réussi à atteindre ses objectifs en fournissant une assistance alimentaire à 91 millions de bénéficiaires dans 75 pays. La Région Afrique tient à féliciter le PAM pour ses résultats.

Que ce soit en Libye, au Pakistan, au Japon ou dans la Corne d'Afrique, l'intervention et l'appui du PAM aux populations ont été déterminants. Cependant, compte tenu de l'environnement marqué par le ralentissement prévisible de l'économie mondiale qui pèsera sur la mobilisation des fonds, du maintien des prix des produits alimentaires et des carburants à un niveau élevé qui continueront d'affecter les plus pauvres réduisant ainsi la capacité du PAM à faire reculer la faim. La Région Afrique soutient fortement l'option de mise en place de stratégies innovatrices pour chercher de nouveaux financements en les rendant plus prévisibles et de déploiement à plus grande échelle des bons outils d'intervention mis en place par le PAM.

En examinant davantage ce rapport, nous notons avec satisfaction les efforts du PAM de travailler avec d'autres partenaires des Nations Unies, notamment les deux autres Agences basées à Rome, dont le mandat se rapporte à l'alimentation et l'agriculture, le secteur privé et les organisations de la société civile. Nous encourageons le PAM à intensifier davantage ses liens opérationnels et stratégiques.

Tout en reconnaissant à nouveau les bons résultats obtenus par le PAM en 2011, la Région Afrique reste entièrement solidaire du rapport d'activités annuel 2011, y compris les recommandations et résolutions du Conseil d'administration du PAM à son endroit et recommande sans réserve son adoption par le Conseil.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada fully agrees with the comments of the previous speakers with regard to the value obvious to all of us I believe of the work of the WFP, and in particular the dedication of the staff and those in the

field who often work under very demanding conditions. We have taken particular note of the remark from the WFP Executive Director regarding the need for cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies to begin at the assessment and planning stage. We feel this is a fundamental observation and not only for the Rome-based Agencies but in support of the One UN approach overall.

Sra. María Victoria SALCEDO (Observador de Colombia)

Mi país quiere insistir sobre la importancia de medir los avances en el Objetivo 5 para el Informe final del Plan Estratégico en 2013. Dicha evaluación permitirá evidenciar y medir el fortalecimiento de las capacidades en los países, un aspecto que determina la incidencia y el valor agregado que realmente genera un organismo en el país anfitrión.

Esas capacidades deben medirse no solo en términos institucionales, sino en términos comunitarios; de desarrollo comunitario y de la capacidad desarrollada en términos comunitarios. Siendo el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) un organismo humanitario operativo y dinámico en el terreno, Colombia espera conocer el impacto de sus acciones en el fortalecimiento de las capacidades a todos los niveles, así como en las estrategias de sostenibilidad, graduación y salida, después de un período tan largo de asistencia y cooperación continua. Asimismo, es muy importante para el país poder contar con una evaluación global de la efectividad en materia de traspaso de responsabilidades, lo cual permitirá evaluar el grado de complementariedad del trabajo conjunto entre los gobiernos y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Respecto a las nuevas herramientas, se recomienda insistir sobre la importancia de fortalecer y ampliar el alcance geográfico de las iniciativas de compras en aras del progreso. Este mecanismo es eficiente, lógico y permite maximizar el impacto positivo de la actuación del Programa, dinamizando los mercados locales de los países en desarrollo para conseguir un mayor compromiso de las poblaciones con soluciones de largo plazo. Las compras locales de alimentos para la ayuda humanitaria deben seguir siendo un componente fundamental de la cooperación del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), ya que estas constituyen una oportunidad para la participación de los mercados locales y el fortalecimiento de pequeñas economías dedicadas al sector agrícola, especialmente en las poblaciones más vulnerables.

Remarcamos la importancia de que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos cuente con una posición de apertura y flexibilidad frente a los cambios que los países experimentan y a las situaciones de dualidad, como las que presenta en este momento Colombia. Es decir, que si bien el país aún debe enfrentar importantes retos en materia socio-económica y humanitaria, también ha experimentado un salto cualitativo en materia de indicadores sociales y de capacidad institucional por los cuales es importante contar con una cooperación estratégica focalizada y orientada hacia los resultados.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to express appreciation for the Report submitted by WFP. We would like to express our gratitude to WFP and thank Mr Amir Abdulla and his colleagues for the outstanding presentation today.

The Russian Federation commends the activities of the World Food Programme as the leading Organization in the UN System dealing with food aid and food assistance. We support the main thrust of the action of WFP moving on to broader food assistance. We support the programmes of the WFP in fields where it has a comparative advantage. We especially think it is necessary to continue to work on enhancing the potential for early response, so that WFP can quickly provide assistance in those cases when it is needed relatively quickly in complex situations.

We note the use of innovative instruments and mechanisms in WFP in creating a social support network for school and child feeding. We understand that the staff is working under very difficult situations where their lives and health are at risk, and we support the work of WFP to ensure proper conditions and security for its staff.

For our part as donors, we think it is important to draw attention to the need to ensure there is sustainable funding, especially in the current circumstances. For its part, Russia is consistently

stepping up its contribution to the activities of WFP, having become a long-standing donor and ensuring that what we do is that of interaction with WFP.

As a member of the Finance Committee of WFP, we would also like to refer to the excellent quality of the documentation provided to the Finance Committee of FAO by WFP.

Mr Amir ABDULLA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

We have taken note of some of the specific areas where you have indicated that we are in the right direction, but must not lose that direction. We must keep the emphasis on the joint nature of assessments, analysis, and design, rather than just try and implement something jointly after it has been built. We all note the strong emphasis on the need to keep collaborating when dealing with matters such as nutrition.

We recognize that our procurement activities, as mentioned by Colombia, need to focus to the extent possible on local procurement thereby increasing local production. This is a key element and one where we really can work together with the Rome-based Agencies, particularly with IFAD's emphasis on smallholder farmers and investments to promote their activities, and at the same time with FAO's emphasis on technological aspects for increased production and with WFP providing market expertise as well as access and use of these foods.

We will keep many of those things that you've mentioned today in mind as we move forward. We certainly hope that you will recognize them in future programmes that you will see, or future Reports that will come before you.

In closing, I will convey once again the warm words of welcome that you've afforded our Executive Director and pass them on to her. I also wish to thank the Director-General of FAO who, as many pointed out, was a real sign of that collaboration. He was there at our new Executive Director's first Executive Board meeting, and we ask that you convey, once again, our thanks to him.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie Monsieur Abdulla d'être avec nous et avec vos adjoints, après ces commentaires je propose que le Conseil approuve ce Rapport. Comme projet de conclusion, je vous propose:

Le Conseil se félicite du rapport annuel du PAM à la FAO et l'adopte, se félicite des progrès effectués en 2011 au niveau du renforcement de ces partenariats multilatéraux et nationaux et, se félicite de la contribution du PAM dans la direction des opérations humanitaires et la préparation et mise en œuvre de son programme humanitaire transformateur.

Le Conseil note la réorientation des activités du PAM de l'aide alimentaire envers l'assistance alimentaire. Ce qui a entraîné le déploiement d'une panoplie d'outils élargie pour lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition.

Enfin, le Conseil accueille avec satisfaction l'accent mis sur la collaboration entre les Agences romaines, en particulier, au niveau des pays.

Voilà les propositions qui seront faites au Comité de rédaction, encore une fois, merci de votre participation et bonne fin de matinée et de journée. À bientôt. Merci.

12. Report of the 38th (Special) Session of the Committee on World Food Security (11 May 2012)

12. Rapport de la 38^{ème} session (extraordinaire) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (11 mai 2012)

12. Informe del 38.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (11 de mayo de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de continuer notre Ordre du jour avec le point 12: «Rapport de la 38^{ème} session du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, session extraordinaire du 11 mai» qui a donc discuté sur l'approbation des Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, à la pêche et aux forêts dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale.

J'ai le plaisir d'accueillir le président du CSA, monsieur Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran.

Nous avons perdu le Président au chapeau. Au moins, l'avantage qu'il y a c'est quand il est dans la salle on sait où il est, il n'y a qu'une personne qui a son chapeau, c'est lui, mais là je ne vois pas de chapeau.

Monsieur le Secrétaire du CSA, vous ne savez pas où est votre Président. Non. Il faut le trouver. Alors, on lance un appel. Voilà, ça y est. Comme vous pouvez voir le chapeau est là, donc le Président est là, puisque le Président est sous le chapeau. Monsieur le président Yaya, vous avez la parole. Bien je vous remercie et je vous donne bien volontiers la parole, pour nous faire rapport sur le CSA, particulièrement la dernière session extraordinaire.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

This morning I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to present on to you the Report of the 38th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was a special one that took place on 11 May 2012.

The primary purpose of the Thirty-eighth special Session of the Committee was for the CFS stakeholders to consider and its Members to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forestry in the Context of the National Food Security (VGGT).

The Special Session had been convened following the successful conclusion of negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines in March 2012 within a multi-stakeholder Open-Ended Working Group of the Committee. The VGGT was endorsed by acclamation, representing one of the first major outcomes of the reformed CFS.

The Voluntary Guidelines place the governance of land within the context of national food security, and are intended to contribute to the realization of right to food, poverty eradication, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

The guidelines come within the context of intensifying competition for land and other natural resources resulting from a variety of factors including increased demand for food and energy and large-scale purchases of land in the developing world by both overseas and domestic investors.

At the 38th special Session of the CFS, Members decided to:

1. endorse the VGGT;
2. encourage all stakeholders to promote, make use of and support the implementation of the VGGT when formulating strategies, policies, and programmes on food security, nutrition, agriculture, and tenure of land, fisheries, and forests;
3. pursuant to the CFS Reform document (CFS 2009/2 Rev.2) paragraph 21, and CFS Rules of Procedure (CFS 2011/9 Rev.1) Rule X(1), transmit the VGGT to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD;
4. pursuant to CFS Reform document (CFS 2009/2 Rev. 2) paragraph 21, and CFS Rules of Procedure (CFS 2011/9 Rev.1) Rule X(4), request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further endorse the VGGT and ensure the dissemination to all relevant UN Bodies and Agencies.

Finally, FAO is requested to ensure that the VGGT are included as a priority in the new Strategic Framework that FAO is developing, and in relevant work programmes.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Uganda is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We welcome the Voluntary Guidelines and congratulate the Chairperson, the Bureau, and the Open-Ended Working Group of CFS, Member Nations, the private sector, NGOs, and all of those who participated in the exercise for their hard work and the positive spirit in which they negotiated the Voluntary Guidelines to their logical conclusion.

We welcome the centrality of land to Africa's development and, in particular, in agriculture which is linked to the survival and livelihoods of the African people. A land policy initiative was established in 2006 as a unique joint continental initiative of the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African government bank. Since its inception, the initiative has been dedicated to a highly-participatory development of a framework and guidelines on land policy on the continent. The initiative has attracted high political legitimacy after being endorsed by the Summit of African Heads of State and Government, and adoption of a Declaration on Land, calling for the use of the framework and guidelines on land policy in Africa at the country level as a valid tool to inform national land policy processes at national and regional levels.

This land policy initiative will now be implemented as part of the Declaration on Land through a well-articulated five-year Strategic Plan. Some initiatives have been implemented under the Strategic Plan, specifically through training and capacity-building in land-focused development; preparation of background recommendation in tracking progress regarding land policy development and implementation in Africa; provision of technical support to ECOWAS to harmonize overlapping land initiatives; preparation of study on land conditions in East Africa; development of a vital African land policy and administration facility; development of a database on African land experts and land rating information, as well as a platform for increased networking on land policy on the continent.

We note that the objectives and activities outlined in the Voluntary Guidelines fit into this Framework and its Strategic Plan. Therefore, we welcome this development. It is our hope that FAO and other Government agencies can partner with the African Union Commission in implementing the Strategic Plan. We also call on the Committee on World Food Security, the Rome-based Agencies, and informed partners to collaborate with regional and sub-regional organizations and Member Nations to advocate for inclusion of land and development agendas.

We firmly believe that the land policy initiatives should be set at country level with national governments working with stakeholders to undertake, audit, or request policy frameworks and administrative tools. Then, using the Voluntary Guidelines and other regional specific tools, Governments should draft country-specific policies to ensure that such frameworks provide farmers marginalized groups, including women, fisher folk, and pastoralists, with the necessary productive assets to play a meaningful role in food security and nutrition programmes.

In our view, the CFS is well-placed to use its global, rural, and policy frameworks on food security and nutrition matters to ensure that these Voluntary Guidelines are widely known, and that resources are mobilized to ensure that regional and country initiatives in the area of land policy are supported.

While we endorse the seven decisions submitted by CFS in the decision box and paragraph 5 of document CL 144/9, the Africa Regional Group proposes that council consider inviting the WFP and IFAD on board and, in this regard, include in decision seven that the three Rome-based UN Agencies bring these land matters into their programmes. We would be eager to engage in the constructive dialogue to further advance this recommendation.

Ms Therese BAPTISTE-CORNELIS (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges the decision of the Committee on World Food Security to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. It is clear that these Guidelines are sufficiently broad to allow the Member Nations the flexibility for implementation within the context of their individual country laws and international signatory status, yet clear and succinct enough to guide the process of implementation.

Indeed, while not legally-binding, the Guidelines are well-founded in the principles of good land management and therefore a key to the realization of sound and fair land tenure rights. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago notes that the Guidelines take in consideration the ever-growing effects of climate change, particularly the increase in frequency and severity of natural disasters, a factor of devastating proportions to Small Island Developing States such as those of the Caribbean. As such, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has recently reviewed and revised the existing procedures used in the distribution of state land for agriculture purposes.

It has also introduced several new initiatives as part of its 2012-15 Action Plan aimed at further improving food security. Cognizance is also being given to the fact that disaster mitigation measures must be included in the way forward for our country and for the Region. Trinidad and Tobago stands ready to play its part in our Region. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago fully supports the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Dr. Ir. ACHMAD SURYANA, MS (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to thank FAO, the Secretariat, and the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security for the comprehensive report provided to us which offers the outcomes of the 38th special Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The above Report provides us with information on the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries, and Forests, with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

My delegation also wishes to acknowledge the decision and recommendations of the 38th Session of CFS, and congratulate the CFS Bureau for the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries, and Forests.

Indonesia appreciates the fact that the document has also highlighted the attention to smallholder farmers, many of whom are women. They are the prime stakeholders who should have the benefit of access to land and agriculture. Besides that, the document has also accommodated the protection of indigenous people and other communities with customary tenure systems. Moreover, the document has also covered specific situations, such as responses to climate change, natural disasters, and conflicts regarding tenure of land, fisheries, and forests.

Furthermore, to properly implement these Guidelines, Indonesia wishes that FAO give relevant assistance in capacity-building to Member Nations in their promotion, implementation and monitoring. We affirm that all parties, including civil society organizations and the private sector, should be involved in the collaborative effort to promote and implement these Guidelines in accordance with national priorities and context.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement.

We would like to compliment the CFS on successfully concluding the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests.

Land tenure is the key for sustainable resources management, increasing agricultural production, and reducing poverty. We know that the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group, all members and participants, the Regional Groups, the civil society, the private sector, the technical Secretariat, and the Chair of the CFS have made tremendous efforts to finalize the Guidelines. The EU will remember the formal endorsement of the guidelines at the CFS Special Session on 11 May 2012 as an important milestone.

Implementation of the Guidelines at country level will be the next challenge. It will require respect of the principles of good governance, including gender and the support of all stakeholders. The EU stands ready to support these efforts, and hopes FAO will play a central role in the implementation of the Guidelines.

The EU considers the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food from 2004 as an important FAO contribution, and we trust that the Guidelines regarding Land Tenure will be equally important and will be implemented at regional and national levels.

We note with great satisfaction the clear statement in document CL 144/15 on structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network. In particular, we highlight the following text from paragraph two of the document. It is also very clear that strengthening decentralized capacity cannot come at the expense of weakening FAO's technical capacity at Headquarters. On the contrary, the Decentralization Process can only be truly successful when FAO's field activities are seamlessly connected to its global public goods. The two are necessary complements, not competing objectives. A normative field experience leads to strong normative work, which in turn leads to the new applications in the translation of global public goods into country-level outcomes and impacts.

On this occasion, we would also like to emphasize the importance of the full involvement in the CFS of all relevant stakeholders including the Rome-based Agencies, the World Bank, the United Nations High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the Standing Committee on Nutrition, and many others of the advisory group of the CFS and their full support to the High-Level Panel of Experts.

We would encourage a better involvement of other international organizations, such as WTO and UNEP, as well as national research communities, the CGIAR and the GFAR in the CFS, particularly within the Advisory Group as appropriate.

We have especially noted the active participation and support to CFS from the civil society and the private sector, and we consider the CFS to be the template for inclusiveness in the multilateral system.

Mr Tetsuji IWAMA (Japan)

Japan would like to make a brief comment. Japan warmly welcomes the endorsement of the VGGT of the 38th Special Session of the CFS. We thank the Chair of the Working Group, the United States, for his dedication regarding this work.

The importance of the VGGT is already mentioned in many multilateral fora this year such as G8, G20 and APEC. Its influence on the issue of eradicating hunger and poverty is becoming greater. And hereafter, the consultation on the principles of responsible agriculture investment will be initiated, which is also referred to in many multilateral forums. We expect the principles to be further discussed and finalized with a broader range of ownership as soon as possible.

And, also, Japan appreciates Switzerland for its Chairpersonship of the Working Group and is willing to participate in this consultation process. To promote and enhance the discussion, we recommend CFS to take into account, for existing frameworks such as PRAI, the Principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment, was developed by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, and the World Bank.

Some projects are now being implemented by the international organizations to test and operationalize the PRAI in the field, and Japan supports the project by the World Bank. This project is now being implemented and Japan is considering making a progress report at an appropriate opportunity.

Mr Oleg Yu KOBIAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

My country was an active participant in the process of intergovernmental negotiations from the very outset, and made its contribution very enthusiastically to conclude this very remarkable exercise. We welcome the Report of the CFS Chairman on this issue and we, again, take advantage of this opportunity to express our support for the process which has begun in disseminating and implementing the Voluntary Guidelines at the country level.

We also see in these guidelines the strong, robust output of the reformed CFS. We see this as a step in the right direction. We are convinced that the process of work on the next array of legal documents in the CFS will result in the responsible investment in agriculture, and will be carried out in the light of the important work that we have already achieved on the Voluntary Guidelines with the broad participation of all interested parties. We once again express gratitude to the Working Group and Dr Meyers, the Chair, for his excellent contribution without which it would scarcely have been possible to achieve such a result in such a quick period of time.

Russia is now proceeding to publish this document within the country and to embark upon its practical implementation including from the standpoint of changing our national legislation to promote their

broader application. This is being done within the context of broad social consultations on issues within the purview and the scope of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

My delegation takes note with deep appreciation of the successful completion of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The achievement has assured us another strengthening of the CFS Reform. We would like to thank the CFS Bureau and Secretary for the work done, and commend every partner who has actively participated in the negotiations. We agreed that adoption of the Guidelines will be key incentive for investment of resources in all levels of agricultural production, and will serve to enhance livelihoods for farmers, especially the smallholders in developing countries.

Finally, we would like to support FAO in including the Voluntary Guidelines as a priority in the new Strategic Framework currently being developed as well as in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Sr. Olyntho VIERA (Brasil)

Nosotros solicitamos la aprobación de las Directrices Voluntarias sobre la Gobernanza Responsable de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional. Este resultado se debe al esfuerzo remarcable por parte de la FAO, de los Países Miembros, de la sociedad civil y del sector privado, a lo largo de tres años.

La aprobación de las Directrices tiene dos significados igualmente importantes: El primero, vinculado a su sustancia y objeto; el segundo, vinculado a su proceso negociador. En términos de la sustancia y el objeto es innegable la importancia del tema de la gobernanza de la tierra para la seguridad alimentaria. El carácter voluntario de las directrices, de que no podemos ni debemos olvidar, apunta la naturaleza del documento. Un conjunto de buenos principios cuya aplicación práctica, interpretación y reglamentación dependen naturalmente del contexto y de las condiciones soberanas de cada País Miembro. Por lo tanto, las Directrices Voluntarias tienen el potencial de constituir un instrumento importante en la persecución de los objetivos del desarrollo rural, de la inversión responsable en la agricultura y de la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza.

Mi delegación desea anunciar que el Gobierno de Brasil está financiando la traducción oficial de las directrices en portugués, de manera que todos los países que comparten nuestro idioma se puedan beneficiar.

En términos de proceso, la aprobación de las Directrices demuestra que el consenso es posible y que la apertura de la inclusión no son incompatibles con la acción y los resultados, y que este tema de la tenencia de la tierra es un tema sensible y delicado. Las negociaciones no han sido fáciles, pero todos los Grupos Regionales, los Países Miembros y los demás participantes al proceso, como las agencias internacionales, la sociedad civil y el sector privado siempre tuvieron una colaboración y una flexibilidad que llevó a obtener este resultado exitoso. Esto demuestra que el diálogo, la inclusión y el multilateralismo funcionan y dan resultados positivos.

La Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA) demuestra el acierto de sus principios y de su filosofía en un momento en que se pasará a contemplar otras iniciativas importantes como el Marco Estratégico mundial para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y los principios para la inversión responsable en la agricultura, entre otros. Por esta razón, queremos solicitar al Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, Sr. Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran de Nigeria, al Coordinador del Grupo de Trabajo que negoció las directrices, Sr. Gregory Myers de Estados Unidos de América, a todos los delegados representantes de los Países Miembros y a las organizaciones participantes que contribuyeron, que sigan contribuyendo en este importante foro de convergencia y coordinación.

Finalmente, quisiéramos impulsar a la FAO, que por medio de su unidad y técnica sobre la gobernanza de la tierra ha sido muy crucial en el desarrollo de las Directrices, refuerce su trabajo de cooperación técnica a favor de los Países Miembros que lo requieran y que decidan de implementarlas, así como lo que ha decidido este Consejo, al tratar la elaboración del próximo Marco Estratégico.

Sr. Gustavo O. INFANTE (Argentina)

Una intervención breve para agradecer al Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial su Informe, su participación y para anunciar que respaldamos el documento CL 144/9. Asimismo, suscribimos íntegramente la Declaración que acaba de hacer la delegación de Brasil y agregamos el reconocimiento de mi país y también del personal por todos los esfuerzos que se realizaron durante este largo período de negociaciones, pero que contribuyó fundamentalmente no solo al objetivo que tenía que era la elaboración de las directrices, sino a fortalecer al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y a consolidarlo como una verdadera plataforma de intercambio y de elaboración de bienes públicos por parte de la FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme il est 12 h 30, je dois suspendre la séance, nous reprendrons à 14h30 précises. Comme vous avez pu le remarquer, nous avons pris beaucoup de retard et je suis désolé d'informer le Représentant du Danemark, mais nous devons sans doute faire une séance supplémentaire. Mais, pour le football, il y aura toujours la retransmission et le résultat. Bon appétit et à tout à l'heure.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
13 June 2012

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.36 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.36 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

12. Report of the 38th (Special) Session of the Committee on World Food Security (11 May 2012) (continued)**12. Rapport de la 38^{ème} session (extraordinaire) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (11 mai 2012) (suite)****12. Informe del 38.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (11 de mayo de 2012) (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous continuons nos travaux de l'après-midi. Je vois qu'il n'y a plus de demandes de parole car elles ont toutes été effacées. J'avais noté les candidats aux interventions, à savoir le Sri Lanka, la Chine, l'Iran, le Mexique, l'Équateur, les États-Unis d'Amérique et la Bolivie. Donc, si vous voulez bien appuyer sur le bouton, je vous mettrai dans l'ordre qui était celui d'uparavant. Je vous rappelle que nous continuons notre discussion sur le point 12. Nous avons déjà eu huit interventions, et je donne donc tout de suite la parole au Sri Lanka.

Mr Shantha EMITIYAGODA (Sri Lanka)

I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Chairman, the Bureau and the Advisory Group of the Committee on World Food Security and Member Nations, farm organizations, private sector, NGOs, for concluding a series of successful negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests, in the Context of National Food Security which was endorsed by the Special Session of the CFS held on 11 May 2012.

The endorsement of these Guidelines by the Members has provided further impetus for the land policy initiatives which already began in many countries, including Sri Lanka. Land is crucial to the people of Sri Lanka as the majority of our people rely on access to and use of land for their livelihood. Sri Lanka's agriculture is affected with fragmentation of land. Addressing the issue of land ownership and related issues are key to the process of speeding up the present slow and informal way of transitional process of shifting the present subsistence-level agriculture to a more market-oriented agriculture.

We therefore call on the Committee on World Food Security, the Rome-based Agencies, and their development partners to partner with the regional and sub-regional organizations and Member Nations to advocate for the inclusion of land in development agendas, and to mobilize more resources for the implementation of land-related policy initiatives.

We firmly believe that the land policy initiatives must start at country level with government working with stakeholders to undertake audits of existing policy frameworks and administrative tools using Voluntary Guidelines and other region-specific tools, then craft country specific policies in order to ensure that such frameworks provide farmers, marginalized groups, including women, fisher folk, etc. with the necessary productive assets to play a meaningful role in food security and nutrition programmes.

Finally, we recommend that CFS use its global role in policy coherence on food security and nutrition actions, to ensure that the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries, and Forestry are widely known and that resources and technical support are mobilized to ensure that regional and country initiatives in the area of land policy gain support.

By stating this, my delegation would like to affirm the following points. The development of governance of tenure of land is to be considered as a part of the effort toward sustainable development and the attainment of food security at the national level. The guidelines are voluntary and their endorsement does not constitute a legal obligation of any kind upon States. The interpretation and implementation of the Guidelines and the terminology they contain is to be defined by domestic legislation in each Member Nation within the context of its national and regional commitments. International organizations have a role to play by supporting Governments if they wish to implement these guidelines, through programs and projects. Governments are the only authority competent to supervise the implementation of Guidelines, in keeping with the voluntary nature of the document.

Finally, my delegation concurs with the decision by the CFS to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further endorse the VGGT and ensure their wide dissemination to all relevant UN Bodies and Agencies, which is an essential pre-requisite for gaining its acceptance at international level. We also request FAO to ensure that the VGGT are included as a priority in the new Strategic Framework that FAO is developing, and in relevant work programmes.

Mr Handi GUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Chairman of the CFS for the Report. The CFS held a Special Session in May and adopted Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. China supported and participated in the process actively. As regards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, the CFS has reached consensus. As these Guidelines are voluntary, their implementation should be considered at the country level.

So far, FAO and the CFS have accomplished a major task. At the next step, the CFS and FAO should encourage Members to take into consideration country specificities and refer to the Voluntary Guidelines in developing strategies, policies, programmes on food security and nutrition, agriculture, and tenure of land, fisheries, and forestry.

FAO should also provide technical support.

Mr Jorge E. SOLARES (United States of America)

The United States welcomes the Report of the 38th Session of the Committee on World Food Security which acknowledges formal approval of the Voluntary Guidelines. The United States Government provided both the Chairperson for the negotiations within the Open-Ended Working Group and participated vigorously along with 95 national Governments and more than 25 civil society organizations, the private sector and farmer associations in those negotiations.

We welcome and support the Voluntary Guidelines as they provide a much-needed framework of principles and practices for countries to use in the establishment of laws and policies to better govern tenure rights in support of food security and sustainable development. The Voluntary Guidelines also represent a broader endorsement of an issue that the US Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have been working on for many years in over 40 countries.

Awareness raising around the existence of the Voluntary Guidelines and implementation are next. We are pleased to report that the Chairperson of the negotiations will be returning to Rome in July to work with the Natural Resource Management Division of FAO to begin to develop a governing structure for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

The US Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation are also actively consulting bilaterally with other Development, Food Security, and Agriculture Ministers to move towards some partnerships on implementation.

The United States believes the Voluntary Guidelines represent a milestone for the CFS, and we look forward to other major policy agreements coming from this leading international forum for discussion on global food and nutrition security policy issues.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

El Ecuador participó muy activamente en las reuniones de trabajo y en la búsqueda de consenso en la elaboración de estas Directrices Voluntarias para Tenencia de la Tierra. Yo me alegro de que se haya llegado a feliz término con un consenso básico. No es fácil el tema de la tenencia de la tierra. Las características y condiciones de los diferentes países, dependiendo de su estructura agraria y rural, condicionan mucho el tema de tenencia de la tierra. Los países con gran población rural y poca superficie disponible tienen que consolidar, ratificar, legalizar y respetar la tenencia de la tierra de los pequeños productores.

Un tema delicado, que ventajosamente no fue puesto con mucha fuerza en el documento, fue el tema de inversiones a gran escala en el uso de la tierra. Algunos sectores piensan que solamente las grandes multinacionales tienen capacidad de manejar la tecnología y producir más y mejor. Nada menos cierto.

Los pequeños productores, sobre los cuales descansa la soberanía alimentaria de los pueblos, las granjas familiares, las fincas familiares, abastecen a la familia y llegan a los mercados con productos básicos. El tema es peligroso porque los países pobres y los pequeños productores se enfrentan con dos problemas: por un lado, la gran capacidad de pago de las grandes multinacionales y, por otro, la inquietante necesidad de los pobres de vender su tierra para tener recursos económicos. Esto puede llevar a engrosar la migración a las ciudades y concentrar la tierra en pocas manos, lo cual es peligroso.

Se avecina una segunda etapa que viene ya del trabajo para los principios, para la inversión responsable en la agricultura. Que se tome muy en cuenta el tema de la no concentración de tierras, del robustecimiento y apoyo a los pequeños y medianos productores en cada uno de los países de acuerdo a su estructura, pero especialmente un tema: no se logró aquí, y ojalá se logre luego, incorporar el criterio de tierra-agua. Ya no es viable en ningún país aplicar tecnologías si no existe capacidad de control del riego para la mejora de la producción y la productividad en el sector agropecuario. Que se tome muy en cuenta la necesidad de incorporar el manejo, el derecho al uso y al control de las aguas por parte de quienes tienen el poder y la tenencia de la tierra.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran thanks the chair of CFS, Ambassador Yaya, and other Members who prepared and concluded the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance on Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in Context of National Food Security.

We acknowledge the importance of the CFS Committee with its heavy responsibility and we hope it can conclude its task. The final results would be when we see the effects of the materialization of this activity in the reduction of hunger in the world, and ultimately, eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Concerning the Guidelines, we believe they are very important and we hope they can facilitate the way for achieving food security in the world. From the beginning we in the Near East Group were in support of the Guidelines and made our best for their approval. Finally, we support endorsement of the document.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

La Delegación de México apoya la ratifica de las Directrices Voluntarias y recomienda que estas se presenten en el 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en junio de 2013. Nuestra Delegación subraya la importancia de difundir las Directrices Voluntarias en los Órganos y Organismos pertinentes de las Naciones Unidas.

Por lo que se refiere al debate anterior, apoyamos el proyecto de decisión que se encuentra propuesto en el documento CL 144/9 (C 2013/20) y señalamos que se tenga en cuenta la intervención hecha por una Delegación, que indicó que ya se estaban preparando trabajos en materia de las Directrices Voluntarias. Creo que esa Delegación se refería a la materia de la estructura de gobernanza, por lo tanto, pensamos que sería muy útil tener informadas las Delegaciones permanentemente sobre los trabajos que el Secretariado está realizando sobre este tema.

Ms PARK Sujin (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea welcomes the conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries, and Forestry which are the product of three years of consultations and negotiations that brought together a wide range of stakeholders. The Republic of Korea would like to express its sincere gratitude to the current Chairperson of CFS, as well as the previous Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, and the Secretariat for the hard work and dedication in the successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Member Nations, civil society, and the private sector have also made enormous efforts towards the conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines. The successful conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines is certainly a milestone that represents that CFS is functioning as the leading global forum for discussion on food security issues, and can serve as a mechanism for consensus-building at the international level. We expect for the Voluntary Guidelines to be included in the relevant work programmes of FAO, in particular by providing assistance to Members in implementing them.

Although the Voluntary Guidelines are not legally-binding, as an instrument, we expect that they have a positive impact in guiding national policies and legislation. Finally, we endorse the Voluntary Guidelines, as was adopted in the Special Session of CFS.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse se félicite particulièrement de l'adoption des Directives volontaires. Mon pays espère que la FAO intègre ces Directives volontaires parmi les priorités du Cadre stratégique révisé, ainsi que les programmes de travail pertinents. Pour nous, la valeur ajoutée des directives sera mesurée à l'aune de leur utilisation future au niveau des pays. La FAO, et de manière plus générale l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, mais aussi les organisations des producteurs et de la société civile, auront un rôle important à jouer dans la phase de mise en œuvre, et la Suisse a l'intention de soutenir leur action. Merci Monsieur le Président.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Observador de Bolivia)

Quería agradecer, Señor Presidente, este trabajo que han hecho de las Directrices. Como vengo del sector campesino de aquellas pequeñas productoras, nosotros hemos vivido en carne propia lo que es la parte del acceso a la tenencia de la tierra. Yo creo que es un paso muy importante que se dé, pero quisiéramos que la FAO tome las acciones en los trabajos regionales que tengamos que trabajar en las diferentes regiones del mundo. Porque si no vemos el tema del acceso a la tenencia de la tierra, es muy difícil que nosotros estemos tocando el tema de la seguridad alimentaria.

Es muy difícil hablar del tema de la participación de la mujer, la participación del género, en la agricultura familiar porque muchas de nuestras hermanas mujeres no tienen ese derecho de acceso a la tenencia de la tierra. Y si no tocamos el tema en profundidad, hasta hoy parecería que estamos tocando maquillajes por encima y no en sí haciendo la discusión de fondo. Porque si queremos de verdad trabajar en el tema de la seguridad alimentaria, reducir este trabajo en la Meta del Milenio, este trabajo tiene que realizarse conjuntamente con políticas que sean estructurales desde cada uno de los países. En una parte de esto estamos nosotros en nuestro país avanzando, pero todavía nos falta muchísimo porque hasta hace seis años en Bolivia —no sé cómo será en el resto del mundo—, solo teníamos el 0,5% de la participación de la mujer al acceso de la tenencia de la tierra. Y yo por eso creo que hoy, si bien tenemos nosotros dentro de la Constitución la participación equitativa de las mujeres al acceso a la tenencia de la tierra, la participación nos falta en otros ámbitos, como el derecho al acceso a los créditos, etc. Porque al no tener la mujer una casa donde vivir o un pedazo de terreno, estamos vetados el acceso con garantías, con cualquier programa que se puede crear por los propios gobiernos en cada país, pero también con las políticas que tenemos en el ámbito internacional.

Por tanto, yo también me sumo a este trabajo que han aprobado hoy día y a la cabeza de las Directrices que se han formado, pero socialicemos en todas las regiones lo que nosotros tenemos en el mundo.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I have nothing to add except to say that Mr Müller, the Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, would definitely be in a position to enlighten us further on this subject. With your permission, I think Mr Müller should be allowed to educate us.

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

First of all, I would like to join all of the delegations who have congratulated CFS, the CFS Chairperson and also the members of the Open-Ended Working Group and the Alternate Chair for having achieved this success.

This is a real milestone, and Brazil has expressed it in a perfect way. Openness and transparency can lead to success, and despite the independent substance of the negotiations, they can be seen as a model of future progress in the multilateral system. I think CFS can really be proud for having achieved this.

I would like to thank all of you for the support expressed in your contributions and for the guidance given on the way forward. And what I would like to do in the next two or three minutes is to concentrate only on the way forward. I would like to start with a general remark. Implementation has

to take place at the country level. Countries will have to take the lead, and these Guidelines are voluntary by definition. And therefore, FAO has to play an important role in supporting countries. Second general comment, this also means that in our deliberations on Strategic Objectives for the Organization, FAO has to ensure that it can really deliver the means of bringing together extra-budgetary resources. I will come back to this, but also Regular Programme resources are important so that FAO can be the Technical Hub for implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines. This has far-reaching consequences because we can do it in partnership. FAO will never do it alone. We need the countries to take the lead. We need other development partners. We need the Rome-based agencies but we also need the private sector and civil society for the Technical Hub to also ensure some quality assurance.

The implementation of the Guidelines has to be done in an appropriate way, keeping in mind, and this is very important, the spirit of the negotiations and the inclusive process. The private sector, civil society, and Governments, all have to be on board in order to implement them. Therefore, I would like to come back now to the five actions we have currently prepared.

Activity number one is the development of strategies with partners for the implementation of the Guidelines. For this reason, we are currently planning what we call a scoping meeting in July, and a meeting September or October, where we will invite all constituencies who have been involved in the negotiations in order to decide how to best develop these implementation strategies.

Action number two is very important, because it involves mobilizing resources. With our Regular Programme, we cannot move one centimeter, and this is a very, very long journey we have to plan. Therefore, a mobilization strategy for resources is important. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some countries who have already committed money, and others with whom we are in discussion. So there will be some additional money available for the implementation of the Guidelines, but there is room for improvement, and I will come back to some of you regarding this matter.

Mobilization of resources also includes a link to FAO's Regular Programme and here I would like to come back to what Uganda has mentioned. I think this was the first contribution this morning where Uganda mentioned the African Union Land Policy Initiative. This Initiative was supported by a TCP, and we are currently working on another TCP to implement it. All of this work is fully in line with the Voluntary Guidelines so that the drive to bring together Regular Programme activities, with TCP's extra-budgetary activities in addition to giving the lead to the countries or the regional organizations is a positive initiative. The example of the African Union is a very good one, and we expect that there will be more requests for implementation at the country level. Therefore, we need to mobilize more money. But we will try to develop a new way of aligning financial resources, extra-budgetary, as well as Regular Programme in addition to the monies from the international financial institutions.

Another model is that the World Bank will ask FAO to support the implementation of the World Bank's programmes on land. These have been significant investments, and they want to have FAO's advice as a neutral body to implement them. Of course, we are ready and the World Bank is presumably willing to finance this venture, otherwise we cannot deliver. So the question of mobilizing financial resources has to be paramount, and there we are building alliances with the international financial institutions.

One of our preferred partners is IFAD, of course. IFAD has already supported the development of the Guidelines. Resources are key, but we have to link them, and here I come back to the Technical Hub at FAO. We have to link the implementation with the creation of a Technical Hub, or a Center of Excellence here in FAO. These Guidelines will only be successfully implemented if FAO keeps its full neutrality. We are the independent platform to support countries. And therefore we need a Technical Hub here.

We are currently developing action number three. One was strategies. Second was mobilizing resources. Three will be a framework programme to implement them, and here we are looking for a multi-partner activity, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Again, this Fund is linked to money. But the substance is very different. The key is dissemination of information. We have to disseminate the Voluntary Guidelines as widely as possible, and I would like to thank all countries who have announced in the meeting that they are translating them, for example, into Portuguese or into other

languages and are disseminating them because we have to bring this information to the greater population. So dissemination is important.

The second action is capacity-building. We know that without capacity-building through various channels, implementation will not work. There are examples in some countries where capacity building is in the forefront. We have to also develop and support the capacities of the countries to respond. This can only be done through partnerships. FAO cannot do it alone. We must begin with the Rome-based partnerships, but there also has to be monitoring and evaluation. Again, this has to be done in full transparency and independence and I think FAO is the best place to support CFS and especially its Chair. Even in the next sessions, a Report has to be presented on what has been achieved there.

Our activity number four goes beyond this support to countries, as it involves the establishment of a facility for the implementation by partners. Why? We have received a lot of requests from partners, “We want to support you in implementation of the guidelines, but we need kind of a gearing house where we can get the support.” So if another UN organization wants to implement the guidelines within their programs and mandate, they need a technical hub where they can ask how we do it and how can we ensure quality and therefore, our idea is to have a very, very small facility for support for countries so that all stakeholders can be supported by this technical group.

I see some of your faces and my reading is this is a call for a lot of money. Yes, it will be, because this milestone to implementation will be an even bigger step forward and we have to ensure that the guidelines will not be presented only in FAO’s library or in libraries of universities but we have to make them work on the ground and therefore the technical support from FAO and we have only a small group. We only have five professionals in FAO so we have to strengthen it and I will come back to you to ask for additional support.

And the last activity that we are currently working on is technical implementation of the Guidelines. One of the guidelines, for example, regards gender. Bolivia has highlighted the importance of the role of women and therefore we have prepared and integrated it in implementation of the Guidelines.

COFO and COFI will also discuss it. We will work on an implementation guideline for forests and fisheries.

There will also be a technical implementation guideline on investment. We have received the request to work on an implementation guideline for indigenous people and other issues related to them. These are all highly technical questions where we are working together with partners to support implementation at the country level. And you can see that this is a programme not only for the next PWB and not only for the next MTP. It will go far beyond, because experience tells us that building up capacities, setting up legal structures, building institutions, and promoting participation of people are efforts which require investment over a longer period of time. We are ready to do this. We have already begun doing so and, of course, we would be happy to continue to keep you informed on the efforts and progress we have made to date. But, again, this is a major issue and it goes far beyond FAO’s mandate and therefore we will work in broad partnership with other UN Organizations, and with the private sector and civil society.

My last comment is that we have raised a lot of expectations because the partners are coming to FAO and they want us to support their work. This is a good sign, because they consider FAO as being in the center of things, and we will be happy to work together here with the Rome-based Agencies in fulfilling this task.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Müller, de ces informations et de ce cadre. Je vous propose donc de lire les propositions de conclusion qui pourraient être transmises au Comité de rédaction: Le Conseil a pris connaissance du Rapport de la 38^{ème} session extraordinaire du CSA (Rome, 11 mai 2012) et supporte ses décisions et recommandations. Le Conseil approuve les Directives volontaires pour une Gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Le Conseil demande aussi que la FAO mette en place des mesures de suivie appropriées, afin d’assurer la plus large application possible de ces Directives et que

les Membres de la FAO soient régulièrement informés des progrès accomplis. Le Conseil encourage toutes les parties prenantes à promouvoir et à utiliser les directives, ainsi qu'à valoriser leur application à l'heure de formuler des stratégies, des politiques et des programmes dans les domaines de la sécurité alimentaire, de la nutrition, de l'agriculture et des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches, et aux forêts. Le Conseil demande à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, par le biais du Conseil économique et social, d'approuver les directives et de veiller à ce qu'elles soient largement diffusées, auprès des institutions et organismes pertinents du Système des Nations Unies. Enfin, le Conseil demande à l'Organisation, la FAO, de veiller à ce que les directives soient inscrites parmi les priorités du nouveau Cadre stratégique révisé 2010-19, et que la FAO est en train de mettre en place, et prises en considération dans les programmes les plus pertinents.

Voilà ce que nous avons pu tirer comme conclusions qui réaffirment les positions du CSA, et qui engagent la FAO. Voilà donc ce qui sera transmis.

Je voudrais quand même à mon tour remercier l'ensemble des Membres qui ont participé à ce travail colossal, qui met en valeur le travail du CSA, mais aussi qui fait reconnaître encore plus le rôle important de la FAO dans la lutte durable contre la faim dans le monde. Je voudrais remercier particulièrement son Président, et s'il me le permet, d'y associer aussi son prédécesseur Noel De Luna, qui aujourd'hui est parmi les délégués dans la salle, parce que c'est un travail continu. Ils y ont contribué fortement tous les deux, bien sûr avec l'ensemble des cadres de la Maison.

20. Progress Report on the Establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

20. Rapport de situation sur l'établissement de la Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques

20. Informe sobre los progresos realizados respecto del establecimiento de la Plataforma intergubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicios de los ecosistemas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons au sujet suivant. À l'heure qu'il est je suis obligé quand même de vous dire que si vous pouvez de temps en temps raccourcir vos interventions, non pas pour que nous puissions voir le premier match de football, parce que pour le premier qui est à cinq heures, c'est raté, mais peut-être pour le deuxième à 21 heures.

Nous avons encore beaucoup de travail à faire. Je ne veux surtout pas vous empêcher d'intervenir parce que je crois que l'essentiel de notre Conseil, c'est que le maximum de personnes interviennent. Mais si vous pouvez réduire de temps en temps, cela serait mieux. Ceci s'adresse à vous tous, aux membres du Secrétariat aussi.

Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole à Monsieur Müller, pour nous parler du Rapport de situation sur l'Établissement de la Plateforme intergouvernementale, scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques.

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

I would like to briefly provide some additional information on the document CL 144/19 on the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). I would like to start with answering a question I received during lunch time.

In the document, in the summary, and in the suggested action by the Council, we are making reference to the location of IPBES and the fact that UN Bodies should co-host it. I would like to provide some clarification on this before giving you some more information. The IPBES meeting has decided to decouple the legal question of who is hosting the Secretariat. It should be four UN Agencies, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, and FAO as far as the physical location is concerned. So these four organizations are co-hosting it. We have to provide the organizational structure, and there was a call to countries to offer Host Country Agreements. It was decided in the last meeting that the IPBES should be located in

Bonn, Germany. Independent of the country of location, all four UN Agencies have to work on the organizational structure, including the legal basis of this International Platform.

I would like to provide some information on the way forward. Currently, the four UN Agencies are preparing for the First Plenary Meeting of IPBES which might take place in January or February 2013. The exact time is not decided and, as far as I know, the location is also not finally decided. But this First Plenary Meeting will discuss and decide the Rules of Procedure for the meeting of the Platform, which means that many bureaucratic discussions will take place with some important implications, including funding and financial rules for the Platform, procedures for the nomination and selection of reviewers, editors, authors for the Platform's work, procedures for the preparation of assessments, review, acceptance, and policy have to be developed to resolve possible conflicts of interest for participants of the Platform. Considerable work needs to be done, and we must also decide what aspect of the Platform we shall handle first. Here I would like to provide some more information.

At the meeting of IPBES, it was decided that this new Platform is a policy science interface. It should be of relevance for policies, but not policy perspectives. This means that the work of IPBES, based on preparations of the Secretariat, will have to fit into policies. IPBES, however, will not decide on policies, which means that other Governing Bodies, other than IPBES Governing Bodies, will have to discuss implementation, and will have to discuss policy relevance. Here I see a big role for FAO because agriculture, as we all know, including fisheries and forests, is the biggest manager of ecosystems, and there is no way to manage ecosystems in a sustainable way without sustainable agriculture. Therefore, a large portion of the work of IPBES falls under the purview and mandate of FAO. We therefore have to ensure that the agricultural sector is well represented in the Secretariat as well as at the Plenary Meeting.

I would like to say that this implies that at national level, the preparatory process for the next Plenary Meeting has to include agriculture. Agriculture is the main provider of inputs for this Platform, and agriculture must have a strong voice in the Plenary Meeting at the beginning of next year.

As far as FAO is concerned, we have begun to discuss what could be our contribution to IPBES, and I would like to give you an example. At COAG you endorsed the initiative to establish the Global Soil Partnership. Therefore, IPBES could, for example, at the request of the proposed Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, provide scientific assessments relating to soils which could then assist our CFP in providing scientific and technical advice. To say it with less technical language, we should use our work in FAO to inform IPBES, and we should also ask IPBES to undertake assessments of relevance to our work, not to be policy prescriptive but to inform us and to ensure coherence between the different sectors, agriculture, industry, urbanization, etc. We have therefore referred to possible actions of this sort in the document for consideration by the Council.

The Council may wish to welcome FAO's cooperation with other UN Bodies in preparation for the joint proposal for the Secretariat, reaffirm FAO's commitment to co-host the Platform together with other UN Bodies, and call upon Members to provide extra-budgetary resources to support FAO's contribution to the Platform.

I would really like to thank countries that have already committed support to IPBES, on behalf of FAO, because we can only do our work if we can count on your continued support. Therefore, Chairperson, I would like to end with this brief Report, and I would be happy, together with Ms Linda Collette, the Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources, to answer all of your questions.

Sr. Alan ROMERO ZAVALA (México)

En México, hemos recibido con agrado el Informe sobre los progresos realizados respecto del establecimiento de la Plataforma Intergubernamental Científico-Normativa sobre Biodiversidad y Servicios de Ecosistemas. En las negociaciones de la Plataforma, México apoyó la propuesta conjunta de la administración de la Secretaría presentada por las cuatro Agencias de Naciones Unidas: el PNUMA, la UNESCO, el PNUD y la FAO, reconociendo la importancia de aprovechar las fortalezas y experiencia de cada una de estas Agencias de acuerdo a sus mandatos.

No obstante, de conformidad con las recomendaciones hechas por los participantes de la segunda sesión plenaria de la Plataforma, es importante recalcar que las cuatro Agencias deben continuar trabajando en la elaboración de una propuesta más detallada.

Con relación a las recomendaciones que indican que el compromiso de la FAO para patrocinar la Secretaría depende de que los costos se cubran con recursos extra-presupuestarios y para los cuales se contempla solicitar a los Países Miembros estos recursos extra-presupuestarios, consideramos necesario subrayar que estas contribuciones deberán ser voluntarias y de acuerdo a las posibilidades de cada País Miembro de la Organización.

Consideramos asimismo pertinente, manifestar nuestro beneplácito por la cooperación que ha realizado la FAO con las otras Agencias de las Naciones Unidas en la preparación de la propuesta conjunta para el patrocinio de la Secretaría de la Plataforma. Dado el hecho que la FAO es un actor muy destacado y un socio natural de la misma. En este sentido, creemos que la FAO debe promover la participación de otros organismos internacionales que se encuentran también estrechamente vinculados con la conservación de la biodiversidad, como son el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, el Convenio sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres, y la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du document CL 144/19 relatif au Rapport de situation sur l'Établissement de la Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques.

Conscient que les secteurs de l'agriculture, la foresterie et la pêche doivent évoluer vers des systèmes de production durables, le Groupe Afrique encourage la mise en place de cette Plateforme, qui vise à la préservation de la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques. Notre groupe appuie la création de cette Plateforme et se félicite de la coopération entre la FAO et d'autres Agences des Nations Unies, à savoir le PNUE, l'UNESCO et le PNUD, au fin de l'organisation des sessions de la Réunion plénière et de l'élaboration de la Proposition conjointe concernant l'accueil du Secrétariat de la Plateforme.

Le Groupe Afrique appuie la proposition de la FAO à accueillir le Secrétariat de la Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques en collaboration avec d'autres Agences des Nations Unies, sous réserve que les dépenses soient couvertes par des ressources extra-budgétaires et les dépenses d'appui administratives et opérationnelles soient remboursées comme il convient, conformément à la politique de la FAO en matière de dépenses d'appui.

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Australia very much welcomes the establishment of the IPBES, and believes it will make a very significant contribution to strengthening the science policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Australia is very much supportive of the Joint Bid and especially FAO's role in the Joint Bid from the UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to host the IPBES Secretariat. Australia sees that the Draft Agreement between the four Agencies presented at the Second Session of the Plenary for IPBES held in Panama City in April 2012 is a very good basis for the discussion. We note that the final collaborative arrangements between them may have to be agreed during a future subsequent meeting of the IPBES Plenary. We would also note that the four UN Agencies need to confirm the details of their support through the decisions of the Governing Bodies, such as we're having at the moment, and/or the approval of the heads of the Organizations.

Australia would like to note that the FAO Conference, at its 37th Session, authorized the Director-General to offer to establish and co-host or otherwise support this Platform with the other relevant Agencies. However, we would like to reiterate that, as our colleague from Mexico has said, that the costs be met through the extra-budgetary resources with the appropriate administrative and operational costs being reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing FAO support cost policy.

Like many others, at the Second Session of the Plenary Meeting held in Panama City, Australia sees that there is some merit in a single UN Agency taking the lead in hosting the Secretariat with the rules and regulations of that Agency governing the staffing of the Secretariat. Australia, would, however, prefer that UNEP or UNESCO be the lead Organization, rather than the FAO, as the IPBES's mandate and subject matter coverage is much wider than that of the FAO and aligns better with that of the UNEP or UNESCO. FAO could still participate, however, in the Joint Hosting Arrangements through the secondment of staff and experts as required, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The EU thanks the FAO for this clear and concise presentation. The EU welcomes the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and calls for an early initiation of its work. We agree with the decision part of the content and we welcome, in particular, the close cooperation between UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, and UNDP, on their joint proposal for hosting the Secretariat for the Platform. We encourage the future collaboration in contributing to the IPBES reports. FAO has full legitimacy to contribute to this work on the food and agricultural biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mr Olyntho VIERA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat, Mr Müller, for the presentation of this important paper. We thank you very much for the document. We also understand the importance of this work, and are enthusiastic about the preservation of the biodiversity. Perhaps we had an interesting example this morning when I talked about the importance of quinoa as a new solution that is safe for the sustainability problem. So we are very enthusiastic about the theme.

However, as it was remarked by Mexico and Australia, we understand that the contributions should be voluntary, and the FAO should encourage full support cost recovery for the operations.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada believes that the scope of the Platform should include biodiversity, science of bio-resource sectors, including agriculture, but also fisheries and forestry. Therefore, we certainly support the FAO's involvement in this initiative. I would also reiterate, however, that this should be undertaken on the basis of extra-budgetary funding.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We appreciate the Progress Report on the IPBES by Mr Müller, and we encourage FAO to play an active role in the Platform, regardless of the status. Inter-organizational cooperation is a key to address cross-cutting issues such as biodiversity and ecosystems. The contribution of FAO within the Platform will benefit us in achieving FAO's cross-cutting Strategic Objectives which are currently being formulated. We look forward to future Progress Reports on this initiative.

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

First of all, as decided by you, we can only contribute when we have sufficient extra-budgetary resources. This matter will always come back to you. The UN Agencies have decided to work together, as requested by the IPBES Plenary Meeting, although UNEP has currently taken the lead for this initiative but the final decision as to which Agency will exert the lead role will be taken at the First Plenary Meeting. I have taken note of Australia, that UNESCO or UNEP would be better choices. However, the final decision shall be taken by the Member Nations.

This Platform is also open to others, such as the CBD, mentioned by Mexico. Trade has to play a role, and there are other organizations. But it was decided by Member Nations that the four Agencies have to initiate the preparatory work, otherwise this Platform will never really get underway.

The extent of FAO involvement was also discussed. I am referring to the proposal for secondment of staff. I have to say that technically, there is a question whether we should second staff or if we should outpost staff. This has to be decided and, therefore, I would really ask you to give us some flexibility. Based on the nature of extra-budgetary resources we receive, it may not be possible to second staff. Maybe we have to outpost staff or maybe we have to envisage a different arrangement.

There is also the ongoing discussion that the physical location in Bonn will be quite small, and the four Agencies could provide support through a network, again, based on extra-budgetary resources. Australia had mentioned that secondment could be one option, but there are also other options.

There is an issue which was mentioned by some of you, the relevance of agriculture, and I really see that our cross-cutting expertise is key for IPBES. Our idea was, at least in our internal discussions, that we should not start creating new workloads but we should offer what FAO is already doing, such as the work on soil biodiversity or the ongoing work on the global soil partnership. In so doing, we would be taking parts of the work already done to IPBES as part of an FAO contribution so that we would not need to raise significant amounts of extra-budgetary funds.

And, by the way, I also think that the work we are currently doing is of high relevance for IPBES.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Müller. Je vous propose les conclusions suivantes:

- Le Conseil se félicite de la coopération entre le FAO et d'autres Agences des Nations Unies pour élaborer une Proposition conjointe, en vue de l'accueil du Secrétariat de la Plateforme.
- Le Conseil réaffirme l'engagement de la FAO à co-héberger la Plateforme en collaboration avec d'autres Agences des Nations Unies.
- Le Conseil invite les États Membres à fournir des ressources extra-budgétaires pour financer la contribution de l'organisation à la Plateforme.

Voilà les conclusions que je vous propose de transmettre après cette présentation, en me félicitant de voir les collaborations des plateformes communes entre les Agences que, bien souvent ici, nous appelons de nos vœux.

15. FAO's contribution to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020: for discussion and decision

15. Contribution de la FAO au Programme d'action en faveur des pays les moins avancés pour la décennie 2011-2020: pour examen et décision

15. Contribución de la FAO al Programa de Acción en favor de los países menos adelantados para el decenio 2011-2020: para debate y decisión

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 15: «Contribution de la FAO au programme d'action en faveur des pays les moins avancés pour la décennie 2011-2020.»

Je donne toute suite la parole à Monsieur Boubaker Ben Belhassen, Fonctionnaire principal de la Division du commerce et des marchés, pour nous présenter ce sujet.

Mr Boubaker BEN BELHASSEN (FAO Staff)

It is a great pleasure for me to be presenting to you this agenda item related to the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the LDCs. The document for this agenda item is CL 144/18.

The 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011. It was convened with three main objectives. First, to review the results of the 10-year Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-10 which was adopted at the 3rd UN Conference on the LDCs in Brussels in 2001. That was also known as the Brussels Program of Action for the LDCs. The second objective was to develop and adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs for the coming decade 2011-20. The third main objective was to

reaffirm the commitment of the international community, and mobilize additional required and international support in favor of the LDCs.

Just to give you a brief background, the 1st United Nations Conference on the LDCs was convened by the UN General Assembly in Paris in 1981 to respond to the growing and specific needs of this group of countries. Then, to continue the focus on the need for the specific measures required by the LDCs, the 2nd Conference was convened in 1990, also in Paris. The 3rd Conference was held in 2001 in Brussels, and resulted in the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the period 2001-10.

To give you an idea of the group of the Least Developed Countries, the group consists of 48 countries with 33 of these countries located in Africa, 14 in Asia Pacific, and 1 country in the Caribbean. The cumulative population is about 900 million, representing about 13 percent of the global population, and they represent the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the global community. This group is, in fact, a heterogeneous group of countries, but nevertheless they share similar characteristics. These include constraints such as: low per capita income, low level of human development and economic and structural obstacles, or handicaps to growth, that limit their development and inhibit their ability to strengthen their resilience to shocks.

They are the most off-track in terms of achieving the MDGs and also many of the Least Developed Countries are net food importers, which has increased their vulnerability, especially recently in the context of increasingly volatile food prices and the global economic and financial crisis.

Now returning to the first objective of the 4th UN Conference in Istanbul which was to assess the achievement with regard to the Brussels Programme of Action, it was found that during the decade of this programme, 2001-10, the Least Developed Countries made some progress in economic, social and human development. However, the goals are far from having been reached.

For example, 75 percent of the LDC's populations still live in extreme poverty. There was also limited impact on employment creation and poverty reduction. LDCs also continue to face serious problems and handicaps like limited productive capacities, severe infrastructure deficits, and as a result, they have been unable to overcome their constraints and transform their economies.

The conclusion that was reached at the Istanbul Conference was that a more strategic, comprehensive and sustained approach was required to achieve the established goals. Now, turning to the Istanbul Programme of Action, the programme is for the decade 2011-20. Its overarching goal is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally-agreed development goals, and enable graduation from the LDC category.

One specific aim of the programme is to enable half of the members of the LDCs, that is 24 countries out of the total of 48 countries, to meet the criteria for graduation from this group by the year 2020. This is expected to be achieved mainly through sustainable, sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth of over 37 percent per annum.

The Istanbul Programme of Action is focused on more realistic commitments to bring about the structural transformation in the LDCs that trigger accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in meeting both long-standing and emerging challenges.

But also, it builds on two lessons learned from the Brussels Programme of Action worth mentioning. Actions need to take into account the specific geographical constraints of the concerned countries. This was due to the diversity among the countries in this group. Also noted was the need for greater ownership and leadership by the Least Developed Countries, and acceptance of responsibility to achieve the goals of the Programme of Action.

The Istanbul Programme of Action is organized into 8 priority areas, most of which are relevant to the work of FAO. These are productive capacity for infrastructure, energy, technology, innovation and private sector development. The second area affects agriculture, food security, and rural development. You know very well that agriculture plays an important role for almost all of the LDCs, in providing food security and as an important economic activity. The third priority area relates to trade. Though it was noted during the last years there was some growth regarding the trade share of the LDCs, their

agricultural productivity remains very low. In fact, it is only a little bit over 1 percent of the global trade in merchandise. Then the fourth area is on commodities. Many LDCs remain commodity dependent, and some of them depend on the exports of one or two major commodities. The fifth area is in human and social development. The sixth area is on the multiple crisis and other emerging challenges, including climate change and means of enhancing the resilience of the LDCs. Then, the seventh area is on mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building. In fact, during the review of the first decade, 2001-10 of the Programme of Action, it was noted that a larger share of the development funds had gone to a kind of social aid instead of improving LDC productive capacity, for the economies to become more productive and competitive. Then, the eighth area which is an important element, is to ensure good governance at all levels.

As regards the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, it is fair that it represents enhanced commitment for the LDCs, but an important feature is that it also calls for increased and strengthened partnerships among all of the relevant actors and stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. The Programme of Action, in paragraph 146 of the document, invites the Governing Bodies of the UN funds and programmes and other relevant multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, to contribute to its implementation and to integrate it, or at least its relevant sections, into their own work programmes, as appropriate.

Here is the relevance for FAO. Both the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in June 2011, and the ECOSOC Resolution which followed in July 2011, endorsed the Istanbul Programme of Action, calling upon all of the relevant stakeholders to commit to its implementation.

FAO, already in the preparatory process leading to the 4th Conference on the LDCs in Istanbul, had organized some events related to food security and agriculture in this group of countries. In particular, one event was organized in York and another in Istanbul in parallel to the 4th Conference. Currently, FAO is participating with the Rome-based Agencies, WFP and IFAD, in the group dealing with the second pillar of the Programme of Action which is agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural development to see how the relevant components of the Programme could be integrated to the work programmes of the three Agencies.

Regarding the suggested action by the Council at its 123rd Session in 2002, the Council of FAO expressed its strong support to the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs, and called on FAO to continue to participate within the framework of its work programme in the implementation of its relevant sections.

Similar to the decision taken with regard to the Brussels Programme of Action, the Council may wish to do the same for the new Istanbul Programme of Action. Specifically, the Council may wish to express its support to the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2011-20, and to call on FAO to integrate its relevant sections into FAO's work programme and to continue to assist the LDCs in their implementation.

Mme Sónia Cristina MARTINS (Cap-Vert)

Le Cap Vert doit prendre la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique concernant ce point. Nous aimerions aussi féliciter la présentation qui a été faite sur ce point 15 de l'agenda du Conseil.

Le groupe régional d'Afrique se félicite de l'attention accordée par le Conseil de la FAO à ce thème et nous sommes de l'avis que le Programme d'action d'Istanbul adopté à la 4^{ème} Conférence des Nations Unies sur les Pays les moins avancés qui s'est tenue dans cette ville en mai 2011, pourrait aider à surmonter les problèmes structurels qui se posent dans les Pays en développement afin d'éliminer la pauvreté, atteindre les objectifs des développements définis sur le plan international et de leur permettre de sortir de la Liste des pays les moins avancés.

Dans ce contexte, les politiques nationales des pays les moins avancés et les mesures à prendre par les partenaires du développement devront être axées sur certains objectifs spécifiques de façon à répondre aux critères de reclassification d'ici à 2020.

Ces objectifs spécifiques se résument pour atteindre une croissance économique soutenue, équitable et inclusive d'au moins sept pour cent par an à travers le renforcement des capacités de production dans tous les secteurs.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs ambitieux, le Programme d'action d'Istanbul met un accent particulier sur la nécessité d'avoir un partenariat renouvelé et renforcé qui sera guidé par certains principes, notamment la volonté des Pays les moins avancés de prendre en mains leur propre développement en assumant la direction, la responsabilité, soit disant le leadership, de leur processus de développement.

La démarche intégrée, la solidarité et un véritable travail de partenariat sont aussi des principes très importants. Tenant compte que les pays moins avancés sont les plus vulnérables et, tenant compte aussi des caractéristiques diversifiées de ces pays, dont la majorité se trouve dans le continent africain, nous tenons avant tout à souligner l'importance d'avoir des politiques nationales efficaces, lesquelles devraient se traduire notamment dans les mesures préconisées par le Programme d'action d'Istanbul.

Le partenariat renouvelé et renforcé englobe le Système des Nations Unies, y compris tous les organismes spécialisés ainsi que d'autres institutions conformément à leurs mandats respectifs.

Le groupe Afrique réitère, une fois de plus, son soutien à cet important Programme et souligne l'importance d'avoir un engagement de toutes les Agences, Fonds et Programmes des Nations Unies, y compris la FAO, qui certainement jouera un rôle majeur dans la mise en œuvre plus concrètement dans les domaines prioritaires qui la concerne.

Nous croyons que la participation de la FAO aux Groupes de travail sur l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et le développement rural au titre du deuxième pilier de ce Programme permettra aussi d'assurer une véritable articulation et des synergies entre le Programme de travail de la FAO et les domaines prioritaires du Programme.

La FAO doit, de l'avis de notre Groupe, insérer et placer ce Programme au cœur de son Programme de travail et, à ce propos, nous sommes aussi conscients du fait que la FAO dispose des avantages comparatifs qui permettront d'agir et d'intervenir avec efficacité en vue de promouvoir un développement soutenu des Pays les moins avancés, de lutter contre la faim, la malnutrition: en une parole, pour un monde meilleur.

Nous nous félicitons de l'attention que sera apporté par la FAO aux défis et priorités des Pays en développement, particulièrement ceux que se trouvent sur le continent africain en, notamment trouvant des moyens pour faire face aux risques associés aux fluctuations des prix des denrées alimentaires qui menacent la sécurité alimentaire.

Les recommandations de la récente Conférence régionale d'Afrique, qui s'est tenue à Brazzaville, propose clairement à la FAO de cibler davantage ses interventions en fonction des avantages comparatifs dans des domaines clefs pour la Région africaine. Ceci signifie que la FAO devra concentrer ses efforts, notamment au développement des projets d'investissements pour les infrastructures agricoles qui permettront de réduire les pertes après récolte, fournir des conseils sur la conception et la gestion des infrastructures agricoles comme aussi les systèmes d'irrigation, les installations de stockage et de la transformation agricole. Il est aussi important que la FAO appuie les Pays en développement en ce qui concerne l'élaboration, le renforcement des stratégies d'atténuation des effets du changement climatique.

Une attention particulière devrait être consacrée aux petits exploitants en mettant en place des filets de sécurité alimentaire, la fourniture des engrais et d'autres services. Nous insistons aussi sur la nécessité d'accroître les ressources pour la mise en œuvre des programmes visant au développement social et économique dont bénéficient les femmes et les jeunes.

La FAO devra aussi aider les pays à élaborer et revoir les politiques de commercialisation agricole nationale et sous-régionale bien que la mise en œuvre des cadres réglementaires régisse des échanges commerciaux.

Nous recommandons également le développement des partenariats entre les organismes des secteurs publics et privés visant la création d'emplois et d'investissements agricoles et le soutien à la mise en œuvre des actions visant à une bonne gouvernance à tous les niveaux.

Nous encourageons vivement la participation active de la société civile et de la promotion de la Coopération Sud-Sud et nous espérons pouvoir travailler ensemble pour la construction d'un

partenariat renouvelé et renforcé axé sur les résultats quantifiables, progressifs et cohérents en faveur des Pays les moins avancés.

Mr Peter VENDELBOE (Denmark)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We believe that building resilience to natural and economic shocks as well as climate change is the right approach to ensure sustainable development, not only from a cost-efficient perspective but also to enhance the livelihoods of people living in rural poverty. Therefore, great emphasis has to be put on the Least Developed Countries. The EU would like to express its support for the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted at the 4th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul in May 2011.

We agree that a crucial part of success is the commitment from the developing countries themselves which have the ownership and primary responsibility for their own development. However, as weak institutional structures and a lack of checks and balances are devastating for development, the enhanced commitment has to go hand-in-hand with the focus on good governance. There is a joint responsibility to strengthen weak institutions as well as to enhance the commitment. In this view, FAO has a major comparative advantage in guiding and assisting developing countries to translate policies and the Plans of Action into concrete and efficient missions in the national development strategies. We also note that the relevant parts of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the five specific objectives are, to a large extent, already mainstreamed within the programme of work of FAO.

Nevertheless, FAO has to continue to promote these objectives in areas such as climate-smart investments and human capacity-development, especially in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women. In conclusion, the EU urges all stakeholders to commit themselves to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Mr Alan ROMERO ZAVALA (México)

Brevemente, solamente para expresar el apoyo de México al Programa de Acción de Estambul, y señalar que nos sumamos a la solicitud para que la FAO incorpore las partes pertinentes del Programa de Acción de Estambul en el Programa de Trabajo de la Organización y continúe presentando apoyo a los Países Menos Adelantados en la ejecución de las secciones pertinentes del Programa de Acción. Si bien México reconoce la importancia de brindar apoyo a los Países Menos Adelantados, también es importante hacer énfasis en la necesidad de crear sinergias en materia de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Cooperación Triangular como mecanismos complementarios de la cooperación tradicional.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The title of the paper is FAO's Contribution to the Programme of Action of the LDCs, but in the paper there is nothing about FAO's contribution. It is entirely a relisting of the eight areas of action proposed in the Istanbul Conference.

I consider this to be a little unfortunate because LDCs are nothing new to FAO. FAO has been involved in LDCs for a long time, and so a lot of work has been done there. Let me say a few things that could have been said in the paper. For instance, out of the 74 fully-fledged FAO Country Offices, there are 37 that are in LDCs, quite a large proportion. The LDCs are only 48.

Moreover, in the Decentralization paper that we discussed earlier this week, four additional posts were proposed, two in Asia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, and two in Central Asia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. All four are LDCs, so LDCs receive priority from this angle.

Moreover, out of the 48 LDCs, 25 are considered to be fragile states, and I recall that the Director-General, in one of his statements, said that he will give priority to the fragile states. In fact, his first visit was to Somalia which is both an LDC and a fragile state. The paper could have said how much of TCP is going to LDCs. Quite a lot goes to LDCs. And there are lots of TCP programmes for LDCs, mostly for emergency projects, but probably also a good proportion also for the development process.

The paper could have said how many country programme priority frameworks have been prepared for the LDCs and what are the outcomes. What does it mean? The paper could even mention how many Members of the LDCs are in the Council, and also Members of the other Technical Committees. This is very important.

I think that withholding this very valuable information is not good. If this information was provided, it would improve the image of FAO and demonstrate that it is doing something for LDCs. As to the rest of the programme, everyone has accepted the Istanbul Programme of Action. The General Assembly has approved it. The Council has approved it.

There is one other area which has not been mentioned. Several programmes of action placed strong emphasis on South-South Cooperation. There is nothing in it in the paper.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its support for the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted at the 4th UN Conference on LDCs in Istanbul in May 2011. We also call on FAO to integrate administering the relevant part of the IPO in the programme of the work of the Organization and continue to support existing LDCs in the implementation of the relevant sections of the Programme of Action. We believe that, in keeping with the importance of South-South Cooperation as the distinguished delegate of Afghanistan mentioned, FAO should assist LDCs in these endeavours.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius supports fully the statement made by Cape Verde on behalf of the Africa Group, and Mauritius thanks also the Secretariat for the preparation of this very comprehensive paper and agrees also with regard to the addition of points like South-South Cooperation.

Mauritius is very grateful also to the Secretariat for having included in paragraph 8 about the Least Developed Countries, the reference to the Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. These are among the fragile countries mentioned a few minutes ago by Afghanistan. Mauritius expresses support for the Istanbul Programme of Action together with the Africa Group and the other previous speakers.

With regard to the other Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, we heard the differences among them this morning in the intervention by Trinidad and Tobago. We also find that among these vulnerabilities referred to, one area of priority is very well expressed in paragraph 6 regarding multiple crises and emerging challenges. I think all of these countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island Developing States, and the Least Developed Countries would identify themselves certainly in this priority area in paragraph 6. I would call on FAO to integrate and mainstream the relevant parts of the IPOA into the programme of work of the Organization, and continue to support LDCs. I think we should add the Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in the implementation of the relevant sections of the Programme of Action.

Ms Makkbule KOCAK (Observer for Turkey)

As indicated by Denmark, Turkey aligns itself with the EU's statement and welcomes the document CL 144/18. My country gives particular importance to the results of the LDC Conference and follows the latest developments that emerged in the process after the Conference. Turkey has also started to work in line with the targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action covering the period of 2011-20, by aiming to reduce the poverty levels of the 48 Least Developed Countries and contribute to their development. In this framework, an economic and technical cooperation package has been announced by our Prime Minister, and a target of allocation of resources totalling USD 200 million annually by Turkey for LDCs has been determined as of 2012. The planned activities include also projects in the fields of agriculture and food security. Moreover, we aim to increase the amount of investment by the Turkish private sector in the Least Developed Countries to USD 5 billion committed until the end of 2015.

In this context, Turkey strongly supports FAO integrating the Istanbul Programme of Action into its programme of work, as we believe FAO has an important role to play in the implementation of this Istanbul programme of Action.

Mr Boubaker BEN BELHASSEN (FAO Staff)

First of all, I wish to thank all of the delegates for the important comments and of course, the support expressed for FAO's work in this area. Concerning the comment regarding the scope of the paper, I think maybe there is a little bit of discrepancy but the paper really meant to highlight the different sections or elements of the Programme of Work, the new elements were adopted one year ago in Istanbul and their applicability to FAO's activities.

In fact, we report on FAO's activities in LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries, and since we report on this annually, both to the UN Secretary General and also to ECOSOC, these are big documents, I think our last submission, if I recall, was over 20 pages long on the different activities. We should recognize that in FAO we don't have a unit dealing with specific programmes for LDCs. The LDCs are covered by the various activities, and then it becomes a task when we try to compile Reports on them. But I recognize that maybe, in the future, we should report on our activities with figures and with projects that are undertaken in those countries.

I think the second comment made about the South-South Cooperation was important. Even the Programme of Action itself recognizes the importance of South-South Cooperation which also fits very well into FAO activities, since it is one of the pillars of our new Director-General's vision for the Organization. So this is an important element as a vehicle for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

This is more or less, I think, the comments which were made. Again, I thank all of the delegates and duly take note of the support. Thank you again.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose deux points de conclusions: «Le Conseil exprime son soutien au Programme d'action d'Istanbul adopté à la 4^{ème} Conférence des Nations Unies sur le pays le moins avancés qui s'est tenue à Istanbul, en Turquie, en mai 2011. Le Conseil demande à la FAO d'intégrer dans son programme de travail, les sections pertinentes du programme d'action d'Istanbul et de continuer à aider les pays les moins avancés à mettre en œuvre les parties du Programme les intéressant.» Voilà ce que je vous propose de mettre en place en vous remerciant de votre contribution.

Avant de passer au point 16, je voudrais juste vous donner une petite information. Le Brésil m'a saisi d'une intervention qu'ils n'ont pas pu faire ce matin concernant le point 13, mais qui est un soutien au point 13 et qui ne remet pas de tout en cause les conclusions. Ils demandent s'ils peuvent être intégrés dans le verbatim ce que me je suis permis, en votre nom, d'accepter si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénients.

16. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15

16. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2012-2015

16. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2012-15

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose d'aller de l'avant avec ce que nous devons faire cet après-midi puisque nous sommes au point 16, le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2012-15. Ceci est dans le document de référence CL 144/INF/3 et notre discussion est conforme aux actions 270 et 271 du PAI. Le Conseil a établi son premier Programme de travail pluriannuel qu'il a adopté à la 140^{ème} session en 2010, et que la conférence a ensuite approuvé en juillet 2011. La Conférence a convenu que le programme de travail pluriannuel est un outil de planification utile et doit constituer un point permanent de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil. Comme vous avez le document, je m'arrête ici mais, bien sûr, je suis à l'écoute de tout commentaire que vous pouvez faire à ce sujet.

Mme Sónia Cristina MARTINS (Cap-Vert)

Je vous remercie de donner encore une fois la parole pour parler au nom du Groupe régional d'Afrique. Nous nous félicitons des réajustements introduits dans le Calendrier des sessions et le Programme de travail du Conseil, en alignement avec le plan d'actions immédiates dans le but de garantir une meilleure structuration de ces travaux et la focalisation de ces délibérations pour l'avenir. Nous aimerions souligner l'importance d'avoir une approche proactive et un dialogue franche et régulier avec les Comités et les Groupes régionaux, ainsi que le suivi régulier des recommandations des Conférences régionales, particulièrement la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique. Nous félicitons la FAO pour les avances enregistrées concernant la révision du cadre stratégique 2010-19, et que ce point soit inscrit dans l'Ordre du jour des Organes directeurs.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'attention particulière qui sera portée par la FAO à la question de l'Évaluation des réformes de la gouvernance, prévue au PAI, et nous accordons notre plein soutien à la FAO pour mettre en œuvre sa Vision du changement transformationnel formulée par Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO.

Travaillons ensemble pour éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Mr Peter VENDELBOE (Denmark)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes document CL 144/INF/3, *Council Multi Year Program of Work 2012-15*. We note that the MYPOW reflects many of the actions from 2.14 to 2.34 in the Immediate Plan of Action. We consider this living document a good planning tool for the work of the council for the coming years. The EU thinks that the proposed consultations on Governance, including the role, responsibilities, and resources of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, should be included in the MYPOW. The EU would like to stress the importance of securing the Calendar of the biennium to ensure the plan's sequence of the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees, and Council. Finally, the EU would like to draw attention to the need to find an appropriate way of accommodating the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America in the MYPOW.

Mme Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

Je veux simplement remercier l'Europe pour avoir demandé la même chose que je voulais demander de la part de l'Amérique du Nord, que les résultats de notre Conférence informelle soient ajoutés à la 149^{ème} session du Conseil, et que nous appuyons aussi les points faits par le Cap-Vert à propos de ce Programme et combien c'est utile.

Mr Jorge E. SOLARES (United States of America)

The US thanks the FAO Secretariat for producing CL 144/INF/3. As we stated at the 140th and 143rd Sessions of the Council, we thought the holding of Informal Seminars in order to improve the draft MYPOW was a useful step in the right direction. However, as we have also noted at the 140th and 143rd Sessions of the Council, it is important to have strong, measurable outputs, indicators, and targets.

The US feels that the MYPOW for 2012-15 can still be improved. Currently, the outputs, indicators, and targets are not as strong as they should be and briefly, we believe that the MYPOW should include and continue to be modified and developed more thoroughly, which would result in an improved planning tool for FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose comme conclusion: le Conseil prend note des commentaires positifs qui ont été faits sur le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2012-15, y compris les changements apportés, en intégrant la Conférence régionale informelle américaine et en intégrant tous les points du PAI qui concernent la Gouvernance et qui ne sont pas terminés.

17. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 143rd Session of the Council**17. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 143^{ème} session****17. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 143.º período de sesiones****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je vous propose de passer au point 17: «Suite à donner aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 143^{ème} session». Il s'agit du document CL 144/INF/4 qui présente des informations sur les suites données aux décisions prises par le Conseil à ses deux précédentes sessions, conformément aux documents de travail pluriannuel du Conseil.

M. Kouamé KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Côte d'Ivoire intervient ici au nom de la Région d'Afrique sur le point 17 de l'Ordre du jour de cette 144^{ème} session du Conseil. Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document CL 144/INF/4 présenté et intitulé «Suites à donner aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 143^{ème} session». Sur les trente points présentés dans le document, nous avons constaté que 20 ont été exécutés, neuf sont en cours d'exécution et un seul attend d'être engagé. Il s'agit du point «Entreprendre un examen des règles et procédures de l'Organisation, applicables à la participation d'observateurs et d'ONG». Compte tenu de la complexité de ce point, cela constitue non seulement un excellent taux d'exécution de cette recommandation, mais aussi une démonstration de l'immense travail abattu par le Secrétariat et la Direction générale de l'Organisation. En effet, le tableau présenté fournit une synthèse de l'état de la mise en œuvre de chacune des décisions. Nous constatons, avec satisfaction, la bonne marche des processus de mise en œuvre des décisions prises par le Conseil dans sa présente session. Pour les 9 points en cours d'exécution, il s'agit de processus qui nécessitent du temps et des étapes.

Toutefois, on peut demander que certains soient accélérés; par exemple le point sur les seize recommandations relatives à la parité homme/femme que le Groupe d'Afrique soutien dans ce processus. Au niveau du point sur la Décentralisation, le Groupe a toujours considéré comme étant une priorité dans le cadre de la Réforme de la FAO. Cela va permettre à cette Organisation de faire la différence, c'est-à-dire, de mieux s'illustrer dans le cadre de la lutte contre la faim et de la promotion de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. Nous constatons également la bonne suite donnée à la formulation des propositions fondées sur ces orientations fournies à la 143^{ème} session et aux Conférences régionales qui se sont tenues en 2012. Quand au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, nous nous félicitons de l'adoption des Directrices volontaires à la session du 11 mai 2012 et soutenons la suite du processus d'élaboration du Cadre stratégique en cours. Ma délégation, au nom du Groupe d'Afrique, prend également note des éléments d'information et des avancées notables contenues dans le document CL 144/INF/4.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the document. We have two small suggestions with regard to the format of this document. First, this is a document for discussion, so please include paragraph numbers so that everyone in this room can find the paragraph easily during the discussion. Second, please categorize implementation status, if it is completed, ongoing, or not yet started, so that we can easily understand the current status.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La conclusion proposée est la suivante. Le Conseil a pris note de l'état d'avancement dans la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 143^{ème} session, qui s'est tenue du 28 novembre au 2 décembre 2011. Le Conseil exprime également sa satisfaction pour les nouveautés dans la présentation du document, et ajoute que les actions devraient être mieux identifiées et mieux catégorisées, et demande une accélération de la mise en œuvre, notamment des points sur la parité homme/femme.

21. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2012-13**21. Calendrier 2012-2013 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales****21. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2012-13****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons au point 21: «Calendrier 2012-13 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et autres réunions principales». Vous savez que ce Calendrier est établi en partenariat et en lien avec nos autres partenaires au niveau de Rome.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

La 112^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et la 146^{ème} session du Comité financier et leur Réunion conjointe sont actuellement programmées pour la période du 8 au 12 octobre 2012, c'est-à-dire six semaines avant la 145^{ème} session du Conseil.

Plusieurs documents importants doivent être préparés pour le Comité du Programme et, selon ce calendrier, publiés au plus tard le 12 septembre: deux importantes évaluations et les réponses de la direction; quatre rapports sur la suite donnée à des évaluations; et un examen collégial (c'est-à-dire *peer review*) de la fonction d'évaluation. En outre, deux documents du Conseil seront examinés par les deux Comités et par la Réunion conjointe, à savoir « le Cadre stratégique révisé et l'ébauche du Plan à moyen terme 2014-17 » et les « Autres ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 ». Pour ces raisons, le Secrétariat souhaiterait proposer de déplacer les sessions du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier à la première semaine de novembre, soit du 5 au 9, c'est-à-dire deux semaines avant la les dates présentement prévues pour la 145^{ème} session du Conseil, soit du 26 au 30 novembre 2012); cela permettrait au Secrétariat de publier les documents en temps voulu, c'est-à-dire le 8 octobre.

En outre, les conclusions de la 21^{ème} session du Comité des forêts, qui aura lieu du 24 au 28 septembre 2012, pourraient être ainsi prises en compte dans le Cadre stratégique révisé et l'ébauche du Plan à moyen terme 2014-17. Cette proposition a été discutée avec les Présidents et les membres des deux Comités.

Les membres de ces Comités proposent également, dans la foulée, que la prochaine réunion du Conseil, prévue du 26 au 30 novembre, soit reportée d'une semaine, soit du 3 au 7 décembre 2012, afin de laisser trois semaines entre les réunions des Comités du Programme et financier et la 145^{ème} session du Conseil. Si cette proposition rencontrait l'agrément du Conseil, le Secrétariat souhaiterait proposer que les dates du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques soient fixées du 8 au 11 octobre au lieu du 10 au 12 septembre. L'Ordre du jour du CQCJ étant chargé, une journée de travaux supplémentaires est nécessaire et ce changement de date permettrait plus de flexibilité, tant dans la préparation des documents que dans la conduite de la session.

Enfin, je signale que pour les prochaines réunions du CSA, un ajustement des numéros de session sera fait dans le calendrier qui sera ajouté en annexe au rapport de cette session du Conseil. Le Comité a tenu une session extraordinaire en mai, la 38^{ème}, la session d'octobre 2012 sera donc la 39^{ème} et celle de 2013 sera la 40^{ème}.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La proposition faite est de décaler les 4 organes de gouvernance, le CCLM, le Comité du Programmes, le Comité financier et le Conseil. Tout étant lié, c'est-à-dire ou l'on bouge tout ou rien, mais dans l'intérêt du lien en particulier avec le Comité des forêts et la préparation des dossiers, je vous suggère d'accepter la proposition qui est faite par le Secrétaire général qui nous permet de donner plus de fluidité à nos travaux. Nous avons aussi observé que cela ne posait pas de problèmes avec les autres institutions romaines. Tout peut donc se mettre en place, mais bien sûr c'est vous qui avez la parole.

Mr Jorge E. SOLARES (United States of America)

As a member of the Finance Committee, we realize how important it is to receive documents on time. Therefore, we concur with the Secretariat's proposal of moving the date, and concur with moving the Council to the week of 3-7 December in order to give the Secretariat enough time to prepare these important documents for our work. In addition, this will give the delegations of the Finance and Programme Committees enough time to consult with their capitals on the important work of Council.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

We are happy to support the proposal of the Secretariat. I do want to reiterate one point that I have made many times in the Finance Committee and other fora about the timeliness of papers. Perhaps we need to make it clear that if we do this to accommodate the Secretariat in terms of the timing of papers, we need to get those papers on time in all languages. I just want to stress the importance of the timeliness of papers. The record in the last few meetings hasn't been glowing.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous reviendrons sur ce sujet quand nous parlerons tout à l'heure des Méthodes de travail, donc ne nous mettons pas les conclusions du Calendrier ici. Nous mettrons les conclusions générales tout à l'heure, mais merci de l'avoir rappelé.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

Not in any way to object to this proposal, but to try to clarify the proposed new dates for Finance and Programme Committees. We heard three weeks, then we heard two weeks. We would like to know the proposed new dates please. We support what was said by Australia about the timely delivery of the documents. It is extremely important we get them in good time.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

We are not happy, but we accept the proposal. The WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board are also important for us. If the Council of FAO and IFAD Executive Board are held back-to-back, it is a very heavy burden for us. So please, do not repeat these heavy schedules.

Mr Marcelo Raul CHAQUISSE (Mozambique)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. We welcome document CL 144/LIM/1 on the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions. We support the updating of the document and we consider important the work that we are undertaking within the UN Agencies based in Rome. We are encouraged by the joint work by this UN Agency that led to the harmonization of this Calendar. We are aware that such coordination requires consultation. Therefore, we welcome the effort made in this direction.

We call for permanent coordination of this exercise to avoid the clash of meetings that normally affects countries with small delegations and small embassies that are at risk of the African reality in Rome. With these in mind, we propose to approve the document.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

As we understand that the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees have been consulted on this before presenting the proposal, we can certainly also concur with the delay of the Programme and Finance Committees. As underlined by others, it would be important that at the next meetings, the Secretariat would actually provide the documentation in due time before the technical meetings. It would be very embarrassing for this Organization if the Council is accommodating this request, and we would still have problems with late documents.

I also have to note that it will leave a slightly shorter amount of time for all of us to prepare for the Council Meeting, and to adjust the outcome of the considerations of the Programme and Finance Committees. We lose approximately one week for preparation. With these comments, we can also concur with the proposal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si cela n'a pas été bien dit tout à l'heure, ces propositions ont été bien sûr faites après consultation des trois Présidents du CCLM, du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, mais aussi la proposition du Conseil en consultation avec le Président du Conseil.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

We have the same position as that of the distinguished delegate of Japan because the other organizations are very important for us. We accept it, and also we also adhere to the intervention by Australia because receiving the documents on time is especially important for the nations whose native language is not one of the official languages of the Organization. We need to have the documents earlier in order to prepare our deliberations on them.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas d'autres questions, donc je dois tirer les conclusions, mais je redis pour qu'il n'y ait pas d'ambiguïté sur cette question, concernant les documents, nous y reviendrons aussitôt après au point sur les Méthodes de travail du Conseil, qui fera l'objet d'une prise de position.

Alors pour le projet de conclusion, le Conseil prend note des révisions apportées au Calendrier 2012-13 des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales pour 2012, et donne son accord pour les nouvelles dates.

- Les sessions du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et de leur Réunion conjointe, prévues à l'origine du 8 au 12 octobre, se tiendront désormais du 5 au 9 novembre.

- La session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, prévue du 10 au 12 septembre, aura lieu à présent du 8 au 11 octobre.

- En ce qui concerne le Conseil, la prochaine session est reportée de la semaine du 26 au 30 novembre à la semaine du 3 au 7 décembre.

Le Conseil prend aussi note du projet de Calendrier pour 2013, qui sera approuvé à la 145^{ème} session en novembre 2012. Nous n'en avons pas parlé, mais vous avez sur votre feuille le Calendrier de 2012 et le projet de 2013. Est-ce que cela vous va?

Je considère donc que c'est accepté et je vous remercie. Bien sûr, nous espérons que tout cela facilitera le travail des Membres et aussi du Secrétariat, toujours pour plus d'efficacité et d'efficacités.

23. Provisional Agenda for the 145th Session of the Council (November 2012)

23. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 145^{ème} session du Conseil (novembre 2012)

23. Programa provisional del 145.º período de sesiones del Consejo (noviembre de 2012)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point 23, l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 145^{ème} session du Conseil. Donc ce n'est plus en novembre 2012, mais en décembre 2012. C'est le document CL 144/LIM/2.

Nous vous le présentons pour voir s'il y a des sujets en plus à aborder. Dans le cas présent déjà, il est acquis que le Conseil voudra ajouter un point sur le « Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11 », que nous avons reporté en fin de séance ce soir, uniquement pour information et sans discussion, car il ira au Conseil de décembre.

Je voudrais également signaler au Conseil que le Secrétariat propose de traiter la question de la médaille Margarita Lizárraga au point « Questions diverses » puisque le Comité de sélection aura tenu ses délibérations et que le résultat pourra être pris en considération par le Conseil à sa 145^{ème} session. Voilà donc le document qui vous a été présenté avec le rajout du point « Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-11 » et la « Médaille Margarita Lizárraga » qui est prévu au titre des « Questions diverses ».

Sra. Emma Maria Jose RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Primero, quisiera agradecer la preparación de este proyecto de agenda. No tengo ninguna observación sobre la inclusión en el Programa de los otros dos temas, en particular de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga, a la que damos la bienvenida.

Nosotros queremos manifestar nuestro interés en que en el tema 22: *Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO*, se considere, desde ya, el tema de los resultados de la Cumbre del G20 que se llevará a cabo en México, en Los Cabos, la próxima semana. Como ustedes saben, el tema de la seguridad alimentaria ha sido definido como una de las cinco prioridades de la Presidencia Mexicana del G20.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I think the Secretariat would have had ample time to produce a revised version of the background document for both the Calendar of the Governing Bodies and also the Draft Agenda for the next Council Session. Two days ago, we decided to eliminate Item 3 from the Agenda of this Council, and I am sure that the Secretariat would have made it possible to update the draft agenda for the November, now December Council. Maybe it was translation. As regards the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11, I heard something different regarding its translation. Where will you insert the PIR on the Agenda?

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius is speaking on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa Group observes that the deliberations under the main items at stake on the draft agenda should take into consideration the recommendations of all the Regional Conferences. This means that all these recommendations can be put in one document, and sent to the Members of the Council long before.

The second point is, with this observation, the Africa group endorses the provisional agenda for the 145th Session of the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je ferais juste une petite remarque à Søren pour le Danemark, concernant l'Ordre du jour de cette session. Nous n'avons pas retiré le point 3 du Conseil, nous l'avons reporté en fin de débat du Conseil, sans discussion, c'est-à-dire pour une présentation. Donc tant que le Conseil n'est pas passé, nous ne pouvons pas l'inscrire dans le document, mais bien sûr il sera introduit dans le début du Conseil prochain. Voilà ce que je voulais dire sur cela. D'ailleurs, il sera placé aussitôt après les Questions de procédure, sous les Questions relatives au Programme, au budget, aux finances et à l'administration, c'est-à-dire à la place du point 3 actuel, qui deviendra point 4, etc.

Nous venons d'examiner l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 145^{ème} session en décembre 2012, et non pas novembre, et décider d'y ajouter des points supplémentaires intitulés « Rapport sur l'exécution du programme 2010-2011 » et « Médaille Margarita Lizárraga ». Et nous avons pris note de toutes les réflexions qui ont été faites. Pas de problèmes?

25. Any Other Matters**25. Autres questions****25. Asuntos varios****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons au point suivant, le point 25: « Autres questions ». Nous allons à ce point procéder à l'élection de deux membres de la Région Europe puisque l'Allemagne et la Belgique se sont retirées du Comité du Programme. Les informations pertinentes se trouvent dans le document CL 144/3.

M. Gagnon va maintenant vous informer sur les candidats au poste de membres du Comité du Programme.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Comme indiqué au paragraphe 2 du document CL 144/3, deux sièges sont à pourvoir pour la Région Europe et les candidatures suivantes ont été reçues. Mme Natalie Feistritzer de l'Autriche et Mme Christina Grieder de la Suisse.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Au termes de l'article XII, paragraphe 10 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, s'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir, ce qui est le cas présent, je vous invite à procéder aux nominations par consentement général. Le Conseil souhaite-t-il élire Mesdames Feistritzer et Grieder comme membre de la Région Europe du Comité du Programme. Y a-t-il des objections?

Hors compte rendu, je fais mienne aussi la position de la Présidente du Comité du Programme, qui a dit hier qu'elle souhaite que les Membres qui s'engagent dans le Comité puissent faire toute la durée pour donner de la cohésion aux différents Comités. Donc ce n'est pas une position officielle, mais je partage ce qu'elle a dit parce qu'il est important dans les comités qu'il y ait cohésion, mais cela ne remet pas en cause cette élection, bien sûr. Voilà pour ce qui concerne ce point. Autres questions?

La conclusion que nous envoyons pour le Comité de rédaction est la suivante:

À la suite du retrait de deux membres de la Région Europe, l'Allemagne et la Belgique, prenant effet respectivement après la 111^{ème} session du Comité du Programme à Rome, le 31 mai et 1^{er} juin et le 31 juillet 2012, le Conseil vient d'élire Mme Natalie Feistritzer de l'Autriche et Mme Christina Grieder de la Suisse, qui siégeront au Comité du Programme.

Dans les « Autres questions », comme je vous l'ai indiqué ce matin et comme les textes prévoient cette possibilité avec l'accord du Directeur général, les délégués du personnel ont demandé à pouvoir s'exprimer devant le Conseil. Nous avons accepté un délégué pour une durée de moins de 10 minutes.

Mr Wolfgang PRANTE (President, Association of Professional Staff, AP-in-FAO)

It is our great honour to be able to address you today on some matters that are very close to our hearts. We take this opportunity also to thank our Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva, for agreeing to our request to speak at Council.

We have been closely following the proceedings of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as Council, as many of the decisions taken at these Bodies will have a profound effect on the work of the Organization and, indeed, on all of FAO's staff members.

We would like to indicate at this point that we have only initiated what we hope will be a very positive dialogue with the new Director-General and Senior Management for years to come.

We had, as a result, initially voiced our concern to Senior Management regarding the Human Resources Strategy that, we understand, was adopted yesterday by the Council. Without going too much into detail regarding our concerns, suffice it to say that many of them were in keeping with some of the positions voiced at the Council session by yourselves.

We trust that, as recommended by the Council, the implementation of the new Human Resource Strategy will be handled in a transparent manner and that the Staff Representative Bodies will be given the opportunity to collaborate in its implementation in Headquarters and in the field. In this context, the Staff Representatives believe that it is the right moment in time to allow the General Staff in the field be given the right to start representation. We would also hope that the proposed changes regarding the two new HR structures would not impinge on the consultative process between the Director-General and the Staff Representative Bodies.

We very much trust that the role of the Staff Representative Bodies, as well as the currently-established channel of communication with the Director-General and Senior Management, do not fall victim to the new circumstances arising from the adoption of the Human Resource Strategy.

We say this in the spirit of consultation, participation, and transparency that Mr Graziano da Silva has so adamantly espoused, most recently in his address to the Council on Monday morning.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of an effective communications process, one that the Staff Representative Bodies feel has occasionally gone amiss as we seek to address issues that affect all staff members, namely redeployment, mobility, selection procedures, career enhancement, and promotion, among others.

In this connection, we feel that the role of the Staff Relations Office is very important, and we are concerned about it now falling under the purview of the Director of Human Resources in the Apex, as there could potentially be a problem in terms of conflict of interests.

We, moreover, would like for the long-awaited position of Ombudsman to be filled in the interests of both Senior Management and staff members. An officer to fulfill the mediation and negotiations role that is so vital to human relationships would certainly go a long way in diffusing many of the issues that arise throughout the course of our careers with the Organization.

The Director-General rightly said on Monday that he should be provided with the opportunity to effectively manage this Organization, and this is what the Staff Representative Bodies are sincerely hoping that he will do.

We must, however, reiterate that the crucial role that the Staff Representatives Bodies can play in the implementation of the five pillars of action that comprise the Director-General's management and organizational plan for FAO.

It is our sincerest hope that we be allowed to serve as interlocutors for all of our colleagues and, more importantly, as agents that will effectively and convincingly promote the changes underway, and those that will come in the not-too-distant future.

In this connection, we feel that a merit-based career development process needs to be created, with systematic training and continuing education initiatives that will lead to realistic opportunities for promotions and for meeting the many challenges that this Organization will face in the 21st Century.

The Director-General has often said that he can only do what we can do together, in this case, with yourselves, the Member Nations. We wish to take it a step further, and say that by effectively collaborating with the Staff Representative Bodies on matters of mutual interest, he will certainly be able to do what he feels needs to be done for the welfare of the Organization, its Member Nations, and all of its staff members.

Thank you most kindly once again for affording us the possibility of addressing this Council Session.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de votre intervention au nom de l'ensemble du personnel. Donc dans les conclusions je proposerais au point « Autres questions » comme je vous l'avais annoncé dès ce matin, le Conseil a entendu les délégués du personnel de la FAO. Il n'y a pas plus de commentaires à faire puisqu'il n'y a pas eu de discussions ni d'échanges.

24. Working Methods of the Council

24. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

24. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au point suivant, le point 24: « Méthodes de travail du Conseil ». Je donne tout de suite la parole au Secrétaire général pour qu'il nous fasse un commentaire sur un certain nombre d'initiatives récentes.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Quelques innovations ont été mises en place récemment afin d'améliorer le service fourni aux États Membres en application des recommandations du PAI, à savoir:

- le document « Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 143^{ème} session » a été modifié dans son contenu et sa présentation, comme il a d'ailleurs été noté un peu plus tôt, suite aux observations faites durant la dernière session du Conseil, il a été remanié pour fournir davantage de références et de liens aux documents pertinents du Conseil et de ses Comités. Nous avons par ailleurs bien entendu les remarques faites par le Japon et allons nous assurer que ce document soit constamment amélioré.

- depuis le mois de février dernier le site web des Représentants de la FAO offre la possibilité à chaque Représentation permanente d'envoyer des messages au personnel de la FAO et aux listes préconstituées des Groupes régionaux. Il est devenu un lieu d'échange de communications remplaçant les notes verbales en papier. Environ 160 Pays Membres ont recouru à ce site qui reçoit près de 4500 visites par mois. Il est de plus en plus utilisé par les Pays Membres qui n'ont pas de Représentation permanente auprès de la FAO.

- comme vous l'avez déjà constaté, la liste des délégués devant prendre la parole en séance est désormais projetée au-dessus du podium.

- à partir de cette session la transcription des procès verbaux du Conseil a été délocalisée. Cette mesure a mené à une réduction de 50% des effectifs du personnel assurant la production des procès verbaux, ce qui permettra de réaliser des économies.

- enfin, comme vous l'avez constaté également, les uniformes des messagers sont plus simples, ce qui permet encore de faire des économies. Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous donne sans plus attendre la parole sur ces différents points et ceux qui sont intervenus tout à l'heure sur les documents sont autorisés à recommencer s'ils le souhaitent, mais ce n'est pas une obligation.

Sra. Emma Maria José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Agradecemos el Informe que ha presentado el Secretario General. Por nuestra parte solo quisiéramos hacer una modesta sugerencia que pudiera ser útil. La propuesta sería que en la sala estuvieran disponibles los Textos Básicos de la Organización en los diferentes idiomas. Creo que eso podría ser muy útil de requerirlo cualquier delegación que pudiéramos recurrir a los oficiales de sala para tener de manera inmediata disponibles, de una manera impresa, los Textos. También creemos que esto podría ser útil para el trabajo de otros Órganos y Comités de la FAO.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Just to reiterate my comments earlier about the timing of papers. I won't restate my views again. I think they are well-known. The other part I just wanted to reflect on perhaps relates less to the Council and more to the Finance and Programme Committees. We seem to be getting into a habit of having Extraordinary Sessions on a regular basis, and I think we should make sure we do our best to avoid the need for Extraordinary Sessions of the Finance and Programme Committees in particular.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Yo quiero coincidir con los demás oradores y agradecer al Secretario de la Organización por presentarnos esta nota que incluye las innovaciones sobre la metodología de trabajo. Efectivamente, nos damos cuenta de que cada vez más las sesiones de los Órganos rectores de la FAO se desarrollan con toda normalidad. Hemos visto que esta sesión del Consejo se ha desarrollado con todas las facilidades, aunque también hemos insistido en lo que todos han dicho sobre la necesidad de que los documentos estén listos cuanto antes y en todos los idiomas oficiales de la FAO, para permitir a todos los delegados de la FAO poder discutir y compartir en igualdad de condiciones con todas las garantías los temas presentados. Esto es lo que justamente el Grupo de África quiere reconocer aquí: reconocer efectivamente los avances del Consejo en su metodología de trabajo, y agradecemos la presentación de esta nota de innovaciones que efectivamente repercuten en lograr economías, como dice el Secretario "lograr varias economías".

A nivel de mi delegación, y esto ya no es a título del Grupo de África, quiero efectivamente reconocer, sobre este período de sesiones, que yo creo que es importante que la Secretaría intente empezar a reflexionar un poco sobre la programación de las reuniones ordinarias.

Creo que la FAO es una de las instituciones de las Naciones Unidas que más reuniones celebra al año. Podríamos ya empezar a trabajar sobre cómo podríamos reducir el número de reuniones. Quizá sea prematuro poder presentarlo ahora, pero creo que es importante. Por ejemplo, celebrar cinco reuniones en un bienio, parece excesivo. Seguramente FAO tiene muchos temas que tratar, pero también tiene que trabajar con el fin de poder garantizar los ahorros, porque las reuniones implican gastos de materiales, recursos humanos y recursos financieros. Podríamos empezar ya a reflexionar sobre cómo reducir el número de reuniones plenarias por año.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour ce qui a été évoqué concernant les Réunions extraordinaires, bien sûr, nous souhaitons tous qu'il y en ait moins, mais quand vous dites qu'il faudrait réduire les réunions, quand l'on voit l'Ordre du jour et la durée du Conseil, il faudrait trouver un mécanisme de fonctionnement qui nous permettrait de raccourcir le temps de rédaction du Comité de rédaction. Mais voyez, nous avons quand même travaillé trois fois, trois heures par jour et donc c'est aussi indispensable. Je souhaite aussi que nous puissions y réfléchir. Je vous propose aussi, à titre informel dans un premier temps, que cela fasse l'objet d'un point de discussion informel dans les réunions avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour être communiqué à l'ensemble des États Membres par la suite.

Donc, si vous êtes d'accord sur ce point de réflexion informel, nous pouvons en parler après.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je vous lis les projets de conclusions. Le Conseil reconnaît les efforts qui ont été déployés pour améliorer ses Méthodes de travail et se félicite des initiatives prises à cet égard, et encourage la recherche de futures innovations. Le Conseil déplore que la disponibilité tardive de documents, notamment ceux destinés au Comité financier et au Comité du Programme, demeure un problème persistant qui perturbe le fonctionnement des Comités, du Conseil et de la gouvernance de l'Organisation. Le Conseil considère qu'il s'agit d'une préoccupation majeure et que ce problème doit être réglé. Tout en étant conscient des contraintes qui peuvent peser sur le Secrétariat pour respecter les délais d'usage ou les délais ressortent des Textes fondamentaux, le Conseil réaffirme que la disponibilité des documents dans toutes les versions linguistiques est une exigence fondamentale à laquelle il ne peut être dérogé.

Le Conseil demande qu'à l'avenir, tous les documents pertinents pour une session soient intégralement disponibles dans les délais requis et dans toutes les versions linguistiques.

Sra. Emma Maria José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Sr. Presidente, estamos de acuerdo con su síntesis. Solo para mencionar que de alguna manera desearíamos que se recogiera nuestra propuesta de que los Textos Básicos de la Organización se encontraran disponibles durante las sesiones del Consejo. También mi delegación estima conveniente que durante las reuniones de Comité y Órganos de la FAO se pongan de manera impresa en las salas donde se llevan a cabo las reuniones, a fin de que las delegaciones, de requerirlo, puedan consultarlos inmediatamente. Muchas gracias.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur le Secrétaire général, pouvez-vous me dire quelle est la situation des Textes fondamentaux nouveaux qui me semble-t-il ne sont pas disponibles dans toutes les langues.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les Textes fondamentaux sont régulièrement amendés et en 2009, quand l'Organisation a adopté une réforme majeure de ces Textes. Ceux-ci ont donc été mis à jour récemment. À ma connaissance, ils sont actuellement disponibles en deux langues. Nous avons bien noté le souhait des Membres, et ferons le nécessaire pour satisfaire cette demande dans les meilleurs délais et aux meilleures conditions possibles.

Par ailleurs, évidemment, la demande que des exemplaires de ces Textes fondamentaux soient disponibles dans les salles de réunions ne pose absolument aucun problème, et pourra être exaucée très rapidement.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose d'émettre un souhait. « Le Conseil demande que les Textes fondamentaux soient traduits dans toutes les langues au plus tôt. » Parce que je ne peux pas donner de délai. Vous êtes d'accord? Il en est ainsi décidé pour le point 24.

22. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

22. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO

22. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au point 22 « *Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO* ». Nous avons 6 points à l'Ordre du jour ensuite, nous aurons la présentation parce que nous aurons le temps, compte-tenu de l'élargissement du temps de la présentation du point 3 qui a été reporté en fin de Conseil. Si vous me le permettez, je vous ferai une petite proposition pour une communication suite au *side event* interne qui s'est déroulé hier soir sur les criquets pèlerins parce que je pense que c'est un sujet tellement important pour l'avenir de toute une partie de l'Afrique, qu'il est bon de sensibiliser le Conseil et que nous fassions une petite déclaration. Je vous le proposerai toute à l'heure. Vous l'accepterez, je l'espère, parce que c'est d'intérêt général. Ce n'était pas inscrit à l'Ordre du jour, mais comme ça a été fait dans le cadre, je pense qu'on peut le faire et c'est tout à fait dans les dispositions et dans le rôle du Conseil.

Les présentations seront faites successivement par Mme Barbara Burlingame, Nutritionniste principale; M. Alexander Müller, Sous-Directeur général du Département de la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement; Mme Lorraine Williams, Sous-Directrice générale du Bureau de la communication; M. Stephen Rudgard, Chef de l'Unité Connaissances et renforcement des capacités au service du développement; M. Laurent Thomas, Sous-Directeur général du Département de la coopération technique; M. Pietro Gennari, Directeur de la Division de la statistique au Département du développement économique et social.

J'invite donc, Mme Barbara Burlingame à faire le point sur les « *Évolutions récentes concernant les activités internationales intéressant la nutrition* ».

Ms Barbara BURLINGAME (FAO Staff)

I will explain some of the nutrition activities in FAO and how they relate to the international architecture in nutrition. We could categorize the work that we do in nutrition into three categories: the normative activities which include food composition, dietary assessment, human nutrient requirements, nutrition policy development, nutrition education, etc; field and country activities which include the core areas of nutrition plus a nutrition-sensitive agriculture and capacity development; and then the mainstreaming activities where nutrition is integrated into the programmes and projects across FAO's portfolio.

One of those high profile programmes within that international nutrition architecture is REACH, ending child hunger and undernutrition. The REACH Secretariat is based at World Food Programme. There was an MOU signed in December by FAO, WHO, UNICEF, and WFP, the agencies involved in the implementation of REACH. It is currently active in 13 countries. Seven additional countries are expected to join this year. FAO currently holds the Chair of the Steering Committee. It is a rotating chair and FAO is actively involved in the REACH activities.

SUN is another of those high profile international nutrition activities, the scaling up nutrition movement. It is governments and institutions who work together to fight hunger and undernutrition. It is coordinated by the Secretary-General Special Rapporteur on Food Security and Nutrition, David Nabarro. The lead group is composed of 27 members and they provide strategic guidance to SUN. They include Presidents and Prime Ministers of countries, a First Lady, and representatives of donors,

civil societies, businesses, and the United Nations System. It is chaired by the Executive Director of UNICEF, and FAO is involved in its activities.

UN Joint Programming is another area. Nutrition, in this context, has proved an excellent entry point for inter-agency and inter-sectoral planning and action. In approximately 30 countries, we have activities. In particular, 24 of the UN joint programmes are supported by the MDG Achievement Fund which was initiated by Spain. The programme areas focus on children, food security, and nutrition. Other nutrition-related UN JPs include school-based approaches to nutrition.

In addition to these conventional areas, the FAO Nutrition Division works on nutrition and sustainable diets. This includes partners, including international partners. For example, FAO works together with Bioversity International and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the cross-cutting initiative on bio-diversity for food and nutrition. FAO and UNEP worked together on a project called Sustainable Consumption and Production. Sustainable diets are part of that.

The GEF, the Global Environment Facility, supports projects that FAO implements together with UNEP and Bioversity International on mainstreaming biodiversity, conservation, and sustainable use of improved human nutrition and wellbeing. FAO works with academic organizations around the world including CINE, the Center for Indigenous People's Nutrition and Environment, on projects related to traditional food systems of indigenous peoples.

Finally, I want to mention the upcoming joint FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition 21 years later. We call this the ICN+21. The purpose of the ICN+21 is to bring together food, agriculture, and health for improving nutrition to mobilize political will and resources and to reach consensus around the globe on multi-sector nutrition frameworks. It will be a high level political event. It is jointly organized by FAO and WHO, but in collaboration with Sister Agencies and other global stakeholders in nutrition, including the UNSCN, and the SUN movement.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. J'ai deux informations. Nous n'avons pas prévu de discussions après chaque point donc vous réservez vos questions. On les traitera globalement et chacun interviendra dans le secteur concerné. Je donne 30 secondes la parole à Louis Gagnon, qui a une information à vous communiquer.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je vous ai demandé la parole juste pour vous donner une bonne nouvelle. Finalement, je peux vous confirmer, suite à la demande qui avait été faite par le Mexique, que tous les Textes fondamentaux sont désormais disponibles. Toutes les traductions ont été complétées. Tous les Textes fondamentaux sont disponibles sur papier et également en ligne.

On va donc s'assurer, comme l'a demandé le Mexique, que ces Textes soient facilement accessibles lors de vos réunions dans les salles de réunions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur Müller, excusez-moi pour cette interruption. Merci de nous présenter la « *Célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols par les Nations Unies et l'Année internationale des sols 2015* ».

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

I would like to inform you about a development at the level of the General Assembly towards World Soil Day and an International Year of Soils. The International Year of Soils should be held in 2015.

You all know 2011 was International Year of Forests, 2012 of cooperatives and sustainable energy for all. We have two topics for 2013, and we have already had an excellent presentation on the International Year of Quinoa, and 2014 will be the International Year of Family Farming. And there are now negotiations underway in New York to have an International Year of Soils. I would like to skip through this PowerPoint very fast, because we have discussed global soil partnership and soils at length.

And, therefore, what I would like to present to you is the justification for an International Year of Soils. Soils are often perceived as low priority at the international decision-making process and also by the general public. We are convinced that there is an urgent need to raise awareness on the crucial role of soils in responding to today's challenges of food security, poverty and climate change. Soils deserve much greater investment and an interdisciplinary approach is needed.

And, therefore, in New York we can see that there is a motion to establish, first of all, a World Soil Day. The World Soil Day should be celebrated on the 5 December, and the International Union of Soil Sciences has tabled a resolution to the General Assembly to this effect.

The second step is then to ask the General Assembly to include, in its decision, the International Year of Soils for 2015 to raise awareness and to create a better global collaboration on the issue of soils. The International Union of Soil Sciences tabled this resolution proposing 5 December with a very clear relation to the King of Thailand, who has received an award because he is very supportive of soils. The proposal is to use the birthday of the King of Thailand to celebrate the International Day of Soils. Therefore, the justification in New York is very much linked to the continuous support of the King of Thailand for soils. Therefore, the 5 December date should be considered as the International Day of Soils. And the proposal to the UN General Assembly is for adoption by the UN System of the World Soil Day on 5 December as recognition of the crucial role of soils in sustainable development.

And at the same time, the proposal is to celebrate the International Year of Soils in 2015 as a response to the request of the International Soil Scientists. They are partners of the Global Soil Partnership and, if the General Assembly will endorse this proposal, the Global Soil Partnership here in FAO will have to take the lead.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mme Lorraine Williams va nous présenter les « *Débats en cours sous l'égide des Nations Unies concernant le Programme d'action des Nations Unies en faveur du développement au-delà de 2015 et l'implication de la FAO en la matière* ».

Ms Lorraine WILLIAMS (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

The established target date to achieve the current eight Millennium Development Goals is 2015. However, most of the challenges addressed by the MDGs will remain. The United Nations System, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, has already started preparations for the definition of its Development Agenda after 2015.

FAO continues to be fully engaged in helping countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015 with a special focus on Goal 1: eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. We have also been actively participating in the post-2015 process from the beginning as it offers a clear opportunity for FAO to ensure not only that its mandate figures prominently in its discussions, but also that the Organization's strategic priorities are defined in line with the decisions made at the wider UN inter-agency and inter-governmental processes.

Moreover, the post-2015 process provides opportunities for partnerships and enhanced collaboration between FAO and other Rome-based Agencies, WFP, IFAD, and Bioversity International, to jointly raise the visibility of agriculture, food security, and nutrition issues.

It is also important to highlight that there are clear links between the post-2015 process and the forthcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, the outcome of which will be of critical importance in the formulation of a UN Development Agenda after 2015. So let's look at the main milestones of the process.

In response to the request of Member Nations, the Secretary-General's report on accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals was submitted to the 66th Session of the General Assembly last September. The Report recognizes issues of critical importance to FAO's mandate such as food and nutrition security, climate change, and land degradation and desertification as challenges that should be central to the new Development Agenda after 2015.

The Secretary-General has established a Task Team to coordinate the system-wide preparations for ongoing efforts, and proposes a unified vision and roadmap for the definition of a UN Development Agenda post-2015. The Task Team was also mandated to prepare a report for the Secretary-General focusing on challenges and opportunities that both the UN and Member Nations face, identifying the dimensions of future development and the possible way forward. The Report of the Task Team was delivered recently.

As already mentioned, the outcome of the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference represents a very important milestone in the process, including the relation of the MDGs with the SDGs that are being discussed in the context of the Conference. Following the Rio+20 Conference, the Secretary General will appoint a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons to advise him on practical measures to overcome the global development challenges. The work of this Panel will be based on the findings of the Report of the Task Team and be further informed by the outcomes of the major processes such as the Rio+20 Conference. And the Panel is expected to deliver its Report by March 2013. The President of Indonesia, the President of Liberia, and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom have already accepted the invitation to serve as co-chairs of this Panel. The Report of the Panel and the Secretary-General's own assessment will then form the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations on a post-2015 framework which will most likely start at a special event of the General-Assembly on MDGs in 2013, and will have to be finalized by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Let's turn to the main inter-agency mechanisms and activities and just to see the way FAO is involved in each of them. The first one is the Task Team of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 Development Agenda and through its focal points in New York, the Organization has worked very closely with the Rome-based UN Agencies who have devoted significant efforts to make sure that eradication of hunger and the need to ensure food security and nutrition for all are given the right importance in the Final Report of the Task Team.

The second mechanism is the Task Team on lessons learned in the MDGs monitoring which was established under the inter-agency and expert group on MDG indicators to provide technical inputs to guide the formulation of the post-2015 monitoring framework. FAO is fully engaged in that activity of the Task Team through its focal points for the MDGs for Goal 1 and Goal 7 that fall under the responsibility of FAO. The UNDG MDG Task Force has included in its work plan a series of natural and climatic consultations which are expected to provide valuable input in the review and Development Agenda after 2015.

Finally, there are clear and strong links between the 2015 process and the Rio+20 Conference. The leaders of the world will review progress after 20 years of the Rio Conference. FAO has been collaborating very closely with WFP, IFAD, and Bioversity International in preparing for Rio. The four Organizations have been successful in building on the comparative advantages and bringing agriculture and food security to the negotiating table. This collaboration is very positive. It is very fruitful, and has been successful in identifying several opportunities to further strengthen collaboration both at the policy and at the field level beyond Rio+20.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Williams. La parole est maintenant à Monsieur Stephen Rudgard pour nous parler de la « *Plateforme sur l'agriculture tropicale* ».

Mr Stephen RUDGARD (FAO Staff)

I'm going to speak on behalf of my Director Xiangjun Yao from the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research, and Extension. I am going to apologize firstly for those that were in the Informal Seminar of the Permanent Representatives because you will have seen this Presentation before. So I apologize for that, but I know that there are Members of Council who were not in that Presentation.

So I am going to take you through one of the actions coming forward that FAO has been nurturing through the G20 process. The original concept of the Tropical Agriculture Platform was brought by the Agriculture Ministers in 2011, and was given to FAO to take forward. The programme has been developed by FAO and its partners and now, in fact, it has been approved by the Vice Minister's

Meeting under the Mexican Presidency, and will be taken forward to the leaders' Summit. It is very likely that it will actually be mentioned in the final Declaration, which will be available very soon.

The TAP has also been mentioned under the G8 new Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security and, as such, is taking quite a prominent role in the way the development community is looking at the general subject of improving agricultural production in the tropics. So the TAP objective is there on the slide for you, as is greater coherence of capacity-development and knowledge-sharing in innovation systems, with a particular focus on smallholders.

The problems that we have analyzed in consultation with the various partners that we have been working with stem principally from the gaps in capacity and knowledge that currently pervade the area of agricultural innovation in the tropics. Insufficient alignment, firstly, with country and regional policy needs, insufficient coordination and synergy between them, and the fact that many of them are small-scale activities with high transaction costs and limited impact. And what we are trying to look for is to get past this silo approach to work towards more interdisciplinary analysis of needs and demands from the agricultural markets.

The TAP approach which is multilateral and multi-sectoral, is a facilitation mechanism that convenes stakeholders right across the national and global levels and enables actors to contribute through partnerships to more coherent actions with greater impact.

Now, what I want to say here is that TAP is not an implementation or a financing mechanism. It is a coherence and facilitation mechanism. FAO has been taking forward the coordination role underpinning this new initiative, based on its unique attributes that were laid out quite clearly in the Council paper on the new Strategic Framework, in its role as a global facilitator and convener.

But many other international and regional organizations will be key players in making sure that they bring their constituencies to the TAP. The TAP approach will comprise of several components. Firstly, before we really get down to action, we'll be spending some time analyzing through existing and new strategic assessments, and preparing for three principle areas of action. There will be an emphasis on policy dialogue around the context of tropical agricultural innovation capacity, looking at multi-stakeholder interactions. There will be a marketplace, a brokerage of effective capacity development approaches and partnerships, and what we're calling a TAPipedia which will be a series of connected information systems that enhance knowledge flows around innovation systems.

The target groups are policy-makers and institutions in agricultural innovation, the private sector and civil society that are interactive in innovation systems, and relevant development agencies and furrow. But the success of the TAP will really be dependent on the commitment and engagement of partners right across the spectrum.

The next steps that we'll be taking forward on the TAP will follow-up on the endorsement from the G20 summit, moving towards rapidly mobilizing the resources that we need. We already have some resources in hand or in view, and we will be moving towards some concrete actions later this year through the meeting of the G20 agricultural scientists in Mexico, the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development in Uruguay in October, and then probably a meeting in China early next year to look at the assessments and to jot the way forward.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Rudgard. Je donne la parole à M. Laurent Thomas pour nous présenter l'Évaluation indépendante de l'initiative «Unis dans l'action et la Conférence de Tirana en juin 2012 ».

M. Laurent THOMAS (Sous-Directeur-général du Département de la coopération technique)

Merci, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil.

Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous informer aujourd'hui des progrès réalisés dans le cadre d'une initiative à laquelle l'Organisation apporte une importance primordiale: l'Initiative des Nations Unies « Unis dans l'action ». Afin d'épargner vos yeux, auxquels vous avez déjà beaucoup demandé à cette

heure de la journée et vous permettre de rester concentrés, je n'ai pas prévu de présentation PowerPoint mais uniquement une présentation orale.

Une Conférence intergouvernementale se tiendra à Tirana, en Albanie, du 27 au 29 juin 2012. Elle suit la 4^{ème} Conférence intergouvernementale de haut niveau sur l'initiative « Unis dans l'action » (« Delivering as One » - DAO) qui s'est tenue à Montevideo en Uruguay en novembre 2011, et l'annonce d'une deuxième génération de DAO dans le Plan d'action quinquennal du Secrétaire général de l'ONU.

Plus de 40 pays, y compris les pays pilotes et volontaires pour l'initiative DAO et les pays donateurs, seront présents à Tirana pour discuter des résultats de l'Evaluation indépendante et des modalités pour poursuivre le modèle après la phase pilote et préparer une déclaration finale.

L'Evaluation indépendante du DAO est disponible dans une version préliminaire incluant les enseignements tirés et qui sera finalisée juste avant la Conférence de Tirana. La FAO a été impliquée au cours de l'Evaluation et dans la revue de la version préliminaire du Rapport final, même si les recommandations ne sont pas encore disponibles publiquement.

Les enseignements tirés par l'Evaluation indépendante concernent les 4 composantes de l'approche DAO - UN leader, UN programme conjoint, UN budget, UN bureau - avec, en particulier, la volonté de simplifier et harmoniser les pratiques de fonctionnement. Plusieurs enseignements de l'Evaluation indépendante au niveau national coïncident et confirment les constats d'une revue interne du DAO faite par la FAO en septembre 2011, sous la conduite du Département de la coopération technique, à laquelle avaient contribué 15 bureaux pays de la FAO. Cette revue interne a été fournie aux évaluateurs et leurs a permis d'élaborer leurs conclusions.

La FAO souhaite qu'un certain nombre de recommandations soient prises en compte pour la phase post-pilote:

Premièrement, qu'une attention prioritaire soit donnée au processus de formulation d'un Programme conjoint et d'un budget. Ces instruments ont permis une inclusion plus importante et une nouvelle emphase sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, l'agriculture et le développement rural dans les documents de programmation-pays communs aux Nations Unies. Ceci représente un résultat excellent du processus DAO.

Nous souhaitons que les approches de programmations communes et de mobilisations de ressources conjointes soient répliquées avec flexibilité au-delà de la Phase pilote. Dans tous les pays DAO, la FAO est présente avec un bureau de pays; l'Organisation a été chef de file d'un ou plusieurs groupes thématiques de travail, dans le cadre de l'exécution du Programme conjoint et ainsi a pu obtenir des financements par le Fonds commun des Nations Unies, le One UN Fund.

Nous souhaitons que le modèle mobilise d'avantage l'expertise des agents spécialisés et de notre modèle de fonctionnement spécifique aux niveaux sous-régional, régional et global, pour contribuer au niveau national. Les cadres de programmation pays des Agences spécialisées des Nations Unies, comme le Cadre de programmation par pays de la FAO (CPP), devraient être reconnus comme complémentaires au processus de programmation des Nations Unies.

Nous souhaitons que le Système des Nations Unies définisse clairement le DAO comme une approche flexible, permettant aux équipes pays des Nations Unies de décider avec les gouvernements quelles composantes exécuter et de quelle manière.

Nous souhaitons aussi que des progrès supplémentaires se fassent pour la composante « un leader » et sur la question de la séparation des fonctions de Coordinateur résident et de Représentant de pays du PNUD, en mettant l'accent sur la capacité de gestion des Coordinateurs résidents.

Le financement des Bureaux de Coordinateurs résidents doit être considéré au sein de l'architecture globale de financement du Système des Nations Unies, et ne devrait pas devenir un coût additionnel de coordination pour les Agences spécialisées entre autres.

L'Evaluation indépendante s'est aussi penchée sur des questions systémiques de la Réforme des Nations Unies mises en lumière par l'approche DAO, au-delà du niveau pays, et qui concernent le

niveau régional et le Siège. Un agenda de réformes compréhensif devra tenir compte des processus de revue stratégique et des agendas de Réforme des Agences spécialisées.

Le volet étendu de financement du DAO (*expanded DAO funding window*) semble se tarir. Ceci représente un problème et il y a donc lieu de s'interroger sur la viabilité de la composante One UN Fund. Une attention particulière est donc nécessaire car ces ressources sont évidemment au cœur de la viabilité future du modèle comme élément d'incitation, que l'on ne peut pas sous-estimer, et comme élément de fonctionnement.

La Déclaration finale de la Conférence de Tirana sera une étape capitale pour la feuille de route des négociations pour l'examen du quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies, le QCPR, au sein de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Le QCPR présentera une évaluation de l'efficacité, l'efficience, la cohérence et l'impact des activités opérationnelles des Nations Unies pour les quatre prochaines années.

Nous ferons le point sur le progrès du processus du QCPR à l'occasion de la prochaine session du Conseil de la FAO. Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Thomas. La dernière présentation sera faite par Monsieur Pietro Gennari sur les « Statistiques en vue de prises de décisions ».

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

The purpose of my presentation today is to provide an overview of key recent international initiatives that try to address the need of governments and the international community for better statistics to improve decision-making and increase transparency and mutual accountability.

The three key international initiatives are the Busan Action plan for Statistics or BAPS, the Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group of MDG indicators. The group has established a task team on lessons learned in monitoring the MDGs, and will prepare guidelines for the identification of possible indicators to monitor the post-2015 Development Agenda as my colleague has previously presented. So in my presentation, I will focus only on the first two initiatives.

The Busan Action Plan for Statistics has been endorsed at the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in December 2011, where Heads of State, Ministers, and other country representatives reaffirmed their commitment to effective international development. The Busan Action Plan for Statistics builds on the successes of the 2004 Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, while at the same time recognizing that much still needs to be done and that user needs have changed since then. The BAPS, therefore, defines new priorities which will drive statistical development activities over the coming 5 to 10 years.

To achieve these objectives, the Busan Action Plan outlines 5 priority actions needed to strengthen national statistical systems in developing countries and to increase the effectiveness of the support provided by development partners. The proposed actions are to strengthen and refocus national and regional statistical strategies, to ensure full public access to statistics, and provide support for the preservation, documentation, and dissemination, in increasing the knowledge and skills required to use statistics effectively for planning analysis monitoring and evaluation, to monitor outcomes of all Global Summits and High-Level Forums including the MDGs and the Rio+20, to ensure that financing for statistics information is robust. In this respect, the BAPS invites donors to support the Global Strategy being provided to agricultural statistics and the edge program, essentially, evidence and data for gender equality as examples of two global commitments that fulfill the criteria and objectives of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.

The success of the Busan Action Plan will assess, through progress scores, its overall objectives of full integration of statistics and decision-making, promotion of wider and open access to statistics, and increase of resources for statistical assistance. A monitoring evolution framework is under preparation to monitor progress in the implementation of the Busan Action Plan. Overall, the Global Strategy to

improve agricultural statistics meets the criteria for implementation that I have outlined here, and will significantly contribute to the achievement of the objective of the BAPS.

This brings me to the second initiative. I have already had the opportunity to brief FAO Governing Bodies on the progress in developing the Global Strategy and in this slide. The main point that I would like to underline is the fact that the Action Plan to implement the Global Strategy has been prepared by FAO and the World Bank, and endorsed by the US Statistical Commission in March 2012.

The Action Plan aims at developing or strengthening the capacity of 90 developing countries, during the period 2012-2016, to produce a meaningful set of core data that are policy relevant, reliable, and timely. The other expected outcomes are to substantially increase the number of countries able to develop a sustainable agricultural statistical system, to substantially increase the number of regional institutions capable of delivering high-quality training and advice to countries on agricultural statistics and to substantially increase the number of agricultural statisticians trained to use cost-effective methodologies in data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

The tentative budget of the Plan is estimated to be around USD 85 million. Where are we in the implementation of the Action Plan? A regional plan has been already prepared in Africa, while it is being developed in Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Preparatory work is underway in the Near East and CAS Regions. This work is done in close partnership with the Regional Commissions of the UN, and the Regional Development Banks.

A strong governance structure has been established at global and regional levels to ensure proper monitoring and timely delivery of the results. A global Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Director of the Development Data Group of the World Bank and the Administrator of the Economic Research Service of the US Department for Agriculture, is in place as are all of the other decision-making bodies comprising country representatives from every region, donor representatives, and all of the key implementing partners.

A Global Trust Fund has been created at FAO, and the initial resource mobilization efforts have resulted in securing about 50 percent of the funding requirements. Efforts are underway to mobilize the remaining funding gaps. Implementation of activities will be country-driven, and the process has started in Africa and Asia, with assessment of country agricultural statistics systems, user needs, and the definition of assistance needs.

Important methodological research work is also underway to provide countries with modern and cost-effective data collection tools and methods, making use of digital technology and spatial information. FAO is ensuring fully the shift of the process as Fund Administrator of the Global Trust Fund and technical oversight and coordination, through a global office created in the Statistics Division.

Countries and their resource partners are requested to support this initiative, and assist in filling the funding gap.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONGS (Thailand)

Thailand very appreciates and fully supports FAO's Secretariat in its initiative of proposing World Soil Day as recognized by the United Nations and also for proposing a celebration of the International Year of Soils in 2015. In this regard, Thailand would also like to encourage Member Nations and FAO Council to support these proposals in order to enhance awareness of the importance of soil to our food security system and to balance the Earth's ecosystem, as key elements, in preventing the world hunger. Therefore, awareness, advocacy and extension at all levels about the importance of soils must be supported and recognized by the United Nations as the UN World Soil Day.

Secondly, Thailand strongly supports the United Nations pronouncement of the International Year of Soil in 2015. You may recall that since the year 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences developed a resolution proposing 5 December as the World Soil Day. Ten years have already passed. That particular date was chosen to honour His Majesty the King of Thailand after more than 50 years for his work in promoting soil sciences and conservation of the Thai Nation and also international commodities. December 5 is the birthday of His Majesty the King, who this year is celebrating his 84th birthday or seven cycles. In this regard, in April 2012, the International Union of Soil Sciences presented the King of Thailand with an award of Humanitarian Soil Scientist.

Again, Thailand strongly supports this initiative proposed by the FAO Secretariat and encourages FAO and FAO Council Members to send this proposal to the 67th Meeting of the UN General Assembly which will meet in New York on September, and any other related meetings required for their further support and adoption this year.

M. Jean Marc TELLIANO (Guinée)

Ma délégation intervient au nom du Groupe régional d'Afrique sur le point de l'Ordre du jour du Conseil relatif à « l'Évolution des débats au sein des instances intéressant la FAO » dont le document référencé CL 144/INF/6 est présenté au Conseil à titre d'information.

En effet le Groupe régional félicite la FAO pour son implication dans des débats importants d'envergure internationale, liés au domaine de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. La FAO a participé activement aux activités internationales concernant la nutrition au niveau du Système des Nations Unies. Le Groupe d'Afrique soutient l'initiative de transférer le Secrétariat du Comité permanent de la nutrition de Genève au Siège de la FAO. Ceci permettra à la FAO de jouer pleinement son rôle de chef de file international pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

La Région d'Afrique reconnaît l'importance des sols dans la sécurité alimentaire, en ce sens où ils constituent la base productive. Elle soutient la célébration de la Journée mondiale des sols par les Nations Unies et de l'Année internationale des sols en 2015, afin de sensibiliser les populations à les préserver pour pouvoir nourrir le monde d'aujourd'hui et de demain.

Par ailleurs, la Région d'Afrique félicite la FAO pour sa participation active à l'élaboration du document de réflexion sur l'agriculture tropicale à la demande du G20. Ceci contribuera à encourager le partage des connaissances et le renforcement des capacités de recherche au bénéfice des Pays africains. Nous félicitons la FAO pour sa participation également à l'élaboration du Plan d'action sur la Stratégie mondiale d'amélioration des statistiques agricoles et rurales.

Le Groupe régional d'Afrique souhaite l'appui de la FAO pour améliorer les capacités institutionnelles et opérationnelles des Pays Membres dans ces domaines et pour permettre une bonne coordination des instituts de statistiques aux niveaux national, régional et international.

Monsieur le Président, tels sont les commentaires sur les documents présentés au Conseil pour information relatif aux interventions de la FAO dans d'autres instances. Sur ce, une fois de plus ma délégation, au nom de la Région d'Afrique, félicite la FAO pour les résultats obtenus, et l'encourage de poursuivre sa contribution sur les thèmes d'intérêt international relevant de ses compétences.

Mr Bernd CHRISTIANSEN (Germany)

We welcome the document CL 144/INF/6 and also the detailed reporting to the Council on recent developments in other fora of importance to FAO, providing relevant information on several issues which we consider particularly relevant in the context of matters currently considered by FAO Governing Bodies.

We appreciate the close involvement of FAO in the processes connected to the post-2015 UN Development Agenda, and commend the enhanced collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies in this regard. We recommend that Members be kept informed about further developments which may have to be taken into account in future debates on the strategic orientation and work of the Organization.

We note with interest the steps taken with regard to the "Delivering as One" initiative, and welcome FAO's role in organizing together with the UN Department for Development and Social Affairs, a meeting with Governments at the end of this month in Tirana, Albania to discuss the results of the Delivering as One Independent Evaluation.

We recognize that results of the Evaluation and the conclusions drawn at this meeting will be important for the preparation of the next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in November 2012. As this Report will also be submitted to FAO's

Governing Bodies, we consider it important that the results of the Delivering as One Evaluation and the conclusions of the meetings in Tirana be brought to the attention of FAO's Members.

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate our appreciation for the documents and the Reports, and encourage the Secretariat to continue keeping the Members informed about relevant developments in other fora of importance to the FAO.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

We would also like to commend the Secretariat for this very informative presentation. My delegation would like to focus very much on the proposal of the International Year of Soils 2015.

I think the Secretariat's presentation is very informative, and it provides the necessary background to justify the identification of International Year of Soils in 2015. As presented by the Secretariat and its framework of the Global Soil Partnership, FAO advocates for recognition of the importance of soils in achieving food security, as well as their pivotal role in promoting further ecosystem services.

Activities such as the observance of World Soil Day by the UN assist in creating awareness and achieving recognition for soil as a finite, non-renewable natural resource. Yet, there is a considerable increase in degradation of soil resources due to inappropriate practices.

As highlighted by the Secretariat, the increase in the degree and extent of soil degradation processes due to mismanagement and land use changes are threatening this resource.

This calls for urgent action to reverse this trend. We learned that the International Union of Soil Science has tabled a resolution in 2002 proposing 5 December as the World Soil Day, which has not yet been endorsed by the UN System. Though water, forest, biodiversity, and desertification are recognized by the UN System and are well-supported at the decision-making levels, it appears that this does not occur with soils, which is a natural resource upon which water, forests, biodiversity, and desertification depend.

Under the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, the International Union of Soil Sciences has requested the support of the United Nations to recognize and dedicate one day a year to this important resource, recognizing that soils are the key to addressing the current and future pressures of the growing population.

My delegation is of the view that such recognition, advocacy, and support for promoting sustainable management of soils at the international level is essential to guarantee healthy soils for food and to further promote ecosystems and a secure world.

Therefore, awareness, advocacy and extension at all levels regarding the importance of soils should be supported by specific activities similar to the United Nations System, such as the celebration of International Year of Soils in 2015.

We also support the intervention made by Thailand indicating that declaring 5 December as the World Soil Day would also coincide with the birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand, a great leader recognized in the Asian Region.

Judging from the past precedents, declaration of International Years by the United Nations are very specific. They deal on very specific local issues and they have helped to raise awareness on the contributions that those specific global issues could make towards attaining sustainable development and food security at different levels.

The main objective of the implementation of this proposed International Year of Soils 2015 should be to focus world attention on the recognition, advocacy, and support for promoting sustainable management of soils.

My delegation is therefore calling on the Council Members to endorse the Secretariat's proposal that 2015 be declared the International Year of Soils and that 5 December be World Soil Day with the above-noted objectives in mind.

Mme Bérangère QUINCY (France)

Je remercie le Secrétariat de ces nombreuses présentations et j'espère que nous pourrions en retrouver certaines sur le CDRP parce que cela a été quand même un peu court. Je voudrais commenter deux points: l'un sur la Nutrition, l'autre sur la Plateforme d'agriculture tropicale. Sur la Nutrition, la France attache de l'importance à une meilleure gouvernance de la nutrition, favorisant une meilleure coordination entre les différents acteurs, et une meilleure visibilité de cette thématique. Nous saluons donc les efforts faits par la FAO dans le travail de collaboration institutionnelle que nous sommes aussi heureux de soutenir financièrement. De même, nous sommes heureux de soutenir les efforts de la FAO dans ses activités de collaboration au sein de la FAO à travers les différentes unités et aussi dans les projets en cours sur le terrain. Nous encourageons la finalisation de la stratégie, et je ferais le même appel que celui que j'ai fait au PAM la semaine dernière, c'est-à-dire d'encourager la FAO à partager sa stratégie avec notamment le Programme alimentaire mondial. Je sais que ce n'est pas la seule institution avec laquelle vous collaborez au Siège comme sur le terrain, mais je crois qu'ici à Rome, c'est quelque chose qui serait particulièrement intéressant.

Nous apprécierons aussi d'être régulièrement tenus informés de la préparation de la future Conférence internationale sur la Nutrition, ICN+21, qui va se tenir en novembre 2013 et je vous remercie des premiers éléments que vous nous avez donnés à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne la plateforme d'agriculture tropicale, la France se réjouit des progrès réalisés depuis qu'au G-20 de Séoul en 2010 le Brésil avait lancé cette idée. Nous félicitons la FAO d'avoir accepté de coordonner le développement de cette Plateforme. Nous considérons d'ailleurs que la mutualisation des expertises dans le cadre de cette Plateforme est susceptible de contribuer au renforcement technique des pôles de compétence sous-régionaux, qui nous ont été proposés et dont nous avons accepté l'établissement dans le document sur la Décentralisation. Nous notons que si la Plateforme pour l'agriculture tropicale constitue un outil puissant pour la Coopération Sud-Sud, elle est également un instrument essentiel pour les Coopérations Triangulaires.

C'est pourquoi nous avons confirmé dès le départ notre soutien à la Plateforme d'agriculture tropicale. D'une part, nous contribuons en 2012 au financement du Secrétariat provisoire que la FAO met en place, et nous invitons d'autres contributeurs à se faire. D'autre part, nous acceptons le principe de mutualiser dans la Plateforme d'agriculture tropicale notre expertise tropicale spécifique selon des modalités d'adhésion des acteurs scientifiques qui sont en cours d'élaboration. Nous sommes donc heureux de répondre positivement, et nous l'espérons rapidement à l'invitation qui nous a été faite par la FAO dans la présentation, de nous engager et d'engager aussi les acteurs du monde de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur français dans cette initiative.

Mr Hideya YAMADA (Japan)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson, and we thank Management for the presentations. The title of the agenda is Fora of Importance, so we think that every forum is important, and we think that we should keep our eyes on them. We have a comment on the Soil presentation.

To be honest, when we read the document, we felt that its tone in Part 2 on Soil was quite different from other parts of the document. Perhaps the drafter of the document feels frustration or has ambition. Anyway, we think, as the document says, that soil is definitely one of the important natural resources and it should be rightly recognized not only here in FAO, but also in the entire UN System.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to also thank the Secretariat for their Presentations. I have two comments. The first is that China supports the statements of Sri Lanka and Thailand regarding the decisions relating to soils. Soils are considered to play a crucial role by China in agriculture and in ensuring human life. Hence, we fully support the work done in this area by FAO and at the same time, we support Thailand's position and the proposal that was made specifically concerning the declaration of 5 December as the World Soil Day, and the declaration of the International Year of Soils in 2015.

We also support the idea that FAO responds to the invitation from the G20 meeting regarding the requirements of developing countries in the area of tropical agriculture, and assist in the work for the

preparation of the Tropical Agriculture Platform. We also support the comment made by France in this regard.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, the Russian Federation would like to thank the Secretariat. Indeed, we agree that the Secretariat should dedicate special attention to all of these various areas of competence to the FAO and other UN Agencies. We hope to see this continue along the same lines in the future. We have just listened to interesting presentations. We would like to support the presentations and, in particular, we would commend the idea of dedicating 5 December as World Soil Day, as well as celebrating the International Year of Soils in 2015.

Soils are a very important subject, and an important issue in Europe, too. We are seeing soil degradation in Europe as well. It is crucial, therefore, that action be taken throughout the world since degradation is proceeding at a much quicker pace than soil formation. That is definitely one of the issues that lies at the very heart of all of our projects in agriculture, which explains our support. And it is very important that FAO have a vital role in the development of a new United Nations programme following 2015. We do understand that the First Millennium Development Goal will be very difficult to attain, although all efforts should be exerted to this effect. We know what the figures for population growth are, and that makes it very difficult to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger. We are speaking of one in six persons suffering from hunger, but there are many distortions too. We set ourselves a number of objectives. It is important that these objectives be feasible and achievable, and FAO must deploy its best efforts in this area.

In this area, there is little time, and the events which are carried out to improve agricultural and agrarian statistics must play a role. The strategic goals can only be set on the basis of statistics and that is an extremely important problem in the agrarian sector, especially in many developing countries. Undoubtedly, we should provide assistance to FAO in ensuring that those data are reliable and are submitted by virtually all countries so that we can construct our policy and our tactics for the future on that basis.

As regards nutrition, it is an important problem. Proper nutrition in terms of calories and appropriate food requirements necessary to guarantee the development of humans and domestic animals is vital. I am only bothered by the mixing of two terms. If we properly understand the term food security, then that is security. When people are not hungry, they have sufficient foodstuffs to be able to work properly and develop their immunity systems.

Nutritional security, however, is not so easy to understand. Evidently, we're saying that food should not be poisonous in any way. It shouldn't have any toxic elements which may harm living organisms, humans and animals alike. And I think it is better to use the term food security and nutrition and not nutritional security to avoid this confusion from taking place. However, it is an important problem. We very much support FAO's work in this field with WHO and other organizations.

I think I missed a part of the fifth presentation. Perhaps the notion of a Tropical Agricultural Development Platform is not very clear, but it is obviously an important development. All of these activities are extremely important for FAO, and we support the provision of information through these types of Presentations during Council.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

We fully support the proposal presented by the FAO Secretariat in order to advocate for and enhance awareness of the importance of soils to food security systems and to balanced ecosystems as key elements in combating hunger.

Soil is one of the main elements required for agriculture. Unfortunately, we lose a great amount of fertile soil yearly in the world. So FAO should exert all efforts in preventing soil erosion and in promoting soil conservation in appropriate and applicable ways.

We commend FAO for assuming an active role in this matter, which is important for its mandate. We also underline the importance of nutrition activities and support FAO involvement in initiatives such

as research, SCN, and SUN. Similarly, we support activities concerning reliable statistics for decision-making, and it is clear that this item is very important for development programmes.

We also support the interventions made by Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Antes de todo deseo agradecer a la Secretaría la información que nos ha sido presentada, teniendo en cuenta esos foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO que están produciéndose, que algunos están en evolución y que otros tienen tendencia y perspectiva futuras. Yo quisiera, efectivamente, comenzar con el tema de los suelos, visto que la FAO ha encabezado las iniciativas para que se proceda a aprobar ese Día Internacional de Suelos y que se va a retomar nuevamente. En ese sentido, nosotros apoyamos cualquier iniciativa que venga en esa dirección, lo hacemos a nombre efectivamente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Somos conscientes de que en todas las declaraciones desde el 1987 hasta el 2000 y, a su vez, una declaración del 1987 de la UNESCO, me refiero a las declaraciones de las Naciones Unidas, han hablado del tema del desarrollo y de la sostenibilidad, y hoy día estamos viendo cómo ese punto está siendo relanzado al integrar tanto lo social como lo económico como lo ambiental en los debates que se van a producir en la reunión de Río+20 la próxima semana. Efectivamente, esas son las tres dimensiones con las cuales se ha sustentado el trabajo del borrador de declaración que está siendo presentado.

Sobre el tema de suelos, quisiera solamente decirle que América Latina ha tenido una larga trayectoria en el trabajo de la ciencia de los suelos. Desde aproximadamente 1954, América Latina tiene el privilegio en todos sus países de poseer una gran cantidad de edafólogos que han construido esta idea, han hecho crecer la necesidad de la preservación del suelo. Ese es un trabajo que se viene haciendo desde 1954 y el 19° Congreso Latinoamericano de la Ciencia de Suelos se produjo en Mar del Plata en el pasado mes de abril. El tema central de ese Congreso de Suelos fue el desafío de mantener el recurso suelo de cara al año 2050 cuando la población del mundo a la cual se deberá alimentar será de 9000 millones de personas. Para ese desarrollo sustentable, efectivamente se requiere el recurso suelo. Ese es un recurso natural indispensable para la vida.

Sabemos todo lo que está ocurriendo hoy día, precisamente por su degradación. Pobreza, desplazamientos, inequidad, violencia, injusticia. Cuando no se posee un suelo fértil que permita que las poblaciones puedan contar con alimento y agua, y menciono lo de agua para que veamos la integralidad del tema de los ecosistemas, si hay suelos degradados, no hay agua.

El suelo es el soporte no solo de nuestros ecosistemas en todos los sentidos: para producir la agricultura, para la labranza, para la crianza de seres vivos, para cosechar, para todo, sino que el suelo como una actividad en donde podamos equilibrar esas actividades con los ecosistemas, nos va a permitir preservar el suelo. Cuando eso ha sido roto, no hay suelo, no hay agua. No hay suelo donde desarrollar la agricultura y no hay agua. Esa es la resultante de haber utilizado los suelos de manera inapropiada de tal manera que ese déficit de alimentos y de agua ha provocado situaciones sociales difíciles y graves de las cuales estamos padeciendo y por las cuales la FAO trabaja mucho para tratar de solventar con sus asociados, y donantes para acometer acciones que tienen que ver con lo que acabo de indicar.

Este tema debe ser abordado en consideración con los problemas actuales que han conducido a la desertificación en donde el cambio climático tiene una incidencia importante. De tal manera que hay que verlo con integralidad. Y, a su vez, creo que alguien que me antecedió, indicaba la necesidad del componente ciencia, del componente estudio, del componente edafológico como ciencia, como parte de las enseñanzas y de la investigación para que podamos avanzar porque el suelo tiene sus particularidades en las diferentes regiones. Precisamente, Latinoamérica surgió y el lema final fue “Unida para proteger sus suelos” en ese evento de abril.

El otro tema con el cual yo quiero hacerme eco de lo que se ha planteado acá, y creo que lo planteó Lorraine Williams cuando estaba hablando de los temas referidos al objetivo del desarrollo, es que de Río+20 debe surgir la idea de la sostenibilidad entendiendo la posibilidad de esa sostenibilidad y de ese desarrollo sostenible más con una visión nacional de país y local que la visión global. Y creo que

ustedes lo enfatizaron. Yo escuché que varios de los que intervinieron se tradujeron en que el enfoque nacional y de país es fundamental. Eso es, en esencia, algo que debe salir de Río+20.

El tema global es para acuerdos generales y para la búsqueda de fondos, pero el problema de la sostenibilidad pasa por el problema nacional, el problema de los estados de que asuman y se apropien de esas políticas que van a surgir de allí para la preservación de esos recursos naturales. De tal manera es absolutamente local y nacional el tema de la sostenibilidad. No hay posibilidades, porque esos recursos naturales le pertenecen soberanamente a países, eso es de los países y es el llamado de atención que debe surgir de allí. De tal manera que esa agricultura tal y como la conocemos hoy día, no ha sido sino el desarrollo de una relación entre el hombre y esos ecosistemas de manera gradual, que ha conducido a que tengamos el conocimiento adquirido hoy día y las experiencias en materias agrícolas. De tal manera, el tema ecosistémico y el tema de la localidad es un tema fundamental.

Y, finalmente, quisiera a su vez soportar la idea de que a partir del 2013 ya tenemos, bueno ya se está trabajando de hecho, en los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, objetivos de desarrollo sostenible del milenio, y eso va a surgir también a propósito de Río+20. Por eso hago énfasis en lo de sostenibilidad y su carácter local.

En términos de agricultura tropical, yo creo que eso es un tema que la FAO va a tener que asumir, independientemente de que sea el Grupo de los Veinte quien hoy día lo está emplazando a través de distintas conferencias y reuniones, lo cual me parece muy loable. Pero la FAO va a tener que tocar el tema de la agricultura tropical porque el 85% de la biodiversidad del mundo está concentrada en el trópico. De hecho, Venezuela ha trabajado mucho, tiene una escuela de agricultura tropical que funciona a nivel de Latinoamérica donde van estudiantes de distintas regiones de América Latina. Tenemos una escuela especializada solamente en agricultura tropical, y somos el décimo país megadiverso en el mundo, de manera que nosotros tenemos mucho que aportar en eso. Yo creo, entonces, que lo de la agricultura tropical, entendiendo que no solo corresponde a América, corresponde a África también y corresponde a algunas periferias del Asia, del continente asiático, hay que trabajar la agricultura tropical. Ahí tenemos reservas, ahí tenemos nichos, ahí tenemos una gran diversidad, dada precisamente sus condiciones de humedad, y sus condiciones más o menos estables climatológicas. La gran cantidad de energía que incide sobre esa región la hace precisamente megadiversa. Y tiene el hombre, el ser humano. Tenemos una gran potencialidad de recursos para satisfacer esas necesidades de las que estamos hablando en el 2050, cuando tengamos más allá de 9000 millones de habitantes en el planeta para alimentar.

De tal manera que me parece loable también el trabajo que se viene desarrollando para que hagamos énfasis, ya no solo como G20 que tomemos la idea de agricultura tropical como un tema que vamos a impulsar todos los Países Miembros con ayuda de los equipos que desde la FAO vienen trabajando en esto, y que tomemos conciencia de que ahí está prácticamente el futuro alimentario de la humanidad en términos de esa biodiversidad y de esa multiplicidad de cultivos que los ecosistemas hacen que sobrevivan unos con otros complementándose. Ahí hay una gran diversidad de cultivos que es muy interesante que la sigamos trabajando. Muchísimas gracias, Presidente y a todos los exponentes por las explicaciones que nos han dado de estos avances.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est nous qui vous remercions. Y-a-t-il d'autres interventions? Je voudrais vous donner une information avant de continuer, puisque le football suit un peu l'actualité: malgré l'intervention de Søren, dans le cadre du match Portugal-Danemark, le Portugal mène 2-1. Quand j'en avais parlé, le score était de 2 à 0 et il a suffi que j'en parle pour qu'il change! Je vous tiendrais informés d'ici à la fin du match. Bien entendu, ceci voulait juste détendre l'atmosphère, même s'il n'en était pas besoin. Vous pourrez, après l'intervention de Mme Burlingame, faire des commentaires ou poser des questions.

Ms Barbara BURLINGAME (FAO Staff)

I would simply like to thank all of the country representatives for the support that they have expressed for the work that FAO is doing in nutrition. I would particularly like to thank France for its offer of financial support for the work in FAO, and for some of the field activities. This would be a continuation of the generous support that France has already provided to the work in nutrition. Thank

you, also, for comments from Iran, Guinea and Russia regarding their specific support for the Organization's nutrition activities.

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

I would like to thank all delegations for the strong support expressed in this regard to the comment made by Japan. This part of the document was written by a very ambitious young man, and with the characterization of "young", you can see it was not written by me.

Ms Lorraine WILLIAMS (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

I would like to thank the distinguished delegates for the comments of appreciation and satisfaction to the work being done by FAO and in particular on the 2015 Development Agenda. I want to thank, in particular, the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela for her comment with which we fully concur. I just want to inform you that we will remain fully engaged in the process in collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies, and we will keep you informed of all developments regarding this work.

Mr Stephen RUDGARD (FAO Staff)

I would like to join my colleagues in thanking those countries that intervened in support of the Tropical Agriculture Platform, particularly France for its very active support for the Platform since their Presidency of the G20. I didn't go into a great deal of detail behind that, but we really do appreciate that support. We wish to thank China for its continuing strong support for TAP. We also appreciate the comments from the Africa Group. In particular, I would like to thank Venezuela for some very erudite comments regarding tropical agriculture, reinforcing for us the importance of this topic and to say that we are following up with many Members, particularly in the context of securing support in terms of in-kind resources, as well as potentially some financial support for the TAP.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Sous-Directeur général du Département de la coopération technique)

J'ai pris note des commentaires. Je vous confirme que le Secrétariat fera le point à l'occasion du prochain Conseil sur les progrès dans le cadre du processus QCPR, sur les résultats de la Conférence intergouvernementale de Tirana, et sur les résultats de l'évaluation du processus uni dans l'action.

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

Thank you, Chair, and thank you to all of the delegates who have expressed their support for the strategic work of FAO. We will continue to brief and update you on the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan in improving agricultural and rural statistics, as well as provide you with regular updates on the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous, les intervenants, mais aussi les Membres. Je pense que cet exercice est un exercice intéressant d'échanges; on a pu le voir avec les questions qui ont été posées, ce qui nous permet aussi de maintenir la connaissance des uns et des autres sur les activités de la FAO.

Je vous propose les conclusions suivantes: le Conseil se félicite des présentations faites sur les thèmes suivants. Pour gagner du temps, je ne les énumère pas mais ce sont les six thèmes. Je propose aussi d'inscrire dans le compte-rendu de notre Conseil quelques éléments sur la présentation d'hier sur les acridiens qui infestent la zone du Sahel en Afrique: le Conseil a entendu une présentation sur une résurgence acridienne due au criquet pèlerin dans le Sahel, mettant en cause le niveau de sécurité alimentaire dans la région. Le Conseil encourage les Membres à renforcer leur niveau de vigilance concernant ce dossier, afin de pouvoir répondre au mieux aux demandes de soutien qui pourraient être exprimées par le Secrétariat ou les Pays concernés, au cours des prochains mois. Il ne reste plus que le point trois à l'Ordre du jour.

3. Programme Implementation Report 2010-11
3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2010-2011
3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2010-11

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation on the purpose, the format, and the content of the Programme Implementation Report for the 2010-11 biennium. This is document C 2013/8, and once again I regret the late delivery of this document, which prevented the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees from considering the Report at their recent session.

As you have said, Mr Chairperson, the Committees and the Council will be able to have a full discussion of the Report at their next regular sessions later this year, prior to transmitting the Programme Implementation Report to Conference for approval.

I'd like to touch first on the purpose of the report. The PIR informs the Membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the last biennium. It is retrospective in nature, reporting on what the Organization has achieved in terms of programmatic results and financial performance compared to the two-year targets set out in the Medium-Term Plan and the budget in the Programme of Work and Budget. This document is not a report on evaluation, which is covered in a separate Programme Evaluation Report.

Under the results-based framework that covers all of FAO's work, the monitoring and reporting arrangements are built on three elements. First, work plan monitoring which takes place on an ongoing basis by managers. Second, a mid-term review, and third, the end of biennium assessment.

For the PWB 2010-11, periodic work plan monitoring was undertaken by all unit managers to identify risks and improve programme delivery during the biennium. The mid-term review 2010, which is a qualitative assessment by managers and strategy team leaders of progress toward achievement of unit and organizational results, was carried out in early 2011 and resulted in the mid-term synthesis review report 2010 that was considered by the Programme and Finance Committees in March of 2011.

The end of biennium assessment which took place during January to March of this year built on the monitoring and mid-term review to provide a comprehensive analysis of achievements against Unit and Organizational Results. It identifies opportunities for improved organizational performance and it generated information that was used in preparing the Programme Implementation Report 2010-11, which I am now presenting.

The end of biennium assessment included a quality assurance process for reported performance information related to the indicators to verify progress reported and to document the reasons for missed targets and lessons learned. Let me turn to the format of the document.

This is the first Programme Implementation Report produced under the results framework of the Medium Term Plan 2010-13. The structure is, therefore, somewhat different from past reports and, as recommended by the Conference, this structure was developed in consultation with the Programme and Finance Committees. The first section of the Report highlights four major policy developments in the biennium relating to FAO's work. This section was first introduced in the previous PIR, and was welcomed by Members.

The second section called *Making a Difference* provides an overview of the Organization's achievements world-wide under the 11 Strategic Objectives and Functional Objective X, as well as the Technical Cooperation Programme. The third section, *Managing Resources Wisely*, describes FAO's managerial performance and combines the review of work done under Functional Objective Y on Administration and the various financial analysis and other initiatives to improve internal efficiency and effectiveness.

The Report also includes five printed Annexes and one Web Annex on the internet. Annex I outlines the sources of performance information as part of the quality assurance process. Annex 2 describes work done at regional level. Annexes 3 and 4 report on implementation of the FAO language policy and progress on gender and geographical representation of staff in a standard format with time series.

Annex 5 presents the analysis of outturn against the targets at the organizational result level. This is the Annex, about 40 pages long at the end of the document, that has the detail on the performance indicators. The Web Annex is a statutory requirement that reports on scheduled and cancelled sessions or meetings during the biennium.

So what did we achieve during 2010-11? As you will recall, the agreed measure of FAO's effectiveness is through the indicators and targets of the 56 organizational results. In 2010-11, we achieved 133 of the 174 performance targets to the two-year performance targets in the Organizational Results, that is, 76 percent. The main reasons for the shortfall were three.

First, in some cases changes in donor interests, and competing priorities, and overly-ambitious targets. This accounted for 29 of the missed targets, or 17 percent of the overall targets. Recall that these targets are based both on the Assessed Contributions and extra-budgetary contributions. The second class of missed targets was related to over-optimistic assumptions about the cost of data collection, the timeliness and the availability of information. This accounted for missing or at least not being able to measure six of the targets. And, finally, measurements of six indicators are not yet available. They will be available later in 2012, but could not be reported in the PIR 2010-11.

Now, I want to just illustrate briefly three examples of what we have achieved in the biennium. First, volatile food prices that put food out of reach of many of the poor and have disrupted trade flows. FAO's response has been two-fold, first to help markets operate more efficiently and to enhance policy dialogue, we have developed the agricultural market information system with international partners.

At the same time, to help farmers develop sustainable, profitable farming practices and to link them to markets and financial services and thus increase incomes, FAO provided direct assistance to the European Food Facility to 15 million people in 28 countries that were hardest hit.

Another area FAO is working on is climate change, which covers a broad spectrum of activities ranging from local to global immediate actions to long-term strategies. FAO has applied its multi-disciplinary skills to develop a set of practices including land use, planning, and financing that can be drawn on to meet specific local needs. And, lastly, the Save and Grow Initiative which is aimed at the 2.5 billion small-scale or smallholder farmers and their families in developing countries, is helping farmers to increase productivity and improve their livelihoods while reducing the impact of agriculture on the agro-ecosystem. Soil health, fertility, water use, locally-adapted varieties and preventative plant protection measures are some of the key techniques applied by the Organization.

Concerning administrative and financial performance, FAO spent 99 percent of its Regular Programme Budget as was reported to the Finance Committee in May, while total expenditure, including increased Voluntary Contributions, rose by 25 percent during the biennium to USD 2.7 billion, that is 25 percent higher than the expenditure in 2008-09.

In the meantime, the continuing efforts to find efficiency savings resulted in USD 37.5 million in sustainable savings in the biennium, which achieved the target that was in the Programme of Work and Budget. Some other important highlights in these areas include an increase in the representation of women among Professional and higher ranks of the staff, from 21 percent at the end of 1996 up to 40 percent at the end of 2011.

There has also been a reduction in the number of countries falling outside the range of equitable representation among the Professional staff of the Organization, and that is reported in the annexes. There has been a continued improvement in the recovery of administrative and operational support costs rising from 64 percent in the 2006-07 biennium, to now 84 percent in 2010-11.

And, finally, we witnessed the successful Decentralization of the Technical Cooperation Programme with a reduction in TCP approval time from six to four months, as well as putting in place consultation with the Programme and Finance Committees and Council on internal assessments of TCP results.

Now, what are some of the lessons learned? The main value from a review of past performance such as this is to identify opportunities to improve our performance in the future. These are discussed throughout the Report. You will see a "lessons learned" section at the end of each of the narratives for

the Strategic Objectives, but I would like to highlight four common lessons that came out of many of the Objectives.

First is the potential for alliances and partnerships to increase FAO's influence and policy reach. You've seen that in the work we've done on helping farmers adjust to the volatile food prices, working with the European Union as a partner. There are many other examples in the document, and there are also opportunities that have been missed and need to be taken up in the future.

The second is the use of a multi-disciplinary approach to better meet the needs of stakeholders, especially when it is coupled with good science, good statistics, monitoring, and evaluation.

The third lesson is investing in capacity-development as an engine for sustainable improvements. Capacity-development is one of the core functions of the organization. We have a strategy on capacity-development that was discussed and approved by the Programme Committee during the course of the biennium, and should help us to make progress on sustainable solutions in the future.

And a fourth lesson is strengthening the results-based management techniques and practices that we use in our programme planning processes, in particular, the results chain and the formulation and cost effectiveness of indicators and targets. And this last matter has been raised many times, and we can see this also by the fact that we were not able to easily measure some of the indicators that we had used in the PWB.

Now, these lessons are being taken into account already in implementing the Programme of Work in the current biennium and will be taken up, also, through the Strategic Thinking Process for the future in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the next Medium Term Plan.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide the Council with a brief overview of the Program Implementation Report for the 2010-11 biennium, and we look forward to a full discussion of this Report at your next Session.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose le projet de conclusion suivant: Le Conseil a entendu une brève présentation du rapport sur l'exécution du programme 2010-2011 et décide que la discussion substantielle soit reportée à la 145^{ème} session du Conseil en décembre 2012. Le point trois est donc conclu, les travaux de cette session sont terminés. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 19.07 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.07 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-fourth Session Cent quarante-quatrième session 144.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 June 2012 Rome, 11-15 juin 2012 Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2012
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
15 June 2012

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.09 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 09
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 15.09 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la Septième et dernière séance de la 144^{ème} session du Conseil. Nous allons procéder maintenant à l'Adoption du rapport, le document de référence porte le symbole CL 144/REP que avez tous reçu. Je donne sans plus attendre la parole à M. Carlos Bentancour, Président du Comité de rédaction, pour nous présenter le Projet de rapport. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur le Président.

Sr. Carlos BETANCOUR (Presidente del Comité de Redacción)

Intervengo muy brevemente para informar que el Comité de Redacción ha trabajado muy arduamente durante muchas horas pero con un espíritu de cooperación y consenso que debe señalarse y realmente destacarse, como es habitual en esta Organización. Se ha tenido siempre una disposición muy positiva y el resultado, obviamente, está a la vista. Hemos trabajado sin pausa pero con buena productividad, y creo que tenemos un producto final muy bueno que realmente recoge las posiciones del conjunto de la Membresía y realmente no existen mayores dudas a nivel de la membresía, por lo menos, a nivel del Comité de Redacción, del cual puedo responder respecto de este Informe como tal.

La única cosa que no pudimos hacer por falta de tiempo fue, obviamente, chequear las versiones en las distintas lenguas y eso es una tarea que dejamos a la Secretaría para que haga una revisión final. Pero sí tenemos un texto acordado, consensuado y amistosamente definido gracias a la colaboración de los Miembros y al apoyo importantísimo e invaluable de la Secretaría, de los intérpretes y de los traductores, a quienes agradezco específicamente, y también gracias a aquellos que participaron en los trabajos del Comité de Redacción.

Me permito entonces, Sr. Presidente, recomendarle, y esto queda en sus manos, que este producto, este Informe, sea eventualmente aprobado en bloque.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Mes remerciements et mes félicitations à vous-mêmes et à tous les membres du Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent travail qui a été accompli. Quand au contenu, comme vous l'avez dit, il semble que le Projet de rapport devrait rencontrer l'agrément du Conseil. Cependant, s'il y a des corrections à faire aux versions linguistiques, comme l'a dit le Président, je vous prie de les communiquer par écrit au Secrétariat, afin qu'elles soient prises en compte durant la finalisation du Rapport.

Cela étant, le Conseil souhaite-t-il adopter le rapport de la session en bloc? Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous m'avez permis de gagner deux phrases, par vos applaudissements spontanés. Je vous remercie et le rapport est donc adopté tel qu'il a été présenté par le Comité de rédaction. Merci à chacun d'entre nous pour ses différents travaux.

Après l'adoption, y a-t-il des commentaires que vous auriez à faire, sur le rapport ou sur la vie en général? Chacun peut s'exprimer. Le Venezuela a demandé la parole. Donc je la lui donne et vous allez voir d'ailleurs que c'est sur la vie en général.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Felicitaciones a todos los integrantes del Comité de Redacción. Han sido, de verdad, tres días muy productivos. Sobre todo pensando en los caminos que vamos a transitar en la FAO en los próximos

años. Y a mí me parece que ha sido, efectivamente, en mi opinión personal y de mi país una excelente reunión con un excelente final y conclusión de una aprobación en bloque. Eso en primer término. Por tanto, felicitaciones a usted, Presidente, a la Secretaría, felicitaciones al Director General también. Disculpe, pero efectivamente estamos todos congratulados con este resultado.

Yo le he sugerido que me permita gentilmente la palabra para leer un mensaje de Su Excelencia, el Embajador Mourad Benmehidi, Representante Permanente de Argelia ante las Naciones Unidas, Presidente del Grupo de los 77, con motivo de la Conmemoración del 48.º Aniversario hoy, 15 de junio, del Establecimiento del grupo de los G77. Si usted me permite, para dar lectura, es breve, un mensaje que nos envió:

“Estamos celebrando 48 años desde que el Grupo de los 77 se estableció, el 15 de junio de 1964. El Grupo ha crecido en número desde entonces, lo que representa una importante fuente de su fuerza continua. La solidaridad del Grupo de los 77, forjada a lo largo de los años en diferentes foros dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, debe emerger con una unidad aún mayor y consolidar la fuerza en el beneficio de las actividades futuras del Grupo. La vigencia de la unidad y la solidaridad con la que se fundó el Grupo de los 77 hace 48 años, no ha sido afectada por el paso del tiempo y el reconocimiento de la evolución de la diversidad.

Tal solidaridad Sur-Sur ha sido el resultado de la percepción colectiva de los países en desarrollo, de que sus problemas son compartidos y comunes, y de la necesidad de una acción conjunta en conformidad con los principios y objetivos de la carta de la ONU. La unidad del Grupo de los 77 y China, y su percepción común de unión, se ve reforzada por el hecho de que casi todos los países en desarrollo han visto interrumpidos sus procesos de desarrollo en los últimos años por factores económicos externos en vista de la inequidad de las relaciones económicas internacionales.

La unidad y la solidaridad para el desarrollo del Sur son los más grandes signos de identidad e incluso los pilares del Grupo de los 77 y China. Desde su fundación, el Grupo no solo ha desempeñado un papel importante en el desarrollo y la cooperación internacional sino también ha sido un iniciador de la primera de las ideas, conceptos e iniciativas para su ulterior desarrollo. Las principales fortalezas del Grupo han sido su unidad y cohesión, su visión de un orden mundial justo y equitativo de la economía, el compromiso de sus Países Miembros para el mejoramiento de las condiciones de sus pueblos, y su compromiso con la cooperación de beneficio mutuo a través de la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Aunque ha habido logros significativos, nuestro mundo sigue siendo en gran medida un mundo de diferencia inmensa. Más de mil millones de personas en el mundo todavía languidecen en la pobreza absoluta. Los próximos años serán un reto para todas las naciones —desarrolladas y en desarrollo—, por lo cual lograr la prosperidad mutua es esencial para trabajar en pro de una economía mundial equitativa y un entorno mundial propicio que permita a todas las naciones y los pueblos prosperar y escapar de la trampa de la pobreza, que aflige a la gran mayoría.

En víspera de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible que se celebrará del 20 al 22 de junio 2012 en Río de Janeiro (Brasil), es oportuno que los Países Miembros del Grupo de los 77 y China, en esta ocasión, renueven su compromiso a la continua solidaridad y que las actividades conmemorativas de los distintos capítulos del Grupo de los 77 sirvan para reflexionar sobre el papel y la contribución del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, a las metas y objetivos del Grupo, como una manifestación de la importancia que se concede a la cooperación multilateral y al desarrollo.

Mis mejores deseos en esta ocasión tan especial para las celebraciones memorables con un homenaje a nuestros padres fundadores, que establecieron el Grupo de los 77 y China en este día hace 48 años.”

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius, of course, fully supports the statement made by the Chair of the G77 and all our best wishes and congratulations on that occasion.

My statement, Mr Chairman, concerns more what you call *la vie en générale*. So I thank you for giving me the floor for the last time. Indeed, allow me to take the opportunity of my last participation at the Council meeting to inform colleagues and friends and the FAO Secretariat that my term of

office as Representative of Mauritius to the UN Specialized Agencies in Rome will come to an end on 31 July this year. I, therefore, avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Director-General and his staff for their continued assistance to my country. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to all friends and colleagues for their unfailing support and their friendship, which I shall always cherish.

At the end I would like also to say a special goodbye to my friends of Small Islands Developing States with whom I have been privileged, and certainly very proud, to work. I wish them good luck for the future. Finally I would like to say goodbye to you all and thank you, Mr Chairman, for this Session of the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, et bon vent pour la vie en général, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure. Bien, il y a-t-il d'autres demandes d'intervention? Si tel n'est pas le cas, je donne la parole au Directeur général.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Merci beaucoup, Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council, Luc Guyau, His Excellency Ismat Abasov, Minister for Agriculture of Azerbaijan, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for Europe. I would like to thank you in the name of the other Ministers also for your presence in this meeting.

Distinguished Ministers, Members of the Council, Colleagues of FAO and UN Agencies, ladies and gentlemen.

This has been a very fruitful week. I would like to thank all of you for the trust and support given to the proposals presented. This trust and support are the warrants of the joint actions we are engaged in to achieve our common goals. Be assured that we have listened carefully to all of your comments and your guidance. We have noted them, and we will come back to you soon with the additional information requested.

At the opening session on Monday, I told you that I believed we were succeeding in rebuilding trust. The results of this Council confirm that. But I am not taking our advances for granted. They are part of a process that we are building brick by brick, in a frank and constructive manner, fulfilling the different and complementary mandates that the Secretariat and Members have for Management and guidance. I still think that we can and need to move further. But without a doubt, there is a breath of fresh air in our relationship. I feel there is a real engagement of the Member Nations and other partners in what is becoming a truly collective process to build a better Organization.

This Council session is also different, as we saw the break of the divide between the South and the North, between the G-77 and the OECD countries. As I have said before, achieving consensus is the best way to pave the way for moving forward faster. Let me repeat that, "I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together". We now have a clear roadmap and it's time to act. I am optimistic. When I spoke to you last year, I presented to you my vision for FAO. Today, I can see that there is a common vision shared among us. As you know, it's my intent to bring the Immediate Plan of Action, the IPA, to a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible, with most actions being completed by the end of this year.

But let me say that the IPA is the least common denominator of the Independent External Evaluation, the IEE, agreed within the context of the previous Management. Before we close the book on the ongoing FAO Reform, I would like to have the opportunity to revisit the IEE. Let's make sure that there are no important issues raised that have not been considered. I will present concrete proposals to the next Council meeting about this.

Let me say that any change brings uncertainty, especially changes that mean breaking with business-as-usual approaches, and that mean adopting a new mindset. But there is one certain thing about this process: change is absolutely necessary for FAO. Without change, FAO still risks becoming irrelevant as the IEE Report already pointed out.

I want to acknowledge and thank the interventions that have been made, pointing to the need for Members to refrain from trying to manage and, even worse, micro-manage the Organization. Despite the complementary responsibilities clearly established in our Constitution, in practice, all of us know

that there is still a gray area between guidance and management. It manifests itself in different ways, including the unconditional defence that Members sometimes make of their national staff.

In the spirit of Article VIII of FAO's Constitution, we should only see International Civil Servants in FAO. As I already said before, all staff members deserve to be evaluated based on their performance and not by their nationality, gender, religion, colour, or by the posts they hold.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Members, and especially the Independent Chairperson of the Council, for accepting that the Staff Representative Bodies be allowed to speak at this Session despite the last-minute request. Management and staff are also in the process of rebuilding trust. This is also necessary to move forward faster.

Let me briefly explain the next steps of our work in the second semester of this year. Regarding the Strategic Thinking Process, we will concentrate on the following three actions:

First, the Staff Working Groups will be developing the Strategic Objectives into concrete Plans of Action, taking into account the inputs received from the Membership, including your guidance of this week.

The further elaboration of the Strategic Objectives will provide a clear description of the problems, identifying for each one the priority areas on which to concentrate our work and the means needed for more efficient interventions.

Second, the elaboration of the Plans of Action will build on three cross-cutting issues: gender equity; science, technology and innovation improvement, and better governance.

Third, we will consider the overall implications of having our work reorganized around a smaller number of cross-cutting Strategic Objectives, within the context of a robust results-based framework, in the current structure of the Organization.

On 12 July, we will host a meeting with nine UN Agencies, five Regional Economic Commissions, and two regional agricultural bodies to discuss with our partners and stakeholders the implications of our Strategic Thinking Process, and possible future areas for better cooperation. We will also have formal consultations with the Committees on Fisheries, Forestry, and World Food Security during their meetings in the second semester. And, of course, the Revised Strategic Framework will be once again submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees in November and to the Council in December.

In this regard, let me just refer to one question that has been raised several times this week, on how the Multi-disciplinary Fund will work. Let me start by observing that today, in the existing Multi-disciplinary and Innovation Fund, there is a dispersion of resources into too many activities, decided on an *ad hoc* basis. A need to focus is obvious. To enable coherence and consistency with corporate priorities and programmes, the use of the resources of both funds will be overseen by the Director-General based on proposals from OSP through our reinforced Office for Strategy, Planning and Resources Management that you have just approved. Its main objective will be to fund cross-cutting proposals essential to the implementation of the ongoing Medium-Term Plan, and provide the transition to the new strategic direction of the Organization.

In the second semester, we also develop further institutional strengthening proposals for consideration by the Council. This effort will take into consideration the recent evaluation of "FAO's role and work in food and agriculture policy".

As I promised at the Council last December, I have made all efforts to ensure that we could have a smooth transition. To do that, I have been working with the team put in place almost in its entirety by my predecessor. When I addressed the Council last December, I also said that any new manager needs to have room to pick his own team, especially at higher-level positions, and that those changes should be seen as natural in all organizations, inside and outside the UN System.

Let me recall that I have already presented a set of procedures to ensure an institutional transition in the future and restrict the authority of the Director-General in certain matters during the transitional period. And I am pleased that Members welcomed the Draft Conference Resolution presented and

which you will have the opportunity to further discuss later this year. I am willing to self-limit the authority of any Director-General, including my own, during the transition process because I think it is in the best interests of the Organization, and because it complements the democratic spirit that must prevail before and after any democratic electoral process. I do not want any of my successors to face the embarrassing situation I had to face during the transition, and that I am still facing today.

Before I end, let me share with you some of the missions I have planned for these upcoming months. I am flying tomorrow to Los Cabos, to attend the G20 summit, at the kind invitation of its Mexican Presidency. This will be the first time that a FAO Director-General speaks to the G20 leaders, and it is also a first for the Rome-based Agencies. In the spirit of our renewed partnership and commitment to working together, the message I will take to the G20 will not be only FAO's, but a joint message with IFAD and WFP, that has already been agreed.

We are also taking the spirit of cooperation into Rio+20, where we will also present a joint statement. Strengthening partnerships is a cultural change in itself that needs to begin at home in Rome with our Sister Agencies, and needs to go beyond that if we really want to involve Civil Society and the Private Sector in our day-to-day work.

From Rio, I will then travel to Panama, El Salvador, and Honduras where I will be attending the Presidential Summit of Central America. Between July and October, I have missions planned to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Portugal, China, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Turkey and the United States, where I will also be attending the United Nations General Assembly.

In closing, I want to thank you very much again for your full support and I look forward to seeing you again in the next Council session in December. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général. Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et les Chefs de délégation, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous voilà sommes arrivés au terme de nos travaux et avant de vous remercier et de clôturer la session, permettez-moi d'appeler votre attention sur deux points. Premièrement, sur les Méthodes de travail du Conseil, la ponctualité dont vous avez fait preuve nous a permis d'optimiser le temps disponible. La concision de la plupart des interventions a contribué à un débat plus dynamique.

Enfin, les conclusions que je vous ai proposées à la fin de chaque point ont essayé d'être les plus précises possible afin de faciliter le travail du Comité de rédaction. Je considère que nous sommes sur la bonne voie. Nous essayerons d'ailleurs de progresser dans cette direction lors du Conseil de décembre.

Deuxième chose, sur le contenu de nos travaux, conformément à la Résolution de la Conférence du 2 juillet 2011, le Conseil a pleinement assumé son rôle de suivi de la mise en œuvre du plan de réforme: le Plan d'action immédiate. C'est un acte de gouvernance essentiel que vous avez accompli, conforté par les contributions des Conférences régionales, incluant la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord.

Par ailleurs, les décisions du Conseil concernant la Stratégie des ressources humaines confortent sa position d'organe exécutif en plein accord avec la lettre et l'esprit du processus de Réforme.

Enfin, la mention sur la menace acridienne dans le Sahel, qui figure dans le rapport, démontre également que le Conseil est conscient des réalités qui l'entourent, et qu'il est capable de réagir comme les Textes fondamentaux le lui demandent.

Il me reste maintenant à vous remercier, et particulièrement ceux qui siègent pour la dernière fois, je ne peux pas les citer parce que je risque d'en oublier. Il y en a dans chaque continent, avec qui j'ai travaillé beaucoup, d'autres moins longtemps, mais soyez tous remerciés.

Je remercie aussi les observateurs, les Présidents et les membres des Comités, je remercie Monsieur le Directeur général et le Secrétariat, et également tout ceux qui ont contribué à la qualité de cette session, particulièrement Louis Gagnon, dont c'était la première participation comme Secrétaire général du Conseil. Louis n'est pas un bleu, mais c'était un bleu pour cette opération-là. Madame Barbara Ekwall, son adjointe, ainsi que Stephen Dowd, qui est plutôt dans les coulisses, et toute son équipe. Je voudrais aussi remercier Jean-Jacques Soula, mon Conseiller pour son appui pendant ce Conseil, mais aussi permanent. Je remercie également le Président Carlos Bentancour et les membres du Comité de rédaction, qui ont effectué leur travail avec succès, un travail délicat, qui a duré 9 heures pile. Ils avaient trois fois trois heures, ils ont réussi à tirer les conclusions juste au bout de neuf heures. Mes remerciements s'adressent enfin aux interprètes, qui sont là aujourd'hui, mais aussi les jours passés durant la semaine, qui nous accompagnent et qui nous permettent la réalisation de nos travaux; aux messagers, aux agents de sécurité et aux différents techniciens qui permettent que tout cela fonctionne normalement.

En tout cas, sachez que personnellement j'ai pris beaucoup de plaisir à présider ce Conseil, autant sur la forme que sur le fond, car comme vous l'avez dit sans que nous nous consultations, ce Conseil sera inscrit dans l'histoire de la FAO, et vous avez Monsieur le Directeur général les éléments aujourd'hui pour agir. Alors bonne chance, sachez que nous sommes à vos côtés.

Voilà se que je voulais vous dire, je vous souhaite un bon retour dans vos foyers et je déclare la 144^{ème} session du Conseil levée.

The meeting rose at 15.44 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.44 horas