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粮食及
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session - Trente-neuvième session - 39.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 6-13 June 2015
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 6-13 juin 2015
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
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**Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 June 2015

The First Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera reunión a las 9.55
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, all other non-state actors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour to declare open the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. Our commitment to a food secure and sustainable world is what brings us together this week. It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to FAO headquarters – friends old and new, and the delegates who are here for the first time. In particular, I want to acknowledge and express my appreciation for the presence of our speakers today:

His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy; Her Excellency Michele Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile; and, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former President of the Republic of Brazil, who will deliver the McDougall Lecture today.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the presence of:

His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of Mali; The Honourable Commodore Joaia Voreque Baini-mirana, Prime Minister of Fiji; His Excellency Domingos Simões Pereira, Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau; The Right Honorable Ralph Gonzalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The first item on the Agenda is the Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons.

At its last Session, the FAO Council proposed that His Excellency Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture Store Corporation of Samoa preside over this session of Conference. May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and can confirm this by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I now invite His Excellency Le Mamea Ropati Mualia to take the Chair of this session of Conference. Minister, Chairperson, you have the floor.

CHAIRPERSON

His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy, Her Excellency Michele Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former President of the Republic of Brazil, distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is an honour for me, and also for my country, to have been elected as Chairperson of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

I thank you and wish to express my deep gratitude for the trust you have placed in me. I also like to take this opportunity to thank my ministerial colleagues and the countries of the Southwest Pacific Region for nominating and supporting me as their candidate and also to members of the FAO Council for agreeing to forward my candidature to the Conference for endorsement. Thank you.

To Your Excellency, the Director-General and High Chief Tagaloaletoa o le Malae o le Toto Graziano da Silva; thank you for your warm welcome and introductory remarks.

As Chairperson, and on behalf of the FAO Secretariat and the organizers, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished delegates from all over the world to this 39th Session of the FAO Conference. This forum, in the past few years that I attended, has always been exciting and entirely dedicated to improving the way in which FAO, as the world authority in food security and agriculture development, carried out its mandate the world over.

The impact of this Conference as I have observed, is a reflection of the valuable contributions and interventions by delegates, and the improvement in the quality of views presented by the experts and resource persons and the Secretariat.

The ultimate impact of the Conference resolutions and outcomes in terms of the work that FAO carries out in the field is the result of the responsibility shared by all of us, those who attended past Conferences, and those of us who are present here today. We each have our piece of responsibility, regardless of how small, to carry out the decisions of this Conference in our respective countries in the best way we know. Our impact at the country level may be small and insignificant; collectively however, as FAO member countries, we have made a difference in the lives and well-being of many, especially the most impoverished in our respective societies.

I am therefore delighted and honoured to be chairing this distinguished gathering this morning. May I wish this forum the best of success in our deliberations and decisions.

To complete our work successfully and on time, I respectfully request your cooperation and understanding in helping me to manage the work of this Conference in a spirit of cooperation.

As your Chairman, I shall do all I can to conduct the affairs of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference fairly and in keeping with the rules of the Organization.

I will now pray for God's guidance: Oh God, our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray for thy blessings upon this gathering of delegates from all over the world who are gathered here this week to find ways and means to improve food security and nutrition in order to eradicate poverty and hunger from every country of this world where we live. Instill upon us the spirit of love and compassion, knowledge and wisdom so that we can come up with good decisions and resolutions for the sake and benefit of every citizen in our world. In thy name we pray. Amen.

Let us now return to the first item on the Provisional Agenda.

Item 1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons

Point 1. Élection du président et des vice-présidents

Tema 1. Elección del Presidente y los vicepresidentes

(C 2015/12; C 2015/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

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

The 151st session of Council held in March this year proposed three candidates for the three positions of Vice-Chairperson of this session of Conference.

The following nominees are now presented to the Conference for approval: Mr Claudio Javier Rozencwaig (Argentina); Mr Serge Tomasi (France); Mr Majid Dehghan-Shoar (Islamic Republic of Iran).

Can I take it that the Conference approves these nominations?

It is so decided. I congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons and look forward to working with them over the following days.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, we are privileged to have with us this morning His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy. As you may know, this is the first time His Excellency

Sergio Mattarella is visiting FAO since taking office earlier this year. I now have the honour to invite His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy, to address the Conference.

Mr Sergio MATTARELLA (President of the Republic of Italy)

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation extended to me by the Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, to participate in the 39th Session of the Conference of the FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization, in the year in which we celebrate the 70th anniversary of its foundation which happened, as with the United Nations, in 1945. Italy is truly honoured to be able to host the headquarters of FAO and has done so since 1951. Italy is also very happy to be able to contribute to the implementation of its important mission to which many of our compatriots contribute.

I believe that today we need to recognize the farsightedness of the founders of this Organization and we feel indebted to them. Indeed, FAO has laid the foundations for a system in which countries can cooperate peacefully to pursue noble objectives such as that of eradicating hunger and poverty. And obviously this is not separate from world and global threats.

Hunger is a cause that has triggered violence and war, and fighting against it is a valuable step towards peace. It would be a crime to transform water and food into a tool that could unleash conflict and violence. On the contrary, they bear witness to the indivisibility of the destiny and lot of humankind.

FAO is the backbone of an activity on behalf of the international community which inevitably is becoming more and more complex. The right to food and to water is enshrined in and part of a broader right to life and they support an idea, which is that of human security, requiring cooperation between states, sustainable development, reduction of inequality, the fight against poverty, a great commitment against climate change and the fight against the consequences and causes at the root of natural disasters, and the protection of biodiversity, amongst many. These words today spell out the word 'peace'. They are the challenge of today.

Fifteen years ago the millennium declaration of the United Nations set out a number of very ambitious goals, the first of which was to halve by 2015 extreme poverty and hunger, with a view to completely eradicating malnutrition, and I am very glad to welcome the result and outcome that will be celebrated next Sunday when 72 countries will be recognized for achieving this target, i.e. for halving the rate of malnutrition. This is quite an amazing result which rewards the great efforts deployed.

In 1990 the number of people who suffered from hunger was over one billion. Today, in spite of the population growth, it has significantly declined. However, the road ahead is still very long. Indeed, we cannot neglect to bear in mind that 800 million people, including 160 million children under age five still live in desperation because they simply do not have enough food or do not have sufficient food to grow up healthy and as free men and women.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition which was organized jointly by FAO and the World Health Organization, took place here in Rome in November last year. It was a very important event because it bolstered the international strategy in combatting hunger. The Rome Declaration which was adopted on that occasion indeed reiterated the commitment of governments to foster food security in the awareness that malnutrition does not affect only individuals, in particular those that are most vulnerable such as children and women. It is also a heavy burden that undermines the very socioeconomic development of countries which are afflicted by it. Inequality, even internal inequality, should not be overlooked so as to enjoy competition and growth. On the contrary, inequality and exclusion open social rifts and deprive countries of the potential for development. They especially afflict the basis for sustainable development.

To this end, the commitment of FAO is particularly significant as it is aimed at building around sustainable agricultural development a favourable environment from the social, political and legal point of view. This of course is in order to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger in developing countries. In order to break that cycle it is absolutely necessary to conduct a reflection on the most appropriate measures to be taken in the field of social protection, starting with support which should be extended to small-scale farmers and their families. Equally, in the poorest of regions which are often characterized by family farming practices, everything must be done to foster equitable distribution of and fair access to the existing land and products.. Equally important is to foster the role

of women who essentially and significantly contribute to stepping up productivity, to reducing malnutrition and to improving general living conditions. And yet, alas, in many cases women are hindered in their access to production technologies and instruments. They encounter greater difficulties than men when it comes to obtaining credit and they are subject to discrimination in education.

Now, it is possible to vanquish poverty and malnutrition. Of course it is a challenge. It is difficult, but it is possible. Humankind cannot but move in this direction. There will never be true peace as long as these disparities continue to exist. Nations have to join together and make sure that solidarity prevails over selfishness. Dialogue and cooperation can fight fanaticism. Solidarity begins with some measures to counter the consequences of natural disasters and climate change and they begin with measures aimed at trying to cope with emergencies created by conflict. The international community has to be ready to step in effectively and not only with measures of humanitarian assistance but also with projects in the areas most at risk which can bolster the capability of populations to prevent and cope with crises, calamities and natural disasters.

As well as today's Conference, in the second half of this year there are some very important events planned, very important for the whole of humankind. There will be a conference in Addis Ababa on financing for development, the UN Summit in New York in September to define the agenda of sustainable development and the Paris Conference on Climate Change.

Of course, much is at stake here. It is up to our generation to overcome hunger. It is up to this leadership, the leaders throughout the world are called upon to raise the generation known as "zero hunger generation". If we were to fail, we might preclude success of future generations. I am strongly convinced that we will make it. Nevertheless, we need to be aware of the fact that putting an end to hunger and poverty, protecting the environment and guaranteeing a future to new generations and combatting social exclusion is something that requires a global strategy. After all, poverty, inequality and unemployment are evils that concern every country, whatever its degree of development. These are issues which to a different extent plague everyone and inflict everyone, every state. Equally, problems such as those of climate change, the dearth of natural resources, food insecurity and energy insecurity have consequences for all at all latitudes of the planet.

The world has changed and in the face of such challenges the international community is no longer capable of just referring to the old dialogue between the north and the south. The world is interdependent as a result of which we all have to go an extra mile, otherwise we run the risk that global governance becomes impossible. The time has come for us to intelligently pool our resources out of solidarity. Let us pool the experience and knowledge of all, each according to their possibilities and opportunities. Italy, as FAO and in support of FAO, is strongly committed to contributing to the drafting of a Post-2015 Development Agenda which after 2015 will have to implement the millennium goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank José Graziano da Silva for taking action aimed at achieving new growth targets and goals. We are fully behind him. We remember the words spoken by the UN General Secretary. We have to place people and the planet that feeds us in a central position. At present people and the planet are consuming our resources but the future has to be different. The new agenda has to be founded on the respect of human rights and they must be underpinned by a spirit of partnership amongst governments, international agencies, the private sector and local communities. There can be no peace in the world until we fully ensure and guarantee the right to food and water, until the battle against poverty does not become a strategy capable of removing structural causes.

We need a human and inclusive development model which recognizes the important of values such as equity and equality and fosters sustainable economies. Sustainability is not a lack of growth. On the contrary, it is the new frontier of innovation based on greater social, generational and territorial equity.

We must also adopt sustainable development in order to solve at the root the emergency of migration flows which today in the Mediterranean represent an unprecedented human tragedy. We have the moral duty to save human lives. We have the commitment to take in and help those who are crying out for help. We must persecute those who are traffickers of human beings and people smugglers. Europe has to be able to forge a strategy to bolster cooperation with the countries of origin and countries of

transit of migration flows that can indeed favour and foster their economic and social development. Only by contributing to improving the living conditions of those that flee from their country will we be able to curtail the dimensions of the huge problem which we will have to live with for a very long time. Otherwise, all barriers will become insecure and it will do nothing but further fuel hatred and fanaticism.

A little over a month ago we opened the Universal Exposition of Milan and Italy chose as its theme “Feed the Planet; Energy for Life”. EXPO 2015 in Milan is to be considered as an opportunity to all countries, governments, the citizens of the world, non-governmental organizations, civil society and businesses to look into the whole challenge of food and sustainability innovation. Creativity and organizational skills are being challenged.

The Charter of Milan was drafted on the occasion of EXPO and it was also discussed at the international agriculture forum which saw gathered the ministers for agriculture of several countries and who are actually attending this Conference today. The Charter asserts the right to health and nutrition, food, energy and clean water that is going to be bequeathed by EXPO and which should be seen as the result of joint efforts following in the steps taken by FAO for the past decades.

Signing the Charter of Milan means recognizing that only with joint action where everyone carries out their part in a responsible manner will it be possible to overcome the challenges of malnutrition and food waste, thus promoting equal access to natural resources with sustainable management of production processes.

We are called to make truly historical decisions at this turning point. If we do not correct the inertia of the past few years the earth will lose vital functions. Our destiny is not to be taken for granted; it is up to us to determine it. We will be judged for the peace that we will build or deny. I wish you all the best in the awareness and certainty that you will be taking an important step in the right direction. I confide in the constructive nature of your discussions and deliberations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Excellency for your words of encouragement at the outset of our Conference.

As Host Country to FAO since 1951, Italy has unfailingly provided its generous support to the Organization and its activities, and we are all most grateful for that.

I now have the honour to invite Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile, to address the Conference.

Excma. Sra. Doña Michelle BACHELET JERIA (Presidenta de la República de Chile)

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República de Italia, Sergio Mattarella, Excelentísimo Señor ex-Presidente de Brasil, Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Señor Director de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, José Graziano da Silva, Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la 39.º Conferencia de la FAO, Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Excelentísimos señores primeros Ministros de Fiji, Guinea-Bissau y San Vicente y las Granadinas, Excelentísimo Señor Viceprimer Ministro de China, Li Keqiang, Distinguidos Ministros, Representantes Permanentes, Delegados, Señores y Señoras, amigos y amigas.

Agradezco la invitación del Director General, José Graziano da Silva, para acompañarlo en este nuevo período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. El desafío de esta Organización — alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria para todos y todas —, solo se puede conseguir erradicando el hambre y la malnutrición, atacando las desigualdades y la pobreza, haciendo más sostenibles y productivas nuestras actividades económicas, y ajustando nuestras normativas para propiciar sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios que sean eficientes e inclusivos.

En esta misión, sé que todos los presentes estamos fuertemente comprometidos y trabajando desde hace ya un tiempo.

Cuando asistí como Presidenta de Chile a la Tercera Cumbre Mundial Sobre Seguridad Alimentaria en 2009, intercambiamos experiencias y adquirimos compromisos en temas que siguen vigentes. Por ejemplo, la reducción de las crisis alimentarias, la adaptación al cambio climático y su mitigación, los desafíos para la agricultura y las medidas para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Y lo hicimos tomando en consideración la importancia de potenciar el desarrollo rural, de apoyar a los pequeños agricultores, así como promover el comercio justo.

El principal compromiso fue trabajar en acciones nacionales, regionales y globales para alcanzar la meta del primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio y el objetivo de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996: reducir la proporción y el número de personas que sufren hambre y malnutrición hacia mediados del 2015.

Me enorgullece que Chile sea uno de los países que ha cumplido ambas metas. Hemos reducido la proporción y el número de personas que sufren hambre y malnutrición. Y quiero aprovechar para agradecer el reconocimiento que nos ha hecho la FAO, a través de su Director General, y todo el apoyo brindado para cumplir la meta.

Lograrlo no es solo cumplir objetivos y compromisos internacionales; es asumir como prioridad del Estado la lucha contra la desigualdad, la pobreza y la injusticia, que tanto se evidencian en el estado nutricional de nuestros compatriotas.

Esto es lo que hemos hecho y lo que seguiremos haciendo, para asentar la seguridad alimentaria de Chile y contribuir en la del planeta. Y para ello, tenemos claro que uno de los aspectos centrales que debíamos enfrentar es el de la desigualdad, especialmente aquella que tan nítidamente se manifiesta en el mundo rural.

La clave, nos parece, es dar más oportunidades a los pequeños productores respecto de aquellos que están más capitalizados, con mayor vinculación a los mercados internacionales, con tierra y agua en abundancia. Así reducimos la brecha y aumentamos las opciones productivas, junto con estimular la equidad.

Para ello estamos implementando una serie de medidas que fomenten el desarrollo rural mediante el apoyo constante a los pequeños agricultores, con mayor financiamiento, y facilitando el acceso en igualdad de condiciones a los mercados locales, nacionales y extranjeros.

En el ámbito de la agricultura familiar campesina, estamos trabajando con políticas y programas para entregar mayor capacitación, acceso a recursos financieros y tecnología, y estamos promoviendo la asociatividad y el cooperativismo entre los pequeños agricultores. Hemos fortalecido el uso del seguro agrícola y hemos desplegado un conjunto de instrumentos extraordinarios para ir en apoyo de aquellos pequeños productores afectados por la sequía en nuestro país.

Pero las desigualdades en el mundo rural no solo son evidentes entre grandes y pequeños productores. También afectan a las regiones más aisladas, a los pueblos indígenas y ciertamente a las mujeres. Me referiré a este último punto, una cuestión fundamental por la que he luchado permanentemente en mi vida política: la igualdad de género en todos los ámbitos.

En nuestra sociedad, como en la mayoría de los países, las mujeres rurales tienen menor acceso al crédito, menor asistencia técnica, muchas veces problemas de titularidad de la tierra o empleo rural. Y eso es una muestra de la situación de desigualdad social y económica en la que viven, lo que impide que aporten todas sus capacidades a la agricultura.

Cerca de 58 millones de mujeres viven en áreas rurales en América Latina y el Caribe. Y ellas son claves en la lucha contra el hambre como productoras, pero también en su papel múltiple como principales encargadas de la alimentación de los niños y niñas, y de la adquisición, la manipulación y la preparación de los alimentos.

Nuestra convicción es que es imprescindible destinar esfuerzos reales y profundos a empoderar a la mujer rural, apoyándolas en la generación de ingresos y en lograr que asuman la responsabilidad de la administración de los recursos familiares. Esa es la clave para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de familias vulnerables que viven de la agricultura familiar.

Asimismo, debemos ser capaces de asegurar sus derechos sobre las tierras donde viven. También de asegurarles el acceso a las transferencias directas y hacerlas beneficiarias de los programas de micro-financiación, entre otras herramientas. Solo así lograremos dar el giro tan deseado a la actual situación de pobreza rural e inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional que afecta a nuestros países, porque las mujeres tienen la llave que abre las puertas a un mundo libre de hambre y de pobreza.

Estimados Delegados, los resultados de nuestras políticas están a la vista. La economía chilena ha crecido sostenidamente y ello incluye el desarrollo de sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios inclusivos y eficientes. La agricultura se consolida como una actividad económica importante en la generación de empleo en el país y nos hemos transformado en una economía exportadora de alimentos, siendo reconocidos como una potencia alimentaria.

Pero el proteccionismo imperante se expresa con particular fuerza en los mercados agrícolas, y su efecto sobre la agricultura de los países en desarrollo es demoledor, lo que les impide desarrollarse y garantizar alimentos para su población.

Frente a esta realidad, hay que tener y demostrar voluntad política para cambiar el estado de las cosas, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional. Por eso nos parece tan importante y urgente alcanzar un acuerdo en la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Hay que retomar con fuerza las negociaciones de la Ronda de Doha para el Desarrollo, con miras a la aplicación del Paquete de Bali, que se concreten en decisiones sustantivas en áreas de seguridad alimentaria y sobre la liberalización del comercio agrícola.

Nos hablaba el Presidente Mattarella sobre grandes oportunidades que tiene la comunidad internacional en este año, por un lado en la definición de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, la Discusión de Addis Abeba del financiamiento para el Desarrollo, y sin duda a finales de año en París en el COP 21, las medidas a tomar para el cambio climático, una gran responsabilidad, y Chile va a seguir jugando un rol de buscar todos los acuerdos que nos permitan responder de manera eficaz y colectiva a estos desafíos.

Paralelamente debemos redoblar nuestros esfuerzos para enfrentar el problema de la malnutrición, como una realidad que enfrentamos a nivel mundial, tal como se abordó en la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición de noviembre pasado.

Las cifras siguen siendo alarmantes a nivel mundial: más de 800 millones de personas padecen hambre crónica, 2 000 millones de personas sufren de carencias de micronutrientes y 160 millones de niños siguen afectados por retraso en su crecimiento.

Sin embargo, en el curso de estos años, han surgido otros problemas nutricionales. Me refiero a la obesidad, que afecta a más de 500 millones de adultos en el mundo desarrollado y en el mundo en desarrollo. Actualmente, muchos países —entre ellos Chile—, hacen frente al mismo tiempo a las múltiples cargas de la malnutrición: la subalimentación, el hambre oculta y la obesidad.

El desafío es enorme. Se avanzó en la dirección correcta con la Declaración de Roma sobre Nutrición y el Marco de Acción aprobado por todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO, entre ellos Chile, que deberá servir de base para las actividades que se están planificando para la década de la Nutrición, que se inicia el próximo año.

Como país no solo hemos apoyado el compromiso adoptado en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO de erradicar el hambre en nuestra región al año 2025, a través de la Iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre. En la última reunión, en agosto del año pasado, también nos impusimos un desafío aún mayor: combatir la malnutrición en sus dos vertientes el hambre y la obesidad.

Latinoamérica y el Caribe es la región que concentra el mayor número de países que han logrado el primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio. Es una buena noticia, pero no obstante ello, 47 millones de latinoamericanos y caribeños aún sufren hambre, mientras que la obesidad afecta al 23 por ciento de los adultos y el sobrepeso, a 3.8 millones de niños menores de cinco años.

Ante esta realidad, en la región nos hemos comprometido a avanzar en agendas de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en el marco de la Iniciativa y de otros espacios como la Comunidad de

Estados de Latinoamérica y El Caribe, el Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana, la Comunidad del Caribe y la Unión de Naciones Sudamericanas.

Como país, estamos comprometidos con estos objetivos y hace tiempo que venimos trabajando a través de leyes y políticas públicas para lograr una buena nutrición en nuestra población.

Respecto de la desnutrición, en Chile en la actualidad no es más del 0,5 por ciento. Distinta es la situación de la obesidad y el sobrepeso, que alcanzan entre el 25 y 30 por ciento de prevalencia. Esto ha significado que se ha aumentado el elevado porcentaje de enfermedades metabólicas, que conllevan una pesada carga de enfermedades no transmisibles, y es un problema central de la salud pública. Un solo dato: hoy en Chile muere una persona cada hora por enfermedades asociadas a sobrepeso u obesidad.

Enfrentamos esta realidad considerando los determinantes sociales, que inciden tanto en la desnutrición como en la malnutrición por exceso. Me refiero entre otras a la pobreza y a los menores niveles de educación. Pero también a la disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos más saludables e inocuos. Es por ello que incorporamos la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional como parte de nuestras políticas públicas.

Nuestra apuesta es insistir en una mirada multisectorial, que considere el ciclo vital de las personas, con un fuerte énfasis en intervenciones durante la primera infancia y el ciclo escolar. Eso comprende los cuidados de la gestación, el fomento de la lactancia materna, la vigilancia del crecimiento y del desarrollo infantil, estrategias de alimentación saludable y actividad física en establecimientos educacionales, entre otras.

Junto a ello nos hemos comprometido a llevar a cabo un cambio de paradigma: se trata de desarrollar políticas públicas que modifiquen los entornos para facilitar los cambios de conducta.

Por ejemplo, mejorar la información de los consumidores a través de etiquetado nutricional en la cara principal de los alimentos; restringir la publicidad de los alimentos dirigida a los niños. Y también intervenciones estructurales en colegios, como prohibición de venta de alimentos con exceso de energía, sodio, azúcares y grasas saturadas y trans o el aumento de horas y espacios para actividad física.

A eso se suma potenciar políticas de fomento agrícola y pesquera que permitan mayor disponibilidad de productos propios de nuestra cultura y economía.

En definitiva, estamos apostando a generar un círculo virtuoso de desarrollo económico y social saludable y en esa línea seguiremos trabajando, a nivel nacional, regional e internacional.

Quiero terminar agradeciendo una vez más al Director General, Jose Graziano, por esta invitación, ofrecer todo el apoyo de mi país en la excelente labor que viene desarrollando al mando de la FAO, celebrar que bajo su gestión temas como nutrición y género hayan recibido la atención que merecen y que hoy sea transversales a todas las áreas de la Organización. Es el tipo de decisiones estratégicas que hacen más eficiente y justa la labor de las organizaciones multilaterales. Y es el tipo de miradas que hacen más solidaria y equitativa la vida en nuestro planeta.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Excellency, for addressing the Conference at the outset of its 39th Session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, President Mattarella is obliged to take his leave from us due to other pressing engagements.

Item 2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee
Point 2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs
Tema 2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales
(C 2015/12; C 2015/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations proposed for election to the General Committee as submitted by the Council. The nominations are as follows: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Iraq, Nicaragua, Slovakia.

Are there any objections? It is so decided.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee made by the Council. Cuba, Eritrea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Oman, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Thailand, United States of America. Does the Conference wish to endorse these nominations? It is so decided.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

Item 33. Any Other Matters
Point 33. Autres questions
Tema 33. Asuntos varios

33.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture
33.1 Conférence McDougall
33.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall
(C 2015/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to sub-item 33.1, under which the Conference will listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture.

This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization. The Lecture is delivered at each ordinary session of the Conference.

I now have the pleasure of inviting the former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to deliver the 29th McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Mr Luiz Inácio LULA DA SILVA (Former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil)

Excellency, Chairman of the 39th FAO Conference, Mr Ropati, my dear friend José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, my dear friend Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, my dear friend His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of Mali, His Excellency Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, dear friend His Excellency Domingos Simões Pereira, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau and dear friend His Excellency Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Dear friends, Ministers, heads of state, delegates to the 39th Conference and dear brothers and sisters, I would like to thank you all for the honour of being invited by FAO to its 39th Conference to deliver a lecture paying homage to Frank McDougall, one of the great inspirers of this organization, who fought for the cause of food in the world.

In truth this honour belongs to the Brazilian people for the success achieved in overcoming hunger and poverty in my country. This is an opportunity to recall the historical ties between FAO and Brazil which is one of the 44 countries that founded this great Organization at the 1943 conference. In the 1950s, working side by side with Frank McDougall was one of the most important Brazilian scientists, Josué de Castro. He devoted his life to studying the deeper roots and causes of hunger in Brazil and in the world and he wrote two fundamental books on the issue – *The Geography of Hunger* and *The Geopolitics of Hunger*. Josué de Castro's ideas have helped us to understand that hunger is not a natural phenomenon. It is a social phenomenon caused mainly by uneven economic structures. Josué de Castro alerted us to the fact that “*hunger and war do not obey any natural law, they are human creations*”.

In January of 2012, another Brazilian came along to give his contribution to FAO: Professor José Graziano da Silva was elected Director-General, expressing a broad consensus among countries to discuss hunger much more seriously. To our great joy, our brother José Graziano served his first term honouring the life commitment that brought him here: a permanent fight against hunger and extreme poverty. Along with other multilateral organizations, governments and civil society of many countries, FAO acted boldly to so that the highest number of countries could meet the food security targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Seventy-two countries have reached the target of halving the number of people in their population subject to hunger, and 29 countries achieved the more ambitious target of the World Food Summit.

It was with great pride that we received, last year, the news that Brazil was no longer on the map of hunger. This means that we are watching the first generation of Brazilians grow up without having to face the drama of hunger. The Brazilian experience has proven that it is indeed possible to overcome hunger when the fight against extreme poverty is escalated to national policy with resources that are guaranteed in the budget; when social programmes on food, health, education and support for family, small- and medium scale farmers are combined; when permanent strategies are adopted for income distribution, job creation, and wage growth. This is the reason I would like to share with all of you the way in which we achieved this success.

Besides paying homage to the FAO founders, I would also like to pay homage to three of our brothers who dreamt of ending hunger 12 years ago. Yet in these 12 years, those brothers have helped us to end hunger in Brazil.

First I would like to pay homage to my brother José Graziano, our FAO Director-General, who led the design of the Zero Hunger Programme even before we were in the government. And then he became the first Extraordinary Minister for the Fight against Hunger in Brazil. God knows how mercilessly he was criticized by the Brazilian media because he said that the poor needed to be receive cash transfers. Another brother who we should also pay homage to is Minister Patrus Ananias, who was the Minister for Social Development and the Fight against Hunger and who is now the Minister for Agrarian Development and is attending this Conference. And my sister Tereza Campello who is currently Brazil's Minister for Social Development and the Fight against Hunger: She is responsible for coordinating the Programme to Fight Hunger, *Bolsa Família*, the family grant programme, and the Brazil without Extreme Poverty Programme set up by President Dilma Rousseff. I would like to pay homage to these three people because today I can come here and give my testimony that it is indeed possible to end hunger in the world. We need to want it.

In 2002, the year when I was elected President of Brazil, 11 million families were surviving on less than one dollar a day in Brazil. More than 50 million people were going hungry; almost one third of the Brazilian population at that time. Children were sentenced from birth to suffer from malnutrition and diseases and if they did manage to survive they were sentenced to the stigma of extreme poverty and social exclusion. Millions of mothers and fathers were permanently afflicted because they had no means of providing their family's daily bread. In reality, the government only governed for one-third of the population, while the great majority were forgotten as if we did not all live in the same homeland. In my inaugural speech, I said that I would have fulfilled my life's mission if by the end of my term every Brazilian could eat three meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner - every day. We prepared ourselves for this challenge by travelling around the country, holding discussions with scientists and

social organizations and studying international and local experiences. Then we developed the Zero Hunger Programme under the coordination of our dear José Graziano.

The Zero Hunger Programme is a coordinated set of public policies involving cash transfer, credit to family farmers, land reform, healthcare, education, school meals, and vocational training, amongst many other government actions. Such a broad strategy could only work with the participation of civil society and that is why we created the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security, made up of various representatives of civil society in Brazil. The Council worked to formulate the programmes and today continues to oversee them, assess the results, and draft new food security strategies.

The best-known part of the Zero Hunger Programme is *Bolsa Família*, a family grant programme that pays a monthly income to the poorest families provided three conditions are met: their children are attending school, the children are having all their vaccinations and pregnant women are undergoing all the medical examinations recommended by the World Health Organization. The *Bolsa Família* or family grant is considered one of the best conditional income transfer programmes in the world and now serves 14 million families or 54 million people. President Dilma Rousseff has improved the strategy, developing a new programme called *Brasil Sem Miséria*, or Brazil Without Extreme Poverty, supplementing the necessary income to ensure all families served by the programme remain above the poverty line. This may come as a surprise, but we did not spend much money on this.

If presidents decide to wait for the finance sector of government, or for the Finance Minister to tell them there is leftover money available, they would never succeed in developing a cash transfer programme, because there would always be some newspaper claiming that the money would be better spent building a road. Someone would always say that it would be better to invest in building a bridge. Someone would always say that another government priority should come before the poor because there is global tendency to treat the poor as statistical data. They are simply a beautiful number, a statistic to be used during electoral campaigns. But after the election campaign is over, this statistic vanishes from the minds of most people who win elections.

I want to prove that in Brazil we spent only 0.5 percent of the GDP. We spent half a percent of our GDP looking after the 54 million people who were not getting enough calories and proteins to survive in our country; 0.5 percent of the GDP. We achieved the miracle of no longer treating the poor as simply statistical data, a number, a figure; instead we treated the poor as human beings, as men, women and children who had the same right to eat as many calories as the richest man in the country could afford. And this should certainly be possible and everybody can do it, even if it takes a while. If we do not start today, the only thing that we can be sure is that the number of poor in the world will increase. So we have a great responsibility. The Brazilian case demonstrates that lack of priority rather than lack of money is the main factor determining our success. The main hurdle that we have faced – please forgive me: I have to drink a lot of water since I had throat cancer. When I was younger, I would drink other stuff and I had no problems with my throat.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The major hurdle that we faced when implementing our social protection programme was prejudice by the Brazilian media and by some privileged sectors of society. They claimed that the *Bolsa Família*, the family grant programme, would encourage laziness and idleness; people would not want to work anymore but would just live on the programme; it only amounted to a pittance that the government doled out to beggars – and that it was a way of biasing people in to vote for Lula in the upcoming elections. An unimaginable amount of negative press coverage was directed against the Zero Hunger Programme. Who would have thought that giving meals to the poor would have caused such indignation outcry amongst those who are able to eat more than three meals a day?

This was absurd and we were iron-willed to make the programme a success. Critics then said that the government had to announce an exit strategy out of poverty, say how long it would continue to hand over money to the poor and explain the way out of this programme. My response was, how could we talk about exit before the poor had even walked in the door. Very well. Our stubbornness won the day and our practical experience demonstrated that all the criticism was completely unfounded. I know

that same thing is now going on in many other countries that are adopting conditional income transfer programmes. This is why I want to highlight some lessons that we in Brazil learned with the income transfer policy represented by the *Bolsa Família*, the family grant programme.

The programme did not lead to laziness as many would claim. Quite the opposite: more than 70 percent of the heads of households enrolled in the programme had a stable job although their income was not enough for them to live on. The *Bolsa Família* does not replace work or jobs. It supplements family income to help people break out of the poverty cycle. The guaranteed basic income also frees citizens politically because they are no longer forced to exchange their vote for a pair of shoes or for a kilo of beans as was very common in Brazil before the *Bolsa Família* Programme. A basic income is a public right that has been gained by people who were always previously overlooked in Brazil. To guarantee this right in a democratic way, we set up a single national registry of families living in a situation of poverty. This single national registry is overseen by the General Attorney's office and is updated constantly.

Mr Chairman if you would permit me to address my colleagues at FAO: if you do not have a proper national register that you can use to locate the person who will receive that benefit, you may think that you are handing over money to the poor but the money may actually stay in the hands of the middleman. This is the reason I continually insist that one of the most extraordinary achievements of the *Bolsa Família* programme has been to set up a single national registry so we have direct information about where recipients live. The payment itself is made without human intervention. It is made through a magnetic card of a state-owned bank without any red tape and middlemen. It is an ATM card, and the people who withdraw the money do not owe any favours to anyone. They receive their money through these electronic cards and they can do whatever they wish with the money.

Back in the old days in Brazil, food baskets were distributed to the poor: you received a box containing salt, three kilos of beans, and two kilos of rice. We thought that the best thing that we could do to guarantee the independence of those needing support from the government was to give them the money in cash so that they could buy whatever they wished and in the quantity that they wished. Then we did something different, President Michelle Bachelet, that the women of Brazil demanded of me: the magnetic card or the ATM card that we use is issued in the mother's name instead of the father's name for a very simple reason. Almost everybody here is married or we know someone who is married, and we all know that our sisters are better at taking care of the family and they are more committed to doing so. I think that men might be tempted to enjoy drinking a few beers in a pub with that money. Men might think of spending a dollar here and there on beer and this is the reason we prefer to hand over the ATM card to the women because we know that women will buy the daily bread and milk that their children need to survive. The programme is a complete success because 99 percent of the cards in Brazil are given to women to help them take care of their children. As a result, women achieve a new position, a much more relevant and respected position in their families as well as in their local communities.

So my dear friends, transferring income to the poor is ultimately very beneficial to the country as a whole because it increases demand, business, production and job creation. It generates a virtuous cycle of development. One story I always tell is about Guaribas, the first city in Brazil to receive the Zero Hunger Programme. This is a very poor city, located in one of the poorest states in Brazil. After the city started to receive the Zero Hunger programme, the first sign of individual entrepreneurship appeared. A woman set up a beauty parlour and for the very first time the poor women in that city had enough money to go there and have their hair done. A lot of people said those women could not do that. I said that yes, most certainly they could do it. They watch privileged ladies going to the beauty parlour every day so why should they not go to a beauty parlour themselves once? An income transfer policy therefore allowed thousands of entrepreneurs to surface in Brazil. This was another way of proving that a very simple income transfer to the poor will allow the growth of a new service industry throughout our country.

Another important thing was the strengthening of agriculture. This was extremely important because agriculture was essential to the food security strategy and Brazil has almost doubled its agricultural output over the last twelve years. The figures that I am going to give you cover large and small-scale

farming, but the financing of agriculture in Brazil increased from R\$21 billion to R\$180 billion, which equates to growth of R\$60 billion.

Even more important than the increase in output and the most important factor contributing to growth in output was land reform and here I refer to my dear José Graziano: his father was my advisor at the time when Graziano was a full time professor at university.

Graziano's father, who was a great farmer and committed to humanitarian ideals was the one who started the family dream that led to his son being appointed Director-General of FAO.

In these 12 years since 2003 we made 51 million hectares of land available for the land reform programme in Brazil. That accounts for 51 percent of all the land made available for reform in five hundred years of Brazil's history. We did it in twelve years. We achieved 51 percent of everything that was done in five hundred years.

It was no easy task as you can imagine, but we managed to prove that it is certainly possible to do it and Brazil has approximately four million family farms, which account for 70 percent of the food production reaching the tables of Brazilian workers.

These medium-sized and small-scale family farm holdings are responsible for the food reaching our tables because agroindustry is more geared toward export and the credit supplied to family farmers went up from R\$1 billion in 2003 to R\$10 billion in 2014.

Land, credit, technical assistance, sun and rain were therefore all that the country needed to achieve a qualitative leap forward in generating income transfer to the Brazilian poor. We also adopted a very efficient system for crop insurance as well as a minimum purchase price policy to offer stability and guarantee future prices for small farmers. This is important because if the government does not offer guarantees for family farmers, they will lose when there is a lot of rain and their crops are destroyed by flooding, and they will lose when there is too much sun, and their crops are destroyed by droughts. When they manage to produce, the marketplace does not guarantee a minimum price for their products and they sometimes need to give it away almost for free.

The government has therefore agreed to guarantee a minimum purchase price so that small-scale family farmers know that they will never lose out; they will produce and will be able to sell their goods.

We have also passed an act in Congress to set up a school meal programme in Brazil that gives out school meals to 47 million children every day in Brazil's public schools.

Every day 47 million children receive at least one school meal per day until they are 17 years of age, if I am not mistaken. With the primary aim of helping local development, we approved legislation that makes local governments purchase 30 percent of food for school meals locally from family farmers with the aim of disseminating and increasing local agricultural production and developing a local market ensuring that money circulated in these small towns.

This local support for family farmers was an extraordinary achievement. We also invested in environmental education, offering incentives – some financial – for preserving native forests and spring water.

Minister Tereza Campello, who is with us today, is responsible for a revolution that took place during President Dilma Rousseff's government. Minister Patrus initiated a programme that was ultimately so successful that the Northeast region, the most arid in the country, managed to build more than one million water cisterns to collect rainwater so that people could have drinking water. One million two hundred thousand water cisterns have been built. Now they have invented something called a productive water cistern that is able to collect a little more water so that families can not only have drinking water but also grow produce in their gardens or give water to their animals or livestock. I wish this new programme every success.

We developed another very important programme called Electricity for All. One day, President Dilma, who used to be Minister for Energy, brought me a document showing that two million people in Brazil had no access to electricity in their homes.

I asked her to come up with a programme that would allow us to take electricity to all homes. There were people living five hundred metres away from a hydroelectric power plant who had no access to electricity. Some people had never watched Brazil play football on television. I had already run for and lost three elections for the presidency and some people had never seen me as a candidate on television.

I therefore decided to develop an ambitious government programme called Electricity for All. I know many people here in this room will have experienced living in a house where the only source of light was a kerosene lamp: we used to call it a *candeeiro*.

You had to carry the lamp around. The light it gave off was like candlelight and the women would sew under it even though they could hardly see. People had to live as if they were in the eighteenth century and even today people in many parts of the world have to make do with candlelight.

We developed a programme that levied a small fee on consumers who could afford to pay more as part of the electricity bill. With R\$ 28 billion we took free electricity to people living in remote areas in Brazil.

To give you an idea of what this meant, one 70 year old woman who had never seen an electric light was so scared of the electricity when she turned on the light that she ran out of her house: she was dazzled by so much light.

There is another story that I have told many times in Brazil but it is the first time that I am going to tell it here.

When we put electricity into the home of a woman living in a very poor part of Brazil, she kept endlessly turning the lights on and off, on and off, on and off. When her husband asked her why she was turning the lights on and off, she replied that she was doing it because she had never seen her child asleep before.

Touching stories like this illustrate the impact of social programmes that we must develop in our countries. They offer people who have never had anything in their lives an opportunity to have the bare necessities. The Electricity for All programme created almost 500,000 jobs privileging local businesses since the idea was to create and develop income at local community level.

This miracle meant that the percentage of the population with access to power increased from 78 percent to 97 percent, affecting fifteen million people.

When we started to develop the Electricity for All programme, once again people voiced their prejudices, saying that Lula and the government only think of the poor, and nothing for those living in big cities.

Interestingly enough, 79 percent of the households that had power put into their homes bought TV sets. Seventy-three percent bought refrigerators. Fifty percent bought other electrical appliances, various kinds of equipment and water pumps.

We actually sold 2.4 million TV sets and 2.2 million refrigerators because of the Electricity for All programme alone. We also installed seven million electricity masts, one and a half million transformers, and one and a half million kilometres of electric cables and wires. To illustrate what this means: one and a half million kilometres of electrical wires or cables would encircle the earth thirty-five times.

No private company, however humanitarian, would ever have done that because it would not have been profitable. It was simply socially fair and ethically necessary and only the government could have taken this responsibility.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I would like to tell you about another important achievement under the income transfer programmes. You may recall that in early 2008 at the time of the food crisis, people started to voice concerns that the prices of soybeans, other food commodities and oil were very high.

At first the blame was put on China, my dear Director-General of FAO, because now it is fashionable to blame China for everything; the Chinese were the ones who were buying everything and that is why everything was so expensive. But then we discovered that China was not responsible. The future markets had much higher oil reserves than China and were buying up the soybean production.

Ultimately, the very financial system that underwent meltdown in 2008 was speculating with the agricultural production on future markets causing a lot of problems to the poorest countries in the world.

I therefore developed a programme called More Food [*Mais Alimentos*] and we decided to finance agricultural machinery to increase the production of family farmers in Brazil. Amazingly enough, Mr President of Mali, this programme sold 58,000 tractors and 28,000 small trucks as well as thousands more small trucks and vans.

I believe the programme sold 14,000 harvesters at very low interest rates under long-term finance schemes, which was the only way for small farmers to gain access to funding. The More Food programme was extended to Africa and Latin America.

I am not sure whether sales have started yet, because it takes a while after the programme is launched to go through the bureaucratic formalities. The time lag is sometimes longer than in our term in office. I know because I went to Ghana recently and they have been waiting for funding for three years.

I know this programme is being rolled out to other countries, which are being offered the same funding as the small farmers in Brazil. We decided to do this to help countries gain access to this technology.

You can ask the Brazilian ministers present at this General Assembly about it. Our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mauro Vieira, who is here, is following this programme..

I am very proud of another achievement we introduced to ensure that young people do not have to move out of their areas: we set up 18 new public federal universities in the country, and also 148 campuses over the twelve years. President Dilma Rousseff has also set up 365 vocational training schools with the aim of bringing about a kind of peaceful revolution that is respectful to all.

We have tried to share the benefits of our decisions throughout society as a whole in Brazil. These new universities and vocational training schools mean that thousands of youngsters have had access to higher education for the very first time. They are also helping to develop the interior of the country and ensure that students do not have to live under bad conditions in Brazil's big cities.

As a result of these and other policies, besides increasing food production, we increased the income of small-scale family farmers by 52 percent in little more than ten years. All of this has concurred with the objective of fighting hunger and extreme poverty. In twelve years the actual value of salaries has grown by 74 percent. Family income went up by a third and by two thirds in the poorest families. The supply of credit went up from 24 percent to 57 percent of GDP.

The combined result of all of these policies is well known – and José Graziano da Silva should be very proud of this because he was one of the creators and developers of this policy: we managed to lift 36 million from extreme poverty. Another 40 million were raised to the middle class threshold and we created 22 million formal jobs in Brazil.

This is the result of a set of policies focussing on proving that the poor are not part of the problem. When looked at properly, the poor are part of the solution for our countries. If you lend one million to a rich person, that money will go into a bank account. If you lend 10 dollars to a poor person, it will help to feed mouths, the money will circulate and everybody will be able to participate. This is the miracle that made of our policies in Brazil and I am overjoyed to see extraordinary examples in virtually all of Latin America and other regions.

Evo Morales developed a programme called *Embarazada* in Bolivia. This provides pregnant women or single mothers with financial support, and other programmes have been developed. This is a revolution for Bolivia, for people who have never had anything.

I also know that successful experiences are going ahead in Africa and this makes me feel very optimistic about overcoming this problem.

It is very important that FAO should be a kind of sounding board for all these successful experiences so that we can share knowledge gained through best practices with the rest of the world.

During the Olympic Games in Rio – when I hope we will not fare as poorly as during last summer's football World Cup – we will have another conference on Nutrition for Development, as took place in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Dear friends, the results achieved by many countries, in cooperation with FAO, within the Millennium Goals are very encouraging. FAO is working with extraordinary numbers, but the numbers are still small, relatively speaking, because we still have 800 million hungry people. We reduced the numbers by 200 million but the truth of the matter is that those who are hungry cannot afford to wait. We have to hurry. Paradoxically, this urgent situation has come about when the world is able to produce much more food than it consumes.

The problem is not lack of food production. The problem is lack of income for people to buy food. The world's rulers must understand that drought and floods are natural phenomena, but hunger is the responsibility of mankind and must be overcome as a matter of urgency.

I was very happy because in 2013 I had the opportunity to participate in an important forum in Addis Ababa with José Graziano and Ms Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union, to sign a commitment to eradicate hunger in Africa by 2025.

I was even happier to find that this commitment was confirmed in 2014 by the African Union Committee of Heads of State and Government. Now that heads of state and government have approved it and if the rich and highly developed world is prepared to support this project, we can really dream of actually ending hunger in Africa as well as in all other countries in the world.

I would like to end, dear friends, by telling you that next September at the UN General Assembly, the UN will enter into a commitment concerning the Sustainable Development Goals. The first step toward achieving full social development is to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty. This great step forward demands the commitment of citizens and governments according to the spirit of the Milan Charter, which we signed yesterday.

Non-governmental organizations certainly have a very important role to play in actions against hunger and poverty – extreme poverty – in the world. But I must again stress that this struggle demands permanent sources of financing; we need a national policy to end hunger.

It is well known that the very poor do not organize themselves in political parties. They do not have trade unions to represent them. They cannot go on marches. They do not have lobbies in congress. They do not hold protest marches. They do not even have access to the media or support from the press. The poor rely on the political vision of the world's leaders and this is why it is extremely important that we should adopt this approach.

The Millennium Goals balance sheet shows hunger, disease and malnutrition remains high among the people of Asia and Africa who live in situations of conflict, be it internal conflicts or wars with other countries. In these regions, the map of hunger and the map of war are superimposed, forming a tragic picture. This reminds us that there can be no peace where there is hunger. Even where violence is not the immediate cause of poverty, wars exacerbate the suffering of the civilian population, especially the most vulnerable.

Hunger and poverty are also the deeper root causes of the increase in people migrating because they have lost hope for a future of their own land. If we wish to build a secure world for all, it is much more effective to attack the root causes of hunger, rather than focus on the perverse results of this tragedy.

We have never been so close to achieving the dream of ending hunger. We have previously unimaginable scientific knowledge that allows us to produce food in abundance. We have the material resource and technology to invest and fight poverty and hunger throughout the world. We have the most powerful moral argument, which is the tragedy of hundreds of millions of famished children and we have practical evidence that it is indeed possible to overcome hunger as we did in Brazil and as has been done in many other countries.

Promoting food security in a healthy and environmentally sustainable way is much more than a dream: it is a humanitarian cause. A cause capable of uniting people, governments, and institutions. This first quarter of the 21st century could indeed be the moment to build a safer world for all: a world free of hunger and poverty. My wish is for all of you, men and women, delegates to this 39th FAO Conference, to take this message to your countries: breaking bread is the first step toward building peace.

Thank you very much. A big hug to all of you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for delivering the 29th McDougall Lecture and sounding the key note for this session of Conference.

As you know, Frank McDougall came from Australia; hence I now call upon Ms Jo Evans, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture of Australia to take the floor.

Ms Jo EVANS (Australia)

It is a real honour for me personally to have the role of responding to President Lula's McDougall Memorial Lecture.

The purpose of the McDougall Memorial Lecture is to focus the Members of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization – that is you and me – on the issues that require our attention over the week ahead.

It also honours Frank McDougall.

Before today, some of you may have asked who is Frank McDougall, and some of you may be asking who I am and why do I have a role in speaking in response to this McDougall Memorial Lecture. So I would like to try to answer briefly.

Frank McDougall was a public servant and an economist. He was born in England and lived for a time in South Africa before he settled in Australia. He was a fruit farmer in a place called Renmark, a town that grew on the back of irrigated agriculture on the banks of the iconic Murray River.

He was a Second Lieutenant in the Australian Army during World War One and, in the 1920s, he moved to London as a representative of the Australian Government to advocate for growing markets for dried fruit.

He became known as an innovative thinker and became influential among politicians, and he started talking to them about increasing food consumption and improving diets.

He linked nutrition, agriculture and economic development. He worked on these issues under the League of Nations, when it existed, and he was part of the Australian delegation invited by the Roosevelts to the Hot Springs Conference in Virginia that laid the foundations for the FAO, which is why this Lecture honours him each year.

FAO was born in 1945 and, if I am not mistaken, President Lula himself was also born in 1945, so FAO and President Lula have shared a lifetime.

Frank McDougall devoted much of his lifetime to the FAO, as a valued adviser to the Director-General. He worked here for many years and died here in Rome in 1958.

So Frank McDougall was a man who represented his country well and served, as part of the FAO, to the benefit of many.

The connection between me and Frank McDougall is that I am, as he was, a public servant representing Australia, including representing my Government here as a member of the FAO.

I am not a farmer, but I work each day on matters that affect farmers. The farmers that provide us with the food we eat and the clothes we wear.

As my Minister, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce, would say: “Most of us don't need the doctor every day or the lawyer or even a teacher, but every single day, you need a farmer.”

In our role as representatives of governments, it is our job to create the enabling environment that allows farming to flourish.

Profitable farmers are sustainable farmers. Sustainable profitable farming has the ability to meet the nutritional and energy needs of the people who then drive economic growth.

An environment that supports innovation, that fosters productivity and enables produce to efficiently make its way to markets, generates profitable farmers.

Of course there is a role for social safety nets. Of course there is a role for the programme such as the one we have heard about today with such passion from President Lula. What a remarkable and noble outcome they have achieved in Brazil through the Zero Hunger Programme and other Programmes that we heard about today.

Rural resilience requires social support. It also requires farmers to be able to manage risk, to innovate and grow their own businesses. In return, we all get the food and fibre we need to live productive and healthy lives.

We all do know the statistics, and they are not just a number as President Lula said: 800 million humans with insufficient food; 1.4 billion people living on less than USD 1.25 a day mostly in rural areas; 2.5 billion people involved in full or part time smallholder agriculture.

These are the most vulnerable among us and when crisis hits we must respond quickly so they can live with dignity. But the social safety nets and emergency responses are just part of the environment that we need to create as governments.

We also need innovation in food production. We need the ability to trade and the rules-based system that underpins it, so that markets function well. We need an attractive investment environment.

Every person here, every country has their own strengths. Every country has its particular issues that must be a focus for their government.

But we are not just here this week as individuals. We are not just here this week as representatives of our own governments. We are the Members of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

And it is what we do together to create the environment for farmers to flourish that really counts. So I would again like to thank President Lula for sharing his perspective on the challenges we must face together. And I would like to thank Frank McDougall and his peers for their role in bringing us together.

Let us make the week ahead one that strengthens the prospects for reducing rural poverty and hunger, and paves the way for profitable sustainable farming.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 33.1. I wish once again to thank His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for addressing the Conference at its opening meeting, and to wish him well for all his admirable endeavours to increase our understanding of the causes of hunger, which of course is a fundamental step towards reducing and eliminating it.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of our work for this morning.

Before closing our meeting, may I remind the seven members of the General Committee elected earlier this morning, and the three Vice-Chairpersons, to make their way to the Lebanon Room (second floor Building D, room number D.209) for the First Meeting of the General Committee, which will begin in a few minutes. I now give the floor to the Secretary-General for a short announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

May I remind delegates of the side event on the “Work of FAO on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)” starting immediately after the close of this meeting in the Green Room on the first floor of Building A, that is, directly beneath this Plenary Hall on the first floor.

I should also like to request delegates to take all their belongings with them as the seating plan for this afternoon’s meeting will change.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Secretary-General. The Second meeting of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall at 14.30 hours this afternoon. Please ensure you are here in the Plenary Hall at 14.30 hours sharp. With this our first meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 11:41 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.41

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
6 June 2015

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 14.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the second plenary meeting of the 39th FAO Conference to order.

In the interest of the safety of all present, I request your attention for a few minutes to view an audio visual presentation on fire safety procedures at FAO Headquarters.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Union.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. The European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States which is contained in document C 2015/INF/2.

Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session**Point 3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session****Tema 3. Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones para el período de sesiones**

(C 2015/1; C 2015/12; C 2015/INF/1; C 2015/INF/2; C 2015/LIM/8)

Item 4. Admission of Observers**Point 4. Admission d'observateurs****Tema 4. Admisión de observadores**

(C 2015/13)

First Report of the General Committee**Premier rapport du Bureau de la Conférence****Primer informe del Comité General**

(C 2015/LIM/14)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now turn to the next items on the Agenda, Item 3, *Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session* and Item 4, *Admission of Observers*, as well as general Items. The General Committee met earlier and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and allocation of Agenda items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

The report of the First Meeting of the General Committee is set out in document C 2015/LIM/14, which I trust you have before you.

I will now proceed to read the title of the first section.

Section A: Agenda for the Session

Since the 151st Session of the Council in March 2015, no applications for Membership in the Organization have been received; hence item 5, *Applications for Membership in the Organization* can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendment?

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted as amended.

Section B: Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

And so we move on to the next section.

Section C: Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Two Commissions

Section D: Resolutions

Section E: Appointment of the Director-General

Section F: Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

Section G: Election of Members of the Council

Section H: Right to Vote

Section I: Right to Reply

Section J: Verbatim Records

Section K: Statements by Heads of Delegations

Section L: Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations

Section M: Attendance by Palestine

Section N: Conclusion

If there are no comments on the Report, I take it that the Conference approves the Report in its entirety.

First Report of the Credentials Committee

Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

(C 2015/LIM/15)

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on to the next item on our Agenda we need to adopt the First Report of the Credentials Committee. I give the floor to Ms Daniela Rotondaro from San Marino, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held two meetings on 27 May and 6 June 2015. Its First Report is contained in document C 2015/LIM/15. Another report will be shortly released as the information is evolving.

The Report provides general information on the rules and practices of the General Committee and on the fact that FAO follows Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization, as well as the practice and criteria as endorsed by the Governing Bodies of FAO.

As of today, 189 Members have submitted original credentials or information on the composition of their delegations.

The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials of the delegations listed in *Annex I* to this First Report be accepted, and that all delegations be authorized to participate fully in the Conference session. I invite the Conference to approve this oral report.

CHAIRPERSON

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

My thanks go to the Chairperson and other Members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out before and during this session of the Conference.

Item 6. Appointment of the Director-General
Point 6. Nomination du Directeur général
Tema 6. Nombramiento del Director General
(C 2015/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the next item, which is item 6, *Appointment of the Director-General*.

As you are aware, there is only one candidate for the position of Director-General for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019, namely that of Mr José Graziano da Silva of Brazil.

We shall now proceed to a secret ballot to elect the Director-General for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2019.

In accordance with Article VII.1 of the Constitution and Rule XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Conference appoints the Director-General.

In accordance with paragraph 10(a) of Rule XII, the appointment of the Director-General is decided by secret ballot, even in a situation where there is only one candidate for the position.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General to run through the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called one by one to go to the booths in the voting area, at the corner to my right, where they will each receive a ballot paper with the name of the candidate and three boxes with the words ‘in favour’, ‘against’, and ‘abstention’. Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire.

Under paragraph 4 (d)(iii) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the ballot paper shall carry no notation or mark than that required for the purpose of indicating the vote as this would invalidate the ballot paper.

Paragraph 10 (f) of the same Rule states that should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the elections officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 3 (a), and Rule XXXVII, paragraph 2, of the General Rules of the Organization, the Director-General is elected by a majority of votes cast. The term “votes cast” means votes ‘for’ and ‘against’, excluding abstentions or defective ballots.

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind delegates that, in accordance with paragraph 15 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the vote.

In accordance with Rule XII.2 (a), the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 98 Member Nations must be represented at this time. The Secretary-General will now give details regarding the vote and determine whether we have a quorum.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will now calculate the number of Member Nations present. Each delegation present is requested to press the green button on their desks, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

Have all the delegations present pressed the green button? Thank you. I will now close the vote.

The electronic system indicates that there are 178 delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to the vote.

CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with paragraph 10 (c)(i) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairperson of the Conference may appoint two tellers from the delegates or representatives.

I hereby appoint the delegates of Canada and Fiji as Tellers for this vote. May I ask the delegated of Canada and Fiji to proceed to the voting area.

May I remind Delegates to ensure they show their Conference Pass to the Teller when picking up the ballot paper.

The Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has now been completed. The Tellers and, in accordance with Rule XII-10(g), the Scrutineer appointed by the Candidate will leave the room. The Tellers, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will count the votes.

We will now temporarily suspend this meeting while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 15.33 to 16.11 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 33 à 16 h 11

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.33 a las 16.11

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, please return to your seats. We will now continue with item 6, *Appointment of the Director-General*.

I will now read the result of the ballot.

Report of ballot number one of the election of the Director-General: ballot papers deposited – 182; Abstentions – 4; Defective ballots – 0; Votes for – 177; Votes against – 1; Votes cast – 178; Majority – 90.

José Graziano da Silva of Brazil is accordingly appointed Director-General. Congratulations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (1.8.2015 - 31.7.2019) ELECTION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL (1.8.2015 - 31.7.2019) ELECCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL (1.8.2015 - 31.7.2019)
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	182
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	177
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	178

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	90
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José Graziano da Silva (Brazil)

is accordingly appointed Director-General
est nommé Directeur general
ha sido nombrado Director general

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores

Eric Robinson (Canada)

Signature

Firma



Date

06/06/2015

Fecha

Scrutineer : Márcio José Alonso Bezerra dos Santos
(Brazil)



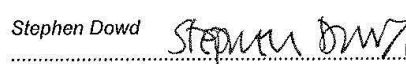
Osea Ratuyawa (Fiji)

Signature

Firma



Stephen Dowd



Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Your Excellency High Chief *Tagaloaletoamalaioletoto* Graziano da Silva.

It is my pleasure to congratulate you sincerely on your appointment to the post of Director-General of FAO by this distinguished gathering of honourable delegates.

Let me say in my position of Chairperson and as a Christian and a lay-preacher; may the Spirit of God almighty bless you with his wisdom, understanding, compassion and truth, accompany and guide you as you hold the fort as Director-General of this world-renowned organization of FAO in the next four years.

May the Lord use you to bless others, especially the least fortunate of us in our respective societies.

I have followed your career in the last three years, and you have always impressed me with your clear vision to get the job done against the most formidable opposition of scarce resources and the need to do more with less.

I am therefore confident that your work will continue to encourage Member Nations in the spirit of cooperation to achieve the goals of FAO, and the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty and starvation worldwide, and improve food security and standards of living for all.

Thank you once again Director-General and Congratulations.

I now give the floor to the Director-General of FAO, José Graziano Da Silva.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, my dear friend Minister Le Mamea Ropati, Your Excellencies, Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, my dear friends, I want to thank you and I think this is the best word to acknowledge you.

I was very glad to be the only candidate. In fact, I consider this as a sign of great support and commitment from the Members. Of course, this does not mean that we did not feel a bit nervous about the results and I did not expect receiving as many as 177 votes. I want to thank you again.

I have no more to say except that this is a sign of your strong support for myself and for FAO. In fact, 182 Members were present and I think we do not have so many countries present normally in our meetings. I appreciate very much your support. I appreciate that you took your time to come here despite your many commitments in your countries.

I will try to do my best in the next four years, to do even better than what we did, as there is always room for improvements. I can assure you that from now on I will work to make this Organization better and better – more present at the country level, more prominent at the global level – and I count on your support for that.

CHAIRPERSON

I know that 182 of us want to speak to congratulate the Director-General, but this would take us two days. So I decided to give Brazil the opportunity to speak first, followed by one country representing each region.

Mr Mauro VIEIRA (Brazil)

I have the pleasure and the honour to express the sincere gratitude of President Dilma Rousseff and the entire Brazilian Government for the firm support given by Member Nations to the re-election of Professor José Graziano da Silva as Director-General of FAO.

My Government is especially thankful to the Members for the historical majority of votes cast in favour of Professor José Graziano da Silva.

He was first elected on the basis of the ability he had shown to translate the vision of then President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva regarding hunger and malnutrition into successful public policies. As you know, he was the man behind the conception and execution of the “Zero Hunger Programme” in its very beginning. The effectiveness of the work started by Professor Graziano will be celebrated

tomorrow, when Brazil will be recognized for having left the hunger map. This is surely no small victory.

Today, you have re-elected Director-General Graziano on the basis of his proven record at FAO. Under his leadership, FAO changed for the better.

The adoption of the five strategic objectives, the process of decentralization and the reform on the allocation of resources are true milestones. They contribute to prepare FAO and our countries to guarantee to everyone the right to adequate food in a context of climate change, in close relation with the agenda of sustainable development.

Under Mr Graziano's direction and with your full support, FAO is also spreading best practices that help create virtuous circles of socioeconomic and environmental development, such as local purchases from family farming for school feeding. The Organization is also at the forefront of efforts to open up the UN System. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated, the Committee on World Food Security is the most democratic instance of the whole UN System.

However, more is needed. There remain key challenges before us, both as national Governments and as the international community.

The right to food is a fundamental and universal right. It is our constant responsibility to protect and promote it, especially whenever and wherever threatened or denied.

To this end, we must overcome serious challenges such as climate change and socio-environmental disasters, water shortages, land degradation, zoonoses and biotechnological risks. If we remain united, we must and will overcome them. Divided, we would be certainly defeated.

Today, we have a real chance to eliminate the scourge of hunger in a world that produces enough food to all, but where 795 million people still starve. They do so, not because of insufficient production, but of serious income disparities. If our cooperation proves to be able to eradicate hunger, we will have built a true community of nations.

In concluding, I thank you, once again, on behalf of President Dilma Rousseff and the Brazilian Government, for placing your confidence in Professor Graziano da Silva for a second term.

He is fully aware that overcoming the plight of the hungry in a sustainable and sustained manner is the only measure of his success – of our success – in accomplishing the mission and fulfilling the very purpose of FAO. I kindly ask you to continue to provide him your invaluable support.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to Iran, who will speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Majid DEGHAN SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

As Chairperson of G-77 and China, it is my pleasure to present this statement on behalf of 132 Members, of which 81 countries are actively collaborating with FAO and other UN Rome-based Agencies.

At the outset of my deliberation, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Conference from Samoa.

G-77 would like to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva being elected as the Director-General of FAO for the second term, and wish to add our best encouragement for the new mandate he is about to start.

We appreciate the integrity and solidarity among both G-77 and OECD for the single candidacy for the office of Director-General. We recognize the achievement of FAO under the able leadership of Mr Graziano over the last four years.

We must thank Mr Graziano for reforming processes of the FAO through the Strategic Review, Medium Term Plan of 2014-17 and efficiency gains over the last four years.

We would like to express our special thanks to him for the initiatives on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage (GIAHS), as well as for Technical Cooperation Programme for Small Island

Developing States (SIDS). We also thank him for his remarkable achievement in implementing the Programme of Work and Budget.

A recent report published in the FAO news bulletin showed that the number of people suffering from malnutrition had been reduced to 795 million. This is around 216 million fewer people than that in 1990-1992. However, there are still huge challenges before us to achieve eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Although 72 countries have already achieved the Millennium Development target of halving proportion of the chronically undernourished, however, according to the annual UN hunger report, still around one person out of every nine is undernourished. For sure, it will not be possible to completely eradicate malnutrition within the next four years, but we expect Director-General to lead the Organization to bring us closer to the target of eliminating malnutrition in conjunction with other stakeholders.

In this perspective, there are some important issues which need serious attention and require actions.

One: Sustainable Drought Management Strategy, in particular the Near East and Sub Saharan Africa, in which increase in water-use efficiency and the use of drought tolerant species and high-yielding cultivars is the prime need, otherwise we will have more hunger.

Two: Studies commissioned by FAO estimated that yearly global food loss and waste by quantity at roughly 30 percent for cereals, 40 to 50 percent for root crops, fruits and vegetables, 20 percent for oilseeds, meat and dairy products and 35 percent of fish.

In collaboration with research institutions, civil society and investment groups, FAO, UNIDO and UNEP should share their experiences using action-oriented strategy to reduce food loss and waste throughout the supply chain, while improving the sustainability of the food system.

Serious efforts required by FAO and UNIDO to achieve reduction in losses of agricultural products during harvest and post-harvest practices. For sure, this reduction will have a major contribution to the goal of achieving zero hunger in our world. G-77 countries are strongly supporting such an initiative and expecting Director-General to do his best for strengthening such collaboration. Quality and safe food is an essential element of food security. Priority should be given to Food Quality and Safety Standards through a collaboration of FAO and WHO. We expect the Director-General to introduce effective initiatives ensuring food provided to consumers is safe, without pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals and other hazardous contaminants.

Achieving food security requires seed security. Farmers must have access to quality seeds of varieties suited to their environment. Capacity-building in this area, particularly in developing countries, is essential to combat hunger.

The family farming momentum achieved through the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming will have a positive impact on rural development and the ability to achieve food security. It is time to advance the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment towards improving tenure security, the empowerment of women and enhancing rural livelihoods. We expect the Director-General will take effective initiatives to address mentioned issues.

We look forward to see the Director-General taking FAO to new heights of success in his second term and the G-77 and China Group will provide all-out support to him in his efforts.

Let us plan together, smile together, work together and try to have a lovely peaceful world without hunger.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now pass on the floor to Panama, who will be speaking on behalf of GRULAC.

Sr Jorge ARANGO ARIAS (Panamá)

La Representación Permanente de Panamá en su condición de Presidente pro tempore de GRULAC y en representación de los países de América Latina y el Caribe quisiera expresar sus más sinceras

felicitaciones por su reelección al frente de esta Organización, lo cual reafirma la confianza de nuestros Jefes de estados y de Gobiernos en su gestión. Reiterada en la declaración de Belén durante la Tercera Cumbre de la comunidad de Estados latinoamericanos y del Caribe, CELAC. A la vez, el GRULAC se adhiere a la declaración que nos antecedió por nuestro Embajador Representante de los países del Grupo de los 77 y China.

Su reelección como candidato único es el resultado tangible de los logros concretos alcanzados durante su primer mandato. En un ambiente internacional complejo, Usted ha reforzado el papel y la visibilidad de la Organización poniendo en práctica medidas de reforma, lanzando iniciativas innovadoras en pro del desarrollo sostenible y del bienestar de los pueblos que representamos dentro de una óptica co-participativa, de cooperación y de multilateralismo. En particular, deseamos remarcar los esfuerzos y propósitos dirigidos a generar sinergias en materia de salud y alimentación y que se expresan en los éxitos de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, el apoyo de la FAO a las iniciativas regionales en curso, que en el caso de nuestra región, pueden ejemplificarse, entre otros, en el plan de seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre 2025 de la CELAC.

Finalmente, deseamos agradecer el trabajo participativo en la formulación de un programa de trabajo y presupuesto para el próximo gobierno, enfocado en las prioridades expresadas por nuestros países y que reflejan la profunda transformación ocurrida en esta Organización.

Esta Conferencia se celebra en el marco de un importante momento de balance, 8 objetivos ambiciosos que se han propuesto alcanzar, 189 países están transitando hacia la senda del desarrollo incluyente, sostenible y resiliente, gracias a la integración de los Objetivos Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) en las agendas de desarrollo para después de 2015. Si bien América Latina y el Caribe es la región que ha alcanzado el primer objetivo de desarrollo del milenio y en la cual la mayoría de los países han llegado a ese nivel de países de ingreso medio, aún enfrentan serios desafíos en el camino al desarrollo sostenible.

Nuestros líderes se han comprometido otorgando alta prioridad al fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, a la educación, a la tenencia de la tierra, al desarrollo de la agricultura, incluyendo la familiar y la campesina, a las prácticas agrícolas tradicionales que se derivan del reconocimiento del papel protagónico de los pueblos indígenas. No obstante, el reto del desarrollo sostenible con inclusión social, económica y financiera son desafíos que exigen aún esfuerzos nacionales, regionales y globales. Se hace indispensable la continuidad de los trabajos de la FAO para incrementar las capacidades productivas de las economías en desarrollo, acrecentar la competitividad de sus empresas, así como para potenciar las oportunidades que ofrecen una mayor integración sur-sur, a fin de atender los choques externos y concluir estrategias de desarrollo sostenible a largo plazo. Por ello, y retomando nuestro lema, construyendo juntos, reiteramos el compromiso regional, su mayor disposición a continuar laborando estrechamente con la organización, con el Director General, José Graziano Da Silva, en función de una cooperación diversificada y eficaz. Aprovechemos la oportunidad que nos brinda esta reelección para consolidar nuestra unidad de propósito y seguir cumpliendo las promesas a cada uno de nuestros pueblos que, realmente, son los más necesitados para un verdadero desarrollo sostenible.

CHAIPERSON

I now ask Algeria to speak on behalf of the Africa Region.

M. Abdelkader KADI (Algérie)

C'est avec un grand plaisir que je saisis l'occasion de votre réélection à la tête de notre Organisation pour vous présenter au nom des membres du groupe Afrique et en mon nom personnel, nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses et nos vœux les meilleurs de succès dans votre mission.

Une réélection amplement méritée et que le groupe Afrique a appuyée à l'unanimité en témoignage de leur haute considération, pour les efforts inlassables que vous n'avez cessé de déployer, pour aider à la solution des défis auxquels notre continent s'est trouvé confronté au cours de l'année écoulée, et qui malheureusement demeurent et nécessiteront une cohésion sans faille et un effort de tous les instants pour leur trouver une solution conforme aux idéaux de notre Institution, notamment dans l'éradication de la faim, de la pauvreté avec pour objectif final d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Votre mission, Monsieur le Directeur Général, nous l'attestons, n'a pas été aisée, mais vous avez su la mener avec sérénité et détermination, deux qualités qui vous honorent et qui ont permis des améliorations dans la solution des défis auxquels notre continent s'est trouvé confronté. Vous avez su, en outre, impulser à notre action un dynamisme qui ne manquera pas d'avoir un impact positif sur la mission de notre groupe.

Le groupe Afrique vous est reconnaissant, Monsieur le Directeur Général, et tient à vous assurer de son soutien dans votre action présente et future pour contribuer en commun à relever des défis auxquels nous sommes encore malheureusement confrontés.

Qu'il me soit permis, Monsieur le Directeur Général, de vous exprimer encore une fois au nom du groupe Afrique nos sincères félicitations et nos vœux de succès dans votre mission.

CHAIPERSON

I will now call Malaysia to speak on behalf of the Asia Region.

Ms Azulita SALIM (Malaysia)

I speak on behalf of the Asian Regional Group aligning with the statement by the G77 Chair. I would like to congratulate the Director-General for his reappointment. This is a clear sign on the great trust put in him by Member Nations.

The result comes as an award for concrete results achieved during his first mandate. Listing all of the results would be time-consuming, but the transformational changes of the FAO during the last three and a half years are outstanding. FAO is now a much results-oriented organization.

Director-General, you can count on our support for your next mandate to reach our common goal in overcoming hunger and eradicating poverty.

CHAIPERSON

I now pass the floor to Hungary to speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.

Mr Sandór FAZEKAS (Hungary) (Original language Hungarian)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Regional Group.

Please allow me, Mr Chairperson, to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO.

Mr Graziano, we wish to congratulate you on your re-election. We are pleased that you will continue to lead FAO. We are convinced that your leadership in the past three and a half years and the hard work of your team is bringing significant results.

We highly appreciate your efforts to re-position and revitalize FAO by implementing the FAO reforms. We commend the introduction of the 5+1 Strategic Objectives which help to focus the Organization's work to its global goals: contributing to the eradication of hunger, increasing sustainable production, eliminating rural poverty, enabling more inclusive and efficient food and agricultural systems, and increasing the resilience of livelihoods.

We can see the significant improvements in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) both globally and at country level – in particular MDG 1 and 7. However, much more remains to be done, since poverty and hunger still persist across regions. Access to food, water and other natural resources, and the sustainable use of these resources continue to be a challenge in many countries. FAO has had and will continue to have a key role in overcoming this challenge. This key role would not be possible without motivated and knowledgeable staff. We therefore express our appreciation to FAO staff also. At the same time, we would like to support you in the endeavour of having adequate human resource policies in place that make sure that the best experts are selected and that motivation levels are high. We are looking forward to seeing FAO's active role also in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We support a strengthened and extended cooperation among the three Rome-based Agencies for Food and Agriculture, as well as building partnerships with the private sector, civil society, research

community and academia. We urge you to keep a balanced relationship with all stakeholders and ensure that such cooperation lead to win-win situations also at field level, serving the interests of the rural poor. Furthermore, a stronger collaboration with the CFS is ever more important, as FAO is also needed to implement the policy recommendations and guidelines that have been agreed upon in that multi-stakeholder body.

Mr Graziano, we wish you all the best for your second term as the Director-General of FAO. We wish to assure you that the Member Nations of the European Regional Group are committed to continue to work in close collaboration with you to reach our common goal, Zero Hunger.

CHAIPERSON

I now pass the floor to Sudan, for the Near East Region.

Ms Amira GORNASS (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies. Ladies and gentlemen, may God's praise and blessings be upon you all. I am presenting this statement on behalf of the Near East Group presided by the Republic of Sudan.

At first I would like to express our deepest gratitude and our congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva on the occasion of his re-election for his second mandate on the head of FAO. In this regard I would like to reiterate the support of the Near East Group to his reforms in order to allow for FAO to be more vital and responsive to the requirements of agricultural developments and the Member Nations as the main motor and engine for development in general.

In this regard I would like to reiterate what came in the statement presented by the President of the G77 and China group. The structural reforms of FAO that were accomplished came as a response to the challenges facing us at the level of food, agriculture, and rural development that must be ensured in light of the available resources in order to reach a world free of hunger and malnutrition where peoples at all times have sufficient food and nutritious food.

We would also like to commend the reforms at the level of the Regional Offices to be more efficient in this regard. We would like to reiterate the importance of providing an active network of Regional Offices, having more Regional Offices as they constitute a major element in order to meet the basic needs especially in the Near East Group.

Such offices must be provided with the necessary human, financial, and technical resources. The staff shall be trained and given enough mandate and prerogatives in order to take the necessary decisions when needed.

Regional and Sub-Regional Offices as well as the FAO Field Representatives must be given greater prerogatives in terms of managing projects.

We would also like to commend the good achievements at the level of adopting new innovative work mechanisms to promote relationships with international development and investment organizations and working more with governments and institutions including technical cooperation between developing countries as well as technical cooperation among countries of the south.

We believe that cooperation that exists between FAO and the different regional and economic groups and the Member Nations has a great impact in terms of allowing these stakeholders to undertake tasks. We would like to reiterate the need for adopting greater development initiatives in all regions as resources are scarce and challenges are numerous facing all of these countries in order to produce food as well as the importance of including these objectives at the level of global goals.

I would like to note that the Near East Group is well aware of the importance of food security and nutrition which is a great global challenge in light of growing demographics. Moreover, the scarcity of water and limited arable lands in our region constitute additional challenges facing us at the level of achieving self-sufficiency, food security and nutrition.

Our region will pursue its support to agricultural development and nutrition as well as the efforts exerted by FAO in order to eradicate poverty and hunger in the world through the agricultural

development and the development of all relevant sectors in a sustainable manner in order to promote their contribution to regional food security in order to reach global food security as a final end.

We also look forward for a future vision in order to promote partnerships between FAO and the other regional organizations working in the field of agricultural development in order to reduce poverty to ensure greater resilience with the natural disasters, human catastrophes, and in dealing with food shortages, conflicts on resources, and the negative impact of climate change.

In this regard, it is also important to note that food production in our region has witnessed in the previous years a great decrease in light of the successive crises and the ongoing crises in numerous countries in our region to that has added this scarcity of water to which I have referred earlier and that leads to a regressing or less arable surfaces.

All of this calls us to ask you to put all of these challenges at the heart of FAO future plans and programmes in order to deal with them, especially that these programmes will only have greater risks in the near future if we do not deal with them in a serious manner today.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm our congratulations to His Excellency the Director-General on this occasion of his re-election for a second mandate and would like to reiterate our support to all plans and programmes that you have set in order to allow FAO to move on in its noble humanitarian missions.

CHAIPERSON

I pass the floor to the United States of America, for the North America Region.

Mr David LANE (United States of America)

The United States, on behalf of North America, joins other delegations in congratulating José Graziano da Silva on his election for a second term as the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Under your leadership and the hard work of employees in Rome and around the world, the Organization has made significant achievements over the last three years. The FAO has delivered substantial efficiency savings, while delivering its programme, fighting food insecurity and malnutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We recognize the hard work put into creating such a considerable programme and the effort to minimize the financial impact on donors.

We look forward to working with you, Mr Director-General, during your second term and we would like to reassure you that North America fully supports the FAO mission. We stand ready to work with you and your talented team to promote the many priorities that we share with FAO. These include, but are not limited to, the work of Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention, combating animal and plant diseases, promoting climate smart agriculture, empowering women in agriculture, encouraging sustainable use of ocean resources, and above all eradicating world hunger.

Likewise, we believe the FAO is uniquely placed to play an important role in implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda related to hunger and nutrition, oceans and the environment, among others.

We ask that you continue the process of reform that the Organization has undertaken during your leadership. In addition, the need for all UN organizations to do their work in as transparent a manner as possible remains a priority and we encourage continued progress here.

Again, Mr Director-General, congratulations.

CHAIPERSON

I will now give the floor to Fiji, for the Southwest Pacific Region.

Mr Ratu Josaia Voreq BAINIMARAMA (Fiji)

On behalf of the Member Nations of the Southwest Pacific Region I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election. We greatly appreciate his strong focus on assisting the Small Island Developing States with agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food security issues.

We are a long way from Rome and therefore at risk of being out of sight and out of mind, but the Director-General has made a real effort to travel to the region and to form a close partnership with us. We feel that the Director-General has brought around real change in FAO's operations and we are starting to see the benefits of these in our countries.

However, it is the start of a journey and, with the Director-General's re-election, we look forward to building on this and continuing the positive momentum. FAO has a critical role to play in our region using its global technical expertise and working collaboratively with the other global, regional, and national institutions.

We need a strong, effective and efficient FAO and we will continue to support the Director-General in his efforts in this regard.

CHAIPERSON

I give the floor to Latvia, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Janis DUKLAVS (Latvia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey, aligns itself with this statement.

On behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States we would like to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election. A first term is challenging as it means starting up initiatives, but a second term is not less demanding, as it is the time to keep up the momentum and obtain results. For the EU and its 28 Member States, the EU-FAO partnership continues to be very important and we remain fully committed to lending our support to FAO's activities in the years ahead.

We are convinced that a reinvigorated FAO – together with WFP and IFAD – is well placed to demonstrate leadership in the international debate on sustainable agriculture, food production, combating hunger and malnutrition, and ensuring food security. We therefore have high expectations of FAO playing a crucial role in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In our era of globalisation and fast developments in the outside world it is important for FAO to adapt continuously to emerging challenges and changing demands in order to maintain its relevance. We commend the Director-General for the recent exercise of prioritisation, in particular as regards nutrition, management of natural resources and climate change.

One area in which FAO could do more is the development of partnerships with the private sector, civil society, the research community and academia. Another area is better coordination and extended cooperation with the Rome-based Agencies, both at headquarters and in the field. We hear the right words and we see encouraging steps, but surely there is scope for more. The importance of coordination also extends to other international organisations and financial institutions. Furthermore, a strong collaboration with the CFS is ever more important, as also FAO is needed to implement the policy recommendations and guidelines that have been agreed upon in that multi-stakeholder body.

We would like to build upon FAO's technical expertise as part of its traditional mandate and global leadership to avoid any erosion in areas like forestry and fisheries where FAO plays a key role at global level. To this end the technical departments need adequate internal support.

A dynamic FAO operating in a dynamic environment needs high quality staff who are proactive in promoting FAO's knowledge and norms among all stakeholders. Greater emphasis should be placed on merit, including transparent recruitment procedures. Gender equity is vital to unleash talent. Seeking added value should be promoted, learning encouraged and mobility enhanced; reaching out to the world outside FAO should be appreciated. In the Director-General's first term, important steps have been taken, but we must keep up the momentum.

In order to consolidate and build on the recent reforms, the Organization needs committed and motivated staff. To this end, we expect a respectful and constructive social dialogue between FAO management and staff.

We again congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva on his re-election and we look forward to constructive cooperation with him during his second term.

CHAIPERSON

I pass the floor to Russian Federation, in name of the BRICS Group.

Mr Gennadiy GATILOV (Russian Federation)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

Prezado Director-Geral, por favor, aceite nossas sinceras felicitações!

The BRICS warmly congratulates Dr. José Graziano da Silva on his re-appointment as Director-General of this Organization.

We firmly believe, Dr. Graziano, that your election for the second term is a clear reflection of the trust-based environment between the FAO Membership and the Secretariat that consolidated during the last three and a half years.

This environment is fueled by concrete achievements. The FAO successfully concluded the difficult reform process dating back to 2007. The Organization emerged from it with a new focused and results-oriented Strategic Framework. Unprecedented efficiency savings were reached without undermining the Programme of Work, and enhancing effectiveness. Crucial partnerships were established and are being further developed with strategic allies from civil society, the private sector and academia while maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the FAO.

We share your vision of the FAO as a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground and the priorities put forward in the reviewed Medium-Term Plan 2014-17. We expect that focus on hunger eradication, nutrition, social protection, food safety, sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change, agricultural heritage and innovation will enable the FAO to deliver tangible results and explore new perspectives of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We wish you all the success and good luck for your future term as Director-General. You can count on the firm support of the BRICS to the FAO noble work to promote food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, rural development and management of natural resources throughout the globe.

CHAIPERSON

I will now give the floor to Guinea Bissau, on behalf of the Lusophone countries.

Mr Joao ANIBAL PEREIRA (Guinea Bissau)

It is an honour and a great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Portuguese-speaking countries – namely Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Portugal and Timor Leste – and express our satisfaction and gratitude of being a part of this great moment in history.

The election of Professor José Graziano da Silva sounds to us as an assurance of continuous commitment and effort of FAO towards global cooperation to fight poverty and assist the less privileged ones. Three years ago I had, in the capacity of Executive Secretary of CPLB, the privilege of endorsing your candidacy, Mr Director-General, and a few months after that we were able to set up a common office in Lisbon in order to assist our Member Nations in doing this endeavour.

Today, 176 other countries and organizations did the same, so I do not think I need to be very long on words. Let us just call on God's blessing and commend you to keep the great mission with distinction as you made it very clear since the beginning of your mandate. So God bless you.

Mr Falah ZAIDAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Iraq Delegation to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva on his re-election at the head of this noble and important Organization which is responsible for fighting hunger.

Mr da Silva's re-election is an indicator of the trust that Member Nations have placed in him and a call to the Director-General to continue his efforts in reforming the Organization, particularly in developing countries, to eradicate hunger and to save millions of people and lift them out of poverty.

In a few months the deadline set by the international community to reduce the rate of poverty and hunger and the Millennium Development Goals will come to an end. This is why the FAO and the Director-General have such an importance to put the issue of food security and eradication of poverty at the heart of the Organization's priorities, given the various challenges that it faces and the Member Nations have to address.

And I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his cooperation in financing the "Iraq Room", which will be inaugurated on Monday, with the contribution of my country to support the Food and Agriculture Organization.

We would like to thank you for your particular efforts and for having allowed us to set up this important project with FAO.

CHAIPERSON

I will now thank all of the speakers who delivered their congratulatory remarks, their best wishes and their advice to the Director-General. I ensure the Director-General has noted all of your advice and expectations. Let us therefore pray for our brother, the Director-General, for better health and strength. May God bless him with wisdom and success in his second term. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank the Tellers, the Scrutineer and all those who took part in the ballot for the way in which the electoral process was run.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with this we have finished our work for today. The third Plenary meeting will open at 09.30 hours on Monday morning with the Statement by the Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, followed by that of Mr Joseph Ngirwa, the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Please ensure you are here in good time.

Before I close this afternoon's meeting, may I remind Members of the Special Event "Completing the MDG round: recognizing achievements in the fight against hunger" taking place tomorrow afternoon from 15.00 to 18.30 hours here in the Plenary Hall.

I wish you all a very good evening. With this we have ended our work for today, thank you.

The meeting rose at 17.16 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 16

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.16

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 June 2015

The Third Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 09.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Director-General's Statement to the Conference
Déclaration du Directeur Général a la Conférence
Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia
(C 2015/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the third Plenary Meeting to order.

The first item on our agenda this morning is the statement by the Director-General. I have the pleasure to invite Mr José Graziano da Silva to deliver his statement to this 39th Session of the Conference of FAO.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairperson, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Fiji, Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to welcome all of you to FAO as your re-elected Director-General.

First of all, I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking you for the massive turnout at this session. We have almost 1700 participants registered. 191 Member delegations. This is a record. Including all Pacific Islands that are FAO Members – this is the first time they all attend our Conference. We also have 15 Heads of State and Government present this week, most of them attended yesterday's award ceremony.

Today, we will have the speeches of the Prime Minister of Fiji and President Fernandez of Argentina will also be with us later. On Saturday, President Peña Nieto of Mexico will join the Conference. And on Friday, Queen Letizia of Spain will be nominated as our Special Ambassador for Nutrition.

All these are record numbers for a FAO Conference. And so are the 177 votes that I received in my re-election. I thank you for showing confidence in the Organization under my leadership. You have given me a clear mandate to lead FAO in my second term, pressing on the path that we charted together.

I want to thank you for your support. I want to thank you for your trust.

I promise to you that I will do my best to do more and better to help you advance towards the sustainable and food-secure future we want.

In this spirit, allow me then to report to you some of the key elements of what we have started and still need to do together.

Our global challenge remains ending hunger and malnutrition. And soon, this will also be one of the Sustainable Development Goals. FAO needs to be able to make a significant contribution to that goal. The transformational change I have led in FAO strengthens that capacity.

At the 2013 Session of Conference, we took important steps in the right direction. We elevated our first global goal from reducing to eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. We also sharpened the focus of our work around five strategic objectives.

These priorities now bring our Regular Programme and extra-budgetary work together. They guide our partnerships within and outside the UN system, including with regional organizations and non-state actors. This is the culture change in the FAO way of working that you have been asking for.

We are responding to national and regional needs by strengthening our presence in the field. Since 2012, we increased by 16 percent the professional staff serving in decentralized offices without weakening our technical capacity at Headquarters.

Funding allocation to the field also went up, from 36 to 42 percent of our total regular programme budget. This is what decentralization is about, but there is still much more to do.

This stronger presence is tailored to specific needs of each region and was accomplished without weakening our global technical capacity. This is being a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground.

We are adopting a results-based management approach that is giving positive returns. Overall, we have over 80 percent of progress towards the outcomes defined in the current Programme of Work.

Six side events this week will showcase some of the results we have achieved so far through our regional initiatives. I invite you to attend them to see how FAO is working on the ground.

Let me also add that the transformation of FAO into an Organization fit for the 21st Century has not been easy. It takes place under considerable financial constraints.

Over the past three years we achieved an unprecedented 108 million dollars in savings. We transformed difficulty into opportunity. We used the need to operate with tighter financing as a driver for greater efficiency.

We streamlined processes. We integrated our administrative work through technological solutions such as the Global Resource Management System (GRMS). We pursued cost-reducing joint initiatives with the Rome-based agencies. This is the best value for money that you asked for.

But you are still asking me to do more and more. This situation is not exclusive to FAO. You yourselves have made in your countries the cuts you are asking of us now.

But there are two big differences.

First, as you all know, most of decisions related to staff costs, which represent around 75 percent of our budget, are decided in New York at the United Nations and not in Rome at FAO.

And, second, in the case of FAO, our financial constraints have been lasting for over 20 years. Since the 1994-95 biennium, our budget has fallen by over 25 percent in real terms. This is a big cut.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now starting to see the first benefits of the strategic transformation we have undergone, to help you achieve the concrete results we all want.

The side events this week, as I said, will give an overview of results we have already achieved on the ground.

This Conference, and the Programme of Work and Budget that you will discuss this week, build on these efforts.

The revised budget we are requesting to deliver the proposed Programme of Work is of 1.036 million dollars. This is the budget-level agreed on at the last Council session. I am confident that Conference will endorse this recommendation.

I would like to highlight that this is the first time we enter Conference with consensus on the level of the budget. This historic feat is another sign of the strength of our Organization and of how we are finding common ground that allows us to move forward.

The PWB you have before you is the extension of the priority setting process we began in 2012. It maintains the focus on the five strategic objectives, and proposes added emphasis on nutrition and climate change.

Raising levels of nutrition was one of the reasons that FAO was created for seventy years ago. It is at the heart of our mandate.

Last year's Second International Conference on Nutrition, co-hosted by FAO and the WHO, called on FAO to take on a greater role in improving nutrition, working closely with other UN agencies and relevant actors.

We are responding to this. Adequate nutrition is the complement to food security. We need both. Quantity and quality needs to come together when we speak about food. And it is worth noting that while global undernourishment numbers are falling, obesity is going up.

It is a problem for developed but also for developing nations, for poor families and rich families, and it is a problem especially in middle-income countries.

Climate change is the second area we are proposing for greater attention in the next biennium. It has a direct impact on food security and agriculture, as you all know. It affects all countries, especially the drylands in which the majority of the world's poor and hungry people live.

And climate change puts at risk the very existence of some Small Island Developing States, as the Kiribati delegate reminded me yesterday. He approached me after the award ceremony, thanking me for the recognition and said he hoped to have a wall to hang the diploma on for many years to come. As you know, Kiribati is only a few meters above sea level, and the sea level is increasing rapidly.

As we celebrate World Oceans Day today, let me remind you that they are also vulnerable to climate change. It is not only that sea levels and temperatures are rising. Oceans are also becoming more acidic as they absorb more carbon dioxide. Marine ecosystems are degrading. If this continues unchecked, it will have devastating consequences.

That is why one of our global actions is the Blue Growth Initiative, that proposes to integrate fisheries and sustainable environmental management in coastal areas and oceans.

There is no time for pessimism with climate change. It is time for action. And FAO will do its part.

Our primary concern is to help developing countries, including the SIDS, to adapt to climate change. I want to add that agriculture, including fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, also has the potential to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

With the right policies, we can increase food security, adapt and mitigate.

But this will require a paradigm shift from the dominant input intensive approach to more sustainable and resilient food systems.

This change has a cost. And it is a cost that poor farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous communities, especially in developing countries, cannot pay alone. They need your support.

We already set up a trust fund to support SIDS, to which I urge you to contribute.

In fact, we have also set up the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund. As we tighten our regular programme budget, an increase in voluntary contributions to scale up our efforts in these two areas is needed.

Big or small, all your contributions are very welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday we recognized 72 countries that have made significant progress against hunger. Each one has different experiences, but some common elements stand out in their stories. Among them: political will, inclusive economic growth, family farming, and social protection.

Social protection is the theme of this Conference.

You certainly remember what former President of Brazil Lula da Silva told us on Saturday at the McDougall Lecture.

Today, around 150 million people are able to stay above the poverty line thanks to social protection programmes. They are essential for responding to the main cause of hunger today: insufficient access to food.

But we cannot rely only on social protection to end hunger or extreme poverty. It must be part of wider action that includes productive support, health, education and much more. And, ideally, we should find ways to bring these elements together to create virtuous cycles of local development.

As President Lula reminded us, giving cash transfers to the woman of the family empowers them and helps ensure a more responsible use of the income. With money in their hands, families can buy food locally, stimulating family farming. And family farming can provide healthy school meals for children. These are the kind of multiple win situations we must look for.

Let me also highlight that there is an urgent need to act. We can – and we need to – do more and better. We can – and we need to – speed up and scale up our responses.

And we need to do it now because, despite all our progress, there are still nearly 800 million hungry people in the world. And just as adapting to climate change cannot wait, the hungry cannot wait either! FAO is ready to increase its support to all the nations that make the political commitment to strengthen efforts against hunger and malnutrition.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of our Organization. In our first seven decades, we gave a great contribution to increasing food production. Today, our contribution needs to be to end hunger. You have already made this bold commitment at FAO. And ending hunger and malnutrition will be adopted as Sustainable Development Goal number two later this year.

Achieving it is within our reach, if we work together and transform our words of commitment into concrete action. We can be the generation to end hunger and malnutrition. That is my priority: food and nutrition security for all.

Thank you for your trust, thank you for your support, and thank you for your attention.

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to the Conference

Déclaration du Président indépendant du Conseil à la Conférence

Declaración del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON.

I now wish to call on Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, to deliver his statement.

Mr Wilfred NGIRWA (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a privilege for me to report back to you on Council activities since my election as Independent Chairperson of the Council in this Plenary Hall two years ago. Allow me also, to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Director-General for having been elected for a second term of office. I wish Mr Graziano well, and would like to assure him of our continuing support as he embarks on his renewed mandate at the head of this indispensable Organization.

Mr Chairperson, I am delighted to inform you that the five Council Sessions which have taken place since then were conducted efficiently and harmoniously. Management provided the required documentation, which was to the point and informative. Reports of Council sessions were action-oriented and endorsed by Members *en bloc*.

This was in no small part due to prior consultations and open communication with Members in an informal setting, and also to management being available to provide expert advice and elaborate on issues, most noticeably through regular Informal Seminars convened by the Director-General.

The enhanced role of the Independent Chairperson of Council endorsed by the Conference in 2009, was the starting point for this new and more efficient way of working together. I am glad to report that the more business-like way in which we carry out our work was consolidated over the past two years.

I attended all five FAO Regional Conferences, i.e. for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and I followed the Informal Regional Conference for North America.

Since becoming Governing Bodies of FAO, the Regional Conferences have continuously improved from one biennium to the next, with well-focused agendas leading to effective meetings. Discussions revolved around issues which impact directly on the Regions, and which are reflected in Regional Conference reports as priority areas that deserve inclusion in the Programme and Work of FAO.

The Council received reports from the six Regional Conferences which were presented by their respective Chairpersons. The Council decisions which followed, clearly indicated that the formulation of the Programme of Work take into consideration Regional priorities, as is evident in the PWB 2016-17 presented to this Conference.

I believe the Regional Conferences will continue to improve their working methods. I would urge that the recommendations contained in the Independent Review of Governance be an opportunity to move forward in making progress in this field.

Indeed, as a whole, the focused work and reports of the Governing Bodies, i.e. the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees, have informed Council discussions on the PWB for 2016-17 presented by the Director-General. The Council has become more concerned and has increasingly focused its discussions, on areas which require greater emphasis in order that the programme of work can make an impact at field level, as well as leading to FAO playing an increasingly recognized role at the global level in its areas of competence and comparative advantage.

As a result, discussion regarding the budget level focused on relevance and adequacy of resources to undertake the agreed Programme of Work. Members continued to call for efficiency gains and appreciated what has been realized in this domain over the past two biennia. The Council was guided by the 38th Session Conference decision that efficiency gains should not be at the expense of the technical quality as well as of the Organization's programmes.

As you are aware, the Council reached a consensus on the budget level for the 2016-17 Programme of Work and Budget, presented to this 39th Session of Conference. This marked the first time in the history of FAO that the Council proposed a consensual budget level to Conference. Many of you will recall that, in the past, protracted discussions went beyond the Council, and extended into the session of Conference, often late into the night. This is another example of the trust and openness among the members and between the membership and the Secretariat. The role of the Independent Chairperson of Council in playing a proactive role for enhancing continued effectiveness and efficiency is clearly the key to this restored trust.

The Council tracked and followed up on its decisions at each session. Many of these decisions focused on implementing actions requested by the 38th Session of Conference in 2013. Indeed, most of the actions requested by the Conference have been implemented successfully by the Secretariat. Also those which required active engagement, drive, ownership and participation by Members, such as the preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Independent Review of Governance Reform.

You will recall your decision at the last session of Conference to fully support the FAO/WHO joint initiative to organize the Second International Conference on Nutrition, which was held in FAO Headquarters in November last year. Indeed, at its 148th Session in December 2013, the Council requested me to facilitate an intergovernmental process to prepare for the ICN2, including the outcome documents. I immediately convened a meeting of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of Regional Groups to discuss the mechanism and draw a road map of the intergovernmental process with reference to consultation with Civil Society and Private Sector Organizations, ensuring that we moved in tandem with WHO, guided by the same Terms of Reference.

This turned out to be a remarkable landmark in the institutional history of the two Specialized Agencies. Both organizations interfaced efficiently and joined efforts, which culminated in a highly successful High-Level Meeting of ICN2 from 19 to 21 November 2014, when the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action on Nutrition were adopted by high-level Members of FAO and WHO.

FAO is already undertaking follow-up action, which was endorsed by the 151st Session of Council in March this year, including the establishment of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming ICN2 commitments into concrete actions.

I am sure many of you will recall that the FAO Conference approved the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (the IPA) at a Special Session convened in 2008. The IPA foresaw that after six years "the Conference will assess the workings of Governance Reforms, including the role and functioning of the Regional Conferences, with an independent review as an input to this process." As a follow-up to this Conference decision, an Independent Review was carried out in 2014 and the findings have served as an input to this 39th Session of Conference under Item 25 of the Agenda.

Arrangements for the review were endorsed in December 2013 by the Council and two independent consultants started their evaluation work in January 2014. I was requested by the Council to play a proactive facilitation and oversight role for the entire review process, and to hold open-ended informal meetings with the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups to guide the Independent Review process.

The review constitutes an evidence-based assessment of progress in Governance reforms and identifies areas of further improvements and adjustments. The process was certainly inclusive and thorough, with the review team attending Governing Bodies Sessions and interacting directly with Members. The Review Team presented a final report at the end of last year after presenting a draft version to the session of Council in early December 2014.

During this session of Conference, under Agenda Item 25, Members are presented with the review team report and the proposed actions endorsed by the Open-ended Working Group. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my appreciation for the impartiality and professional approach demonstrated by the external reviewers, and also to the Members' commitment to maintaining productive and transparent engagement throughout the year-long review process.

In their concluding remarks, the review team noted: in 2008, the Independent External Evaluation team reported that "Governing Bodies were failing the Organization". After six years, the Independent Review Team has now found that the Governing Bodies as a whole have made substantial progress in their reforms. They have implemented almost all of the governance actions contained in the IPA, which has made a significant difference in creating an enabling environment for good governance.

Mr Chairperson, I should also like to draw your attention to the draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance that will be considered this week in Commission I. Apart from its intrinsic importance for animal and human health, I believe the way in which this Resolution appeared at this session of Conference is exemplary of good governance practices.

Originating in discussion at the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture in September 2014, the issue of Antimicrobial Resistance was then placed on the agenda of the 151st Session of Council in March this year at the request of the Council itself.

Subsequently, I convened three informal meetings of the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons of the Regional Groups in order to reach consensus on the draft Resolution that is now before the Conference. Indeed, if we have a Resolution before us today, it is surely a tangible expression of the new way in which the Regional Groups and the Secretariat work together informally to hammer out an acceptable solution to a pressing issue.

This has been an extremely busy two years for the Members, as well as for the FAO Secretariat. Nevertheless, it was also rewarding in terms of what has been achieved. Building on the results of the reform; having an agreed reviewed Strategic Framework and focused Strategic Objectives; and giving full scope to the Director-General to implement his programme of work and the enhanced role of the Independent Chairperson for the Council together constituted the building blocks of this success. Members are determined not to back-track on this good progress, but to move forward to higher levels, making FAO even more responsive to the complex, persistent and unprecedented challenges that our increasingly globalized world has created. Seventy years after its creation, FAO continues to be an indispensable international organization in the fight to ensure a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

I have had the opportunity to track the reform process from 2007 to 2011 as a Vice-Chairperson of three consecutive Conference Committees for the Reform of FAO and now as ICC; therefore, I am able to gauge the substantial effort, investment and progress made in reforming FAO operations and its governance. The momentum we have gained and the consolidated political will need to be nurtured, and I am committed to that. I am most grateful to my Government, the United Republic of Tanzania and to the Members of FAO for having given me an opportunity to lead the Council during the 2014-15 biennium and I look forward to your continued trust in me.

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura***(C 2015/2 Rev.1)***Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)**

Allow me to take the liberty to congratulate the Director-General Graziano on his resounding and unprecedented re-election. As the first staff person to address you, I can assure you that we will continue to support him in fulfilling the mandates of the Organization in better serving Member States.

My presentation today has been made easier by remarks made by the Director-General as well as President Lula in his McDougall lecture. The case for social protection is made in the forthcoming State of Food and Agriculture. We strongly believe that to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger, it is crucial to ensure that social protection as well as sustainable agricultural development is made possible in the forthcoming years. Recently you have heard with the publication of The State of Food Insecurity in the World that almost 800 million people continue to be chronically undernourished. That means there are many more people who are episodically undernourished; for example, during the lean season. It is important to remember this as we reflect on the progress which has been made since 1990. We have seen a reduction of the number of hungry people in the world by over 200 million, with much of this achieved in the last decade. We are very close to achieving the MDG1 Hunger Target of halving the share of proportion of hungry people. However, we are far from achieving the 1996 World Food Summit Global Goal of halving the number of hungry people. The progress made has been very uneven among different regions of the world. Most progress has been made in the Latin American and the Caribbean region as well as the East and Southeast Asian regions. Unfortunately, in Sub-Saharan Africa, although we have seen a slight reduction in the proportion of hungry people, we have seen an increase in the number of hungry people. In West Asia also, there has been no progress. And in South Asia as well as in North Africa, progress has been limited.

The hunger decline has been very slow, particularly during the latter part of the 1990s and the early part of this century. Progress has accelerated in the second part of the last decade, but unfortunately has slowed down again with the world economic stagnation. Recent discussion of the prospects for what is called Secular Stagnation implies that we are likely to see continued slow progress in reducing hunger with the tremendous human consequences it entails. To put this in larger perspective, it is important to remember that much progress was made in the second half of the 20th century when food production significantly increased all over the world, and we also saw a significant diminishing in the number of hungry as well as poor people, but progress in recent years has been much slower as I have indicated. This graph gives you some idea of how progress has been uneven in different regions of the world. The regional distribution of world hunger captured in this pie chart indicates very strongly that the region or sub-region with the highest proportion of hungry people continues to be South Asia, but the Sub-Saharan's share unfortunately has increased very significantly during the recent period.

Let us also consider the various threats to global food security which the world faces. As you all know, there are increasing resources as well as environmental constraints. Very few sub-regions of the world where the hungry are to be found continue to have available arable land for the expansion of agriculture. We have heard about the threats of climate change, the extreme weather events, which have affected food production as well as harvests. We have also seen how food prices have increased and become more volatile about a decade ago, although we are happy to report that there has been a modest reduction in food price levels as well as a significant reduction in food price volatility in recent years. This can be found in the FAO Food Outlook which was issued last month. About a decade ago, biofuel mandates were introduced on both sides of the North Atlantic and this has had a significant effect in raising the price of food. Food commodities have also become a financial asset class. Not only are spot prices for commodities increasingly the subject of speculation, but we have seen futures and options markets developed for food commodities. All this together with the availability of cheap credit has exacerbated the problem of financial speculation. We have also seen a global economic slowdown since the financial crisis of 2008 and a world where not only unemployment has grown but

also underemployment which has been very familiar for many developing countries. Another challenge, of course, is the economic philosophy promoting the idea of fiscal austerity as the way to come out of this crisis. This, of course, has affected the available resources for social protection in many parts of the world.

We are quite aware that hunger is not only determined by food availability but also by other considerations, including stability, utilization, and perhaps most importantly of all, access to food. And poverty is a major determinant of lack of access to food. In considering the trends to poverty reduction recently, we have seen that poverty seems to have declined. But because there has not been some sufficient consideration of the increase in food prices, there has not been a corresponding decline of hunger. Hunger can only be reduced if we have better social protection, not only to deal with short-term needs but also to enable the possibility for economic revival. In many regions we have seen extreme poverty declining very significantly, but it remains high for some parts of the world. Extreme poverty is concentrated in the countryside. Four out of five poor people are to be found in the countryside. This means the challenge for us, for the Food and Agriculture Organization, is a very major challenge; a challenge not only of hunger but also of poverty which we find in the countryside. We have seen a number of factors which have been important in the recent period in contributing to the alleviation of this situation. Economic growth has been necessary but hardly sufficient. Inclusive growth is crucial. Increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers, family farmers, is also extremely important insofar as it increases the net incomes and therefore access to food. Access to rural markets can be enabling. International trade openness tends to be a double-edged sword. It can deliver significant benefits but it also bears considerable risks. And we have seen in recent years how adequate and well-designed social protection can play a crucial role in reducing poverty and hunger.

In developing regions, we find that about two out of five people receive some form of social protection, not necessarily adequate social protection but some form of social protection is available in developing countries.

Much of this comes from what is called social assistance. There is less emphasis in developing countries of what is called social insurance as well as labour market programmes. Social assistance has important consequences because it tends to reach out of the formal sector.

In most regions, we find that more rural compared to urban households are likely to receive social assistance, but when you consider that 4/5 of the poor are to be found in the countryside, this relatively higher proportion of assistance to the poor is not adequate in terms of reflecting the proportion of poor to be found in the countryside.

Likewise, we find that in rural areas, poorer households are more likely to receive social assistance. But again, the distribution does not compensate for the higher levels of poverty in rural areas.

Social protection can play an important role in assisting poor people to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger. Of course it plays an important role in protecting the poor and the vulnerable, in preventing greater deprivation, in enabling productive investments.

By enabling productive investments, it enables poor people, people in the countryside, to make the investments which are needed to increase their productivity, to increase their output, to increase their incomes in order to be able to move out of the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger in order to move to a stronger level of resilience and self-reliance.

Social protection can also help to transform this vicious cycle into a virtuous cycle by various other means, by stimulating growth. There is strong evidence of this in many developing countries and here we quote the President of Ghana who recently made a statement to this effect on Ghana's experience.

The social protection floor is something which has been agreed to by the international community. A resolution to this effect was passed by the General Assembly in 2012 following a panel report led by the then head of UN Women, Madam Michelle Bachelet, who addressed this assembly two days ago as the reelected President of Chile.

This basic modest social protection floor which is proposed by the report and by the General Assembly seeks to assure income security for the most vulnerable as well as child benefits,

employment programmes, universal basics of healthcare, as well as food security. So food security figures fundamentally in the social protection floor.

It is important to remember that in the situation of secular stagnation which we find in the world today, social spending can play a very important role in getting us out of this situation of secular stagnation. Social spending has historically proven to be counter cyclical. It creates employment. It increases incomes. It plays a very important role in increasing what economists call aggregate demand.

We need to get out of this situation of secular stagnation if we are not to condemn ourselves to a world of the vicious cycle of stagnant incomes and lack of progress in terms of achieving not only the Millennium Development Goals but also the sustainable forthcoming Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

To be sure, there are a wide range of designs of social protection. There is no 'one size fits all' and there is a very healthy debate about which kinds of social protection are most effective in different types of situations and much of the report which discusses these types of programmes.

Social protection varies in different societies, partly for historical reasons, partly because of affordability, but most importantly it involves the question of political will. Political will is crucial because it determines how we move in terms of ensuring social protection for all.

There is a debate, for example, of whether you focus exclusively on the poor, and one should not forget that focusing exclusively on the poor involves two types of errors, the possibility of missing out many people who qualify as poor, and also the possibility of including people who may not really be poor but qualify by the criteria which are used.

But most importantly, we have seen that targeting involves very high cost. It is therefore also very important to recognize the more universal approach which has been promoted by those who advocate what is called a rights-based approach as an alternative approach to social protection.

It is also important to recognize that social protection is affordable in developing countries. Even some of the least developed countries in the world today have introduced various types of social protection.

Of course the fiscal possibilities for many poor countries is constrained and this is why the forthcoming Conference on Financing for Development becomes so important in terms, for example, of ensuring international cooperation among countries to ensure that tax evasion is reduced and we are able to collect much more, particularly in the poorer countries of the world which are often very rich in resources, in mineral and other resources, but for which they get relatively little incomes.

So ultimately the key questions are those of political will. Why social protection? I think it is important to recognize that in a situation of secular stagnation, the likelihood of full employment materializing in the near future or even in the medium term is very dismal.

Most developing countries have experienced a great deal of underemployment for decades and this too is unlikely to change in the near future. It is also important to recognize that it is feasible and quite affordable and its benefits are not only political but also social and economic.

Political will is crucial not only to ensure in the initiative of bringing about social protection but also to ensure its sustainability and to resolve some of the difficult coordination issues which may be involved in bringing about social protection.

Thank you very much for your attention and I look forward to a very interesting debate on these issues.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Statements by Heads of Delegation
Déclarations des chefs de délégation
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

Fiji, Latvia, Pakistan, Cabo Verde, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Argentina, Algeria, Islamic Republic of Iran

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who requested speaking time in advance. In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal may I appeal to you to respect the five-minute limit, set by Conference when it endorsed the First Report of the General Committee on Saturday.

Please remember that if you run out of time the full version of your intervention can be submitted to the Secretariat for uploading to the Conference Web site and inclusion in the verbatim records of this session.

I now have the honour to invite as the first speaker, The Honourable Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji.

The Honourable Ratu Josaia VOREQE BAINIMARAMA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji

Your Excellency the Chair; Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Fellow Heads of Government; Excellencies and Delegates; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen, *Bula vinaka* and a very good morning to you all.

I am delighted to join you in Rome as the Head of Government of a leading Pacific Small Island Developing State to contribute our perspective to the overall discussions.

There have been some notable highlights for me personally over the past couple of days – the side event on the work of FAO with Small Island Developing States; my meeting with the Director-General and the signing of a host country agreement that will see a FAO office established in Fiji; and, of course, the award that Fiji received yesterday recognising our own achievements in the fight against hunger.

And I especially welcome the opportunity today to share some of our experiences with you in my country statement and to learn from the experiences of others.

Like any Small Island Developing State, Fiji has some immense challenges which my Government is in the process of systematically addressing. Aided immensely by our development partners plus a renewed sense of national confidence after our return to Parliamentary rule last September in our first truly democratic election of one vote, one value.

I want to acknowledge FAO for its support over the years not only for Fiji but for all Pacific Islanders. The Organization has played a key role in ensuring that more Fijians than ever before have regular access to nutritious, high-quality food. And in doing so, it has rendered valuable assistance to us as a Government to raise living standards and improve the health of our people.

We in the Pacific share many of the challenges of developing countries generally in meeting the needs and expectations of our citizens. Fiji does not yet have an overarching national policy on food security. But I am pleased to inform you that we are currently working on a holistic programme covering agriculture, fisheries, biosecurity, nutrition levels and education. And that programme is being incorporated into an overall national development strategy for the coming years and decades.

Last week, I was able to launch a milestone initiative in the life of our nation – a comprehensive Green Growth Framework for Fiji that gives us a blueprint for the sustainable development of our resources now and into the future.

This comprehensive document encompasses ten primary areas at the heart of our quest for a Green and Blue Growth economy. And of course guaranteeing our food security is one of them.

The other components are to build resistance to climate change and disaster – one of the principle threats to food security for any nation; to manage our waste properly; to keep our island and ocean resources sustainable; to insist on inclusive social development; to adequately manage our freshwater resources; to guarantee our energy security and develop alternative energy sources; to have sustainable means of transportation; to embrace technology and innovation; and to achieve the “greening” of our tourism and manufacturing industries – both mainstays of the Fijian economy.

We are now acutely focused in Fiji on the need to ensure our food security – which we define in our Green Growth Framework as “the ability to produce safe, healthy affordable food for all Fijians at all times”.

This definition encapsulates four key elements: having the domestic capability to produce enough food to feed our local population; having a sufficiently diverse food production base to satisfy dietary needs; having the distribution systems in place to link people to markets and ensure ease of access to food supplies; and monitoring the efficiency of our farms to ensure that local produce is competitive prices and is affordable for ordinary Fijians.

We continue to face major challenges in meeting the preconditions for a food secure Fiji; volatile commodity prices, low economies of scale, the loss of arable agricultural land, the poor level of efficiency of existing farms and the need to meet the growing food demands of our tourism industry, to feed our international visitors and maintain the health of our primary export earner.

We recognise that these are challenges that Fijians need to meet themselves. But there is one factor threatening our food security over which we have no control whatsoever: the increasing frequency and intensity of the natural disasters we are experiencing in the Pacific that are being attributed to climate change.

These are already having a grave impact on Fiji and other Pacific Island nations; the most recent, the devastation caused to Vanuatu by Cyclone Pam. But we are also facing a terrible collective threat from rising sea levels caused by global warming. And this is already having a serious impact on island nations, with much worse to come.

In Fiji – a string of mainly mountainous islands – we are already having to move entire villages, losing precious arable land and have identified more than 600 communities that are directly threatened by the encroaching seas.

Yet in the case of three of our neighbours – Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, which are low lying atolls – the threat is existential. And under the current scenarios being advanced by climate scientists, these sovereign members of the United Nations are destined to sink beneath the waves altogether in the lifetimes of their young people.

The rising seas caused by the melting icecaps constitute the gravest collective threat to Pacific Small Island Developing States in the entire sweep of history. And unless this process is arrested, it is certain to compound the dire consequences extreme weather events are already having on our overall food security and ability to feed our people.

To focus global attention on this crisis, Fiji intends to play a lead role at the World Climate Summit in Paris at the end of November. And with the other Small Island Developing States, we will be calling for immediate action on the part of developed nations to sign up to the binding cuts in carbon emissions that are vital to avert catastrophe.

I have branded those nations that are dragging their feet on climate change as members of the “coalition of the selfish” – nations putting the health of their economies and the jobs of their workers before the very survival of the citizens of Small Island Developing States.

The time for prevarication is over. The time for life, the time for action is now. And I appeal to you all and the rest of the international community to join our alternative “coalition for action on climate change”. Because we are at five minutes to midnight on this issue and time is rapidly running out. We have the chance as a community of nations to stop the clock in Paris and start winding it back. And we must seize that opportunity before it is too late.

History will judge the industrialised nations very harshly if they do not stand with us at this critical juncture. Because it is clearly not only our future in the Pacific that is at stake but the future of mankind as a whole.

It stands to reason that small island developing nations like Fiji are powerless to act ourselves because our own carbon emissions are negligible. So we have turned our attention to building resilience in the face of climate change. To do everything we possibly can to mitigate against its effects with a comprehensive approach to national disaster management.

Fiji survived the last major hurricane that carved a path of destruction through our nation two years ago – Tropical Cyclone Evan – without the loss of a single life. So these management plans are working and are a clear demonstration that we are doing everything in our power to help ourselves.

As well as building climate change resilience, we have placed the principle of sustainability at the core of our national agenda. And we are incorporating our Green Growth Framework into two national development plans that are currently being formulated – one for the next five years, the other for the next twenty years up to 2035.

The need to develop a holistic food security policy for Fiji is a cornerstone of this programme. Recognising the deficiency of our existing approaches, we are stepping up our efforts to develop a new policy framework on food. A major component of this is the collection of proper data to be able to assess the scale of the challenge before us. So we are developing a domestic food production database for agriculture and fisheries by 2017 and a joint agriculture and fisheries census survey by 2019.

As part of this holistic effort, we are also improving efficiency at farm level by establishing production efficiency targets for key commodities by next year. We are also encouraging such things as organic farming and the recycling of farm waste. As well as encouraging the use of alternative energy sources and embracing new technologies in agriculture.

Recognising that we also need to improve market arrangements for agriculture and fisheries produce, we will have a register of farmers by next year. And we are strengthening our ability to collect and disseminate market information, enhancing research and development and upgrading traditional farming skills and knowledge.

As part of my Government's education revolution – in which we introduced free schooling in Fiji for the first time last year – we have also increased the number of scholarships and incentives for young people to take up farming. And to embrace the notion of larger-scale commercial production of food rather than the traditional subsistence model that has been the norm in Fiji and other Pacific countries.

Fiji recognises that we urgently need to address the lack of an overarching framework for food production. Because our current shortcomings when it comes to the availability of basic data means that we simply cannot objectively assess the status of our food security.

This reform programme is not only being driven by the need to streamline our performance and pursue best practice. Our new Constitution specifically requires the State to ensure that every Fijian has access to adequate food and water. These are justiciable rights of individual Fijians and the Government in turn has a legal obligation. So the Fijian Government accordingly has a legal imperative to improve the performance and sustainability of our agriculture and fisheries sectors on top of any other commercial and social imperatives.

Last year, we launched a draft five-year agricultural development plan with food security as its core objective. And while there is much to be done, our overall objective is to modernise the industry and make Fijian farmers the most competitive and successful in the Pacific Islands region.

We also have new fisheries and forestry plans in the pipeline and I want to thank FAO for the technical assistance to be able to develop these policies. Under the current Pacific Island Country Programme Framework – which takes us to 2017 – a total of USD 8.3 million has been allocated for 20 projects in Fiji.

This is on top of around USD 17 million provided by FAO between 1996 and 2012. So the Organization is making a big difference in Fiji and the rest of the Pacific. And Fiji regards FAO as a key development partner, critical to our food security and the nutrition levels of our people.

Whether it is assistance with improving our statistical data; our efforts to increase productivity; the training of our farmers in at least 20 field schools; or the development of our Codex strategy to improve food quality and safety under our Food Act, we have been able to rely on the FAO to assist us improve the lives of the Fijian people and for that we are truly grateful.

I also want to thank the FAO for its rehabilitation assistance after our three most recent cyclones. And for the leadership on improving our food security currently being provided by the Pacific Regional Food Security Cluster, part of the Pacific Humanitarian Team led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

We still have a long way to go in Fiji. Disaster risk reduction in the agriculture sector is still at an embryonic stage. We have few, if any, disaster risk reduction plans in place specifically for the agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry sectors. And we have to do a lot more in this area as time goes by.

But we have at least recognised the need to do so and intend to build on the small-scale interventions that are currently taking place with a much more coordinated and sustained effort across the board.

We need to be smarter, more adaptable and more responsive. And as I stress again: we need a holistic approach in which the Government and our development partners work closely to identify areas that need attention. And then work closely with our farmers, fishermen and forestry workers to improve our collective response to the many challenges that are yet to be tackled.

In Fiji, our primary industries are the backbone of our economy so the imperative to improve their efficiency has never been greater. Primary industry contributes around 12 percent to our GDP and employs about 60 percent of our population. So these sectors are critical to our economic development and sustained livelihoods and, their efficiency is a prime factor driving our growth.

We can do a lot better than we have. And we intend to place a lot more emphasis on efficiency and productivity in our new five-year and twenty-year national development plans.

While observing that there is much to be done, we can also acknowledge some things that are cause for celebration. We are proud that the prevalence of undernourishment among Fijians has been reduced from 6.6 percent in 1990-1992 to 4.5 percent in the most recent survey – a fact acknowledged by the award I received yesterday on Fiji's behalf.

That more of our people are eating better and their levels of nourishment have reached acceptable standards is a very positive sign and we must do everything we can to keep improving this record.

The rate of undernourished children in Fiji also declined from 15 percent to 6 percent in the 29 years between 1980 and 2009. But we still have challenges in reducing the prevalence of malnutrition in children five years old and under. Too many of our children still suffer from stunting or low height for age because of long-term insufficient nutrient intake; wasting or low weight for height for the same reason; or micronutrient deficiencies resulting mainly from diets that lack essential vitamins and minerals.

And anaemia, usually caused by an insufficient intake of iron, remains widespread among women and girls, affecting about half of those under the age of five.

My Government has introduced a number of initiatives in this respect to arrest these problems. These amongst other things include food-voucher programme for rural pregnant women, targeted and increased social welfare assistance through a food-voucher programme, free medicine, free water and subsidised electricity for those with low incomes. It also now includes free milk for class one students at all our primary schools.

The fight to eradicate malnutrition, hunger and food insecurity in Fiji goes on, just as it does throughout the developing world.

As we all know, that fight is linked to the elimination of poverty and the development of economic and social progress for every citizen; plus the sustainable management and use of our natural resources, including the land we till, the water we drink and the air we breathe.

I again thank the FAO for its efforts throughout the world to assist us as Governments to address these most fundamental rights and needs of our people. And for bringing us all together here to learn from each other's experiences and refine our own approaches to meeting those needs as soon as possible.

Let me close by again asking for your support in the struggle by Pacific nations to get the world to finally recognise the growing crisis posed to us all by climate change. And to help us take this fight to the World Climate Summit in six month's time.

Vinaka vakalevu, thank you.

His Excellency Janis DUKLAVS, Minister for Agriculture of Latvia (Original language Latvian)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Turkey, aligns itself with this statement.

We thank FAO for the preview of the State of Food and Agriculture 2015 (SOFA) with its update on trends and issues relating to poverty, in particular rural poverty and undernutrition.

We welcome the theme of the SOFA 2015. The links between social protection and productive support deserve more attention in the years to come. While the two policy tracks are usually developed and implemented independently, their potential synergies and complementarities call for closer interaction, with a view to accelerating the reduction of rural poverty.

Further analysis should consider the relationship between social policy and food security. This important issue has been discussed by the CFS during its 39th Session in 2012, based on an HLPE report.

The EU and its Member States are the major providers of global assistance for rural development, food security and nutrition. In the context of the EU's food security policy, social transfers are regarded as an important tool that is used to increase resilience and reduce food and nutrition insecurity.

In 2012 alone, the EU and its Member States spent at least 210 million Euro on 94 programmes in 40 countries to strengthen social safety nets for food and nutrition security (to which relevant emergency interventions and corresponding funds could be added).

In the light of our experience with these programmes, we share the FAO analysis that 'Social protection can effectively reduce poverty and food insecurity, build resilience, and help catalyze agricultural and rural development'. We call for greater efforts to provide coverage for the poorest, especially in rural areas.

Initially, most of these programmes focussed on conditional social transfers, and we see a gradual integration of these social transfers into wider social protection programmes. Within such a "comprehensive approach" the role of partnerships and task division is crucially important. FAO could be part of such partnerships, where appropriate, but always within its core mandate related to food and nutrition security.

As has been stated in the SOFA preview, the relative weight of social protection versus other measures designed to alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition remains an open question. This has implications for agriculture policy choices and budgetary allocations in many countries, keeping in mind policy coherence. Building more knowledge to assist decision-making in this respect would be welcome.

We look forward to the launch of the 2015 SOFA report and to further analysis and discussions on the links between social protection, rural production and food security. As this topic encompasses fields outside the FAO's traditional areas of responsibility, we expect that this work will be undertaken in close cooperation with a range of partners, both within and outside the UN institutions.

His Excellency Sikandar Hayat KHAN BOSAN, Minister for National Food Security and Research of Pakistan

I would like to congratulate you, Chairperson, on your election and that of the members of the Bureau of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

Director-General Graziano, we are delighted to congratulate you on your re-election. You have a vision for FAO that has helped it regain the stature and recognition that this knowledge-based Organization deserves and for which it was created. We believe that the work you have done in the past four years requires consolidation and needs to be built upon. We continue to support you in this second term. We are proud of FAO staff and the unmatched expertise they bring to the table, especially for developing countries. We wish you, and FAO, all success in achieving the strategic objectives of the Organization.

The State of World Food Insecurity Report 2015 notes that 795 million people are still undernourished today. This is simply unacceptable. The challenge before us is how to rectify this situation.

SOFI 2015 provides some solutions, which need serious consideration, including: “Inclusive growth” to help fight against hunger and malnutrition; “Social protection” for fostering food security, and reduction of hunger and malnutrition by promoting income security and access to better nutrition, healthcare and education; trade openness, coupled with effective safeguards and greater policy space for developing countries to avoid detrimental effects of international trade agreements on food security and nutrition; and addressing the root causes of protracted crises resulting from conflict and natural disasters.

SOFI 2015, especially, advocates a holistic approach in which initiatives are taken in multiple sectors such as education, health and social welfare. In principle this is quite correct. In practice, though, we need to recognize that countries have finite resources and allocation of these resources needs to be prioritized. In our experience, a most effective way of establishing priorities is to fully involve and consult with communities in determining their priorities. Effective and sustainable programmes for food security can best be built if communities are made decision-makers on what is important and urgent for them.

Agriculture forms an important part of Pakistan’s economy. Two-thirds of our 200 million inhabitants live in rural areas and are associated with agriculture. For us, FAO’s work in the field in Pakistan is of great importance.

Our Government is committed to eradicating rural poverty. It is committed to ensuring food and nutritional security at all levels.

To effectively achieve this, the Government has launched a Zero Hunger and Family Farming Programme. We look forward to FAO’s cooperation in effective implementation of the Programme. Pakistan’s Zero Hunger Programme as inspired by the Brazilian model. It intends to reach a total of 61 million people across Pakistan. With a budget of USD 1.6 billion, the Programme aims to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity through several interventions. These include stimulus programmes to expand farm outputs and market access, targeted and social safety nets and cash and food transfers to the most food insecure households. Most importantly, the programme would start school-feeding projects in 45 most food-insecure districts.

In addition, the Government has launched a long-term economic plan called Vision 2025, which puts people first. Promoting sustainable development, including through modernizing the agriculture sector of the country, is a key element of Vision 2025.

Also in 2008, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was launched. Under the programme, cash transfers are made to families, particularly through women of the households. The effort is to improve food security of families through women and, at the same time, to empower women. Since its inception, the BISP has grown rapidly to become the largest social safety net programme in Pakistan’s history benefitting 4.7 million households with annual disbursements expected to reach Rs. 90 billion in the current financial year.

Despite the progress achieved in agriculture in Pakistan over the last few decades, there is still great potential for increasing the productivity of all our major crops by more intensive use of modern agricultural practices. In this regard, we are making concerted efforts to provide support to the farmers, particularly, smallholders.

We are taking multiple initiatives to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger. Special focus is being accorded to help farmers to adopt good agricultural practices in order to produce high quality, value-added products which can access export markets. This shall help farmers get higher returns on their produce. We are also focusing on livestock, dairy, fisheries and poultry development as well as high-value horticulture and agro-based products.

FAO has helped us by bringing technical knowledge to the field, developing and improving agricultural practices, and supporting policy formulation and implementation. FAO and the Government of Pakistan are working to improve agricultural productivity and nutrition for some of the most resource-poor populations in the country. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with FAO.

2015 is a defining year. In September the international community will adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which will set new development goals and targets for the next 15 years. FAO's role will be vital in assisting countries in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, for ensuring food security and nutrition, eradicating extreme poverty as well as for addressing the challenge of Climate Change. These multiple challenges require action-oriented programmes and monitoring by FAO and other UN organizations.

Today a number of countries including Pakistan face the threat of natural disasters, depleting river flows and climate change. This is an area where FAO's cooperation is important for, inter alia, building capacities for forecasting, mitigation and building resilience.

In closing, I wish Director General Graziano all success in addressing the multiple challenges faced by the international community that are of direct relevance to FAO.

Son Excellence Madame Eva Teixeira ANDRADE ORTET, Ministre du développement rural du Cabo Verde (langue originale portugaise)

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de saluer et de féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, pour sa réélection à la tête de notre importante Organisation. À travers vous, je tiens aussi à saluer vos collaborateurs. Je voudrais également vous féliciter pour votre remarquable performance dans votre mission ainsi que votre engagement et détermination pour l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

En citant le rapport de la Banque mondiale, qui affirme que trois personnes sur quatre dans le monde en développement vivent en milieu rural et que la majorité dépendent directement ou indirectement de l'agriculture pour leur survie, nous soulignons qu'il est essentiel d'assurer le développement dans le monde et qu'il faut insister davantage sur l'agriculture et les investissements à effectuer dans le secteur rural de façon à réaliser les OMD (objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement) visant à réduire de moitié la pauvreté et la faim d'ici 2015.

Nul n'ignore que l'élimination de la faim et de la pauvreté extrême dépendront largement du développement du secteur agricole, ainsi que de la disponibilité de produits alimentaires à des prix raisonnables, proportionnels aux revenus et dans des conditions de compétitivité de l'économie. Le secteur de l'agriculture s'est montré capable de catalyser la croissance d'autres secteurs, tels que l'agro-industrie, le commerce, le tourisme, et d'entraîner un impact positif sur la balance commerciale, et en conséquence sur l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, ainsi que sur la réduction de la pauvreté.

Cabo Verde, petit pays archipélagique et sahélien, a déjà réalisé des investissements considérables dans le secteur agricole, notamment au cours de la dernière décennie, à travers la mise en œuvre de programmes portant sur la distribution de l'eau et l'amélioration de la productivité agricole. Les progrès réalisés, grâce à la politique menée par notre pays, ont mené à d'importants investissements

dans ce secteur, représentant de 10 à 15 pour cent du budget annuel de l'État, et ce conformément à la recommandation du Sommet de Maputo.

En termes de mécanismes et de dispositifs de gestion de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, nous sommes en train de mettre en place des outils stratégiques qui ont été avalisés par la stratégie nationale de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Nous avons également créé un Conseil national chargé de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, doté d'un secrétariat exécutif et d'un système d'informations sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous devons également souligner que depuis 2010, le Gouvernement s'est engagé, grâce au « Programme national des cantines scolaires », et à travers la Fondation caboverdienne de l'Action sociale-FICASE, à distribuer chaque jour plus de 90 000 repas aux élèves de maternelle et de l'éducation primaire, à l'échelle du pays. Ce programme est fondamental pour que les enfants issus de familles pauvres puissent poursuivre leurs études, contribuant ainsi à la lutte contre l'abandon scolaire et créant des opportunités pour que tous les jeunes aient accès à l'éducation. Rappelons que le taux de réussite de l'éducation de base, dans mon pays, est de 90 pour cent.

Nous avons atteint d'autres résultats importants, tels que la valorisation de la production agricole nationale grâce à la mise en place d'un programme d'achat local, avec l'adoption de la Loi sur l'alimentation et la santé scolaire, approuvée par le Parlement en avril 2015, ainsi que le Programme de soutien à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans les écoles. De même, nous pouvons citer la participation du Cabo Verde au concours de l'EXPO MILAN 2015 sur les bonnes pratiques dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire durable, qui lui a valu une quatrième place, ainsi que la réalisation prochainement d'un Forum mondial sur la nutrition des enfants, qui aura lieu au Cabo Verde du 28 septembre au 8 octobre 2015.

Nous signalons encore la réforme du système de protection sociale, qui constitue une priorité dans l'agenda politique du Gouvernement du Cabo Verde et couvre les différents régimes existant dans le pays: 37 pour cent de la population du pays est couverte par le système de sécurité sociale; plus de 21 000 personnes bénéficient d'une pension sociale, soit 4,2 pour cent de la population et 75 pour cent des personnes âgées. Une partie importante de cette population réside dans des zones rurales.

Malgré tous ces résultats positifs, les défis sont encore nombreux et nous continuons de lutter pour gagner la bataille contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté.

Pour relever les multiples défis auxquels la société caboverdienne est confrontée, le Cabo Verde devra donc renforcer ses politiques en vue d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire, améliorer la santé, la nutrition, la protection sociale et de façon à créer un climat plus favorable et plus résistant face aux chocs internes comme externes.

En outre, l'impact du changement climatique à l'échelle mondiale, la sécheresse, la désertification, surtout pour les petits États insulaires comme le nôtre, exigent une attention particulière en matière de gestion des risques, si l'on veut assurer les conditions nécessaires pour lutter contre leurs effets, qui peuvent entraîner un impact négatif sur les objectifs fixés pour le développement de nos pays.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions exprimer notre gratitude pour l'occasion qui nous est donnée de partager avec vous ces réflexions, en souhaitant le plein succès des travaux de cette Conférence.

His Excellency Abdulrahman Bin Abdulmohsen AL-FADHLI, Minister for Agriculture of Saudi Arabia (Original language Arabic)

At the outset of this 39th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, I would like to congratulate the Director-General for his election as well as the Chairperson for his election and we are looking forward for fruitful discussions upon the subjects in the order of the day. I would like to thank the Director-General and his team for the good preparation of the documents for this Conference. We also highly appreciate the efforts which have been deployed to eradicate poverty and hunger, and in particular those efforts that are taken throughout the world, as well as measures to rationalize resources, to decentralize the work of the FAO through the regional and subregional offices, and we have good opportunities in this way to carry out capacity-building projects in those

countries where the regional and sub-regional offices exist. The Organization should follow up while evaluating this work and follow the progress of these programmes.

In accordance with the efforts, Saudi Arabia has put into place development plans and is going to implement plans for food security. We are supporting agriculture and making sure it is competitive. We are making sure that our natural resources are used in a rational way. We also have a national committee that has established priorities and actions in view of limiting food waste and maintain the value chain of the food resources by enhancing the efficiency of the food processing. We have organized awareness-raising campaigns to limit food waste and have put into place an information system for agricultural marketing.

In conclusion, our Government reiterates and we will continue to support the efforts undertaken as well as any future actions to help combat poverty and hunger at every level: local, regional and international. We have looked at the content of the documents and we will be very happy to participate in the debates this week. I would like to thank the organizers of the Conference for their efforts and I would like to wish you all great success in your work during this Conference.

The Honourable Nathan GUY, Minister for Primary Industries of New Zealand

It is great to have the opportunity to address this 39th Session of FAO.

I would first like to acknowledge Samoan Minister Le Mamea Ropati who is doing an outstanding job chairing the Conference.

I attended a wonderful dinner on Saturday night with the South Pacific countries. This proved to be a valuable opportunity for us to share ideas and engage socially over some lovely Italian food and beverages.

I acknowledge that FAO is increasing its focus on small island states and the unique challenges that we all face. New Zealand endorses this approach.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Director-General Graziano da Silva on his re-election. New Zealand looks forward to continuing working with you and we support your focus on driving efficiencies, and consolidating on the gains you have made over the last four years. We also support your focus on decentralisation and on the regions.

FAO is strongest when it focuses its limited resources into areas where it has a strong comparative advantage like international standards development for food safety in Codex. Sound international standards – those of the IPPC – are needed to help protect agriculture from unwanted pests and diseases and maintain important international access to markets.

New Zealand is an isolated island state with a unique biodiversity. We understand the importance of a strong biosecurity system more than most, and I have made biosecurity my number one priority as Minister.

There are many challenges for FAO to grapple with. One of those is the sustainable management of global fisheries and the elimination of illegal fishing which must remain a key priority for all of us.

Another issue is ensuring we have global food supply to meet the needs of an ever growing population.

We support the strategic framework on food security to ensure that people around the world have access to safe and nutritious food.

New Zealand is trying to do its part. We feed around 40 million people. We became a global food producer in 1882 with the first ever shipment of frozen sheep carcasses to the United Kingdom. We now export quality food products to around 130 countries (many are represented in the room today).

But we are still a relatively small player on the international stage producing one percent of world beef production, three percent of dairy and six percent of world sheep meat production.

There has been much talk in Milan and here at this Conference about the hundreds of millions of people who do not have enough food. This has been a challenging global issue for many years.

The solution is not just about awareness and collaboration amongst the 194 FAO Member Nations. We really need to drive for results through sound agriculture policies and more open trade.

Short-sighted protectionist policies can hurt the very people these interventions seek to help. This is done by locking local producers into unprofitable and eventually unsustainable production.

New Zealand abolished agriculture subsidies in the early 1980s. While initially painful, it was ultimately the best decision for our farmers.

Our farmers had to look for new markets and adopt new innovation inside the farm gate. We now produce food far more efficiently than we did 30 years ago.

For example, in the 1980s we had around 70 million sheep. We now have around 30 million sheep – less than half our 1980s flock – and yet we can still produce the same amount of sheep meat.

There are many challenges facing farmers around the world. These include the impact of climate change and the need to make efficient use of the world's limited natural resources.

New Zealand has been at the forefront of efforts to find ways of increasing agricultural production without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. New Zealand was instrumental in promoting the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, and it is proud that 45 countries have now committed to the GRA.

It is my belief that we can all learn from each other and together we can secure more sustainable food for future generations to enjoy.

His Excellency Sven-Erick BUCHT, Minister for Rural Affairs of Sweden

We must never forget people must eat. Or we forget they are human.

To end hunger is to give hope. And farming, in human history, is hope in practice.

All this is the work of FAO.

And this is my first time here, which feels very good. I represent Sweden, and for my Government the work of FAO is a top priority.

Resilience means to resist, to overcome, to succeed in the face of disaster. Let us take an example: African Swine Fever. One of the greatest global threats to pig farming.

In 2008, in Central Asia an outbreak destroyed much of the region's pig production. It destroyed the livelihoods of many farmers. It led to poverty and to great food insecurity.

For three years now, experts from Sweden have been working together in Georgia with FAO, with better risk management and crisis management.

This helps rural resilience with better assessments and data, better management, and better communication of risks. These tools, and listen we are learning, are needed worldwide. Because bacteria and diseases hold no passports. They know no borders.

It is African Swine Fever. But it has travelled to Georgia, to Armenia, to Iran, to Russia and to Belarus. Then, last year to Lithuania, Poland and Latvia.

Which brings me to another big international threat to food production, its trade, and to us all. It is about resilience of diseases, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

There are more and more superbugs in our soils, and in our rivers - many of them from so-called modern farming. AMR already kills more than half a million people across the globe every year. And it is just beginning.

Sweden has been working hard on AMR for years. With results. We have the lowest use of antibiotics in animals in the European Union. But we also have the fastest growing pigs – in the world.

We all know more sustainable farming is the key to the future of farming worldwide. And sustainable farming, with a prudent use of antibiotics, is the key to fight AMR and reduce resistance.

AMR shows – like many of the issues we are discussing here in Rome – how connected our world now is. We know we must act together. And we must act together now.

So the Resolution that hopefully will be agreed to here at the Conference sends an important message from FAO and its Members: that we are committed to work together and committed to win this fight.

FAO is as vital as ever. It has done so much to reduce hunger in the last decade. But still, around the globe, one out of nine people goes to bed hungry. One too many. So there is still much to be done. But there is so much we can do.

So, as I said, it is very good to be here with you. And I, and Sweden, very much look forward to the work ahead, and working with you. We can fix it together, but only if we work together.

His Excellency LEE Dong-Phil, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to join the 39th Conference of the FAO. First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva with the outcome of the election as the Director-General of FAO for the second term. I also wish to welcome and congratulate Honourable Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture Store Corporation of Samoa on his election as the Chairperson of the Conference. I am confident that this Conference will be highly successful under the leadership of the Director-General and the Chairperson.

The Republic of Korea highly values the commitment of FAO, its Member Nations and other relevant international agencies to reduce world hunger since the 1990s. Despite these efforts, however, about 800 million people are suffering from chronic hunger. Over one billion still remain in extreme poverty. Furthermore, it is alarming that the majority of the poor and hungry are found in rural areas, owing to the gap between urban and rural household incomes.

At this critical juncture, it is timely and significant for the Member Nations to share information on the state of national food and agriculture, and seek opportunities for possible cooperation to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening social protection and production support.

In 2013, the average farmers' income stood at 62.5 percent of that of urban households in Korea, which is expected to further decrease in the future. In addition, the shrinking and ageing rural population raise concerns that rural communities may be left behind.

In order to overcome this situation, PARK Geun-hye administration has been implementing groundbreaking policies to transform agriculture into a leading growth industry from a declining industry, by restoring sustainability and growth capacity of the agricultural and rural sector.

First of all, the Administration is making endeavours to enhance the competitiveness of Korea's agriculture in the global arena. With a view to enhancing agricultural productivity and reducing farm management costs, Korea is promoting the concept of 'Creative Agriculture'. This is a convergence of ICT and agriculture. We are also transforming the agricultural sector into 'the Six-order Industry' that integrates agricultural production, processing, marketing and rural tourism. This aims to vitalize the agricultural sector and rural communities by increasing rural incomes and job opportunities.

Secondly, Korea is nurturing the agricultural sector as a new growth engine by focusing on exporting agri-food products to the global market, going beyond the domestic market, at every stage - from production to processing to marketing. Furthermore, we are committed to producing more environment-friendly and higher quality agricultural products, focusing on R&D to strategically develop market-specific products. We also seek more opportunities to promote Korean food tourism and globalize Korean food.

Thirdly, Korea is strengthening social safety net and policy infrastructure of the agricultural and rural sector, while enhancing rural incomes. We are working hard to reduce the instability of farm management and improve income stability by providing direct payments and disaster insurance to farmers. We also provide elderly farmers and smallholders with social insurance, farmland pension and safety insurance along with welfare services such as medical services and farming and household assistance. In addition, to attract and retain youth to rural areas, we are creating an economic-cultural-

social centre in each rural community while supporting job training programmes and agri-food business ventures.

Fourthly, the Republic of Korea firmly believes that rural poverty and hunger should be addressed at a global level, rather than at a national or regional level. In this regard, we actively engage in global debates on food security in relevant international organizations such as G20 and APEC. We also share our experience of implementing agricultural policies and technologies by establishing 'Korea Project on International Agriculture' in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Moreover, we are contributing to addressing vulnerabilities in the food systems of developing states through our cooperative projects with FAO. We will establish the "National Agri-Food Information System" in collaboration with ASEAN+3 Food Security Information System and provide assistance of about USD 7.5 million this year for ODA projects on agriculture, forestry and fishery of developing nations.

We believe that the best way to eradicate rural poverty is fostering agriculture as a future leading industry by providing policy support to the agricultural sector and rural communities.

I would like to reiterate our commitment in providing continuous support for agricultural and rural development and food security around the world. Korea will be always ready to build more cooperative relationship with international organizations such as FAO and with other countries, for example, by sharing experiences for the advancement of the agricultural sector and rural communities.

Once again, it was a great honour for me to have this opportunity to speak at this Conference on behalf of the Korean Government. I would like to thank FAO including Director-General Mr José Graziano da Silva for their wonderful organization of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, we are honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, who will address the Conference.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña Cristina FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER, Presidenta de la República Argentina

Muy buenos días a todos y a todas, Señor Director General de la FAO, Señores Miembros de la mesa directiva, Señoras y Señores Representantes de cada uno de los países que integran esta prestigiosa Organización.

Quiero agradecer en nombre de mi país, la República Argentina, la distinción que nos fue otorgada como país por el éxito en nuestra lucha por combatir el hambre. Pero ustedes saben que en la Argentina, gran productora de alimentos, tenemos una capacidad para producir alimentos para más de 400 millones de personas, cuando apenas somos 41 millones de personas.

Este año vamos a volver a batir récords en materia de cosecha, esperábamos una cosecha récord de 115 millones de toneladas de grano y vamos a obtener 119 millones de toneladas de granos. Tenemos también un fuerte desarrollo de la producción rural familiar, al punto tal de que el 66 por ciento de nuestros productores son de agricultura familiar y representan el 20 por ciento del producto bruto agropecuario en nuestro país. También tenemos políticas importantes que hemos venido desarrollando con el tiempo como es el plan pro huerta, que ha generado la existencia de 630 000 huertas en nuestro país y que además hemos —si se me permite utilizar el término—, exportado con éxito a la hermana República de Haití, donde hemos desarrollado ya más de 18 000 granjas comunitarias familiares e institucionales.

Pero no estaría diciendo exactamente la verdad si únicamente colocara el problema del hambre y de las políticas para combatir el hambre en el marco de lo productivo y de que debemos producir más alimentos, porque en realidad estamos convencidos que el problema del hambre es un problema de la pobreza; tienen hambre los que no tienen dinero para comprar alimentos, y creemos entonces que el acento lo debemos poner exactamente en ese punto, en el combate contra la pobreza, que es también

hablar de la distribución del ingreso, de la inequidad que hoy tiene, a nivel global, la distribución del ingreso.

Y yo quiero para ejemplificarlo mejor recordar las palabras de un maravilloso Obispo de su país: Señor Graziano, el Obispo Hélder Câmara, muy recordado y creo que está en proceso de beatificación. Hélder Câmara decía que cuando como obispo, como iglesia ayudaba a los pobres con alimento y con ayuda, decían que era buen cristiano y cuando se preguntaba por qué había pobres, le decían usted es comunista.

Entonces creemos, realmente, que el problema del hambre radica hoy en una inequitativa distribución de la riqueza. Esto no significa que no tengamos en cuenta la producción, la producción de alimentos, la mejor manera de producir alimentos, en eso también Argentina es líder en materia de innovación tecnológica de biotecnología para producir más y mejor alimentación, pero en realidad, lo que ha contribuido para que Argentina erradicara el problema del hambre fue precisamente la existencia del estado. Y de un estado con políticas públicas muy activas, muy direccionadas y muy focalizadas precisamente a este problema.

Cuando en el año 2003, el 25 de mayo de 2003, al Dr. Néstor Kirchner le tocó asumir la presidencia de nuestro país, luego de la crisis del año 2001, con el default más grande soberano que se recuerde en la historia, en Argentina la pobreza superaba el 54 por ciento de la población y la indigencia superaba el 27 por ciento. Habíamos retornado a una economía de trueque. En mi país, se había terminado la moneda única y cada uno de los estados provinciales, por la carencia de recursos, había emitido moneda local. Llegamos a tener entre 9 y 10 monedas. 25 por ciento de desocupación, ahí está el verdadero problema realmente de la pobreza y que hoy afronta el mundo.

Cuando venía hacia aquí, en dirección a esta Conferencia, pasé por una esquina en donde un grupo nutrido de personas, de hombres y mujeres pedían trabajo porque no hay trabajo. Y nosotros creemos que el trabajo (tal vez parece un discurso para la OIT, la Organización Internacional del Trabajo), el problema del hambre, no se lo puede abordar únicamente desde la producción de alimentos, sino que hay que abordarlo de manera múltiple, de distintos organismos y articulando todos nuestros esfuerzos institucionales, personales y colectivos para que tengan una verdadera solución.

Y nosotros decimos que el trabajo es el gran articulador social, pero también es además el que permite contar y dar a la gente los recursos para que pueda comprar los alimentos ¿Qué políticas activas hemos tenido nosotros, en la República Argentina, para pasar de ese cuadro de pobreza extrema, de ese endeudamiento, de esa economía de trueque, de esa multiplicidad de monedas que convertían a la economía en un verdadero pandemonio, una verdadera torre de babel? Lo primero fue un plan alimentario nacional que lanzamos en el año 2003, pero luego, con el paso del tiempo, abordamos casi inmediatamente la reindustrialización del país. ¿Para qué? Para generar trabajo, se generaron más de 6 millones de puestos de trabajo.

Al mismo tiempo que se generaron estos puestos de trabajo, comenzamos a recuperar el poder adquisitivo de los salarios. En mi país la constitución prevé el funcionamiento de un consejo del salario mínimo, vital y móvil (en su artículo 14bis) que establece que anualmente deben reunirse los trabajadores junto a los empresarios y el estado en una negociación tripartita para establecer un salario mínimo, vital y móvil.

Y hoy, con mucho orgullo podemos decir, que Argentina tiene el mejor salario mínimo, vital y móvil de toda Latinoamérica, no solamente en términos nominales, sino también en términos de paridad de poder adquisitivo, es decir, con la misma cantidad de dólares se pueden adquirir más cosas en mi país en relación a las que se pueden adquirir en otros países hermanos.

Además de ello se instalaron, durante 12 años la negociación libre en materia de paritarias, convención colectiva entre los distintos trabajadores y los empresarios, donde acuerdan libremente sus salarios y esto ha generado una gran demanda. ¿Por qué? Porque ustedes saben que en materia de teoría económica, siempre ha habido una gran discusión central y estructural que fue si es la oferta la que mueve la economía o es la demanda la que mueve la economía. Por supuesto el sector más concentrado del ingreso sostiene que es la oferta y no la demanda, porque dice que la demanda es algo de gobiernos populistas, pero nosotros cedemos que no, que la demanda agregada y el Estado

sosteniendo esa demanda agregada, el consumo es el que moviliza la gran rueda de la economía. ¿Por qué? Por una razón muy sencilla. Porque los empresarios, el capital, no invierte si no tiene asegurada la colocación de sus productos y de sus servicios.

Comenzamos entonces una política de sostenimiento de la demanda agregada, o sea no solamente por una cuestión de sensibilidad social en un proyecto de inclusión, sino por una cuestión de inteligencia económica. Y junto a ese salario mínimo vital y móvil que iba creciendo año a año (en donde se reunía el Consejo), al salario de los trabajadores en relación de dependencia —que también siguió creciendo año a año por encima de la inflación, manteniendo el poder adquisitivo en esas convenciones paritarias—, también a partir de que el Estado recuperó la administración de los recursos de los trabajadores, esto es lo que los trabajadores aportan en materia de aportes personales en su trabajo, que les he descontado a través de aportes, y lo que aporta el sector del capitalismo, el sector de los empresarios a través de las contribuciones patronales que estaban privatizados.

Esta administración de los recursos había sido privatizada durante los años 90. En el año 2009, durante mi primera presidencia, ante la crisis global producida desde el centro del poder, con la caída de Lehman Brothers, supimos que el mundo había cambiado definitivamente y que en definitiva ese discurso neoliberal de los años 90, de las privatizaciones como la panacea universal, la teoría del consenso de Washington del derrame, de que el vaso derramaba (el vaso nunca derramaba, salvo cuando alguien lo volcaba). Y cuando lo volcaba, lo volcaba para el lado de los ricos. Nosotros decidimos volcar el vaso para el lado del conjunto de la sociedad, porque sabíamos que de esa manera finalmente la economía se iba a dinamizar.

Fue así que en el año 2009 se estableció la Asignación Universal por Hijo, una de las políticas públicas reconocidas por FAO o reconocidas por la CEPAL como una de las políticas más efectivas en la lucha contra la pobreza. Representa esta Asignación Universal por Hijo destinar el 0,5 por ciento del producto bruto interno a las familias que no tienen un trabajo registrado, que tienen un trabajo informal o cuyo salario está por debajo del salario mínimo, vital y móvil.

Llegamos con esto a más de tres millones de niños y adolescentes, pero no llegamos únicamente con el ingreso monetario; llegamos además con exigencias y responsabilidades que deben cumplir las familias que reciben este programa y que es que sus hijos deben ir a la escuela, y que además deben tener los controles de salud y el programa de vacunación. La Argentina tiene un programa de vacunación gratuito oficial y obligatorio de 19 vacunas. Es el país tal vez que mayor cantidad de vacunas gratuitas tiene en su programa.

Esta Asignación Universal por Hijo, que al principio fue criticada porque decían que con eso se fomentábamos que la gente no trabajara, pero al contrario. ¿Por qué? Porque el sistema convive perfectamente con el trabajo registrado, ya que en nuestro país la Administración Nacional de la Seguridad Social (ANSES) paga también las asignaciones familiares a los trabajadores en relación de dependencia. Y esas asignaciones familiares en el primero de los escalones, es similar a la asignación universal por hijo que recibe cada desempleado o cada trabajador informal no registrado, de modo tal que no es un incentivo al no trabajo, al contrario, porque cuando pasa ese trabajadora al campo de la formalidad, sigue cobrando esa asignación bajo la forma de asignación familiar por hijo por ser trabajador registrado.

El éxito ha sido muy grande, porque ha crecido la escolaridad. Y por eso hoy estoy hablando frente a ustedes, porque esa política junto a la asignación universal por embarazo, junto también al plan PROG.R.ES.AR, o sea el Programme de respaldo a estudiantes de Argentina, que es el ingreso que reciben los estudiantes de mi país que reúnen determinadas condiciones que sus padres no pueden pagar sus estudios, no solamente para que puedan terminar su escuela secundaria, sino fundamentalmente poder ingresar al nivel terciario; políticas públicas muy importantes. Y yo quiero también aquí rescatar cuál ha sido el resultado de haber administrado lo que antes administraban los privados, porque hay siempre una tensión entre que lo público y lo privado (si lo privado es mejor que lo público, si la administración de los privados es mejor que la de los públicos).

Cuando recuperamos la administración de los recursos de los trabajadores por parte del Estado, las AFJP, Administradoras de Fondos de Jubilaciones y Pensiones (las aseguradoras privadas de pensión), tenían en su patrimonio 90 000 millones de pesos. Hoy el fondo de garantía de sustentabilidad que

administra estos recursos, luego de hacerse cargo de la Universal por Hijo, de la Asignación Universal por Embarazo, del plan PROG.R.ES.AR, del plan Conectar Igualdad que distribuye una computadora por niño o por adolescente en cada una de nuestras escuelas públicas, de manera tal de achicar la brecha digital, y además, de encarar un programa de infraestructura como es el PRO.CRE.AR, el Programa de Credito Argentino, que se refiere a las casas, construir casas, que son pagadas por sectores de clase media que no son sujetos de crédito bancario, y que tampoco eran sujetos de planes sociales de vivienda, ha permitido que hoy ese fondo tenga más de 500 000 millones de pesos.

Esto por una razón muy sencilla, porque la inyección que provocó en el mercado, la demanda agregada, el consumo de los más pobres, que no son los que fugan sus recursos a cuentas en Suiza o en paraísos fiscales. La asignación universal por hijo que recibe cada trabajador, cada mamá es gastada en zapatillas, en útiles para la escuela, en alimentos, en cosas que contribuyen fuertemente a dinamizar la economía a través de la demanda agregada, el consumo.

La verdad es que yo muchas veces no entiendo a algunos capitalistas, porque el capitalismo ha podido triunfar sobre otras ideas a partir de que la gente quería consumir. El muro de Berlín no se cayó porque había mayor poderío económico, tecnológico o militar del otro lado; se cayó por una razón más sencilla y más humana: los que vivían del otro lado querían consumir y querían tener la misma calidad de vida de la que tenían los que vivían del lado oeste del muro. Una lección de capitalismo, algo que me estoy olvidando y que me quieren hacer poner (pero no me voy a olvidar).

Entonces creemos realmente que el consumo, incentivar el consumo y sobre todo, esto lo quiero decir aquí en Europa, donde escucho que se están aplicando recetas de ajustes y de restricción al consumo. Quiero decirle que en nuestro país esas recetas ya fueron aplicadas, y con pésimos resultados. Tan pésimo que el nivel de endeudamiento explotó por los aires, y el país explotó por los aires y llegamos a tener 5 Presidentes en una semana porque esto termina necesariamente impactando en las instituciones.

Afortunadamente en nuestro país pudimos superarlo dentro de los marcos institucionales, dentro de los marcos de la Constitución y no se afectó el proceso democrático. Pero cuando pasan estas cosas, niveles de endeudamiento inaceptables, nuestro país llegó a deber el 160 por ciento de su producto bruto interno cuando defaultió su deuda. No hay país que pueda hacer frente a esta deuda, por una razón muy sencilla: nadie puede pagar más de lo que le ingresa.

Cuando Néstor Kirchner dio su primer mensaje en las Naciones Unidas y abordó este tema tan candente también aquí en Europa del endeudamiento para muchísimos países, dijo que nos dejaran crecer, que íbamos a pagar pero que íbamos a hacernos cargo de una parte de la deuda, que la otra parte debían hacerse cargo aquellos que le habían prestado a la Argentina a tasas exorbitantes y sin tener en cuenta una regla mínima de cualquier banquero que es prestarle a alguien que sabe que se lo va a poder devolver. Cuando alguien le presta algo a alguien a tasas usurarias, debe saber que lo más probable es que no se lo puedan devolver, y si hace esto, debe asumir el riesgo.

Por lo tanto, la postura de Argentina en la restructuración de su deuda externa en el 2005 y en el 2010 fue precisamente eso hacernos cargo una parte nosotros de la deuda, y que la otra estuviera a cargo de quienes habían hecho muy mal las cosas con el propio monitoreo del propio Fondo Monetario Internacional que debería, como sus funciones lo indican, cuidar de los países, no solamente para que no hagan políticas populistas, sino también para que no se endeuden exorbitantemente y pongan en peligro la seguridad alimentaria y la propia seguridad institucional de los países.

Estas políticas activas, estas políticas sociales, estos programas sociales articulados conjuntamente con políticas de producción más que importantes que se han desarrollado en la Argentina en materia de inversión y tecnología, somos libres en el mundo en materia, no solamente en producción cuantitativa, sino de producción cualitativa, debido al grado de inversión en biotecnología. No quiero numerar en qué somos primeros productores, segundos productores, exportadores del mundo.

Hoy tenemos una gran capacidad y vamos a tener aún más porque estamos invirtiendo mucho en ciencia, en tecnología y en educación, otras claves para combatir la pobreza y combatir el hambre. Hemos repatriado a más de 1000 científicos argentinos que hoy, en nuestros laboratorios, en empresas privadas, en centros científicos están ayudando, precisamente, a producir más y mejor. A esto también

le sumamos un plan de infraestructura muy fuerte, que permitió acceder al agua potable a millones de argentinos que estaban privados de abrir una canilla y que corriera agua en su casa. O también de tener cloacas, algo que tiene que ver con la salud. Cuando a mí me hablan de planes de salud, primero pregunto cuánta gente en el país tiene acceso al agua potable, cuánta gente en el país cuenta con desagües cloacales. Y luego sí, una vez que tengo esas cifras y que son buenas, recién escucho los planes de salud. Si no hay agua potable y no hay cloacas, que nadie me venga a hablar de planes de salud.

Desarrollamos un plan de infraestructura muy agresivo. Como ustedes ven, es una combinación de políticas muy fuertes, muy activas que nos han permitido hoy tener un índice de pobreza por debajo del 5 por ciento y también de indigencia del 1,27 por ciento, si mal no recuerdo, y convertirnos en uno de los países más igualitarios. No puedo dejar tampoco de mencionar lo que ha sido el otro gran sujeto que muchas veces padece hambre y que son los ancianos, las personas de mayor edad.

Hemos tenido también, junto con la Recuperación de los Recursos de los Trabajadores, junto a la Asignación Universal por Hijo, un sistema jubilatorio previsional que hoy tiene una cobertura del 97 por ciento. El 97 por ciento de las personas en condiciones de acceder a un beneficio jubilatorio, hoy en la Argentina tienen un ingreso por este concepto. Ingreso que además aumenta dos veces por año de acuerdo a una fórmula de ley de movilidad jubilatoria que fue aprobada por el Parlamento Argentino, que fue propuesta por nuestro Gobierno y que combina racionalmente, entre los elementos para determinar ese índice en el cuál se aplica el aumento, la recaudación, o sea cuánto le ingresa al Estado, que está directamente vinculado a todos los ingresos de la seguridad social, de impuesto a las ganancias, del impuesto al valor agregado. Como verán ustedes, una política impositiva directamente vinculada también a la distribución y a la equidad social.

Yo no quería terminar mi intervención hoy ante ustedes sin mencionar también lo que hemos sufrido en la Región latinoamericana y lo que hemos podido superar durante mucho tiempo, debido a los subsidios y a las barreras arancelarias que tienen los países desarrollados cuando los términos del intercambio comercial antes de la aparición de los gigantes asiáticos era claramente deficitaria para los países en desarrollo, sufrimos y seguimos sufriendo todavía las barreras arancelarias.

Un ejemplo: yo creo que nadie puede dudar de los beneficios y de la riqueza de la carne argentina, de lo que es hoy un bife de chorizo argentino. Los Estados Unidos, por motivos fitosanitarios, *entre comillas*, nos tiene prohibido el acceso a las carnes argentinas en su mercado. Algo parecido acontece con los limones. Ustedes saben que Argentina es el primer productor de limones en el mundo, a punto tal que una prestigiosa marca de bebidas cola, famosa en el mundo (la botellita de la forma, para no decir el nombre, con la etiqueta colorada) que empieza con coca y termina con cola nos tiene como sus proveedores; sin embargo, el ingreso a los limones argentinos, también por cuestiones fitosanitarias está prohibido en los Estados Unidos. Nosotros hemos organizado un panel en la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) y esperamos prontamente tener los resultados del mismo en cuanto a las carnes mientras los productores de limones han querido esperar a ver qué pasa con ellos.

Pero el tema de las barreras arancelarias es para los países en desarrollo un tema muy importante, muy restrictivo de sus economías. La mantequilla en Francia, tiene un arancel del 125 por ciento mientras que ninguno de nuestros productos, en la República Argentina —porque formamos parte del Mercosur— tiene un arancel superior al 35 por ciento. Sin hablar, por ejemplo, del arroz en Japón.

No quisiera seguir en este tema pero creo que subsidios y barreras arancelarias, a través de falsas medidas fitosanitarias son también otros de los problemas, porque no permiten la libre competencia en materia alimentaria, y entonces los alimentos se convierten también en un tema de especulación económica. Es inconcebible, pero lo hay, que haya mercados a futuro, en materia de granos y, entonces, se especule vendiendo la cosecha (y lo digo con la autoridad de que en mi país, de acuerdo a informes mundiales, tenemos una reserva del 60 por ciento de la soja a nivel global). Esto no es responsabilidad del Estado, porque obviamente el estado no puede intervenir en la actividad comercial ni obligar a vender nada a nadie. Pero debería, en materia alimentaria, como en tantas otras, como en materia financiera, haber regulaciones globales, en la cual todos los países signatarios de la Carta de San Francisco, debiéramos estar atados a determinados comportamientos.

Hoy estamos tratando en las Naciones Unidas, a instancias de la Argentina y del grupo G77 + China, la regulación, su restructuración de deudas financieras, de la deuda de los estados, de las deudas públicas, porque estamos viendo que la situación que hizo que Argentina casi volara por los aires en el 2001, hoy se extiende a otros países en Europa, en África y en tantos otros países.

Entonces tenemos confianza de que va a haber una regulación financiera que no permita, por ejemplo, que la Argentina habiendo arreglado con el 93 por ciento de sus acreedores en las dos restructuraciones sea extorsionada por los fondos buitres para pagar sumas con tasas en dólares anuales de más del 1600 por ciento, algo inconcebible desde lo equitativo, desde lo más lógico.

¿Qué vamos a esperar? ¿Que el mundo también tenga problemas de granos? ¿Que la gente también acumule granos de trigo, de arroz, de soja mientras otros se mueren de hambre, para intervenir en la regulación de esos mercados, no para quitarle nada a nadie, no para socializar nada?

Pero una cosa es no socializar y otra cosa es especular, y especular con el hambre o especular con la deuda de los pueblos, que finalmente la deuda de los pueblos y de los gobiernos termina con el hambre de la gente. Por eso creo que deberíamos impulsar de estos espacios globales institucionales regulaciones, a vergüenza de que haya mercados a futuro sobre trigo, sobre maíz sobre dólar, se especula, ¿vendo o no vendo? Y el vendo o no vendo tiene que ver con las posibilidades que la gente en el mundo pueda comer una escudilla de arroz o pueda amasar su pan. Yo recuerdo la crisis de 2008, una reunión que mantuvimos aquí en Italia, en la Conferencia sobre Seguridad Alimentaria ante la FAO en la que me tocó asistir en el año 2008.

Recuerdo una cena junto con el entonces, Primer Ministro Italiano y todos los Representantes de los Organismos Multilaterales, y de los distintos países que habíamos concurrido en ese encuentro, escuchar a la delegada de la FAO en esa cena de trabajo, contar cómo se había disparado el precio del arroz, lo que tornaba absolutamente insuficiente con los recursos con los cuales la FAO contaba para poder asistir a aquellos países que estaban bajo programas de la FAO para la seguridad alimentaria. Su presupuesto se había quintuplicado debido al precio del arroz. Esto era especulación pura: los que vendían arroz sabían que había una crisis alimentaria, sabían que los Organismos Internacionales y los gobiernos iban a recurrir en ayuda y por lo tanto aumentaban el precio; sobre estas cosas también debemos intervenir para que no sucedan nunca más y podamos hablar de seguridad alimentaria en serio, a través de normas y poder articular la producción.

Tampoco hay que ahogar el interés privado en la ganancia o en la rentabilidad. Nadie pide que los productores pierdan dinero, que el que invierte pierda dinero; lo único que pedimos es que la especulación tiene que tener regulación como también tienen tantas otras regulaciones en el mundo. Por eso creemos que subsidios, barreras paralancerlarias, necesidad de regulación, erradicación de la pobreza, intervención activa del estado en este problema son las claves para abordar de manera múltiple, de manera diversa el problema del hambre. No solamente desde la producción de alimentos y cómo lograrlo, con mayor eficiencia, con mayor ciencia, con mayor tecnología con mayor inversión; sino también cómo logramos que esto se distribuya con equidad. Y el instrumento para distribuir los alimentos y que lleguen a todos con equidad es asegurar que haya trabajo bueno y decente; asegurar que los estados tengan políticas que sustituyan cuando todavía falta un tiempo para que se cristalice una economía floreciente, una economía en crecimiento que le dé trabajo a todos a aquellos sectores más vulnerables que deben ser precisamente ayudados por el Estado, no a través de políticas clientelares que hagan depender a la gente de los políticos.

Al contrario, que los garantice y los empodere a cada uno de los ciudadanos, para que no dependa del gobierno de turno, ni tampoco de la orientación política del gobierno de turno, para que generalmente puedan acceder a los alimentos, a la educación, a la salud y a la vivienda.

La articulación entre lo público y lo privado debe existir, pero en el mundo de hoy sabemos que el Estado es insustituible. Y lo comprobamos en la crisis del año 2008, cuando los privados desaparecieron y el Estado, en los distintos países se tuvo que hacer cargo de los desocupados, de los que no tenían trabajo, de los que no tenían educación, de los que no tenían salud.

Por eso agradezco finalmente que nuestro país, la República Argentina, haya sido premiado por sus resultados en la lucha contra el hambre, pero también decir con absoluta sinceridad y honestidad, que

no solamente hemos tenido un programa alimentario. Hemos tenido un proyecto de país, un modelo de sociedad más equitativa, más justa y más igualitaria que es el mejor antídoto en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Excellency. It is indeed an honour for the 39th FAO Conference that you so graciously accepted the invitation to address the Plenary this morning. Thank you once again

Son Excellence Monsieur Abdelkader KADI, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural de l'Algérie

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, au nom de Son Excellence le Président de la République, Monsieur Abdelaziz Bouteflika, adresser mes sincères félicitations à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, Directeur général de la FAO pour sa réélection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Je tiens également à saluer chaleureusement l'ensemble des chefs de délégations et des participants à cette importante session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Comme vous le savez, cette 39^{ème} session se tient à un moment charnière, une année butoir pour la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD), mais également une année de bilan qui permettra à la communauté internationale de définir le programme de développement pour l'après-2015 à la lumière des progrès accomplis dans ce domaine ces quinze dernières années.

Il ne fait pas de doute que ces progrès ont été nombreux, importants et tangibles et que des pays, comme l'Algérie, ont été félicités en 2013 par la FAO pour avoir atteint avant terme le but assigné à l'Objectif 1 du Millénaire pour le développement.

Au-delà de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence fournie aux populations vulnérables, des efforts importants ont été déployés pour aider des pays en situation de déficit alimentaire chronique à lancer des programmes de développement agricole et ruraux destinés à renforcer leur sécurité alimentaire. Dans cette perspective, les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies ont joué un rôle déterminant que nous tenons à saluer vivement.

Mais le défi de la pauvreté, de la faim et de la malnutrition reste entier dans certaines régions du monde et nous impose une mobilisation plus ample, plus soutenue et sans doute plus audacieuse.

Le défi que nous venons d'évoquer a pour principal théâtre le monde rural. C'est pourquoi, nous voulons souligner la pertinence du choix du thème de cette 39^{ème} Conférence et relever avec satisfaction l'intérêt soutenu que continue d'accorder la FAO à cette partie très vulnérable de la population mondiale.

C'est pourquoi, nous voulons également nous inscrire pleinement dans cette démarche et plaider, aux côtés de la FAO, en faveur d'une réponse plus exigeante et plus équitable à ce défi, une réponse qui soit en mesure d'aider ces femmes et ces hommes à rompre avec cette insupportable fatalité et à se forger un autre destin.

La réhabilitation et le développement durable de cette petite agriculture familiale et de l'agriculture de subsistance constituent un axe stratégique de cette réponse et la FAO a eu le mérite, ces dernières années, d'encourager cette option et d'œuvrer à la promotion de l'autonomie économique des communautés rurales les plus fragiles.

Le développement, sans exclusive, équilibré et harmonieux des territoires ruraux constitue un axe majeur de la politique de Renouveau agricole et rural que nous mettons en œuvre sous la conduite de Son Excellence le Président de la République, Monsieur Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Il se traduit par des actions de désenclavement systématique des régions et des zones les plus reculées du pays, d'électrification de l'ensemble des territoires ruraux, ainsi que par une couverture sanitaire généralisée et gratuite, et l'accès des populations rurales à l'eau potable et à un habitat décent, ainsi que la scolarisation des enfants.

La petite agriculture, principale source de revenu des populations rurales, fait l'objet d'une attention particulière qui se traduit, notamment, par la sécurisation foncière des agriculteurs et l'accès à l'eau, au

crédit bonifié et aux intrants, particulièrement les semences sélectionnées, les engrais et les produits phytosanitaires dont l'utilisation est fortement encouragée par les pouvoirs publics.

Cette expérience nous a permis d'enregistrer des résultats probants, qui se sont traduits par un taux de croissance agricole moyen annuel de 13 pour cent, une progression de plus de 88 pour cent de la valeur de la production agricole et une contribution de plus de 9,8 pour cent au PIB.

La couverture de nos besoins alimentaires par la production nationale se situe aujourd'hui à hauteur de 72 pour cent, et nos marchés sont abondamment approvisionnés en produits agricoles et alimentaires de base.

Je ne saurais terminer cette brève présentation sans souligner enfin l'importance cruciale que nous accordons à la généralisation de l'assurance sociale auprès des petits agriculteurs, à l'amélioration de leur productivité et à la sécurisation de leur emploi.

His Excellency Mahmoud HOJJATI, Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Original language Persian)

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I take privilege to address the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

Hunger and poverty, the two closely inter-linked concepts, are a grave insult to honour and dignity of the human societies. A large proportion of the poor population lives in the rural areas. As agriculture constitutes the backbone of the rural economy in many regions, sustainable agriculture and rural development should be an integral part of any systematic solution and effort to eradication of hunger and poverty.

The international community pursues such efforts under the umbrella of the FAO. And it is quite heartening that, since our last Conference, the FAO has evinced relentless efforts in this direction under the leadership of Dr. José Graziano Da Silva. This is signified by his election as the FAO Director-General. My most sincere felicitations go to Dr. Da Silva on this occasion.

Befitting the theme of our Conference today, I would like to highlight that the village is the centre of agricultural production, and that sustainable agriculture is a matter of optimum utilization of the resources base including the soil, water and human capital. This, in turn, requires investment in the agriculture and rural sectors. Elimination of poverty and hunger also would not be possible without durable economic growth, income generation, creation of employment opportunities and enhancement of productivity. The poor should be bestowed with access to jobs, to education, and to easy and fair credits to develop their business and their skills. Social security nets need to be developed so as to assure that the farmers and the rural population are effectively protected and that their basic needs are properly addressed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has accomplished long strides in these directions over the last three decades. The national indicators in most of these areas have improved to acceptable levels as a result of a range of comprehensive policies and programmes. Currently, the state of infrastructure development and welfare facilities in rural Iran is notable. As an indicative, about 99.6 percent of the Iranian villages have access to electricity, 93 percent to tap water, 70 percent to health centres, 78 percent to fixed and mobile phones, and 45 percent to gas reticulation networks. ICT centers have already been established in over 10 000 villages. Participatory rural administration is functional in almost all the villages. For most of the infrastructure services, the accessibility coefficients in the rural areas are not far behind the urban sector. Also the programmes and support policies on water and soil improvement, farm engineering, irrigation systems development, farm productivity enhancements, farmer empowerment, farmer cooperative development, credit supply networks and other types of enabling programmes are paying back.

It is pleasure that these efforts of the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran are recognized and appreciated by the international community. I take this opportunity to thank the FAO for awarding, yesterday, my country with recognition of fulfilling not only the MDG targets but the goals set by the World food Summit.

It may be stressed, however, that still there is a long way to go. In particular, I may draw your attention to the importance of adopting various approaches for diversifying the on-farm and off-farm activities in the rural areas as a way to break the vicious cycle of poverty. When we speak about introducing resilience to the productive, economic, and social facets of the village, diversification policies with a focus on agricultural activities, completing the supply chain, and strengthening the value chain deserve higher attention, which I am sure will be a subject of further discussion and deliberations in this important Conference as well.

At the conclusion, I would like to renew the commitment of my country to continued support to the efforts of the international community to combat the global hunger and poverty.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of our plenary meeting this morning. Before I close the meeting, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind delegates of the two side events taking place during the lunch break as follows: from 12.30 to 13.30 the Side Event on “Zero Hunger” in the Green Room; and from 13.30 to 14.30 the Side Event on “Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration in Europe and Central Asia” in the Iran Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. Ladies and gentlemen, Plenary will reconvene at 14.30 hours when the Conference will be addressed by the Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Jorge Alberto Arreaza Monserrat.

With this we have concluded our work for this morning.

The meeting rose at 12:44 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.44

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 June 2015

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.53 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta reunión a las 14.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)***(C 2015/2 Rev.1)***Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)****Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)**

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, El Salvador, Germany, Senegal, Italy, Bangladesh, Uruguay, Iraq, Botswana, Thailand, Lebanon, Cuba, Uzbekistan, Maldives, Seychelles, Mozambique, Norway, Kuwait, Malaysia, Guinea, Ecuador, Nepal, Benin, Gabon, India, Comoros, Sri Lanka, United States of America, United Republic of Tanzania, Spain, Bulgaria, Colombia, Romania

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, we are honoured this afternoon by the presence of His Excellency Jorge Alberto Arreaza Monserrat, Vice-President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who will address the Conference.

Excmo. Sr. Don Jorge Alberto ARREAZA MONSERRAT, Vicepresidente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Muy buenos días, buenas tardes perdón, estamos todavía con el vuelo de esta mañana, mientras por ahí vienen unas palabras escritas, pero queríamos en primer lugar, agradecer al compañero José Graziano Da Silva, por tanta deferencia durante tantos años y felicitarle por su reelección, como Director General de la FAO. Saben ustedes, que para el comandante Hugo Chávez este foro siempre constituyó un espacio de muchísima importancia y relevancia, porque para la revolución bolivariana, la lucha contra el hambre, la lucha incesable para garantizar la alimentación de todos nuestros ciudadanos es una de las directrices y de las líneas fundamentales.

Excelentísimo Señor Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Empresa de insumos agrícolas de Samoa y Presidente de esta Conferencia, Honorable Señor José Graciano Da Silva, Director General de la FAO, Honorable Señor Louis Gagnon, Secretario General de la Conferencia. Excelentísimos Presidentes, Primeros Ministros, Jefes de Estado, Honorables Jefes de Delegación, Honorable Señor Raúl Benítez, Director Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, Honorables Embajadores, Representantes Permanentes de los países integrantes, Delegación de Venezuela, invitados especiales, medios de comunicación. Debo además expresarles en primer lugar que el presidente Nicolás Maduro les envía un gran abrazo y lamenta profundamente no poder estar hoy con ustedes, con nosotros, lamentablemente, tiene una afectación de salud leve, pero el equipo médico le recomendó no viajar, sin embargo designó a su Vicepresidente Ejecutivo para expresar algunas reflexiones y agradecer a la FAO tanto trabajo. Queremos darles las gracias también a todos los trabajadores y trabajadoras profesionales de la FAO por una labor tan rigurosa, científica, siempre aproximándose con la verdad a los hechos, a los datos y eso habla muy bien de una institución que tiene una labor tan noble como la de organizar trabajos y gestiones para erradicar el hambre de nuestro querido planeta tierra.

Los datos que la FAO comparte con el mundo en el 2015 indican que hemos avanzado en la lucha contra el hambre, pero también que nos falta mucho por recorrer y que debemos acelerar el ritmo definitivamente. 795 millones de personas crónicamente subalimentadas es una cifra aún inaceptable ante los desarrollos tecnológicos y las capacidades que deberían dedicarse exclusivamente a generar el alimento necesario para todos los seres humanos en nuestra madre tierra. Las últimas décadas se han caracterizado lamentablemente por guerras emprendidas para controlar los recursos energéticos, conflictos inducidos y auspiciados, saqueos permanentes producto de la dominación, la imposición de un modelo de desarrollo económico devastador y anti natura. La mercantilización de las necesidades más elementales del ser humano, entre ellas, el alimento, que pasa de necesidad a mercancía con valor de cambio especulativo para generar ganancias particulares y financieras en vez que para generar satisfacción en los seres humanos. La prevalencia de la subalimentación en nuestra América ha

disminuido del 13,9 por ciento a menos del 5 por ciento en 2014. Aunque muchos hayamos cumplido con creces las metas del milenio y hoy nos entregaban el reconocimiento que así lo amerita en el caso de Venezuela, y aunque haya descendido a menos de la mitad de latinoamericanos subalimentados, 27 millones aún son demasiados, 1 millón, decir más, un latinoamericano o un ser humano que esté sujeto a la subalimentación, al hambre, aún es demasiado.

Ahora bien, esa notable reducción de 58 a 27 millones en nuestra América, tuvo que ver sin lugar a dudas, con las batallas que en nuestros países les fuimos dando y ganando al neoliberalismo. No solo hemos logrado que millones de latinoamericanos ya no sufran el flagelo del hambre, sino que con el freno que nuestros pueblos le pusieron a las políticas neoliberales impedimos que decenas de millones adicionales ingresaran en las cifras y el sufrimiento y la exclusión, la miseria, el hambre, la muerte en vida. Moraleja: lección aprendida. Uno de los principales retos para erradicar por completo el hambre y la pobreza en nuestra América es evitar que retornen los gobiernos y políticas del neoliberalismo salvaje, tal como lo calificara su santidad Juan Pablo II en su momento: no hay mano invisible que va generando equilibrios en el neoliberalismo, sí hay manos visibles y poderosas que oprimen, especulan y ganan con el hambre, con la tristeza y con el dolor de las mayorías.

El Presidente Maduro fue, como ustedes saben, el más cercano y destacado de los discípulos de nuestro querido Comandante Hugo Chávez y hoy le corresponde no solo mantener el ritmo y la eficacia, sino profundizar, expandir y optimizar el sistema integral de protección social y de entrega del poder político, económico y total al pueblo organizado en Venezuela. Nos repetía, nos decía, innumerables veces, incansablemente el Comandante Chávez, que solo el pueblo salva al pueblo y que hay que darle el poder al pueblo para que supere la miseria y la pobreza, para que se haga dueño de su destino, ese destino, esas metas a lograr no son otras que las que nos trazó con su genio, nuestro Simón Bolívar en 1819. Él nos hablaba de la construcción necesaria de aquel sistema de gobierno, de aquella sociedad que nos brinde la mayor suma de estabilidad política, la mayor suma de seguridad social, la mayor suma de felicidad posible. Fíjense cómo el Libertador hace doscientos años hablaba, queridos compañeros, de seguridad social, un término que hemos utilizado a lo largo del siglo XX y el siglo XXI y ya él lo vislumbraba hace 200 años. Simultáneamente, nos decía el Comandante Chávez, ante el abandono casi absoluto que vivió el país durante los últimos cuarenta años del siglo XX, para que el pueblo sume el poder, debemos tratar de saldar la incuantificable deuda social que se ha acumulado en salud, en alimentación, en educación, en vivienda, en empleo productivo, entre otros. El fenómeno del rentismo petrolero en nuestro país, trajo como consecuencia nefasta, en el siglo XX la más injusta, desigual, insólita, inhumana y perversa distribución de la riqueza entre nuestros compatriotas. Las élites de la burguesía parasitaria importadora e improductiva se hacían cada vez más ricas, acumulaban capital y acumulaban privilegios, mientras que al pueblo llano, a la mayoría le eran negados sus más elementales derechos, incluyendo el derecho a la alimentación, al trabajo, a la educación, a la salud, a la propiedad. El derecho a ser felices. La burguesía venezolana y las élites mundiales que se consideraban durante años dueños de nuestras riquezas, trataron de impedir, por todos los medios posibles, que aquella revolución incipiente invirtiera en esa correlación de fuerzas y de accesos.

En 2001 y 2002 realmente, fuimos testigos del comienzo de la guerra económica, procurando generar las condiciones para arrebatar el poder al pueblo y entregárselo de nuevo a la oligarquía. Golpes de Estado, sabotajes petroleros, escasez e inflación inducidas, ataques a la imagen de la economía venezolana en los mercados mundiales, campañas psicológicas a través de los principales medios de comunicación nacionales e internacionales, ataques permanentes desde el Gobierno de Estados Unidos. Nuestros adversarios usaron y reutilizaron una y otra vez el manual de la conspiración, pero nada pudo detener la voluntad de un pueblo que asumía el poder y que está destinado a construir su futuro en democracia, en paz y en armonía social. Al calor de la primera fase de la guerra económica, nos referimos a los años 2002-2003, el Comandante Chávez crea las primeras instituciones alimentarias que irán constituyendo lo que luego se llamó la misión alimentación para garantizar el acceso a alimentos subsidiados a los más excluidos, construyendo una gran red de distribución, diseñada especialmente para llegar allí, barrio adentro, pueblo adentro. En los últimos años, la revolución bolivariana ha logrado distribuir con equidad la riqueza generada, destinando el 62 por ciento de nuestros ingresos a la inversión social, repito el 62 por ciento de los ingresos que ha

percibido la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en los últimos dos años se destina específicamente a inversión social. Se trata de un porcentaje alto, pero aún no estamos satisfechos, para garantizar el ejercicio pleno del derecho a la alimentación, en los últimos 10 años, hemos invertido más de 142 000 millones de dólares, precisamente, en la misión alimentación.

Desde 2003, se han distribuido más de 25 millones de toneladas de alimentos de la canasta básica, como hemos dicho, con especial orientación hacia las poblaciones más vulnerables, beneficiando a más de 22 millones de venezolanos a través de más de 22 000 establecimientos fijos de distribución de alimentos para atender a la población en pobreza extrema. Se creó en el 2004 el programa gratuito de las casa de alimentación, atendiendo directamente a casi 1 millón de compatriotas, muchos de ellos arrojados a la miseria en la década neoliberal, pero muchos también, como resultado de la guerra económica y el sabotaje petrolero de los años 2002 y 2003. Este programa se ha ido reduciendo en la misma medida en que la pobreza extrema ha ido cediendo también en Venezuela. Del 12,2 por ciento del cual estaba la pobreza extrema en el 2004 ha bajado hoy al 5,4 por ciento. Hoy las casas de alimentación atienden a 435 000 millones de venezolanos diariamente. Del millón de beneficiarios que originalmente necesitaron de este programa, muchos ya están fuera de la pobreza extrema y han pasado a otras modalidades de la misión alimentación, como el Mercal, *Mercados de Alimento*, casa por casa.

Hemos visto también el milagro de la alimentación escolar. Sepan ustedes que en la década neoliberal, se le ofrecían a menos de 730 000 niños y niñas en el país lo que aquellos gobiernos consideraban un gran logro, un vaso de leche al día. El programa del vaso de leche escolar, hoy en el sistema de escuelas bolivarianas se les ofrece desayuno, almuerzo y merienda con alimentos sanos y balanceados a más de 4 millones de niños y niñas en más de 22 000 centros de educación en toda Venezuela. La prevalencia de la subnutrición en Venezuela en 1998 era del 21 por ciento, la más alta de su historia. Con la misión alimentación y las políticas agroproductivas de la revolución, ya antes del 2010 ya habíamos superado la meta del milenio, disminuyendo ese índice a 3,83 por ciento ubicándonos en el rango de alta seguridad alimentaria de acuerdo a la FAO. Entre 1990 y 2015 Venezuela disminuyó en 79,2 por ciento, casi un 80 por ciento el índice de la prevalencia de la subalimentación. La desnutrición infantil se ha reducido en un 57 por ciento, pasando de un 8 por ciento a 3,3 por ciento. Según la Organización Mundial de la Salud hace varios años ya que la desnutrición en Venezuela no es un problema de salud pública. El 95,4 por ciento de los venezolanos y las venezolanas comen tres veces al día o más. Mientras que en 1990 uno de cada 5 venezolanos no lograba cubrir sus necesidades nutricionales elementales. Entre 1990 y 1998, los alimentos disponibles decrecieron en 12 por ciento, con un aporte de 1 140 kilocalorías por persona/día. En revolución, ese aporte calórico ha aumentado a 2 720 kilocalorías persona/día, nivel que la FAO califica como de suficiencia alimentaria plena.

El consumo de proteínas, cereales, calcio y frutas que, durante la década de los años ochenta y noventa, era parte de un privilegio de los ricos, ha pasado a ser derechos de todos y de todas en Venezuela. En la primera década de este milenio, los estudios científicos revelan un marcado crecimiento en la talla de los niños de 7 años, alcanzando para 2013, 3,1 cm más que en 1990, indicador considerado como marcador para el aprovechamiento biológico de los alimentos. Es decir, queridos compañeros, en revolución, el niño promedio crece igual que el niño del estrato social más alto de los años noventa. La lactancia materna que había sido relegada y abandonada en los programas de salud pública ha vuelto a masificarse aportando de manera relevante a la disminución de la nutrición infantil, su práctica ha aumentado al más del 500 por ciento como primer acto de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria en nuestras familias, en nuestros hogares.

Para terminar estas palabras, es necesario volver a contextualizar la guerra económica de gran intensidad que se desarrolló contra la revolución bolivariana en su primera etapa, guerra que luego se mantuvo siempre activa durante muchos años, con una intensidad que era variable, dependiendo la coyuntura que ha adquirido, en los tres últimos años sus niveles de intensidad más elevados y perversos. La burguesía y las fuerzas internacionales arreciaron sus ataques contra el Gobierno venezolano desde que el Comandante Chávez anunciara su enfermedad. Tras su partida física, la guerra económica contra el Gobierno del Presidente Maduro, pero sobre todo contra el pueblo venezolano ha sido inclemente, tanto en mercados financieros internacionales, en los grandes mercados comerciales mundiales como en la economía nacional en sus niveles macro y micro. El

aumento especulativo en Venezuela sobre la base de tipos de cambio ficticios, la generación intencional de escasez intencional de algunos productos, agudas e incesantes campañas mediáticas y psicológicas, la perturbación de los sistemas de distribución. Todo lo han hecho con la intención de generar descontento, en ese pueblo valiente, que como dijimos al inicio, decidió organizarse y asumir al poder para superar sus problemas y adueñarse de su destino.

Las fuerzas políticas y económicas que nos adversan, representadas fundamentalmente por esa burguesía que empobreció dramáticamente al pueblo durante los años setenta, ochenta, noventa del siglo pasado, agotan su manual de conspiración permanentemente y vuelven a empezar. Su intención es una, arrebatarle el poder al pueblo, a las mayorías, a la revolución y reconstituir su sistema neoliberal profundamente excluyente y neoliberal. Disfrazan su discurso, pero sabemos que en Venezuela y en el mundo todos saben quiénes son y qué pretenden. Por eso, a pesar de tan incesantes ataques, el Presidente Maduro ha logrado mantener intacto, es más, diríamos, el Presidente Maduro ha robustecido y expandido el sistema integral de protección social que creó nuestro Comandante Hugo Chávez. Cada día, hay más establecimientos de la misión alimentación. Cada día hay más niños en los programas de alimentación escolar. Cada día, hay más pensionados, son casi ya 2 millones 600 mil abuelos y abuelas que cuentan con el salario mínimo como pensión garantizada constitucionalmente. Cada día, hay más entregas de viviendas para los pobres, de financiamiento para la producción agrícola, de entrega de tierra para los campesinos en la incesante lucha contra el latifundio. El año pasado, el Presidente Maduro decidió reorganizar la estructura funcional del Gobierno y generó la Vicepresidencia de Seguridad, Soberanía Alimentaria y Abastecimiento Seguro. Fíjense, hay una Vicepresidencia del Gobierno específicamente para la seguridad, la soberanía alimentaria y el abastecimiento seguro. Se concentra bajo esa coordinación sectorial del más alto nivel, todos los actores institucionales para garantizar el derecho a la alimentación en Venezuela y participan allí también, el pueblo organizado, los campesinos, las campesinas, los pescadores, las pescadoras, a través de otras figuras que creó hoy el presidente Maduro que se llama los Consejos Presidenciales del Gobierno Popular, y participan activamente en la planificación, en la ejecución y en la evaluación de políticas públicas vinculadas con la agricultura, vinculadas con la alimentación. En el año 2014, el Presidente Maduro creó las bases de misiones socialistas, destinadas a atender, con todo el sistema de misiones sociales, a las 1 500 comunidades en pobreza extrema identificadas como tales en el censo del año 2011.

Ojalá, queridos compañeros, pudiesen acompañarnos, algunos de ustedes como lo hizo la compañera Alicia Bárcena, Directora Ejecutiva de la CEPAL, a na de esas bases de misiones, donde podremos ver por ejemplo, al médico venezolano o cubano, viviendo allí, en el lugar más pobre y entre los pobres y no solo atendiendo en su consulta, sino yendo casa por casa y haciendo seguimiento diario permanente a sus pacientes. Podemos ver allí, como los docentes, los facilitadores de las misiones educativas, para combatir el analfabetismo para combatir también aquellos que no pudieron culminar sus estudios de primaria, de secundaria o incluso ir a la universidad, están allí, en la comunidad, es una estructura física que se construyó, 1 500 de ellas; pero lo más importante es el equipo humano que está allí y que vive allí con esos compatriotas. Allí verán también la gran misión vivienda Venezuela, esta misión hemos superado, hemos entregado más de 700 000 viviendas a los venezolanos y venezolanas más pobres y vamos este año rumbo al millón de viviendas a entregar. Allí verán también a gran misión, barrio nuevo, barrio tricolor, que es una gran misión para intervenir urbanamente todos esos espacios, mejorar sus servicios públicos de agua, de electricidad, mejorar las viviendas, mejorar el asfaltado y generar allí comunidades que ya no se encuentren en pobreza extrema. Veremos la misión alimentación también en las bases de misiones socialista, la misión alimentación, con la ayuda del Instituto Nacional de Nutrición, primero fue a hacer un diagnóstico, casa por casa, familia por familia, de cuáles son las características y necesidades de esa familia y luego, a través de los programas de la misión alimentación de MERCAL van y les llevan el alimento a esas familias a la puerta de su casa. Y se lo llevan, algunos con subsidio, otros si no hay ingreso familiar, se lo dan gratuitamente hasta que tengan un empleo. Es un milagro el que está ocurriendo en esos sectores. Y veríamos también a la gran misión, también en la base de misiones socialistas, Venezuela, y a la gran misión saber y trabajo, con los jóvenes dirigentes comunales generando procesos de producción agrícola, huertos y agricultura familiar y proyectos productivos diversos. Allí, insistimos, directamente con ese 5,4 por ciento de la población venezolana que se ubicaba tal vez, ya no se ubica, en pobreza extrema. La compañera Alicia

Bárcena estuvo allí, y pues con sus equipos, se fueron pensando cuando regresaban a Santiago cómo generar indicadores para medir fenómenos como este en Venezuela porque no existen indicadores para la medición de la pobreza, de la miseria, del acceso a la salud del acceso a la educación, a la cultura, a la alimentación, en casos donde hay una concentración tan grande de esfuerzos, como lo son, las bases de misiones socialistas. Es decir, compañeros, compañeras, durante estos últimos tres años de guerra económica y guerra política de alta intensidad contra la revolución, nada ni nadie ha logrado que nos alejemos de nuestros objetivos y metas, sobre todo los objetivos y metas sociales. Nada ni nadie logrará que nos alejemos del proyecto histórico, socialista y democrático de igualdad y de justicia social que nos dejó el Comandante Hugo Chávez claramente definido.

Agradecemos de nuevo a los equipos de la FAO por aproximarse siempre con objetividad científica y con la verdad, a nuestras luchas y avances sociales. Agradecemos el reconocimiento que hoy se nos entrega por haber cumplido con las metas del milenio relativas a la alimentación. Seguiremos dando nuestro aporte, para que el hambre retroceda y ojalá desaparezca en Venezuela, América Latina y el Caribe, en África y en todo el mundo. Ahí están por ejemplo, el programa SANA para erradicar el hambre en América Latina y el Caribe y su plan de acción, Comandante Hugo Chávez, dedicado especialmente al Caribe. Para tener éxito en esta tarea, insistimos, insistimos en que es indispensable, imprescindible cambiar estructuralmente el sistema económico que se nos impuso a nivel global y crear un conjunto un sistema humanista, solidario que se parezca a ese que describimos al principio y que vislumbraba el Libertador Simón Bolívar hace casi 200 años. Aquel sistema que genere la mayor suma de seguridad social, aquel sistema que genere la mayor suma de felicidad posible para toda la humanidad.

Muchas gracias, compañeros y compañeras, seguiremos en esta batalla y agradecemos a la Dirigencia de la FAO por este reconocimiento y ojalá que podamos erradicar el hambre del planeta tierra más temprano que tarde.

Excmo. Sr. Don Orestes Fredesman ORTEZ ANDRADE, Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería de El Salvador

En nombre del Gobierno del Presidente Salvador Sánchez Cerén y en el mío propio, me es grato hacer llegar nuestro fraterno saludo a esta Magna Conferencia, órgano rector supremo de la FAO, reunidos bajo un solo lema para lograr un mundo libre del hambre y la malnutrición.

Deseo expresar la complacencia del Gobierno de El Salvador por la importante reelección del Director General de FAO, Dr. José Graziano da Silva. Vaya el abrazo fraterno haciéndole saber nuestra satisfacción por los avances que muestra el enfoque de gestión por resultados y la descentralización administrativa y técnica que ha venido implementando y que han distinguido su trabajo, del cual somos testigos a través de la Representación de FAO en El Salvador; No dudamos que la fuerza que inyecte será la necesaria para seguir conquistando avances en esta gran tarea mundial.

El Salvador ha venido construyendo su propio tránsito a través de la madurez política que hemos asumido como Estado, tomando decisiones estratégicas y acciones concretas para revertir inercias históricas, programáticas e institucionales y renovar la agenda de políticas públicas y sus componentes de intervención, que marquen la ruta hacia la erradicación progresiva y definitiva del hambre, la malnutrición y la inseguridad alimentaria.

En los procesos políticos, debemos señalar que el conjunto de avances y decisiones tomadas en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional fueron mediadas en su momento por dos elementos que abrieron una ventana de oportunidad: el inicio de un nuevo ciclo político en el año 2009, y el contexto de crisis alimentaria y económica mundial de los años 2008 y 2009.

En esta construcción, conviene destacar la creación de la Política SAN que constituye un esfuerzo multisectorial por superar las causas y determinantes del hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición, mediante un esquema de doble vía para la atención de necesidades y creación de capacidades de forma simultánea, incluyendo líneas estratégicas en los campos de la producción de alimentos; la protección social; la salud y la extensión nutricional; la infraestructura sanitaria; la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos; sistemas de información, vigilancia, monitoreo y evaluación; la investigación e innovación tecnológica; y el fortalecimiento institucional.

En esta misma línea de decisiones estratégicas, se crea y desarrolla el Plan de agricultura familiar, que para el Estado salvadoreño, representa un quiebre histórico con la inercia político e institucional, pues reconoce explícitamente a la agricultura familiar como un sujeto estratégico de políticas.

Este reconocimiento se basa en una caracterización clara del sector en el país, previendo intervenciones diferenciadas para cada una de las categorías de familias identificadas como agricultura familiar de subsistencia y agricultura familiar comercial. De esta forma, campesinos y familias productoras pueden acceder a asistencia técnica, insumos de producción y financiamiento, como instrumentos para fortalecer sus medios de vida y contribuir a reducir sosteniblemente la pobreza rural y la inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional.

Temas como la resiliencia, gestión de riesgo, cambio climático, respuesta a emergencias, ocupan un lugar privilegiado en el plan quinquenal de desarrollo que impulsa el Señor Presidente Profesor Salvador Sánchez Cerén

Como muestra de resultados, exponemos a esta Conferencia algunos logros relativos al elevado porcentaje de familias salvadoreñas que han mejorado y diversificado su capital productivo y han adoptado buenas prácticas agropecuarias; mostramos el incremento sustancial en el fortalecimiento de capacidades para mejorar la alimentación, nutrición y condiciones del hogar; el avance en la adopción de buenas prácticas de manejo sostenible de recursos naturales y adaptación al cambio climático; subrayamos el incremento de las asociaciones socio-productivas así como el fortalecimiento de microemprendimientos rurales implementados en los territorios priorizados por el Gobierno de El Salvador.

Mostramos como ejemplo sustancial le mejora de la coordinación interinstitucional en el sector agropecuario, fortaleciendo sus capacidades tanto técnicas como de comunicación para el desarrollo, así como sus recursos operativos para atender las demandas de la agricultura familiar.

Los marcos regulatorios han significado retos fundamentales en el proceso de democratización y aplicación progresiva del enfoque de derechos en El Salvador. Es así cómo se avanza con la inclusión del derecho a la alimentación adecuada en la Constitución de la República, esperamos el proceso de ratificación en la presente legislatura, así mismo la creación de importantes instrumentos jurídicos relativos a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, la alimentación escolar y herramientas relativas a la innovación tecnológica entre otras.

En este camino, el papel de FAO ha sido fundamental. Contar con un Convenio Marco de cooperación técnica entre la Asamblea Legislativa y FAO; unir esfuerzos y alrededor de mejorar los mecanismos de implementación del PAF, entre otros, ha permitido avances sustanciales para El Salvador en la construcción de un ciclo virtuoso de políticas públicas relativas a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional.

Aún tenemos desafíos importantes tales como lograr consensos normativos en el campo político y social; fortalecer la institucionalidad del Estado y la implementación efectiva de los marcos jurídicos e institucionales. Todo ello en la búsqueda de alcanzar los objetivos de la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición en El Salvador.

También somos de la opinión que con voluntad política se pueden superar las limitaciones fiscales, las graves afectaciones que genera el cambio climático y atraer la atención de la cooperación internacional con estos propósitos, que permitan a El Salvador la construcción de generaciones presentes y futuras en las que impere la seguridad alimentaria.

His Excellency Christian SCHMIDT, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of Germany

Securing food mainly contributes to securing peace in the world. This mix against the backdrop of the trouble spots of the world, the various disasters, the people who have to flee their countries is more of topical significance than ever.

The FAO is the most important strategic partner of the Federal Government and of our Ministry.

There are further examples of the food and fruitful cooperation with the FAO which are, for example: the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture and the Summit of Agricultural Ministers launched by my

Ministry, which usually takes place at the margins of the Berlin DFFA Summit and to which I would already like to invite you, dear colleagues and ministers, in the coming year.

Mr Director-General Graziano da Silva, you have already participated sometimes in the Global Forum of the Berlin Agriculture Ministers, and I am very pleased, personally, that we were able to give you a mandate for the coming four years with a vast majority. We are looking forward to your presidency so that we can continue our good and rewarding cooperation.

What is the FAO? The FAO is a centre of excellence for knowledge in the fields of food and agriculture and also in the field of forestry and fishery.

It is also the spiritual cradle of the universal right to food.

It sets up norms and standards, which are valid at global level and they are all to the basis for political advice to be given to its Members. This is where its characteristic core competencies lie and this is where all sorts of brilliance come to the fore.

FAO also has to take on board these missions in the future. I would like to take this opportunity here to especially express my thanks to the very competent staff of the FAO in this very building and at all places all over the world. We are very aware of your brilliant work that you have undertaken and are still undertaking and we also would like to hear your contributions in the future.

We have got to bundle all the activities here in Rome at the main seat of the FAO, so it must not be weakened by any decentralization activities. So I think that in the fields of resilience of rural areas, FAO would have to concentrate on its core competencies.

The social protection field is also a core field, but I think that this is not of major priority when we take our own goals in mind. I think that we should rather give precedence to those stakeholders who have a competitive advantage in this field. Cooperation between the FAO and those other stakeholders is the best way of strengthening the resilience of rural areas and yesterday I took part at side events of the G7 Summit Meeting which is being held in Germany at the moment. I had the opportunity to meet Mr Ban Ki-moon and also other representatives of UN organizations and we also talked about this subject.

So therefore I think that a strategic, conceptual development is required that we would have to embark on in order to find political solutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention that roughly an hour ago, the G7 industrial nations have agreed to make their contribution to fight hunger and to try and achieve the goal of having five hundred million people less suffering from hunger until the year 2030.

This would also be reflected in rural areas, on the climate change and sustainable agriculture. I think that we have put a very solid basis with the ICN2 Conference in Rome.

And I think that we would also strengthen our cooperation in this field in order to achieve our goal of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations which are going to be finalized this autumn and thus also provide a good basis for further cooperation in the future. I think that there are a lot of important missions for the FAO in the future, especially with respect to conceptual development and especially here in Rome.

Son Excellence Monsieur Papa Abdoulaye SECK, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'équipement rural du Sénégal

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, le Professeur José Graziano da Silva, pour sa brillante réélection. Je voudrais aussi lui réaffirmer toute la confiance et le soutien du Chef de l'État, Son Excellence Monsieur Macky Sall, du Gouvernement et du peuple sénégalais.

À n'en pas douter, nous sommes tous témoins, depuis son arrivée à la tête de cette importante Organisation, de son soutien à l'Union africaine qui a adopté la Déclaration de Malabo destinée à éradiquer la faim en Afrique d'ici 2025, et ceci grâce à une agriculture forte et durable. S'y ajoute sa ferme volonté d'inscrire notre Organisation commune dans une dynamique d'excellence durable et continue.

Fort, entre autres, de tout cela, le Sénégal soutient pleinement la FAO et notamment son recentrage sur l'éradication de la faim et l'attention particulière qu'elle accorde à l'Afrique.

Il se félicite, aussi, de la mise au point du Programme de travail de la FAO pour 2016-2017, en ce qui concerne les orientations africaines liées aux nouveaux objectifs stratégiques.

Notre pays salue et encourage la FAO à poursuivre également ses travaux sur la décentralisation pour une meilleure opérationnalité de ses projets et programmes.

Du reste, le Sénégal souhaiterait encourager la FAO dans son travail sur la mise en place dans les pays de systèmes de production durables, qui soutiennent davantage la petite et moyenne agriculture, en vue d'augmenter la productivité tout en préservant l'environnement et la santé des populations, ce que d'aucuns désignent sous le vocable d'agro-écologie.

Enfin, mon pays, le Sénégal a, dans la même veine, et sous la houlette et vision éclairée de Son Excellence Monsieur Macky Sall, élaboré le Plan Sénégal émergent, articulé autour d'une agriculture productive et durable en vue d'augmenter significativement notre taux de croissance d'ici 2035.

Le Sénégal, pour ce faire, mise sur une recherche agricole forte, capable de générer des connaissances et des technologies; des exploitations familiales bien formées et bien informées, qui sont en quête de compétitivité; un secteur privé dynamique en complémentarité avec des exploitations familiales; une gestion foncière transparente et équitable; une maîtrise de l'eau et une diversification agricole en vue de faire face aux changements climatiques; et enfin, des infrastructures de préservation de nos récoltes.

Cette stratégie est en train de faire subir à l'agriculture sénégalaise une véritable métamorphose, repérable à travers une part de plus en plus importante du secteur agricole dans la construction de notre taux de croissance.

En effet, on attend, dès l'année prochaine, un secteur agricole vecteur essentiel de la croissance économique sénégalaise et de maintenir cette tendance.

Au risque d'être long nous allons conclure en remerciant la FAO et en confirmant ici du haut de cette tribune notre ferme conviction qu'une autre agriculture mondiale est possible pour que demain soit meilleur qu'aujourd'hui.

Que Dieu bénisse la FAO!

His Excellency Maurizio MARTINA, Minister for Agriculture of Italy (Original language Italian)

It is truly an honour to be able to speak at the 39th Conference of FAO. This year as you celebrate 70 years of the Organization, I do believe that the partnership between Italy and FAO has never been this strong. Proof of this is the success of the International Agricultural Fair which we just organized in Milan with the incredibly important contribution of FAO. This is a meeting that I think many of you attended personally and that took place within the context of the 2015 Universal Expo in Milan devoted to the great theme of Feeding the Planet that's very much in tune with this Conference.

In 70 years, the world has changed deeply. We have seen the evolution of technology and we have seen the improvement in the quality of life, but we have also witnessed the deterioration of the environment and the depletion of natural resources. Nonetheless, in spite of the great progress made, we have not yet been able to guarantee all men and women their right to food. There are certain countries that have indeed experienced an overall economic progress. In those countries, of course, the fight against hunger has produced satisfying results, but that is not true of all areas. In some regions of the world, the reduction of malnutrition has not done very well, has not improved greatly. This is not acceptable of course.

Indeed, even in the more industrialized countries of the European Union, the number of destitute people has increased in the course of the past few years, and we have seen figures in Africa and Asia that are truly alarming. We must modify and adapt policies to see to it that all women and men in this world can enjoy the right to food, which I would like to have enshrined in the Italian Constitution as the recognition of a basic right of a human person.

My country, ladies and gentlemen, on a daily basis is witness to tragedies in the Mediterranean; thousands of migrants torn away from their loved ones, looking for a country that can restore their dignity as human beings. This is a tragedy that concerns us all. I would like to launch an appeal to the United Nations to all governments and to the international organizations out there in order for us to increasingly work together to give these men and women the opportunity to choose whether to leave the country or whether to stay by helping them lay the groundwork in order to produce and have access to food in their country.

Now to break with the cycle of poverty and hunger, it is necessary to start with rural areas where 70 percent of the world's poor population lives and where one-third of food production is wasted or lost, especially because of a lack of infrastructure. It is therefore necessary to re-initiate the cycle of life, starting with agriculture, by looking after the territory and populations. Those who till the land and cultivate the soil can be given water and food. They receive resources to live. And to preserve the planet and its population, we have to promote sustainable agriculture and preserve the agricultural surface. We need to begin a new era. We need to rebuild natural potential wherever it has been destroyed by developing sustainable production activities and technologies.

Now obviously this means we need to invest in infrastructure and we need to make liveable our land and avoid the ravaging of nature that has happened in recent years. We need to create the conditions in order for families and people and women to enjoy the opportunities offered by the rural economy.

We have to fight against marginalization in the rural world by enhancing traditions, by indeed combining infrastructural development with training activities. We have to promote risk management instruments as well as the appropriate access to water and healthcare.

I think that all of this is possible and I think that the ambition of the Millennium Development Goals has to make reference to these principles.

With Expo Milan 2015, we have time until 31 October to make progress in this direction and I think that Expo has proven and has shown that it is at our service and it strives to consolidate the work that we can do together, especially FAO, especially if we look at what FAO is doing in this crucial year as it defines the upcoming development goals.

Now of course, there are four main priorities. They are also challenges. One is a new relationship between agriculture and the environment. The second challenge is the need for greater support to small-scale farmers and to the more exposed categories of the population like young people and women. The third challenge is a theme of innovation and the transfer of innovation and the fourth is the whole question of rules in order to provide for more equitable access to the market.

Now these are issues that are enshrined in the Charter of Milan. It is a document that represents the legacy of Expo Milan. It has already been signed by the leaders of many countries and by over two hundred thousand citizens.

We will be delivering this to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 16 October on the occasion of his visit to Milan for the celebrations of the World Food Day and we need to create a better world.

I think that this way, Italy will be able to give its contribution to the challenges facing FAO and this way I think that Italy can contribute to playing an important role through the Exposition.

Hopefully we will be able to consolidate the work achieved or the results achieved thus far.

The Honourable Md. Qamrul ISLAM, Minister for Food of Bangladesh

First, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, I would like to extend greetings to all of you. Also, our heartiest congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva for being re-elected the Director General of FAO for another four years.

As we all know, the year 2015 marks the end of Millennium Development Goals and adoption of Sustainable Development Goals. Bangladesh has achieved the targets of many of the MDGs, including MDG 1 on eradicating poverty and hunger.

In terms of food security, Bangladesh is well secured than any time before. Resilience and hard work of our farmers have turned Bangladesh to a rice-exporting country. This year we have exported 25 000 metric tons of rice to Sri Lanka. Right now we have the capacity to export 200 000 metric tons of rice which is a remarkable achievement in food production. When our population was 70 million in the seventies, we had to import a huge amount of food. Now the population is more than 150 million, but we produce enough food to feed this huge population. It has been possible due to the prudent policy of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. After formation of the Government for the second time in 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attached top most priority to food production. We initiated programmes to provide farmers with agriculture inputs at minimum cost such as fertilizer, irrigation, quality seeds and most importantly easy bank loan on time. Even during the political turmoil and natural calamity we ensured adequate supply of agriculture inputs to the farmers. As a result sustained upward trend in rice production has been achieved. Again, this year we have bumper production in rice.

With reference to the Second International Conference on Nutrition, the Government of Bangladesh is committed to ensure food and nutrition security for its people, especially the most vulnerable groups of mothers and young children. We deeply appreciate the continuous technical and financial support of FAO and development partners for developing and implementing the strategic framework to address the food and nutrition security. Bangladesh aims to be a middle-income country by 2021 with achieving the target of sustainable food and nutrition security for all.

Last month we have organized a High-level Meeting on, “South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer”. We do believe South-South and Triangular Cooperation could be an effective cooperation framework for agricultural development and food production across the world. FAO can play a catalytic role in facilitating knowledge and technology transfer in agriculture.

Based on our experience, we feel the need of more FAO projects and programmes which would have direct impacts on farmers. For example, skill development, sharing information and knowledge on agriculture, introducing energy efficient food processing and storage system, local weather forecasting system, marketing facility and joining global value chain are the areas where we need more FAO interventions. In this connection, we find the climate smart agriculture is a good initiative. Nutrition security is still a huge challenge in our country as the child stunting levels are still over 36 percent in Bangladesh. The project called ‘Managing the Under-nutrition Challenge’ is being implemented to address this challenge. Continued support of FAO to capacity-building activities for nutrition-sensitive programmes in Bangladesh is fundamental.

In conclusion, as a densely populated country, Bangladesh is facing a huge challenge of climate change. We have been awarded by FAO for reaching the target 1.c of the MDG One. Our efforts will not stop until our all people have full access to safe and nutritious food. In terms of resource and technology constraints we have limitations in finishing this task. Bangladesh is keen to initiate the Zero Hunger Challenge. We expect that FAO and other development partners will continuously be with us towards the progressive realization of Right to Food and Zero Hunger Challenge.

Excmo. Sr. Don Tabaré AGUERRE, Ministro de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca de Uruguay

En primer lugar, expresamos nuestras felicitaciones al Sr. Director General por su reelección, que se debe evidentemente a la exitosa gestión que está llevando adelante.

El Uruguay, un pequeño país de Sudamérica, de 3 300 000 personas y 187 000 kilómetros cuadrados, donde las producciones agroalimentarias constituyen el 75 por ciento de nuestras exportaciones y el 55 por ciento de nuestra industria es agroindustria. Hemos emprendido una política y una estrategia de desarrollo del sector agropecuario basada en la competitividad con integración social y sustentabilidad ambiental.

Es cierto que nuestro país tiene ventajas comparativas relativas a la buena adaptación de sus recursos naturales, pero además de sus ventajas naturales, el Gobierno prioriza la competitividad estructural y sistémica, a nivel de recursos humanos, del desarrollo de la infraestructura, inversiones en ciencia y tecnología, innovaciones que permitan diferenciar productos y procesos en un marco de estabilidad de

las reglas de juego y con la actualización de los marcos normativos. Tal como anunciáramos aquí mismo hace cuatro años, se están implementando políticas orientadas a promover la productividad, la competitividad, la inserción internacional, la preservación de los recursos naturales, la adaptación al cambio climático y el desarrollo rural, con un énfasis, en particular, en la protección y promoción de la agricultura familiar.

La creación de un sistema nacional de información agrícola, concebido como un sistema de información y soporte para la toma de decisiones o el desarrollo de un sistema integral de trazabilidad individual y electrónica sobre los 12 millones de animales vacuno que tiene nuestro país, son ejemplos paradigmáticos de una visión de trabajo en red con articulación institucional público-privada y de aplicación de tecnologías informáticas y de comunicación diseñadas como una plataforma con un enfoque de bien público.

El desarrollo rural —el foco estratégico está en la construcción de nuevas capacidades por parte de los distintos sectores de nuestra agricultura familiar—, de forma de lograr una integración social y económica en los procesos dinámicos y modernos que ocurren en nuestro país. Estas nuevas capacidades para la agricultura familiar se encaran con el propósito de construir bienes públicos disminuyendo las tradicionales asimetrías de tecnología, conocimiento y comercialización que históricamente han excluido a los más débiles. El 65 por ciento de nuestros productores son familiares pero ocupan tan solo el 17 por ciento de la superficie y enfrentan el desafío de permanecer frente a un mundo tan dinámico donde la demanda desencadena el incremento de la inversión y tecnificación de procesos agrícolas, que son buenos para la economía en su conjunto, pero que plantean un desafío para los más débiles. Debemos transformar esa amenaza en una oportunidad, construyendo capacidades diferenciales.

Es cierto que hemos alcanzado metas en materia de reducción del hambre, pero nos falta mucho en cuanto a lograr metas en materia de dietas saludables. Nos proponemos a aumentar el consumo de frutas y hortalizas con el objetivo de reducir las enfermedades crónicas no transmisibles. La mayor parte de nuestros agricultores de frutas y hortalizas son agricultores familiares, he ahí una oportunidad.

El 77 por ciento de nuestros agricultores familiares son ganaderos y el Uruguay, como dije, es un país que exporta el 70 por ciento de la leche y el 75 por ciento de la carne. La oportunidad está entonces en posibilitar la inserción competitiva de la agricultura familiar a las cadenas de valor, construyendo bienes públicos en materia de innovación, infraestructura y educación.

La posibilidad de una persistente expansión de las actividades agropecuarias en el Uruguay, plantea múltiples desafíos: aquellos asociados a la agenda de competitividad —preservación de recursos naturales—, pero con énfasis, decimos, nuestra adaptación al cambio climático. La agricultura es la actividad más importante para nuestro país, la agricultura competitiva y ambientalmente responsable constituye la clave de nuestra seguridad alimentaria y contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria global.

Uruguay es un país que exporta alimentos para 25 millones de habitantes. Desde esta perspectiva, comercio justo y sin distorsiones, es clave. Seguridad alimentaria y comercio justo son dos caras de una misma moneda. Sostenibilidad ambiental y seguridad alimentaria, son sinónimos si los analizamos en clave de humanidad y no en clave de una generación. Cambio climático y seguridad alimentaria son dos conceptos fuertemente comprometidos. Somos la última generación en condiciones de impedir un deterioro irreversible en materia climática, y debemos comprometernos.

La FAO, para finalizar, ha estado presente en nuestro país desde la década de los 50. Ha otorgado asesoramiento y apoyo a las políticas establecidas por el Gobierno. Ha comprometido fuertemente apoyo en el sector forestal y pesquero. Hace cuatro años, anunciaba en este mismo lugar, el desarrollo que llevábamos adelante en materia de una política de protección de suelo para enfrentar la demanda por tierra para uso agrícola. Hoy tengo el agrado de compartir con ustedes, el agrado y el orgullo de compartir con ustedes, que tan solo cuatro años después en el Año Internacional de los Suelos, el Uruguay tiene el 96 por ciento de su superficie agrícola bajo una ley que regula la erosión. Esto no es producto de una decisión fácil, fue producto de una decisión política muy fuerte, Señor Presidente, no sin dificultades. Pero es necesario entender, tal como lo decía Faulkner en el año 1947, que tenemos la tierra en préstamo de nuestros nietos. Hay un círculo virtuoso a construir en una estrategia mundial

con más conservación, más productividad, más agroeficiencia, menores emisiones y mayor resiliencia. Pero eso no es posible sin el cuidado del suelo.

His Excellency Falah Zaidan, Minister for Agriculture of Iraq (Original language Arabic)

I am happy to be with you in the 39th Conference of the FAO representing the government and people of Iraq. I wish the Conference to full success.

I would like to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for his re-election as the Director-General of the FAO and this shows the trust of the partners and Member Nations in his person, endeavours and achievements for the four past years guiding the Organization and implementing the renovation and reform programme in accordance with the Member Nations and we are confident that the next four years will be of great success in the provision of services across Member Nations to reach the food security and nutrition, stability of the agricultural trade and, of course, reach the Sustainable Development Goals, while a number of countries have effectively reached the targets of the MDG.

I would like to mention that Iraq managed to realize concrete achievements and reached development goals, particularly Goal no. 1 when it comes to eradicating hunger and poverty and the livelihood of Iraqis improved significantly after years of wars and embargos, by realizing the first steps to sustainable development, openness to investments to the agriculture sector. Thanks to the support of the state to smallholders and to the many funding facilities, the agriculture sector improved significantly and in turn we said that these achievements are the result of our cooperation.

Today, the improvements and achievements across Iraq were unfortunately undermined by terrorism. ISIS and many terrorist groups have attacked many fertile and productive regions across Iraq, high producers of wheat, flour, and other vegetables, particularly the region of Mosul and Dyalaa, in addition to many other fertile territories in Tikrit, Ramadi and Kirkuk.

ISIS is trying as well to control many irrigation plants in order to dominate large areas militarily of a criminal nature exposing civilian residents to hunger and poverty, forcing displacement. This resulted in three million displaced persons from their lands to more secure areas.

As such, the agricultural sector in Iraq is exposed to deep crisis situations. On one side lost tens of thousands of farmers and producers in agriculture because they were obliged by ISIS to flee their lands and some were killed and, on the other hand, the governmental institutions were providing assistance to refugees including with agricultural products coming from other sources.

The Iraqi market had many shocks that can be summed up as follows: the terrorist attacks in addition to the war on terrorism that ravaged many regions whereas millions of hectares are excluded from production and many neighboring areas, the displacement of farmers to remote areas, the scarcity of water in the two basins of Tigris and Euphrates. The control by ISIS of irrigation systems water resources in Syria and Iraq. The drop in crude oil prices has deep repercussions on the budget of the state which has made it very difficult the execution of programmes in support of agriculture.

While praising the cooperation with the FAO and other UN Agencies, we are facing difficult times and we are in strong need of technical support, particularly for the agricultural sector. We need rehabilitation projects for irrigation projects helping us in this endeavour.

The Honourable Patrick Pule Ralotsia, Minister for Agriculture of Botswana

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the host country, the Government and the people of Italy for the warm welcome and generous hospitality that has been accorded our delegation.

Eradicating poverty among citizens is my country's priority to which the Government is committed. Botswana with a population of 2.2 million, the majority residing in the rural areas, has adopted a strategy to eradicate abject poverty amongst citizens. The Government accentuated its commitment to counteract poverty and hunger by providing programmes and projects for the vulnerable and resourceless persons.

The theme of this Conference, "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development", could not have been more

appropriate. This is so because poverty and hunger are a result of failure to harness opportunities and if not attended to, it becomes a vicious cycle that can be passed from generation to generation.

Though the World Bank reports indicate decreased poverty in the world in the past three decades from more than half of citizens in the developing world living on less than UDS 1.25 a day to 21 percent in 2010, still more than 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty which is of concern and needs escalation of efforts in finding solutions that could reduce poverty.

In our country as a consequence of efforts being made, there has been a steady decline in poverty since 1993-94 as the proportion of people living below the poverty datum line has declined from 47 to 21 percent in 2009-10. This was achieved through enhancement of policies and interventions aimed at cushioning vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of our society. Other achievements include the completion of the Remote Area Development Programme, 10-year Affirmative Action Framework and effective implementation of poverty eradication programmes, remote area development programmes, youth empowerment schemes, women empowerment schemes and provision of social safety nets.

For our National Development Plan 11, the Government of Botswana has identified amongst others the under-listed as priority areas for eradication of poverty:

- Revamping of Integrated Poverty Alleviation and Housing Schemes for different citizens at different levels;
- Eradication of severe multi-dimensional poverty and interrupting the intergenerational transmission of poverty;
- Improved disaster preparedness and response that ensures resilience of our communities; and
- Investing in young people's future to harness the demographic dividend by providing quality education, decent employment and comprehensive sexual education that emphasis gender equality.

The vulnerable and poor populations who are mostly rural-based have agriculture as their main source of livelihood. As a result, we emphasise rural development especially through strengthening of the agricultural sector to enhance rural resilience against poverty and hunger. It is noted that the performance of the agriculture sector has not been that impressive as a result of unfavourable changing climatic conditions, poor rate of technology adoption, pests and disease outbreaks. This year my country was hit by drought as we received very little rain and experienced high heat waves which led to poor vegetation and crop failure which reversed the gains of good harvest of 2013-14.

To address these challenges, the Botswana Government continues to develop policy programmes, strategies and interventions to uplift the sector. The current agricultural policy commits to shifting the agricultural sector towards environmentally friendly practices that would not degrade the environment.

Commitment to the agricultural sector for sustainable agricultural development linked to social protection we believe is the way to address the challenges of poverty and hunger in the developing world. Our programmes range from provision of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and herbicides to smallholder farmers through the Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development and support for animal feeds and medicines through livestock advisory centres and various packages including small stock, poultry, borehole drilling, water reticulation and construction of crushes through the Livestock Management Infrastructure Development. All these programmes are to ensure that rural communities are able to produce for their sustenance for food security.

My Ministry continues, through its various parastatals, to provide markets for agricultural produce. The Botswana Meat Commission provides a market for cattle producers, the majority of which are in communal land, whilst Botswana Horticultural Market provides a market for horticultural products, a sub-sector that is growing and currently covers almost 50 percent of the national requirements for horticultural products.

We also have the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board which provides a market for grain farmers who are mostly subsistence farmers in order to encourage domestic production of cereals. In liaison with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, fresh farm produce is purchased from small-scale farmers for school-feeding programmes. I must state that this provides small-scale farmers

with a market and encourages them to grow. Income from sales of agricultural products greatly contributes to eradication of poverty.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Botswana to applaud and appreciate contributions by the Food and Agriculture Organization in their support through the Technical Cooperation Programme in such areas as pest and disease control, capacity-building, environment and sustainable natural resource management and nutrition and consumer protection. Interventions in the stated areas has reduced losses in agricultural production and enhanced food security at household level. Let me also confirm Botswana's joining the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, a renewed global effort to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, based on the principle that everyone has the right to food and good nutrition.

I must emphasize that the strong correlation between breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger and strong social protection is undeniable. While rural economies continue to rely on agriculture as the main source of livelihood, sustainable agriculture development remains crucial to sustenance of the rural resilience.

I assure you that my Ministry and Government remain committed to the courses of sustainable rural development, social protection and sustainable development in general.

I thank you! *Pula!*

His Excellency Petipong Pungbun NA AYUDHYA, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand

First let me congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva for his re-election as Director-General of FAO. Also, let me thank the FAO for arranging this conference to address the key issue of rural poverty and hunger. Though Thailand has had substantial success in developing our strong agricultural sector, we, like most of the world still find too much of our rural population in poverty. We hope and expect the actions and decisions of this Conference will make a difference not just in policy, but also in promoting the types of actions on-the-ground that will make real and lasting changes to people's lives.

We need to find the right responses to poverty and hunger, so every person in the world can enjoy the basic right to food. Thailand strongly supports the theme of this Conference in addressing rural poverty and hunger through sustainable agriculture and by assuring social protection. The FAO and its Member Nations recognize the importance of social as well as environmental aspects as we strive to feed the world.

We must address hunger's root causes urgently by providing real solutions for the millions of poor smallholder farmers and landless. The rural poor need access to sufficient resources, whether land, other natural resources, capital or technology. We must take the opportunity to redefine our food systems, fully recognizing how social and economic inequality impact food security and nutrition. I have no doubt that our joint efforts will successfully contribute to promote the food security agenda throughout the world.

Governments cannot do this alone. Thailand supports the increase of public-private partnership investment in agriculture, built on partnerships to improve infrastructure, transfer of modern technologies, and facilitate development of domestic markets. Government policies need to assure fairness to all: while private companies should gain sufficient return on their investments, producers also need to earn adequate incomes, free from debt and exploitation.

Innovation and improvements are needed all along the food chain, to reduce food loss and waste, and to ensure safe and good quality food from producer to table. Thailand is working to improve our food quality and safety standards, for the health and nutrition of our own consumers, and to meet international requirements for food exports.

The world already produces enough food for everyone, but too much is lost or wasted, and not enough is able to reach those who desperately need more food. Considering that over 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry live in rural areas, it becomes clear that we need to promote agricultural and rural development to overcome food insecurity, including the distribution of resources and other means of production to those who do not yet have enough to support themselves. For most of the world,

building the capacity of family farms to feed themselves is key to creating a virtuous cycle of inclusive and sustainable local development. We can then produce enough food where food is most needed, while generating more local income. This in turn will stimulate rural economies, helping bring non-farm households out of poverty and hunger as well.

We need to raise the environmental and social sustainability of food systems. Though food production has kept pace with population growth, it has been at significant environmental and human cost. Our forests are disappearing, lands degraded and too many producers left impoverished. More attention needs to be given to production, processing and distribution systems that meet human needs without depleting natural resources. We need to shift to sustainable food systems that produce more with less environmental impact, reduce post-harvest loss and food waste, and treat the producers fairly.

I have no doubt that our joint efforts will contribute successfully to promoting food security and reducing poverty and hunger in all our countries.

Son Excellence Monsieur Akram CHEHAYEB, Ministre de l'agriculture du Liban

J'ai l'honneur de représenter le Liban, et de participer, au nom du Liban, à la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence. Je voudrais remercier la FAO, les fonctionnaires et le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'organisation de cette Conférence.

Je remercie tous ceux qui fournissent des efforts pour aboutir à la sécurité alimentaire, pour éliminer la faim et pour protéger les ressources naturelles et assurer leur durabilité.

Nous sommes heureux de voir que notre confiance est renouvelée à M. José Graziano da Silva, réélu comme Directeur général de la FAO.

Il est heureux que 72 pays aient réussi à réduire de moitié le nombre de ceux qui ont faim de par le monde. Nous avons le plaisir également de voir que la plupart des pays de notre région du Proche-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord aient réussi cet exploit. Mais malheureusement la région arabe est en proie aux guerres et aux conflits, notamment en Iraq, au Yémen, au Soudan, en Syrie et en Palestine. Ces guerres et ces conflits ont transformé la région Proche-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord, région qui est la seule à voir augmenter la prévalence de la sous-alimentation en comparaison à la décennie précédente. Et selon les rapports de la FAO, il y a bien eu augmentation de la prévalence de la malnutrition et de la sous-alimentation dans notre région.

Mon pays est parmi les 15 pays qui ont réussi à réduire de moitié le nombre des sous-alimentés et d'arriver en deçà des 5 pour cent, mais malheureusement nous sommes affectés par les événements dévastateurs des pays voisins et dans la région entière. Vous savez sans doute que le Liban est affecté par la guerre qui continue en Syrie et qu'un grand nombre de réfugiés afflue dans la zone frontalière entre le Liban et la Syrie, exerçant une pression redoublée sur les régions frontalières du Liban. Il y a également un manque de contrôles aux frontières, et donc ces flux humains, mais également d'animaux, de cheptels traversant la frontière sans contrôle, apportent avec eux maladies et zoonoses.

Les pays du golfe étaient le marché principal pour nos exportations alimentaires et ces marchés ont été affectés. Nous avons donc beaucoup de défis à relever. Nous avons besoin de la coopération avec la FAO pour revoir également les normes sanitaires et phytosanitaires, pour augmenter les sources de revenus grâce à l'agriculture et garantir la durabilité des ressources naturelles.

Face à tous ces défis, essentiellement liés à cette guerre et aux conflits chroniques de la région, et malgré les efforts que nous mettons en œuvre pour rester à l'abri de ces conflits, nous avons besoin des organisations internationales pour qu'elles aident notre Ministère de l'agriculture à mettre en œuvre sa stratégie, qui s'étend jusqu'en 2016, et nous voulons remercier la FAO qui nous a aidés à établir ce plan stratégique.

Nous avons reçu un soutien des pays amis pour accueillir un bureau régional de la FAO au Liban et voudrions ici réaffirmer notre volonté d'accueillir ce nouveau bureau. Nous espérons qu'il sera une pierre de plus dans l'édifice de la coopération entre la FAO et le Liban, afin que nous puissions ensemble continuer à progresser sur la voie du développement, pour mettre fin à ce cercle vicieux des guerres et de la pauvreté et afin de réaliser l'aspiration de tous nos peuples à vivre dans la paix et la démocratie.

Excmo. Sr. Don Gustavo RODRÍGUEZ ROLLERO, Ministro de Agricultura de Cuba

En nombre del gobierno de Cuba, de los trabajadores del Ministerio de la Agricultura, de los cooperativistas y campesinos, de la delegación que me acompaña y en el mío propio, permítame agradecerle por su amable invitación a participar en esta 39.º Conferencia de la FAO y por las magníficas condiciones creadas para el desarrollo de nuestro trabajo.

Sr. Director General, en primer lugar, deseamos felicitarlo por su reelección estando seguros que continuará consolidando la labor de la FAO para lograr la erradicación del hambre y la disminución de la pobreza.

Se ha estimado que actualmente 800 millones de personas sufren hambre en el mundo; sin embargo, el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria pueden erradicarse pero para ello se requiere un mayor compromiso y voluntad política de los gobiernos, así como la articulación de todos los actores y políticas tendentes a eliminar las causas de la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición; más recursos e inversiones y mayor cooperación económica y científico técnica, Norte-Sur y Sur-Sur, sobre todo esta última, la que ofrece una promisorio oportunidad para todos.

Cuba, cumplió anticipadamente la meta propuesta por la Primera Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, celebrada en Roma en 1996 y se encuentra entre los 16 países que más éxito han tenido en la reducción del hambre.

Esos resultados, se han logrado en condiciones muy difíciles, a costa de enormes esfuerzos en la producción nacional de alimentos e importando alrededor de 2 millones de dólares anuales a muy altos precios lo que tiene entre sus causas, la distancia de nuestros proveedores actuales y la ocurrencia de frecuentes eventos climáticos que afectan a la producción agrícola, como huracanes, intensas lluvias o prolongadas sequías.

Pero sin dudas, el bloqueo que padecemos desde hace más de 50 años es la principal causa de que nuestra economía no haya podido avanzar más, incluida la producción de alimentos.

En la coyuntura actual del bloqueo se mantiene y ahora más que nunca es rechazado por la comunidad internacional y por amplios sectores de la sociedad norteamericana.

Desde el triunfo de la Revolución se adoptaron un grupo de medidas para mejorar las condiciones de vida del campesinado, entregándole la propiedad de la tierra y llevando a las zonas rurales la educación, la salud, la cultura, entre otros.

En la década de los 90, se inicia el Programa de la Agricultura Urbana, Suburbana y Familiar, el que está actualmente consolidado en todo el país y en pleno proceso de perfeccionamiento sobre bases agroecológicas.

En la actualización del modelo económico cubano, se exponen las bases para las transformaciones necesarias en la agroindustria, con el fin de incrementar los niveles, la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos, incluyendo la entrega de 1,7 millones de hectáreas de tierras estatales ociosas en usufructo gratuito a 200 000 personas; el logro de la autonomía de gestión de la base productiva, la que incluye más de 6 000 cooperativas que gestionan el 80 por ciento de la tierra agrícola; el perfeccionamiento del sistema de comercialización de insumos y productos agropecuarios y la descentralización de las producciones destinadas al consumo local, entre otras medidas que se implementan o estudian.

También el seguro agropecuario, el acceso a créditos bancarios y la descentralización de los precios, han favorecido a los productores.

Con la promulgación de la nueva ley de inversión extranjera se facilita la ejecución de inversiones en el sector agropecuario y forestal.

En lo productivo, la prioridad la concedemos a los productos dirigidos a la exportación y los que cuya producción disminuiría la factura de importación de alimentos, tales como el arroz y otros granos; leche y carnes.

Para la formación de la fuerza de trabajo calificada necesaria para el desarrollo futuro del sector agropecuario, tiene nuestro país una vasta red de universidades, institutos politécnicos y escuelas de

oficio. De la misma forma, el desarrollo de la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación tienen su base en varios centros de investigación.

Dada la prioridad que concede el gobierno cubano a la producción de alimentos, a pesar de las difíciles condiciones económicas, se desarrollan diferentes programas financiados por el presupuesto del Estado, entre ellos:

- El Programa de Mejoramiento y Conservación de Suelos, con prioridad en los polígonos experimentales, donde la finca es la base del manejo sostenible de tierra. Corresponde a Cuba, la presidencia del Comité Directivo Regional de la Alianza Mundial por el Suelo, lo que nos honra y compromete aún más con el adecuado uso de este recurso natural, base de la agricultura.
- El Programa Hidráulico, que incluye el desarrollo de la industria nacional para la producción de sistemas de riego y drenaje agrícola, lo que nos permitirá incrementar las áreas con valor de uso.
- Programas de salud animal y vegetal.
- Programa de desarrollo y producción de bioproductos (bioestimulantes, biofertilizantes y bioplaguicidas).
- Programa de uso de Energías Renovables en los diferentes sistemas y procesos productivos.

Entre los retos actuales que Cuba enfrenta y que influyen de forma negativa en la producción agrícola se encuentran, el envejecimiento de la población, la baja natalidad y el éxodo hacia las ciudades de los campesinos. El último censo, reveló que casi el 77 por ciento de los cubanos viven en las ciudades y poblados, lo que nos obliga a la adopción de políticas públicas para atenuar esa situación.

En el contexto regional, cabe destacar que América Latina y el Caribe disminuyó en 16 millones el número de personas subnutridas en las últimas dos décadas y se continua trabajando para erradicar el hambre, enfrentando grandes retos asociados al cambio climático, en particular la subregión del Caribe, por lo que la región requiere una mayor contribución de la cooperación internacional para realizar las inversiones que garanticen la seguridad alimentaria.

Como muestra de los nuevos tiempos que vive la región y la voluntad política de avanzar unidos en la diversidad, hacia la integración política y económica se constituyó en el año 2011, la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), integrada por 33 países.

Desde su creación, la CELAC viene dando pasos hacia una mayor cooperación en materia agrícola y en ese esfuerzo, se aprobó en la última Cumbre en enero 2015, el Plan para la Seguridad Alimentaria, Nutrición y Erradicación del Hambre y la Pobreza 2025, en cuya elaboración la Oficina Regional de la FAO jugó un importante papel. Ratificamos en esta Conferencia el compromiso del Gobierno cubano en su implementación.

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe, tenemos fuertes complementariedades en el terreno de la agricultura y ventajas competitivas que debemos aprovechar en todo su potencial. Fortalecer la cooperación agrícola entre nuestra región y el resto de los Países Miembros de la FAO está en el interés de ambas partes para beneficio mutuo y para promover el desarrollo sostenible, el progreso y prosperidad de nuestros pueblos.

His Excellency Shukhrat TESHAYEV, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan

I should like first and foremost to extend the heartfelt congratulations of our government in Uzbekistan to you, Mr da Silva, upon your re-election to the FAO post of Director-General. Those congratulations are also echoing the sentiment of the whole of the Uzbek people.

Colleagues, international experts' research and forecasts for food security have pointed out just what a serious issue this is for many parts of the world. Indeed, this has now become one of the most pressing challenges to the whole of the international community. In Uzbekistan, food security is a top priority. As a result of which, we are applying ourselves on a comprehensive basis under the direct oversight of the President of the country, Islam Karimov. And, in fact, it bears noting that just a year ago at the President's initiative, a major international conference was held in Tashkent on the considerable

capacity there is in the Republic of Uzbekistan for effecting the food programme. The main aims of this Conference being to assess and discuss the way in which the food programme was being implemented in the country in the context of the need to boost overall global food production and to learn about experience gained in the field and the further capacities that exist for cultivating and producing food and vegetables in Uzbekistan, as well as the possibilities for boosting the Uzbek contribution overall to the global food production balance. I am gratified to note that Mr Graziano da Silva's presence further underscored the importance and significance of that international forum.

From 2001 onwards, we have seen increasing cooperation between FAO and Uzbekistan through technical assistance and developing the agricultural sector. We have managed to ensure our country as a result of such reforms with basic staples and considerable export capacities. We have seen a testament to that fact by the honour we received yesterday which pointed up the rightness of the reforms that were instituted in the agricultural sector not only to qualitatively improve agricultural production but also to boost volumes. From 1997, agriculture in the country has shown consistent growth; in fact, over the last 10 years, at least 67 percent on an annual basis.

Agriculture in the country has shown consistent growth, in fact over the last ten years, at least 6 to 7 percent on an annual basis. These massive changes and improvements in farming have enabled us to boost agricultural output several fold.

On an annual basis we now produce more than 17 billion tons of fruit and vegetables which exceeds maximum consumption levels three-fold, and due to the more varied and improved diets our citizens enjoy *inter alia*, we have seen that the average lifespan has now increased from 66 years to 73.5.

I would particularly stress that by the end of the 1990s, Uzbekistan, a country which back in 1991 had been importing more than 80 percent of all of the wheat consumed in the country, had become fully self-sufficient in cereal production and in most other food commodities production.

Nevertheless, there is still considerably untapped potential in the field. As far as we can assess, the use of more advanced technologies would enable us to further boost yields in fruit and vegetable production. Potatoes, 2.3 fold; greens, 3.5 fold; vegetables, 2.8 fold; and fruit, 4.5 fold.

Secondly, we do have considerable capacity for further increasing the area under cultivation – under cover, and that would give us the possibility of having three harvests on an annual basis. And thirdly, given the unique climatic conditions that prevail in our country that are so favorable to the production of fruit and vegetables, we understand the part that we can play in providing such commodities to other countries who do not have such favourable situations and we are sure that, in the future, we can become one of the world's major producers of top range premium fruit and vegetables.

I believe, fellow participants, that the fully recognized exclusive importance of the problem of food security these days is something that is going to require ever more coordination and interaction and international cooperation, joint approaches and joint assessments for the visible future. And of course we need a systemic and constant exchange of experiences and practice.

In conclusion, may I wish all of us a very productive 39th Session, an optimal chance to engage in good networking and further productive cooperation.

The Honourable Mohamed SHAINEE, Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture of the Maldives

First of all, let me also join the other delegations by congratulating Director-General José Graziano da Silva for his well-deserved re-election. Your re-election demonstrates the appreciation of the Member Nations of your outstanding leadership in the FAO for the past four years. It bears witness to the strong commitment you have given to issues of individual nations to stimulate its fisheries and agriculture potential and governance of global food security.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General and the 39th Conference Secretariat for the warm welcome and kind hospitality provided to me and my delegation.

FAO is one of the first United Nations organizations that the Maldives joined in 1972. During the past four decades we have had a very close relationship with FAO. Hence, on behalf of my Government and President Abdulla Yamin Abdul Gayyoom, I personally convey my sincere appreciations for the

assistance provided to the Maldives to develop the fisheries and agriculture, most importantly the rural sector of the Maldives. In the past, we have benefited from a number of projects in the areas of strengthening a legal framework for fisheries and agriculture as well as interventions in natural resources management, support to agriculture extension, emergency pest control programmes and more. We are also beneficiaries of several trainings and technical meetings that are organized by FAO in the region and elsewhere.

I would like to acknowledge that, under the leadership of the Director-General, FAO has become more dynamic and current in addressing the issues of food security well in advance through strategic planning. The first Maldives Country Programming Framework was signed in 2013 giving strong emphasis to address the daunting impact of climate change on agriculture and fisheries development. Almost 89 percent of our GDP is based on natural resources and any impacts, especially climate change, will have drastic effects on the livelihood of the entire population. The FAO framework sets out relevant priority areas to guide FAO and the Government of Maldives to mitigate and adapt these drastic impacts and to support the developmental priorities of the country. The core areas for development include enhancing agricultural productivity and competitiveness through developing climate smart agriculture and strengthening sustainable livelihood through advancement of small-scale aquaculture.

In support of the first country programming framework, the Maldives is receiving assistance in the areas of strengthening rural statistics, income generation of farmers through small-scale egg production, increasing resiliency of farmers and fishers to climate change, development of standards for good agriculture practices, strengthening vessel monitoring control and surveillance mechanisms, development of aquaculture, management of forest invasive species as well as management of fisheries resources through regional and country-level programmes.

Hence, it is my gratitude to thank the FAO Representative to the Maldives, Ms Beth Crawford, for her continued support to us.

As we all know and had experienced, climate change is a major challenge not only to food security, but to the national development of many countries present here today. The recent natural disasters in countries like Nepal and Japan bear witness to the devastations that they can bring upon a country.

Maldives been the most vulnerable country in the world lying only a meter above sea level, with an extremely fragile natural environment, must take measures to bolster resilience and adapt to climate change. Sea-level rise, precipitation, temperature and extreme events related climate variability is threatening food security and livelihood of the fisheries and agriculture dependent communities.

Hence, strengthening adaptation and mitigation through social protection programmes and natural resource management is key to bringing resilience to the fisheries and agriculture sector.

Reflecting on yesterday's keynote speech of former president of Brazil, His Excellency, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on breaking the cycle of rural poverty by strengthening rural resilience, we, the Maldives have also taken similar steps. In this regard, the Government of Maldives has taken steps in introducing income and climate insurance programmes for both fisheries and agriculture instead of dependent social protection programmes such as subsidies. These contributory programmes help the fishermen earn a minimum wage during the low fishing season and the farmers to earn compensation for their losses in adverse weather conditions. We believe over-protection and subsidy will not bring resiliency. Instead as the old saying goes "give a fisherman a fish and he will eat once but if we give him a pole and line he will fish for the rest of his life".

Hence, Maldivian pole and line fishery is recognized as one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world. Almost one in five persons in the Maldives earn their living from the fisheries sector. The need for managing our fisheries for the betterment of our future generations is imminent. With strong commitment and assistance from our development partners including FAO, Maldives is well recognized in the global fisheries community as the champion in the Indian Ocean in the area of fisheries management and we intend to help to replicate our success in other parts of the world. However, being a small island country, our voice is less echoed among more opportunistic nations.

Nevertheless, we look forward to a better platform to work together holistically to bring the needed interventions.

As we heard yesterday in the high-profile meeting of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the small island nations face a host of different challenges in the development, especially due to climate change. It is questionable that the current development economic theories are relevant to small economies like ours. Smallness or economy of scale is a limitation to continue development projects sustainably. Perhaps the academia needs to re-write theories and models to find a solution for the development of SIDS as highlighted by the Honourable Prime Minister of St. Vincent and Cabo Verde during the High-Level Panel on SIDS by St. Vincent. Towards this direction, yesterday FAO has taken an encouraging step to work closely with the SIDS as a cluster to strengthen the economies of scale.

We understand the excitement felt by SIDS in the African, Pacific and the Caribbean regions after signing the Memorandum of Understanding with FAO.

As witnessed yesterday, now the Maldives has an added challenge of being the only SIDS in the Indian Ocean. We find it difficult to find a regional cluster with similar issues. I hope FAO have not lost the Maldives, one of the most vulnerable SIDS in the world, in between the large waves of the Indian Ocean.

Therefore, the Maldives looks forward to working with FAO and remain committed to improving and developing the national capacity to better equip and adapt to climate change and its impact in the food security sector.

His Excellency Wallace COSGROW, Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture of the Seychelles

If we were living in an ideal world, then hunger, malnutrition, poverty and associated conditions would not have featured in the world agenda, and, surely not in our agenda today. TV screens and newspapers would have been devoid of scenes of displaced populations, parched soils, pictures of the impacts of floods, hurricanes, of drowning livestock and failed crops.

At the other end of the scale, there would not be calamities of over-nutrition, the rising statistics of obesity in all age groups, the toll of non-communicable diseases. Once diseases of the developed world, they are now widespread and are pressing issues of the developing world too. The rising costs of medical care and treatment, the loss in human productivity are becoming our daily burden of grave economic significance, of missed opportunities and uncomputed loss to our GDP.

The obligation of SIDS to honour the free trade protocol as members of the WTO compounds further their vulnerability. SIDS lack competitive advantages and comparative advantages. This stipulation of the WTO protocol essentially amplifies SIDS undisputable disparities and shortcomings *vis-a-vis* the larger countries. This translates into a strong external dependence of SIDS in their provisioning for basic food items, amongst other needs, with serious implications to national food and nutrition security.

I salute FAO and partners to declare 2015 as the International Year of Soils. This initiative inevitably focuses attention on soils still the principal medium for agricultural activities and food production. It highlights once more the urgency to pay attention to all practices which have a bearing on sustaining the productivity of the soil medium and efforts towards sustainable agricultural practices and better land management.

SIDS have finite land resources with many competing ends. Agricultural soils are limited with agricultural activities forcibly relegated to marginal soils of poorer productivity. This limits food output in the face of a growing population. A growing national food demand is met largely by imported foods at high costs.

The predicament of SIDS in the national agricultural sector development efforts is further worsened by global warming and the ever more frequent extreme weather events. Evidently, these natural calamities add to the vulnerability load of SIDS.

Our land-based natural resource is small, many times with large portions of our land area under conservation. But the zeal of SIDS for instilling a high degree of resilience in our people is

phenomenal, and our modalities innovative, obsessed with an ever more pressing goal of an appreciable degree of national food and nutrition security.

We have opted to conserve the natural resources of part of our Exclusive Economic Zones to lessen our international debt burden. We have negotiated enthusiastically with old and newly found international cooperating partners.

I seize this moment to thank the IFAD and the AFDB's assistance in the revival of our national agricultural sector and the boosting of our blue economy. Thank you to IAEA, the Kuwaiti fund, the many country representatives present today through their specific inputs in our food production sector under our bilateral cooperation agreements. To our Organization, the FAO, for addressing the many small but important issues which eased us over the threshold for greater growth in the food production sector.

His Excellency José Condungua António PACHECO, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security of Mozambique (Original language Portuguese)

It is incumbent upon me on behalf of His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, to express great honour and satisfaction with the participation in this 39th FAO Conference, and thank you for all the hospitality accorded to my delegation.

We want to welcome and congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for his availability to lead the fight against hunger in the world and for his re-election as Director-General of FAO. This re-election testifies the trust itself deposited which results from achieved tangible results in the fight to eradicate hunger in the world where the FAO has played a leading role in this process.

I would also like to express my gratitude to FAO for the support and facilitation provided to Mozambique in the preparation and implementation of various strategic instruments, such as the master plan for agricultural statistics, the project on food security and resilience of vulnerable households, the project of the removal of obsolete pesticides and empty containers, the project of disease control of small ruminants, and the project to mitigate the effects of the "Panama disease" in banana plantations.

This Conference comes at a special moment for the world and for my country in particular. It is with satisfaction that we warmly welcome the distinction that was attributed to the people and Government of Mozambique with the progress made in reduction of hungry and malnourished people, in line with the commitments expressed in the Millennium Development Goals.

The report on the overall situation of agriculture and food presented here is highly instructive about the challenges that the world still regards to the elimination of hunger, poverty and vulnerability in most countries.

The realization of this Conference continues to be a solid foundation for the United Nations Member Nations to reaffirm our commitment towards the eradication of hunger and poverty, as well as to envisage the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, with the vision to improve agricultural production, productivity and food sovereignty in the future world.

In the new cycle of Mozambique governance, based on the Five-Year Government Programme, is reflected a commitment that agriculture, focusing on food production, will continue to be an essential pillar for human development, sustainable economic and social of our country, whose bet relies on increasing competitiveness, productivity and employment, infrastructure development and the sustainable use of natural resources and the environment catalysed by the generation and transfer of agricultural technologies, creating the conditions for market access and information, the promotion of sustainable management of resources, the establishment of smart partnerships and dialogue between the various players in the production and value chain.

The Government of Mozambique is committed to reduce the effects of hunger and poverty embodied in the inaugural address of His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, who emphasized that we will continue to be as one of the world's countries maintaining the economic and social growth rates for the welfare of all citizens and not being only measured by

macroeconomic indicators, because there are Mozambican citizens in rural, peri-urban and urban living in conditions of poverty.

His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi is committed to “driving a nation guided by values of efficiency, competence, practicality, pragmatism and humility, a government that takes the woman and the man as the centre of its intervention. A government committed to gender equity and respect and appreciation of children. (...) He will promote increased public and private investments in agriculture, livestock and fisheries. More attention will be given to family sector, which holds the majority of the Mozambican population. He will continue with incentive policies to small farmers that raise the production and agricultural productivity.

He will bet in the agro-industry, as well as in intensifying food production and its access by citizens to ensure food and nutrition security. Reaffirmed that adequate food should not be a privilege, it is a basic human right of all Mozambicans. (...)”

Our Strategic Plan for Development of the Agricultural Sector and its investment plan comes as a guiding framework, harmonizing and mobilizing means of synergies to boost agricultural development and catalyst vehicles to raise the performance of the agricultural sector based on evidence.

Indeed, with regard to investment for the production of non-food goods, we want at least 10 percent of the total area required by commercial operators is intended for the production of food and 30 percent for direct participation of the local community through production.

On the other hand, in the case of projects facing the food production, at least 40 percent of the area required must be used for food production, under the contract production basis.

Our goal is to transform the family farmers of subsistence into farmers oriented to the market. In the public sector, we will continue guiding the creation of a favourable environment for the development of agribusiness, investment in infrastructure and in the provision of public services such as agricultural research and extension.

The agriculture, livestock and fisheries is our salvation; we have the sovereign right to produce, the people have access to food in quantity and quality for a healthy life, so that everyone does their part and together let us build the sovereignty.

Her Excellency Sylvi LISTHAUG, Minister for Agriculture and Food of Norway

2015 is the target year for the Millennium Development Goals, our guiding development agenda for the last fifteen years. Over the weekend, we celebrated the achievements in the fight against hunger. The MDGs will be replaced by a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, to be endorsed at the UN Summit in September.

We already know that the development framework post 2015 will be a more comprehensive one, encompassing all dimensions of sustainable development. The theme for this year's general debate is thus a timely one. Strengthening rural resilience will be crucial to break the vicious cycle of rural hunger and poverty and provide the means for economic and social development at the same time.

We acknowledge the need for a comprehensive take on global development in the coming years.

On this occasion, I wish to particularly underline an issue of growing global concern – the importance of antimicrobial resistance in food, agriculture and the environment. Infectious diseases become more difficult or impossible to treat. There are more severe negative consequences related to human health, food safety, animal health and welfare, production losses and hence negative consequences for livelihoods and food security. The effectiveness of antibiotics must be preserved for the treatment of human and animal diseases. It is thus our sincere opinion that antimicrobials should not be used as growth promoters. I also wish to underline another important issue: the fact that some countries' veterinarians may sell antibiotics with a profit. It is vital that the prescription and use of antibiotics should be based solely upon professional therapeutical reasons. Veterinarians prescribing antibiotics should not be influenced by economic incentives.

Combatting AMR requires a global approach. It requires a One Health approach in which all relevant sectors cooperate, especially health, agriculture and aquaculture. FAO must step up its efforts in

cooperation with other relevant organizations. We also wish to underpin the importance of the standard-setting work of the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius and the OIE.

Furthermore, I wish to emphasize that trade is an important element in global food security. It is important to have well-functioning markets and international trade systems. Standards and norms are an equally important prerequisite for international trade in food and food stuffs. FAO and other normative bodies play an important role in this regard.

Allow me also to highlight the important work FAO is carrying out in implementing sustainable management of natural resources globally, particularly forests, genetic resources and fish stocks. Sustainable forest management is a strategy that has proved to be effective in combating climate change and to contribute to economic and social development. The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) provides us with a basis for decision-making and is of great importance. Norway is a strong supporter of the good work FAO is doing in order to improve the FRA and encourages FAO to continue strengthening the cooperation with other global and regional actors to enhance the coherence of reporting activities on forests.

Before closing, I wish to emphasize the importance of gender equality in our efforts to build resilient rural communities. FAO has placed gender centrally in their efforts for agriculture and rural development. As they state it themselves, "Gender equality makes good economic and political sense." We expect FAO to follow up on that and make sure that gender equality is embedded in its work for agriculture and food security.

In this endeavour, we call on the FAO to make full use of its knowledge and take its position in the global architecture for food security and development. Norway wishes to underline our commitment to the work of FAO. We have high expectations to the Organization's ability to effectively translate its normative work into country-level impact.

Her Excellency Nabilah Ali AL-KHALIL, Minister for Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources of Kuwait (Original language Arabic)

We stand here today to take the floor at the FAO. On behalf of the State of Kuwait, we are here to convey the salutations of our leader, Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah. We would like to salute you on behalf of the Emir of the country, of the people of Kuwait, and of the government of Kuwait.

Today, we are here to speak on behalf of the state of Kuwait, and we would like first to start by congratulating Mr Jose Graziano da Silva for his re-election as Director-General of the FAO. We would like to re-assert our trust in his work and our faith in his collaboration with us. We expect of Mr da Silva to continue stressing the importance of food security and nutrition, particularly in our region of the world. We wish Mr da Silva all success in his endeavours.

The state of Kuwait is particularly proud of supporting projects that come to the service of the hungry and the poor in our world today. We are always looking forward to breaking the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty in rural areas and elsewhere. We therefore call on FAO, WFP and IFAD to exert every possible effort in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and objectives of the World Humanitarian Summit. We would like to thank the FAO for the certificate granted to Kuwait for its achievement on food security during the past few years.

We stand by the FAO policies that aim at increasing resilience, particularly in rural areas. This would provide social security and would also provide better sustainable agricultural development. In Kuwait, we also look forward to stronger bonds and ties with the FAO. We are currently working on drafting a partnership agreement with the FAO. This partnership will be about agricultural development. It will foster food security and nutrition and will foster technical capacities.

We hope for this partnership to be beneficial for Kuwait and for all other countries, particularly through south-south cooperation. We would hope for the latter, that is south-south cooperation, to expand beyond the traditional boundaries.

We all know that Kuwait is always happy to receive the most recent techniques and the most recent expertise, and through south-south cooperation, we will be able to share these.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait has crossed a major leap forward in terms of food security. Yet we still need further assistance from FAO and from Member Nations because we need to combat desertification, water scarcity, and other chronic problems that we continue to face in the country.

We stand ready to support the plans of the FAO in order to combat poverty and hunger and in order to achieve food security. But we also would hope for the FAO to be more caring about the countries in this area in general because we do know that, in FAO, you have the expertise and the knowledge in major fields of agriculture and we would need to benefit from that.

We call upon the Organization to continue responding to the emergencies, particularly when the emergencies are about transboundary diseases and agricultural disasters.

Last but not least, our doors remain open to dialogue and cooperation with FAO. We will always be ready to continue cooperating with you and we will put at your service every resource that we have because development is our first and primary objective at the end.

The Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail SABRI BIN YAAKOB, Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia

First of all I would like to congratulate you, Dr Jose Graziano da Silva, on your re-election and Malaysia supports you in the challenges ahead in further reforming FAO so that the Organization can play its part efficiently and effectively in the ongoing fight against poverty and hunger.

Poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia started before our independence in 1957. At that time, Malaysia was predominantly an agricultural country. The agriculture sector is still significant in the economy of the country, but has also accounted for most of its poverty, mainly in the rural areas.

Rural poverty was widespread at that time. Total poverty in Malaysia was 52.4 percent in 1970 and experienced a significant drop to 1.7 percent in 2012.

In the fight against hunger, Malaysia has successfully achieved the First Millennium Development Goal (MDG-1) target having successfully reduced the prevalence of undernourishment which was already low at 5.1 percent in 1990-92 to 3.4 percent in 2012-14. This achievement was recognized by FAO at a special event for countries achieving the MDG in November last year.

The implementation of social protection and poverty eradication programmes in Malaysia was carried out by various ministries through their operating agencies at the state and sub-state levels based on approved policies and programmes as well as supporting implementation guidelines. The major focus of rural development was through agriculture development as agriculture was the primary activity in rural areas.

Social protection programmes open the possibility for recipient households to invest in better nutrition, health and education, as well as in productive activities and assets. These benefits spread beyond the immediate recipients to their communities and the broader economy as recipients purchase food, agricultural inputs and other rural goods and services.

In developing the agriculture sector, the primary objective was to increase the productivity and income of agricultural labour, particularly those involved in small-scale and low-technology or traditional farming and fishing.

Our National Agro-food Policy (NAP) from 2011 to 2020 focuses on improving food security and food safety of the nation transforming the agro-food sector into a competitive and sustainable industry. It was developed to increase farmers' income and quality of life.

The National Agro-food Policy has incorporated strategies that are in line with nutritional aspect of the food system to ensure that the people of Malaysia will stay healthy and productive.

In continuum war against poverty and in the lead towards a high-income country by 2020, a more inclusive development approach was launched by the Government of Malaysia in 2010: this includes equitable access to health, education and basic infrastructure and at the same time providing social safety nets to the needy. Since its inception, thousands of families have benefitted.

Farmers are subjected to manipulation and unscrupulous profit taking by middlemen. Middlemen have created several layers of intermediaries, lengthening the supply chain and increasing the opportunity for cartels to form, which in turn drive prices down for farmers and up for consumers. Bountiful harvests may not determine greater gain by farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia, has declared 2014 as The Year of 'War' Against middlemen to ensure farmers get fair returns for their sweat and simultaneously consumers get a reasonable price for agricultural products.

Among steps that are being taken by the Malaysian Government to minimise the role of middlemen is to have more farmers' and fishermens' markets so that they can sell their products directly. Agro-bazaars managed by farmers associations have been established in order to create bigger market for farmers and fishermen.

Farmers' associations are also being given bigger tasks to improve the agro-food value chain efficiently. More collection centres have been established that would enable farmers to sell their products. One agency under the Ministry of Agriculture has been given a responsibility to buy directly from the collection centres or even from the farms. This approach is to strengthen the farmers' and fishermens' resilience but also to ensure sustainable agricultural development.

To date, this initiative has shown a positive outcome, increasing the income of farmers by 8.87 percent. It has also reduced the price of the agro-products in the market. The initiatives have benefited both farmers and consumers, as well as the overall economy.

Despite various initiatives focusing on reducing poverty and hunger in achieving food security, around 780 million people in developing regions still suffer from hunger and over one billion people are extremely poor, living on less than USD 1.25 per day. This figure calls for even more aggressive roles from FAO to increase the capacity of the developing countries.

I urge FAO to play more aggressive roles in reducing poverty and hunger, and to increase agricultural development. We must continue to enhance our investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure. The Member Nations, especially the developing countries, need your strong leadership to improve the current global scenario. Initiatives by FAO in establishing trust funds to support and assist developing countries to resolve issues such as climate change effects, nutrition and many others are very much recognized. Malaysia for instance has experienced natural disasters such as floods and the El Niño phenomenon within four months. The establishment of such a trust fund would assist developing countries affected by the disasters to lessen their losses in any way as well as to encourage them to start over.

I would like to request FAO to give a greater priority in addressing the global poverty and hunger situation through the Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) in the areas of sustainable agriculture management, post-harvest losses, effects of climate change, supply chain, agricultural data and statistics and biosecurity. Malaysia in particular wishes to seek FAO technical expertise assistance on post-harvest losses and Malaysia Good Agriculture Practices (MyGAP).

Before I end my statement, I wish to thank the Director-General for accepting Malaysia to be the host of the 33rd FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in March 2016. I take this opportunity to invite members from Asia and the Pacific region to this important event in our region. I look forward to welcoming you all in Malaysia – which is truly Asia.

Son Excellence Madame Jacqueline SULTAN, Ministre de l'agriculture de Guinée

Je voudrais, à l'entame de mon intervention, présenter mes chaleureuses félicitations à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva pour sa brillante réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO.

La République de Guinée, mon pays, est un pays dont l'économie est à forte dominance agricole malgré l'abondance des ressources minières. L'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche constituent les principales activités pratiquées par plus de 80 pour cent de la population, ces activités rapportant l'essentiel des revenus aux familles rurales.

Ceci explique que l'agriculture et l'alimentation soient au coeur de notre politique gouvernementale. En effet, toutes les interventions dans le secteur agricole sont régies par la Politique nationale de développement agricole et le Plan national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire (PNIASA), en cohérence avec la Stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté.

Le modèle de développement agricole en Guinée va s'articuler autour d'agro-pôles pour le développement des territoires et des terroirs ainsi que des filières et de leurs chaînes de valeur, avec, comme principaux acteurs, les petits producteurs structurés en groupements, coopératives, ou GIE, et organisés selon l'approche «filière».

Pour ce faire, le Gouvernement, depuis 2011, a mobilisé des fonds substantiels pour le renforcement des capacités de services d'appui, notamment celles de l'Institut de recherche agronomique de Guinée, essentiellement dans la production de semences de pré-base et de base, ainsi que des innovations et itinéraires techniques, et de leur diffusion qui est assurée par des conseillers agricoles de l'Agence nationale de la promotion rurale et du conseil agricole. Les services de protection des végétaux ont également été renforcés dans leur capacité d'intervention en matière de lutte contre les fléaux et les nuisibles des cultures. Toutes choses concourant au renforcement des capacités de production des exploitants familiaux.

En cette Année internationale des sols, un accent particulier a été mis sur une meilleure connaissance de nos sols et ceci grâce à la coopération Sud-Sud entre le Royaume du Maroc et la Guinée à travers l'équipement de plusieurs laboratoires de sols et le don d'un laboratoire mobile qui sillonnera toute l'étendue du territoire. Ceci aboutira à l'élaboration d'une carte de fertilité des sols qui permettra une utilisation raisonnée des intrants, notamment des semences et engrais. Que le Maroc en soit ici remercié.

L'approche stratégique de nos campagnes agricoles consiste, entre autres, à la mise à disposition d'engrais, de semences améliorées et de produits phytosanitaires à des prix fortement subventionnés.

L'appui gouvernemental consiste également à faire bénéficier les petits exploitants agricoles des avantages de la mécanisation en milieu rural afin de réduire la pénibilité du travail dans les opérations culturales de récolte, de post-récolte et de transformation.

Plus spécifiquement, dans le cadre des campagnes maraîchères péri-urbaines, les femmes bénéficient d'intrants et de matériels de maraîchage qui ont permis d'une part de contribuer à la diversification alimentaire et nutritionnelle, à l'approvisionnement des marchés en toutes saisons, tout en créant des sources de revenus pour les ménages.

À cela, il faut ajouter des programmes d'aménagement des plaines et des bas-fonds ainsi que des infrastructures d'irrigation pour une meilleure maîtrise de l'eau. Et nous ambitionnons de réaliser au cours des cinq prochaines années 100 000 ha supplémentaires de périmètres irrigués sur financement BND (Budget national de développement) et à travers des partenariats des secteurs public et privé.

Le désenclavement des zones de production vers les marchés est en cours. Nous pourrions citer ici les 5000 km de pistes et autant d'ouvrages de franchissement qui ont été réalisés durant ces cinq dernières années.

Toute cette démarche a permis un accroissement substantiel des productions agricoles, notamment de riz. À titre indicatif, la production a connu un accroissement substantiel, passant de 1 100 000 tonnes de riz paddy en 2010 à 1 970 000 tonnes en 2014. Nos marchés de riz connaissent une stabilité des prix et désormais, les longues périodes de pénurie et de soudure ne sont plus que du passé.

Vous me permettez d'évoquer ici, la crise sanitaire qui a touché mon pays et la sous-région: je veux parler de l'épidémie à virus Ebola, qui a fragilisé les systèmes de production et occasionné, par endroits, le dysfonctionnement du dispositif d'appui technique et de commercialisation, par la fermeture des frontières et l'isolement partiel de la Guinée.

Malgré cette situation, la dynamique de production s'est maintenue, dans l'ensemble, avec une complémentarité d'équilibre entre les régions affectées.

Il convient ici de saluer la capacité de résilience des populations agricoles guinéennes grâce à laquelle la crise sanitaire n'a pas entraîné de crise alimentaire.

C'est le lieu d'exprimer toute notre gratitude à la communauté internationale, aux pays amis, aux partenaires bi- et multi-latéraux, en particulier à la Banque mondiale, à la FAO et au PAM, pour leur promptitude dans la riposte et leur engagement dans le programme de relance post-Ébola.

Je saisis cette opportunité pour plaider en faveur de l'annulation de la dette de mon pays et de celle des autres pays victimes de l'épidémie Ébola.

Nous venons de vous donner un bref aperçu de la stratégie de mise en oeuvre de notre PNIASA, qui vise à l'intensification des cultures vivrières, principalement la riziculture, ainsi que le développement de cultures de rente, industrielles ou d'exportation; je veux parler, entre autres, de filières telles que la mangue, l'ananas, l'hévéa, l'anacarde, le coton, le palmier à huile, le café.

Pour réussir ce plan, nous privilégions la synergie des efforts publics et privés pour stimuler les investissements agricoles permettant aux petits producteurs d'accéder aux technologies, aux chaînes de valeurs et aux marchés.

Pour la mise en oeuvre de notre Vision, plusieurs défis nous interpellent. Il s'agit notamment de la question foncière, de la problématique de la formation et de l'emploi jeunes et de ramener cette jeunesse vers la ruralité; faire de l'agriculteur un entrepreneur à part entière; assurer le financement du secteur agricole à travers le micro et le méso crédit, les investissements et les assurances; encourager par des mesures incitatives le secteur privé à investir dans l'agriculture.

Nos ambitions reposent à la fois sur un important potentiel en capital humain, en terres agricoles, en ressources hydriques, mais aussi sur l'affirmation d'une volonté politique au plus haut niveau pour faire de l'agriculture un véritable levier de développement économique résolument tourné vers la modernité, tout en préservant notre environnement pour un développement durable.

Je voudrais terminer mon intervention en réaffirmant l'engagement de la Guinée à poursuivre les efforts pour atteindre le premier objectif des OMD. Nous adhérons pleinement à l'initiative Faim Zéro.

Excmo. Sr. Don Javier PONCE, Ministro de Agricultura de Ecuador

Empiezo por felicitar a José Graziano da Silva por su reelección como Director General de la FAO. Espero que en este período se continúen las profundas transformaciones iniciadas hace cuatro años que han mejorado el papel del Organismo como socio estratégico en favor de la agricultura.

Cuando imaginamos un paisaje rural, en algunos de nuestros países todavía aparecen los rostros duros de quien labra la tierra día a día con sus propias manos y llega, a través de intermediarios, a un consumidor hambriento de precios bajos, pero alta calidad, sin importar el costo humano invertido en ese producto. Los gobiernos no siempre logran compensar esta injusticia histórica y mantienen el status quo de la inequidad en acceso y en estructuras caducas de distribución de la riqueza. De ahí que se pueda decir que la pobreza no es la falta de recursos, es la inobservancia de parte de los poderes políticos y económicos de su objetivo de atender principalmente a aquellos más vulnerables y excluidos.

La pobreza rural depende de bienes de capital que muchas veces se vuelven inalcanzables. Sin el crédito, el agua, la semilla, la tierra, la tecnología, el pequeño productor no puede abandonar la pobreza.

El Ecuador se ha establecido como meta nacional la erradicación de la pobreza y de la desnutrición, y esto implica un trabajo integral en el ámbito de generación de empleo, salud, vivienda, educación, y ambiente. El Ecuador ha entendido el vínculo entre cambiar su matriz productiva y generar las condiciones necesarias para erradicar el hambre en todos los rincones del país, y se ha comprometido a generar los incentivos para vencer esa deuda histórica de inequidad e indiferencia frente al campesinado.

En nuestro Gobierno, hemos reducido la pobreza por consumo en 13 puntos pasando del 38 al 25 por ciento; por ingresos hemos pasado del 37 al 22 por ciento. En síntesis, hemos reducido la pobreza en 14 puntos: 5 por desarrollo pero 7 por políticas de redistribución.

Solo avanzaremos en esta dirección cuando los pequeños productores accedan a los mercados en condiciones justas, sin intermediarios especuladores, ni distorsiones artificiales de precios a favor de los más grandes. Nuestro objetivo como Gobierno es muy simple: transferir poder al campesinado; poder en la producción, en la semilla, en el conocimiento y la tecnología; poder en la transformación e incorporación de valor a su producción; poder en la cadena de comercialización; poder asociado para que con sus propias manos derrote la pobreza.

Aquello significa alcanzar no solo seguridad alimentaria —una aspiración universalmente aceptada—, sino además soberanía alimentaria, concepto que lamentablemente el mundo del norte y sus multinacionales no entienden ni aceptan.

Este debe ser el imperativo para la FAO y para los países que confiamos en este Organismo: lograr un desarrollo que signifique más que el simple crecimiento económico, un desarrollo que reduzca la pobreza y sobre todo la pobreza extrema que impulse a nivel del mundo nuestros derechos de alcanzar una plena soberanía alimentaria.

No quisiera concluir sin hacerme una pregunta que me he formulado por largo tiempo, desde que a fines del siglo XX nos comprometimos los países del sur a cumplir los objetivos del milenio que hoy evaluamos. En qué han consistido y cuáles han sido, me pregunto, los objetivos del milenio de los países del norte. En qué ha consistido su compromiso con el hambre y la pobreza de los países del sur, como no sea castigar periódicamente el precio de nuestras materias primas sin permitir que despeguemos hacia una sociedad del conocimiento y del desarrollo. Lo que encontramos es una curiosa paradoja: nosotros en el sur buscamos con enorme esfuerzo derrotar el hambre y la pobreza, al tiempo que algunos países del norte buscan desmontar sus sociedades del bienestar. Curiosa paradoja. No encontramos en ellos ni siquiera una solidaridad con los suyos, menos aún una solidaridad con nosotros. Así estamos precisamente a la hora de evaluar los objetivos del milenio.

His Excellency Hari Prasad PARAJULI, Minister for Agricultural Development of Nepal

It is my great pleasure to attend the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. At the outset of this Conference, allow me to congratulate Mr José Graziano Da Silva for your re-election as the Director-General of FAO. I wish you all the best for another successful tenure at FAO and I am very eager to work closely in collaboration for agricultural development including the Zero Hunger Challenge.

We are here to review the state of food and agriculture and its role in breaking the cycle of rural poverty by strengthening rural resilience. In this context, I would like to draw your attention towards the recent earthquake that hit Nepal on 25 April 2015, followed by a series of aftershocks that have had a devastating impact on the life of its citizens and economy of the country.

It has had severe humanitarian implications in terms of food and nutrition security, shelter, health and sanitation, livelihoods, access to market and other services. Nepal is struggling to restore to its normalcy and, at this moment, I would like to recall and appreciate all the generous support provided by the international community.

Nepal has been able to make remarkable success in achieving the Millennium Development Goal. I express my sincere gratitude to all the development partners and the international community for your assistance in achieving the goal and to improving food security situation in Nepal.

Nepal has continued its commitment to reduce rural poverty and hunger and has been mainstreaming a food-based nutrition approach in agricultural programme planning. The Zero Hunger Challenge is one of such initiatives. Several programmes to strengthen rural resilience among farmers through various social protection measures and sustainable agricultural development are also in place.

However, with the recent natural calamity in Nepal, there now remains a huge challenge to retain its achievements of reducing poverty and hunger, to develop resilience and to regain the confidence among the farmers in agriculture. It also poses challenge to achieve the target of graduating from least developing country to developing country by 2022.

For Nepal, agriculture still remains a major sector for overall economic development, for reducing poverty and hunger and for ensuring environmental sustainability. We therefore need to significantly

invest in the sector so that thousands of farmers who are dependent on agriculture become more productive, empowered and resilient and the economy of the country bounces back.

Despite the huge loss, Nepal is still very optimistic to transforming this moment of crisis into the opportunity of building the nation. The support made by the international community was remarkable during the first stage of the disaster, supplying rescue and relief. I believe we will have similar enthusiastic support during the rehabilitation and reconstruction period as well.

I would therefore take this opportunity to request the development partners and international community for your generous support and collaboration through government mechanisms to reduce overlapping and duplication and to increase coverage and efficacy.

Finally, I extend my best wishes for the successful completion of this Conference.

Son Excellence Monsieur Azizou EL HADJ ISSA, Ministre de l'agriculture du Bénin

C'est pour moi un grand honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée à l'occasion de la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, qui de manière opportune a hautement apprécié le travail admirable fourni par le Directeur général de l'Organisation et son équipe. Nous nous devons d'être fiers de sa réélection.

A l'occasion de la tenue de la présente Conférence, je voudrais, solennellement, vous témoigner toute la reconnaissance de mon pays, de son Gouvernement et de son Président le Docteur Boni Yayi, que des contraintes majeures ont empêché d'être présent.

Vous me permettrez de souligner à votre haute attention que nos différents pays à ressources limitées restent affectés jusqu'à présent par les conséquences des différentes crises que le monde a connues depuis 2008. En effet, la faim et la malnutrition continuent de sévir en Afrique sub-saharienne, malgré les efforts incessants de réforme des systèmes de production et de distribution de biens alimentaires. C'est ce qui justifie l'intérêt particulier que mon pays, le Bénin, porte sur le thème de la présente Conférence: "Briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté rurale et de la faim en renforçant la résilience en milieu rural: protection sociale et développement durable de l'agriculture". Ce thème définit fondamentalement le chantier majeur sur lequel nous devons mobiliser nos énergies au cours de cette session, afin de forger un consensus autour des actions à engager pour concrétiser les résultats que nous voulons atteindre.

À cet égard, le Programme de développement de l'après-2015 devra naturellement tenir compte des enseignements et des expériences acquises lors des quinze dernières années dans la phase de la poursuite des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement (OMD). Je pense fortement que les efforts doivent, par conséquent, se poursuivre pour l'élimination de l'extrême pauvreté, des poches de pauvreté persistantes surtout dans le milieu rural et dans les zones péri-urbaines, en mettant un accent particulier sur la création d'emplois décents au profit de la jeunesse et des femmes. C'est là le bien-fondé de la mise en place progressive, au Bénin, des coopératives agricoles de jeunes avec des mesures d'accompagnement liées à la mécanisation et aux aménagements hydro-agricoles.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, vous me permettez encore de rappeler que le Programme d'action d'Istanbul s'est fixé comme objectif majeur de réduire de moitié le nombre des Pays moins avancés à l'horizon 2020 et a placé au premier rang de ses priorités pour y parvenir le renforcement de leurs capacités techniques productives.

Le Bénin, mon pays, a démarré l'évaluation finale des OMD 2015 afin de dresser un bilan sans complaisance des gros efforts déployés et des résultats atteints dans tous les domaines ciblés par ces objectifs.

En toute modestie, je puis dire que les dernières évaluations des performances des OMD 2015 placent le Bénin en tête des vingt premiers pays ayant réalisé le plus de progrès en termes absolus au regard de la proportion de leurs populations sortie de la pauvreté. Mon pays, en effet, s'est distingué, entre autres initiatives, par l'instauration de la gratuité de l'enseignement maternel et primaire et l'octroi de facilités aux niveaux de l'enseignement secondaire et de l'enseignement supérieur, aux élèves et étudiants démunis. Ces mesures ont permis ainsi d'augmenter sensiblement le taux de scolarisation, surtout des filles. Mais des efforts restent encore à poursuivre.

En conclusion et prenant en compte l'acuité de la problématique de l'éradication de la pauvreté en général et rurale en particulier et celle de la faim, le Gouvernement béninois a décidé de soutenir cet engagement noble de la FAO et s'engage à prendre en compte toutes les résolutions qui seront issues de cette 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO pour le bonheur et la prospérité de nos populations.

Vive la coopération internationale au service du développement!

Son Excellence Monsieur Luc OYOUBI, Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la pêche et de la sécurité alimentaire du Gabon

Je tiens sincèrement à remercier la FAO pour l'occasion qu'elle nous donne ici, à travers les présentes assises, d'évaluer ensemble la situation de la faim et de la sous-alimentation sur la planète et de débattre des tendances récentes en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture au niveau mondial.

Je voudrais également, avant de poursuivre mon propos, féliciter Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, pour sa brillante réélection à la tête de notre Organisation. Monsieur le Directeur Général, je vous souhaite plein succès pour ce nouveau mandat.

Le thème de cette Conférence est «Briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté rurale et de la faim en renforçant la résilience en milieu rural: protection sociale et développement durable de l'agriculture». Ce thème est d'une grande importance au regard des enjeux actuels et du bilan à élaborer sur les OMD.

S'agissant du Gabon, il faut dire qu'il y a quelques années à l'issue du Sommet du Millénaire de septembre 2005, le Gouvernement, après avoir renouvelé son engagement à intégrer les OMD dans tous ses documents de planification et de programmation, a mis en œuvre une stratégie globale et volontariste qui lui a permis de réaliser d'excellents progrès en ce qui concerne l'OMD 1, notamment en mobilisant d'importantes ressources destinées au financement des projets porteurs dans les secteurs de base à savoir: la santé, l'éducation, les infrastructures et l'agriculture.

Malgré ces progrès significatifs, la pauvreté et la vulnérabilité demeurent encore présentes dans le pays, notamment en zone rurale.

C'est pourquoi, après une analyse profonde de la situation sur la pauvreté en 2013, le Gouvernement a décidé, sur instructions du Président de la République, Chef de l'État, son Excellence Monsieur Ali Bongo Ondimba, de s'attaquer aux causes profondes de la vulnérabilité.

Le principal défi auquel le Gabon est actuellement confronté est de parvenir à une croissance accélérée, verte et inclusive.

En effet, le secteur agricole gabonais dispose d'un fort potentiel actuellement peu exploité. Son développement permettra de jouer un rôle moteur dans la relance économique du pays.

Toutefois, pour obtenir des résultats durables, le pays devra surmonter un certain nombre d'obstacles, dont les plus importants sont le déficit quantitatif et qualitatif des jeunes agriculteurs; le coût élevé des facteurs de production; la faiblesse des rendements pour les différentes cultures; l'insuffisance des pistes rurales; la fragilité des services d'appui; l'étroitesse des marchés; l'inorganisation des circuits de commercialisation; la faiblesse de l'investissement ainsi que de l'épargne; les difficultés d'accès au foncier et au crédit bancaire; et enfin, le déficit en infrastructures et services sociaux de base.

En matière de pêche, l'objectif prioritaire est d'augmenter la production locale. La réorganisation de la Direction générale des pêches et la création de l'Agence nationale des pêches et de l'aquaculture, ainsi que la construction d'infrastructures de débarquement et de transformation des produits de la pêche, permettront d'atteindre rapidement cet objectif.

Dans le domaine du bois, la nouvelle politique forestière d'industrialisation par la transformation sur place de 100 pour cent des grumes a ouvert de nouvelles opportunités en vue d'accroître les exportations de produits à plus grande valeur ajoutée et de créer des emplois à l'intérieur du pays.

Le Plan stratégique Gabon émergent permettra dans le secteur agricole: l'amélioration durable des revenus et des conditions de vie des populations; l'accroissement de la contribution de l'agriculture et

de la pêche à la formation du PIB; la couverture optimale des besoins alimentaires grâce à une intensification de la production nationale.

Par ailleurs, le Gouvernement a élaboré et mis en place la Stratégie d'investissement humain du Gabon, dont l'objectif principal est de sortir les populations les plus fragiles de la pauvreté et de la précarité, en leur proposant des cadres d'informations, d'encadrement, de renforcement des capacités et d'appui à la production et au développement qui leur permettront à terme de devenir autonomes.

À ce jour, plus d'une dizaine de projets porteurs ont été réalisés avec le concours financier de la FAO et du FIDA dans la production vivrière, maraîchère, avicole et porcine.

Le programme « GRAINE » (Gabonaise des réalisations agricoles et des initiatives des nationaux engagés), lancé en 2014, est un élément important de cette stratégie.

La mise en œuvre des options proposées dans le cadre de cette stratégie de développement du secteur agricole, la contribution de tous les autres secteurs de l'économie, l'assistance des partenaires au développement a permis au Gabon de réaliser d'excellents progrès en matière de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté, atteignant ainsi la première cible de l'OMD n°1 en novembre 2014.

En effet, selon les estimations les plus récentes de la FAO, le Gabon fait partie maintenant du groupe de pays qui ont accompli des progrès remarquables pour avoir ramené la prévalence de la sous-alimentation de 11.7 à 3.1 pour cent entre 1990-1992 et 2014-2016. Pendant la même période, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées a été réduit de plus de moitié, réalisant ainsi l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Pour terminer, je tiens à exprimer ici, la gratitude du Gouvernement gabonais à la FAO et à son Directeur général pour les soutiens multiformes et constants apportés au Gabon dans l'atteinte de ces OMD.

Vive la FAO, vive la coopération internationale.

His Excellency Radha Mohan SINGH, Minister for Agriculture of India

I am delighted to address this august gathering and share with you our experiences in agricultural development and views on the work plan proposed by FAO for the next two years.

However, before I do so, let me take the opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva on his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a second term a couple of days back. The unanimous election itself is a testimony to the faith reposed by Member Nations in his leadership and vision. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate FAO on successfully completing 70 dedicated years in the service of the poor, marginalised and hungry.

It will be remiss on my part if I do not thank the Director-General, FAO and his entire team for the excellent arrangements for this Conference and for introducing an agenda that highlights the major issues affecting global food security and agricultural development. This Conference would, I am sure, serve as the primary global platform for sharing development experiences and knowledge from different countries. I am sure the deliberations here and the outcomes would strengthen FAO in fulfilling its mandate of achieving food and nutritional security for all.

India has to support 17 percent of the world's population on just 2.4 percent of its geographical area and we are conscious of our need for sustainable agricultural development keeping the interest of future generations in mind. Agriculture continues to be a vital component of India's economy contributing over 16 percent of national income in 2014-15 and providing employment to the majority (55 percent) of its population. Indian agriculture has achieved self-sufficiency and today takes pride in not only meeting the needs of our population but also playing a major role in agricultural trade.

India is one among the 15 leading exporters of agricultural products in the world with significant exports of cotton, rice, meat, oil meals and sugar. Export competitiveness has also been developed in specialized agricultural products like basmati rice, guar gum and castor.

Responding to shifts in consumption pattern of India's consumers towards high-value crops as well as fruit, vegetables and meat, and the price signals emanating from this shift, Indian farmers have began

to switch from food grains to more remunerative and high-value crops as well as horticulture and livestock. This in turn has led to increased requirements for investment in agriculture in general and post-harvest infrastructure, processing facilities and warehousing in particular. Realising the need to support the farmers and combat the negative impact of climate change and also to safeguard their production from adverse impact of declining international commodity prices, the Government of India has launched major programmes for revival of public investment in agriculture, both through targeted schemes of the federal government as well as through greater devolution of resources to the provincial governments. Targeted support to farmers at large and women and small-scale family farmers in particular, marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society and the poor through rationalization of subsidies combined with better social safety nets through insurance and universal financial inclusion is the cornerstone of our intervention strategy.

In keeping with the UN declaration of 2015 as the Year of Soils, and understanding the need to conserve the most primary source of production – soil, we have launched new measures to provide Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country in a time-bound manner. This countrywide exercise in which we intend issuing more than 14 crores cards over a period of three years will go a long way in further increasing the production and productivity of Indian agriculture.

At the same time, National Food Security Act has been enacted with the objective of providing food and nutritional security to all by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices. At last years' Committee on World Food Security we have already made a presentation on the salient features of the Act to the Membership and I will desist from reiterating them here. The Act whose implementation costs our government over USD 20 billion has already started showing positive results in combating hunger and malnutrition and is the base on which we have build our intervention strategy to fulfil our commitments to the Rome Declaration under International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014.

There is no doubt that sustaining an overall agricultural growth rate of about four percent over long years is a major challenge in the face of stagnating productivity levels combined with increasing abiotic and biotic stresses which constrain crop yields. We need to focus on research products that can provide us a breakthrough in yields which can be made accessible and affordable for different categories of farmers and for this purpose there is an urgent need to further strengthen the CGIAR institutions to generate technology innovations that can be further up-scaled by national agricultural research systems.

FAO must play a vital role in this. FAO remains the premier knowledge depository and partner for its Member Nations in addressing the emerging challenges in agricultural development. It not only provides us with the platform for knowledge-sharing and technical support, its initiatives through the various technical cooperation programmes that are oriented to national needs deserve special commendation. However, FAO's role in India and other such middle-income countries needs to be reworked and a symbiotic relationship established for an effective partnership ahead. We are glad that FAO is already thinking on these lines and this is reflected in their Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB).

The MTP and PWB come as a breath of fresh air. The Management has made an honest attempt to list areas of priority and areas of de-emphasis in the document. This is most welcome as it helps us understand and appreciate the way forward and also helps us provide relevant inputs. We commend the Management for this.

We would also like to commend FAO and all the member countries for having reached a consensus on the budget level during the Council meeting, a first for FAO. While we are all happy with this development, I feel it is necessary to flag the need for Member Nations to appreciate the financial constraints which we have placed on FAO while demanding enhanced performance from it with every passing year. I think the time has come for all of us to reconsider the zero nominal growth model which we have chosen for FAO.

In conclusion, I would like to inform that agricultural growth remains one of the topmost priorities for our Government and we are addressing the concerns of our farming community with renewed focus on public and private investments to provide infrastructure, ensure technology transfer to farmers,

generate employment both on and off the fields and to sustain agricultural development as well as to strengthen the country's nutritional and food security. We are committed to our farmers, especially small-scale family farmers and women farmers and look forward to a fruitful partnership with FAO and with all of you as we dedicate ourselves to the commitment of eradicating hunger and malnutrition within our lifetime.

I wish the Conference success in its deliberations.

Son Excellence Madame Siti KASSIM, Ministre de la production, de l'environnement, de l'énergie, de l'industrie et de l'artisanat des Comores

Je me réjouis de partager avec vous cette auguste assemblée et de prendre la parole au nom de mon Gouvernement, dans le cadre de la 39^{ème} Conférence de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais personnellement féliciter chaleureusement le Directeur général pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général pour les quatre années à venir, ceci étant un geste de confiance de tous les pays membres de notre Organisation.

Nous sommes invités au cours de cette session à débattre des points devant concourir aux objectifs stratégiques de la FAO en matière de lutte contre la faim, la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire, principaux défis de nos pays en voie de développement, en particulier les petits États insulaires.

Nous devons donc faire de notre mieux pour débattre des tendances récentes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture au niveau mondial; reconnaître que malgré les progrès significatifs, la pauvreté, la faim et la vulnérabilité demeurent extrêmement présentes dans nos pays; noter que la protection sociale reste un levier fort qui peut contribuer efficacement à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à l'insécurité alimentaire.

Pour mémoire, en 2014, les Membres de la FAO, les parlementaires, les membres de la société civile et du secteur privé ont approuvé la Déclaration de Rome sur la nutrition et le cadre d'action, laquelle consacre le droit de chaque personne à l'accès à des aliments sûrs, nutritifs et en quantité suffisante. Elle engage ainsi les gouvernements à prévenir la malnutrition sous toutes ses formes.

Quant au cadre d'action, celui-ci reconnaît que les gouvernements ont le rôle principal en matière de conception des stratégies productives et politiques relatives à la sécurité alimentaire, en lien avec la protection sociale et la résilience face aux menaces et aux situations de crises pour un développement durable.

Cette vision cadre bien avec les priorités du Gouvernement comorien à travers son cadre d'orientation, la Stratégie de croissance accélérée et de développement durable, notamment la réduction de la pauvreté à un niveau socialement acceptable, l'accélération, la diversification et la durabilité de la croissance (Axe stratégique 1), le renforcement de l'accès aux services sociaux de base et à la résilience des ménages (Axe stratégique 3).

Je voudrais ainsi porter à votre connaissance, que les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO concourent parfaitement aux priorités du Cadre de programmation par pays Comores pour la période 2014-2019 que nous avons signé récemment.

Je saisis cette occasion au nom du Gouvernement comorien que je représente pour, d'une part, féliciter la FAO des avancées notables faites par elle-même dans la mise en œuvre du Cadre de programmation par pays Comores pour l'exercice biennal 2014-2015 et, d'autre part, remercier les bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux pour leurs efforts inlassables.

Permettez-moi, au nom de l'Union des Comores et en mon nom personnel de m'adresser au Directeur général pour solliciter son soutien précieux et bienveillant dans l'accompagnement de mon pays pour l'achèvement de l'exercice biennal 2014-2016 et de sa suite.

Je ne peux terminer mon propos sans pour autant remercier les organisateurs de cette 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO, ainsi que le pays hôte, l'Italie, et je n'oublierai pas non plus la BID, le FIDA, le Koweït et la République populaire de Chine, pour ne citer que ceux-là, qui nous soutiennent toujours et inlassablement dans notre combat.

Tous unis dans l'action, nous réussissons. Vive la coopération internationale, vive la FAO, vive l'Union des Comores.

The Honourable Duminda DISSANAYAKE, Minister for Agriculture of Sri Lanka

At first, I wish to convey the best wishes of H.E. Mithreepala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka, and the Government of Sri Lanka to Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, for his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. I am sure that you will lead this important Organization to achieving the set objectives of the FAO.

As the Minister for Agriculture of Sri Lanka, I am thankful to the Director-General, for having invited me to this Conference, which I consider a privilege and honour, to make this statement on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Many of you are aware that the agriculture sector is the foundation of Sri Lanka's economy, with 70 percent of the population living in rural areas, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. It contributes about 10 percent to the Gross Domestic Product, and employs 28 percent of the labour force. Despite being a small island nation, Sri Lanka has good potential for economic development through further improvement of the agricultural sector, and therefore the Government is very optimistic of ensuring food and nutrition security of the country, through self-sufficiency and increased production of safe and quality food.

In this context, the Government of Sri Lanka is placing high priority on the agriculture sector. Having identified the adverse impact of soaring food prices during off seasons, the government implemented a special home-gardening project during its 100 day programme to increase vegetable production, and making available the agro-produce throughout the year in order to stabilize the market prices. The intention of this project was to establish 700 000 home gardens, covering all villages of the country. Its prime objective is to strengthen peoples' economic status and minimize their dependency on markets for food and nutrition requirements. This programme aims to raise food production through distribution of high-yielding seedling and providing training for the non-farming community.

A High-Level Committee on "Food and Nutrition Security and Monitoring of Cost of Living" meets regularly to review the food situation in the country to make policy directives to address the issues. Moreover, the Government has introduced following policy measures to brace up aforesaid programmes.

- Expansion of paddy purchasing programme, raising floor price of paddy and imposing a ceiling price for rice;
- Continuing fertilizer subsidy scheme with further expansion to other crops;
- Relaxing seed import policy allowing import of hybrid seeds;
- Provision of import duty concessions for agricultural machinery and other relevant policy measures.

As a result of these strategies and directives, Sri Lanka has achieved self-sufficiency in rice and maize, which are our staple food and main feed materials.

Nevertheless, the country is blessed with good potential to produce pulses, such as green gram, soybean, black gram, cereal - finger millet, and crops, such as potato, chilies and big onion within the country. The current production levels of these crops are not adequate to meet the national requirements. Hence, the Government is in the process of launching special projects aiming to increase the production of these crops. In addition, we are now focusing our attention to improve the sub-sectors of women empowerment, e-agriculture and agri-markets. Also, we will launch the "Zero Hunger Challenge" programme later this month.

To address the challenge of global food and nutrition security, investment in agriculture plays an important role in improving agricultural productivity. We should encourage all stakeholders at national, regional and global levels to work closely with the professionals in the fields of science, technology and industry to ensure that investment in agriculture sector is given a high profile in the country's investment strategy for the sustainable development.

At this juncture, it would be remiss if I do not mention the valuable contribution made thus far by FAO, in extending its continued assistance to our country by an array of ways and means in the form of various agricultural projects. This assistance has given a kind of relief to the Government in terms of financial and technical perspectives, while the Government of Sri Lanka, highly appreciating the support being rendered by FAO, and we look forward to receiving enhanced support in future, under the Leadership of the Director-General and his team.

As you would be aware Sri Lanka is the current Chair of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), which is a group of developing countries established to promote and sustain fruitful south-south cooperation and north-south dialogue with a view to achieving economic progress, stability and sustainable development. As the Chair, I would like take this opportunity to make a brief statement on behalf of the group.

Let me at the outset extend my sincere appreciation and that of the G-15 to the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and his team for organizing this very important Conference.

FAO is playing profound and commendable roles on eradication of hunger and extreme poverty, food insecurity, while building resilience and catalyzing agriculture and rural development.

The G-15 views the 39th Session of the Conference of the FAO as auspicious and timely, considering 2015 as a landmark year for the global development agenda that will see convergences of the international community in discussing Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in New York, and the climate change conference in Paris.

With the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture and people whose livelihood depends on agriculture, particularly small-scale farmers, there is a need to enhance research and empower institutions that will assist the most vulnerable segments of the world population and make them the focus of development and technology transfer.

The realization of the 2030 global target to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and extreme poverty demands a multi-faceted approach in complementing economic growth and productive capacities; strengthening rural resilience through social protection and sustainable agricultural development.

Finally, the Group of Fifteen calls for reaching agreement on ambitious and inclusive outcome documents of the Conference that will form the critical part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms Krysta HARDEN, Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture

It is an honour and a pleasure to join my colleagues from all over the world at this 39th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I would also like to extend my personal and my country's congratulations to Dr Graziano da Silva on his re-election.

The United States remains firmly committed to combatting global poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, improving agricultural productivity, expanding opportunities for rural economic growth, and bettering the lives of families around the world. Director-General, I would like to reassure you that the United States fully supports the FAO mission and we stand ready to work with you to promote the many priorities that we share with FAO. These include, but are not limited to, the work of Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention, combatting animal and plant diseases, climate-smart agriculture, empowering women in agriculture, sustainable use of ocean resources and eradicating world hunger. Likewise, we believe the FAO is uniquely placed to play an important role in implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda related to hunger, nutrition, oceans and the environment, among others.

As Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, I am part of a team of people tasked with ensuring the health and security of American farms and forests, rural communities and food systems.

In my role, I have had the opportunity to travel across the United States and around the world. I have met farmers and ranchers as diverse as the countries represented here today. And as the daughter and granddaughter of farmers myself, I can tell you that no matter where you come from, farmers at their core are much more alike than they are different.

You must be at all times one part nurturer, one part trend forecaster, one part scientist and one part businessperson. You must build strong operations that can withstand risk from all sides, so that even when Mother Nature brings her worst, you can survive. You are responsible for growing food that not only feeds and nourishes a growing world population, but also caters to increasingly sophisticated tastes.

As we heard earlier, the 2015 State of Food and Agriculture report touches on some of the challenges that farmers in the United States and around the world face. Whether you are growing enough to sustain your own family or to feed hundreds of families, being a farmer in this world is not easy but it is a critically important job.

Rural people and places have a power unlike many others. They meet one of our most fundamental needs – nutrition – and do so in the most efficient, sustainable way. We know that agriculture is helping to drive the economic growth needed to eventually eliminate food insecurity and poverty around the world. But we must do more to support and build up our farmers as they innovate to meet growing demands for food in the face of increasingly constrained resources, global climate change and a growing world population.

That is something the United States takes very seriously. Since the early days of his administration, President Obama has emphasized his commitment to robust US leadership on food security issues.

From the G8 commitment to sustainable global food security in 2009 came our Feed the Future programme and a US government-wide investment of more than USD 3.7 billion. In 2012, President Obama rallied a group of global leaders at the G8 Summit at Camp David to launch the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which is focused on increasing public-private partnerships to leverage new investments in agricultural systems. That commitment has now leveraged an investment of USD 10 billion from more than 200 companies – the majority from African firms and farmer-owned businesses. And last year, the United States was one of the founding members of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, a knowledge platform for taking stock of ongoing agricultural practices and adaptation techniques, and for sharing information with our partners around the globe.

Global food security is not an insular discussion. It impacts all nations. All nations have a role to play in supporting agricultural growth and driving the innovation we need to survive and thrive.

Innovation will help us sustainably intensify production to grow the food we need – but trade is the engine we rely on to distribute the food for those in need.

Trade and efficient markets are critical to global food security, and they also expand markets for American producers. For example, between fiscal years 2010 and 2014, US agricultural exports to developing countries grew 44.3 percent for developing countries, significantly outpacing the 33.4 percent for developed countries. Exports to Southeast Asia grew 56.5 percent.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the three international standard-setting bodies – OIE, IPPC, PPC, and Codex – for their contribution to sustainable trade systems. Through their voluntary international standards, these bodies help to protect the health of consumers worldwide and support fair practices in international trade. They help to ensure that healthy food moves from the fields where it is grown to where it is needed most.

The United States remains committed to a global, rules-based trading system. Our global trade environment must be based on established rules that not only reduce barriers and costs, but also increase the reliability of trading systems. We continue to support a more efficient global market that allows trade to flourish for the benefit of not only of hundreds of millions of hungry people around the world, but also to the sustainable economic growth of developing nations and the long-term economic prosperity of the United States.

To be sure, the work ahead of us is challenging. Because of this, we need one another now more than ever. And resources around the world are tight.

We will need to be even more strategic and thorough in our planning processes – looking at what resources we have and how we might bring them to bear.

This is a pivotal time in FAO's history, one that presents FAO stakeholders with a unique opportunity to truly make a difference. I, as head of the United States delegation, urge each of you to join with the United States in recommitting ourselves to the important work done by FAO to reduce hunger and raise incomes around the world.

Mr Godfrey Weston ZAMBI, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives of the United Republic of Tanzania

Chairperson, I wish to congratulate you and the distinguished members of the Bureau for your leadership in which I trust that the deliberations of this 39th Session of the FAO Conference will be successful.

Allow me also to register my deep appreciation to the Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, and the FAO for inviting us to the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

The Tanzanian delegation would like to join the other delegations in congratulating Dr. José Graziano da Silva for his re-election as Director-General of FAO. The highest number of votes in his favour came as a clear manifestation and confidence that the FAO member countries have in his performance. Tanzania is confident that Dr. da Silva will continue with the excellent ongoing work on FAO reforms in their quest to make the Organization deliver better on its noble aim of reducing hunger. We wish him well and assure him of our continued strong support and cooperation during his second term of office.

Agriculture remains an important preoccupation for the majority of our people, and it remains central in Africa's effort to address poverty alleviation and in realizing the continent's food security targets. In Tanzania, the agricultural sector is a key driver of social and economic development as it has great potential for reducing rural poverty and hunger by increasing growth and investments in crops, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors. In 2014, the agriculture sector contributed 28.9 percent to the national GDP and 30 percent of the country's export earnings. It employs 75 percent of the population, provides livelihood to more than 70 percent of the population and contributes to about 100 percent of national food requirements.

While Tanzania is currently self-sufficient in terms of food production, it is among countries that are being affected by the dynamics of global food markets and performance challenges which have continued to impinge on rural poverty. Despite much investment made in the sub-sectors poverty, hunger and malnutrition still remain a big challenge. We are conscious that without proactive public action many of the poor and vulnerable rural population will continue to suffer. My Government has in place different initiatives, including policies, which encourage utilization of the available potential resources to address the challenges of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

We are also determined to intensify our efforts towards improving institutional arrangements and engaging the private sector in order to make strides in improving food security and nutritional status of our people. We believe this is the best way in building resilience and strengthening food production systems that will result in poverty eradication.

The Government of Tanzania has recently launched the "Big Results Now Initiative – BRN" which, among other things, aims at accelerating the agricultural growth and the attainment of specific targets in increasing production and productivity of critical crops for addressing food insecurity and growth in the country. Presently, priority crops include rice, maize and sugarcane. The initiative aims at bringing new vigour and completing the existing policies in catalyzing investment in the agriculture sector. The BRN builds on the Southern Agriculture Corridor approach which was initially established to create conducive environment, and win the confidence of investors to enhance investments in the agriculture sector. We are glad to have other complimentary initiatives and programmes that are implemented in collaboration with FAO and other development partners. We still welcome more

partners to invest in technological support to combat poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition among our people.

Finally, I wish to reiterate our firm commitment to continue working with FAO in the war against hunger and eradication of rural poverty. We support the overall thrust put in the State of Food and Agriculture Report (SOFA), as it adequately alludes to the theme of our deliberations this week, especially on the need to create synergies in integrating the social protection and food security for sustainable development. We are conscious that acquiring adequate financial resources to deliver on these tasks is a big challenge. I wish to encourage fellow members of FAO to continue supporting this Organization, and in this respect my delegation wishes to acknowledge the historic consensus on the budget achieved during the 151st Session of the FAO Council. In our view, this is an indication of Members' confidence in the leadership of the Organization, in particular Dr. José Graziano da Silva, and the Independent Chair of the Council Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa, who have ably steered the Organization for the period that they have been in the office.

Sr. Don Jaime Haddad SÁNCHEZ DE CUETO, Vice-Ministro de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente de España

Quiero en primer lugar felicitar a nuestro Director General por su merecida reelección. Felicitación que también extiendo al Presidente Independiente del Consejo y a los nuevos miembros del Consejo que serán elegidos el próximo viernes, proceso al que España también concurre. A todos ellos les deseo los mayores éxitos, y les transmito que contarán con todo el apoyo de nuestro Gobierno y de nuestra Representación Permanente ante la FAO en Roma.

Me cabe el honor de presidir la delegación de mi país, España, ante esta 39ª sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO, en la que se van a discutir y refrendar relevantes cuestiones, que tendrán una enorme trascendencia para amplios sectores de la población mundial.

Los ambiciosos Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, en tanto en cuanto contemplaban el compromiso de erradicar la pobreza antes de 2015, desgraciadamente, no se han podido cumplir en su totalidad.

En este sentido, la extrema pobreza y la inseguridad alimentaria, siguen concentrándose principalmente en las zonas rurales.

El primer paso para erradicar la pobreza y el hambre está relacionado con la disponibilidad de tierras y el uso sostenible del agua como medios para incrementar la producción de alimentos, siempre teniendo en cuenta la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente y los recursos naturales. El adecuado uso del agua y el acceso a ella por parte de los agricultores es probablemente el elemento clave para romper el círculo de pobreza-hambre. En este sentido nos parece especialmente útil y oportuno el último informe del Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria: El Agua para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición. En él se tratan expresamente los cambios producidos recientemente en mi país en materia de regadío.

En segundo lugar, forman parte también de la realidad a combatir factores tales como la desigualdad en el proceso de desarrollo de los países, la falta de acceso a medios financieros, a la ciencia y la tecnología y a la falta de servicios y oportunidades de empleo en las zonas rurales.

Para paliar todos estos problemas estructurales, desde nuestro punto de vista, es imprescindible una actitud proactiva de los gobiernos, que consista en la aplicación de estrategias globales para garantizar un apoyo a las familias vulnerables y crear oportunidades para romper con la transmisión intergeneracional de la pobreza extrema y el hambre.

En definitiva, abordar la pobreza y la vulnerabilidad en el corto y largo plazo mediante una acción integrada de todo el sistema público y privado, abarcando la salud, la educación, la agricultura y el sistema alimentario en general. Ello incluye programas de protección social, en los que se preste mayor atención a la participación local en los procesos de toma de decisiones.

En cuanto a nuestra experiencia, España es un país tradicionalmente muy ligado a su territorio rural. Hemos pasado de un modelo productivo agrario concebido fundamentalmente para la supervivencia de la familia, a contar en la actualidad con un modelo de explotación empresarial. En este proceso se

proporciona formación a los agricultores, se han reestructurado las explotaciones, se está fomentando la integración de las explotaciones familiares en proyectos asociativos para favorecer su poder negociador, se intenta facilitar el acceso al crédito por parte de los agricultores, se han llevado a cabo importantes transformaciones en regadío y contamos con uno de los sistemas de seguros agrarios más completo del mundo. Todo esto conservando nuestras tradiciones rurales que forman parte de nuestra historia y de nuestro futuro.

El Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente del Reino de España, está además desarrollando políticas que promueven la participación y el reconocimiento de las mujeres rurales, consciente de que desempeñan una función clave de apoyo a sus hogares y comunidades para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, generar ingresos y mejorar los medios de subsistencia y el bienestar general en el medio rural. Nuestra experiencia es muy positiva en políticas de participación y reconocimiento de las mujeres rurales que tienen como objetivo la mejora de sus condiciones de trabajo y de vida, incidiendo especialmente en la formación, asesoramiento, creación de empresas, desarrollo de nuevas tecnologías, fomento de asociacionismo y la conciliación de la vida profesional y familiar.

Por otro lado, los agricultores jóvenes constituyen otro de los colectivos que deben ser objeto de una especial atención si pretendemos planificar unas medidas políticas de largo alcance, dándoles fundadas expectativas sobre su futuro.

Finalmente, en mi país, en el trabajo por el desarrollo del medio rural, consideramos como un objetivo prioritario la difusión de la cultura de la Innovación y el fomento de la I+D+i en el sector agroalimentario y forestal, como vía para mejorar su competitividad, sostenibilidad e internacionalización.

España quiere aprovechar este encuentro para transmitir un mensaje global de compromiso y esperanza referente a la seguridad alimentaria, la protección social y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible, poniendo humildemente nuestra experiencia a disposición de la asamblea y de todos sus miembros.

Mr Vassil GROUDEV, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria (Original language French)

Contemporary agriculture has a multifunctional nature and provides a number of benefits to the society far beyond those of the traditional agricultural activities. Without doubt, however, its most important role is associated with ensuring food security, breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger in the world, as well as providing quality and safe food at reasonable prices.

The envisaged world's population growth in the coming years increases the risk of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Currently, over 800 million people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger, and about 500 million people have no access to drinking water.

As a result of the above mentioned the sector faces a number of challenges. The pressure on the natural resources and the harmful effects on the environment are increasing. The environmental and natural resources are increasing, which is a serious threat to the biodiversity. Prices of agricultural commodities, food losses and food waste are going up. There is a real threat for the small farms in the context of the globalization. The impact of the climate changes on the sector should not be forgotten.

The food security is a main priority worldwide and a general objective of the millennium. To achieve it we need to take into account a number of factors and pay particular attention to the development of sustainable agriculture. This means to think, plan and work in a social, economic and environmental terms. It is necessary to provide social support and protection to the vulnerable population, to help increase the income of the farmers and the share of the sector in the economies of the countries, as well as to observe the environmental standards in order to protect resources and their proper use and recovery.

Thus we shall achieve a viable and balanced agriculture and food production, which will contribute to the food security and will prevent hunger and malnutrition.

Bulgaria supports the FAO's Global Initiative to reduce food waste in cooperation with various partners, launched in 2011 and aimed at promoting the dialogue between stakeholders involved in the

chain of production and food supply and development of effective measures to reduce the food loss and the food waste.

The global challenges require that the world agricultural and food system and the policies that govern it, both nationally and internationally, continue with the adaptation to contemporary conditions. An effectively functioning international trading system would help to balance global supply and global demand. The structure of the production changes and trade becomes increasingly important in creating a link between the regions with a surplus and those with food shortages.

European agriculture has considerable potential to contribute to the global food supplies, while using the available resources effectively. This, however, should be developed and increased, based on the implementation of innovative technologies; implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices; promoting investments in research and development; increasing the expertise and skills of farmers.

Organic farming has an important contribution to the sustainability, because of the preservation of the natural resources and the environment, strengthening of agro-ecosystems, the conservation of biodiversity and soil biological activity and it provides for the future generations the benefits of the preserved nature.

The challenges facing contemporary society are so numerous and significant, that require the joint efforts of the entire international community. In this sense, attracting more and more participants in discussions about the development and the future of the food sector will allow the formulation of more adequate policies and implementation of joint initiatives that can contribute to the reduction of the risks for food security worldwide.

The Bulgarian government has concentrated its efforts on improvement of food security, and we are actively involved in carrying out specific actions to achieve reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the world. Strengthening of the international policy coordination would increase confidence in international markets. It is necessary to work for the improvement and the development of tools for risk management in order to build capacity to manage and reduce the risks associated with the volatility of the food prices, particularly in the poorest countries.

The Bulgarian Rural Development Programme for the new programming period 2014-20 has a series of measures with direct or indirect results aimed at sustainable rural development – an essential factor in ensuring food security.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that Bulgaria, as a Member State of the European Union, works on strengthening food security in developing countries by improving the agricultural productivity, increasing the value added in agriculture, enhancing the vitality of rural areas and making investments in agricultural research.

Sr. Don Hernán Román CALDERÓN, Vice-Ministro de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de Colombia

En primer lugar quiero extenderle las felicitaciones del Gobierno de Colombia y en particular del Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de Colombia al Profesor José Graziano Da Silva, por su reelección para un nuevo período como Director General de FAO. Cuento Señor Director General con toda nuestra disposición para continuar trabajando conjuntamente con su Organización en resolver problemas de desarrollo agropecuario en Colombia y a niveles regional y mundial.

Permítame empezar mi intervención repitiendo las palabras que el Señor Presidente de Colombia pronunció ayer en la celebración del día del campesino: "La paz comienza en el campo, la paz que quiero para Colombia a quienes más va a beneficiar es a los campesinos colombianos".

También nuestro Presidente Juan Manuel Santos al referirse al primer punto de la agenda de negociación pactada entre el Gobierno Nacional y la guerrilla de las FARC, reiteró que "el único punto que yo acepté que se discutiera en La Habana como política pública, fue el tema del desarrollo rural, del desarrollo integral en el campo, porque lo importante es que si logramos esa paz, vamos a terminar el conflicto armado, el principal obstáculo que nos ha impedido desarrollar el campo en Colombia".

Al insistir en que los más beneficiados de un eventual acuerdo con las Farc serán los campesinos del país, el Presidente pidió el apoyo de los habitantes del campo en la búsqueda de nuestra paz.

Es casi imperativo que en esta intervención que hacemos como Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de Colombia mencionemos nuestro conflicto interno que hace más de 50 años se inició en las zonas rurales, donde se politizó la problemática de pobreza y atraso en las zonas pobres de Colombia. Lo más lógico entonces habría sido evitar el uso de la disculpa del campo para adelantar una confrontación política, sino haber planteado como lo hace la FAO en esta Conferencia, que la superación del hambre y la pobreza extrema requiere una estrategia para complementar el crecimiento económico y los enfoques productivos.

Centrarse en las zonas rurales y la agricultura, sobre todo en las explotaciones familiares y trabajadores rurales, es imprescindible para hacer frente a la concentración preponderante de la extrema pobreza y la inseguridad alimentaria en las zonas rurales, áreas dentro del contexto de la interrelación de la agricultura con el hambre y la pobreza rural.

Es por esto que Colombia considera que todos los países y observadores participando en esta Conferencia, apoyemos tal y como lo han expresado los delegados que me han precedido en sus intervenciones, los puntos planteados por FAO, como control focal de las políticas para acabar con el hambre y la desnutrición en nuestros países, destacando en particular, el esfuerzo integral que implica el objetivo de apoyar los esfuerzos para explorar los vínculos entre la protección social, la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y cómo estos pueden ser utilizados para promover el desarrollo rural.

En el ámbito internacional la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional ha sido una preocupación constante por ser un componente constitutivo del desarrollo humano y de la seguridad nacional. Por ello, Colombia adopta la definición de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación, convocada por la FAO en 1996, la cual establece que “existe seguridad alimentaria cuando todas las personas en todo momento tienen acceso económico y físico a suficientes alimentos inocuos y nutritivos para satisfacer sus necesidades alimentarias y preferencias en cuanto a alimentos a fin de llevar una vida sana y activa”.

La Política Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de Colombia define seguridad alimentaria como “La disponibilidad suficiente y estable de alimentos, el acceso y el consumo oportuno y permanente de los mismos en cantidad, calidad e inocuidad por parte de todas las personas, bajo condiciones que permitan su adecuada utilización biológica, para llevar una vida saludable y activa”.

Colombia, a pesar de ser un importante productor de varios productos agrícolas y ganaderos a nivel mundial, sigue teniendo una enorme frontera agrícola sin explorar. En Colombia tenemos 21.8 millones de hectáreas con potencial agrícola de las cuales 5.3 millones están cultivadas. Dentro de las regiones con mayor potencial agrícola está la región de La Altillanura, territorio al este del país con 3.2 millones de hectáreas con potencial de aprovechamiento agrícola, ganadero y forestal.

Considerando las perspectivas de desarrollo tecnológico estimamos que en 2024 se podría tener en producción unas 780 000 hectáreas adicionales que generarían 313 000 nuevos empleos asociados al desarrollo agropecuario, y una producción de 1.3 millones de toneladas de alimentos. Entre los productos están el café, la caña de azúcar, caucho, frutales, palma de aceite, soja, sorgo y maíz.

Colombia reconoce que a pesar de los grandes logros alcanzados, siguen registrándose niveles elevados de pobreza, hambre y vulnerabilidad en muchos países.

En particular, como responsables de la Política de Desarrollo Rural en Colombia, reconocemos a nivel nacional la insuficiencia de recursos presupuestales del gobierno nacional actualmente, como consecuencia de la gran caída de los precios del petróleo, para poder resolver problemas de acceso a servicios sociales básicos como la educación y la salud, calidad de la vivienda y mejora en condiciones laborales, como variables que muestran la situación asociada a la pobreza rural.

Con relación a los indicadores sobre calidad de la vivienda, observamos importantes avances en las políticas de vivienda de interés social rural adelantadas por el Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo

Rural para mejorar el tamaño y la calidad de la construcción de nuevas viviendas rurales, para lo cual también se plantean metas más altas y mayor disponibilidad de recursos tanto para viviendas de campesinos como en nuestra población indígena y afrocolombiana. Al comienzo de su mandato, el Presidente Santos se comprometió a construir y entregar 100 000 viviendas nuevas de interés social y prioritario, de las cuales podemos orgullosamente decir que más de 60 000 ya han sido construidas.

En relación con la inversión para el desarrollo rural y la eliminación de la pobreza, Colombia ha hecho grandes esfuerzos por consolidar una política de inversión en el campo conducente a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los habitantes. El presupuesto de inversión del sector agropecuario, en el período 2010-14 presentó un crecimiento positivo: 13,6 por ciento entre 2010-11, 24,6 por ciento entre 2011-12. Como consecuencia podemos decir que la pobreza multidimensional en Colombia pasó de ser superior al 30 por ciento en el 2010 al 21 por ciento en el 2014.

Adicionalmente, Colombia a través del Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural ha venido implementando políticas, programas y proyectos innovadores que promueven ese desarrollo. Estos programas han sido concebidos para atender las demandas de población de territorios predominantemente rurales, con actividades económicas diversas y de pequeña producción campesina; una gran diversidad agroecológica y con un gran potencial socioeconómico y cultural, con miras a una siempre mayor vinculación urbano rural, mayor presencia de organizaciones económicas que ayuden a resolver el tejido social básico de los pobres rurales, y una mayor presencia de instituciones públicas y privadas que puedan desarrollar esas sinergias.

Es evidente que el sector rural tiene las mayores necesidades básicas insatisfechas e índices de pobreza más altos, ya que es más difícil acceder a los beneficios ofrecidos por los instrumentos de política y del Gobierno. Por esta razón, en la Política de desarrollo rural con enfoque territorial que estamos implementando ahora se busca focalizar las intervenciones en las zonas más vulnerables y necesitadas y así como disminuir las brechas de pobreza y desigualdad.

En este sentido, el marco de acción de las intervenciones concentradas en el desarrollo rural, se priorizan en la superación de pobreza, buscando un progreso amplio e integral que incluye todos aquellos aspectos necesarios para que los territorios y sus habitantes logren un desarrollo social y económico sostenible.

Colombia reconoce la importancia de la Declaración del Año Internacional de los Suelos, así como de la celebración del Día Mundial del Suelo. Esto constituye una invaluable contribución para aumentar la conciencia acerca de la importancia de la gestión sostenible como base para los sistemas alimentarios, la producción de combustible y fibras y las funciones esenciales de los ecosistemas, en beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Para Colombia es prioritario dar soluciones concretas a las problemáticas de desertificación, degradación de tierras y sequía. El problema de desertificación en el mundo entero y en Colombia alerta sobre los inconvenientes que impiden la producción de alimentos para la población mundial, dado que el suelo constituye más del 90 por ciento de la base para dicha producción.

Quiero, para terminar, reiterar la adhesión de Colombia al Preámbulo de la Constitución de la FAO, que reconoce que el objetivo final de toda la Organización es el de asegurar a la humanidad el derecho a estar protegida contra el hambre y contribuir así a la expansión de la economía mundial y a liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

Her Excellency Simona MAN, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania

It is an honour for me to participate in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for his second term as Director-General. I wish him every success in the implementation of a new level of the FAO evolution based on his idea of focusing on shared knowledge.

The situation in rural zones is complex and differs greatly from one region to the next and from country to country. The rural area is where the solar energy is converted into agricultural production.

In spite of one million farms in Romania, the standard of living in rural areas is not sufficiently reflected in the overall well-being of the country's population. As a result of the implementation of a National Rural Development Programme, the rural population has taken advantage of many investments that have contributed to modernizing and improving many aspects of their living standards. The implementation of programmes in rural areas has resulted in the establishment of around 13 000 new young farmers.

In order to continue to rise the standard of living it is necessary for smallholder farmers to be able to obtain appropriate production methods in order to raise their revenues and their standards of living. We need to make sure that rural residents have access to education and that they can take advantage of continuous training in order to overcome the various challenges and the constant changes that they encounter in the trade chain.

We have noted in the Post-2015 Development Agenda published in December 2014 by the UN Secretary-General that trade has contributed to reducing poverty. Commercial trade in agriculture products should also generate revenues for farmers so that they can continue to be motivated and encouraged to stay in rural areas.

I am now going to touch upon the topic of the local food chain production. The local food production system stimulates the local economies – small- and medium-holders, most of whom are family farms – and in this way they can build up their networks of production and distribution chain and to supply products directly to local consumers or to customers and shops, restaurants, local hotels, and thus they create jobs.

Although the competitive advantage of each country, region and product is quite clear, however the natural conditions in every country are not always favourable to production and so we sometimes need to help regions to support communities locally and to encourage people to stay in rural areas.

Without innovation the world would be incapable to produce enough food to meet the growing needs of our population and to better protect the environment.

The crucial role of community development in the rural areas is seen by the introduction and the utilization of the broadest possible range of innovation and new technologies in order to produce goods, and this boosts the commercial efficiency with direct impact on generated income.

The material processing and transformation by local cooperatives in the same areas also raise more revenues for producers.

The creation of relations between farmers and their customers in urban areas through short distribution chains also helps them to keep their land, to protect their families and to maintain people in the rural areas.

Efforts set out to stabilize jobs and to create more jobs in rural areas all lead to easing the social pressure on governments and at the same time reduce migration to cities or to other countries.

This multidimensional and systematic approach is required in order to identify and implement new ways of enhancing the standards of living in rural areas and to attain sustainable development.

The meeting rose at 19:10 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.10

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 June 2015

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 09.53 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 09 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 09.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)***(C 2015/2 Rev.1)***Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)****Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)**

Netherlands, Central African Republic, Myanmar, Zambia, Swaziland, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Oman, Russian Federation, Niger, Nicaragua, Ghana, Hungary, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Indonesia, Chad, Israel, China, European Union

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Can I ask you respectfully to take your seats, we are about to start. We apologise for the delay and the Chairperson will explain the reason for this delay.

CHAIRPERSON

Good Morning, I hope you had a relaxed evening yesterday after the long meeting we had yesterday.

I apologize for the delay this morning which is due to the lengthy meeting we had this morning at the General Committee.

Before starting I would like to say a short prayer:

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth. We pray for thy greatness, and thank you for your goodness and all what you have done for us. Instil upon our hearts of forgiveness and spirit of forgiveness to help others, especially the less fortunate. Be with us in our deliberation today Oh Lord and in thy name we pray. Amen.

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 10, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

May I once again remind delegates to respect the agreed upon five-minute limit. Should you run out of time, the full version of your intervention can be submitted to the Secretariat for uploading to the Conference Web site and inclusion in the verbatim records of this session.

I now give the floor to the first speaker of the morning.

Her Excellency Sharon DIJKSMA, Minister for Agriculture of the Netherlands

“Of course the farmer is the father of the world,” Gandhi said. And he was right. In the past two decades, global hunger has fallen sharply and food security has improved. Mainly due to the efforts of farmers.

According to the latest State of Food Insecurity in the World, the number of hungry people has fallen below 800 million. In developing regions, undernourishment affects 12.9 percent of the population, down from 20.3 percent a quarter of a century ago. Most of the countries monitored have met the Millennium Development Goal on reducing hunger.

Yet, millions of people still go to bed hungry every night, and many more suffer from malnutrition. So we cannot afford to sit back. Enormous challenges remain undiminished. And they will only grow larger as the global population continues to grow. By 2050, there will be more than nine billion mouths to feed. So food production must increase. At the same time, we need to boost resilience to climate change, improve the quality of farmland and reduce greenhouse emissions.

Gandhi believed that ‘our salvation can only come through the farmer’. But governments must lend a helping hand.

We can create an environment that promotes investment and innovation in agriculture, that encourages public authorities, the private sector and knowledge institutions to work together, so that new ideas can be put into practice.

In the Netherlands we have a long tradition of public-private partnership. Agri-business and the public sector work closely together to increase sustainable productivity growth and nutritional value. In recent years, we have used this approach to improve food security around the world. By combining aid and trade, addressing social and environmental needs and using economic opportunities.

The Netherlands wants more of these partnerships, and wants to raise awareness. That is why the Netherlands took the lead in developing the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture and the Voluntary Global Network for Action on Blue Growth and Food Security. Next week we are hosting an international conference to discuss ways to stop food losses and waste. The focus will be on developing action-oriented partnerships, new financing mechanisms and models for good governance. This will contribute to food security and, as we all know, food security is crucial for peace and security. Without food security, there is no lasting peace. That is why the Netherlands hopes to become a Member of the United Nations' Security Council in 2017

We are all aware that we need to act. And we all know what we have to do. Now it is time to put our words into action. We want our good intentions to produce visible results.

I call on FAO to take the lead and engage the private sector in partnerships for development more often.

FAO has proven increasingly capable of doing this in recent years. It has embraced the multi-stakeholder approach. And it has become a more results-driven organization that can be held to account for its actions. I am convinced the new Programme of Work and accompanying budget will further strengthen the Organization. So that FAO will indeed be able to lead the way towards food security for all. Never forgetting, of course, that it is the farmers who put their spades in the soil.

Son Excellence Monsieur David BAZOKOU, Ministre du développement rural de la République centrafricaine

C'est pour moi un insigne honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée au nom de la République centrafricaine. Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations, au nom de Son Excellence Madame Catherine Samba-Panza, Présidente de la République, Chef de l'État, au Professeur José Graziano da Silva, pour sa brillante réélection au poste de Directeur général de notre Organisation; ce qui n'est que mérité au regard des résultats encourageants enregistrés au cours de ce premier mandat. Je lui souhaite plein succès pour ce nouveau mandat.

La République centrafricaine est une illustration des pays soumis à des chocs récurrents qui ont mis à mal les moyens d'existence et les actifs des personnes pauvres et vulnérables, qui représentent la majorité de la population. Après la dernière crise, qui a démarré en décembre 2014, la reprise est certes pénible, mais elle n'aurait pas été possible sans l'appui de la communauté internationale et particulièrement de la FAO, dans la gestion de l'aide productive pour la relance de l'activité agricole. Permettez-moi donc de saisir cette opportunité pour exprimer toute la gratitude du Gouvernement et du peuple centrafricain au Directeur général et à tout son staff, pour l'attention particulière qu'ils ont bien voulu accorder à la situation de la République centrafricaine.

Le thème de nos assises qui porte sur comment «Briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté rurale et de la faim en renforçant la résilience en milieu rural par la protection sociale et le développement durable de l'agriculture», répond à nos préoccupations actuelles. Toutefois, dans le contexte de fragilité et de vulnérabilité qui est le nôtre, le renforcement de la résilience en milieu rural ne pourra être favorisé que par la restauration de la résilience au niveau de l'État. À cet effet, il convient d'insister sur la nécessité de promouvoir la mise en œuvre des principes et engagements souscrits par la communauté internationale en faveur des États fragiles en situation de post-conflit.

Dans cette situation post-crise, où les moyens d'existence des populations pauvres ont été très affectés et la cohésion sociale mise à mal, les mesures de protection sociale peuvent contribuer à atténuer la tension intercommunautaire et favoriser une reprise des activités productives nécessaires à

l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte contre la pauvreté. Accroître les efforts pour atteindre les plus pauvres en milieu rural permettra de prévenir, à moyen et long terme, les crises récurrentes qui trouvent leur terreau dans l'extrême pauvreté de la République centrafricaine, notamment chez les jeunes.

Il est certain que les chocs successifs subis par mon pays ne lui permettent pas de valoriser les énormes potentialités agricoles dont il dispose, notamment 15 millions d'hectares de terres arables, dont seulement un pourcent est mis en valeur, et 16 million d'hectares de pâturages.

C'est pourquoi nous sommes convaincus qu'avec la restauration de la stabilité, la mise en œuvre politique, publique, volontariste et la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires au financement du Programme national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire adopté par le Gouvernement, la République centrafricaine pourra accomplir des progrès rapides vers la réduction de l'extrême pauvreté en milieu rural.

La complexité des causes profondes de la pauvreté et la diversité de leurs dimensions nous oblige à avoir une approche intégrée de la protection sociale et de la production agricole, mais également d'autres facteurs qui ont une influence sur la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. Ce qui implique que nous devons (i) affirmer une volonté politique plus forte à nous engager dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la vulnérabilité en milieu rural, (ii) réformer nos institutions afin de mieux gérer l'approche intégrée et créer les synergies positives souhaitables, (iii) accroître les efforts au niveau de la communauté internationale afin d'atteindre les plus pauvres, les plus vulnérables ainsi que les exclus de la société de consommation en milieu rural, notamment à travers les programmes nationaux d'investissement agricole, préparés dans le cadre du Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine, (iv) soutenir les efforts visant une meilleure compréhension des liens qui existent entre la protection sociale, l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Je suis convaincu que nos échanges jetteront les bases d'une approche de plus en plus intégrée, qui nous permettra de faire face de manière plus efficace à la complexité des causes spécifiques de la pauvreté et de la vulnérabilité en milieu rural.

Vive la coopération internationale, pour que vive la coopération entre la République centrafricaine et la FAO!

His Excellency Li MYINT HLAING, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you for being elected as Chairperson of this Conference.

In addition, I would also like to honour and congratulate the Director-General of FAO, Dr. José Graziano da Silva for being re-elected as the Director-General of FAO for second term for his outstanding leadership. I deeply believe that he has been re-elected because of his rich experiences and the achievements he has made for food security and poverty reduction which are vital for all mankind.

With all my pleasure, on behalf of my country and my government, I would like to appreciate and support the theme of this year, "Breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development". It is a very practically meaningful and appropriate theme that will support the vision and mission of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were laid down by the United Nations. Our Nation, Myanmar is ready to cooperate actively together with other Member Nations under the leadership of FAO.

It is my pleasure to brief the achievement of Myanmar in eradication of hunger and poverty activities in cooperation with other Member Nations in the region, FAO and other UN Agencies.

During the term of new Myanmar democracy Government led by H.E. U Thein Sein, which is elected by the people, the development of the agriculture sector, which is depended upon by 70 percent of the rural people, improvement of the socio-economic status of farmers and food and nutrition security of the people in the territory are being emphasized.

As a national interest, the Government is focusing on planning and implementation of the supply chain management, from production of good quality high-yielding seeds to marketing of quality products, in favour of small-holder farmers who are producing food for all people in the country.

Keeping with the objectives, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has successfully launched “Zero Hunger Challenge” (ZHC) on last year’s World Food Day, 16 October 2014. The Honorable Vice-President, Union Ministers and Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific unanimously supported to implement the five pillars of ZHC laid down by FAO.

As you may be aware, we have continuously put our utmost efforts to secure sustainable agriculture and food system in Myanmar. Based on FAO’s most recent estimate, we were able to make outstanding progress by reducing the prevalence of undernourishment from 62.6 percent in 1990-92 to 14.2 percent in 2014-16. That means the number of undernourished people has been reduced from 26.8 million in 1990-92 to 7.7 million in 2014-16. We were also able to meet more ambitious World Food Summit target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half the value of 1990-92.

In conclusion, I would like to express that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will actively and closely cooperate with Member Nations for the brighter future of the global people, based on the outcomes of the Conference derived from the valuable discussion, inputs, wisdom and rich experiences of the delegates, professionals and scientists in line with the concrete missions of FAO. Let us work together closely to meet our Zero Hunger targets for our future generations. I believe that we have the will and we can do it.

His Excellency Given LUBINDA, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Zambia

May I take the opportunity to congratulate the dynamic leader and Director-General of FAO, His Excellency José Graziano da Silva for his re-election, and I wish him all the best.

Zambia recorded impressive economic growth rates over the last ten years. This growth is a result of mainly the mining sector. The mining industry contributes almost 90 percent of the country’s exports. Over the next five years, the country has also been a net exporter of cereal grains in the region and beyond. For example, this year Zambia is exporting one million metric tons of maize.

Despite the positive statistics on the economic growth, this has not impacted positively on the rural poverty and the food security status. The Government is extremely concerned that the country has not achieved the target on Millenium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1). The 2014 Report on State of Food Insecurity in the world does not show a reduction in the number of undernourished people in Zambia.

The Government acknowledges that the agriculture sector plays a critical role in the country’s economy and that broader growth in agriculture could stimulate job creation and enhance rural resilience and break the chain of rural poverty and hunger.

Given Zambia’s vast resource endowment in terms of land, labour and water, the Government has put in place the following interventions to address poverty, food and nutrition insecurity.

The Farmer Input Support Programme. This programme is targeting 1.2 million smallholder farmers and is designed to improve farmers’ access to inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. This is to increase agricultural production and productivity. The inputs under this programme are subsidized by the Government.

The Food Security Pack. This is a social security programme targeting over 300 000 vulnerable households in the communities. It provides seeds and fertilizers to beneficiary households.

The social cash transfer. This programme is targeting 45 000 households.

The School Feeding Programme, that covers 860 000 school children in 2 200 schools in the country. It covers cereals, pulses, oils and fats.

Irrigation development. The country has irrigable land of 2.75 million hectares. Currently, only 425 000 hectares are under irrigation. We are targeting to double the land under irrigation in the

next five years. Irrigation gives farmers an opportunity to cultivate and produce different crops all year round without depending so much on rain-fed agriculture.

Farm block development. This programme is aimed at bringing one million hectares of land under cultivation in the next ten years. Ten percent will be allocated to a co-venture and the remaining 90 percent will be allocated to the small-, medium- and large-scale farmers. On average, the ten farming blocks to be developed would employ close to four million people.

Farm Mechanization. The programme's major thrust is to promote utilization of motorized and or improved farm equipment, such as job planters, motorized prairies, small cultivators and tractors, targeting small and medium-scale farmers.

Livestock development. The livestock subsector contributes 35 percent to agricultural gross domestic product. The Government has embarked on programmes aimed at expanding the sub-sector's contribution to economic growth. Although the livestock's sub-sector is relatively unexploited, it is recognized as an increasingly dynamic part of the agricultural economy. The programmes being implemented include the establishment of livestock breeding centres, livestock services centres and the scaling up of animal health interventions.

Fisheries development. Government is promoting conservation of fish stocks in natural water bodies and promoting fish farming (aquaculture). This is aimed at increasing fish stocks and promoting the sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources to improve its availability.

Crop Diversification. Under this programme, farmers are being encouraged to grow other food crops besides maize. These include sorghum, millet, cassava, sweet potatoes, tree crops, vegetables and horticultural crops. Diversified crop production is aimed at enhancing dietary diversification for improved nutrition.

Through the above interventions, Zambia is expected to break the cycle of rural poverty, food and nutrition insecurity.

The Government wishes to make Zambia a perpetual food surplus country in the region, a major contributor to the trade system in the region and a solution to the problem region.

We are therefore grateful for the staff here in Rome and also in your Zambia office for your collaborative efforts to end hunger in Zambia.

The Honourable Moses VILAKATI, Minister for Agriculture of Swaziland

May I congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, for your appointment as Chair and extend my delegation's appreciation in the manner you are conducting your facilitation of this meeting. You can count on us as a delegation from Swaziland in supporting your work. Sincere gratitude and appreciation is also extended to the Government and the people of Italy, especially the City of Rome, for the warm hospitality that has been extended to my delegation since our arrival. We also thank the FAO team for the facilitation of this meeting, which I am very positive will be a success, thus subsequently providing means to sustainable agricultural development, and as a means to eradicate the cycle of poverty, of which is in line with this meeting's theme.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland, we congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva, for his reappointment as the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, especially at a time when the Organization is attaining 70 years of age. FAO has enacted programmes in our Kingdom aimed at reducing rural poverty and hunger, which I have been delegated by the King of Swaziland and the Swazi government to extend their gratitude as well as pledge our continuing support to you, Sir, and the Organization.

As we address the theme of breaking the chain of rural poverty, we must acknowledge the challenges that are faced by the rural poor. The analysis is that the issue of climate change, the availability and costs of production resources, as well as accessibility to the markets should be addressed in order to effectively impact the rural population. Ensuring accessibility to appropriate technology and skills, can be the means of dealing with these said challenges. I therefore challenge the world community, and FAO in particular, to intensify its research programme on innovative farming techniques and

technologies that are enabling to both women and youth, as they are the majority of farmers, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The emphasis should be on improving agricultural productivity, as well as production, and making it accessible and affordable so as to attract more youth farmers.

As part of its social-protection programme, since independence Swaziland has maintained a school-feeding programme from primary to high school. Recently the government, through the south-south cooperation, has also introduced an input subsidy programme where farmers all over the country are now subsidized from fertilizers and seeds, in addition to a long-standing subsidy on the tractor hire which is also highly subsidized.

Unfortunately the 2014 drought hit the country hard and the yields are expected to drop tremendously, and yet this programme was to change the fortunes for the better.

Moving forward, the aggressive implementation of agreed programmes is another way of reaching our goals at FAO. But as an Organization there is a need for us to sit and review some of the Organization bureaucratic procedures that can end up delaying the support that is urgently required by the rural poor. The rural poor cannot wait when the need is there for their support. Also, consideration has to be made on the conditions of service, to help retain top quality experts, particularly at FAO. As an Organization we also need to be more aggressive on resource mobilisation, particularly from the private sector; it is the private sector that can assist us as an Organization to make sure that we meet the needs of the farming communities throughout the world.

We also need to consider areas that are not agro-conducive. It is in such situations where social programmes must be implemented, to counter the lack of agricultural activities, as a means of reducing rural poverty and hunger. While implementing such programmes, due diligence must be made to ensure fair play to all stakeholders.

Lastly, may I emphasise that the good work that FAO is doing in the rural areas of the Kingdom of Swaziland is highly commendable and highly appreciated. Again, may I pledge my Government's support to you, Director-General, and your Organization.

As a country we fully support the Zero Hunger Initiative for a hunger-free world. Long live FAO.

Excmo. Sr. Don Francisco MBA OLO BAHAMONDE, Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques de la Guinea Ecuatorial

Al tomar la palabra en esta sesión, quiero en primer lugar extender mis felicitaciones en nombre del Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial a la FAO por la organización de esta Conferencia y al Señor José Graziano Da Silva por su reelección como Director General de la FAO para los próximos cuatro años.

La delegación de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial acoge con satisfacción el Informe sobre el estado mundial de la inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo y apreciamos los progresos contemplados así como los esfuerzos de la FAO para reducir la inseguridad alimentaria en todo el mundo y sobre todo en los países en desarrollo.

Al reconocer estos progresos, queremos subrayar igualmente que queda mucho por hacer para erradicar el hambre y lograr la seguridad alimentaria en todas sus dimensiones y realidades. Los desafíos son enormes y las capacidades para hacer frente a estos desafíos son limitados. Pero creemos que una mejor coordinación de las políticas agrícolas, institucionales y sociales es crucial para cambiar la tendencia negativa, y el rol de la FAO es determinante y primordial.

Creemos que el aumento de la capacidad humana, la promoción del desarrollo social, el fomento del desarrollo local vinculado a la capacitación de la población rural, la cooperación científica y técnica entre países y la solidaridad pueden propiciar cambios significativos, aumentando la producción y la productividad de los pequeños productores y la agricultura familiar, redundando en la mejora del nivel de vida de las poblaciones y por lo tanto, la reducción del hambre.

Compartimos la idea de que los progresos en la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria exigen respuestas coordinadas y complementarias de todas las partes, por lo que, alentamos una vez más la

colaboración y mayor coordinación de las tres agencias de las Naciones Unidas basadas en Roma para aumentar el valor de sus acciones en el campo.

Pero también reconocemos que el esfuerzo de la FAO, del FIDA y del PMA deben ser correspondidos con una fuerte implicación de nuestros gobiernos para lograr erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, siendo importante el aumento de los recursos financieros dedicados al sector agrícola y el espíritu de la Declaración de Malabo de 2014 sobre la seguridad alimentaria en África y los compromisos de Maputo siguen interpelando a nuestros gobiernos para desarrollar el sector agrícola, al igual que la creación de marcos normativos que alienten la inversión privada. Y reconocemos igualmente el espectacular avance de varios países en este sentido.

El pasado año 2014 en el marco de la Conferencia Económica apoyada por el Fondo Monetario Internacional, el Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial creyó un Fondo de Coinversión dotado de un billón de dólares americanos para promover el desarrollo económico. Y animamos a los operadores económicos del sector agrícola a explorar las posibilidades de inversión en Guinea Ecuatorial en el tema de la agricultura. Y la FAO es uno de los socios estratégicos para desarrollar el sector productivo y la diversificación de la economía dependiente fuertemente de los hidrocarburos en nuestro país. En esta línea estamos finalizando un acuerdo de Partenariado entre el Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial y la FAO, para la puesta en marcha del Programa Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria (PNSA), que entre otras prioridades, está el desarrollo del sector agrícola nacional, promoviendo seguridad alimentaria así como el empleo rural en el marco del programa de diversificación de la economía contemplado en el Plan de Desarrollo Económico y Social del Gobierno “Horizonte 2020”.

Además, seguimos comprometidos con la FAO para desarrollar la cooperación y la solidaridad con otros países. En este sentido quiero recordar la contribución generosa que hizo mi gobierno de 30 millones de dólares EE.UU. al Fondo Fiduciario de solidaridad con África para la seguridad alimentaria, un testimonio fiel del interés y voluntad de su Presidente Su Excelencia Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Y gracias a este Fondo, varias acciones están siendo implementadas actualmente en varios países de África para erradicar el hambre. Y aprovecho la ocasión para animar a los demás Gobiernos a reforzar este fondo.

Me es grato informarles que Guinea Ecuatorial está finalizando el Informe sobre la situación y los progresos significativos en el Marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Y para corresponder con la visión general de África sobre el desarrollo de la agricultura para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, hemos asociado al Programa detallado para el Desarrollo Agrícola en África con las iniciativas específicas nacionales y alentamos a la FAO para hacer seguimiento de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia de la FAO para África.

Termino subrayando que la FAO deberá seguir jugando su rol como plataforma intergubernamental para que los países puedan encaminar y desarrollar sólidamente sus políticas agrícolas, de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición para lograr un mundo libre de hambre.

Le dejo un proverbio vulgar que dice que la sentencia prueba la existencia de un hecho y que la tala de árboles se subsana con la observancia de los troncos caídos. Señor Director General, durante los primeros cuatro años usted ha sembrado y en los siguientes cuatro queda que usted pueda cosechar.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall now pass the Chair of this meeting to the Vice-Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Claudio J. Rozencwaig, Permanent Representative of Argentina to FAO, as I have to leave to attend to other commitments.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias Señor Presidente.

Seguimos a considerar el tema 10 de nuestro programa de trabajo: *El Examen del Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación*.

His Excellency Allan J. CHIYEMVEKEZA, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development of Malawi

I am greatly honoured and indeed privileged to address the 39th Session of the FAO Conference debate on the theme “Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”, which is very relevant to my country.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate Professor José Graziano da Silva on his re-election as Director-General of FAO for the next four years. We consider his re-election as a confirmation of the confidence and trust that we have in him to steer FAO to fulfil its mandates to achieve the global challenge of eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and under nourishment. Mr Director-General, be assured of Malawi's support on this task.

Like other low-income countries, Malawi depends on agriculture for her economy. Agriculture accounts for about 30 percent of the gross domestic product and 80 percent of the country's export earnings. The sector further employs 80 percent of the workforce and provides a major source of livelihoods to over 80 percent of our population that mainly lives in the rural areas subsisting on agriculture.

The Government of Malawi realizes that to reach the majority of the poor households who are based in the rural areas, there is a need to prioritize the agriculture sector to ensure inclusive growth and poverty reduction. The national policy framework – Malawi Growth and Development Strategy – places the highest priority on agriculture among other key priorities. This is supported by the sector policy framework, Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, which outlines strategies for achieving the MDGs' targets in the agriculture sector. Our national policies are linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sectoral framework is aligned to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme.

The smallholder farmers are seriously constrained such that they have limited access to productivity enhancing technologies including fertilizers and improved seed varieties. From 2005, the Government of Malawi has implemented the Farm Input Subsidy Programme with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity to improve food security at both household and national levels. The programme has been making available to smallholder poor farmers a package of inputs comprising improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at a subsidized price.

This programme has been associated with improved productivity and increased maize production with surpluses recorded over the past nine years except the previous growing season (2013-14). For the first time, Malawi was able to export maize against the long trend of massive food importation.

This season, however, we experienced unfavourable weather conditions characterized by the late onset of rains, flooding, prolonged dry spells and early cessation of rains. Consequently, we are projecting to have a general decline in production of most crops as compared to last season and since 2005-06.

Our staple food crop, maize, is projected to drop by about 28 percent, while the Government recognizes that our population will be able to complement their staple food with other cereals and cassava and sweet potatoes. However, provisions have been made to procure locally and from within the region to meet our maize requirements. We thank our development partners who have pledged to support us to procure maize and restock our strategic grain reserves to ensure that we do not starve.

In responding to the disaster that hit our country, the Government in collaboration with partners worked very hard to help our suffering brothers and sisters with food and temporary shelter. The Government with support from development partners as well as the non-state actors provided some early maturing crop varieties to farmers to utilize residual moisture so that farmers don not completely miss the season. The Government also stepped up the campaign to maximize irrigation facilities.

To mitigate adverse effects of climate change on food security, the Government of Malawi has developed the “Greenbelt Initiative” which aims at intensifying irrigation farming in different localities along our lake and other perennial rivers. The Initiative will ensure that we get a good crop harvest under irrigation and the possibility of getting two or three harvests in a year. Further, the

Government is promoting better land husbandry and climate-smart agriculture as integral components of agricultural development.

The Government is also encouraging diversification of farming enterprises to include livestock as well as fisheries. Under livestock development, the Government in collaboration with other players including development partners is implementing small stock livestock programmes to enhance wide ownership of livestock. These are usually used as alternative source of income, besides being reliable sources of protein for the population.

In the same way, the Government is encouraging aquaculture and is supporting the fish farmers with fingerlings for stocking their ponds. Fish is a single most reliable source of protein for communities because of its wide availability and affordability.

Considering the limited number of people reached with subsidized inputs, coupled with climate variability, there are sections of people who remain without food. This number has been fluctuating over time. To protect these smallholder households, the Government of Malawi developed and approved the Social Protection Policy in 2012. The policy recognizes that poverty exists in three categories: ultra (extreme) poverty without labour capacity; ultra-poverty with labour capacity and moderately poor.

Thus specific programmes have been designed to cater for each category of poverty with emphasis on rural poverty. Programmes designed to especially assist the ultra-poor without labour include: social cash transfers, school-feeding programme and food transfers. A social cash transfer programme is underway in 18 districts while the school-feeding programme is reaching 1 991 primary schools across Malawi.

Social support programmes for the ultra-poor with labour include public works programme, village savings and loans, technical skills, community savings and investment promotion. These programmes are being implemented across the country and have already been producing commendable results in reducing poverty.

The moderately poor are being targeted with micro-credit facilities, skills formation as well as long term public works programmes.

Let me conclude my remarks by saying that agriculture is very important insofar as addressing widespread poverty is concerned. We, therefore, need to take deliberate policy measures to promote agriculture because we know the benefits are wider and more inclusive. The programmes that strengthen rural resilience in the wake of natural disasters need to be supported.

His Excellency Fuad bin Ja'afar bin Mohammed AL-SAJWANI, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman (Original language Arabic)

It gives me pleasure to address this distinguished galaxy of decision-makers, counsellors and advisers that came from all over the world to participate in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference at its headquarters in the beautiful city of Rome. It gives me pleasure to convey to you the greetings of His Excellency the Sultanate of Qaboos bin Said. He wishes you all the best to achieve food security and combatting hunger and lack of food, and addressing the challenges of climate change in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we are meeting in this place, still many people and populations on Earth are addressing diversified challenges that cast their shadows on the life and welfare of societies and individuals. The implications of poverty and hunger and malnutrition are a concern, threatening large numbers of children, seniors, elderly, and women, as many large segments of rural communities are facing challenges regarding the social protection.

And we are also addressing many climatic changes, such as climate-change deterioration, land deterioration, drought, desertification, etc., which calls for a re-distribution of tasks and rules to address these phenomena and addressing it through binding agreements and programmes in order to maintain the system of food production, biodiversity, clean environment and achieving the welfare of all populations and peoples.

The Agenda of the 39th Conference Session includes items on diversified themes, like Review of the State of Agriculture and Food and Outcomes and Results and Recommendations of the Regional Conferences and Reports of the Executive Committees of Fisheries, Forests, Agriculture, Problems of Commodities, Food Security, and the Global Partnership for Soil and Governance, that should be addressed with high professionalism in order to achieve their desired results and also to continue our efforts in order to achieve the outcomes of this Conference.

I would like to emphasize the role of the sectors of fisheries and agriculture in Oman as pillars to achieve food security. And, due to them, we have achieved an integrated system to meet the needs of the Sultanate of food and also to export the surplus of the fish wealth.

The programmes maintaining and conserving these genetic resources are considered of high importance by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and the Sultanate has hosted the fifth session of the governing body of the fora and the Ministerial Conference for the North Africa and Near East for Brazil, Indonesia, Italy, Norway and Spain in 2013.

This comes as our strong belief of the importance of genetic resources at the global level. I would like at the end to express my sincere thanks to the Director-General of FAO for his wisdom in pioneering a role and steering the Organization and following up and implementing plans and programmes under discussion and Excellencies for participating in the discussion and adoption of the themes of the Agenda.

I want to express our sincere thanks to the Government and people of Italy for the warm hospitality and their great role in hosting peoples of the world in this great event.

I would like also to express my thanks for those who prepared and organized this important meeting.

His Excellency Gennadiy GATILOV, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Original language Russian)

The theme of this Conference is highly relevant as we take stock of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and toward developing the Sustainable Development Goals for the Post-2015 period.

The fact that 72 countries have already achieved the MDG 1 target of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger in the world shows that the FAO has made great strides towards achieving its noble and ambitious task of eradicating poverty on this planet. Social protection is a very powerful lever for ensuring the sustainable development of the agri-food industry and for eradicating rural poverty. This was said, amongst other things, by the tireless hunger fighter, the former President of Brazil (Luiz Inácio Lula, and the President of Argentina, Cristina Kirchner). They said that from this very room.

The Russian Federation shares the FAO's mission and this year will make voluntary contributions in support of the social dimension of the FAO's work in countries that need it. We will also support its multi-faceted activities on conservation of soil health and fertility in the framework of the International Year on Soils 2015.

This year is a defining one for our planet in many respects. In October, we will mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which is a universal international organization set up to rid mankind from the horrors of war, to ensure a just world order and prosperity for all.

The last few decades have vindicated our choice to setup and strengthen this international and universal organization and its family of specialized agencies. Within this constellation of international organizations, the FAO which is the same age as the United Nations and which will also celebrate its 70th anniversary this year, successfully implements a unique mandate in one of the most significant spheres of human labour, namely agriculture and the production of food, which is crucial for human beings to live a full and healthy life.

I would like to take this opportunity to, on behalf of my own country and on behalf of the BRICS group, the work of which is currently coordinated by Russia, to congratulate on his re-election to the helm of our Organization, His Excellency José Graziano da Silva, another eminent Brazilian.

We are convinced that on the basis of the unanimous support from the Member Nations of the international community that Mr Graziano will be able to implement his far-reaching goals, tapping the full potential of the FAO as an Organization of knowledge with its feet firmly on the ground.

Son Excellence Monsieur Maïdagi ALLAMBEYE, Ministre d'État, Ministre de l'agriculture du Niger

Permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celle des orateurs qui m'ont précédé, pour vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour la présidence de la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux autres membres du Bureau qui ont la responsabilité de vous assister tout au long de nos travaux.

Le thème principal de cette 39^{ème} session est: «Briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté rurale et de la faim, en renforçant la résilience en milieu rural: protection sociale et développement durable de l'agriculture». Le Niger, mon pays, dès l'installation des autorités de la 7^{ème} République, s'est résolument attaqué aux défis que soulève le thème de cette Conférence, en mettant en place une stratégie novatrice pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition. Il s'agit de l'«Initiative 3N: les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens», qui constitue un des axes majeurs du programme de Son Excellence Monsieur Issoufou Mahamadou, Président de la République du Niger, Chef de l'État.

La mise en œuvre de cette heureuse initiative repose sur la transformation radicale, à terme, de nos systèmes de production pour que, désormais, sécheresse ne rime plus avec famine et qu'inondation ne signifie plus excès d'eau dans une quelconque zone du Niger. Au cours de ces quatre ans de mise en œuvre de l'Initiative 3N, des résultats très satisfaisants ont été atteints. La pauvreté a reculé, elle est passée de 59,5 pour cent en 2007-2008 à 48,2 pour cent fin 2011 et les productions céréalières avoisinent 5 millions de tonnes contre moins de 3 millions en 2010-2011. La production céréalière moyenne *per capita* est de l'ordre de 240 kg par personne et par an. Ceci a été possible grâce aux importants appuis en intrants, matériel et outillages agricoles apportés aux petits producteurs ruraux, améliorant ainsi le rendement des cultures, tant en pluvial qu'en irrigué. Comme vous le savez, ces performances ont valu à mon pays deux distinctions, dont la première date de 2013 et la seconde, d'avant-hier, reçue ici même par le Premier Ministre de mon pays, chef du Gouvernement, Son Excellence Monsieur Brigi Rafini. Nos efforts ont ainsi été reconnus, salués et honorés par la communauté internationale.

Au-delà du volet agricole, l'Initiative 3N s'attaque aussi aux questions d'accès aux marchés pour écouler les produits agricoles et à la résilience des populations face aux crises et catastrophes dans notre pays.

Nous savons que le chemin à parcourir reste encore long quand on sait que nous avons encore plus de quatre millions de personnes qui vivent dans la hantise de l'insécurité alimentaire structurelle, mais avec l'initiative en cours qui est une révolution verte à la nigérienne, nous sommes en train de sortir définitivement notre pays des conséquences désastreuses des aléas climatiques et du cycle infernal des famines en nous attaquant résolument aux problèmes auxquels le secteur agricole est confronté. Concernant la lutte contre la malnutrition, l'Initiative 3N s'est fixé comme objectif à terme de réduire la prévalence de malnutrition aiguë globale de 15 pour cent à moins de 10 pour cent chez les enfants de six mois à cinq ans.

Nous fondons de réels espoirs dans l'accompagnement de notre pays par la communauté des bailleurs dans cette heureuse initiative. Je voudrais ici exprimer au nom du Gouvernement toute notre gratitude aux partenaires techniques et financiers du Niger en général et à toutes les institutions des Nations Unies présentes à Rome en particulier pour leur assistance, combien précieuse, dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire à laquelle aspirent légitimement nos laborieuses populations.

Je ne terminerai pas mes propos sans adresser mes vifs remerciements aux autorités italiennes et au Directeur général de la FAO pour la qualité de l'accueil et l'organisation parfaite de la présente Conférence.

Sra. Doña Carolina VEGA, Viceministra de Agricultura y Ganadería de Nicaragua

Esta Conferencia se celebra en el marco de un importante momento de balance. 8 objetivos ambiciosos que se han propuesto 189 países están transitando hacia la senda del desarrollo incluyente, sostenible y resiliente. Gracias a la integración de los ODS en la Agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015. Nuestro Gobierno, a pesar de haber heredado una situación de pobreza generalizada, hoy puede afirmar con legítimo orgullo haber honrado sus compromisos, ya que desde el año 2012, sobrepasamos los objetivos fijados para la reducción de la pobreza extrema, el hambre y la desnutrición, los que han sido legítimamente reconocidos por esta gran Organización anfitriona, ratificados y celebrados hoy en día.

Mismo que compartimos con los miles de mujeres y hombres campesino, productores y de pueblos originarios, instituciones públicas, privadas los cuales sistemática y organizadamente, con vocación y compromiso, participan cada día en el esfuerzo de nuestro gobierno para construir un modelo de desarrollo alternativo, incluyente y solidario. Y así, mientras van progresando, rompen las causas intergeneracionales de la pobreza.

La protección social en sus múltiples expresiones ha demostrado ser eficaz en la reducción de la pobreza y el hambre a la vez que promueve un crecimiento inclusivo y sostenible. La voluntad política de nuestro Gobierno de reconciliación y unidad nacional orientada a la creciente recuperación de la dignidad de las familias trabajadoras, se siente la protección social como un derecho y no como un privilegio, concretizándose en programas sociales que combinan la capitalización de los grupos más vulnerables con un mejor acceso a los servicios particularmente a la salud y a la educación.

Para garantizar su efectividad, el Gobierno de Nicaragua ha establecido alianza con diversos sectores de la sociedad. Asimismo, impulsa una mayor sinergia en las políticas de protección social, seguridad alimentaria, desarrollo agrícola y reducción de la pobreza rural, conjugando políticas sociales con políticas del desarrollo rural. En tal sentido, todas nuestras instituciones han venido trabajando conjuntamente para abarcar la dimensión económica, social y medioambiental del desarrollo sostenible, con énfasis en el empoderamiento de las mujeres en sus capacidades productivas trascendiendo su rol de beneficiarias y fuerza de trabajo a sujeto de hecho.

A este fin, nuestro Presidente Comandante Daniel Ortega ha impulsado la creación de programas dirigidos a mujeres rurales con activación económica de más de 564 000 mujeres cabezas de familia, quienes han sido beneficiarias de créditos gracias al programa usura cero. De igual manera se ha favorecido a más de 136 000 familias con la implementación del Programa Hambre Cero, agricultura familiar y con el bono de patria saludable.

En la misma óptica de atención integral e inclusión, se ha creado el Ministerio de Economía Familiar, comunitaria, cooperativa y asociativa con el objeto de mejorar los niveles de producción y productividad, el nivel de vida de las familias rurales, la defensa de la soberanía alimentaria y la protección contra los impactos del cambio climático. El presupuesto general de la República de Nicaragua se fundamenta en políticas y estrategias que impulsa el Gobierno del Comandante Ortega basadas en el Plan nacional de desarrollo humano, que orienta de manera prioritaria el gasto social al combate a la pobreza y la desnutrición.

En este año 2015, la presidencia de la República ha destinado el 56,7 por ciento del monto total del presupuesto al gasto social, garantizando la inversión a programas de reducción de la pobreza, la ampliación de la red vial, salud, educación, el 6 por ciento para las universidades, energía eléctrica y distribución de agua potable.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua, junto a los gobiernos hermanos de la región se encuentra actualmente comprometido en encontrar soluciones integrales y sustentables a sus problemas, coordinando esfuerzos en los distintos espacios regionales y subregionales, así como llevando a cabo agendas concretas de acción.

El Plan de erradicación del hambre y la pobreza de la CELAC 2025 es prueba del compromiso con el reto del hambre cero asumido por nuestros líderes y que hemos logrado llevar adelante con el apoyo decidido de la FAO, alineando la acción de la organización en función del plan de acción de nuestro

bloque regional, del desafío asumido, que involucra la recuperación soberana de los recursos naturales energéticos y de resiliencia al cambio climático.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, deseamos expresar nuevamente la satisfacción para Nicaragua y el gobierno del presidente Daniel Ortega de haber logrado uno de los objetivos más importantes que nuestro país se ha propuesto, lo cual se resumen alcanzar las metas planteadas en 1996 en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio establecidos en 2000 por los miembros de las Naciones Unidas.

Esto constituye todo un impulso para llegar juntos a una meta superior, vinculada con la dignidad, la libertad y la igualdad de todos los seres humanos: el hambre cero. No quiero finalizar sin antes felicitar al señor Director General de la FAO por su merecida reelección.

Mr Ahmed Yakubu AL HASSAN, Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture of Ghana

I bring you warm greetings from His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, and indeed the people of Ghana who appreciate the long-standing working relation with the Food and Agriculture Organization dating back to 1959. During this period, FAO has supported some 350 projects and programmes with a total investment of more than USD 230 million. FAO is indeed very popular with farmers and fishers, particularly in rural communities in Ghana because its activities directly impact the rural sector positively.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General for the strong leadership he has provided since his election in 2011 and the transformation he has championed to improve the Organization. In my country, it is often said that one's good deeds go before them, and so your good leadership is a clear testimony of your re-election for another term of office. May the Good Lord continue to guide you.

The statistics from the State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2015 Report and other reports indicate that the prevalence of undernourishment in the developing world has fallen between 1990 and 2015, and so has extreme poverty in low- and middle-income countries fallen between 1990 and 2011. While this is good news to most of us here whose duty is to see to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, we cannot say the battle is won. Brazil has demonstrated we can end hunger in ten years; with our renewed commitment, new information and resolve, we can do it in less than a decade.

Two years ago, Ghana was among the few countries awarded a diploma for having made significant progress in tackling hunger and indeed having met the target 3 of the MDG first goal. We are happy that many more countries have made progress in meeting the target and the Special Event yesterday, was an attestation to our individual efforts and collective achievements of the MDG 1 and the World Food Summit hunger target.

Another statistic that concerns us is the fact that about 76 percent of the world's poorest people live in the rural areas of developing countries, 80 percent of whom are the world's hungriest people; it is a paradox that the rural sector, which produces four-fifths of the food for urban consumption, should remain hungry.

We know the causes of global food insecurity and poverty and there is no need to list them. What we are not doing too well at is investing the necessary resources in the sector where it matters most and not working effectively with the little resources we have. With the digital communication technology, we should strive to build stronger partnerships and mutual respect as we embrace the new development agenda.

Climate change and its consequent weather effects, conflicts and unstable macro and global economic environment threaten sustainable development and increase vulnerability of our producers and actors in the agricultural sector. This calls for us to pay more attention to addressing agricultural risks in our individual countries and globally to improve resilience.

A combination of strategic interventions is required to build the resilience of vulnerable populations. Improving access to productive assets, putting in place measures to address agricultural risks and targeted social protection measures to cushion those whose livelihoods are under constant shocks and threats will be vital.

In Ghana our social and economic development is guided by the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda, which sets out among other things to achieve inclusive growth through agricultural modernization and sustainable natural resources management.

Concrete actions are in place to respond to the vision of the development agenda. The main focus of the medium-term instrument that is an agricultural modernization drive is to make an empowered small farmer well integrated in the value chain in order to share in the benefits that accrue from agribusiness.

A key aspect has been the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy which aims to bridge the wealth divide through the provision of targeted interventions that will support persons living in situations of extreme poverty and related vulnerability and exclusion.

In the agricultural sector, the provision of price support mechanisms on selected inputs and services has resulted in increased productivity, incomes and subsequently improved livelihoods.

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme, which provides cash transfers to the extremely poor and vulnerable households, has ensured that such households have an increased chance to access services and opportunities. It has contributed to improving the local economy and thereby increasing food production as well as improving the diets of households at risk.

The Labour Intensive Public Works Programme, the Capitation Grant, the National Health Insurance Scheme push for affordable health care. And these are all interventions that are helping the vulnerable in society.

The lesson over the past 25 years and our collective achievements in relation to the MDG 1 have taught us that it is possible to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty and this must therefore guide us in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Africa, like other regions, has set for themselves the year 2025 timeline to eradicate hunger. Ghana is committed to achieving this target as well as the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge that aims to create a world where there is no hunger. A world where there is no hungry people to be counted as a statistic.

We can only achieve this when we redouble our efforts in investing in our rural economies and empowering our smallholder farmers who form the majority of rural dwellers to be productive and resilient to the many risks that confront them.

In conclusion, Ghana will continue to work hand-in-hand with the FAO, the UN agencies and other development partners to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty. We shall not rest on our oars until the whole world is cleared of these cankers.

His Excellency Attila István SIMON, Minister of State for Public Administration of Hungary

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to FAO on behalf of the Hungarian Government, for the selection of this important and timely topic for this Conference. Although we have accomplished relevant achievements in the past 25 years in fighting hunger and extreme poverty, more efforts are still needed to reach Zero Hunger as soon as possible. We are aware of the fact that most of the hungry and extremely poor in the world are living in rural areas; therefore the development of agriculture is a key issue besides job creation. Improving living conditions of the rural population by encouraging local production and sale is of great importance to Hungary. In line with the principle of short supply chain, we provide more and more opportunities to small producers to deliver their products directly to local schools or kindergartens.

Thus, we can secure a decent standard of living to farmers, and at the same time provide a diverse and healthy diet in catering. The so-called "Catering Model Scheme" and the "School Fruit Scheme" in Hungary are important initiatives, through which the dietary habits of our children become healthier.

In view of the UN International Year's themes last year and this year, family farms and soils are closely related to the agenda of the Conference. Family farms are important to the Hungarian Government because of their important role in responsible management of natural resources, in production of excellent food and in creation of rural employment. Family farmers merit all support,

as they greatly contribute to food security both at local and global levels. Soils and food security are closely related, as they determine the countries' food production capacities. For Hungary, soils are especially great assets: 85 percent of the total area of our country, nearly 8 million hectares, are covered with excellent quality soils. To achieve food security, and to preserve biological diversity, we need to safeguard our soil.

As you know, in numerous regions of the world, the primary source of income for rural populations is agriculture and animal husbandry. We should strive to create an enabling environment for rural smallholders and family farmers; if they have access to the necessary resources and markets, they are able to get out of the vicious circle of poverty.

The diversification of these activities – above all the primary processing and direct sale of products – and related activities contribute to achieving our goal, but non-agricultural activities and services can also be considered as complementary methods. In addition, social-protection programmes and social assistance might also be effective. However, as I have mentioned, we consider access to work particularly important. Through public employment schemes, we provide jobs to the unemployed living in less developed rural regions of Hungary, thus helping them to return to the world of work.

Pope Francis said a few months ago that the “the hungry ask for dignity, not charity”. Well, we consider work an inevitable stage of the way leading to dignity.

We agree with the findings of the FAO's study: social-protection programmes can only bring results, if they are in harmony with the sustainable development of agriculture.

The role of training and education is also important because it can be an effective tool in the reduction of poverty and in increasing agricultural productivity. In Hungary, we operate an extensive agricultural advisory service system and we educate future agrarians in vocational schools and universities of agriculture. In the frame of our FAO scholarship programme we have also trained hundreds of students from low-income countries. Currently, Hungarian agricultural education is being completely transformed; this can also contribute to poverty reduction in the long term.

We should not forget that permanent improvement in rural livelihoods can only be achieved with the participation of the local people and NGOs. FAO's professional guidelines and adequate financial tools provided by financial institutions and the private sector are also very much needed. As a representative of the Hungarian Government, I would like to assure the FAO and all Member Nations that Hungary remains a committed partner in this work.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the message of a well-known proverb: “Fine words do not produce food”.

His Excellency Mohamad Maliki BIN OSMAN, Minister of State for National Development of Singapore

On behalf of the Singapore delegation, I would like to thank the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons, FAO's Director-General, Jose Graziano da Silva, for their leadership of the Conference.

Local agriculture is a pillar of Singapore's food security. The Government provides a range of support for the sustainability of our farms to contribute to Singapore's food supply. The plenary theme is thus in step with Singapore's own food security journey as a nation. Let me share Singapore's experience.

This year marks Singapore's 50th anniversary of independence. In the 1960s, Singapore's supply of primary produce such as poultry, eggs and pork came mostly from local farmers who worked on close to one-fifth of our total land area. But, since the 1980s, rapid urban development has led to less land for agriculture, which takes up less than one percent of Singapore's total land area now.

Agriculture in Singapore thus has to adapt and transform, not just due to limited land and labour resources, but also to be more resilient to climatic, environmental, animal health and food safety risks. Our farmers need to adopt innovative technologies and automation that are labour-, water- and energy-efficient, reduce the exposure to external risks and give higher yields. Farmers must also adopt good agricultural practices to produce safe, good-quality produce that can command reasonable market prices so that they can be commercially sustainable.

The Government's assistance and support are crucial to help our farmers. The Singapore Government plays an important role in improving the overall livelihood of farmers by providing extension services and investment in R&D. We also implement schemes to assist the farmers and educated them on matters relating to agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries.

Last year, the Singapore Government launched a S\$63 million Agriculture Productivity Fund to help farmers conduct R&D on new and enhanced technologies to expand their production capabilities and boost productivity, as well as invest in transformational farming systems. With Government support, the farmers play an active and important role in modernising their farming systems and technology to boost their productivity.

A good example is vertical farming, which uses less land and manpower and gives higher yields.

Our farmers could suffer significant losses if they are not careful and ready for change. To be resilient, competitive and sustainable, the agriculture sector needs to adopt new technologies and undertake institutional changes. The need for change also applies to all small-holder farmers in developing countries.

Singapore recognises the importance of technology transfer and information sharing in keeping pace with global agriculture developments and learning from best practices. Therefore, we encourage technology transfer and information sharing regionally and internationally.

As a responsible and constructive member of the international community, Singapore aims to play our part in strengthening global food security and share our experience with other countries.

I am pleased to share that Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO on technical cooperation yesterday. This partnership serves as a platform to support capacity development and increase expertise, knowledge and technology transfer between Singapore and FAO, as well as with other countries, in areas such as food security and food safety. Indeed, recent food scares such as reports of plastic rice and excessive lead in instant noodles underscore the need for countries to be vigilant and to strengthen their food-safety systems and at the same time share information and intelligence with each other. With the MoU, we look forward to collaborations with FAO to protect consumers and contribute to global food safety and security.

To conclude, I look forward to the meaningful outcomes of our discussions and wish all participants a fruitful and successful Conference.

His Excellency Bheki CELE, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa

It is an honour and privilege to be here today on the occasion of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Dr Graziano da Silva on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. South Africa recognizes his leading role in building consensus and strengthening international political commitment for food security.

The theme of this year's Conference General Debate, "Breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening Rural Resilience" is not only timely, but relevant. While almost 805 million people around the globe are reported to be food-insecure, it is however heart-warming to learn from the 2013 FAO Report on the State of World Food Insecurity (SOFI) that the number is currently in the region of 7.3 percent lower than in 2012. This is a global landmark achievement and the gains must be commended and celebrated. Global hunger is indeed in retreat. Bringing the statistics home, according to the 2014 General Household Survey, of the 53.7 million people in South Africa, about 14 million of South Africans go to bed hungry every day. These reports are not only alarming but paint a gloomy picture in that, while some of us waste food, a large number of people have no food. In South Africa we ask; what can we do to eliminate/unlock poverty traps and push back the frontiers of hunger and poverty?

South Africa has made significant inroads on progress regarding the MDG 1 "eradicating extreme poverty and hunger" since the adoption of these goals in 2000. While poverty levels and its depth are declining, levels of inequality have remained high in South Africa. Hence, in South Africa, poverty and hunger issues remain at the pinnacle of government priorities. The United Nations Secretary-

General, Ban Ki-moon, was on point when he said “we are in a world of plenty, and no one should go hungry”. The South African Government has accepted this challenge.

The Hunger Challenge demands a multi-pronged approach in terms of social and economic interventions. We have adopted radical socio-economic transformation to reverse some of the social ills afflicting our communities as follows:

The South African Government continues to diligently entrench social-protection programmes such as social grants, community nutrition development centres, provision of food parcels, disaster-relief schemes, school-nutrition programmes, early childhood development and the expanded public works programme for job creation with associated co-benefits. We have begun turning the corner and there are visible signs of developmental impact in this regard.

In giving effect to the country’s Vision 2030 as pronounced in the National Development Plan, we have adopted a nine-point plan to give our economy a ‘big push’. The revitalization of the agriculture and agro-processing value chain is number one in this nine-point plan and our Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) is our programmatic response to this national priority founded on a systematically crafted integrated value-chain approach to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This plan focusses government and the entire sector on the value chains of selected high-value labour-intensive commodities. APAP introduces a market-led approach to ramp up the production of these commodities, reduce input costs, increase exports and reduce our reliance on the import of agricultural and food products.

We remain resolute and fully committed as a government to turn the tide against the “poverty and hunger challenge”. We have adopted the “business unusual” approach as a government to create a conducive environment for farmers, irrespective of the size of their farms, to take the centre stage in managing their own development. Investment in agriculture and other socio-economic solutions is therefore regarded as being key to revolutionize rural economies and provide the necessary economic growth stimulus. With APAP, the Government, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, stands ready to step up efforts and provide all means possible to roll back the scourge of poverty and hunger with the concomitant creation of jobs and dramatically increase the contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic product. In our quest to realise this objective, we will spare no effort as government in introducing smallholder farmers and the youth, into mainstream agriculture to advance the future of food security in the country.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to remind delegates about the XIV World Forestry Congress which my government is hosting in collaboration with FAO. It is my pleasure to announce that we are poised to deliver a successful and impactful world class event from 7 to 11 September 2015 in Durban and I hereby invite you and the global community of sector policy makers, researchers, scientists and foresters to join us at the XIV World Forestry Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity afforded to us.

M. Bernard Lehmann, Secrétaire d’État, Directeur général de l’Office fédéral de l’agriculture de la Suisse

Nous le savons tous, le contexte alimentaire et environnemental est en rapide évolution. La hausse de la demande en produits alimentaires, la pénurie croissante de ressources naturelles, le changement climatique ont une incidence directe sur l’agriculture et le développement rural. Ils doivent nous amener à repenser notre façon d’agir si nous voulons véritablement atteindre notre objectif d’un monde libéré de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté en respectant les principes de la durabilité.

Continues in English

Agricultural productivity must grow in a sustainable way. We all know and agree. But business as usual will not do. We will only be successful if we are able to find answers to the many challenges while respecting the needs of future generations.

Agricultural practices need to become sustainable. Contributing to mitigate climate change and meeting the consequences of climate change adaptation will be particularly important. We will only

move towards more resilience in agriculture and society if we give innovation sufficient space in politics and society, in the lab and in the field.

There are different types of innovation. While technological innovation is important to ensure food security, there is other innovation equally crucial to make the agricultural system more resilient and apt to meet the challenges the future will bring: entrepreneurial innovation, such as new business models that strengthen local production for local consumption; new urban farming enterprises; financial innovation, such as the Benefit-Sharing Fund under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; social innovation, such as social protection systems to fight rural poverty and enable farmers to invest in their farms; and organizational innovation, such as the way we have organized the policy debate in the Committee on World Food Security.

As I said, business as usual will not do. It needs new parts. If we want to make sure that the food system of tomorrow will meet the expectations, we need to apply the different innovations where they work best.

Dogmatic thinking will not help solve the problems. We need to be able to combine and recombine approaches that today are seen as opposites. We need to think out of the box.

We also must make sure that innovation finds its way to the field and to the plate. For this to happen, we need to be able to upscale innovative approaches that exist today. Switzerland is convinced that we need to work with all actors interested and involved, civil society and the private sector alike. Multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Global Alliances on Climate Smart Agriculture or Sustainable Livestocks are a good starting point for new partnerships.

FAO has a key role to play in this process of bringing innovation together and to the people. The 10YFP Sustainable Food System Programme that was developed by FAO and UNEP together with the support of Switzerland, and that is about to be launched, is an excellent example of the engagement of our Organization.

Suite en français

Le monde auquel nous aspirons – un monde sans faim, sans malnutrition et sans pauvreté – nécessite que nous agissions ensemble de manière urgente et effective. La Suisse entend apporter sa contribution à cet effort de manière pragmatique. Nous voulons nous y atteler avec la FAO et avec vous tous.

Mr Frédéric SEPPEY, Director-General, Trade Agreements and Negotiations, Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada

Nous connaissons tous le défi auquel nous faisons face collectivement: nous devons produire 60 pour cent en plus de denrées d'ici 2050, alors que nous disposerons d'à peine plus de terres arables qu'aujourd'hui.

Au même moment, nous exigeons de l'agriculture qu'elle réduise son empreinte environnementale, qu'elle s'adapte aux changements climatiques et qu'elle augmente sa contribution à la prospérité des producteurs agricoles.

La question à laquelle nous sommes confrontés est la suivante: pouvons-nous améliorer la situation de l'agriculture aujourd'hui, tout en nous préparant à relever ces défis difficiles en matière de sécurité alimentaire?

Pour le Canada, un plus grand accent mis sur l'innovation ferait une différence significative au chapitre de la sécurité alimentaire et mériterait donc plus d'attention de la part de la FAO.

Que ce soit par le biais d'approches requérant peu de technologie comme le «labour zéro» ou l'amélioration génétique des plantes et les biotechnologies, l'innovation agricole peut, à notre avis, contribuer de manière essentielle à atteindre nos objectifs communs en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

L'innovation permet à nos producteurs de produire plus sur les terres présentement disponibles, d'aider à réduire les besoins de l'agriculture en eau et pesticides, à s'adapter et faire face au

changement climatique et à produire des aliments qui, comme le « riz doré » (Golden Rice), sont plus nutritifs.

Lorsqu'elle est accompagnée de marchés ouverts et efficaces, l'innovation permet aux producteurs et aux petits exploitants de générer de meilleurs revenus et ainsi de mieux soutenir leurs familles.

Dans ce contexte, il est essentiel que la FAO exerce un rôle de chef de file dans la prestation et la dissémination aux pays membres d'informations de nature exacte et impartiale, et fondées sur des faits relatifs aux innovations dans le domaine agricole. Et, de l'avis du Canada, cela doit comprendre les biotechnologies.

Continues in English

We recall that the Director-General spoke about this at the Committee on Agriculture last fall.

Specifically, the Director-General said that biotechnology and genetic modification should be explored with, and I quote, “an inclusive approach based on science and evidence.”

Canada fully agrees with this remark. We believe that the FAO can and should do more to help Members understand issues related to biotechnology.

This need was highlighted in the evaluation done in 2014 of the FAO role in support of crop production. Many countries look to FAO as an informed and neutral source of science-based knowledge and technical advice on all aspects of agriculture and food. This needs to be especially true on advanced innovation techniques available to us.

In this regard, we welcome the FAO Symposium on Agricultural Biotechnologies that will be held in February 2016. It will provide an excellent opportunity to establish FAO's enhanced role in discussing and informing on innovation.

We should also promote innovation in policies, notably through policies that clarify land tenure and consider natural resource sustainability, and regulatory systems that adopt science-based standards to regulate food safety.

Another priority of Canada's international assistance in food security is to support women's economic empowerment in agriculture with actions targeted to help women smallholders access the resources they need.

According to FAO estimates, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could: increase household yields by 20 to 30 percent; increase agricultural production by 2.5 to 4 percent; and reduce the number of malnourished people by 12 to 17 percent.

Canada will continue to address under-nutrition through our leadership in improving maternal, newborn and child health.

Likewise, Canada remains committed to improving nutrition and to making agriculture more nutrition sensitive.

Canada is a founding donor in the Micronutrient Initiative, and we have been a leading contributor to vitamin A programmes since 1998.

Looking forward, Canada will also continue to support development projects that help smallholder farmers access markets, and also help them take advantage of international and regional trade and business opportunities.

Global challenges call for global solutions and efforts. Canada stands ready to work with FAO and each of you on the suggestions we offered and to contribute our policy, scientific and programme expertise to the achievement of food security today and tomorrow.

Mr Hari PRIYONO, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to congratulate Dr. José Graziano da Silva who has been re-elected as FAO Director-General on Saturday. We take note with appreciation the achievement made by FAO under the leadership of Mr da Silva for the past

four years, in particular the reforms process taken place in FAO by which a strong and effective accountability and internal control framework have been implemented.

We also praise the successful organization by FAO in collaboration with WHO of the Second International Conference on Nutrition last year, which endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. We hope these achievements would be of importance as a milestone for further works and mandate of FAO.

As the largest economy in South-East Asia, Indonesia's economy continues to grow steadily since the past decades, which led to gradually reduce the overall poverty reduction in the country. The proportion of people living below the national poverty line decreased from 23.4 percent in 1999 to 11.4 percent in 2013; now the total population of Indonesia is more than 250 million people, which brings Indonesia to achieve its MDG target and reduce extreme poverty. Thanks to its efforts in strengthening rural resilience, *inter alia*, through development of sustainable agriculture and social protection, the Government has succeeded to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger

The long experience Indonesia has in agricultural development suggests that sustainable agriculture productivity could be achieved if the Government puts strong effort to increase investment in agricultural infrastructures, particularly irrigation, increase access of farmers to the use of modern inputs and equipment, accelerate dissemination of agricultural technologies through revitalizing of extension services, and improve the agro-input distribution. All of these have contributed to the increased production in agriculture and food system.

Furthermore, to support increase of agriculture and food productivity, Indonesia has developed some appropriate technologies such as precision farming, Indonesian Carbon Efficient Farming, integrated crop-livestock production, integrated rice-fish farming, multiple cropping and waste management.

In view of the above, I am pleased to inform that Indonesia has shared its experiences and expertise in agriculture development and technologies through south-south cooperation to other developing countries, especially for Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

As far as the alleviation of rural poverty and hunger are concerned, the Government of Indonesia has implemented several programmes, among others are: the Sustainable Home-Yard Food Garden (*Kawasan Rumah Pangan Lestari*, KRPL), the Village Food Resilience Program (*Desa Mandiri Pangan*), Government Rice Programme for the Poor and the National Community Empowerment Programme.

The Sustainable Home-Yard Food Garden is a typical family farming programme established and developed in Indonesia, which mainly aimed to increase food security and nutrition of the households with the potential to improve their income generation. The programme since the last couple of years has been successfully implemented in more than 15 000 villages involving over 200 000 smallholder farmers. Furthermore, it is worth noting that our Food Resilience Village Programme has been awarded by the Arab Gulf Fund as one of the most promising and innovative programmes to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Likewise, our Government Rice Programme for the Poor increases the access of poor people to staple food and improves their livelihoods. Moreover, the National Community Empowerment Programme (PNPM) provides poor communities with grants for high-priority local programmes and projects. Until 2013, the PNPM Programme has benefited 60 million Indonesians through thousands of PNPM projects in rural and urban areas.

To conclude, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia, we underline the need for a concerted effort to address the challenge of breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger, particularly to achieve global food security.

M. Oumar PATCHA, Inspecteur général, Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'environnement du Tchad

La Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'environnement du Tchad, Madame Baïwong Djibergui Amame Rosine, a bien voulu participer personnellement à la présente assise, mais empêchée, m'a chargé de transmettre ses hommages à tous les participants. Au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur Idriss Déby

Itno, Président de la République du Tchad, et de Son Excellence Monsieur Kalzeubé Payimi Deubet, Premier Ministre, je tiens à féliciter Son Excellence Monsieur José Graziano da Silva pour sa réélection très méritée à la tête de notre Organisation. C'est le mérite de son dévouement pour son combat quotidien contre la faim dans le monde. Que Dieu Tout-Puissant le renforce davantage dans ses lourdes responsabilités.

Socle du développement durable, l'agriculture doit constituer le fondement du programme «Faim Zéro», le moteur de la croissance économique et le facteur essentiel de réduction de la pauvreté en milieu rural et de l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans le monde en général et dans les zones arides et semi-arides en Afrique en particulier.

La faim étant un fléau aux conséquences dramatiques, il s'impose de développer de nouveaux paradigmes, impliquant une coalition mondiale active, inclusive, pluri-acteurs, multidimensionnelle et intersectorielle, avec comme objectif essentiel «Faim Zéro». Les programmes à développer doivent permettre le renforcement de la résilience des systèmes agricoles, sachant que le changement climatique est là, menaçant les équilibres naturels et fragilisant les économies des pays.

Le Tchad, situé au cœur de l'Afrique, a une position géographique stratégique et des capacités reconnues et utilisées dans la recherche de la paix et la restauration de la sécurité dans le Sahel africain. Mais surtout, il mérite une attention particulière au plan de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, défi majeur à l'épicentre de son Programme de développement et de sa Vision à l'horizon 2030.

L'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle est récurrente, aggravée par le changement climatique et les conflits armés que connaissent les pays voisins, à qui le Tchad prête main-forte par des interventions militaires. Des réfugiés fuyant leur pays sont actuellement accueillis au Tchad par centaines de milliers. Les populations surtout rurales sont ainsi piégées dans le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté et de la faim dont il faut absolument les sortir.

Cette situation constitue la préoccupation majeure du Gouvernement appuyé par ses partenaires, dont la FAO, qui apportent des appuis essentiels aux petits agriculteurs dans les régions les plus touchées par la faim. La FAO soutient également le Gouvernement dans la formulation de la politique semencière nationale et le recensement général de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. Qu'elle reçoive ici les sincères remerciements du Gouvernement de la République du Tchad.

Le développement durable de l'agriculture est une course de fond. Sur la base de l'engagement des Chefs d'État et de gouvernement de l'Union africaine, pris en 2003 et renouvelé en 2014 à travers la Déclaration de Malabo, des programmes ambitieux de mécanisation agricole et d'irrigation sont engagés, et des intrants agricoles sont fournis annuellement aux petits producteurs.

Les investissements agricoles ainsi réalisés ces trois dernières années ont permis d'infléchir l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans mon pays. En effet, dans la période actuelle critique allant de juin à août, 659 500 personnes sont en situation d'insécurité alimentaire, notamment dans deux régions, alors qu'en 2012, l'insécurité alimentaire était généralisée dans 11 régions à cause d'un grave déficit céréalier. En revanche, à l'issue de la campagne agricole passée, le Tchad a enregistré un excédent céréalier de 505 000 tonnes et la malnutrition aiguë globale a baissé de 21,3 pour cent en 2010 à 12,4 pour cent en 2014.

Je ne saurais terminer mes propos sans féliciter le Président de la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO et l'encourager dans la conduite de nos travaux, tel qu'il le fait maintenant avec une grande dextérité.

Pour finir, je souhaite le plein succès de nos travaux, qui posent déjà les fondements pour des progrès certains dans la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable.

Mr Itzmak BEN-DAVID, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Israel

On behalf of the State of Israel, and its Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Uri Ariel, I would like to congratulate Director-General José Graziano da Silva for his re-election and to express our gratitude and appreciation for his valuable achievements during his first term in office.

The State of Israel is a small country, mostly arid or semi-arid, where each drop of water counts and every little piece of fertile land matters. Nevertheless, Israel has experienced since its establishment a remarkable process of agricultural development, against all odds and despite adverse natural conditions, resulting in achieving a modern and vibrant agriculture sector. Materializing thus the profound meaning of the proverb “Necessity is the mother of all inventions”. The agricultural sector has benefitted from high-level investment in research and development, well-development education systems and high-performing extension services.

Basic terms which over the years became quite commonly used, applied and attributed to Israeli innovativeness - like drip- and micro-irrigation, fertigation, efficient management of limited natural resources of land and water, world records of milk production per cow especially in arid areas, fresh crops production such as cherry tomatoes, advanced post-harvest technologies – are just a few examples of Israel's agricultural sector's achievements.

Israel has been committed over the years to adhere to severe sustainable approaches while shaping and designing its agricultural policies. Ladies and gentlemen, we have been encouraged by FAO to focus during this General Debate on the issue of “Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience”, through empowerment of two components: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development.

Within this framework I would like to quote the FAO Economist, Mr Jacob Skoet, who referred in October 2014 to the State of Food and Agriculture 2014 and to the Year of Family Farming 2014. He informed that about 90 percent of all farms, some 500 million of them all over the world, are family farms that produce most of the food and occupy most of the arable land worldwide. No doubt that they are really a key factor for achieving food security, for pursuing rural development and for contributing to poverty alleviation. Therefore, sustainability of agriculture production needs to focus on these principals in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Introducing innovation to this sector is essential. It is about doing things differently and in a better way by applying, on a permanent basis, new practices and technologies as well as by introducing new varieties and much more. These ongoing processes may have a great impact on the productivity and income of the farmers. Most of the family farms are small and reach only a low level of productivity, so any positive change would significantly affect global production volume. Moreover, higher investments of governments and international organizations in research and extension services as well as further encouragement of social workers in local communities to combine efforts in a participatory process of development may make the significant change we are all aspiring to.

The State of Israel for more than six decades has been taking an active role, together with the international community, in supporting developing countries worldwide, especially smallholder farms, through technical assistance and capacity-building in a variety of sectors.

The Israeli Agency for International Cooperation (MASHAV) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assisted by several affiliated professional bodies, provides knowledge and know-how in agricultural production, post-harvest technologies, rural development as well as women's empowerment, rural leadership, *inter alia*. In recent years, we have witnessed a growing contribution to those activities by Israeli agro-technology companies under a PPP model of activity.

Our world is facing increasing natural and man-made obstacles that might endanger its capacities to provide enough food for future generations. Innovation and sustainability, in our views, are the key elements for responding to all these challenges.

The State of Israel is committed to be at the forefront of the world efforts to overcome these challenges, availing of our unique experience and know-how for the benefit of all.

The State of Israel will continue to join forces with the FAO and the international community by intensifying the endeavour to achieve food security, poverty alleviation and hunger eradication.

His Excellency Niu DUN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to FAO (Original language Chinese)

It gives me great pleasure to attend the 39th FAO Conference with the Chinese Delegation. I came to Rome merely ten days ago to take up the Office of the Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of the People's Republic of China to FAO. I desire to intensify communication with all of you. I long to become your good friend in life and your trustworthy partner at work. I wish to work together with all of you to facilitate FAO to contribute more to global food security.

In recent years, the world has seen bumper harvests in food production, relatively stable consumption demands and a relaxed food supply and demand balance. However, we who are committed to food and agriculture shall not relax ourselves. The International Food Market is still in a state of fragile and tight balance. Regional shortage still exists. The World Food Security Status is hardly a rosy picture. Today, 200 days away from the deadline of the MDG, there are still 780 million hungry people in the world. Whether the said goals can be achieved or not is a source of concern. The general debate of the Conference this year is themed on breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience, social protection and a sustainable agriculture environment. I believe it is a good thing. 2015 is a year for the new Global Development Goals to be established. What we are debating today are exactly the critical issues at the top of the next Development Agenda.

Among the nearly 800 million hungry people, three-quarters live in the rural areas, and the majority of them suffer from chronic and recurrent poverty and hunger. There are many causes for this lingering problem – natural resource constraints and disasters, as well as wars, conflicts and social governance. Its eradication needs lasting economic growth in a country, especially fair and inclusive growth. And agriculture development shall be taken as the priority to ensure food supply. Many measures shall be adopted, including to increase investment in agriculture and develop social protection to assist vulnerable rural groups get out of hunger and poverty.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to agriculture development and food security regarding poverty alleviation and development as the top priority tasks when addressing issues relating to farming farmers and the farming community in poverty-stricken areas. We are persistent in coordinating urban-rural development by mobilizing resources from industry and cities to support growth in agriculture in the countryside. We have been increasing policy support to agriculture, farmers and rural areas to strengthen the role of agriculture as the foundation of the economy and to protect the farmers' initiatives. With these efforts, we have gained a steady rise in grain production and sound development in public welfare in rural areas, thus laying the basis for social and economic growth throughout the country.

From 2004, grain protection and farmers' income kept rising for eleven consecutive years. Food and livelihood security are effectively ensured.

To pursue further development and ensure food security, the Chinese Government has changed the goal for agricultural development to ensuring multi-win results from production, living in the environment. Efforts have been taken to explore the road of Chinese characteristics to achieve sustainability and address the resource and environment challenges facing agriculture.

In March this year, the Government released the National Plan on Sustainable Agricultural Development, which lists five tasks to be pursued: i) improved geographical distribution for production; ii) farmland protection; iii) water saving and efficient use; iv) pollution treatment; and v) ecosystem restoration.

Actions have been taken to transform the development patterns and promote resource-efficient and environmentally friendly agriculture.

For vulnerable rural areas and population groups, one thing the Chinese Government does is to improve peoples' livelihoods. It works hard to ensure equal access to public services so that the safety net covers every corner of the society by improving minimum living allowance systems, healthcare, social endowment insurance and social assistance in rural areas.

Another thing it does is targeted poverty relief to improve the blood making ability. Tailored policies are adopted to stop poverty being passed down from generation to generation. In this year's report on the work of the Government, the Chinese Government reaffirmed its people-centered policy and declared to reduce rural poverty population by at least another ten million in 2015.

Agricultural sustainability, food security and poverty reduction are key to the wellbeing of all peoples as well as prosperity and stability of all countries. All nations should join hands and work together. Please allow me to take this opportunity and make the following proposals.

First, take food security as a core development goal. The international community is developing the Post-2015 Development Goals. No matter what framework we will have, food security and agricultural development should both be on top at the centre of the global agenda, as food security is a basic human right and agriculture a fundamental sector to the economy. Countries should stay committed to agriculture and food issues, push for consensus in the international community and work together to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Second, create enabling environments for agricultural investment. Inadequate input in agriculture has been a main factor for food insecurity. We should reverse the trend and increase investment, focusing on infrastructure, disaster preparedness and technology. We should also create favourable policies and market conditions by building new mechanisms and expanding opportunities for agricultural investment so as to nurture vigorous development in rural areas.

Third, conduct international cooperation in food and agriculture. We should carry out active south-north and south-south agricultural cooperation to strengthen policy communication, expand knowledge-sharing and technology transfer, and reinforce assistance and support to developing countries. We should oppose trade protectionism, accelerate the Doha round of negotiations and foster a fair, sustainable and stable order of agricultural trade.

The Chinese Government stands ready to work together with all countries and make its best contribution to global food security and to the world's lasting prosperity and stability.

Her Excellency Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Delegation of the European Union to the UN Organizations in Rome

As all of us are well aware, 2015 is a crucial year for the development of our planet. The major meetings ahead of us in Addis Ababa, New York and Paris will not only determine how the universal development agenda for the next fifteen years will look like, but also how ambitiously we collectively respond to the challenges of climate change. Obviously, this setting will be of overriding importance for FAO's work on food and agriculture in the years ahead.

It is with this setting in mind that I would like to reflect on the preview of the 2015 report on the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) in the World. In the past days we have taken stock on MDG achievements on the reduction of hunger and have celebrated that a great number of countries have reached the hunger targets set. However, there is no reason for complacency. While the MDG agenda focused on reducing percentages of undernourishment, the SDG agenda will target the eradication of hunger in absolute terms. In other words: making hunger and undernourishment history by leaving no one behind. As the figures show, the reduction in the number of undernourished persons has slowed down in recent years. In Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia the number of hungry people is actually on the rise.

Reaching the 795 million undernourished people and providing sustainable solutions will be increasingly difficult. The circumstances are different and often we need context-specific solutions for the problems they face. More than one-fifth of these people live in areas affected by protracted crises. And climate change is not helping either, as many of them are living in areas that will face negative effects of changing weather patterns.

The Zero Hunger target is therefore a formidable challenge and something we should not take lightly. It requires us to look at questions of natural resource management, agricultural production, growth, equity and access to food in a much more integrative and coherent manner than before. We expect

FAO to play an active role in the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, in close cooperation with WFP and IFAD – including in the CFS framework – and with other relevant UN agencies.

The EU and its Member States strongly support an ambitious global agenda on development and climate change. We recognise the great opportunity that is presented by this Post-2015 Agenda in addressing the interlinked challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development. We are committed to an agenda that provides a comprehensive follow-up to Rio +20 and that addresses the structural causes of poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. And we are committed to playing our part in full and to working with others so that an ambitious, transformative and inclusive Post-2015 Agenda can be established and implemented.

In the run-up to the three conferences, the EU and its Member States have once again shown their constructive engagement. We are willing and ready to pursue an ambitious but fair agenda on climate change. The EU looks for a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in 2030, as compared to 1990. We have also shown that economic growth and lower emissions are possible: between 1990 and 2012, the EU's GDP increased by 45 percent while GHG emissions reduced by about 18 percent. We are also willing and ready to support an ambitious global development agenda, including financially. While development requires the mobilisation of many different sources of financing, ODA remains important for LDCs and fragile states, which particularly lack domestic capacity to raise finance from other sources. The EU and its Member States have been generous providers of ODA – more than half of global ODA in recent years. As a comparison: the EU represents 20 percent of the world GDP. And the EU has reaffirmed its collective commitment to remaining the largest donor.

2015 is also the European Year of Development. This year provides an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get involved in development. Last week, the main event of the Year – the European Development Days – was held in Brussels. I would like to share with you the announcement that European Development Commissioner Mimica made about nutrition on that occasion. He reaffirmed EU's strong commitment to fighting undernourishment. He literally said “until every child is properly nourished we cannot reduce our efforts. That's why the EU has committed to provide Euro 3.5 billion in actions towards improving nutrition by 2020”. As one concrete initiative, he unveiled a major partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on National Information Platforms on Nutrition.

This is the framework in which we look forward to continuing close collaboration with FAO in work on the Sustainable Development Goals. For the past three years, the EU signed agreements of a value of well over Euro 150 million per annum and the current active cooperation portfolio is close to 500 million Euro. Many of the projects have yielded good results and we anticipate further joint progress in areas such as sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, food security and nutrition. Next month, in Addis Ababa, the EU and FAO will sign two new programmes of substantial value; they aim at supporting work at country level in the areas of policies and governance for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and on food security information respectively.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Señoras y Señores, hemos llegado al final de la lista de oradores de la quinta reunión plenaria. Retomaremos nuestro trabajo a las 14:30 horas. La primera intervención de la tarde seguirá el orden establecido en el programa.

The meeting rose at 12:20 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.20

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 June 2015

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
Mr Serge Tomasi,
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Serge Tomasi,
Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 14.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Serge Tomasi,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)**

(C 2015/2 Rev.1)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)**Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)**

Ethiopia, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Japan

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, nous allons commencer cette session. Je suis Serge Tomasi, Ambassadeur français auprès de la FAO, un des trois vice-présidents de cette Conférence et c'est moi qui vais modérer cette session cet après-midi.

Nous allons continuer le débat sur le point 10, *Examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture*.

His Excellency Tefera DEREBEW, Minister for Agriculture of Ethiopia

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election and the commendable work done during his first term.

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to be with you on this 39th Session of the Organization to give you highlights on Ethiopia's agricultural performance.

As it can be noted very well, agriculture is the backbone of the Ethiopian economy accounting for approximately 80 to 85 percent of total employment, 80 percent of total exports and 43 percent of GDP. The Ethiopian economic development as well as the livelihoods of the majority of Ethiopians depends on the agricultural sector. Ethiopia has a consistent set of policies and strategies for agriculture and rural development that reflect the importance of the sector.

The policy framework is based on the concept of the strategy of Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI), it has been the central pillar of Ethiopia's development vision, envisages an economically transformed society within which agriculture will grow rapidly.

Given the agrarian nature of the Ethiopian economy, ADLI adopted in 1993 is presumed to have been a necessary step that could lead to reducing poverty, enhancing industrial development and ensuring a dynamic and self-sustaining growth. Based on ADLI the Agricultural and Rural Development Policies and Strategies were developed and are being implemented.

As the main objective of the Ethiopian Government is poverty eradication and improvement in the well-being of its people, since the last two decades, as part of the global and national initiatives, the Government of Ethiopia has put in place a poverty reduction strategy in order to achieve broad-based and sustained economic growth.

Ethiopia started the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the first three-year Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP), which covered the years 2002 to 2005.

The SDPRP's strategy was built on four pillars or building blocks: Agricultural development-led industrialization and food security; justice system and civil service reform; governance, decentralization and empowerment; and capacity-building in public and private sectors.

The overarching objective of the Government's poverty reduction strategy is to reduce poverty through enhancing rapid economic growth while at the same time maintaining macroeconomic stability.

Some of the proposed measures in the agricultural sector during the programme period were: introduction of menu-based extension packages; expand borrowers' coverage of micro-financing institutions; establish an institute for diploma-level training of extension agents and expand agricultural technical and vocational education training; measures for the improved functioning of

markets for agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seed) and outputs; organize, strengthen and diversify autonomous cooperatives; the possibility of establishing an agricultural products exchange market; agricultural research, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation.

In 2005, Ethiopia launched the five-year Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) carrying forward the SDPRP strategic directions but also bringing in new elements and scaling up the efforts to achieve MDGs. PASDEP is a key step towards achieving the following set of goals: to build an economy which has a modern and productive agricultural sector with enhanced technology and industrial sector that plays leading role in the economy; to sustain economic development and secure social justice; and to increase per capita income of citizens so that it reaches the level of middle-income countries.

The country's long term vision, achievements of PASDEP and lessons drawn from its implementation were the bases for conceiving the next five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). The overriding development agenda of GTP is to sustain rapid and broad-based growth path witnessed during the past several years and eventually end poverty.

Ethiopia's strategy for sustaining the rapid and broad-based growth path hinges on the following pillars: sustaining faster and equitable economic growth; maintaining agriculture as a major source of economic growth; creating favourable conditions for the industry to play key role in the economy; enhancing expansion and quality of infrastructure development; enhancing expansion and quality of social development; building capacity and deepen good governance; and promote women and youth empowerment and equitable benefit.

During the Growth and Transformation Plan period (2011 to 2015), a minimum of 11 percent real growth of GDP is planned. Its strategy included the shift to produce high-valued crops, a special focus on high-potential areas, facilitating the commercialization of agriculture, supporting the development of large-scale commercial agriculture.

Key policy lessons learned through the implementation of the above-mentioned plans are:

- Prioritizing agriculture as an engine of growth and implement the policies and strategies set forth consistently;
- Enable the country to maintain an average double-digits growth;
- Strong commitment of the Government to invest in agriculture (16 percent of its budget) has paramount importance;
- Use of fertilizer and improved seed;
- Well-designed and implemented technology transfer is vital;
- Make the market right. We have established a modern market called the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange whereby agricultural commodities are traded;
- Capacity-building at all levels in a way to get things done;
- Technologies are adopted and scaled up;
- Infrastructure development especially in rural roads with strong government intervention is essential;
- Establishment of the Agricultural Transformation Agency to solve issues that have policy implications for Ethiopian agriculture, including declining soil health of which you had some highlights during sometime this week. One of our prominent scientists will be a global ambassador of soils for FAO.

What does the future hold? We are in the process of finalizing our Second Growth and Transformation Plan. Broad-based growth is still the key to continuing the mass reduction in poverty and some of our visions during the upcoming five years are: maintain at least 8 percent of production growth, enhance livestock production and productivity, reduce natural resource degradation and improve its productivity and end food aid in the country.

His Excellency Ahmed Hassan GABOBE, Minister for Agriculture of Somalia (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Director-General, His Excellency Mr Graziano da Silva, on his re-election to the head of this new session of the Organization and this Conference.

The Director-General has received unprecedented support, which reflects the gratitude towards all of the efforts which he has deployed to make sure that this Organization and this Conference would be productive and will continue to do so during his next mandate. The Director-General, as well as his team, have carried out some deep-rooted reforms within this Organization since 2012.

The Organization now has a much higher profile since it has been able to decentralize its work more than in the past. The Organization is now emphasizing results.

The Government of Somalia supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017.

We welcome the priorities which have been singled out in the area of work, nutrition, in social protection and to combat climate change. We also welcome the increased attention that we have seen towards south-south cooperation. The Government of my country also welcomes the decentralization in the work of this Organization. This decentralization will make sure that we are able to implement our technical work so that the states and the poor are all able to benefit from our actions. We are also expecting quite a bit of work to take place in the regional and sub-regional levels.

The international community and international organizations were enormously generous after the famine which hit our country in 2011 and we will remain forever grateful to the international community and the international organizations. FAO's emergency work in Somalia has made an enormous difference. Unfortunately, there are still millions of people who remain highly vulnerable, especially to climate shock. Just a few centimeters less rain could plunge hundreds of thousands of people into severe food insecurity. We are struggling to build capacity of our public institutions when faced with this protracted crisis and we are trying to deal with the enormous and unacceptable levels of food insecurity. We must continue to build strong, resilient communities so as to be able to provide vital services.

My Ministry unfortunately does not have the capacity or expertise to be able to provide these services so as to enhance food security and eradicate poverty. Agriculture as well as other sectors must expand and flourish and we must continue to foster the private sector so as to allow markets to function and to grow.

We cannot fully and only rely upon the generosity of international partners forever. We must be able to depend on our own resources and strengthen our own capacity so as to provide these services to our people, so as to avoid the scourge of famine.

We of course need the support of international partners for longer term development because only that can bring us wealth and prosperity and eradicate famine once and for all.

Somalia is not always an easy place to live and to work. Let me give you an example: in April, a suicide bomb attack took place and cost the lives of four UNICEF staff, and three local guards lost their lives as well. Recently, this Organization lost two of its staff members, Yahir and José, and only last week a Senior International Consultant passed away in Somalia while working there. I would like to take this opportunity to honour the memory of these people and to thank the FAO and other partners for their considerable efforts to work in partnership with the federal government of Somalia to improve the lives of poor and vulnerable people throughout the country.

I would like to express my full support to the Director-General as he embarks on his new mandate. Somalia has lived through one of the worst possible famines over the last few years and we would like to reaffirm the commitment of the entire region of Africa to eradicate hunger by 2024.

I pray to God that our meeting be productive and successful and thank you for your attention.

Son Excellence Monsieur Isidore KABWE MWEHU LONGO, Ministre de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de l'élevage de la République démocratique du Congo

C'est pour moi un grand honneur de prendre la parole devant cette assemblée au nom du Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo.

Comme tous ceux qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune, j'adresse mes félicitations au Professeur José Graziano da Silva pour sa brillante réélection en tant que Directeur général de la FAO pour un nouveau mandat de quatre ans et lui souhaite plein succès. Je félicite également tous les membres du Bureau.

Le choix économique du Gouvernement de mon pays milite en faveur de l'élaboration d'un programme agricole cohérent et intégrateur des infrastructures d'appui aux activités devant lever rapidement les contraintes qui pèsent principalement sur l'offre. Les investissements à réaliser dans le cadre de ce programme sont ceux qui sont reliés aux sites agricoles prioritaires identifiés pour la relance de la compétitivité dans les secteurs productifs.

En d'autres termes, il est question de privilégier les infrastructures qui soutiennent les activités capables de générer suffisamment de revenus pour non seulement rembourser les investissements réalisés, mais surtout améliorer significativement les conditions de vie de la population.

Près de 70 pour cent de la population tire sa subsistance de façon directe ou indirecte de l'exploitation des ressources agricoles animales, forestières et halieutiques, conférant au secteur agricole une grande importance sur le plan de la création de richesses et de la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Toutefois, de nombreuses contraintes institutionnelles, économiques, techniques et organisationnelles minent encore le développement agricole de mon pays.

En revanche, le Gouvernement de mon pays s'est engagé dans la voie de réformes visant à rendre inclusive la croissance économique qu'il connaît actuellement.

En effet, l'exploration judicieuse et raisonnable du vaste potentiel agricole, que recèle la République démocratique du Congo, pourra permettre de subvenir aux besoins alimentaires de sa population sans recourir au marché international par des importations alimentaires, et sera à même de transformer le pays en une puissance agricole.

Il importe de relever que ce potentiel est caractérisé par: des terres agricoles arables, évaluées à environ 80 millions d'hectares; des conditions climatiques très favorables à différentes spéculations agricoles; une forêt équatoriale de 125 millions d'hectares; un fort potentiel donc pour le développement de cultures d'exportation comme le café, cacao, hévéa, palmier à huile, thé, etc. Ainsi la République démocratique du Congo et les pays voisins représentent un marché régional de plus de 200 millions d'habitants.

Considérant le nombre de défis liés à la sécurité alimentaire du pays, le Gouvernement cherche à accélérer la création d'opportunités économiques dans les zones rurales et à accroître la production et la productivité agricole des petits producteurs, de même que leur accès aux marchés. Dans ce contexte le Gouvernement a initié un certain nombre d'actions, notamment: 1) l'adoption en 2010 de la Stratégie nationale «agriculture et développement rural» et d'un «Programme national pour la sécurité alimentaire»; 2) le financement depuis 2012 d'un Programme national de campagnes agricoles; 3) l'adoption du Programme national d'investissement agricole (PNIA) sanctionnée par un business meeting qui a regroupé en novembre 2013 un nombre important de partenaires techniques et financiers et des promoteurs privés potentiels; 4) la création de partenariats avec le secteur privé pour réduire le coût des intrants agricoles; 5) l'élaboration en cours d'une stratégie à l'échelle du pays pour la relance des agro-industries; et enfin le lancement d'un ambitieux programme des agro-industries, dont Bukanga Lonzo, situé dans la province de Bandundu à plus ou moins 200 km de la capitale Kinshasa, en est le projet pilote.

Les défis de la relance du secteur agricole congolais nécessitent l'accompagnement d'une recherche agronomique performante, produisant à grande échelle des plants et des semences améliorées, des géniteurs performants ainsi que des pratiques culturales améliorées, dont les acquis doivent être valorisés et diffusés. C'est dans ce cadre que sur fonds propres, le Gouvernement finance un projet de recherche sur les innovations agricoles pour soutenir l'Institut national de recherche agronomique (INERA), les facultés agronomiques des universités dans les onze anciennes provinces couvrant tout le pays, en suivant les orientations des forums provinciaux tenus dans chacune de ces provinces.

En conclusion, je ne peux terminer mon propos sans saluer les efforts inlassables déployés par la FAO pour assister la République démocratique du Congo dans la réalisation des programmes de sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition pour une Faim Zéro.

Que vive la FAO! Que vive la coopération internationale!

Excmo. Sr. Don José Joaquín SALAZAR, Vice-Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería de Costa Rica

Es un honor representar al Gobierno y al pueblo de Costa Rica en este período de sesiones de la Conferencia General de la FAO.

El territorio nacional cubre 51 000 kilómetros cuadrados, con una población de cuatro millones y medio de habitantes, donde la agricultura ocupa un 47 por ciento de la superficie, lo cual equivale a 2 406 418 hectáreas, con 93 017 fincas o unidades productivas.

Costa Rica se ha caracterizado por mantener altos índices de desarrollo humano y, especialmente, por garantizar la seguridad social de su población, particularmente en temas tales como la reducción de la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, estos esfuerzos no siempre han dado los resultados esperados. Durante dos décadas el país no ha podido disminuir sus índices de privación, los cuales se han mantenido estables pero sin mejoras significativas.

De acuerdo con el Informe del Estado de la Nación del año 2014, en los últimos 20 años el país creó una plataforma más amplia y diversa de capacidades económicas y sociales para el desarrollo humano, que subsanó los retrocesos de los años ochenta. Pero el asentamiento de esas bases fue acompañado por resultados decepcionantes en temas clave: la desigualdad en los ingresos creció, la pobreza no se redujo, y persistieron amplias fallas en los mercados laborales.

En la administración del Presidente Solís Rivera, nos hemos propuesto hacer las cosas diferentes y romper con políticas tradicionales que no han dado los resultados esperados. Es así como ya, desde el Plan nacional de desarrollo 2015–18 Alberto Cañas Escalante, hemos establecido como uno de sus objetivos: reducir la pobreza en general y, particularmente, la pobreza extrema y disminuir la desigualdad social y territorial.

Asimismo, el Sector de desarrollo agropecuario y rural se ha comprometido a apoyar la meta nacional de reducción de la pobreza, mediante acciones que mejoren las condiciones de vida en los territorios rurales y propicien la dignificación de la población rural.

Por otro lado, todas las esferas en conjunto, bajo la rectoría del Sector social, hemos venido impulsando la Estrategia nacional de atención de la pobreza, llamada Plan puente, mediante la cual nos proponemos atender la pobreza de las familias desde una orientación multisectorial e interinstitucional, garantizando el acceso al sistema de protección social, al desarrollo de capacidades, al vínculo con el empleo y la empresariedad, a las ventajas de la tecnología, a la vivienda digna y al progreso territorial, mitigando la desigualdad y respetando los enfoques definidos como estratégicos, en aras del desarrollo humano y la inclusión social.

El sector agropecuario costarricense consciente de que la pobreza está más concentrada en el medio rural y, en algunos casos, en actividades agropecuarias, ha propuesto las políticas para el sector agropecuario y el desarrollo de los territorios rurales 2015-18.

Dentro de estas, estamos dando énfasis a 5 temas fundamentales: seguridad y soberanía alimentaria y nutricional, oportunidades para la juventud del agro y de los territorios rurales, desarrollo rural territorial, adaptación y mitigación de la agricultura al cambio climático y fortalecimiento del sector agroexportador.

Por primera vez se ha incorporado en el Plan nacional de desarrollo un compromiso con un Programa nacional de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria y nutricional, con el propósito de mejorar la competitividad en productos sensibles estratégicos, con metas concretas para aumentar la productividad y la participación de la producción local en el consumo nacional y acceso real para toda la población a bienes de la canasta básica alimentaria de los productos primarios.

Con esta finalidad, hemos impulsado varias iniciativas, entre las cuales quisiera destacar las siguientes.

Fortalecimiento de los programas de alimentación escolar en el marco de la Iniciativa América Latina Caribe sin hambre 2025.

Con este proyecto pretendemos fortalecer los programas de alimentación escolar, promover el avance de la agricultura familiar, la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, el progreso rural sostenible, bajo la premisa del derecho humano a la alimentación adecuada, la educación alimentaria y nutricional, y el desarrollo humano y social.

En este sentido se rescatan como principales logros alcanzados solo en el año 2014: 90 agricultores familiares capacitados para el fortalecimiento de los sistemas productivos y la comercialización de sus productos, tanto a nivel de comedores estudiantiles como de mercados locales y regionales para dinamizar las economías rurales; 3 192 niños y niñas aprovechando la huerta escolar como herramienta didáctica; 1 710 padres y madres de familia capacitados en nutrición y alimentación saludable para estudiantes; 119 funcionarios de las instituciones locales, regionales y nacionales, capacitados para medir y reportar estadísticas acerca del estado nutricional de los menores de las escuelas y CEN-CINAI.

Programa de abastecimiento institucional (PAI)

Mediante este programa, el sector agropecuario costarricense se ha propuesto desarrollar y fortalecer un canal de comercialización exclusivo para que los pequeños y medianos productores del agro vendan sus productos a las instituciones públicas, a través del Consejo Nacional de Producción.

Así durante el año 2014 las organizaciones de productores vendieron, a través del PAI, alrededor de 44 millones de dólares, lo cual representó un 17 por ciento de demanda y la participación de 84 agroempresas. Para el 2018 se espera llegar a cubrir el 40 por ciento de las necesidades, aumentando la participación a 95 agroempresas.

Reconocimiento por beneficios ambientales

Bajo el principio de apoyo a la agricultura de consumo interno y la protección del pequeño y mediano productor con responsabilidad social y ambiental, durante el año 2014 se otorgaron casi 300 000 dólares en reconocimiento por beneficios ambientales a productores orgánicos, favoreciendo a 1 017 productores con una cobertura de 2 021 hectáreas. Para el 2015, se han destinado recursos por 770 000 dólares, de los cuales 550 000 están dirigidos al desarrollo de proyectos de ganadería en las regiones Chorotega y Pacífico Central.

Medidas de mitigación nacionalmente apropiadas (NAMAs)

Desde el 2013 Costa Rica impulsa el diseño e implementación de dos NAMAs: una en café y otra en ganadería. Esta última cuenta con una estrategia nacional para reducción de carbono, en la cual se estableció un plan piloto en 106 fincas por un monto aproximado de 550 000 dólares y se establecieron las tecnologías y las metas de reducción de emisiones al 2033. Su implementación contribuirá a elevar la eficiencia productiva, mejorar la conectividad biológica entre parques nacionales, mejorar la conservación de suelos.

En la NAMA café se trabaja bajo el lema “rumbo hacia un sector cafetalero bajo en carbono”, cuyo fin es apoyar a los productores de café y sus familias al aumento de la ecocompetitividad de la producción cafetalera. En este sentido se cuenta con recursos por 10,7 millones de dólares provenientes del NAMA Facility.

Con ambas NAMAs se espera reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en 7,85 millones de toneladas de dióxido de carbono, equivalente en un período de 20 años.

Transferencias a pequeños y medianos productores para proyectos de inversión en agricultura

Con el objetivo de mejorar las capacidades competitivas de los pequeños y medianos productores agropecuarios, mediante la diversificación productiva, el fortalecimiento agroempresarial y la articulación a los mercados internos y externos, se transfirieron alrededor de 4,5 millones de dólares a 4 537 productores en el año 2014. Para el año 2015 esperamos 4,7 millones.

Las acciones conjuntas sobre seguridad y soberanía alimentaria y nutricional, complementadas con políticas eficaces en los territorios rurales, incorporando a las mujeres y jóvenes rurales, pueblos originarios, discapacitados y otros grupos vulnerables, en los procesos de desarrollo y produciendo en condiciones de responsabilidad social y ambiental, harán de Costa Rica una nación más próspera y solidaria, donde se reduzca en forma sensible la pobreza rural, especialmente la pobreza extrema; este es el objetivo de las estrategias y acciones que hemos emprendido en el sector agropecuario costarricense, en conjunto con otros actores y cuyos frutos esperamos ver en el corto plazo.

De último, reconocer la elección de José Graziano da Silva como Director General de la FAO. Es una reelección que se da cuando se obtienen resultados positivos, pero también se ganan con esos resultados, y ahora tendrá una mayor responsabilidad y un mayor compromiso mejor de lo que lo ha venido haciendo. Y con eso, contará siempre de nuestro apoyo.

Mr Hisao HARIHARA, Vice-Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

I am truly honoured to have this opportunity to express our reviews on the State of Food and Agriculture on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The key theme of this general debate is “strengthening rural resilience.” To what kinds of shocks and changes agriculture and farmers are vulnerable and how we should strengthen their resilience? Let us think of them together.

Firstly, think about natural disasters and rapid climate change. My country frequently suffers natural disasters like typhoons, landslides and earthquakes. Japan has been strengthening its resilience by learning from the past experiences of repeated disasters.

For instance, for risk reduction, we try to develop accurate and timely weather forecasting systems, durable irrigation systems and agricultural insurance, and make every effort toward forest conservation. We also endeavour to transfer our knowledge and technologies to other countries in this field.

Secondly, think about food price volatility. Market transparency is a key to addressing this issue. Well-structured, accurate and timely information must be widely shared among stakeholders, from producers, processors and distributors to consumers. Japan will continue its collaboration for the AMIS activities.

Thirdly, think about rural poverty. Lack of efficient food systems connecting farmers to consumers, and farmers’ inability to fully participate in markets could be major causes of poverty. Japan will support food value chain development in Asia and Africa through FAO and promote the integration of farmers into food value chains to increase their earnings.

Fourthly, think about gaps between rural areas and urban areas. Rural-urban exchange can contribute to reducing the gaps through better understanding of rural values. In this connection, we support FAO’s activities on GIAHS, which re-evaluates long-standing agricultural systems and creates economic opportunities for rural people, such as agritourism.

Also, investments play a critical role in uplifting agriculture and rural livelihoods. We support concerted efforts for the implementation of the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in this regard.

Last but not least, think about the transboundary pests and diseases of plants and animals. International collaboration for prevention and control are fundamental to cope with such threats at the global level. Japan will continue to support relevant FAO activities through the contribution of expertise.

In conclusion, we will continue our efforts to strengthen rural resilience in our country, as well as in other parts of the world in collaboration with other partner countries and relevant partners like FAO.

Finally, let me inform you that at 12:30 tomorrow, we will co-host a side event with FAO and the Africa Group on agricultural development in Africa, especially on how to develop inclusive and efficient food value chains. The topic is highly relevant to the theme of this general debate, and we very much look forward to welcoming you all at the event.

Second Report of the General Committee
Deuxième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Segundo informe del Comité General
(C 2015/LIM/17)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer à l'adoption du deuxième Rapport du Bureau de la Conférence, qui s'est réuni ce matin sous l'autorité de notre Président pour préparer le rapport qui vous a été distribué et qui porte la cote C 2015/LIM/17. Ce rapport aborde quatre points:

1. L'élection des membres du Conseil;
2. La nomination du Directeur général;
3. Le paiement de l'Union européenne destiné à couvrir les dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de membre de l'Organisation;
4. La déclaration du Représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO.

Nous allons prendre chacun de ces points dans l'ordre et je vous demanderai si vous avez des commentaires à faire. Ensuite nous pourrions passer à l'approbation, section par section.

Nous allons commencer par la Section A, qui traite de l'élection des membres du Conseil. Je dois vous signaler une petite erreur formelle dans cette section, qui à mon avis ne doit pas nous empêcher d'approuver le rapport.

À la page 2, dans le tableau présentant les pays qui, par région, seront appelés à siéger au Conseil, s'agissant de la région Asie, il y a une petite erreur concernant la rotation entre les Philippines et la Thaïlande. En fait, le groupe Asie propose que la Thaïlande siège au Conseil à compter de la fin de cette Conférence jusqu'à la fin de l'année 2016, et ensuite les Philippines siégeront à compter du 1^{er} janvier 2017 jusqu'au 30 juin 2017.

En fait, pour avoir la bonne chronologie, il faut vous reporter au paragraphe 5b qui figure en page 3. Le Secrétariat procédera aux corrections nécessaires pour la publication de ce rapport, mais s'il n'y a pas de commentaire sur cette section, je propose son approbation.

Le rapport est donc approuvé.

Nous passons maintenant au point B, qui concerne la nomination du Directeur général. Il s'agit de la résolution qui confirme l'élection du Directeur général pour un deuxième mandat qui couvre la période du 1^{er} août 2015 au 31 juillet 2019 et qui fixe les conditions financières de son contrat.

Y a-t-il des commentaires? Pas de commentaires, donc ce point est approuvé.

Nous passons maintenant au troisième point, le paragraphe C, qui concerne le paiement par l'Union européenne, destiné à couvrir les dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de membre de l'Organisation.

Est-ce qu'il y a des commentaires sur ce point? Pas de commentaires, donc ce point est approuvé.

Nous passons maintenant au dernier point qui concerne, à la Section D, la déclaration du Représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO. Vous savez qu'il est de tradition que le Représentant des associations du personnel puisse s'exprimer à la Conférence, et nous proposons qu'il puisse intervenir le jeudi 11 juin, au titre du point 33 de l'ordre du jour.

Est-ce qu'il y a des remarques sur cette proposition? Non, donc je propose d'approuver cette section.

Je vous remercie, le deuxième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence est approuvé et bien sûr la petite erreur de la page 2 sera corrigée avant sa publication. Je vous remercie pour votre aide et vous propose maintenant de reprendre notre séance, avec l'examen au point 10 de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)***(C 2015/2 Rev.1)***Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)****Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)**

Zimbabwe, Viet Nam, Cameroon, Finland, Egypt, Vanuatu, Philippines, Australia, Namibia, Peru, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Uganda

Mr Paddy ZHANOA, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe joins other Member Nations in congratulating the Chairperson of the 39th Conference, the Honourable Le Mamea Ropati Mualia and the Vice-Chairpersons, H.E. Claudio Javier Rozencwaig, H.E. Serge Tomasi and H.E. Majid Dehghan-Shoar on election to steer the work of this very important meeting. I would like to commend you for the sterling work you have done thus far.

The Zimbabwe delegation would also want to congratulate the Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva for his re-election and also for the excellent work in agriculture, food and nutrition security since assuming office.

Turning to the theme of debate "breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger", Zimbabwe is one of the countries that are yet to realise the Millennium Development Goal 1 of halving the proportion of poor people by 2015. With a population of 13 million people and an average household size of four people, 62 percent households in Zimbabwe are poor due to a number of factors that are strongly rooted in climate change and the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe when the country sought to redistribute land and bring the majority of Zimbabweans into the mainstream economy and form a strong base for inclusive agriculture-led economic growth and recovery.

The Zimbabwe delegation believes that breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger requires a pro-poor development framework to spearhead inclusive economic growth; a strong focus on rural areas and agriculture development; and a mutual combination of social protection and agricultural development measures.

Talking about inclusive economic growth, the Zimbabwe economy grew by 10 percent in 2012. This growth fell to 5 and 3.1 percent in 2013 and in 2014 respectively, resulting in more poverty and hunger. Reversing this trend as a deliberate strategy to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty is central to Zimbabwe's economic development agenda in the post-2015 development era.

Zimbabwe's post-2015 development agenda to stir inclusive economic growth is set out in the National Economic Blueprint – The Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) – which is built on four clusters, that clearly answers to the theme of debate. These clusters include: food security and nutrition cluster; social services and poverty eradication cluster; infrastructure and utilities cluster; and value addition and beneficiation cluster.

I must say that ZIMASSET is a national programme that demands public, private and development partners' investment alike. And my delegation would want to see more cooperation with FAO in the context of ZIMASSET and the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) (2016) signed in May 2015.

A strong focus on rural areas and agriculture is key to breaking the cycle of poverty in Zimbabwe for three main reasons: 67.2 percent of Zimbabwe's population lives in rural areas and is engaged in agriculture. And noteworthy is the fact that 52 percent of this population are women.

Poverty is more prevalent in rural areas with 76 percent of rural households living on less than USD 1.25 per day compared to 38 percent in urban areas. 30 percent of rural people are living in extreme poverty compared to 5.6 percent in urban areas.

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood for 67 percent of the population living in rural areas and remains the mainstay of the Zimbabwean economy with potential of contributing up to 18 percent of the Zimbabwe's Gross Domestic Product and 25 percent of the country's formal employment.

A mutual combination of social protection measures and agricultural development measures will enhance Zimbabwe's efforts to break the cycle of poverty.

The social protection measures help the poor and vulnerable to meet their basic needs and manage risks, while agricultural development measures create durable pathways out of poverty.

Allow me to draw parallel experiences of Zimbabwe in respect of input and food distribution.

The distribution of agriculture inputs such as seed and fertilisers to smallholder farmers across the country has worked very well to build and enhance food security of rural farmers in good rainfall seasons. In the 2013-14 agricultural season, Zimbabwe achieved a cereal food surplus of 253 000 metric tons against a national requirement of 1 450 000 metric tons. The same however cannot be said for 2014-15 which experienced a severe drought, particularly in the southern part of the country. This points to the importance of irrigation in creating resilience.

On food distribution, Zimbabwe has on average 16 percent of rural households requiring food assistance, especially during the period January-March, just a month before we start harvesting a new crop. Food distribution include free food hand-outs and supplementary feeding programmes for vulnerable groups which include children under five, school-going, pregnant women and the elderly, and food-for-work where rural people are engaged to participate in public works programmes such as road repairs and gully reclamation, in return for cash or food.

My delegation regrets to note that most of this food distributed by various agencies is imported. It is our conviction that such imports have only served to perpetuate poverty and hunger by crowding out local value chain players. My delegation supports the notion that, wherever possible, food distribution should be closely tied to local production if we are to get a more pronounced impact on eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The promotion of sustainable agriculture development measures in Zimbabwe is guided by the Zimbabwe Comprehensive Agriculture Policy Framework which is being implemented through the Zimbabwe Agriculture Investment Plan of 2013-18. Zimbabwe is honoured to have FAO, the European Union and World Bank as signatories to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact, committing to resource the investment plan. The ZAIP has now gone through an independent technical review and preparation for a high-level business meeting is underway. I want to take this opportunity to invite all development partners to come forward and be part of the Zimbabwe's Investment Plan.

My delegation submits that increased cooperation with FAO to build farmer resilience and increase agriculture production and productivity should focus investment in the following six areas while mainstreaming gender and youth as key participants and beneficiaries of sustainable agriculture development:

1. Conservation Agriculture: the rate of adoption of conservation farming remains low due to low levels of mechanisation.
2. Rehabilitation and modernisation of non-functional irrigation schemes and development of new irrigation to increase resilience in the face of climate change. Zimbabwe has potential to irrigate two million hectares but currently only has 220 000 hectares installed with irrigation out of which 153 000 hectares are functional.
3. Development and use of drought-tolerant, disease- and pest-resistant and high-yielding and early maturing varieties in order to promote resilience whilst increasing production and productivity.
4. Strengthening National Early Warning Systems to improve monitoring of food security and nutrition at household and national level.
5. Improvement in post-harvest storage, handling and processing facilities. Post-harvest losses account for 20 to 25 percent of food losses from the field to table.

6. Animal health, disease control and genetic conservation and development to increase livestock production and productivity.

My delegation would like to conclude by expressing its gratitude at the ongoing cooperation with FAO in the following key areas that resonate well with Zimbabwe's development agenda – ZIMASSET:

1. Smallholder irrigation support in Manicaland, Midlands and Masvingo provinces which constitute most of the southern part of Zimbabwe;
2. Strengthening of agriculture, food and nutrition security coordination mechanisms and policy environment;
3. Enhancing agriculture productivity and nutrition under the Livelihoods and Food Security Programme;
4. Animal health, disease control and genetic conservation and development to increase livestock production and productivity.

My delegation is particularly happy with the participation of the rural poor in the identification and implementation of interventions. Such active participatory planning processes will enhance impact by identifying the right and ensuring full local ownership of interventions.

We want to acknowledge and thank the Director-General's vision in decentralizing operations of FAO to regions. The strategy is beginning to bear fruits in building resilience and more is possible if more resources are channelled to regional operations.

Mr HA Cong Tuan, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia for having been trusted to be Chairperson of the Conference.

I would also like to convey my congratulations to Dr. José Graziano da Silva for having been re-elected as FAO Director-General for the term of 2015 to 2019. I strongly believe in the continued successes of the FAO during the new working term of our Director-General.

In Viet Nam, nearly 70 percent of our population live in the rural areas. The Doi Moi (Renovation) policy over the last 30 years has reduced poverty rate from 56 to 5 percent by 2015.

In 2012, Viet Nam already achieved the MDG 1 on halving the proportion of hungry people, three years ahead of time. We are honoured to be recognised, once more, by FAO and WFP for the outstanding achievements at this 39th Session of FAO Conference.

Nowadays, Viet Nam's Government is implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy to 2020, with several measures to reduce poverty sustainably in the rural areas, focusing on: the National Target Programme on New Rural Development; the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction; restructuring for agricultural breakthroughs, moving from the focus on area and production increase to product quality and value, and increased income for farmers; and the implementation of social security policies: agricultural insurance, medical insurance for the poor, preferential credit and incentives for businesses investing in agriculture and rural areas.

Viet Nam is strongly committed to participate responsibly in realising the theme of our Session, *"Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development"*, and we are ready to share our experience, as well as to provide qualified agricultural personnel for the cooperative projects with FAO and other countries. Many of these activities have been carried out within the framework of the south-south cooperation programme and other international fora. The success of these cooperation models has received big compliments from FAO, international organizations and participating parties.

However, a current major constraint in this programme is financial shortage. We hereby would like to call for third parties – countries and organizations – to join the programme.

Before I end my statement, on behalf of the people and the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to, once again, extend our sincere thanks to FAO, the international and regional organizations,

the governments, non-governmental organizations and civil societies, for having been providing generous and valuable support to Viet Nam in our cause of eradicating hunger, reducing poverty, ensuring food security and sustainable development.

I wish the 39th Session of the FAO Conference a great success! Wish all of you good health, happiness and prosperity!

Son Excellence Monsieur Menye ESSIMI, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural du Cameroun

C'est un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole aujourd'hui pour m'adresser à cette 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de notre Organisation.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de saisir cette belle occasion pour remercier chaleureusement le Gouvernement italien pour son hospitalité manifestée à l'endroit de notre délégation depuis notre arrivée à Rome.

Je voudrais également adresser mes vives et chaleureuses félicitations à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, pour sa brillante élection pour un deuxième mandat comme Directeur général de la FAO. Il saura toujours compter avec le soutien et l'engagement du Cameroun, dans la défense des idéaux nobles de la FAO pour la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la pauvreté.

Le Cameroun s'est trouvé honoré au cours de l'événement spécial organisé en marge de cette session de la Conférence et dédié à la célébration des victoires contre la faim et la malnutrition. Mon pays est heureux de la distinction qui lui a été décernée en guise de reconnaissance des progrès exceptionnels qu'il a enregistrés dans l'atteinte des OMD-1 et du SMA relatifs à la faim et la malnutrition, et de faire partie du contingent des pays ayant contribué à modifier positivement la carte de la faim dans le monde.

Ces efforts faits par le Cameroun dans le domaine de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition sont pour nous un appel à plus d'ardeur et à plus d'efforts pour atteindre l'objectif ultime qui est «Faim zéro».

Cependant, la poursuite de ces efforts est mise à rude épreuve, en raison de la situation sécuritaire à laquelle le Cameroun est confronté, notamment tout au long de sa frontière est, avec un afflux important de réfugiés centrafricains, et dans sa partie septentrionale, avec les incursions répétées de la secte Boko Haram. Cette situation, qui s'est transformée en une crise humanitaire prolongée, nous a permis d'évaluer la corrélation étroite entre la sécurité, la paix et la sécurité alimentaire.

Pour soutenir et renforcer nos capacités internes dans la lutte contre cette crise, nous apprécions, à leur juste valeur, les importantes contributions de la FAO et du PAM, ainsi que celles d'autres organisations internationales et des pays amis. C'est le lieu pour moi de remercier la FAO pour la mise en œuvre de plusieurs Programmes de coopération technique, notamment celui relatif à l'appui aux populations hôtes et déplacées de l'Extrême-Nord et au soutien des éleveurs réfugiés centrafricains.

Les progrès exceptionnels, reconnus par la FAO pour la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition au Cameroun, sont à mettre à l'actif de la performance de notre secteur agricole, dont plus de 60 pour cent des effectifs est constitué de petits producteurs. Ce secteur bénéficie de toute l'attention du Chef de l'État, le Président Paul Biya, qui en a prescrit une mutation profonde, l'embarquant dans la mise en œuvre de ce qu'il a appelé «l'Agriculture de seconde génération», plus productive et plus compétitive, assurant la sécurité alimentaire des populations, développant les chaînes de valeurs, résolument tournée vers le marché, faisant appel à des partenariats avec le secteur privé et la société civile, respectueuse de l'environnement et donnant l'impulsion nécessaire à la croissance et au développement économique.

Dans ce contexte précis, nous apprécions toute l'importance des débats autour de la protection sociale et le développement durable de l'agriculture qui peut permettre de lutter contre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire en renforçant la résilience des populations.

Plusieurs actions sont ainsi menées pour soutenir le développement du secteur agricole et atteindre ainsi les objectifs visés. Il s'agit notamment de la promotion de l'agro-business, afin de rendre le secteur rural plus attrayant pour les jeunes scolarisés; l'amélioration de la productivité et de la

compétitivité des filières agricoles, ainsi que la modernisation des infrastructures du monde rural, à travers la redynamisation du mouvement coopératif, la poursuite de la promotion de la recherche agrosylvo-pastorale, la modernisation des petites exploitations familiales agricoles et la promotion des exploitations de moyenne et de grande importance, afin de répondre rapidement à la demande des consommateurs nationaux, sous-régionaux et internationaux qui va sans cesse croissante; le développement des filières stratégiques à fort enjeu de sécurité alimentaire comme le riz, le maïs, le manioc, la pomme de terre, la banane plantain, le palmier à huile, l'oignon, les fruits et légumes, les légumineuses à graines, le mil et le sorgho, l'élevage des petits ruminants, la pêche artisanale et l'aquaculture; et la promotion de l'insertion des jeunes dans le secteur agricole et dans l'agro-industrie, afin de rajeunir la force de travail dans les exploitations agricoles et créer des emplois pour des millions de jeunes au chômage.

Le souhait du Cameroun est que la mise en place du nouveau Bureau de partenariat et de liaison de la FAO au Cameroun, en cours de négociation, vienne renforcer la mise en œuvre de toutes ces actions de soutien au renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et de lutte contre la pauvreté dans le cadre du «Programme de partenariat entre la FAO et le Cameroun», et plus particulièrement dans la mise en œuvre de l'agriculture de seconde génération.

Ms Aulikki HULMI, Director of International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

It is a great honour for me to speak on behalf of Finland and our new Minister for Agriculture and the Environment, who unfortunately could not be here today. Finland also fully agrees with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union.

First, I take the opportunity to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva for being re-elected as the Director-General, and wish him the best success in his second term. Under the leadership of Mr Graziano da Silva the FAO has carried out deep and wide-ranging reforms across the Organization.

Our global challenges are becoming more and more complex, which means that a coordinated and coherent approach is necessary. We need to focus on the living conditions and the rights of the poorest and most vulnerable people. Finland strongly supports FAO to further play its role with regard to Post-2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals together with the whole UN system and especially with the Rome-based agencies.

Although significant progress concerning the MDGs has taken place, high levels of hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability still persist in many countries. Finland supports the inclusion of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme in the FAO's future programme of work.

Nutrition is an integral part of food security. Ensuring food security and nutrition at the household and global level requires investing in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, protecting women's rights and improving their social and nutritional status. Raising women's nutritional status not only benefits them but is a powerful way to improve the human capital of the next generation.

Safety and health aspects of food are becoming increasingly important in our global world. One of the greatest threats to public health worldwide is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Work against AMR is our common target and, therefore, it was utmost important that this Conference adopt the resolution on AMR. This year Finland holds the chairmanship of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa). One of the important goals of this agenda is also the fight against AMR.

Each year almost 30 percent of the global harvest is lost to plant pests and diseases. New and emerging plant health risks will increase these losses even more. Plant health-related negative impacts present a major limiting factor to food security, not to mention other serious impacts they may have on the environment and trade of agricultural products. Under Item 18 of this Conference, Finland will propose that the year 2020 will be proclaimed as an International Year of Plant Health.

Sustainable management of renewable natural resources is one of the key challenges of the international community. We urge FAO to place more focus on the sustainable use of renewable natural resources and to ensure coherence of normative and technical work across divisions. Finland has a long history of cooperation in sustainable forest management with the FAO which is continued.

Forests have a significant role in the bio-based green economy, which in our view is not in conflict with food production – we rather see them as complementary.

The background paper on *The State of Food and Agriculture* focuses on the role of social protection in fighting hunger and extreme poverty. In our view, emphasis should be placed on long-term solutions for social protection. We need an integrated and coherent approach, which links social protection with sustainable agricultural and rural development policies.

His Excellency Kamal HELMY MOSTAFA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO (Original language Arabic)

The Millennium Development Goals are hope for developing countries that face a very serious problem which is also shared by many other countries in Asia and Latin America, as well as Africa.

International efforts have played a major role in the achievement of these goals before the date that had been set, 2015. In particular we shall be dealing with extreme poverty and famine: these are objectives that fall well within the domain of FAO. Extreme poverty for developing countries between 1990 and 2015 has impacted about half of the population. Undernourishment in developing countries, however, has been reduced by 50 percent but regrettably this progress has not prevented 780 million people from living in extreme poverty and chronic hunger.

Furthermore, one billion people are below the threshold of poverty and all these elements make it impossible to implement the Millennium Goal in Africa. Social and political effects are highly negative when it comes to these factors, especially in countries that are in a precarious political situation. This is the case of the Near East. Looking at the statistics contained in FAO reports during the 38th Regional Conference for the Near East in 2014, we saw that people affected by chronic hunger in the Near East have increased to numbers contrary of what is happening in other regions, going from 80 million people at the end of 2013 upwards.

Therefore, we would like to underscore the importance of the regional initiative for capacity building and the improvement of food security in the Near East and Africa. This is very important considering the delicate political situation. Egypt has adopted a clear policy concerning commodities allowing poor and middle segments of the population to access food and have an acceptable level of food security.

The Government has stressed that the progressive liberalization of market should not negatively impact the poor segments of the population. We have adopted a good and intelligent policy to reduce losses; and we also have the school feeding programme for primary schools in the lower Egypt. There is a cooperation between the Egyptian Government, the World Food Programme and rich cooperation organizations, a programme to reduce school dropout levels and malnourishment among children.

We are faced with considerable challenges when it comes to nutrition and food security, linked to agricultural policies, both at regional and international levels. The WFP and FAO must attach special importance to all these challenges, design strategies to deal with the problems of nutrition, food security and fight against hunger.

We must not overlook the humanitarian aspects of current conflicts affecting the region and the suffering of local population in occupied territories.

The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes the efforts made by FAO to attain the nutrition goals and we hope that all the steps undertaken may be successful and create investment opportunities in favour of the population working in the agricultural sector. We hope that agricultural research may more and more provide indications and guidelines for developing countries and lead to responsible policies and better use of resources.

His Excellency Roy Mickey JOY, Ambassador of Vanuatu to the European Union, the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Court of St. James

Let me begin, Chair, by extending our congratulations to you for the manner in which you are chairing this session, assisting the Minister of Samoa as substitute Chair of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

Let me also convey to FAO my Government's apologies for the unavailability of my Minister for Agriculture, who was not able to join us due to pressing matters in the capital.

We however bring to you the Minister's and my Government's best wishes for the success of this FAO Session.

Before I begin, I wanted also to place on record my Government's appreciation and profound gratitude to Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, for her efforts and initiative to invite, for the first time, Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in this 39th Conference. I must underscore the fact that this is the first time we have a stronger SIDS representation, which I feel, on behalf on my delegation, has added great substantial value to the work of FAO, including the support given back to the FAO Director-General, Professor Graziano da Silva from Brazil.

Allow me now, on behalf of all Pacific SIDS and FAO member countries, to also congratulate the Honourable Minister Le Mamea Ropati Mualia from Samoa for his election as Chairman of the 39th Session of the Conference. This is a welcome gesture of the ongoing support that FAO is according notably to SIDS countries within the FAO family of Members Nations, but particularly to the Pacific Islands of the Western Pacific region.

Equally, and on this note, I wish to join the other member countries, who have already spoken, to convey to the Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, Vanuatu's sincere congratulations for his re-election to the high office of FAO.

As you are all very much aware, Vanuatu recently suffered from the devastating cyclone Pam. Cyclone Pam is the most powerful cyclone to ever hit the Southern Pacific. On 13 March, it strengthened to a Category 5 storm over the y-shaped chain of islands which make up Vanuatu. And in the next few hours, it took the islands by storm, leaving in the early hours of 14 March, Saturday morning, at least 60 percent of the population displaced. This is the first time a cyclone of that magnitude has hit one of the small islands in the Pacific.

The calamity destroyed critical infrastructure, displaced thousands and severely affected food security and productive sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and of course biosecurity. These are the issues, the elements that constitute the heart of the FAO programme. Though we are presently undergoing a lot of work, it will undoubtedly take us years and years to bring back life to normalcy.

On this note, I wish to grab this opportunity to sincerely thank FAO, UNDP and all other donor partners and of course members of the FAO for all your support to Vanuatu during these daunting, dark hours we faced in the last few months.

Vanuatu has already proceeded to establish a Risk Resilience Unit (RRU) under the supervision of the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, who is here with us this afternoon, and the supervision of the Ministry to help the country refocus much more proactively towards building resilience and resilience strategies towards managing the adverse effects of climate change.

This brings me to put before you today the need for some sort of an Emergency Trust Fund to help provide swifter responses to similar or more adverse future challenges of this nature. Rapid changes to world climatic weather patterns will increasingly cause extreme weather events of the magnitude of Tropical Cyclone Pam or even worse than that.

As we speak, already we are in the midst of another threatening weather pattern – an El Niño – which is predicted to induce a drought over the next six months into 2016 in the Central Western Pacific region.

In this regard, and speaking largely from the perspective of the Small Island Development States, I wish to underscore this urgent call to ensure a more responsive, robust and pragmatic mechanism is put in place to help tackle what will very obviously become an increasingly challenging future for our developing countries, notably those of the Pacific Islands.

Let me seize this opportunity to also reiterate the call of our Pacific Island leaders, as voiced within past FAO conferences and meetings the need for the 16 Pacific Island countries to be granted at least one additional seat in the FAO Council. At the moment there are 16 of us, and we are only given one seat and one voice. I beg this FAO session and august assembly to take that into consideration.

While we value the support and representation of our leading traditional partners in the region, my Government believes there can be no better moment to make this happen than now. Now is the time to participate fully in decision-making processes that affect the daily lives of small and vulnerable economies such as Vanuatu and the rest of the Pacific's SIDS countries.

Let me conclude by again sincerely thanking FAO and others for your support in reaching out to Vanuatu during the recent calamity that my country has suffered. I wish to thank the Director-General and your staff, and your leadership Chair, for all the support that you have granted to Vanuatu, and wish you Godspeed and blessing success in the course of this 39th Conference.

His Excellency Domingo NOLASCO, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to FAO

At the outset, the Philippines would like to congratulate Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva for securing a second term as FAO Director-General. We look forward to his continuous effective leadership of this institution and unwavering support to developing countries in addressing the global food and agricultural challenges. In this regard, we also appreciate the valuable contribution of the men and women of the FAO in achieving its mission.

This year's Conference theme is very relevant, focusing on the role of social protection and productive support in reducing poverty and food insecurity, building resilience and enhancing agricultural development.

We appreciate the Secretariat's report on the current State of Food and Agriculture, which highlighted the progress reached by a number of countries, like the Philippines, in attaining the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the prevalence of undernourishment between 1990 and 2015.

However, many countries are still stricken with high levels of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability, especially in agriculture and rural areas. This is a key concern for the Philippines, as agriculture remains to be the backbone of the economy, being a major source of income and livelihood opportunities in the countryside, particularly for family farmers and rural workers.

The Philippine Government, in response to the challenge of achieving inclusive growth as part of its Social Contract with our people, broadens the scope of social protection in the key aspects of job creation, health care and basic education. Infrastructure building for sustained economic growth is also being pursued alongside rural development, better government service, gender equality; peace and order and environmental protection.

In line with this principle, the government institutes strategies and programmes such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, a conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme. Its dual objectives are (i) to provide cash assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate need, and (ii) to break the intergenerational poverty cycle through investments in human capital.

Since its launch, Pantawid Pamilyang has been rapidly scaled up to become the cornerstone of the Philippine Government's social protection efforts. This programme is an important part of a renewed effort to address chronic poverty and meet the MDGs to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality, reduce child mortality, and improve maternal health.

The Philippines is also actively working towards to enhance agricultural development through better governance and continued investments. The key objective is to accelerate or sustain the sector's expansion in support of all the concerned actors, notably the family farmers and smallholders.

The Philippine Government has started to implement the six-year Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), which is designed to establish a government platform for a modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agriculture and fishery sector. In this partnership, the national government together with local government units and the private sector are providing key infrastructure, facilities, technology and information to raise incomes, productivity, and competitiveness in the countryside.

Other social welfare programmes of the Government provide direct assistance to the poor, such as those pertaining to education, housing resettlement and individual medical assistance. They come in the form of cash or in-kind transfers and social services to the poorest and the marginalized.

The Philippines continues to attach great importance to collaborative work with Rome-based UN agencies in enhancing social protection and building resilience in our country. For instance, FAO has been responding to the needs of farmers affected by typhoon Haiyan to restore rural livelihoods; WFP provides school meals to remote areas of Central Mindanao and pioneered innovations such as the mobile phone-based cash transfers for disbursements to programme recipients; and IFAD implements the Rapid Food Production Enhancement Program, which supports the Government's Rice Self-Sufficiency Plan, targeting poor paddy farmers and irrigators' associations to increase paddy production.

Ms Jo EVANS, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture of Australia

Mr Chairperson, Director-General Graziano da Silva, to whom Australia offers its congratulations, Distinguished delegates, including those from the Southwest Pacific Region, that Australia has the honour of co-chairing here at FAO.

This year marks 70 years since FAO was established. FAO has always had high aspirations, including the common goal of eradicating hunger. Which is why all member countries of FAO have high expectations of FAO as an Organization. So Australia appreciates the significant effort of the Director-General, senior management and FAO staff to transform and refocus FAO's work over the past two years.

The progress made is important. It is equally important to maintain this momentum because there is more to do. Together we need to increase global food production by 60 percent over the next 35 years, and together we still have to reduce the number of undernourished people from more than 800 million to zero if we are to eradicate hunger.

I said on Saturday that each of us has our strengths but it is what we do together that really counts. Australia sees the particular strengths of FAO in the standard-setting work that it enables, particularly through CODEX and the International Plant Protection Convention and its ability to grow and share know-how across the global community.

FAO is also well placed to encourage innovation in food production.

FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are critical in supporting global agricultural research.

Agriculture at the farm gate is just three percent of GDP in Australia but when you include all the businesses that depend on agriculture that grows to around 12 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. If that sounds small, relative to some of the countries I have heard in the last few days, be assured that agriculture is iconic in Australia. It built our economy and is a foundation for our nation's story and our values.

Agriculture and forestry account for 63 percent of the 7.7 million square kilometres of land in Australia. It is one of the five pillars of our economy and will remain linked to the future of our nation. We are a nation of only 24 million people and we export two thirds of our agricultural produce, mainly bulk commodities like wheat and beef, but also premium produce.

We estimate that our exports feed around 40 million people. That is an important contribution but it is not really very big compared to so many other countries who have spoken before me.

So I say this with some humility. Australia also imports large volumes of agricultural produce because we cannot produce all of the things our population wants and needs. We are very good at producing what we can and do produce and we stick to our strengths and rely on markets to provide the rest. Our broad approach to farming support in Australia is to deregulate agriculture as much as possible and remove distortionary support. We rely on trade. The standard-setting work of FAO is a key part of the trade architecture for agriculture.

Productivity growth has been central to the continued viability and competitiveness of Australian farm businesses. Like New Zealand who spoke yesterday, deregulation in Australia has increased productivity by allowing decision-making to become more responsive to market forces.

Australia advocates internationally, like here today, and acts domestically, to reduce trade barriers and promote open market, not just because we export, but because global competition makes our businesses more productive, innovative and resilient.

Improved trade flows are an indispensable part of our collective approach to reducing global poverty and hunger. Productivity also comes from investment in research and development. Australian agriculture has benefited a great deal from being able to bring in innovation from global sources.

We also have a domestic programme to support R&D in Australia with more than USD 700 million invested through a combination of industry and government funding every year. We expect this to generate benefits for the global community as well, including through the extension work via FAO.

In Australia, too, though we have to tackle the issue of rural poverty and hardship, particularly in our case when drought takes hold of otherwise productive land. In some parts of Australia in recent times they have experienced the worst droughts in history and the El Niño my colleague from Vanuatu referred to will exacerbate the dry in Australia.

In the last 18 months, the Government of Australia has enabled farming families to access general welfare payments. This keeps food on the table and provides dignity in the hard times.

I appreciate this is not as large a task for Australia as it is for others, but nonetheless we understand the impacts of hard times on family farmers.

So the challenges ahead remain many for all of us. FAO has made substantial progress in the last few years in readying itself for the task. Australia remains committed to supporting FAO just as we were 70 years ago as a founding member of the Organization. To achieve the outcomes we continue to encourage FAO to focus on its unique strengths.

Her Excellency Frieda Nangula ITHETE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Namibia to FAO

Let me from the onset join others before me in congratulating Dr José Graziano da Silva on his re-election as the Director-General of this Organization. I wish to assure him of Namibia's full support during his second term and re-iterate our commitment to work with him in his quest to achieve the Zero Hunger goal for all.

As you may be aware, Namibia is a semi-arid country which is featured that puts a lot of strain on the efforts by Government in our quest to become food self-sufficient. Factors such as deforestation, land degradation and desertification also pose a serious threat to sustainable agricultural development in Namibia. In addition to these challenges, the arid climate makes it difficult to produce sufficient food under rain-fed conditions. This has led to a situation of subjecting the country to import significant quantities of our food needs.

To address this food deficit the Government introduced the Green Scheme Policy that aims to increase agricultural production under irrigation. The Green Scheme policy is also designed to empower smallholder farmers in irrigation agriculture.

Through our national agricultural policy, the Government provides livestock marketing incentives, animal health kits and feed subsidies for breeding stock.

For resilience building, the Government also avails of fertilizer and certified seeds at subsidised prices, providing training in conservation agriculture and climate change adaptation measures.

These interventions by the Government are aimed at achieving food self-sufficiency and reversing the status of Namibia as a net-importer of food.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank FAO and our development partners for the important role they play in the implementation of the south-south cooperation programme in Namibia in the areas of veterinary diagnostics, horticulture, aquaculture, and rice and cereal production.

Namibia further wishes to express our appreciation for the role played by FAO and other Member Nations in advocating for the importance of soils for agriculture and livelihoods. Soils as we know play an important role in our agricultural systems. With poor soils our desired agricultural productivity levels cannot be reached. It is for this reason that Namibia urges that pragmatic programmes aimed at improving soil fertility and the reduction of land degradation be coupled with the International Year of Soils. This is particularly important in developing countries especially those with fragile ecosystems.

This Session of the Conference takes place at an opportune time just before very critical events of 2015. These include the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, The Heads of State Summit in New York and the COP 21 to be held in Paris. We call upon FAO and its partners to advocate for the principles that we have on so many occasions agreed upon in this house; these include, among others, curbing global warming as it has devastating effects on the livelihoods of so many small holder farmers who solely depend on agriculture to survive.

I would like to conclude my statement in saying that it is time now for us to galvanise support and reinvigorate our commitment to the implementation and achievement of the proposed Goal 2 of the SDGs.

Excma. Sra. Doña Eda RIVAS FRANCHINI, Embajadora y Representate Permanente del Perú ante la FAO

Quiero agradecer y felicitar a la FAO por las reflexiones sobre el tema central que nos ocupa hoy: cómo romper el ciclo de pobreza rural y hambre mediante la aplicación de medidas de protección social y medidas de desarrollo productivo.

Voy a contarles brevemente la experiencia de mi país, el Perú. El Perú en los últimos años ha venido creciendo a un ritmo sostenido consecutivamente, y se nos califica hoy como economía de renta media con perspectivas futuras muy promisorias. Pero, ¿cómo hemos logrado estos resultados tan promisorios y sobre todo, cómo podemos mantenerlos?

Desde el inicio de este Gobierno hemos venido implementando una serie de políticas públicas transversales y de largo plazo que han incluido la focalización de los programas sociales, el incremento de la inversión pública y el gasto social. El objetivo de estos programas es lograr el desarrollo con inclusión social para todos los peruanos. La inclusión social la entendemos como la eliminación de la desigualdad, que afecta profundamente sobre todo a las poblaciones pobres, particularmente, rurales, a las familias campesinas, a las comunidades nativas, a aquellos que están más excluidos. La inclusión social requiere de servicios públicos de calidad y de igualdad de oportunidades. Los ciudadanos requieren acceso a la salud, a la educación, a una vivienda, al empleo digno y a la seguridad social. Hablamos de integración plena al interior de la sociedad peruana. Queremos un Estado atento a las necesidades de sus ciudadanos y comunidades. Este es su rol prioritario del Estado. El objetivo es transformar el crecimiento de la economía peruana en desarrollo y calidad de vida para todos, y así poner fin a siglos de pobreza y exclusión.

Estas políticas han dado resultados en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición. En 2013, la FAO nos reconoció por haber cumplido antes del plazo la meta de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de reducir como mínimo en 50 por ciento el número absoluto de personas subalimentadas, lo que a su vez implicó el logro de la meta 1c) del Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio nº 1. Estimaciones recientes

de la FAO indican que el número de personas subalimentadas en el Perú se ha reducido de 7 millones en 1990-1992 a 2,3 millones en 2014-16.

En cuanto a la pobreza, también hemos logrado importantes avances en el período 2004-2014. La pobreza disminuyó del 58.7 al 22.7 por ciento, mientras que la pobreza extrema bajó del 16,4 al 4,3 por ciento. En el área rural, la pobreza descendió del 77.1 en 2001 al 46 por ciento en 2014 y la pobreza extrema rural bajó del 49.8 al 14.6 por ciento en 2014.

En general, los agricultores han tenido un desarrollo positivo en los últimos años, marcado por la disminución de la pobreza y un incremento significativo en los ingresos relacionados a la mejora de los activos agropecuarios, como mayor acceso al riego e instalación de cultivos permanentes.

Sin embargo, las cifras son siempre globales. Persiste aún un nivel significativo de pobreza rural concentrado en las zonas altoandinas y selva, y un bajo nivel de productividad agrícola que alcanza el 6 por ciento del PBI, un bajo nivel educativo de los agricultores y un notorio envejecimiento de la población agrícola.

En el Perú, el número de agricultores es de 2.26 millones, de los cuales el 64 por ciento vive en las zonas altoandinas y el 28 por ciento la zona de selva. Es decir que la gran mayoría de los agricultores habita en las zonas donde se registra mayores índices de pobreza.

¿Qué estamos haciendo para terminar de una vez por todas con el ciclo de pobreza y baja productividad?

A través de políticas públicas claras que deben ser además de muy largo alcance y no solamente abarcar un período gubernamental sino a través de un acuerdo nacional llevarlas a varios años adelante, el Gobierno busca profundizar y focalizar más los programas sociales y de desarrollo productivo del agro, es especial los dirigidos a la pequeña y mediana agricultura.

Recientemente hemos aprobado los Lineamientos de Política Agraria destinados a construir un sector agrario competitivo, innovador y sostenible que priorice al pequeño y mediano productor agrario y a las comunidades nativas. Se espera que contribuyan a alcanzar el crecimiento económico, la inclusión social, la seguridad alimentaria, la sostenibilidad ambiental y la agrodiversidad.

Estos lineamientos contienen directivas dirigidas al incremento de la infraestructura agraria y de riego en la sierra y selva; la expansión de los mercados de crédito y seguros agrario; el aumento de la oferta de innovaciones tecnológicas de impacto en la productividad agrícola; la atención de los agricultores sujetos a eventos de alto riesgo; el incremento de las capacidades productivas y empresariales, y la ampliación del acceso a los mercados nacionales e internacionales.

Para esto hemos elaborado varios programas que están orientados al desarrollo agrícola, y que esperamos que esto vinculado a la protección social logre un alivio de la pobreza rural efectiva. Estos programas que combinan protección social y desarrollo productivo de la agricultura rural tienen como fin último lograr el desarrollo y la inclusión social.

Pero tenemos un largo camino por recorrer. Y para esto se requiere un esfuerzo continuado en el tiempo. Estamos comprometidos a seguir trabajando para superar el hambre y la pobreza en el Perú desde el Estado, a través de políticas públicas intersectoriales y de largo plazo. Romper el ciclo de la pobreza rural y el hambre es crucial para todos nosotros.

Son Excellence Monsieur Florêncio Mariano DA CONCEIÇÃO E ALMEIDA, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de l'Angola auprès de la FAO (Original language Portuguese)

Il s'agit d'un grand honneur pour moi de participer, au nom du Gouvernement de l'Angola, à cette 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Pour cela, je tiens à profiter de l'occasion pour exprimer, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne, de sincères félicitations à Son Excellence Monsieur Le Mamea Ropati Mualia pour son élection à la Présidence de cette Conférence.

Je félicite aussi le Professeur José Graziano da Silva, Directeur général de la FAO, pour la façon dont il a organisé cette session ainsi que l'événement spécial de dimanche dernier, qui a distingué les pays ayant réussi à atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire et du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous sommes heureux que l'Angola ait été un des pays reconnus, reflétant le travail positif du Gouvernement angolais. Cette reconnaissance de la FAO ne fait que nous encourager à redoubler d'efforts pour continuer à lutter contre la faim et ses causes, ce pourquoi nous comptons sur la solidarité et le soutien de tous les pays et organisations qui, tout comme l'Angola, aspirent à un monde sans faim.

À l'ouverture de la Conférence, nous avons suivi les interventions des chefs d'État, qui ont partagé leurs expériences, leurs désirs et les défis auxquels sont confrontés leurs pays. Nous avons été séduits par ce que nous avons entendu, quand les journaux internationaux parlent en permanence de conflits, de catastrophes naturelles et de crises financières, nous avons besoin de messages positifs et d'espoir, parce que nous sommes certains que nous pouvons et devons faire plus et mieux, parce que nous disposons des capacités et des technologies pour modifier ce qui ne va pas, afin de développer l'immense potentiel que nos pays possèdent dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

En Angola, les niveaux de production agricole se sont améliorés de manière significative, mais nous pensons que nous devons accroître la productivité, afin d'améliorer les conditions sociales des populations rurales.

En ce qui concerne les changements climatiques, l'Angola a enregistré, ces dernières années, des situations préoccupantes, avec l'incidence la plus élevée sur les régions du Sud, posant de sérieux défis au secteur de l'agriculture familiale.

Pour minimiser les effets de la sécheresse, le Gouvernement angolais a conçu et mis en œuvre des programmes de soutien aux populations, en leur fournissant nourriture et biens non alimentaires, soins de santé, assistance médicale et médicaments, tout comme il construit et réhabilite des infrastructures de soutien à la production.

2014 fut l'Année de l'agriculture familiale, en reconnaissance du rôle joué par les petits producteurs. Avec le soutien de la FAO, nous avons réalisé, en Angola, une conférence sur le sujet, avec la participation active des entités gouvernementales, associations d'agriculteurs, centres de recherche, universités et société civile, tout comme de délégués de plusieurs pays.

L'agriculture familiale continue de mériter une attention particulière de la part du Gouvernement angolais, reconnaissant sa contribution à la création d'emplois, à la génération de revenus, à l'approvisionnement des marchés, à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales ainsi qu'à la diversification de l'économie.

La 28^{ème} Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique, réalisée en Tunisie, a souligné le rôle des jeunes et des femmes rurales dans l'agriculture en Afrique, et a considéré qu'il était essentiel d'améliorer la productivité agricole et les conditions de protection sociale des agriculteurs.

Le Gouvernement angolais considère les questions des jeunes et des femmes rurales comme une priorité, et organise des réunions périodiques de consultation englobant toute la société.

La FAO, forte de son expérience, peut apporter une contribution significative aux pays en développement dans la transformation des zones rurales, de sorte qu'elles ne soient plus le centre de concentration de la pauvreté, mais deviennent des zones de bien-être, de qualité de vie, qui démotivent les jeunes à migrer vers les villes et à l'extérieur du pays.

Je veux profiter de cette occasion pour encourager les autres pays africains à continuer d'apporter leur contribution au Fonds de solidarité pour la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, créé suite à la recommandation faite lors de la Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue à Brazzaville en 2012, et auquel l'Angola a contribué à hauteur de 10 millions de dollars, ce qui a permis le financement de projets de développement agricole et rural à travers tout le continent.

Le fait que nous n'ayons eu qu'un seul candidat pour le poste de Directeur général de la FAO, et le pourcentage de voix, aussi important, avec lequel le Professeur José Graziano da Silva a été réélu, démontrent la satisfaction que les États Membres de la FAO ont, en général, des qualités, de l'engagement et du travail effectué durant son premier mandat.

J'aimerais, au nom de mon Gouvernement, le féliciter pour sa réélection, qui permettra de poursuivre dans la voie à la fois innovante et pragmatique qu'il a su donner à l'activité de la FAO, pour en faire un symbole de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. L'Angola réaffirme son désir de continuer à travailler avec la FAO, pour lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté.

De même, nous allons élire, à cette Conférence, le Président indépendant du Conseil. L'Angola, comme membre de cet important organe, a suivi les travaux de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Wilfred Ngirwa en tant que coordinateur, négociateur et facilitateur entre les groupes régionaux, de sorte que l'Angola soutient, avec grande satisfaction, sa recandidature.

Permettez-moi également de féliciter le Conseil de la FAO, le Directeur général et son personnel, car, pour la première fois, il a été présenté à la Conférence une proposition consensuelle relative au Programme et au Budget. Le travail de la Conférence en a été simplifié, en bien, ce qui a laissé plus de temps à consacrer à d'autres questions importantes. Nous encourageons à préserver cette expérience à l'avenir.

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi d'exprimer, très sincèrement, notre gratitude à la FAO, pour son engagement et son dévouement dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

M. Bredoumy Soumaila TRAORE, Directeur général de la production et de la sécurité alimentaire du Ministère de l'agriculture de Côte d'Ivoire

Je voudrais de prime abord, saluer au nom de son Excellence Monsieur Alassane Ouattara, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, la tenue de cette 39^{ème} Conférence de la FAO.

Je voudrais aussi, au nom de Monsieur le Ministre de l'agriculture et son collègue des ressources animales et halieutiques, qui étaient là au moment de l'ouverture de cette session mais qui ont dû rentrer pour des raisons de devoir national, je voudrais en leur nom féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour son élection et le Président de la Conférence pour sa brillante présentation et sa manière magistrale de gérer cette session.

L'engouement suscité par cette Conférence montre clairement à quel point nous sommes tous préoccupés et interpellés par la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle mondiale, où les chiffres donnés par notre Organisation commune, la FAO, demeurent préoccupants.

En effet, malgré les efforts déployés, il reste encore plus de 800 millions de personnes souffrant de sous-alimentation chronique.

Plusieurs facteurs sont à l'origine de cette situation, parmi lesquels on peut citer l'insuffisance des investissements et des financements publics pour l'agriculture et la nutrition dans les pays en développement; on peut citer aussi le manque d'infrastructures et l'insuffisance de personnel pour la prise en charge de la malnutrition aiguë; aussi, on note les nombreuses distorsions du commerce international des produits agricoles, discriminatoires et non équitables; et enfin, l'incidence des changements climatiques provoquant des catastrophes naturelles, telles que les inondations et les sécheresses, combinée à un manque de stratégie en matière de gestion des sols et des ressources en eau.

En Côte d'Ivoire, bien que la disponibilité alimentaire soit globalement assurée au niveau national, notre pays continue de dépendre, dans certains cas, des importations, tels que les produits laitiers et le riz notamment.

La dernière analyse de la vulnérabilité alimentaire, à travers le Cadre harmonisé, indique qu'en milieu rural plus de 1 600 000 personnes sont sous pression alimentaire à cause de la situation nutritionnelle qui demeure précaire dans certaines localités.

Après plus d'une décennie de crise, le Chef de l'État, Son Excellence Monsieur Alassane Ouattara, s'est engagé, dès son accession à la tête de l'État, à remettre l'agriculture au cœur de l'économie de notre pays en procédant à des réformes sectorielles et en accroissant progressivement les ressources de l'État allouées au secteur agricole.

Ainsi, le Gouvernement s'est à nouveau engagé à lutter contre la pauvreté, l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition dans les organisations multisectorielles, en privilégiant un cadre d'actions concertées et une synergie des politiques.

Pour briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté rurale et éradiquer la faim, la Côte d'Ivoire a défini des politiques sectorielles structurantes qui sont:

1. Le Programme national d'investissement agricole (PNIA), estimé à environ quatre milliards de dollars, qui priorise l'agriculture familiale pratiquée par plus de 80 pour cent de notre population agricole. C'est un secteur pourvoyeur d'emplois, capable de résorber le chômage et réduire considérablement la pauvreté. C'est aussi un secteur où les femmes et les jeunes ont des opportunités d'y exercer.

La mise en œuvre de ce Programme permet aux producteurs, éleveurs et pêcheurs d'avoir un meilleur accès aux infrastructures et équipements agricoles, à la terre, aux intrants de production, aux innovations technologiques, au financement, à la formation et à un environnement commercial favorable.

Au stade actuel, les grands projets de relance des filières agricoles, y compris les filières vivrières, animales et halieutiques, sont initiés pour mettre en place des infrastructures et les équipements nécessaires pour accroître les performances des acteurs des différents segments de la chaîne de valeur.

Désormais, à côté des grosses agro-industries, on intègre systématiquement «la production villageoise». Aux projets de développement des cultures pérennes, on associe systématiquement des cultures vivrières. Ainsi, les «grands» devront soutenir le développement des «petits». Telle est la nouvelle vision de développement de notre agriculture.

Ainsi donc, par la mise en œuvre depuis 2012 à 2014 de notre Programme national d'investissement agricole, nos productions d'exportation et vivrières ont connu des croissances respectives de 14 et 27 pour cent.

Le programme de sécurisation du foncier rural, qui a fait l'objet d'une loi et de décrets d'application, et la mise en place d'une assurance agricole pourront garantir l'accès au financement des populations rurales, notamment dans le secteur agricole.

2. Il y a aussi le Plan stratégique de développement de l'élevage, de la pêche et de l'aquaculture pour 2014-2020;

3. La Stratégie nationale de protection sociale avec l'extension de la Couverture maladie universelle à toute la population, dont le démarrage de la phase pilote a débuté en janvier 2015;

4. La Politique nationale de l'alimentation scolaire, qui va garantir, à travers les cantines scolaires, une amélioration de l'état nutritionnel des enfants en âge préscolaire et scolaire.

En somme, la vision des autorités de la Côte d'Ivoire est de faire de notre pays, un pays émergent à l'horizon 2020. C'est pourquoi, la Côte d'Ivoire réitère son engagement à mettre tout en œuvre avec le soutien de ses partenaires pour améliorer la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle de nos populations.

Je voudrais réitérer ici les remerciements, le soutien et les félicitations de l'équipe de la Représentation permanente de notre pays auprès de la FAO pour soutenir de façon permanente et quotidiennement la FAO pour que les objectifs soient atteints.

Her Excellency Maria Laura DA ROCHA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to FAO

I wish to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude for the support of Member Nations to the re-elected Director-General, José Graziano da Silva. Today we can say Brazil has defeated hunger, reducing to less than two percent the prevalence of undernourishment and lifting around 40 million people out of poverty.

We need to recognize the achievements made; but most importantly, we have to redouble our efforts to respond to the challenges that remain in ensuring food sovereignty and the right to food for all human beings. To *Break the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger*, Brazil believes there is no way other

than promoting integrated policies, with social participation and supported by a sustained political and financial commitment. We need comprehensive economic and social policies that address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.

In Brazil, the Zero Hunger Programme further enhanced by the programme Brazil Without Extreme Poverty, launched in 2011, was pivotal for the fight against hunger. Based on a human-rights approach and on an active social participation, these programmes combine conditional cash-transfers, public food procurement from family farmers, school meals to over 40 million students daily and support to family farming.

Particularly in rural areas, where the incidence of poverty is higher, Brazil has set up the National Plan for a Sustainable and Solidary Rural Development, integrating policies in support of family farming, infrastructure for health services, education, housing and other public services. It also comprises policies to empower rural women, the rural youth and the diversity of peoples and traditional communities to foster inclusive rural development.

In this context, the International Year of Family Farming represented an important occasion to recognize the key role of family farming to food security and sustainable agriculture and to gather political support for policies at all levels.

In the regional level, within the MERCOSUR, the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) was consolidated as a democratic forum, in which governments and civil society join hands to formulate guidelines and strategies for public policies in support of family farming in the region.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has also enhanced our commitment, at the highest political level, to work together to eradicate hunger in our countries by 2025, with the support of FAO.

Moreover, within the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, we have established a multi-stakeholder platform to promote cross-sectorial and participatory policies and programmes for food and nutrition security.

Also in Africa, we collaborate with FAO in development projects to foster cross-sectorial programmes, linking social protection schemes to agricultural policies. The Purchase from Africans for Africa Programme is a model of cooperation and collaboration among country-partners, FAO and WFP that has achieved concrete results on the increased productivity of local farmers, also benefiting almost 130 000 students through healthy and locally sourced school meals.

The Brazilian Government is fully engaged in the promotion of sustainable practices in family farming as well as in large-scale agriculture production. Practices regarding the recovery of degraded areas, soil conservation, water management, and agriculture-livestock-forestry-aquaculture integrated systems are successful experiences in this field. The adoption of a National Plan on agro-ecology and organic production associated with rural credit, technical assistance and rural extension activities, is another example of Brazil's commitment to a rural development model that encompasses sustainable agriculture, communities and ecosystems resilience, and the overcoming of rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Brazil will host an FAO regional meeting on agro-ecology for Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia next 25 and 26 June.

Finally, Brazil wishes to recognize the valuable support of FAO to address rural poverty and hunger by strengthening rural resilience. We strongly believe FAO is well positioned to coordinate international efforts and to promote integrated approaches, linking social protection to productive support, at all levels.

FAO can provide technical support and capacity-building for more comprehensive, inclusive and effective policies to fight hunger and extreme poverty, as well as to promote sustainable agriculture.

Her Excellency Amira GORNASS, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sudan to FAO (Original language Arabic)

I greet you and I am delighted to be able to address you on the occasion of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Sudanese Government and people, I would like to greet the Heads of

Delegation and all participants in this Conference which is seeking to break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger by strengthening social protection and sustainable agricultural development. We very much commend the role played by the FAO as well as its continuous efforts to develop the agricultural sector and to attain the Development Goals in order to tackle the challenges arising from the lack of food, malnutrition and climate change and the impact of economic crises and wars.

I also have pleasure here in congratulating Mr Graziano da Silva on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. We can assure him of our cooperation in order that we may attain the objectives of the Organization over the next term, during which a few of you will have even greater importance in rising up to the challenges of food shortages and malnutrition, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where most of the countries suffer from malnutrition and hunger.

We appreciate the growing role of the FAO and its continued efforts to continue developing the farming sector in Sudan, and we hope to see the strengthening of this cooperation in support of national efforts to bring about agricultural development, food security and nutrition security. Sudan has sought to reduce poverty and guarantee food security; to this end it has established a National Secretariat for food security, the end of which is to coordinate policies, programmes and projects as far as services and analyses, in order to bolster food security efforts across the country and the provinces. We have also established a Council for Food and Nutrition Security in order to promote cooperation coordination between the Ministries and the relevant bodies in order to bring about food and nutrition security. We have also supported all of this through the enactment of laws and regulations guaranteeing and facilitating implementation of plans and projects aiming to integrate inclusive food security nationwide.

The State has also given a strategic focus to agriculture by giving it priority for resources and funding, and providing assistance to the poor in rural areas, given that more than 70 percent of the Sudanese population entirely depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. We have focused our efforts on irrigation in order to guarantee stability in agricultural production. We have expended the equivalent of USD 50 million during the current crop season in order to improve irrigation projects to guarantee stability and food security. The State has also adopted a programme for agricultural reinvigoration in order to promote the agricultural sector. This programme seeks to develop farming systems, develop infrastructures and to make proper use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

These innovations have been buttressed by a range of economic and institutional policies, including the withdrawal of the State from the productive sector and encouraging the private sector to take on the reins, particularly through the improvement in legislation and laws, promoting strategic partnerships for agricultural investments and assisting in the resolution of problems of land ownership, finance and rational use of natural and human resources.

Strategic partnerships are among the most important roles used by the State in order to free up the agricultural sector, ridding it of the traditional stereotypes. We have also worked to develop small- and medium-sized farms and firms. We are also working to help the whole productive sector by trying to attract investments, national and foreign capital alike in order to promote the agricultural sector, which is a constant pillar for continuous growth and an important tool in reducing poverty. The growth in GDP, thanks to agriculture, is four times more effective in poverty reduction than in other sectors of the economy.

I can assure you that the Sudanese Government and people are committed to demonstrating political will in order to realize all of our policies, and ask God to help us for the good of our countries and our region all the international community.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God.

Sra. Julia Antonia VICIOSO VARELAS, Representante Permanente Alterna de la República Dominicana ante la FAO

El gobierno de República Dominicana reconoce los logros alcanzados por la Organización durante el primer mandato del profesor José Graziano da Silva y celebra su reelección junto a todos los Estados miembros.

En 2011 los delegados a la Conferencia General miramos hacia dentro de la propia FAO para escoger un nuevo Director General.

En esta oportunidad hemos ratificado la confianza depositada en la persona del Profesor Graziano, al reconocer sus realizaciones durante estos cuatro años y asumir como propia su visión para el futuro.

En el bienio que ahora concluye, República Dominicana ha dado pasos importantes en el diseño e implementación de políticas orientadas a alcanzar la plena seguridad alimentaria y nutricional.

Este es un camino por el cual avanzamos en estrecha colaboración con esta casa, con el apoyo de la sede y de la red descentralizada, incluyendo las oficinas de la FAO a nivel regional, subregional y nacional.

Durante este bienio el Director General recibió a la Excelentísima Señora Primera Dama, Cándida Montilla de Medina, quien impulsa proyectos de nutrición para la infancia y los envejecientes, así como para mujeres en embarazo y lactancia, y otros segmentos vulnerables.

De igual modo, en este período la FAO ha recibido la visita de la Excelentísima Señora Vicepresidenta Margarita Cedeño de Fernandez, quien coordina el Gabinete de Políticas Sociales y es Embajadora Extraordinaria de la institución.

En septiembre pasado, en el marco del Comité de Agricultura, tuvo lugar la visita del Excelentísimo Señor Presidente Danilo Medina.

El Presidente Medina expuso los detalles de su exitoso programa de desarrollo rural y agroalimentario basado en las visitas sorpresas a comunidades rurales.

Debido a la solidez técnica de sus componentes y al impacto positivo de su puesta en práctica, el modelo del Presidente Medina está siendo incorporado a las políticas de otros países en desarrollo.

De cara al próximo bienio, continuaremos ampliando y profundizando nuestra relación con la FAO.

Hace dos años la FAO certificó que la República Dominicana había alcanzado la meta de reducción del hambre fijada en los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Nos llena de orgullo que la FAO ahora certifique que también hemos logrado la meta más ambiciosa surgida de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Al mismo tiempo, vemos que tanto el porcentaje como el número de hambrientos muestran un descenso a escala global.

Si bien tanto en nuestro país como en el mundo se registran grandes avances en esta lucha, aún tenemos un camino por recorrer para la erradicación del hambre.

Para alcanzar la meta de eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición, la cual constituye el objetivo fundamental de esta Organización —y es el deber político y moral de todas las sociedades—, es preciso continuar fortaleciendo el sistema internacional y sus agencias especializadas.

En este orden, apoyamos con gran satisfacción el programa de labores que el Director General ha presentado para el próximo bienio, el cual se nutre de su experiencia, desarrolla su visión, e incorpora las prioridades indicadas por los Estados Miembros en los demás órganos rectores.

Nos complace resaltar que el programa de labores tiene una estrecha afinidad con el nuevo marco estratégico, donde se establecen líneas claras de enlace entre los distintos programas y los objetivos estratégicos de la FAO.

Deseamos reafirmar la importancia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que es la herramienta para llevar los conocimientos de esta casa a la realidad concreta en nuestro país, en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, y en todo el mundo.

Aplaudimos la progresiva creación de capacidades internas, que amplifican el papel de la Organización como entidad de conocimientos especializados en alimentación y agricultura, incrementando su valor como entidad generadora de bienes públicos globales.

Queremos subrayar con especial énfasis los avances registrados en la creación de capacidades técnicas en áreas clave para apoyar políticas de desarrollo sostenible y sustentable, tales como la protección social, y los partenariados y asociaciones.

Celebramos el lanzamiento de iniciativas regionales y nuevos programas en los países, mientras reafirmamos nuestro compromiso con la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre 2025, en especial a luz de la Presidencia pro t  pore de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribe  os, que Rep  blica Dominicana ejercer   el a  o pr  ximo.

En conclusi  n, reiteramos nuestra confianza en la FAO como instituci  n l  der de los esfuerzos globales hacia la erradicaci  n del hambre y la malnutrici  n.

His Excellency Abdoulie BOJANG, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Gambia

Let me begin by bringing you warmest greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, the President of The Gambia, the icon of our revolution, a master farmer, the architect of Vision 2016 “Food Self-Sufficiency”, and the Government and people of The Gambia.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of The Gambia, the Government and people of The Gambia, and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate Professor Jose Graziano da Silva for his re-election as the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The re-election of the Director-General is a sign of confidence and trust that Member Nations have in FAO under his leadership. He is a true friend of The Gambia, my country, and we wish him more successes in his second term.

We also join other speakers to congratulate you for your election as the Chair of the Conference and extend our appreciation about the way you are conducting the affairs of this Conference.

Furthermore, I thank the Government and people of Italy for the hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Rome.

Since 1994, the Government of The Gambia, under the pragmatic leadership of the President, continues to recognize agriculture as an important prerequisite for socio-economic development and progress to the extent that a number of operations have been launched by the President himself, namely Operation Feed Yourself; Operation Go Back to the Land; and Operation Feed the Nation.

Against this background, the Government continues to reposition agriculture in its development programme and provide as much as it can to ensure the full participation of Gambians, particularly women and youth in agriculture.

Fighting poverty and achieving zero hunger is a major priority of the President, hence, The Gambia Government has introduced a number of initiatives to ensure inclusive social protection and sustainable agricultural development especially for the rural and peri-urban populace the latest initiative being - Vision 2016, which aims to make The Gambia a food self-sufficient nation by 2016 and today Gambians are being encouraged to Eat what they Grow and Grow what they Eat as well.

It goes without saying that The Gambia’s Vision 2016 is on course and, when achieved, it will not only create significant employment for the youthful population of the country but will as well create wealth, generate foreign exchange and ultimately improve the livelihood of the population.

As we all know, one of the greatest challenges to agriculture is climate change and vulnerability. Cognizant of this, the Government of The Gambia continues to work on mitigation/adaptation strategies that would minimize the impact of climate change especially in water availability, anti-salt dikes, introduction of new varieties of seeds, etc.

However, to ensure successful implementation of our programme framework in agriculture, we would need continuous support and partnership. We are therefore grateful to all those development partners who continue to support The Gambia in its food self-sufficiency drive and they include but are not limited to FAO, IFAD, WFP, IDB, ADB, Saudi Fund, Kuwaiti Fund, World Bank, etc.

As a country with a pragmatic leader who leaves no stone unturned to achieve positive results, we are very hopeful that with the support of our partners, we would achieve Vision 2016 objectives which will serve as an important building block for the attainment of Vision 2020 – Transforming The Gambia into a middle-income country.

At the end of November 2014, the Vice-President of the Republic of The Gambia was here, to receive an award on behalf of President Jammeh and the entire Gambian population, in recognition of the achievement we made in reducing the percentage of the Gambian population classified as undernourished, from 13.3 percent in the early 1990s to six percent in 2014.

Only last Sunday, I was here in Italy to receive an award on behalf of our President, recognizing further gains made in reducing hunger in our country, from six percent in 2014 to five percent in 2015.

This further success under the leadership of President Jammeh is due largely to the sustained political commitment at the highest level, which is a prerequisite for hunger eradication and the reduction of undernourishment. His Excellency's Government's provision of strategic material and administrative support to all players along the value chain also contributed to the achievement of the target.

President Jammeh can best be described as a farmer president, who is leading the way by engaging in agricultural activities in his spare time, greatly promoting agriculture as a noble and profitable venture.

Last week, the President concluded a month-long agricultural tour of the entire country, accompanied by senior officials including policy-makers, law-makers, local government administrators, technocrats and my humble self.

This latest tour has availed him the opportunity to see first-hand the progress made in the implementation of Vision 2016 to date and the constraints that need to be addressed as we draw closer to the target date of 31 December 2015.

We are certain that with FAO and other partners' continued support and partnership as we sustainably localize the SDGs, particularly SDG2 - "End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture" through optimizing the role of traditional rulers and local government administrators; diversified grassroots stakeholders; particularly rural women and youth, as enshrined in Vision 2016, we will meet these goals well before the proposed deadline of 2030.

Once again, His Excellency President Jammeh appreciates FAO's recognition and support of The Gambia's efforts towards attaining Food Self-Sufficiency, and addressing hunger and malnutrition; and he commends and congratulates Professor José Graziano da Silva for his re-election.

I will conclude by assuring the FAO and our other partners of The Gambia's continuous commitment in the noble fight to achieve zero hunger and poverty eradication in the world.

May Allah the Almighty God continue to guide and bless us all.

The Honourable Vincent SSEMPLIJA, Minister of State for Agriculture of Uganda

On behalf of the Uganda delegation, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, let me thank you for giving me the floor to deliver our country statement.

Let me start by congratulating Professor Graziano da Silva for his re-election as the FAO Director-General and Ambassador Ngirwa, my brother, as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. They can count on Uganda's support and cooperation.

The State of Food and Agriculture paper highlights many aspects related to social protection, food security and poverty. In reality, Mr Chairperson, most of them are not new, as they have been widely debated in diverse fora, especially under the aegis of the Committee of the World Food Security. We note two categories of continents performing at two opposed extremes, where some did very well and others very poorly in addressing food insecurity and poverty.

We congratulate all those developing countries that have met the MDG Goal 1 of halving the prevalence of undernourishment. At the same time, as widely documented and vividly elucidated in this document, the number of people that globally faced chronic hunger in 1990-92, the base period for the World Food Summit, was about 850 million. Today, 25 years later, about 800 million people are

still facing the same problem. This puts to question the relevance of all the diverse intellectual discourses, diplomatic and political engagements that have been held in different parts of the globe. Admittedly, we have not paid adequate attention to the underlying causes of food insecurity and poverty. We should all be critically reorienting ourselves to the question why and what went wrong; and on that basis, we should seek practical and pragmatic solutions to the challenges.

For sure, underinvestment in agriculture, infrastructure and social services is widely acknowledged to foment the problem of food insecurity and poverty. Another indisputable known reason exacerbating the problem is that the views and concerns of the developing countries are often neglected and not given due attention in the global development agenda, thus leading to erroneous, faulty and ineffective interventions. For instance, there exist home-grown national and regional success stories and experiences in social protection which are often ignored in preference for foreign ones. Started as local initiatives, these experiences, if adequately supported, present high potential to foster social protection and eventually spur development.

Given the very limited time for this presentation, my delegation would like to reiterate the following aspects that require critical policy focus and attention.

Pursuing a ‘twin-track’ strategy that provides safety nets while promoting investment in physical infrastructure and human capital formation. This is crucial for protecting and building productive assets that contribute to economic growth while reducing the risk of future food insecurity, the government of Uganda is engaged in a serious infrastructure development and capital formation.

The fact that the majority of food-producing countries and the smallholders in these developing countries. The smallholders are net food buyers. This warrants affirmative action to enhance supply of social protection instruments. These include both promotion and provision of agricultural input subsidies, public works projects, agricultural credit and access to extension services; with special attention paid to challenges faced by women, given their central role as family providers. Clearly, the justification to help producers to access technologies, agricultural machinery for tractorisation and others for irrigation and water for production, agro-processing and post-harvest handling has increasingly become more compelling.

Where necessary, policy reversals should be considered and implemented if they emerge to be the best options to address context-specific situations in order to reach the intended goal.

The Government of Uganda places a lot of emphasis on improving all of those areas above and organizing farmers into producer organizations so that we empower the rural farmers.

Lastly, as we may all know, the way agriculture and food security will be addressed in the ongoing inter-governmental negotiations on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York is not yet clear.

In our view, it is important that the voices of the smallholder food producers are given due attention and their concerns adequately addressed. The Committee on World Food Security, other relevant committees and bodies, in consultation with the United Nations Rome-based Agencies, especially FAO, should provide necessary technical guidance to the Member Nations in order to reach this reality.

With these comments, the Uganda delegation concurs with all the suggested actions in the *State of the Food and Agriculture* Report, and also wish to use this opportunity to thank you, Mr Chairperson, for giving us this opportunity, and thank all of the development partners and we assure all of them that Uganda is set to move with you, Mr Chairperson, and the FAO, and the Director-General, and you know, again, congratulate everybody for this momentous occasion.

The meeting rose at 17.14 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 14

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.14

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
10 June 2015

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 9.42 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima reunión a las 9.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)**Point 10. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)****Tema 10. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura (continuación)***(C 2015/2 Rev.1)***Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)****Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)****Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)**

Portugal, Austria, Slovenia, Ireland, Poland, Malta, Belarus, Trinidad and Tobago, Iceland, France, Kenya, Burundi, Samoa, Niue, Holy See, Palestine (observer), Afghanistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, San Marino, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Seventh Plenary Meeting to order. I just want to say a prayer for guidance this morning.

Oh mighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for this beautiful day and everything that you have done for us. Please give us the strength, courage and wisdom to carry out the work that you have appointed us to do. Bless FAO, all the delegates and their respective countries. In thy name we pray. Amen.

We will now continue with Item 10, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

I wish to once again remind delegates to adhere to the five-minute limit for statements, and four minutes for observers. Furthermore, please be reminded that, should you wish, the full version of your intervention can be submitted to the Secretariat for posting on the Conference website and inclusion in the verbatim records of this session.

I now give the floor to the first speaker on our list of speakers as contained in today's Journal.

Her Excellency Assunção CRISTAS, Minister for Agriculture and Sea of Portugal (Original language Portuguese)

Although the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been achieved in 72 countries monitored by the FAO and the incidence of hunger has decreased by 216 million since 1990, there are still 795 million people who are undernourished, which is unacceptable for humanity.

FAO's action is therefore crucial to push forward the international food-security programme and governmental cooperation worldwide is a moral and institutional obligation if we really want to solve this problem.

Social protection is an essential complement to agricultural development aimed at fighting poverty and hunger in the world, and I would therefore like to congratulate the FAO for its relevant choice of discussion topics at this Conference.

Portugal is also strongly committed to working with the FAO to eradicate hunger, particularly by actively contributing to the Blue Growth Agenda, and I would like to recall our Blue Week Initiative, which was held in Lisbon last week from 3 to 6 June with over 70 delegations from countries, and also FAO was represented there.

With regard to agriculture, the African continent is recognised as a strategic intervention area, not only because of current shortage levels but also because of its potential for agricultural development.

Portugal has gathered extensive information in regards to information in addition to technical knowledge and expertise, which can foster increase and improvement of agricultural production in Africa, particularly in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) with which we have had long-standing close relations.

The CPLP is an area with great potential for economic development, with a population of 250 million. However, about 28 million (11 percent) of these people are undernourished currently.

In 2011, the Ministers approved the CPLP's Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security (ESAN-CPLP) which seeks to build a coherent governance model for the fight against hunger in the respective Member Nations.

From the outset, the FAO has followed and supported this initiative, a contribution that I wish to highlight and praise.

In 2013, the FAO supported a study on the "Status of Food Security Governance in CPLP Countries and the Role of Family Farming", an important collaboration to support the planning of future action. More recently, in 2014, a Technical Cooperation Project was launched by the FAO and the CPLP aimed at supporting the implementation of the Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security, which is vital for the success of this programme.

Given the future food needs worldwide and the challenges that we face in terms of limitations of resources and climate change, obviously we all have to make a contribution. In the European Union, in 2014, a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) came into force, seeking greater sustainability and efficiency in food production. In Portugal, food self-sufficiency is 80 percent in value.

The Portuguese Government has chosen the increase in domestic production and reaching food trade balance as a goal in the agricultural sector in 2020. This is not just in the interest of Portugal, but also to provide greater reliability and stability to local and regional food supply at world level, and to contribute to greater world balance.

With the new support framework created by the CAP, we believe the conditions to increase production, productivity and the resilience of our agricultural systems are in place.

Portugal has half a million hectares of irrigable area and there has been a major effort to support investment to increase and improve irrigated land. For us, irrigation is a key to development of agriculture and to adapt better to climate change. We have also created a Land Bank to combat land abandonment and desertification of rural areas as well as to facilitate land access particularly among younger people. These challenges are great, but in Portugal we are committed to do our bit, and I believe we have a lot to learn, but we also have many positive experiences to share.

Finally, we must acknowledge that the work to fight poverty and hunger that lies ahead is enormous and the challenges we face are huge. Good joint strategies and further exchange of skills are tools that we must use in order to achieve our desired goals in these areas.

These are challenges that we must not fear, for I am sure that with the cooperation of all they shall be overcome.

His Excellency Andrä RUPPRECHTER, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria

First of all I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate Graziano da Silva on his re-election. I would like to express our appreciation to Mr Graziano da Silva for the FAO's work in eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Director-General, you have sharpened the FAO's focus on nutrition and I am strongly convinced that sustainable agricultural policies have to become increasingly nutrition-sensitive.

Only by strengthening rural resilience can we address challenges such as climate change and its devastating impact on the livelihood of people especially in developing countries.

It is therefore of utmost importance that the climate change negotiations in Paris in December have a successful outcome.

I would also like to thank FAO for presenting the State of Food and Agriculture Report (SOFA 2015). SOFA recalls the persistence of poverty and food insecurity, and puts the emphasis on rural areas.

Our present focus on the role of social protection in fighting hunger and poverty is linked to agriculture in vital rural areas. My country, Austria, is a country of rural areas. One of my top priorities is making sure that rural areas are strong enough to face future challenges.

Social protection systems have to maximize the impact on resilience and food security and nutrition: we need an intelligent management of our living environment in the spirit of sustainability; we need the necessary infrastructure for rural areas; we must ensure protection against natural hazards. Prevention is better than cure! We must link sectors such as education, health and agriculture to ensure employment and social welfare in rural areas. We have to enhance access, especially women's access, to markets and financial services; we need social services, such as child care and care for the elderly and disabled people.

For this last pillar, distinguished colleagues, let me present our programme on "Green Care". It comprises a bridge between social protection and agriculture and food system policies.

Austrian farmers' nutritional and environmental experience has been broadened by a social component: Green Care.

Green Care constitutes an additional source of income for farmers in the context of diversification, alongside tourism opportunities and direct marketing. Green Care focuses on four pillars: education, therapy, nursing and care, and social work.

"Courageous changes" are necessary. We must take responsibility for God's creation which has been entrusted to us and must pass it on unharmed.

Let me point out one more challenge, particularly close to my heart.

In the light of global development and feeding more than nine billion people in 2050 it is our moral duty to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Therefore, we must be guided by sound sustainable policies which focus on environmentally compatible production methods in order to protect the environment, landscapes, natural resources, soil and biodiversity.

Hard facts show us that the cultivation of genetically modified species is already stagnating in developed countries. It is a fact that the cultivation of GMOs is increasing in developing countries. It seems that profits and political interests dominate the international agenda and trump other concerns. We must ensure that developing countries are not pressured or forced into dependencies which are not to their advantage.

Genetically modified seeds benefit neither farmers nor consumers. The long term effects of their cultivation are completely unknown! Austria is and will continue to remain GMO free. As Minister of Agriculture, I will continue to speak out internationally – for a fair chance for GMO freedom on the world market.

To conclude, 2015 is the International Year of Soils – it is high time that we devote our full attention to the basis for all agricultural production. It can take a thousand years to create a layer of topsoil, but only a few days to seal this layer with concrete.

Five tonnes of animal life can live in one hectare of soil - A handful of soil can contain billions of soil microorganisms. But soil is a limited resource. We must treat our soils responsibly and allow future generations to make the same productive use of them as we have.

We will be hosting a Conference on soil protection in Austria this autumn of this year and I would be proud to welcome you there.

We need to put our planet, its resources and its precious raw materials, its soil, its water and its creatures in the focus of action.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, let me invite you to the Austrian Pavilion "breathe.austria" at the Expo in Milan which shows that planting is essential to resilience; trees are essential to cut CO2 emissions; and planting is vital for biodiversity and mankind. Do not miss it. Visit it!

His Excellency Dejan ZIDAN, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia (Original language Slovenian)

I very much welcome this discussion on a matter as important as the role of social protection in eradicating hunger and malnutrition, especially in rural areas where three-quarters of the world's poor live. It is even more important in view of the forthcoming closure of the Post-2015 Development Agenda debate, in which eradication of hunger and poverty rank high among the sustainable development priorities for the next 15 years.

Slovenia wishes to contribute to this with an initiative aimed at the proclamation of 20 May as World Bee Day within the framework of the United Nations. We all know very well that food security depends on bees and that bees have proven to be an invaluable and sustainable resource in agricultural production. All the pollinators, including bees, contribute to world agricultural economy to the range of 150 billion Euro per year. Hunger and malnutrition undermine the potential development of individuals and the development of society in general, and measures to help the most vulnerable are therefore not only important but urgent if we want to break the vicious circle of poverty. It is unacceptable, especially considering that there is enough food for everyone, but many people cannot access it, and we have to make every effort to ensure they do.

Although it might seem absurd but food is thrown away. There are millions and tons of food thrown away; food that does not end where it should but in dust bins. That is why we have to think about the just distribution of natural resources and products we have available.

Since most of the poor in this world live in suburban areas or in the countryside, food security and food strategies are important policies, but synergies can only be achieved with effective cooperation between the actors of agriculture and social policy.

We need an integrated approach and a long-term vision which will enable us to address the structural causes of poverty and hunger, not only a short-term treatment of the symptoms.

Food production is facing risks. The risks are caused by climate change and natural disasters, also price fluctuations and the economic and financial crises. I do believe that only with good cooperation we can ensure the basic human right to food for everyone.

I am glad at seeing such an important discussion today and Slovenia is prepared to play an active role in that.

His Excellency Tom HAYES, Minister of State for Food, Horticulture and Food Safety of Ireland

I am delighted to be here today, to represent Ireland on the occasion of the 39th FAO Conference. At the outset, I wish to congratulate Director-General Da Silva on his re-election. I wish him every success in his work to ensure the continual improvement of this Organization. As he said following his election, 'there is always room for improvement'.

I am encouraged when I note that the number of hungry people has decreased in the time since I last addressed this Conference two years ago. In that space of time, the numbers of hungry people have reduced from 870 million to 795 million. This is good progress but it is not enough. We must redouble our efforts in developing the necessary political will and commitment to end this shameful reality especially when we consider that under-nutrition is the underlying cause in the deaths of 7 000 children under the age of five that die every day.

It is a fact that the main concentration of extreme poverty and food insecurity is in rural areas. These are the very people who we should be enabling to provide food for growing populations. As former Brazilian President Lula said in his address to this Conference: "these people are not the problem, they are part of the solution".

More than one million Irish people died of starvation in Ireland in the 1840s. Our famine experience has played a significant role in shaping and defining who we are as a people and how we engage with the world. We have supported FAO projects which promote resilience among the rural poor by supplying inputs such as seeds and livestock as well as training in smart farming techniques. We have

also supported the FAO's SAVE FOOD initiative which is addressing the issue of food losses and waste.

We must not forget the role of the private sector. This was acknowledged in the political outcome document of the Second International Conference on Nutrition which took place here in the FAO last November. The work of that Conference is only just beginning. We must remain focussed on the targets and commitments which were agreed. The Scaling Up Nutrition movement is another important avenue where developing and developed countries can work together with the private sector to explore solutions to under-nutrition. My Department has made available an Africa Agri-Food Development Fund to assist companies to invest in the development of sustainable agricultural production systems in Africa. We acknowledge that the private sector has an important part to play in ending hunger.

In addressing the theme of this debate, we must ask ourselves, what is the place of social protection policies in addressing rural poverty and hunger? There are obvious benefits to be gained from the FAO's work to determine advice for countries regarding the optimum policy mix of social protection and other measures to alleviate poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Production supports and sophisticated social protection measures can complement one another. It is undoubtedly within the FAO's mandate to build further knowledge in this area but it is important to have ongoing consultation with Members to determine the precise focus of the FAO.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those countries who, last Sunday, celebrated the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We must continue our momentum to help every one of those countries still on the hunger map. Ireland has played an active role in negotiations to shape the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. This is a pivotal time in international development and it demands our full attention as the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty by 2030 emerge as possible goals. We must take into account the views of those people that are most impoverished and marginalised and ensure that their voices are heard.

Transformation is possible. Let us use the diversity of our experience to put forward innovative solutions and take leadership at every level. By doing so, we can improve the lives not just of this generation, but future generations to come.

Mr Tadeusz NALEWAK, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland (Original language Polish)

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for inviting me to participate in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. It's a great honour to me because FAO is an important forum for sharing information and views in the areas related to food and agriculture.

We are living in the times of accumulating imbalances in terms of finance, commerce, demographic resources and ecology. In fact, we are observing the world order which used to be structured around the pillar of nation states coming down and we are not able to work out a new forum for the functioning of the world system of the global age. The world has never before had to face so many challenges at one time, so humanity needs to deal with constraints in the access to land, water and conventional energy. An attempt to provide an answer to these challenges in the concept of sustainable agriculture which constitutes in the years of natural resources and orientation of technologies and institutions which will allow to satisfy the needs of present and future generations. So it is therefore a development that ensures economic liability of agriculture, its social acceptability, while working towards objectives in the areas of production and ecology.

Implementation of the sustainable development of agriculture in rural areas encounters, however, multiple difficulties of social nature; for example, low levels of wealth among the residents of economic nature, limited investment capacities, and intellectual nature such as low levels of education and ecological awareness. Difficulties in this practical implementation are also based in the fact that this concept tries to reconcile frequently contradictory objectives, especially in the short time perspective.

The experience of highly developed countries indicates that the model of family farming could offer a way out for environmental, social and economic reasons. A great majority of family farms are

unfortunately small farms which, for various reasons, are not able to participate in the benefits that come from the full participation in the market, and this is why they experience financial difficulties. It needs, however, to be emphasized once again that one of the most important social functions of family farms is the protection of rural population against poverty.

Agriculture production for own purposes is a buffer that prevents against extreme poverty because it ensures at least modest provisions of food and sometimes a modest income, too. In a situation where it is not possible to use other instruments due to the weakness of the welfare state system or high unemployment rate or absence of jobs near the place of residence, this type of security becomes very important. In the areas with high unemployment rates, family farms are not only the only sources of employment available, but also the source of food for those family members who are in similarly difficult situation but do not own land. Moreover, family farms guarantee that interpersonal relations are formed and maintained which might facilitate the creation of social capital whose value cannot be really overstated.

In this context, we need to appreciate all the initiatives that we saw in the year 2014, the Year of Family Farming according to UN Food and Agriculture Organization. All those initiatives made the development of family farms the topic of discussions in the scientific and political circles all over the world.

Extensive promotion of small family farms is necessary in order to build a common conviction that the typical characteristics of semi-subsistence farming such as local food production, high biodiversity, or short supply chains could be the source of development of rural areas rather than an economic problem.

It is possible to make a small farm profitable but it often involves extra costs or requires an innovative approach is supplied. The European model of agriculture has been based on family farms for years. The call for sustainable family farming is best reflected in the changes to the structure of the common agricultural policy for the years 2014-20 where for the first time, a substantial portion of the subsidies will be granted to farmers for the delivery of specific public goods.

The reform to European agricultural policy also pays particular attention to supporting small farms which is on one hand, intended to increase the viability through better connections with the market and on the other hand, to support them in the search for additional sources of income.

These changes are even more important from countries such as Poland where about half of farms are small farms whose area is less than five hectares and which are mostly subsistence farms.

Resolution of diversified problems in the rural areas requires a comprehensive approach consisting in ensuring social security to rural residents affected by risk of poverty, broad access to education, modern technologies, technical infrastructure and environmental protection.

This is why we should pay more and more attention to integrating the instruments of agricultural policy, rural development policy, social policy, environmental policy and regional policy. Formation of such an integrated approach is difficult and requires multiple analysis and a high level of expertise. This is why it is important to support international research initiatives intended to prepare recommendations for this area and to popularize the research results as fast as possible.

To conclude, this is worthwhile to stress that the data on the uneven distribution of income is truly alarming. It is estimated that just one percent of the population is currently in control of half of the world's wealth. At the same time, people in many regions must feed their families for one dollar a day, and history offers plenty of examples when poor forgotten societies that were not understood by the satiated industrial world became susceptible to radical slogans leading to conflicts, wars and human suffering.

Therefore, ensuring global food security and fighting against poverty lies in the good interest of free societies and should become the priority action undertaken by major global decision makers. At the same time, Poland expects that FAO will devote sufficient attention to the issue of resistance of microorganisms – to micro bio agents which will be reflected in its work plan and the battle.

Mr Roderick GALDES, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries of Malta

It is an honour to be representing my country, Malta, at this 39th Session of the FAO Conference, a Conference that deals with issues that are of utmost importance for the global population and that are of direct importance to the Mediterranean region we form part of. Food security and the social deprivation highlighted in the SOFA report is a serious issue in the Mediterranean region in particular in the southern eastern basin. The relationship between lack of food availability and political instability is known all too well, and risks aggravating a spiral of misery that is causing hardship, deprivation and death, and contributing to the terrible tragedies at sea which the world witnessed this year.

This has caused the re-emergence of issues pertaining to food security on the international agenda, and the choice of exploring the links between the need to address social action through food security and agricultural policies at this Conference could not have come at a more opportune moment.

I strongly believe a well-developed agricultural sector is pivotal in improving the quality of life in rural and remote communities and that this can contribute to breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger. This can be achieved by strengthening rural resilience which is crucial to break the vicious cycle of rural poverty and hunger.

The strengthening of rural resilience can not only break the poverty and hunger cycle but also provide the means for economic and social development. Development programmes that are well targeted are a key element in this and, as a Member State of the European Union, I also welcome and support the efforts made in this direction. Strengthening rural resilience also means identifying strategic agricultural productions that are suitable for the territory and that are valued by the market. This goes hand in hand with the dissemination of knowledge on the technology required and agronomic practices needed for the production of strategic products.

It is our responsibility as policy-makers to design policies to attract investments in infrastructure that ensures openness to parties willing to participate along the value chain. The challenge of attracting investment for the establishment of such infrastructure remains, especially when the investment will have to ensure that the distribution chain and the production sector are linked together through a system that is attractive to all the actors involved and that the final product reaches the market at a competitive price.

I believe that strong and sustainable agricultural systems can build a stronger social fabric in the countries and regions where the risks are greatest, to the benefit of all. That they can help mitigate the risks of migration and the misery that follows hunger, and to be a solid foundation on which to continue building our shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and diverse world.

Mr Aleg YETMALOVICH, Director of Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus (Original language Russian)

The food issue is a subject of special attention for each sovereign state upholding its independence and sustainability of its development. Modern day conditions guaranteeing high-quality food in the necessary amounts and at an affordable price for the consumer has become an issue of food security.

In Belarus, agricultural land occupies more than 40 percent of the territory with some nine million hectares; 24 percent of the population live in such areas. Every year the agricultural sector creates between eight and nine percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the country. Food security in the country is guaranteed thanks to the production of the required volumes of safe, good quality agricultural production, raw materials and food, thanks to sustainable, innovative development of the agro-industrial complex and by creating the necessary reserves and stocks. Results of annual monitoring bear witness to the fact that, beginning in 2005, the Republic of Belarus has been stably guaranteeing its food security.

We should point out that the production of grain has exceeded approximately twofold the domestic needs. There are similar indicators for sugar, milk and dairy products, and meat and meat products. Belarus remains dependent on the import of certain types of foods, such as vegetable oil, fruit and

berries, and specific vegetables and fish. Our production and processing of these foods is not possible because of our natural and climatic conditions.

The composite indicator of agricultural output, taking into account the critical optimum levels of need, is constantly growing, while in 2000 we stood at the level of 0.95 percent, in 2005 it went up 1.25 percent. While in 2014, it was 1.37 percent. The agriculture production is enough to guarantee the diet for the purposes of a calculation to a tune of 3 250 kilocalories on average per person per 24 hours. Almost all food producers have certificates consistent with the quality management system of the ISO Standard 9001. In order to integrate into the international food markets and to raise the balance of domestic production, competitive production, and replenishment of the global market with high quality food, we are carrying out work constantly in the Republic to improve the foreign economic activities of the agro-industrial complex.

In order to integrate into the national food markets and to raise the balance of domestic production, competitive production, and replenishment of the global market with high quality food, we are carrying out work constantly in the Republic to improve the foreign economic activities of the agro-industrial complex.

The volume of food export from Belarus has increased fourfold over the last decade. The geography of Belarusian export of agricultural products is constantly widening and it now encompasses 73 countries.

Moreover, the main markets for agricultural production and raw materials are countries in the Eurasian Economic Union and have portrayed a reduction in customs barriers. As well as simplification of procedures for movement of goods across borders in the Eurasian Economic Union have contributed to significant growth in reciprocal trade and agriculture production.

The basis for export supplies from Belarus to countries of the Eurasian Economic Union is constituted by dairy and meat products, sugar, meat, and fish, eggs and flour. We are seeing active development of the marketing and logistic infrastructure and the section for agricultural production is operating now on the Belarusian Universal Trade Exchange.

The foreign trade network of Belarusian food is represented by 150 structures of which 40 percent have Belarusian investment. This includes food companies, trading houses, and trade missions and dealers. At the same time, with the globalization of the world economy and the increasing problems in the world food system, it is difficult, indeed virtually impossible, to avoid the influence of negative trends and we are trying to resolve these problems especially thanks to expert assistance in the FAO.

We are counting on the support to this end from the newly re-elected Director-General, José Graziano da Silva. We congratulate the FAO on this jubilee year, its seventieth anniversary.

Ms Desdra BASSCOMBE, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Food Production of Trinidad and Tobago

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election for another term of office and wish him well as he seeks to rationalize the operations of this important Organization which he leads.

The Conference document postulates that a comprehensive and proactive strategy is required to overcome hunger and extreme poverty and opines that social protection combined with productive support plays a pivotal role in this fight. It is also being suggested that family farms in rural areas are intrinsic in the battle against poverty.

Let me begin with an overview of hunger and extreme poverty trends and a review of world agriculture trends.

The developing world has set 2025 as the deadline to eradicate hunger in their regions, through national and regional actions to contribute towards food and nutrition security. In fact, more than half of developing countries have achieved the Millennium Development Goal target of halving undernourishment by 2015. However, 800 million people still experience chronic hunger, with the global economic and financial crisis and conflicts being contributing factors.

Some have theorized that one of the mechanisms for breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger is by strengthening rural resilience through Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development.

In fact, it is generally agreed that economic growth is essential to reducing poverty, but is hostage to economic and financial crises. History has shown that countries in prolonged crisis face a combination of these factors. Consequently, it is imperative that governments become more proactive and develop comprehensive strategies to provide support to the vulnerable. These actions should address the root causes of poverty and not only the symptoms. There should also be some elements of sustainability in these programmes. This requires system-wide action into broader policy domains such as public health, education and agriculture and the food system in general, coupled with productive support.

You may wonder, why focus on rural areas and agriculture? Rural areas are where extreme poverty and food insecurity are most prevalent. This is more prevalent in developing countries. Approximately 75 percent of farms in these countries are smaller than one hectare, with these farming families being poor and food-insecure themselves.

Let us now look at a move from Safety Nets to Social Protection Programmes.

Social protection seeks to ensure that the needs of the poorest are met. Vulnerable households face reduced consumption, face persistent deprivation and are outside the production cycle, thereby providing the rationale for interventions. Social protection comprises all initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor.

Let us now examine this issue of breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger through Social Protection and Productive Support

Let us summarize Trinidad and Tobago's Social Protection Programmes.

The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme: this is a short-term food assistance and development programme aimed at providing social protection, by promoting nutritional and food security to vulnerable households. The Programme will enable families in need to purchase nutritionally sound basic food items, thereby enhancing the health and dignity of those households and reducing the incidents of poverty.

The National Poverty Reduction and Eradication Programme: this Programme is about fostering an integrated approach to poverty reduction, through stakeholder partnerships; and engaging civil society groups/network as strategic partners for poverty reduction in Trinidad and Tobago.

This Programme aims to improve the delivery of poverty reduction services by the decentralization of poverty interventions through the establishment of regional Social and Human Development Councils.

The Unemployment Relief Programme (URP): a social safety net programme aimed at providing short term employment opportunities.

A regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy was endorsed by CARICOM as a comprehensive and integrated framework for action and to guide the interventions of the Region's development partners in the field of food and nutrition security. Member Nations were encouraged to implement the recommendations of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy.

Another strategy was the establishment of an Information and Early Warning System for Food and Nutrition Security in CARICOM.

Preparation of National Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Action Plans: organized by CARICOM.

Activities to strengthen regional agricultural development with a focus on supporting the key regional policies and strategies in agriculture and food and nutrition security have begun, geared towards promoting regionalism and fostering the regional strategy with the Community Agriculture Policy and the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy.

These are just a few of the key initiatives which we are embarking upon in the Caribbean region in general, and in Trinidad and Tobago in particular.

Mr Benedikt HÖSKULDSSON, Director for Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Let me begin by congratulating Dr José Graziano da Silva for his re-election as Director-General of FAO.

Iceland has always seen FAO having an important role within the multilateral forum. Best known in Iceland is FAO's important normative function in the field of fisheries.

Today Iceland has three main focus areas in its work with FAO; fisheries, land restoration and gender equality. These have also been among our focus areas in the Rio+20, the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We all know how important this year is for all of us, as we are about to set new goals for the future we want: Universal Sustainable Development Goals, the New Development Agenda, Financing for Development, and Climate Change are all on the table. In all of this, FAO has a significant role to play.

With the new SDGs in mind, allow me to highlight two issues in the context of food security and the need to end hunger. One is sustainable land management and the second is sustainable fisheries. In these fields, FAO has to show a global leadership and be where it is needed among other stakeholders.

We cannot hide away from the fact that land degradation impedes the sustainable development of all countries and must therefore be taken seriously, because without healthy soils we will not be able to meet our new goals of the future we want.

It is estimated that 33 percent of global soil is moderately or highly degraded and every year an estimated 24 billion tonnes of fertile soil are lost due to erosion in the world's croplands. Desertification, land degradation and drought directly affect about 1.5 billion people around the world.

Thanks to FAO and its Member Nations, the United Nations did declare 2015 the International Year of Soils to remind us of the vital role soil plays in our existence on this planet.

Ninety-five percent of our food is directly or indirectly produced on our soils and, by 2050, agricultural production must increase by 60 percent globally – and by almost 100 percent in developing countries – just in order to meet food demand alone. In addition to this reality, we must not forget that in most countries there is little opportunity for expansion of arable land.

On the positive side we know how to solve these problems, and we have the means; we just have to act. To give an example, FAO has estimated that by practicing sustainable land management we should be able to increase crop yield by 58 percent.

Fish is important to us all, but it is often overlooked how important it is to employment, food security, nutrition and income. Small-scale fisheries catch almost half of captured fish in the world and large proportions of this are small pelagic species. Fish is highly perishable; not least the small fish, and poor handling and processing practices compound enormous losses both in terms of volume and value.

Addressing post-harvest losses can multiply the value of the catch and harness the nutritional benefits fish can supply to the benefit of the fishing communities. Better health, food security and an improved economy may then increase the likelihood of implementing sensible management of the resources, adding further benefits to communities and nations.

There is much at stake. Imagine what the impact would be, for instance, on the communities living around Lake Victoria, where the expanding fishery for the small fish omena or dagaa is approaching one million tonnes per year. Increasing the value per kilo by only 50 US cents would add USD 500 million to the local economies each year. All this has been demonstrated in small projects around Lake Victoria.

This is all well recognized by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in their Blue Growth Initiative, which deserves a full support of Member Nations.

Finally, allow me to end my statement by reminding all of us that none of the goals we are about to set this year will be reached without full recognition and implementation of gender equality and women's

empowerment. Women are crucial for agriculture and fisheries; they play a key role in rural economies, where the fight against hunger and poverty is most pressing. And remember, sustainable development and gender equality are mutually reinforcing: one cannot happen without the other.

Gender equality and women's empowerment is not only the economically and socially smart thing to do for real and lasting progress; more importantly it regards the fulfillment of basic human rights.

Son Excellence Monsieur Serge Tomasi, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la France auprès de la FAO

Un homme qui a faim n'est pas un homme libre. Il ne peut exercer aucun droit, il ne peut connaître aucun développement humain, il ne peut participer à aucun progrès. Depuis la nuit des temps l'homme lutte pour sa survie, et notamment pour se nourrir.

Or, pour la première fois dans l'histoire, nous sommes en mesure de délier l'humanité du fléau de la faim. Déjà, nous avons atteint l'objectif du Millénaire pour le développement qui visait à réduire de moitié la proportion de la population mondiale souffrant de la faim.

C'est un résultat remarquable. Mais, nous le savons aussi, dans un contexte de forte croissance démographique, le nombre absolu de personnes souffrant de faim chronique a connu une réduction plus lente, passant de 994 millions à moins de 800 millions.

Jusqu'à quand pourrons-nous tolérer l'intolérable, près de 800 millions de personnes, souffrant de faim chronique dans un monde où, au cours du XX^{ème} siècle, le Produit intérieur brut mondial a été multiplié par un facteur 22!

Nous devons tous, en septembre 2015 à New York, soutenir l'adoption d'un programme de développement pour l'après-2015 ambitieux et, en particulier l'Objectif 2, qui vise à éliminer la faim, assurer la sécurité alimentaire, améliorer la nutrition et promouvoir une agriculture durable.

C'est le plus emblématique pour les ministres de l'agriculture, c'est le mandat donné à la FAO dont nous fêtons cette année les 70 ans!

Pour ce faire, nous devons relever bien des défis, en particulier celui de la croissance de la population mondiale qui devrait d'ici 2050 augmenter encore de 2 milliards d'individus, et celui de la dégradation de l'environnement et des dérèglements climatiques.

Deux épées de Damoclès sur notre avenir commun et une ombre portée sur notre capacité à éliminer la faim.

La France se félicite du choix du thème de cette Conférence et souhaite porter ici trois messages.

Premier message: Nous partageons avec la FAO la conviction que le problème de la faim aujourd'hui n'est pas seulement un problème de production agricole.

Le défi est aussi celui du creusement des inégalités dans le monde et de la persistance de la pauvreté en milieu rural qui fait que deux tiers des populations en situation de pauvreté absolue et, plus affligeant encore, deux tiers de ceux qui ont faim, aujourd'hui, vivent en milieu rural.

Voilà pourquoi il faut, comme le propose la FAO, promouvoir des approches holistiques, afin d'assurer que la croissance économique et la croissance de l'offre agricole, de manière durable, aillent de pair avec une répartition équitable des fruits de cette croissance et l'accès à la nourriture pour tous, en particulier les agriculteurs familiaux et les populations rurales.

Les mécanismes de protection sociale peuvent être un puissant vecteur de lutte contre la pauvreté et, partant, un moyen efficace de lutte contre la faim.

Le Président Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva a partagé avec nous l'expérience du Brésil samedi matin. Beaucoup d'entre vous ont bien voulu présenter ici leurs expériences.

La France a, quant à elle, développé tout au long de son histoire un système universel de protection sociale, où la mutualité agricole a souvent joué un rôle pionnier.

Au plan international, elle a soutenu, lors de sa présidence du G20, l'engagement de promouvoir des socles de protection sociale, proposé par le rapport présenté par la Commission présidée par Madame Bachelet, la Présidente du Chili, que nous avons eu l'honneur d'accueillir dans cette salle.

La France a également soutenu le développement de mécanismes de gestion des risques pour les petits producteurs avec le projet PARM, aujourd'hui hébergé par le FIDA, ou la mise en place d'une réserve humanitaire d'urgence régionale en Afrique de l'ouest. Tous ces mécanismes participent du renforcement de la résilience des populations rurales, tout comme au PAM la transition de l'aide alimentaire vers l'assistance alimentaire, ou les efforts faits pour favoriser l'accès des petits producteurs aux marchés, et notamment aux marchés publics.

La FAO peut, en étroite coordination avec les autres agences multilatérales, participer à l'évaluation des politiques les plus efficaces et à leur diffusion.

Deuxième message: Le dérèglement climatique.

Pour relever le défi de la faim, en préservant notre environnement de manière socialement responsable et équitable, nous devons aussi adapter nos systèmes agricoles et alimentaires afin de les rendre plus durables. C'est une question de volonté politique, qui demande la mobilisation de tous et la FAO a un rôle clé pour accompagner cette transition.

La France accueillera à la fin de l'année la COP 21. Le climat est une affaire importante pour l'agriculture, car son évolution conditionnera largement la productivité des exploitations agricoles, et donc, notre capacité à augmenter la production de manière durable pour lutter contre la faim.

Oui, il nous faudra trouver les moyens d'adapter et d'améliorer la résilience des systèmes agricoles aux changements climatiques, en particulier au Sud.

Oui, l'agriculture peut aussi être une partie de la solution aux dérèglements climatiques par sa capacité à réduire ses émissions, à mieux préserver les ressources naturelles et à participer plus encore au stockage de carbone, en adoptant des pratiques vertueuses telles que l'agroécologie.

En cette Année internationale des sols, la France proposera une initiative sur les sols pour la sécurité alimentaire, appelée «le carbone dans les sols: un enjeu de sécurité alimentaire», encore appelée «initiative 4 pour mille». Elle vise à augmenter la capacité de stockage de carbone des sols agricoles en favorisant la sécurité alimentaire: plus de carbone organique dans les sols, c'est moins de carbone dans l'atmosphère, c'est plus de fertilité, et donc plus de production.

Avec le Directeur général de la FAO, nous souhaitons ouvrir le débat à Paris, en décembre prochain, sur les moyens de promouvoir une agriculture responsable et résiliente aux changements climatiques. L'agriculture doit faire partie de l'agenda des solutions pour lutter contre les dérèglements climatiques. Il nous faut en effet à la fois éliminer la faim dans le monde et répondre simultanément au défi du dérèglement climatique, car les deux défis sont liés.

Troisième message, il sera bref mais des plus sincères. Nous avons, dès l'automne dernier, dès sa candidature officielle déclarée, voulu exprimer notre plein soutien à notre Directeur général, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, et nous avons soutenu sa réélection pour un second mandat. Comme une évidence. Comme une marque de confiance pour notre Directeur et son équipe. Mais aussi comme une espérance, pour une FAO plus forte, plus rassemblée, plus unie, plus innovante, plus performante. Nous souhaitons exprimer à l'occasion de cette Conférence toutes nos félicitations au Directeur général, et tous nos vœux à la FAO et à l'ensemble de son personnel.

Je vais conclure cette intervention et je voudrais partager avec vous une espérance.

Chaque matin, quand j'entre dans le hall de cette maison et que je relis le texte de la charte gravé sur le mur de la FAO, je me prends à rêver que nous sommes le 10 juin 2030. Et je me prends à rêver que la Conférence de la FAO s'ouvre par un discours du nouveau Directeur général, triomphalement élu, annonçant que nous avons tenu notre promesse: éliminer la faim dans le monde. Vous imaginez la scène? Vous imaginez la clameur qui se lèverait dans cette même salle de Conférence de la FAO? Vous imaginez alors qu'elle serait notre fierté à tous! Nous aurions alors, écrit ensemble, une des plus belles pages de notre histoire commune, de notre destin indivisible comme disait à l'ouverture de cette

Conférence le Président italien. Alors chers collègues et chers amis, rêvons à ce moment, partageons ce rêve, et agissons ensemble pour qu'enfin il se réalise. Merci.

Mr Fabian MUYA, Alternate Permanent Representative of Kenya to FAO

Kenya joins others who have spoken before in congratulating the Director-General for his re-election for a second term. The Kenya delegation wishes him success in his commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition.

The 39th Conference whose theme is: "*Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*" offers an opportunity to Members to focus discussions on the need to address rural poverty and hunger through strengthening rural resilience, social protection and sustainable agricultural development.

Kenya is an agriculture-based economy and is dominated by smallholder farmers who account for seventy five percent of total agricultural output and seventy percent of marketed agricultural produce. Though food security at the household level has generally improved in recent years, about 10 percent of the population is still suffering from chronic food and nutrition insecurity, while about 1.5 million are always on food relief. This number tends to increase during times of shock to almost three million. It is worthy to note that over 50 percent of Kenya falls under the arid and semi-arid category. Erratic weather, droughts, floods, recurrent diseases, pre-harvest and post-harvest losses; food commodity price volatility and inadequate market infrastructure have kept Kenya's fragile food system under severe pressure, thus hindering attainment of food security for all.

Given the importance of the agriculture sector in Kenya as the main driver for growth of the entire economy and ensuring food security and rural development, the policy of the Government recognizes the need to give primary attention to this sector. The Government's Blue Print, Vision 2030, aims to increase annual GDP growth rate to ten percent and to maintain it till 2030 and beyond. The Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (2010-2020) envisaged to transform the sector lays special focus on smallholder farmers who are the majority of the Kenyan population in order to increase productivity, incomes, social equity, reduction of poverty and improved standards of living. Further, there are legal and institutional reforms that have been undertaken to revitalize the agricultural sector.

The economic and social rights enshrined in the Constitution states that every Kenyan has the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality and that the State shall provide appropriate social security to persons who are unable to support themselves and their dependents. Kenya also enacted the National Social Protection Policy in 2012 to guide actions and interventions to meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

In recognition of this duty, the Government has initiated various interventions geared towards alleviating poverty and vulnerability among agro-based communities through: increasing household food production and access through targeted subsidies, cash grants, school feeding and nutrition, general food distribution under the Strategic Food Reserves, job creation among the youths and the rural community and promoting resilience of vulnerable communities. To manage risks and fragility of the agriculture sector and in order to improve resilience, the Government has initiated the Kenya Insurance and Risk Management Program covering both crops and livestock enterprises through Private Public Partnerships at an initial cost USD 1.25 million, which will progressively be increased to USD 0.02 billion in five years.

The Government is implementing subsidized fertilizer program to increase access and utilization of fertilizer by the smallholder farmers; to lower and stabilize fertilizer prices and to increase crop productivity. A fertilizer and seed development fund of USD 0.03 billion has been established in the country. The fund will increase to USD 0.15 billion by 2017. The fertilizer industry development is in process as a long-term plan.

Fish production has increased progressively since the year 2010. The increase in production is mainly attributed to aquaculture which has increased tremendously from 1 000MT in 2009 to approximately 50 000MT to date. While in livestock production, the Government is establishing Disease Free Zones to ensure quality livestock production for improved market access in the rural areas.

To reduce over-reliance on rain-fed farming, the Government is increasing land under irrigation and expanding irrigation infrastructure through various programmes including the National Expanded Irrigation Programme where 44 386 acres have been put under irrigation in the last two years and the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project (GKFSP) where a 10 000-acre model farm is being implemented. The Government plans to put up 20 new storage and drying facilities to support the irrigation schemes.

To support smallholders in increasing their access to affordable loans, the Government has put in place the Agricultural Finance Corporation that provides loans to farmers. Under the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme, which is a risk-sharing public private partnership, the Participating Financial Institutions have cumulatively disbursed approximately USD 0.04 billion to 25 071 beneficiaries.

Agricultural mechanization has been identified as a critical input to enhance productivity. The Government has initiated bilateral contacts with development partners aimed at increasing agricultural machinery and equipment in the country.

In conclusion, the Kenya Government appreciates the support extended to her by FAO and is committed to continued cordial working relations. We also appreciate other development partners supporting the agricultural sector and rural transformation that will break the cycle of rural poverty and hunger and hence achieve the ultimate goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in the country.

Son Excellence Madame Justine NISUBIRE, Ambassadeur et Représentante permanente du Burundi auprès de la FAO

C'est un grand honneur et un réel plaisir pour nous d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui pour prendre part aux travaux de la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture qui porte sur des questions sociales de la planète.

Permettez-moi d'adresser, au nom du Gouvernement du Burundi et en mon nom propre, toute notre gratitude à la FAO et en particulier à son Directeur général, Monsieur Graziano da Silva, et ses collaborateurs pour la bonne organisation de cet important événement.

Par la même occasion, nous voudrions saluer, en toute sincérité, la bonne collaboration entre le Gouvernement du Burundi et la FAO.

En se référant au thème du jour, en 2012, le Gouvernement du Burundi et la FAO sont convenus d'élaborer un cadre de programmation, axé sur quatre axes stratégiques prioritaires, pour une période de cinq ans (2012-2016), aligné aussi bien sur les priorités nationales que sur les objectifs stratégiques globaux de l'Organisation.

Cet outil important de programmation stratégique a bien défini la réponse aux besoins d'assistance à moyen terme et a fourni aux partenaires de l'Organisation une vision globale de la portée de la stratégie de la FAO au Burundi.

La FAO et le Gouvernement du Burundi, guidés par les aspirations et la vision nationale en matière de développement socio-économique, se sont engagés à intensifier leurs efforts pour mobiliser la population rurale burundaise, les partenaires nationaux, régionaux et internationaux impliqués dans le secteur rural, la sécurité alimentaire et l'environnement, afin de mettre en œuvre le Cadre de programmation par pays (CPP) et contribuer ainsi à la promotion d'une sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle durable et équitable pour le bien-être du peuple burundais.

Ainsi, dans le but d'opérationnaliser ce cadre de programmation par pays, des ressources ont été conjointement mobilisées et la Représentation de la FAO au Burundi a un portefeuille de 10 projets nationaux, 10 projets régionaux et 5 projets en *pipe-line*.

Ces fonds sont essentiellement affectés aux activités de réintégration socio-économique des populations vulnérabilisées par les changements climatiques, les conflits armés, ainsi que des personnes affectées et infectées par le VIH/SIDA; de réhabilitation et de développement du secteur agricole et de la protection des ressources naturelles; de suivi de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle ainsi qu'aux activités d'appui à la planification et coordination du secteur agricole et au développement rural.

Le Burundi figure parmi les pays les plus touchés par l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition dans le monde. Des efforts ont été déployés ces quatre dernières années et des avancées significatives ont été enregistrées. A titre d'exemple, le taux de malnutrition chronique pour les enfants de moins de cinq ans est passé de 58 pour cent en 2010 à 48 pour cent en 2014.

Nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier vivement tous nos partenaires, et en l'occurrence la FAO, pour leur appui inlassable apporté au Gouvernement dans la lutte contre ce fléau.

En effet, la FAO à travers sa Représentation, en synergie avec d'autres partenaires dans le pays, a apporté un précieux appui au processus d'adhésion du Burundi au Mouvement SUN et a soutenu la mise en place et le fonctionnement de la plateforme multisectorielle de lutte contre la malnutrition. La FAO a participé à l'élaboration du plan stratégique multisectoriel de lutte contre la malnutrition au Burundi et à la mobilisation des ressources pour sa mise en œuvre.

De plus, à travers le financement du Fonds spécial de solidarité africaine, le Burundi a obtenu un budget remarquable pour promouvoir la diversification agricole et réduire la pauvreté, lutter contre la malnutrition et promouvoir les opportunités de création d'emploi des jeunes au Burundi.

Enfin, au cours de l'année 2015, le Gouvernement du Burundi a inscrit dans son agenda l'activité de revue du Plan national d'investissement agricole (PNIA) et la formulation de la nouvelle Stratégie agricole nationale (SAN), deuxième génération. Toutes ces activités ont été soutenues par la FAO à travers son assistance technique.

Nous ne saurions terminer cette intervention sans profiter de cette occasion historique de remercier solennellement Monsieur Graziano da Silva pour les réformes engagées au cours de l'exercice de son mandat, ses œuvres avérées au sein de l'Organisation, qui ont permis d'atteindre des résultats louables à travers le monde et plus particulièrement dans mon pays, pour ne parler que de ceux que je connais le mieux.

Je voudrais proclamer de vive voix que le Gouvernement burundais, qui m'a mandatée, réaffirme son soutien à cette illustre personnalité et l'encourage à aller de l'avant dans sa noble mission qui est d'aider le monde à se libérer de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Mr Giovanni CAFFARELLI, Honorary Consul General of Samoa to Italy

On behalf of the Samoan Delegation, I wish to reiterate our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Conference for the confidence entrusted to Honourable Minister Le Mamea as Chair of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. This is indeed an honour and a privilege for Samoa and the wide Southwest Pacific family.

Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate High Chief Tagaloaletoa o le Malae o le Toto Graziano da Silva for his well-deserved appointment as Director-General for a second term. We have every confidence in your capable leadership and vision to steer the ship and take our Organization to the next level. Samoa looks forward to continuing building on the close relationship and cooperation we have established and enjoyed with FAO during your first mandate.

Samoa commends and challenges your Director-General to continue with your decentralization policy for we are convinced that this is the right path to travel in our collective efforts towards real and lasting sustainable development for all our communities especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged, including women and youth.

As an adopted son of a SIDS country Director-General, we look to you to assist us in streamlining and moving the SIDS agenda in the work programme of FAO. We further invite you and Members States to consider the lead taken by the ACP Group in establishing a SIDS Forum within FAO. The upcoming Conference on Financing for development in Addis Ababa in July, the Summit in New York and COP21 in Paris later in the year provide windows of opportunity to continue pushing the SIDS Agenda in particular the Samoa Pathway outcome and recommendations.

The Pacific is an ocean continent. As such, fisheries is one of the few resources we possess and we must ensure that the region benefits and receive a fair economic return to assist in the creation of employment opportunities for our people. Samoa looks forwards to FAO's assistance in this area. It is

also timely and necessary to work with relevant international organizations to seriously examine the nexus between trade, food security and the incidence of NCDs.

Strengthening partnership between FAO and SPREP and SPC in our region is essential to enhancing and improving FAO's vision and activities in the Pacific.

In conclusion, as a Samoan High Chief, it is customary for you Director-General to make regular visits to your adopted country and region and we look forward to welcoming you again and I hope, not in a too distant future.

Ms O'Love Tauveve JACOBSEN, High Commissioner of Niue in New Zealand

Please ponder on this for a while:

*The time is near
When the oceans that feeds
Will bury us
The lands that nourish us
Will starve us
The forests that breathe for us
Will suffocate us*

*The time is near or is it too late
How much monies can save us now
Communiqués, frameworks, actions
All take time
Too small, too few, too far to see
So what do you think we will be
Not SIDS says I
But SIR – Small Island Refugees*

I stand before you as a representative of the smallest island developing state – the rock of Polynesia called Niue. The largest raised coral atoll in the world, limestone in nature, soil porous and poor.

1 700 people live there, while some 30 000 live abroad, mainly in New Zealand and Australia. Climate change has taken its toll.

It was purposeful that SIDS was held in Samoa to claim the seriousness of the effects and impact of climate change in the Pacific.

FAO re-energized its mandate on climate change alongside food security and nutrition. We witnessed FAO's commitment at the SIDS Side Event.

Our homes sit on 60 percent of the world's surface waters neatly divided into three sub regions: Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. Vast population sizes, huge social, cultural and economic differences.

FAO Headquarters is on the top half of the world, too far to visualize what is going on down south.

The plight for the Pacific people in the South-West Pacific region for a seat on the Council started in 2007. We need to be here in FAO to relate our stories, and who can tell it better but ourselves. To this end, I respectfully ask the Conference not for your sympathy, but for your understanding. When the Pacific requests its entitlement of seats to the FAO Council, as per its Constitution, please assist and support us.

As I draw near my statement to an end, allow me to place Niue's vote of thanks and a vote of confidence for the work of FAO under the leadership of the Director-General.

During his term, we were granted with technical assistance projects, such as the newly established food processing facility for agricultural products in 2014, as well as TeleFood initiatives that brings a direct benefit to the people in the communities.

For all those things and many more, I salute you, Director-General, and your team of experts.

Please do not frown on us if we ask too often for FAO's assistance. But you are our leader, Director-General. You are a good leader because we have confidence in you, but importantly you are a great leader because you empower us with the confidence through the work of FAO.

Mr Chairperson, thank you for your leadership in this 39th Session of FAO Conference. You make me proud to be a Pacific person. And for that, I will tribute you and FAO with this:

Now is the hour for me to say goodbye, soon I'll be leaving to my home afar...

Haere ra FAO Haere ra

When I return, I'll find you waiting here.

Excmo. Sr. Monseñor Fernando CHICA ARELLANO, Nuncio apostólico, Observador permanente de la Santa Sede ante la FAO

Le doy las gracias por haberme concedido la palabra y me alegro de que haya sido elegido para dirigir los trabajos de esta Conferencia, llamada a considerar los resultados de la acción llevada a cabo por la FAO en el último bienio, así como a valorar las propuestas orientadas a la actividad futura de la misma. Procurar que la Organización sea siempre más ágil para afrontar la realidad del desarrollo agrícola y de los retos que la alimentación presenta a las personas, países y gobiernos es una tarea relevante y necesaria. De hecho, no se trata únicamente de considerar los resultados hasta ahora alcanzados, sino, sobre todo, de definir los criterios para acometer las nuevas necesidades que no dejan de crecer.

Al abordar esta cuestión, la Delegación de la Santa Sede, evidentemente, no pretende ofrecer soluciones técnicas, sino más bien orientaciones que promuevan iniciativas concordes con las exigencias actuales de los hombres y mujeres de nuestro tiempo, en particular las de aquellos que pasan por situaciones intrincadas y angustiosas, indignas del ser humano y sus derechos fundamentales.

Si tradicionalmente las exigencias de los Estados que solicitaban la intervención de la FAO estaban relacionadas con el funcionamiento de sus sistemas de producción agrícola, hoy es evidente que las nuevas exigencias que definen las situaciones ligadas al sector de la agricultura requieren caminos nuevos. Es preciso considerar las exigencias provocadas por un cuadro económico precario y desfavorable, por condicionamientos cada vez más arduos y complejos, por desastres naturales, con frecuencia resultado de la perniciosa intervención del hombre. Estos últimos son a menudo motivados exclusivamente por intereses sesgados, que muestran una terrible indiferencia a la hora de afrontar debida y adecuadamente las causas de la malnutrición. Una situación preocupante en cualquier región del planeta, sin excluir las que ostentan un alto nivel de desarrollo.

Es urgente otorgar un papel central a la agricultura dentro del ámbito de la actividad económica y esto no puede orientarse a la mera elaboración de estrategias y proyectos. En este contexto, también la interpretación de la nueva Agenda de desarrollo Post-2015 debe mirar mas allá, hacia un concepto de "desarrollo ampliado", que no sea simplemente sostenible sino que además responda a una efectiva justicia distributiva y no únicamente legal. Un ejemplo concreto afecta a los 72 países que han alcanzado, si bien en diversos grados, el objetivo de reducir drásticamente el número de hambrientos y el porcentaje de malnutridos: a los mencionados países habrá que ofrecer una cooperación distinta de la otorgada a países menos desarrollados y con un déficit alimentario persistente. Asimismo, habrá que actuar análogamente por lo que se refiere a la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición también existente en países desarrollados. En este caso, la superación de esta problemática dependerá de adecuadas iniciativas políticas nacionales, que salvaguarden la financiación de la actividad multilateral y contengan medidas generosas y solidarias para continuar ayudando de forma eficaz a quienes vienen de fuera en condiciones lamentables o inhumanas.

Esta idea de una justicia distributiva pone en evidencia tanto la función originaria de la FAO como el requerimiento de una estructura ágil y armónica de la misma, subsidiaria respecto a la acción que individualmente ejerce cada uno de los Estados en favor de los hambrientos. Hoy, dar protagonismo a este tipo de acción entraña afianzar la convicción de que la lucha contra el hambre, con los múltiples factores y objetivos que la animan y sobre los cuales se elaboran estrategias, no se puede llevar a cabo

favoreciendo solamente sectores individuales o intereses parciales, sino más bien de modo integral, desde una visión de conjunto. Y esto puede hacerse únicamente poniendo en el centro las exigencias de la persona, de todas las personas y de toda la persona. Cuando esto no se ha tenido en cuenta, las repercusiones negativas han resultado evidentes, especialmente en aquellas áreas más afectadas por la pobreza, el subdesarrollo, la falta de trabajo, la desnutrición y la degradación ambiental.

La Delegación de la Santa Sede considera que el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario no puede reducirse a la mera gestión profesional de los programas. Ha de introducir asimismo criterios de gestión atinados, favorecer la transparencia y potenciar intervenciones realmente adecuadas a las necesidades y a las condiciones de los beneficiarios. En la ejecución de los programas y en el desarrollo ordenado de las actividades no basta la convicción y la generosidad de las personas que prestan su trabajo y ponen a disposición su profesionalidad. Es fundamental también el respeto de reglas y normas a todos los niveles. Un respeto que ha de fortalecerse con el espíritu de servicio, con el entusiasmo, con la sincera colaboración, teniendo siempre presente que cada acción está orientada hacia quienes sufren concretamente el hambre. Los hambrientos no son frías cifras a merced de estadísticas. No son entidades teóricas. Son personas reales que padecen, que a menudo gritan y lloran sin que nadie las escuche. Son vidas truncadas, que ven desvaída su esperanza y pisoteados sus derechos.

El empeño de solidaridad de los diversos miembros de la Comunidad internacional debe orientarse de manera clara hacia el mundo rural, sobre el cual pesan crisis cíclicas determinadas por los cambios climáticos y la desertificación creciente, que dañan gravemente áreas y poblaciones hasta ahora consideradas inmunes a estos fenómenos. Si queremos de verdad eliminar el hambre del mundo, no podemos movernos por fines espurios o el cálculo ligado al uso político de la cooperación. Ante el rol creciente que han asumido las nuevas técnicas de trabajo agrícola, no basta únicamente la transferencia de tecnología. Es urgente apoyar concreta y decididamente los conocimientos y sabidurías tradicionales, tan importantes para los pequeños agricultores, ganaderos, pescadores y trabajadores forestales, con frecuencia olvidados, pero de los cuales depende gran parte de la producción agrícola. En este contexto, quisiera referirme especialmente a aquellas poblaciones indígenas, que tienen una relación ancestral con la tierra. Estas poblaciones se caracterizan por su respeto al medio ambiente y por unas modalidades de producción y consumo que no lo menoscaban y que deberíamos tomar en cuenta.

Al afrontar los problemas del mundo rural y las exigencias de cuantos padecen el hambre y la malnutrición se tendrá que considerar también la condición del trabajador agrícola y sus ingresos totales, pero sin olvidar que el agricultor no es únicamente un sujeto económico. Es una persona capaz de participar en los procesos de decisión y en las opciones vinculadas a la producción, a la conservación y a la distribución de los frutos de la tierra. Por ello, más que de desarrollo sostenible, sería mucho más incisivo y coherente hablar de desarrollo humano sostenible, es decir de un desarrollo que ponga en su centro a la persona, sus capacidades reales, sus limitaciones, peculiaridades y necesidades, tanto individual como familiarmente. Si los parámetros económicos no tienen en la debida cuenta todo esto, el daño resulta evidente e irreparable, pues mayor progreso jamás puede ser equivalente a menor humanidad. Una visión ética y humanamente fundada del desarrollo nos llama en cambio a compartir recursos, estrategias y financiación, pero sobre todo nos recuerda la importancia y la urgencia que tiene el primado de la solidaridad así como la decidida voluntad de poner fin de una vez por todas al subdesarrollo del mundo rural.

La Delegación de la Santa Sede quiere aquí reafirmar la disponibilidad de la Iglesia Católica, de sus estructuras y formas de organización para contribuir a dicho esfuerzo.

Para concluir, me permito recordar a las numerosas delegaciones presentes el encuentro que mañana, 11 de junio, la Conferencia tendrá con Su Santidad el Papa Francisco, continuando de esta manera una larga tradición iniciada desde cuando la FAO comenzó a estar presente en Roma.

Her Excellency Mai ALKAILA, Ambassador and Representative of Palestine (Observer)
(Original language Arabic)

We wish to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva for his re-election and we congratulate you on the work carried out in the last term, wishing you all the success in this new Office. We hope that the support

for Palestinian farmers will continue. I would also like to thank all the brothering states that continue to finance projects in Palestine.

There are still 860 million people suffering from hunger and undernourishment in the world. In the Palestine and in the West Bank the rate of food security is 19 percent and 56 percent in the Gaza strip. These indicators mean that we need to focus on sustainable development to eradicate hunger and to use natural resources more efficiently. Agriculture has an increasing importance: it is the only way we can ensure food security and tackle international challenges such as the economic crisis and its negative impact, in addition to climate change, droughts, global warming, degradation of soils, weakness of agricultural productivity—particularly cereals in cross-border areas—and the lack of efficiency in managing all of the risks linked to natural disasters.

We must study all of these factors, particularly the squandering of agricultural produce, given these international challenges which affect Palestinian farming. Israeli occupation and various arbitrary measures implemented are a major challenge to food security in Palestine, such as the barbaric war launched by Israeli occupation in the Gaza strip since 2014, which has directly and indirectly affected millions of people and caused the loss of USD 150 million, in addition to the destruction of land, trees, agricultural infrastructure. The continuing unfair blockage and the ban on fishing all along the Gaza strip and its 3 000 nautical miles of coasts have made things very difficult for Palestinian fisheries. All of this has cut water resources, fisheries resources; there have been attacks on fishermen, in addition to an increase in unemployment and poverty.

In the West Bank, over 60 percent of arable land is still under occupation, and is classed as Zone C, preventing the export of agricultural products, and building a wall has affected some 1 500 hectares of arable land, which is not used. Destruction of agricultural land by settlements and the occupation by the Israeli army has also reduced our income in agriculture by 85 percent, in addition to increasing unemployment and poverty.

We have studied a mid-term plan for 2014-16, in particular looking at programmes that the FAO has pushed forward for the 2016-17 period. We wish to bring forth the challenges, particularly vis-à-vis the persistence of Israeli occupation and the major obstacles we are facing because of this and its damaging effects on Palestinian agriculture.

However, in recent years we have managed to modernize our agriculture, ensuring that our farmers have more access to modern means. We also need to create the right conditions for development and investments.

The Palestinian agricultural sector has moved forward in recent years. We have new legislation to reinforce agricultural investments; we have improved management of natural resources, developed institutional capacities to boost research and dissemination for production of quality commodities, which can offset water scarcity and can be competitive on local and international markets. We need more local and international investments to remove all of the barriers to agricultural development, particularly vis-à-vis the occupation of the Israeli Army, which should withdraw from all occupied lands. We need to particularly strengthen farmers' associations, especially small farmers, and to give them the means of financing agricultural insurance.

I would like to thank all of the Member Nations and countries who have supported projects in Palestine, and all of those who have attached importance to the Palestinian government, which has allocated 90 percent of its budget to agriculture in the 2014-16 period.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. With this last speaker we have concluded our work on Item 10 and hence will not need to re-convene this afternoon.

I would like to inform you that the Delegations of: Afghanistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, San Marino, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom have submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the Verbatim Record of this meeting.

In addition, the full length statement of the shorter intervention delivered by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of France to FAO during this morning's plenary meeting will also be included in the Verbatim Records.

I should like to thank all the participants in the General Debate and to remind the Conference that the statements have been posted on the Conference website.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I like to give the floor to the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department of FAO, Mr Sundaram, who will reply to some points raised by the delegates during the general debate on Item 10, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

Afghanistan¹

It is an honour for me to speak on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the theme of the Conference: "*Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*". The theme is highly relevant to the situation in my country which is recovering from natural and man-made disasters of several decades.

Although food security and nutrition in Afghanistan has witnessed improvements in recent years, still 30 percent of our population of 25 million do not have access to sufficient calorie and protein intake and micro-nutrient deficiency is high among children. Also droughts, floods, recurrent plant and animal diseases, high food losses, price volatility and underdeveloped rural markets have kept our fragmented national food-chain system under severe pressure.

It needs to be emphasized that building the resilience of rural population is a lengthy and complex process, multi-dimensional and also context-specific. Hence, it requires careful planning and specific policy developments to achieve this highly desirable goal. This is particularly true in the case of low-income countries, often subjected to protracted crises of one form or another.

While the recipe for resilience-building differs from country to country, one common feature among them is crystal clear: it is the capacity of the sector to respond positively and quickly when and where appropriate policies for resilience strengthening are designed and implemented by the state in partnership with all stakeholders. Partnership and collaborative work is essential for a successful agricultural policy.

In this respect, up-scaling of agriculture and improving its performance is of highest national priority for the Government of Afghanistan. One of the main objective of our National Development Strategy is to strengthen the productive capacity of farmers and herders to be able to produce adequate supply of diversified nutrient-rich food for our population, with special attention given to improving the diet of the vulnerable segment of the population, especially children under five years of age.

In the context of Afghanistan, where 75 percent of the population live in rural areas, the Government of Afghanistan has adopted the following policies aiming at strengthening rural resilience through national solidarity and pragmatic governance.

One, and the most important step, is to make sustainable agriculture as a major pillar of national economic development; to increase the level of investment in agriculture and the rural sector and to enhance the linkage between agriculture and other sectors of the national economy.

Two, to improve the sectoral governance and the rural economy through appropriate laws and regulations regarding the use of land and water resources; provision of rural finance; access to markets; the provision of essential public goods and services to rural people; promoting gender equality and generating employment opportunities for women and men in rural areas.

Three, taking realistic measures to mitigate climate shocks, with special emphasis on soil-enhancing techniques, water harvesting, stopping desertification and promoting the forestation of eroded river basins.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.

Four, strengthening the link between crops and livestock production systems, especially by expanding the area under fodder crops and improving the productivity of grazing land.

Five, increasing the efficiency of irrigation and creating additional water storage facilities to enable the expansion of area under irrigation during the hot summer months.

Six, accelerating the spread of improved varieties of all crops, greater use of organic fertilizer and more reliance on integrated pest management.

Seven, upgrading animal health and husbandry and developing a robust animal feed industry based on locally produced material.

Eight, improving access to clean and affordable energy in rural areas that will strengthen the food chain system and facilitate the growth of small and medium-size enterprises in rural areas, especially cold storage.

Nine, make sure that our vulnerable urban and rural population and communities located in remote areas have access to an adequate level of food consumption through public food distribution and solidarity mechanisms.

Ten, to further strengthen our cooperative system as a major leverage for promoting sustainable agriculture, promoting equity in rural areas, building resilience and expanding links with the market in the urban centers for the benefit of all producers. Strong farmers' organizations are essential to achieve both solidarity and global food security.

We are making gradual progress in each of the ten areas, but more needs to be done to develop the full potential of Afghan agriculture to meet the food and non-food requirements of our rapidly growing population, satisfying the demand and of our emerging agro-industry as well as fulfilling the export potential of Afghanistan in horticulture and livestock products.

This highlights the importance to develop the full potential of family farming, in particular its multifunctional character. Family farming is inextricably linked to national and global food security, both in developed and developing countries. In Afghanistan, family farming is and will remain the predominant form of agriculture and in the food production sector.

The progress made so far has been the result of the continuous and generous support from multilateral and bilateral partners, including the support received from FAO.

While we remain committed to pursue vigorously our goals of creating a sustainable food system and building rural resilience, the Government of Afghanistan will continue to seek outside technical and financial assistance to supplement our national efforts and in this respect we look forward for further strengthening our partnership with the Rome-based agencies as well as making greater use of south-south and triangular cooperation.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea²

At outset, I would like to join other delegations in extending congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva on his re-election of the FAO Director-General. Ever high support to your re-election shows the trusts and expectations placed in you by Member Nations.

Allow me to extend congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to you, Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture Store Corporation of Samoa, upon your election as Chairperson of the 39th FAO Conference. I am sure that this Conference will be successful under your able leadership.

My appreciation also goes to the Secretariat of 39th Session of FAO Conference for its preparation and the Italian Government for the warm hospitality given to the delegations.

FAO, since its foundation, has been making efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty as well as to achieve the global food security for 70 years in keeping with its mandate.

² *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.*

In particular, during the past two years, FAO has taken various measures to ensure the food security and nutrition in rural areas while strengthening its capacity building to increase the agricultural production worldwide.

The FAO decentralization policy makes it possible to give more authority to its regional and field offices resulting in technical cooperation in the agriculture, fishery and forestry and enhancing the effectiveness of the projects. This is of great contribution to the agricultural development in its Member Nations.

Ensuring global food security and nutrition, FAO has formulated a new Medium-Term Plan actively involving all Member Nations, scientific research institutions and social organizations in the MTP implementation. This clearly shows FAO's determination in its efforts to increasing agricultural production.

The DPRK delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017, recognizing that the document is well formulated in providing effective assistance to the Member Nations in their efforts to ensure food security and agricultural development.

My delegation welcomes the increased budget for TCP compared to the last one, which will help Member Nations in their efforts to eradicate hunger, increase agricultural production, preventing damages by pests and providing mitigation for natural disasters.

The joint efforts of FAO and its Member Nations to achieve the MDGs and the goal of the World Food Summit have contributed to the increase of agricultural production amidst the global economic and financial crisis.

However, the agricultural production of each country is still not at a satisfactory level and the food supply is still not in proper place. This is resulting in about 800 million people suffering from food shortage, hunger and under-nutrition.

In this respect, the DPRK delegation supports the theme of this Session "*Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*" proposed by its Secretariat and believes that due attention should be paid to the following points.

First, it is important for each country to formulate agricultural policy to suit its specific conditions and increase agricultural production on its own.

Member Nations should increase governments' budget for agricultural and rural development and take practical steps to enhance scientific capabilities in the areas of seed improvement, effective use of land and water resources, proper management of crops, prevention of damages by pests and reduction of post-harvest losses, etc.

Second, it is necessary to provide satisfactory socio-economic conditions on a global scale through which Member Nations can benefit from their agricultural production.

What is important in this regard is to establish a new global trade system of agricultural products based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit to avoid negative impacts on the agricultural production in developing countries.

Developed countries should not turn a blind eye to the reality, but be faithful to their commitments to give financial support to the developing countries as they made in the international conferences such as the World Food Summit. Developing countries should further develop the south-south cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Third, it is important to enhance the mandates of FAO.

As it is well known, FAO is the authentic specialized UN Agency in the field of agriculture to outline common policies and promote cooperation in the efforts of overcoming the challenges against the global food security. Therefore, FAO should provide enhanced technical cooperation to the developing countries for agriculture, fishery, etc., focusing on *Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*.

The DPRK is currently being engaged in a dynamic campaign to build a strong economy and improve the living standards of the people under the wise leadership of the dear respected Kim Jong Un.

The DPRK Government is focusing on resolving the food problem of the people and improving their dietary life on a higher level with agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing as the main thrusts.

It also concentrates and mobilizes all its efforts to farming, prioritizing seed revolution, double-cropping, potatoes and soybean farming. It is now taking practical measures to increase the grain yield per hectare in both flat and mountainous areas by actively introducing highly intensified and scientific farming methods.

Water-saving farming and other scientific methods are being applied and stockbreeding and aquaculture, greenhouses and mushroom production bases across the country are stepping up the efforts to put the production on a regular footing. People have turned out in the campaign of afforesting, landscaping the whole country and turning them into orchards.

The DPRK Government, on the basis of her external policy, principles of independence, peace and friendship, will continue to strengthen the cooperation with FAO and its Member Nations and make positive contribution to the efforts for sustainable agricultural development and eradication of poverty.

Jordan (Original language Arabic)³

I am pleased to be participating at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference as chairman of the Delegation of my country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which is a Middle Eastern country, whose people, in their education, determination, and contacts with the world, comprise its greatest wealth and most important resource. Jordan is blessed with a peaceful and moderate regime and an enlightened leadership that has led its people to be open to the world. As a result, Jordan takes great pride in its friendships with a broad spectrum of the international community and with most international organizations, foremost among them the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Jordan has spared no effort to foster its relationships with global organizations in recognition of their pioneering role in caring for human societies and in offering technical, financial, and humanitarian assistance to societies that request it.

In the name of my country's delegation, I would like to offer sincere congratulations to His Excellency Dr José Graziano da Silva upon his re-election as Director-General of FAO, a fact which reflects the confidence of its Member Nations in His Excellency Dr da Silva and the high approval they have given his performance in directing FAO in accord with its lofty goals. We in Jordan had the honour to welcome His Excellency a few months ago on a working visit that coincided with welcoming a new FAO Representative to its office in our capital of Amman. The visit of His Excellency provided Jordan the occasion to reiterate its respect for the high-level role of FAO and its support for the FAO office and its Representative in Amman, not just in the handling of its relationships with Jordan, but also the handling of other issues concerning the states that neighbour Jordan.

From this important international platform, this international economic and social forum, I cannot fail to salute the delegation heads, and the participating delegations who have come from their countries to demonstrate their commitment to FAO and affirm the importance of its role. They have come from afar to report their success at home in achieving food security for their societies and in developing the agriculture sector in a context of the desperate scarcity of resources, the impact of drought, and the challenges of climate change. However, what is also significant about our meeting is the renewal of our collective will to continue to raise our voices and call for greater fairness in the global economic system, which has taken steps to make developing countries open markets for wealthy states while leaving our states, with their limited resources and expertise, struggling to actualize the promised opportunities.

My country Jordan is one of the most water-poor countries in the world. It suffers from the effects of drought and is exposed to direct pressures resulting from climate change, However that has not

³ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.*

prevented it from making intensive and systematic efforts to combat the challenges of nature and climate. It has adopted policies necessary to confront them and drawn up appropriate implementation strategies. Jordan today has a National Strategy for Agricultural Development for the coming ten years. The government is currently discussing the proposed National Strategy for Food Security following the creation of a Food Security Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture a few years ago. A Food Security Commission chaired by the Prime Minister has also been formed.

The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is fully aware that agriculture is one of the key pillars of comprehensive development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In this spirit, and in keeping with Jordan's international commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the national strategies for agricultural development include the following priorities: development of rural areas; boosting capacity to increase food and agricultural production and improve food security; sustainable use of natural agricultural resources without damage to the environment and eco-systems, provision of protection to ensure the health of animal and plant resources, enhancement of economic opportunities for agricultural producers to invest in agricultural activity, organization of marketing processes and development of value chains, and greater efficiency in the use of irrigation water.

While we have achieved the Millennium Development Goal to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, we are aware that a large number of people still suffer from hunger. With this in mind, the National Food Security Strategy was drawn up in cooperation with the World Food Programme, and a High Commission for National Food Security was formed to unify the efforts of the national agencies working on food security, in line with the WFP concept.

From this platform, I request all of you to focus on the exceptional circumstances facing the Near East and North Africa Region when it comes to meeting its needs for food security and nutrition in the context of climate change. I advocate the need to focus on small farmers, giving them sufficient attention in view of the challenges threatening their existence as food providers. This can be done by strengthening policies and deploying programmes that target this group to increase their capacity to survive, raise productivity while preserving natural resources and eco-systems, provide new high-yield varieties to bridge the gap in agricultural food products, supplement the economy of these groups, and assist them with modern, high-quality technology by means of knowledge exchange and the promotion of scientific research to serve these objectives.

Finally, I would like to thank FAO and WFP for their efforts to ensure food security. I would also like to thank and commend the Italian government for the backing and support it has provided for the work of FAO. Similarly, I thank all the funding States who make a major contribution to the success of FAO's programmes and projects to combat poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

Lao People's Democratic Republic⁴

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at this 39th Session of the FAO conference and to take the floor on behalf of the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic. First of all, let me express my warmest congratulations to Dr. José Graziano da Silva for his re-election as the FAO Director-General.

And allow me to take this opportunity to express our Government's appreciation to the UN Agencies for their support, and especially to FAO and WFP for the award to Lao PDR for achieving the MDG-1 hunger target of halving the proportion of the population receiving insufficient calories. This is an important recognition from global institutions for Lao PDR; it shows that our country has followed the right development pathway to eradication gradually the problem of hunger and addressing food insecurity in the most sustainable and efficient manner.

Lao PDR recognizes since long the importance of Food and Nutrition Security and that it is essential to the development of the Lao people and people around the world. In this context and in continuation of successful food security programmes, the Government of Lao PDR has already determined the food

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production targets for the Eighth National Social and Economic Development Plan from 2016-20, and I wish to draw particular attention to the launch of a new strategic framework for food production and nutrition security and that has been set until years 2025. In parallel to this continued strong national commitment, I am happy to announce that Lao PDR has just joined the Zero Hunger Challenge.

For the contribution of Lao PDR to the challenge, the Government of Lao PDR has embraced a bold and innovative approach to development to build on the successes of recent years in terms of economic growth.

With reference to today's theme, the Eighth National Social and Economic Development Plan (2016-20) has given a high profile to addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, as part of the Government's commitment to achieving graduation from Least Developed Country status.

The Eighth National Social and Economic Development Plan is an outcome-based approach which emphasizes collaboration between the government sectors, and aims to create a positive and supportive environment for growth of the private sector.

In order to illustrate to you how the Government plans to address the five elements of the Zero Hunger challenge, I will now make a brief tour.

The first element of "100 percent or universal access to adequate, nutritious, and affordable food all year round" is addressed principally in the Agricultural Development Strategy 2025 and the National Nutrition Strategy 2025, although other sector strategies have important elements that relate to food security as I will describe later.

Specifically the goal of sustainable agriculture and food systems is a major feature of the ADS, especially with the focus on commercial producers to develop more economically efficient production that will provide more affordable food.

The National Nutrition Strategy outlines community-based approaches to production of diversified and nutritious food for local consumption, as part of the convergent approach that I will explain shortly.

In addition to these two points, the Government has recognized the need to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to shocks and disasters in order to reduce excessive food price volatility, and has agreed a Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Agriculture.

The second element of the Challenge of "Zero stunted children less than two years of age" is a major priority for the Government, and is the primary focus of the National Nutrition Strategy, supported by the three Ministries (Agriculture/Forestry, Education/Sport, and Health) in a convergent approach, with nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.

The goal is to ensure access to nutritious food in the 1000-day window of opportunity between the start of pregnancy and a child's second birthday.

These will be supported by sustainable nutrition-sensitive interventions for health care, water and sanitation, and education, which will be targeted to women of reproductive age, and children less than five years of age.

In addition these will be further supported by nutrition-specific interventions such as the provision of micronutrients, dietary supplements, etc.

The third element of "sustainable food systems" is also a priority for the Government under the Agricultural Development Strategy and related strategies.

Standards for sustainability are being established in preparation for the onset of the ASEAN Economic Community, including frameworks of Sanitary and Phytosanitary legislation and a system of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

The Government is investing in climate-resilient agriculture, including ecosystem-based approaches to agriculture to reduce disaster risks and protect small-scale food producers as laid out under the

National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change and the National Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture mentioned previously.

The Government is also pursuing cross-sectoral coherence through the Eighth NSEDP and a specific priority programme in the form of the Food Security and Commodities project to develop collaborative approaches between agriculture, industry/commerce, land and natural resources, energy, transport.

The Government also has specific strategies and programmes that will address the integrated approaches to natural resource management and systems that will conserve and sustainably use agrobiodiversity.

The fourth element of the Challenge of “increasing smallholder productivity and income” is also a priority for the government under the Eighth NSEDP, and this does not simply mean an increase in production, but instead securing a favourable economic environment for producers to become more effective and efficient.

Some thirteen approaches have been selected by the Government as identified in Agriculture Development Strategy 2025 and the Food Security and Commodities Project, and I can provide some specific examples in the following measures.

Firstly, security of tenure of the land will be strengthened through zoning and land titling, linked to revision of National Land Policy.

Secondly, farmer groups will be fostered and supported to improve bargaining power for purchase of inputs and sale of the agricultural outputs produced.

Then, the availability of rural credit, including micro-loans, will be improved for small farmers. Value chains will be strengthened, with the aim of creating a more favourable environment for processors, such as mills, and traders, with the aim of giving a fair margin to small producers.

My final example is that agriculture and food-related research, extension and innovation systems will be strengthened to develop and extend more technologies and practices to strengthen and modernize the production sector.

The fifth Zero Hunger Challenge element of “Zero loss or waste of food” is also embraced specifically under the National Food Security and Commodities Project. Measures will be developed and applied for reducing food losses during harvesting, storage, transport, and processing through more efficient systems. The National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action will foster and support interventions to enhance food processing and preservation at household level, which will also reduce losses.

The Government of Lao PDR has recognized the value of the comprehensiveness of the ZHC framework, and has agreed to align itself with the ZHC on the basis of its existing policies and programmes as mentioned. Although the Government recognizes that the targets are extremely ambitious, its strategies, plans and actions will constitute the basis on which Lao PDR faces up and achieves the Zero Hunger Challenge.

The Government also recognizes that these strategies and plans cannot be achieved without investment, and it is working with the various groups of stakeholders including development partners and the private sector to bring together the necessary resources to support the development of the necessary programmes and actions.

The Government has been putting a lot of investment and taking into consideration this challenge. I believe that Lao PDR can address these issues with continued support from its partners in the development and implementation of this framework which links the various policies and strategies to create synergies, especially in relation to the five elements of the ZHC. As a specific example, Lao PDR is participating along with four other countries in FAO's Regional Initiative on the ZHC, which addresses some aspects of the five elements.

On behalf all of the various sectors of the Government of Lao PDR, and specifically the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, I would like to thank the United Nations agencies for their continued active role in Lao PDR in helping to address food insecurity and malnutrition, now enhanced through my

country's participation in the Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge. I would also like to thank all of the other development partners that have so consistently provided their support for this critical area, and will continue to do so. This Government greatly appreciates your commitment to assist the people of Lao PDR.

Maroc⁵

Le Royaume du Maroc saisit l'occasion de cette 39^{ème} Conférence pour féliciter l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour son approche stratégique efficace et efficiente, qui a permis de renforcer l'accompagnement de ses pays membres dans la réalisation des objectifs de leurs politiques et stratégies respectives. Cela a été possible grâce, notamment, au leadership et au management de M. José Graziano da Silva depuis son élection en tant de Directeur général de la FAO.

Le Maroc, tout en remerciant Monsieur le Directeur général pour son appui continu au Royaume, a renouvelé son soutien à sa réélection pour un second mandat et lui adresse aujourd'hui ses vives et chaleureuses félicitations pour la confiance que lui accordent, à l'unanimité, les États Membres pour lui permettre de poursuivre cette noble œuvre durant un second mandat.

Le Royaume du Maroc présente également ses félicitations à tous les pays qui ont atteint l'ODD-1. Le Maroc a atteint le premier objectif du millénaire pour le développement, consistant à réduire l'extrême pauvreté et la faim et ce, deux ans avant la date prévue. Il s'agit là d'une performance qui a été primée par la FAO au cours de la 149^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO en juin 2014. Cette performance a été saluée par Sa Majesté le Roi Mohamed VI – que Dieu l'assiste – lors du discours qu'il a adressé à la Nation en juillet 2014. Elle a été possible grâce aux politiques adoptées par le Maroc et qui concourent à la lutte contre la pauvreté et la vulnérabilité, à travers notamment le Plan Maroc vert, le Plan halieutis et le Programme forestier national.

Ces stratégies ont non seulement mobilisé d'importants investissements publics et privés, mais elles ont surtout apporté des appuis considérables aux petits agriculteurs, forestiers et pêcheurs pour améliorer leurs revenus, et par conséquent leur niveau de vie, et pour mieux gérer leurs ressources naturelles dans une dimension durable.

Les hautes autorités marocaines sont engagées dans la promotion et le développement de la coopération entre pays en développement. En effet, le Maroc a été très actif depuis 1998 dans le programme de Coopération Sud-Sud (CSS) en tant que fournisseur d'expertise à d'autres pays. Les domaines d'expertise portent sur l'agronomie, l'agroforesterie, l'apiculture, l'arboriculture, la diversification, le génie rural, le domaine halieutique, l'horticulture, l'intensification de la production végétale, la maîtrise de l'eau, les organisations paysannes, le petit élevage, la pisciculture et la zootechnie.

En avril 2014, le Gouvernement marocain et la FAO ont signé un accord général pour appuyer la CSS pour la période 2014-2020 avec l'appui du secteur privé marocain. A ce jour, quatre accords tripartites ont été signés entre le Maroc, la FAO et la Guinée, la Guinée-Bissau, le Mali et le Swaziland. D'autres accords sont en cours de préparation.

A ce titre, la première Conférence internationale sur la Coopération Sud-Sud, organisée en partenariat avec la FAO, a regroupé une trentaine de ministres et de chefs de délégation de pays africains à Marrakech en 2014.

En confirmant sa disposition pour la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Marrakech adoptée lors de cette Conférence, mon pays exprime sa ferme volonté à partager son expertise avec tous les pays de la région, notamment dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire.

En effet, Le Maroc demeure convaincu qu'à côté des échanges nord-sud, nous ne saurions faire face efficacement et durablement à l'insécurité alimentaire sans la promotion d'une coopération sud-sud et d'une coopération triangulaire fructueuse et mutuellement bénéfique, grâce aux opportunités d'échanges et de complémentarité que nous avons dans le domaine agricole. C'est d'ailleurs en substance la teneur

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du discours que Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI a adressé en 2008 à la Conférence de la FAO sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Développer une agriculture durable et en faire un moteur du développement socioéconomique du monde rural est la réponse apportée par le Maroc pour combattre l'insécurité alimentaire. En effet, le Royaume du Maroc a fait de la durabilité de l'agriculture et des systèmes alimentaires plus qu'un désir d'avenir, un impératif du présent. Il a choisi d'appréhender la sécurité alimentaire de manière globale en mettant en place le 'Plan Maroc vert' lancé par Sa Majesté le Roi en 2008, une stratégie transversale de développement de l'agriculture, à travers l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité, la valorisation des produits de l'agriculture et la recherche de marchés, mais aussi en intégrant le développement des revenus des agriculteurs et en les protégeant contre les aléas climatiques à travers des produits d'assurance appelés à se généraliser et à se diversifier.

Cette stratégie a engagé l'agriculture marocaine dans un tournant décisif, l'inscrivant dans une spirale vertueuse de progrès équitables et durables, en lui imprimant une dynamique d'évolution harmonieuse et équilibrée qui tient compte de ses spécificités et marges de progrès pour faire face aux nouveaux enjeux.

Le Plan Maroc vert (PMV) s'inscrit dans la trilogie du développement durable, conjuguant l'efficacité économique, l'équité sociale et la préservation des ressources naturelles selon une vision d'une agriculture: territorialement diversifiée grâce à une reconnaissance des possibilités de chaque ensemble agro-écologique, de chaque terroir; sociologiquement plurielle en associant dans une même spirale de progrès les stratégies de production différenciées de catégories d'exploitations agricoles morphologiquement différentes et fonctionnellement diverses; durable en préservant les ressources naturelles sur lesquelles elle se fonde.

Tout en visant une augmentation significative de la production agricole, le Plan favorise l'insertion de la petite agriculture dans les marchés et les échanges à travers l'amélioration de la productivité et l'appui à la reconversion vers des secteurs de production porteurs. L'objectif est le développement de systèmes locaux d'entrepreneuriats dynamiques qui valorisent les atouts des territoires, permettent un meilleur accès aux marchés et s'inscrivent dans des filières rémunératrices et de haute qualité.

Pour sa mise en œuvre, il poursuit l'objectif central de réaliser un investissement dans le secteur agricole, d'environ 100 milliards de dirham sur la période 2010-2020 et donc d'attirer des investisseurs privés autour d'une « offre Maroc » représentant quelques 1.511 projets. Il s'agit d'une réforme qui s'adresse à l'ensemble des filières agricoles du Maroc, avec une approche d'intervention différenciée, ciblant l'agriculture à forte valeur ajoutée (Pilier I du PMV) et la petite agriculture paysanne ou agriculture solidaire (pilier II du PMV).

En 2014, Sa Majesté le Roi a donné des instructions pour évaluer et analyser la richesse totale et le capital immatériel du Maroc pour la période 1999-2013 afin d'assurer une meilleure équité dans une perspective de lutte contre la pauvreté, la précarité et les disparités sociales. Pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire du pays, plusieurs stratégies sectorielles sont en cours de mise en œuvre.

Le Cadre de programmation par pays, signé pour cristalliser le partenariat entre le Royaume du Maroc et la FAO en avril 2013 autour des priorités nationales en matière d'appui technique de la FAO, s'inscrit parfaitement dans le cadre des cinq Objectifs stratégiques de la FAO. Il constitue de ce fait, un outil de pilotage stratégique de la coopération FAO-Gouvernement du Maroc qui vise l'harmonisation des actions et la promotion de l'efficacité et de l'efficience dans les interventions au niveau des secteurs identifiés. Il est à signaler que plusieurs projets ont été réalisés avec l'appui de la FAO et que le Maroc intègre dans tous ses projets et programmes les composantes transversales relatives au changement climatique et au genre. Le Maroc est fortement impliqué dans les initiatives régionales et globales lancées par la FAO et qui viennent appuyer les cinq Objectifs stratégiques de la FAO.

Encore une fois, le Maroc salue les efforts entrepris par la FAO et demeurera disponible pour les appuyer tant à l'échelle régionale qu'à l'échelle internationale.

San Marino⁶

It is a great pleasure for me to intervene in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference and would like to take this opportunity congratulate you Mr Prime Minister of Samoa on your election as Chairperson of this Conference as well as the three Vice-Chairpersons.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr Director-General, on your election for a second mandate; the 177 votes clearly demonstrate the confidence all Member Nations have in your capacity and commitment in the new reformed, efficient and effective Organization.

We welcome the consensus on the budget level reached by the Membership at the last Council, in line with the recommendation of the Independent Review, a budget level which will provide the Organization with efficient tools to achieving the five strategic objectives.

We welcome FAO efforts in its ongoing decentralization process, strengthening the capacities of the decentralized offices, their work at local and national level and focusing more on the needs of the regions and countries through the governing bodies at the Regional Conferences.

We welcome the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition which, under your leadership, Mr Director-General, in collaboration with WHO, has elaborated the Rome Declaration on Nutrition; we therefore stress the importance of FAO's commitment in helping countries to implement the Framework for Action. It is only through concerted actions, cooperation with other UN partners, the civil society and NGOs that the outcomes of the ICN2 can be developed.

Moreover, the last G20 Summit in Istanbul has described nutrition as a "prerequisite for human development, productivity and growth" and has stressed the importance of the Rome Declaration, encouraging governments and stakeholders to incorporate the ICN2 Framework for Action into the national food and nutrition strategies and in their investment decisions.

Nutrition is a comprehensive issue which needs the commitment of all stakeholders, each within its specific mandate and in the framework of UN Deliver as One. Nutrition and under-nutrition require a holistic approach taking into account multiple sectors and all relevant actors in order to design cross-sectorial policies and programmes. The improvement of nutrition is linked to the improvement of sustainable agriculture.

On one hand, hunger and malnutrition are widespread, two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies which also have a great impact on children's lives, leaving them vulnerable to infectious diseases, causing physical and cognitive impairment and preventing them from reaching potential cognitive functions, affecting future job and income opportunities with high social and economic implications. On the other hand, obesity and overweight-related non-communicable diseases are increasing in our societies.

In order to properly address these problems, we do believe that a holistic approach throughout the entire system and the creation of social protection safety nets are essential.

Therefore San Marino supports the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of Food Security and the RAI Principles, and stresses the importance that FAO be strongly engaged in supporting Member Nations in implementing in their national policies the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Implementation of the Right to Food.

We will support all actions for promoting 2016-25 as the UN Decade on Nutrition

We do believe in the role of an inclusive CFS and welcome the important achievements in bringing the theme of food security and nutrition on the top of the Post-2015 Agenda. CFS must serve as an appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition for raising more political awareness.

The Post-2015 Agenda must take into consideration the key role of climate change.

⁶ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.*

While 800 million people suffer from hunger, more will go hungry as a result of climate change if agriculture does not adapt and does not build resilience. Earth's climate is warming and experts do believe that the main cause is the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities and the destruction of forests.

This man-made warming is causing discernible climatic and environmental changes and we look at the outcomes of the December Paris Conference. The impact of climate on small-holder farmers and on small islands needs more strong political commitment and thus welcome the FAO budget allocation for TCP.

Therefore agriculture has to be more and more on the international agenda and back into the negotiation processes as a fundamental tool in combatting poverty and malnutrition and as recently stressed by the G20 "to meet global food security and nutrition, natural resources must be more efficiently used and more socially inclusive".

We need to develop sustainable and resilient food systems from production, distribution, food be more accessible to all by combatting social inequalities and empowering women.

We therefore welcome the Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance in food and agriculture and the environment and the need for more political awareness and engagement. It shows the new positive environment between the Regional Groups and the Secretariat in reaching consensus.

Poverty and hunger eradication can be reached only through women empowerment and we welcome the Director-General's efforts in promoting gender as a cross-cutting issue in FAO programmes.

Women have less access to everything. Empowering women through education, equal access to land and to micro-credit, will enhance their role in society, in the family and I would say moreover it will contribute to the international political stability.

We would recommend FAO to elaborate the Voluntary Guidelines on the mainstreaming of gender equality and women empowerment in food security and nutrition policies under the mandate of the CFS and in the context of sustainable development in the context of the Post-2015 Agenda.

Healthy soils are the foundation of food production, for achieving food security, nutrition, for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, but the level of soil degradation is alarming.

We therefore welcome the Year 2015 as the International Year of Soils which aims at raising awareness on soils issues in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals currently under discussion.

Forests play a fundamental role in providing carbon emissions which decreased by 25 percent between 2001 and 2015, a phenomenon linked to deforestation and degradation and to the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

San Marino would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of South Africa for hosting the next September XIV World Forest Congress in Durban.

The Republic of San Marino endorses the role of the three Rome-based agencies, their collaboration although within their specific mandate.

San Marino, a landlocked territory, has now developed best practices in the agricultural sector promoting policies on the protection of land and the environment and the development of biological cultivation.

We are aware that a country of small dimensions can be easily monitored to achieve food security and nutrition, and we are ready to share best practices on social protection policies such as the right to food, to water, to energy and to education for all. Since decades a national campaign in favour of adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding has been implemented in line with WHO recommendations. Universal health care coverage, labour protection, protection of pregnant women and working mothers during lactation as well as gender equality are assured by national legislation.

The agricultural policies are focussed at protecting the territory by favouring a less aggressive agriculture, the respect for biodiversity and raising awareness of youth in agriculture. Being fully integrated into the Mediterranean context, the promotion of food culture is particularly important to

uphold ancient traditions. To this end, institutions dealing with agriculture, farmers and schools work in synergy to foster nutrition into education programs. Children aged 6 to 14 participate annually in laboratories for children on the origin of food, on traditional processes of transformation, the culture of taste, opposed to the culture of consumption.

The awareness that interaction between obesity and the consumption of non-healthy food and non-correct lifestyles has developed a strong collaboration among smallholder farmers into a cooperative called "Land of San Marino", promoting local agricultural products, their traceability and dedicated labels as well as promoting the culture of production as cultural heritage.

It is certainly easier for a small country to promote food security, both through sustainable production and through a rigorous control of the food chain. Registration and control measures of plant protection products used in agriculture have been introduced several years ago and, since the 1980s, an integrated control strategy of all small vineyards and olive groves has been carried out. A bovine registry was introduced in 1989 and all animals are recorded and monitored. This allowed us to easily overcome the problem of mad cow disease.

Our challenges for the future are: to develop sustainable agriculture and the agri-food sector so as to make San Marino a country with a totally organic agricultural production; to increase biodiversity, through the recovery of seeds, vine varieties and breeds; and to enhance landscape though less aggressive farming methods, hedgerows separating fields and the promotion of traditional agricultural systems.

We are present at Expo Milano with our technological innovations and best practices in the Bio-Mediterranean Cluster and we welcome the Charter of Milano as the legacy of Expo Milano.

As President Lula said at the McDougall Memorial Lecture, the World agriculture production is enough; conflicts, hunger and malnutrition are man-made and if there is true strong political commitment, we can overcome them. Let us all play our role.

United Arab Emirates⁷

It is an honour to be here today. Thank you for inviting the United Arab Emirates to participate in this special event.

The UAE is privileged to be among the countries that have met the World Food Summit and MDG-1 hunger targets. Since its establishment in 1971, under the leadership of the country's late founder, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE is fortunate to have experienced very rapid development in all sectors. With the understanding that adequate food and nutrition is an essential prerequisite for a full and healthy life, we have made concerted efforts to ensure that this basic need is met across society. His Highness Sheikh Zayed himself said, 'give me agriculture, I will give you civilization'.

Having achieved our development targets at home, the UAE is committed to eradicating hunger worldwide, and enjoys close cooperation with two of the most important agencies in this regard, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme. Her Highness Sheikha Fatima, wife of His Highness Sheikh Zayed, has, for example, served as FAO Goodwill Ambassador since 2010, helping mobilize support for international efforts to eliminate hunger.

In four years alone, from 2010 to 2013, the UAE has disbursed USD 207.6 million in an effort to counter extreme hunger. In addition to providing direct food aid and food security programmes, the UAE has drawn on its own experience to conduct major projects, from Haiti to Afghanistan, to develop agro-industries, agricultural water resources, and crop and livestock management and export.

Looking beyond 2015 and towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the UAE will continue to play an active role in these areas through its foreign assistance programmes. I look forward to our

⁷ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.

continued collaboration and hope that, together, we will make great strides in our efforts to eliminate hunger.

United Kingdom⁸

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this statement on behalf of the United Kingdom Government. The UK attaches profound importance to the work of FAO in addressing global hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty. While we note that continued efforts by many on these issues have resulted in a slight reduction – to 795 million – in the number of hungry in the world, that figure remains completely unacceptable. It highlights the ongoing urgency for FAO and all of us to redouble our work.

As for the theme of the Conference, we acknowledge FAO's increasing focus on social protection, and welcome the generation of valuable evidence on the impact of cash transfers on wider rural development through the protection to production research. We encourage FAO to continue to take an evidence-based approach to exploring better coordination and layering of social protection with other agricultural development interventions. This will avoid the risk of overburdening nascent national social protection systems with multiple rural development objectives. We look forward to the contribution that FAO can make to the task of building social protection systems within its mandate and in partnership with others.

Excellencies, this Conference is exceptional for several reasons.

We have re-appointed Director-General Graziano da Silva for a second term. The United Kingdom sincerely congratulates him and considers his re-election a tribute to the achievements of his first term. It is a vote of confidence that he will use the next four years to continue his quest to modernise FAO and help it achieve the impact and international stature it deserves.

We will endorse the Council's recommendation on FAO's 2016-17 assessed budget: the unprecedented agreement on the budget figure prior to Conference allows us instead to devote our attention this week to important policy priorities.

We will approve an important resolution on antimicrobial resistance. While this is but one of the many policy issues FAO is tackling – in agriculture, food safety and beyond – it has particular significance. It positions FAO in the front line of a battle that can still be won, rather than obliging it to fight a fire that overstretches its capacity to respond. It is a battle with very high stakes, for human and animal health, for agricultural livelihoods and for our common efforts at poverty reduction. And it highlights the collaboration between FAO, WHO and the International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), three multilateral agencies working together to tackle a health threat that crosses species and boundaries. We believe strongly that the appeals from Member Nations from all regions for support from FAO to help tackle this challenge are testament to the trust they place in the Organization. We are confident it will justify this through allocating appropriate core resources, the value of which will be maximised by voluntary support from Members.

These achievements illustrate the focused approach and constructive spirit that typifies Member Nations collaboration in FAO. The important issues we deal with deserve no less, and the Membership regularly rises to the challenge of supporting the Organization to deliver. Steadily it is strengthening the important foundations of effective delivery: greater ability to measure and report results, stronger efficiency and value for money, an energised and top-quality workforce, and increased transparency and accountability.

That progress will help FAO celebrate its 70th Anniversary in a spirit of renewal. And it will position it well to contribute to tackling the phenomenal opportunity when the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals are adopted in September, including ending extreme poverty and hunger in a generation and ensuring that no one is left behind again.

For all of these reasons, this Conference, in this pivotal year, is one we should all celebrate.

⁸ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request. – Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal. – Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.*

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Thank you very much, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for your interest in the work of the Organization. I would particularly like to express our appreciation for your support and guidance for the work of the Organization and specifically for the debate which has taken place over the last two and a half days on the question of social protection and the ongoing work on social protection in the Organization.

In taking note of the qualifications, and sometimes reservations, expressed in many of the interventions, I would like to make a number of responses to allay concerns which may have been expressed. These are organized under three topics. Why is FAO involved with social protection? What does FAO do in social protection? And some brief examples.

Firstly, I think it is very important to remind ourselves that the UN General Assembly in 2012 made a strong commitment to establishing a universal social protection floor. This followed, as we know, from President Michelle Bachelet's report which was completed in 2011. This report largely involved the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization. But, as you know, 38 percent of the poor people in the world are to be found in the countryside and are largely outside of the formal sector, and hence it is imperative to engage and address their concerns in order to be able to overcome both poverty and hunger.

In the imminent Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which are likely to be approved by the Summit in September this year, SDG 1 is very clear and emphatic about its commitment to eliminating poverty and 1.3 specifically identifies the question of social protection. SDG 2, as you know, is committed to eliminating hunger and malnutrition among other objectives. Now in order to make poverty and hunger history, we were reminded by President Lula on Saturday that there is no way to do this without extending social protection appropriately. This is because we face a situation of much slower if not stagnant economic growth as well as unequal and non-inclusive participation in the growth processes, resulting in growing unemployment and underemployment, and also the lack of livelihood opportunities for many.

So what does FAO do in social protection? It basically has done three things. Firstly, it has recognized and reoriented the rural development work which has been an ongoing feature of FAO's work for many decades, with a particular emphasis on smallholder family farms. As you know, most smallholder family farms actually involve women farmers. Women constitute the majority of smallholder family farmers. So FAO's work in this regard does not begin from scratch but rather reflects a very significant reorientation and emphasis. Secondly, it focuses the work of social protection on the rural informal sector. As I mentioned earlier, 78 percent of the poor are in the countryside. And if we are serious about addressing poverty and hunger, we need to address the rural informal sector. And the third feature, which is a very novel feature of FAO's work, is what is termed the work to try to accelerate the transition from protection to production. In other words, to enable people who are currently destitute, poor, hungry, to find opportunities and means to be able to ensure livelihood opportunities for themselves. Now all this involves transformation, which is something which I am sure the Membership approves of. Let me illustrate these points with some quick examples.

In India, as you know, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has involved and provided rural employment for tens of millions of people; people who would otherwise have virtually no incomes. The incomes which they receive through the Act are actually very modest and so there is a self-selection process. There is no targeting but people who are really in desperate need for some income basically sign up for this. We find that 60 percent of those employed in REGA programmes are women.

Another example from North Africa – as you know, there has been in the past provision of subsidies for bread. The result was that the subsidized bread was easily available for human consumption, and because the bread was easily available, it sometimes led to problems of people who would generally be of modest means becoming overweight and sometimes even obese. Bread was so cheap that it was cheaper to feed your animals with this subsidized bread.

More recently, this has been changed and instead of directly subsidizing bread, cards have been provided to the needy in order to buy bread and there is a subsidy element in the cards involved.

In poor areas in China, they have school-feeding programmes which have been developed. These school-feeding programmes have had many consequences, some of which were previously unexpected. What we find, for example, is that the school-feeding programmes which are usually lunch programmes rather than breakfast programmes have resulted in the children being better nourished than urban children who are spoiled by their parents and grandparents, and sometimes who are overfed by the doting relatives.

But in producing the food for these school-feeding programmes which are designed by dieticians, we find that the food is organized and provided through farmer organizations and cooperatives and the excess food produced by the farmers becomes available in the local markets. The result is that the switch in the choice of vegetables and other foods which are available in the local markets has resulted in a general improvement in the nutrition status of relatively poor villages in these communities.

My last example is from Ghana. FAO has played a very important role in working with the government to design livelihood opportunities. What we have seen is that poor farmers who might otherwise be risk-averse are now prepared to take risks to produce more for the market to raise their incomes and thus their resilience.

All of these examples show how the relevance of social protection work in the countryside is actually quite distinct from the normal social protection programmes which are identified with the formal sector, insurance, unemployment insurance, and so on and so forth.

This is very important to realize that the social protection work is not another time to try to build a welfare state or something like that but rather to enable the populations to become much more resilient and self-reliant.

So there are of course debates as to whether this should be rights-based in Europe and in Latin America. There is a very strong emphasis that this should be rights-based elsewhere. There are much more attempts at targeting which are promoted by some international organizations as well.

These are important debates which will continue to preoccupy us, but all of this basically shows that this work is ongoing and the guidance from Member Nations for our work will be extremely important in taking our work forward in order for us to be able to better serve Member Nations and ultimately to ensure that both poverty and hunger become history. Thank you very much for your attention

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to draw your attention on a correction of the Journal and the General Committee. Please note that (1) Italy wished to step down from the Council membership on 30 June 2016 (and not 2015 as indicated in the Journal and the second report of the General Committee) and (2) the Russian Federation will replace Italy for the remainder of the term from 1 July 2016 until the end of the 40th Session in 2017.

The table with the aforementioned will appear in the Journal tomorrow and in the report that will be submitted to the Conference on Saturday 13 June.

There will be a Plenary meeting here at 14.30 hours tomorrow afternoon given that the Papal Audience will take place tomorrow morning. I should now like to pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind delegates of the two side events taking place during lunch time in the Sheikh Zayed Centre: from 12.30 to 13.30 the side event hosted by Japan on “Direction for Food Value Chain Development in Africa – Agricultural Development through TICAD Process”; thereafter from 13.30

to 14.30 the side event on “Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

An information event on the XIV World Forestry Congress will take place from 14.30 to 15.30 in the Iran Room.

Furthermore, this afternoon from 17.00 to 18.30 the ceremony for the Appointment of the Special Ambassadors for the International Year of Soils will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre, and will include an Open Discussion on Healthy Soils for Food Security.

With regard to the Papal Audience, the buses for the Vatican will depart from Building A at 10.00 tomorrow morning to transport those delegates who have picked up an invitation to the Papal Audience from the desk in the Belgian Lounge immediately outside the central doors of the Plenary Hall. Further details on the Papal Audience are also available in the Daily Journal.

Please note only those delegates who have registered at this session of Conference will appear in the List of Participants. If you have not already registered, please do so today at the Turkish Registration Centre, at the entrance to Building A.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, the meeting is now adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 11:47 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 47

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.47

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
11 June 2015

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.47 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava reunión a las 14.47
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 28. Audited Accounts 2012-13 (Draft Resolution)**Point 28. Comptes vérifiés 2012–2013 (projet de résolution)****Tema 28. Cuentas comprobadas de 2012-13 (proyecto de resolución)**

(C 2015/5 A; C 2015/5 B; C 2015/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, I call the Eighth Plenary meeting to order. Our first item on the Agenda is Item 28, *Audited Accounts*. Please ensure you have the relevant documents before you, C 2015/5 A, C 2015/5 B and C 2015/LIM/6.

I invite Mr Denis Aitken, Assistant Director-General of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department, to introduce this item.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

The document C 2015/5 A contains the official Financial Statements of the Organization for the 2012-13 biennium with the opinion of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements. Part B of the document contains the Report of the External Auditor himself; typically referred to as the Long Form Report. I am pleased to inform the Conference that, as in previous biennia, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2012-13 Financial Statements of the Organization. The results and the official accounts of the 2012-13 biennium were examined by the Finance Committee at its 156th Session in November 2014 and by the Council at its 150th Session in December 2014. The audited accounts of the previous biennium are now before you for adoption by approval of the Draft Resolution submitted by Council in document C 2015/LIM/6.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We are pleased to note that the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion. I just have a request for clarification on one aspect. When does the Organization envisage to issue on a regular basis with the Audited Accounts a statement on internal control, Management's statement on internal control.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

In answer to that question, the Organization is currently preparing, at the request of the Finance Committee and others, a statement on internal control which will guide how the Organization, in the future, deals with the aspect of internal control. The question of relating that statement of internal control to the accounts is still under study. We have not taken a final decision on that issue yet.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference wishes to approve the audited accounts for 2012-13? It is so decided. This concludes Item 28.

Item 29. Scale of Contributions 2016-17 (Draft Resolution)**Point 29. Barème des contributions 2016–2017 (projet de résolution)****Tema 29. Escala de cuotas para 2016-17 (proyecto de resolución)**

(C 2015/INF/8; C 2015/LIM/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Aitken will remain with us also for the next item which is Item 29, *Scale of the Contributions 2016-17*. The relevant documents are C 2015/INF/8 and C 2015/LIM/9.

I call upon Mr Aitken to introduce this item please.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO Scale of Contributions for the years 2016-17. This has been derived, as usual, from the United Nations Scale of Assessments approved for the years 2013

through 2015 as established by General Assembly Resolution 67/238 which was adopted in December 2012. The previous 2014-15 scale is also set out for comparison purposes. The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed 2016-17 Scale of Contributions for FAO at its 157th Session in March 2015 and submitted it to the 151st Session of the Council in March 2015 for endorsement. The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution as submitted by the Council on the Scale of Contributions for 2016-17 as presented in document C 2015/LIM/9.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the resolution concerning the Scale of Contributions for 2016-17 set out in the document C 2015/LIM/9? Thank you. It is so decided. Item 29 is concluded.

Item 30. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization

Point 30. Paiement par l'Union européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation

Tema 30. Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización

(C 2015/LIM/13)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 30, *Payment by the European Union to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its Membership in the Organization*. As the Second Report of the General Committee, C 2015/LIM/17, adopted by the Conference on Tuesday 9 June has dealt with this matter, I propose that we move on to Item 31.

Item 31. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

Point 31. Autres questions administratives et financières

Tema 31. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

(C 2015/LIM/11)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 31 covers *Other Administrative and Financial Matters*. I would like to give the floor again to Mr Denis Aitken to introduce the proposed “Abolition of the Incentive Scheme for Timely Payment for Assessed Contributions”, background to which can be found on document C 2015/LIM/11.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

At its 154th Session in May 2014, the Finance Committee reviewed the impact of the Incentive Scheme on collection rates of assessed contributions as well as the estimated costs of administering the scheme. The Committee concluded that the Incentive Scheme did not have an impact on encouraging prompt payment of contributions, was not cost-effective, and recommended that the Council propose to this Conference that the scheme be abolished. At its 149th session in June 2014, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Incentive Scheme indeed be abolished and that this be forwarded to this Conference for approval while encouraging the Secretariat to explore alternative measures to encourage timely payment of assessed contributions to FAO Members. The abolition of the Incentive Scheme is now before you for adoption, by approval of the recommendation submitted by the Council in document C 2015/LIM/11.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any Member wish to comment on the proposed *Abolition of the Incentive Scheme for Timely Payment of Assessed Contributions*? If there are no other comments then I take it that the Conference wishes to approve the proposed Abolition of the Incentive Scheme for Timely Payment of Assessed Contributions. Thank you. It is so decided.

I invite the Secretary-General to give a brief report on the documentation for this Session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For this 39th Session of the Conference, 41 main documents have been issued, including some web annexes and a supplementary document. 29 documents were published on the Conference web page more than two months ahead of the beginning of this session, and a total of 36 documents were online by the publication deadline of 27 April 2015. Another two documents were issued during the same week and another two were online two weeks before the start of this session. Only one document was issued close to the beginning of this session in order to provide the latest information on organizations invited to attend this session.

- Item 9. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee**
Point 9. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
Tema 9. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(C 2015/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 9, *Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*. The relevant document is C 2015/6 Rev.1.

I will now pass the floor on to Ms Monica Altmaier, Director of the Office of Human Resources, to inform the Conference of the candidatures. Ms Altmaier, you have the floor please.

Ms Monica ALTMAIER (Director, Office of Human Resources)

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations Organization, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member organizations. This Board's membership is drawn from these Committees whose members and alternate members are chosen by the governing bodies, the executive heads of the organizations, and the participating staff of each organization. In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the nine alternate members to the Staff Pension Committee. Only the Conference has the authority to appoint members and alternate members to FAO's Staff Pension Committee.

Mr Chairperson, the Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and as Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the Staff Pension Committee:

Ms Abba Malik Osman Malik, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO, as Alternate Member to replace and complete the term of office of Ms Nike-Ekaterini Koutrakou which ends on 31 December 2015.

Ms Daleya Uddin, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the UN Agencies, as Member to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Juan M. Cammarano which ends on 31 December 2016.

Ms Abba Malik Osman Malik, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO, to serve as a Member from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018.

Mr Spyridon Ellinas, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to FAO, to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018.

Mr Bah Konipo, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali to FAO, to serve as Member from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

Ms Daleya Uddin, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the UN Agencies, to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference is requested to consider these candidatures and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named as Members and Alternate Members of FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Can I take it that the Conference has no objections to the list of candidates that has just been read out? It is so decided. That completes Item 9.

Item 25. Assessment of Governance Reforms, including consideration of the Independent Review Report

Point 25. Évaluation des réformes concernant la gouvernance, y compris l'examen du rapport sur l'examen indépendant

Tema 25. Evaluación de las reformas de la gobernanza, en la que se tomará en consideración el informe del Examen independiente

(C 2015/25; C 2015/26 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Before taking up the next item on our agenda this afternoon, we should now adopt the Second Report of the Credentials Committee. The report is set out in document C 2015/LIM/18. I shall give the floor to Ms Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee to present the report.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held three meetings on 27 May, 6 and 11 June, to examine the credentials received for this Session of the Conference. The Second Report indicates that 191 members have submitted original credentials on the composition of their delegations. The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials of the delegations listed in Annex 1, as contained in document C 2015/LIM/18 which is now being distributed, be accepted, and recommended that all delegations be authorized to participate in this Session. The Second Report of the Credentials Committee is available, as I said, in document C 2015/LIM/18, and I would invite the Conference to approve this oral report.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments on the report? There are none. I declare the report adopted. Thank you.

We take up now Item 25, *Assessment of Governance Reforms*, including consideration of the Independent Review Report. Please ensure you have documents C 2015/25 and C 2015/26 Rev. 1 before you.

I now invite Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, to introduce this item.

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

Some of those present in this plenary meeting will recall that the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, abbreviated as IPA, which was approved by a special session of the Conference in 2008, focused sharply on governance matters.

Indeed, one hundred and two of the two hundred and seventy-four IPA actions concern governance. The IPA was a response to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO in 2007. The IPA clearly spelled out the need to bring about substantive improvement in FAO governance calling for a major shift of attitude that would be expressed in terms of constructive engagement of members with each other. The IPA spelled out that.

After six years of implementation, an Independent Review of Governance Reform would be undertaken. Such a review has taken place, taking onboard input from members in the Secretariat. A reviewed team of two experts was appointed to undertake the evaluation throughout 2014 and produce a final report which you have before you in document C 2015/25.

During the course of the review, I convened the formal meetings of Regional Groups on this specific issue and in particular to facilitate a discussion among Members during the course of the review and on the final report.

I was also requested to assist Members in reaching consensus on the formulation of responses to the sixteen recommendations and the operations suggestions contained in their assessment of FAO Governance Reform set out in document C 2015/26 Rev.1.

Indeed, the consolidated document C 2015/26 Rev.1 you have is an outcome of two Open-Ended Working Group meetings to which the Membership as a whole was invited. That provided clear and constructive input.

Subsequently, the document went through Programme and Finance Committees and was finally endorsed by the 151st Session of the Council in March this year. I should like to stress that document C 2015/26 Rev. 1, *Assessment of FAO Governance Reform*, is the outcome of a thorough and inclusive consultative process and is now submitted to the 39th Session of the Conference for endorsement of the proposed recommendations set out in Section 2 and the adoption of the resolution found in Section 3.

You will note that while many of the proposed recommendations foresee the mainstreaming of actions through specific FAO governing bodies according to a given timeframe, the resolution lists one IPA action for closure and two for suspension.

I would like to stress that consensus was reached on all of the proposals following many hours of negotiations with the Membership. I trust the Conference will be in a position to approve the resolution and the proposed actions.

In concluding, let me reiterate that to quote on the important and encouraging comment made by the Independent Evaluation Team in document C 2015/25: "Looking back at IEE's statement six years ago that FAO's Governing Bodies were "failing the Organization", the Independent Review Team found that the Governing Bodies have made substantial progress in their reform. They have implemented almost all the governance actions contained in the IPA, which has made a significant difference in the enabling environment for governance within the Organization."

That is the short concluding summary by the Independent Review. I trust that the enabling environment for good governance within the FAO will continue to be sustained, nurtured by Members and Management alike and that the recommendations set out in document C 2015/26 Rev.1 will serve the purpose of ensuring that the gains achieved since the reform process began are maintained and strengthened.

I am honoured to have been involved in this process of the reform of FAO since 2007 and now to witness the assessment of the six years of implementation of the IPA

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We are convinced that there is a genuine need for a strong, coherent and effective United Nations system in order to address the challenges ahead of us. Within the United Nations, the FAO plays a key role in eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and in ensuring sustainable management and utilization of natural resources including forestry and fisheries in the context of climate change.

While acting as a neutral broker, the FAO should strive to continue to improve its performance and deliver results. It is our common responsibility to support the FAO in its continuous improvement. This is in the spirit of confidence and solidarity between FAO Members and the Secretariat which has prevailed since the Organization was founded on 16 October 1945.

That is why we have been very pleased to work on the Report of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms under the guidance of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We thank him for his wholehearted commitment to this exercise to which the Secretariat has given its constant support.

We would also like to thank the Independent Review Team for the thorough work it has undertaken. Thanks to the constructive dialogue and the positive spirit of compromise among FAO Members,

we are very pleased to endorse the proposed Resolution for the Conference in respect of governance reform.

We are fully committed to continuing the dialogue and are ready to engage in further consultations where necessary. In so doing, we can ensure that together we provide the best governance for the FAO and continue to improve effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

Ms Krysta HARDEN (United States of America)

We commend all of the stakeholders involved in this process, including the ICC, the Independent Review Team, the Office of Evaluation and the Member Nations, who carefully examined the way the Organization works and looked for ways to make it better.

We believe that the FAO will be a stronger organization thanks to your efforts. We would also like to add that although Recommendation 3 to close the IPA discussion of agreeing to a budget level before Conference is agreed to in the review, we nevertheless came to a historic consensus by agreeing to the budget level at the 151st Session of Council. We hope that this would set a positive example for future budget negotiations.

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I do not see the need for any reply, only to thank those who have commented on this report and thank the Members who we worked through the year last year in order to get to consensus, particularly on the way forward. As it has been said, governance has to be effective, efficient in order to be able to guide the FAO to do their work.

CHAIRPERSON

So can I take it that the Conference approved the recommendations set out in document C 2015/26 rev1?

Thank you. It is so decided. This concludes Item 25.

Item 33. Any Other Matters

Point 33. Autres questions

Tema 33. Asuntos varios

33.2 In Memoriam

33.2 In Memoriam

33.2 In memoriam

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, the Conference has traditionally paid tribute to staff members who passed away while in service since the preceding session. May I ask the Secretary-General to read the names of the staff members who we shall honour with our minute of silence.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Chairperson. Since the last session of Conference, the following staff members died while in service.

Mr Selvarajan Sundaramurthy, Mr Ignacio Coma Brun, Mr Felix Bengono Nguema, Mr David Kenneth Hitchcock, Mr Kwadwo Asenso-Okyere, Mr Evgeny Saranin, Mr Andereya Kaggwa Lubega, Ms Gueu Alphonsine Dion, Mr Hafeez Iqbal Hafeez, Mr Joshua Randol Dewbre, Mr Yahye Osman Hersi, Mr Jorge Torrens, Ms Nicolette De Bona, Ms Mgeni Kara, Mr Thomas Anmarkrud.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Secretary-General. May I request the assembly to stand for one minute of silence in tribute to those staff members who died since the last session of Conference in 2013.

Minute of silence
Minute de silence
Minuto de silencio

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, as announced in the Second Report of the General Committee which the Conference adopted on Tuesday, we shall now listen to an address by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies.

We will now have a pause please. We will have a pause of five minutes before we move on with this item.

The meeting was suspended from 15.21 to 15.39 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 21 à 15 h 39

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.21 a las 15.39

33.3 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

33.3 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

33.3 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

As announced in the Second Report of the General Committee, which Conference adopted on Tuesday, we shall now listen to an address by a Representative of the FAO Staff Parties. I give now the floor to Mr Mauro Pace, General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff.

Mr Mauro PACE (General Secretary, Union of General Services Staff)

In compliance with the indications received by the General Committee, I will present in about five minutes a few highlights of our statement. Please be informed that we remain at your disposal to clarify or elaborate further on any issues raised in our statement.

Let me congratulate both, Mr Graziano and yourself, upon election as FAO Director-General and Chair of the Conference, respectively.

On Monday, the Director-General and the Independent Chair of the Council reminded us that two decades of reforms and cost cuts yielded overall assessed savings of 34 percent, that is good news for Member Nations.

However, let us not forget that savings come at a high cost to staff.

Staff members have been transferred, sometimes on a short notice, to decentralized duty stations, often leaving their families behind; others lost their jobs, being forced to either resign or be relocated and retrained; salaries have been frozen and cut; policies have been enforced, such as that on mobility, that may allow for staff to be transferred without due attention to social, or even health-related, considerations; many posts have been abolished, downgraded, transferred in both categories; job growth has been all but abolished, despite it being for many the only remaining means for career progression; administrative instructions have been issued that undermine job security, including those that recently led staff to participate in a four-day strike during the last session of the Council.

Those of you who participated in the 151st Session of the Council will probably remember that hundreds of staff loudly expressed their disappointment under the windows of your meeting room. We were told that our whistles made your work more difficult, and I would like to apologize today for any inconvenience caused. Our purpose was not to disturb your work, it was to be listened to by our Senior Management and you. In so doing, we also showed solidarity to our colleagues in the Temporary Assistance Pool (TAP) who were, and still are, at risk of losing their jobs after many years of committed service to the Organization: contrary to what has been said or written at that time, our strike had nothing to do with the blind defence of privileges or the fear of change.

On the other hand, we note that salaries and allowances that were once considered part of an equitable compensation package for international civil servants are today referred to as “privileges”; as a simple

keyword search through the programme- and finance-related documentation would reveal, the word “staff” is nowadays almost exclusively associated with the terms “costs”, “liabilities”, “savings” and so on. This is not only a semantic issue, as it hinges on substance as well. In our view this explains why a major portion of the above-mentioned savings were achieved by making an increasing use of alternative contractual arrangements, usually referred to as “non-staff”.

This phenomenon is not limited to FAO; it has become a system-wide emergency, as we see that in many organizations, including FAO, the share of this type of personnel represents 75 percent or more of the total workforce. It is a priority for us to convince you, the Member Nations, that financial considerations should not prevail over human resources priorities; they should actually foster sound HR practice, for no matter what short-term savings are obtained today, they will certainly result in considerable loss of relevance and independence tomorrow. In essence, the UN, and FAO, cannot afford to depart from the mandate of Articles 100 and 101 of the UN Charter establishing the fundamental principles of independence of staff and the competitiveness of conditions of employment.

The practice of employing on a recurring basis non-staff personnel to perform functions that belong to the core mandate, priorities and regular programme of our organizations should be discouraged for many compelling reasons, since the existence of different categories of staff performing the same functions creates an unacceptable discrimination and a situation of permanent instability that affects the staff morale and the organizational performance alike. It has a destructive impact on human resources management at all levels, since those colleagues are at a disadvantage regarding their career, job security and mobility; it violates the international character and, consequently, the independence of the international civil service and the geographic representation. The excessive recourse to non-staff personnel gives Member Nations a false representation of the financial appropriations required to manage the human resources of the organizations; it also contributes to the growth of projected liabilities of the Pension Fund and the After-service Health insurance (ASHI), both schemes heavily relying on inter-generational solidarity.

Several HLCM/HR Network and JIU papers demonstrate how this practice has been steadily growing. Therefore, we would like to call upon the Member Nations to adopt stringent criteria to regulate this phenomenon.

As we touched on the JIU, I would also like to share with you our concern for the number of independent evaluations of organizational performance commissioned to non-UN entities, while the JIU, the sole body established by the UN General Assembly for this purpose, is almost consistently ignored. We are increasingly concerned that nowadays those studies seem to be considered the only reference documents available to the Governing Bodies for their decisions.

During the Council it was explained to you that we were demonstrating because of our fear about the future and the fact that we were moving in the direction to implement the FAO you collectively want. And that changes always bring with them fears and internal resistance.

What you were not told is that in 70 years, FAO staff has never averted change, if change came with attention to dialogue and buy-in by the staff.

You were also told that FAO implemented a merit over seniority approach and this was one of the reasons why you were hearing the whistles outside.

What you were not told is that FAO has always recruited from the external labour market when internal expertise was not available, and that seniority means competence, institutional knowledge and efficiency.

What was also missing in that information is that, as a locally recruited category, the GS should not be recruited globally, unless international entitlements were granted. Would this be a cost-cutting policy at the end of the day? We honestly doubt it.

You were also told that FAO was redistributing posts from the administrative area to the technical area and that this process sometimes resulted in tensions, especially when GS posts were abolished to establish P posts and that many GS posts were not necessary anymore, because the Global Resources Management System (GRMS) had been implemented.

What you were not told is that no correlation could be established between GRMS and the need of GS technical functions. Indeed, a study of the FAO personnel turnover in our decentralized Shared Services Centre would show how our colleagues in Budapest increasingly leave FAO to join other UN sister organizations that offer better contracts and career opportunities.

You were also told that the Professional Staff Selection Committee (PSSC) had been changed by executive decision, after one year of futile consultations, pretending that this was the only way to avoid the risk of co-managing the Organization.

The experience with the new PSSC is still very recent and therefore not ripe for a fully-fledged evaluation, but its transparency is a problem, since no information flows from departments and even the PSSC results, that used to be published on Intranet, stopped being reported with the introduction of the new system.

On co-management, let me say loud and clear for the record that the SRBs are not interested in co-management at any level. Indeed, we are all in favour of interacting with an authoritative and accountable Management. Moreover, we believe that FAO's Constitution does not leave any doubt in that respect.

What you were not told, however, is that we ask that our rights, as enshrined in the ICSC Code of Conduct for the International Civil Service and Framework for Human Resources Management, as well as in the Rules and Regulations of the organizations and the respective recognition agreements, be respected, and social dialogue allowed to happen. And at this point please let me thank in particular those delegations who recognized the staff contribution so far and the need for effective social dialogue to be in place in our Organization.

A last issue we would like to touch upon is our Performance Evaluation and Management System (PEMS), since you were informed – and we were told as well in a Town Hall meeting – that 95 percent of FAO staff fully or exceptionally achieved their goals last year and that this does not help an Organization that needs to be based on merit.

What you were not told is that this distribution of ratings is similar to that of many other knowledge-based organizations in the UN that recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre and are equipped to address underperformance as it arises.

What you were also not told is that we have no issue with a fair and balanced PEMS as far as it guarantees a fair degree of safeguards against bias and, at least as far as UGSS is concerned, a rebuttal procedure.

Recently the DG wrote an inspiring letter to us quoting “The engagement of staff is key for our success, and I consider dialogue between management and staff representative bodies important for building understanding on human resources issues, which affect both staff and the Organization as a whole.” This statement is consistent with another one he pronounced concluding his very first address to the staff, in January 2012, at the beginning of his first term: “I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together.”

Last Monday, unfortunately, these sentiments were not expressed. We would like to believe that this was just an oversight, and that facts will tell that our Director-General, as the highest-ranking staff member of the Organization, will encourage social dialogue to happen. In this connection, we are glad to report that interaction with Senior Management has considerably improved a few days before the opening of this Conference. We trust that, with your support, this process will further improve during Mr Graziano's second term.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Mauro Pace. When you started speaking, I thought you were speaking from the podium on my left and, when I looked around, you were speaking from the podium reserved for heads of state and presidents.

I did not stop or interfere with your speech which was already started. That shows you that I have a lot of respect for you and the Staff Organizations of the Union. Thank you once again.

Under the item *Any Other Matters*, delegates are also offered the opportunity to speak unto information documents. *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Director-General*, C 2015/INF/5 and *Status of Contribution*, C 2015/INF/8.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La delegación argentina desea transmitir a usted, Señor Presidente, su deseo de que el discurso que hoy en la mañana realizó el Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco, a todos los delegados reunidos en la Sala Clementina sea incorporado al Verbatim de este 39º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En otros asuntos, es para nosotros muy importante que la Secretaría de esta Conferencia prevea incorporar, de la manera que crea más indicado, la actividad histórica realizada celebrada el pasado domingo 7 de junio en momentos en que se cumplía el vencimiento del cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Yo creo que ese acto debe quedar reflejado como parte de otros asuntos, como algo que ustedes incorporen de manera adicional pero con la relevancia y la importancia que merece esa actividad. Creo que todos los países hicimos grandes esfuerzos, que son muchísimos, desde el punto de vista humano, desde el punto de vista financiero, desde el punto de vista logístico y muchísimos otros esfuerzos, como todos ustedes saben, para que viniera la mejor representación desde nuestros países a acompañar a la FAO en esta conmemoración. Yo creo que este momento histórico debe quedar reflejado en este informe de la Conferencia de la manera que ustedes crean más apropiado.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The request made by the distinguished delegate from Argentina, I can confirm that yes, provisions have already been taken to publish on the verbatim webpage, the address delivered this morning by the Holy Father. We will also arrange for it to be translated as soon as possible.

Secondly, regarding the request made by Venezuela, I can confirm that there will be a mention in the report in the same manner that we did two years ago in 2013 when we had a similar event celebrated on the Sunday following the opening of the Conference. So this is already in the plan.

CHAIRPERSON

With this we will close Item 33.

Item 32. Date and Place of the 40th Session of the Conference**Point 32. Date et lieu de la quarantième session de la Conférence****Tema 32. Fecha y lugar del 40.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia****CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the last item on our agenda for today, Item 32, Date and Place of the 40th Conference Session which requires the Conference to set dates for this session.

May I ask the Secretary-General to let us have a proposal?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The dates proposed for the next session of Conference are from Monday 3 to Saturday 8 July 2017. Attention is drawn to the proposal to begin the Conference on a Monday rather than a Saturday of Conference sessions where there will not be an election for the Office of Director-General as is the case in 2017.

These dates are proposed in the interest of reducing the financial impact of the Conference, not only for the Organization but also for Members normally residing outside Rome.

To be more precise if I may, Chairperson, this means that instead of having a Conference which lasts seven days like we had in the past ten or fifteen years or so, we will have a Conference which lasts six days, starting on a Monday and finishing on the following Saturday.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any member wish to comment on the proposal?

Does the Conference agree on the proposal to hold the 40th Session of the FAO Conference from Monday 3 to Saturday 8 July 2017?

So it is decided. Thank you.

We have come to the end of our work for this afternoon. I would like to mention that the delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta has submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the verbatim records.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will reconvene in this Plenary Hall tomorrow at 9:30 hours for the adoption of the Commission II report, including Item 24, the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17, first as a meeting of Commission II in this Plenary Hall presided by the Chairperson of Commission II with assistance from the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission II, and then, immediately afterwards, plenary meeting which I will preside over.

I should like to stress the need to ensure high levels of attendance throughout tomorrow morning's plenary meeting which opens at 9:30 hours tomorrow, given that a series of votes requiring a quorum are scheduled.

This brings us to the end of our work for this afternoon. Before closing our meeting, may I remind the seven members of the General Committee and the three Vice-Chairpersons to make their way to the Lebanon Room for the third meeting of the General Committee which will begin at 17:00 hours.

I wish you all a good evening and look forward to seeing you here at 9:30 hours tomorrow. Please be punctual as it is essential that we reach a quorum in order to vote.

The meeting rose at 16.04 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 04

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.04

Annex I
Annexe I
Anexo I

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis
Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape François
Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Francisco

Señor Presidente, Señores Ministros, Señor Director General, Distinguidos Representantes Permanentes, Señoras y Señores, ¡Buenos Días!

Me alegra acogerlos mientras participan en el 39.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, continuando así una larga tradición. Dirijo un cordial saludo a usted, señor Presidente, Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, a los representantes de las diferentes naciones y organizaciones que están presentes y al Director General, el profesor José Graziano da Silva.

Todavía tengo vivo el recuerdo de la participación en la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (el 20 noviembre de 2014), que ha emplazado a los Estados a encontrar soluciones y recursos. Espero que aquella decisión no se quede solo en el papel o en las intenciones que guiaron las negociaciones, sino que prevalezca decididamente la responsabilidad de responder concretamente a los hambrientos y a todos los que esperan del desarrollo agrícola una respuesta a su situación.

Ante la miseria de muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas, a veces pienso que el tema del hambre y del desarrollo agrícola se ha convertido hoy en uno de los tantos problemas en este tiempo de crisis. Y, sin embargo, vemos crecer por doquier el número de personas con dificultades para acceder a comidas regulares y saludables. Pero, en vez de actuar, preferimos delegar, y delegar a todos los niveles. Y pensamos que alguien habrá que se ocupe, tal vez otro país, o aquel gobierno, aquella organización internacional. Nuestra tendencia a desertar ante cuestiones difíciles es humana, aunque luego no faltemos a una reunión, a una conferencia, a la redacción de un documento. Por el contrario, debemos responder al imperativo de que el acceso al alimento necesario es un derecho para todos. Los derechos no permiten exclusiones.

No basta señalar el punto de la situación de la nutrición en el mundo, aunque es necesario actualizar los datos, porque nos muestran la dura realidad. Ciertamente, puede consolarnos el saber que aquellos 1 200 millones de hambrientos en 1992 se han reducido, aun cuando crece la población mundial. No obstante, de poco sirve tener en cuenta los números o incluso proyectar una serie de compromisos concretos y de recomendaciones que han de aplicar las políticas y las inversiones, si descuidamos la obligación de “erradicar el hambre y prevenir todas las formas de malnutrición en todo el mundo” (FAO-OMS, Declaración de Roma sobre la Nutrición, noviembre de 2014, 15a).

Preocupan mucho las estadísticas sobre los residuos: en esta partida se incluye un tercio de los alimentos producidos. E inquieta saber que una buena cantidad de los productos agrícolas se utiliza para otros fines, tal vez fines buenos, pero que no son la necesidad inmediata de quien pasa hambre. Preguntémonos entonces, ¿qué podemos hacer? Más aún, ¿qué es lo que ya yo estoy haciendo?

Reducir los residuos es esencial, así como reflexionar sobre el uso no alimentario de los productos agrícolas, que se utilizan en grandes cantidades para la alimentación animal o para producir biocombustibles. Ciertamente, hay que garantizar condiciones ambientales cada vez más sanas, pero ¿podemos seguir haciéndolo excluyendo a alguien? Se ha de sensibilizar a todos los países sobre el tipo de nutrición adoptada, y esto varía dependiendo de las latitudes. En el Sur del mundo se ha de poner la atención en la cantidad de alimentos suficientes para garantizar una población en crecimiento, en el Norte, el punto central es la calidad de la nutrición y de los alimentos. Pero, tanto en la calidad como en la cantidad, pesa la situación de inseguridad determinada por el clima, por el aumento de la demanda y la incertidumbre de los precios.

Intentemos, por tanto, asumir con mayor decisión el compromiso de modificar los estilos de vida, y tal vez necesitemos menos recursos. La sobriedad no se opone al desarrollo, más aún, ahora se ve claro que se ha convertido en una condición para el mismo. Para la FAO esto también significa proseguir en la descentralización, para estar en el medio del mundo rural y entender las necesidades de la gente que la Organización está llamada a servir.

Preguntémonos además: ¿cuánto incide el mercado con sus reglas sobre el hambre en el mundo? De los estudios que ustedes realizan, resulta que desde 2008 el precio de los alimentos ha cambiado su tendencia: duplicado, después estabilizado, pero siempre con valores altos respecto al período precedente. Precios tan volátiles impiden a los más pobres hacer planes o contar con una nutrición mínima. Las causas son muchas. Nos preocupa justamente el cambio climático, pero no podemos olvidar la especulación financiera: un ejemplo son los precios del trigo, el arroz, el maíz, la soja, que oscilan en las bolsas, a veces vinculados a fondos de renta y, por tanto, cuanto mayor sea su precio más gana el fondo. También aquí, tratemos de seguir otro camino, convenciéndonos de que los productos de la tierra tienen un valor que podemos decir sacro, ya que son el fruto del trabajo cotidiano de personas, familias, comunidades de agricultores. Un trabajo a menudo dominado por incertidumbres, preocupaciones por las condiciones climáticas, ansiedades por la posible destrucción de la cosecha.

En la finalidad de la FAO, el desarrollo agrícola incluye el trabajo de la tierra, la pesca, la ganadería, los bosques. Es preciso que este desarrollo esté en el centro de la actividad económica, distinguiendo bien las diferentes necesidades de los agricultores, ganaderos, pescadores y quienes trabajan en los bosques.

El primado del desarrollo agrícola: he aquí el segundo objetivo. Para los objetivos de la FAO, esto significa apoyar una resiliencia efectiva, reforzando de modo específico la capacidad de las poblaciones para hacer frente a las crisis —naturales o provocadas por la acción humana—, y prestando atención a las diferentes exigencias. Así será posible perseguir un nivel de vida digno.

En este compromiso quedan otros puntos críticos. En primer lugar, parece difícil aceptar una resignación genérica, el desinterés y hasta la ausencia de tantos, incluso los Estados. A veces se tiene la sensación de que el hambre es un tema impopular, un problema insoluble, que no encuentra soluciones dentro de un mandato legislativo o presidencial y, por tanto, no garantiza consensos. Las razones que llevan a limitar aportes de ideas, tecnología, expertise y financiación residen en la falta de voluntad para asumir compromisos vinculantes, ya que nos escudamos tras la cuestión de la crisis económica mundial y la idea de que en todos los países hay hambre: si hay hambrientos en mi territorio, ¿cómo puedo pensar en destinar fondos para la cooperación internacional? Pero así se olvida que, si en un país la pobreza es un problema social al que pueden darse soluciones, en otros contextos es un problema estructural y no bastan solo las políticas sociales para afrontarla. Esta actitud puede cambiar si reponemos en el corazón de las relaciones internacionales la solidaridad, trasponiéndola del vocabulario a las opciones de la política: la política del otro. Si todos los Estados Miembros trabajan por el otro, los consensos para la acción de la FAO no tardarán en llegar y, más aún, se redescubrirá su función originaria, ese fiat panis que figura en su emblema.

Pienso también en la educación de las personas para una correcta dieta alimenticia. En mis encuentros cotidianos con obispos de tantas partes del mundo, con personajes políticos, responsables económicos, académicos, percibo cada vez más que hoy también la educación nutricional tiene diferentes variantes. Sabemos que en Occidente el problema es el alto consumo y los residuos. En el Sur, sin embargo, para asegurar el alimento, es necesario fomentar la producción local que en muchos países con hambre crónica es sustituida por remesas provenientes del exterior y tal vez inicialmente a través de ayudas. Pero las ayudas de emergencia no bastan, y no siempre llegan a las manos adecuadas. Así se crea dependencia de los grandes productores y, si el país carece de los medios económicos necesarios, entonces la población termina por no alimentarse y el hambre crece.

El cambio climático nos hace pensar también al desplazamiento forzado de poblaciones y a tantas tragedias humanitarias por falta de recursos, a partir de agua, que ya es objeto de conflictos, que previsiblemente aumentarán. No basta afirmar que hay un derecho al agua sin esforzarse por lograr un consumo sostenible de este bien y eliminar cualquier derroche. El agua sigue siendo un símbolo que los ritos de muchas religiones y culturas utilizan para indicar pertenencia, purificación y conversión interior. A partir de este valor simbólico, la FAO puede contribuir a revisar los modelos de comportamiento para asegurar, ahora y en el futuro, que todos puedan tener acceso al agua indispensable para sus necesidades y para las actividades agrícolas. Viene a la mente aquel pasaje de la Escritura que invita a no abandonar la “fuente de agua viva para cavar cisternas, cisternas

agrietas que no retienen agua” (Jr 2,13), una advertencia para decir que las soluciones técnicas son inútiles si olvidan la centralidad de la persona humana, que es la medida de todo derecho.

Además del agua, también el uso de los terrenos sigue siendo un problema serio. Preocupa cada vez más el acaparamiento de las tierras de cultivo por parte de empresas transnacionales y Estados, que no solo priva a los agricultores de un bien esencial, sino que afecta directamente a la soberanía de los países. Ya son muchas las regiones en las que los alimentos producidos van a países extranjeros y la población local se empobrece por partida doble, porque no tiene ni alimentos ni tierra. Y, ¿qué decir de las mujeres que en muchas zonas no pueden poseer la tierra que trabajan, con una desigualdad de derechos que impide la serenidad de la vida familiar, porque se corre el peligro de perder el campo de un momento a otro? Sin embargo, sabemos que la producción mundial de alimentos es en su mayor parte obra de haciendas familiares. Por eso es importante que la FAO refuerce la asociación y los proyectos en favor de las empresas familiares, y estimule a los Estados a regular equitativamente el uso y la propiedad de la tierra. Esto podrá contribuir a eliminar las desigualdades, ahora en el centro de la atención internacional.

La seguridad alimentaria ha de lograrse aunque los pueblos sean diferentes por localización geográfica, condiciones económicas o culturas alimenticias. Trabajemos para armonizar las diferencias y unir esfuerzos y, así, ya no leeremos que la seguridad alimentaria para el Norte significa eliminar grasas y favorecer el movimiento y que, para el Sur, consiste en obtener al menos una comida al día.

Debemos partir de nuestra vida cotidiana si queremos cambiar los estilos de vida, conscientes de que nuestros pequeños gestos pueden asegurar la sostenibilidad y el futuro de la familia humana. Y sigamos luego la lucha contra el hambre sin segundas intenciones. Las proyecciones de la FAO dicen que para el año 2050, con 9 000 millones de personas en el planeta, la producción tiene que aumentar e incluso duplicarse. En lugar de dejarse impresionar ante los datos, modifiquemos nuestra relación de hoy con los recursos naturales, el uso del suelo; modifiquemos el consumo, sin caer en la esclavitud del consumismo; eliminemos el derroche y así venceremos el hambre.

La Iglesia, con sus instituciones e iniciativas camina con ustedes, consciente de que los recursos del planeta son limitados y su uso sostenible es absolutamente urgente para el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario. Por eso se compromete a favorecer ese cambio de actitud necesario para el bien de las generaciones futuras.

Que el Todopoderoso bendiga el trabajo de ustedes.

Annex II
Annexe II
Anexo II

Address by His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants to the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, Sala Celementina, Vatican City, 11 June 2015 (Non official translation)

Mr President, Ministers, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Permanent Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

It is a pleasure to receive you here, as you participate in the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, thereby continuing a long-standing tradition. Cordial greetings to you, Mr President Le Mamea Ropati, to the representatives of the different nations and organizations present here, and to the Director-General, José Graziano da Silva.

I still have vivid memories of participating in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (on 20 November 2014), which called on States to find solutions and resources. I hope that decision has not stayed merely on paper or in the intentions that steered the negotiations, but that responsibility prevails in responding practically to the hungry and those who look to agricultural development for a response to their situation.

Given the misery of many of our brothers and sisters, I sometimes think that the issue of hunger and agricultural development today has become just one of the many problems at this time of crisis. Yet the number of people who have difficulties accessing regular and healthy meals is growing all around us. But, instead of taking action, we prefer to delegate, and to delegate at all levels. We think that someone else will do something about it, perhaps another country, or some government, or an international organization. Our tendency to “go missing” in the face of difficult issues is human; yet we do not miss a meeting, or a conference or the drafting of a document. On the contrary, we must respond to the imperative of ensuring access to basic food as a right of all people. Rights do not admit exclusions.

It is not enough to provide status reports on nutrition around the world, although the figures need to be kept up-to-date because they reveal the harsh reality. Certainly, we can console ourselves in the knowledge that those 1.2 billion hungry people in 1992 are now fewer, even though the world’s population is growing. Nonetheless, it is of little use to know the numbers or even project a series of practical commitments and recommendations for implementing policies and investments, if we neglect the obligation to “Eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide” (FAO-WHO, Rome Declaration on Nutrition, November 2014, 15a).

The statistics on waste are very worrying: one third of all food produced goes to waste. It is disconcerting to know that a large quantity of agricultural products are used for other purposes, which may be good ones but do not respond to the immediate needs of a hungry person. Let us ask then “What can we do?” or better still, “What am I already doing?”

Reducing waste is essential, as is reflecting on the non-food use of agricultural products, which are used in large quantities for animal feed or to produce biofuels. Certainly, we must guarantee increasingly healthy environmental conditions, but can we continue to do this by excluding someone? We need to raise awareness in all countries on the type of nutrition adopted, and this varies according to latitude. In the southern half of the world, attention needs to be placed on the quantity of food that is sufficient to sustain a growing population; in the North, on the other hand, the key point is the quality of nutrition and food products. But, in both quality and quantity, the insecurity caused by climate, increasing demand and uncertain prices weighs heavily.

Let us try, therefore, to commit more decisively to changing lifestyles, and maybe we will need fewer resources. Sobriety is not in opposition to development; indeed it has now clearly become a condition for it. For FAO, this also means persevering with decentralization, to be present in the midst of the rural world and to understand the needs of the people that the Organization is called upon to serve.

Let us also ask: to what extent does the market, with its rules, affect hunger in the world? The studies that you yourselves carry out show that, since 2008, the price of food has varied in trend: doubling,

then stabilizing, but always at higher levels than in the preceding period. Such volatile prices prevent the poorest from planning ahead or being able to count on a minimum level of nutrition. There are many causes. We are rightly concerned about climate change; but we cannot close our eyes to financial speculation: an example being provided by the prices of wheat, rice, maize and soya, which fluctuate on the commodity exchanges, sometimes linked to income funds, such that the higher their price, the more the fund earns. Here let us also seek another path, convincing ourselves that the products of the Earth have a value that can be considered “sacred”, because they are the fruit of the daily work of people, families and farming communities. A type of work that is often dominated by uncertainties, worries about weather conditions, and anxieties about the possible loss of the harvest.

In FAO’s objectives, agricultural development includes farming the land, fishing, livestock breeding and forestry. This development needs to be at the centre of economic activity, clearly distinguishing the different needs of crop farmers, livestock breeders, fishermen and those who work in the forests. The primacy of agricultural development: this is the second objective. For FAO’s objectives, this means supporting an effective resilience, specifically strengthening the capacity of populations to cope with crises, whether caused by nature or by mankind’s activities, and paying attention to the different needs. In that way it will be possible to pursue a decent standard of living.

There are other critical points in this commitment. Firstly, it is hard to accept a generic resignation or disinterest, and even the absence of so many players, including states. Sometimes one has the sensation that hunger is an unpopular topic, an insoluble problem for which solutions cannot be found within a single legislative or presidential mandate; so the issue does not command consensus. The reasons that lead restricting the contribution of ideas, technology, expertise, and financing stem from an unwillingness to assume binding commitments, because we hide behind the issue of the world economic crisis and the idea that there is hunger in all countries: “If there are hungry people in my land, how can I consider providing funds to international cooperation?” But that attitude forgets that, if poverty in one country is a social problem to which solutions can be found, in other contexts it is a structural problem for which social policies alone do not suffice. This attitude could change if we put solidarity back at the heart of international relations, moving it from vocabulary to policy options: the politics of the other. If all Member Nations work for one another, consensus for action by FAO will not be long in arriving; and FAO’s original role will be rediscovered — that “fiat panis” that appears on its logo.

I also think of education for a correct food diet. In my daily encounters with bishops from all over the world, and with political personalities, economic leaders and academics, I increasingly see that today nutritional education is extremely varied. We know that in the west the problem is one of high levels of consumption and waste. In the south, however, ensuring food supply means promoting local production, which in many countries with “chronic hunger” is substituted by remittances from abroad and perhaps initially through aid. But emergency assistance is not enough and sometimes it falls into the wrong hands. This creates a reliance on large-scale producers and, if the country lacks the necessary economic means, the population ends up not feeding itself, and hunger spreads.

Climate change also makes us think of the forced displacement of populations and so many humanitarian tragedies caused by lack of resources, based on water, which is already the cause of conflicts that can be expected to increase. It is not enough to proclaim a right to water, without making efforts to achieve sustainable consumption of this resource and prevent it from being squandered. Water continues to be a symbol that the rites of many religions and cultures use to indicate belonging, purification and interior conversion. Based on this symbolic value, FAO can help revise behavioural models to ensure, both now and in the future, that everyone can access the water that is essential to their needs, and for agricultural activities. This brings to mind the passage of Scripture that advises us not to forsake the “fountain of living waters, to hew out cisterns for ourselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jr 2.13): a warning that technical solutions are useless if they forget the centrality of the human person, which is the measure of all right.

Apart from water, land use also remains a serious problem. The hoarding of arable land by transnational firms and states is increasingly worrisome, since it not only deprives farmers of an essential asset, but also directly affects the sovereignty of nations. There are now many regions in

which the food produced goes to foreign countries, and the local population is doubly impoverished because they have neither food nor land. And what about the women who in many zones cannot own the land they work, with an inequality of rights that impedes the serenity of family life, because they run the risk of losing their land from one moment to the next? Yet we know that most of the world's food is produced by family farms. So it is important for FAO to strengthen partnership and projects that promote family enterprises and encourage states to regulate land use and ownership fairly. This could help eliminate the inequalities that are now at the centre of international attention.

Food security has to be achieved even though people are different owing to their geographic location, economic conditions or food cultures. Let us work to harmonize the differences and pool efforts, so that we will no longer read that food security for the north means eliminating fat and encouraging movement; while for the south, it consists in obtaining at least one meal a day.

If we want to change lifestyles, we must start from our daily life, aware that our small gestures can ensure the sustainability and future of the human family. And let us continue the fight against hunger without ulterior motives. FAO projections show that by 2050, with nine billion people on the planet, production must increase and even double. Instead of being impressed by the data, let us today change our relationship with natural resources, the use of land; let us change consumption patterns, without falling into the slavery of consumerism; let us eliminate waste, for that way we will conquer hunger.

The Church, with its institutions and initiatives, walks with you, aware that the planet's resources are limited and that their sustainable use is absolutely crucial for agricultural and food development. For that reason it is committed to promoting the attitude change that is necessary for the well-being of future generations. May the Almighty bless your work.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
12 June 2015

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 09.54 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 09 h 54
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena reunión a las 09.54
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Third Report of the General Committee
Troisième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence
Tercero informe del Comité General
(C 2015/LIM/19)

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to propose that we proceed to the adoption of the report of the Third Meeting of the General Committee, which took place yesterday evening.

The report is set out in document C 2015/LIM/19.

I will now proceed to read the title of the two sections contained in the report.

A. Voting Rights

Are there any comments on this section?

If there are none, I declare the section, including the Resolutions in Appendix B, C and D, adopted.

We move on to the next section:

B. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

This section contains a draft Resolution to be completed following the election later this morning.

Are there any comments on this section?

If there are none, I declare this section, and indeed the entire report of the third meeting of the General Committee, adopted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the General Committee for their contribution to the work of the Conference and the spirit of cooperation and goodwill that characterized our discussions.

Item 24 (part of)	Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2016-17
Point 24 (partiel)	Adoption du projet de résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2016-2017
Tema 24 (parte)	Aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2016-17

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, we now continue with Item 24, *Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations*.

I wish to recall that the Conference is statutorily required to approve this draft Resolution through a vote. I would therefore like to invite the Secretary-General to explain how the Conference is going to vote on the Budget Resolution set out in document C 2015/II/REP/24

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Article XVIII, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, decisions on the level of the budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, paragraphs 7 (a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes "for" and votes "against" should be at least 98 as FAO has 194 Member Nations. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Before proceeding to a vote, it is necessary to check whether there is a quorum.

Could I ask the delegates to press the green button on their desk? This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

Have all delegates pressed the green button? Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

CHAIRPERSON

I am advised that there are at least 119 delegations present in the Plenary Hall.

We shall now proceed to vote on the draft Resolution set out in document C 2015/II/REP/24.

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain.

(Delegates vote)

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results. Please note the results sheet itself will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

They were 118 votes cast. The majority required is 79. Votes for: 118. Therefore, the Resolution is adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference has thus adopted the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2016-17.

Mr David LANE (United States of America)

The United States is pleased with the agreement on the budget level and we gladly voted in favor of it. We appreciate the thoughtful approach of the Director-General and the Secretariat in developing the Programme of Work and Budget. We also thank Member Nations for the collaborative approach in discussing it. We believe that with the combined budget of over USD 2 billion, FAO is now well-positioned to meet its mandate to eliminate food insecurity and help free the world from hunger.

We look forward to hearing more details about the Programme of Work in the coming months and to working with the Director-General, the Secretariat, and all the Members throughout the rest of the year and in the coming biennium, and we make this statement on behalf of not only the United States but also Canada.

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

12/06/2015 10:02:10 AM

Vote on: Budgetary Appropriations 2016-17
Vote sur: Ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2016-2017
Votación para: Consignaciones presupuestarias para 2016-17

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	118 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	118
Votes against/ Votos contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

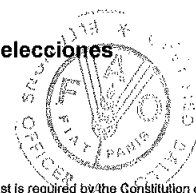
No Reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Estonia, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dux



Rule XII.3(c) GRO: Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Article XII.3(c) RGO: Sous réserve des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article XX de l'Acte constitutif, lorsqu'en vertu dudit acte ou du présent règlement une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des États Membres de l'Organisation. Si ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la proposition est considérée comme rejetée.

Artículo XII.3(c) RGO: Con sujeción a las disposiciones del párrafo 1 del Artículo XX de la Constitución, cuando esta o el presente Reglamento exijan para una decisión de la Conferencia una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos, el total de votos a favor o en contra deberá sumar más de la mitad de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Si no se cumplen estas condiciones, la propuesta se considerará rechazada.

Item 26. Amendments to the Basic Texts
Point 26. Amendements des Textes fondamentaux
Tema 26. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with Item 26, *Amendments to the Basic Texts*.

Under this item we are going to deal with three sub-items, all related to proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization contained in the Basic Texts.

When we come to vote on the first draft resolution under this item, the Secretary-General will explain the procedure only once as it is the same for all three sub-items and we shall be using the electronic voting system for each vote.

26.1 Proposed Amendments to Rule XII, subparagraph 10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)

26.1 Propositions de modification à apporter au paragraphe 10, alinéa a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)

26.1 Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XII.10 a) del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)

(C 2015/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall begin with sub-item 26.1, a proposal to amend Rule XII, subparagraph 10(a), of the General Rules of the Organization. The proposal is set out in document C 2015/LIM/3.

I give the floor to Mr Tavares, the Legal Counsel, to introduce the item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document which is before the Plenary meeting of the Conference is document C 2015/LIM/3. It consists of an extract of the report of the 148th Session of the Council held in December 2013, together with a draft Conference Resolution for approval by the Conference.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization, as currently drafted, the election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council must be decided by secret ballot, even in situations where there is only one candidate for the office.

At the last session of the Conference in 2013, a very clear consensus emerged in favour of amending this rule to the effect that, if there is only one candidate for the position of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the election could be decided by clear general consent.

This is the purpose of the proposed amendment to Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization, which is set out in the draft Conference Resolution before the Conference. This amendment will take effect immediately upon adoption by the Conference. The draft Conference Resolution before the Plenary needs to be adopted through a nominal vote by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. The draft Resolution is before the Conference for approval and I would invite the Conference to adopt it.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, are there any comments? I now ask the Secretary-General to provide an explanation of the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is a draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization. Under Rule XLIX, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, amendments to the rules are approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, paragraphs 7 (a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of

the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization.

Therefore, the number of votes "for" and votes "against" should be at least 98. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no questions from the floor, we will proceed with the vote on the draft Conference resolution contained in document C 2015/LIM/3.

Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain.

(Delegates vote)

CHAIRPERSON

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results. The Results sheet will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There were 120 votes cast. The majority required is 80. Votes for: 120. Therefore, the Resolution is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON

The Resolution is adopted.

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12/06/2015 10:10:39 AM

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rule XII.10(a) of the GRO
Vote sur: Propositions de modification à apporter au paragraphe 10, alinéa a) de l'Article XII du RGO
Votación para: Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XII.10 a) del RGO

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	120 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	80
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	120
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Estonia, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen BWA



Rule XII.3(c) GRO: Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Article XII.3(c) RGO: Sous réserve des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article XX de l'Acte constitutif, lorsqu'en vertu dudit acte ou du présent règlement une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des États Membres de l'Organisation. Si ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la proposition est considérée comme rejetée.

Artículo XII.3(c) RGO: Con sujeción a las disposiciones del párrafo 1 del Artículo XX de la Constitución, cuando esta o el presente Reglamento exijan para una decisión de la Conferencia una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos, el total de votos a favor o en contra deberá sumar más de la mitad de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Si no se cumplen estas condiciones, la propuesta se considerará rechazada.

26.2 *Proposed Amendments to Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)*

26.2 *Propositions de modification à apporter aux paragraphes 3, 4, 12 et 13 de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)*

26.2 *Propuestas de enmiendas a los párrafos 3, 4, 12 y 13 del artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)*

(C 2015/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to sub-item 26.2 that is *Proposed Amendments to Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Organization*. The relevant document is C 2015/LIM/2 and contains the text of a draft Resolution.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document before the Plenary of the Conference is document C 2015/LIM/2 which consists of an extract of the report of the 148th Session of the Council that was held in December 2013, together with a draft Conference Resolution for approval by the Conference.

Following review of the matter by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Council endorsed the proposal to amend several paragraphs of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization concerning multiple elections by the Conference of Council Members. A secret ballot is required in cases where there are more candidates than seats to be filled. While those procedures were used many times in the past, it was felt that they were cumbersome. In particular, at the last Conference of 2013, they resulted in a number of time-consuming and inconclusive ballots.

The Council discussed the desirability of improving the rules and, as I understand, the Membership is very supportive of streamlining procedures for multiple elections. The purpose of the amendments is, therefore, to simplify rules for multiple elections by the Conference by aligning them on the procedures for election by the Council. The proposal is that there should be a single procedure for multiple elections, both by the Conference and the Council, and that the voting procedures of the Conference should be the same as of the Council.

This is incidentally a streamlining initiative that is taking place along with a number of other initiatives that we have been implementing. The draft Conference Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization is to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, in accordance with the provisions of the General Rules of the Organization on amendments to these Rules.

I would invite the Conference to approve this Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments? Can I take it that the Conference may proceed to adopt this Conference Resolution? I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In this case again, the draft Resolution is to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast and the same procedure as that mentioned for item 26.1 applies.

CHAIRPERSON

We can now proceed to the vote on the draft Conference Resolution contained in document C 2015/LIM/2. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them: green to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow to abstain.

(Delegates vote)

CHAIRPERSON

I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results sheet, which will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

They were 120 votes cast. The majority required is 80. Votes for: 120. Therefore, the Resolution is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON

The Resolution is adopted.

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12/06/2015 10:15:42 AM

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rule XII, paragraphs 3, 4, 12 and 13 of the GRO
Vote sur: Propositions de modification à apporter aux paragraphes 3, 4, 12 et 13 de l'Article XII du RGO
Votación para: Propuestas de enmiendas a los párrafos 3, 4, 12 y 13 del artículo XII del RGO

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	120 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	80
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	120
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Estonia, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephan Duv



Rule XII.3(c) GRO: Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Article XII.3(c) RGO: Sous réserve des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article XX de l'Acte constitutif, lorsqu'en vertu dudit acte ou du présent règlement une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation. Si ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la proposition est considérée comme rejetée.

Artículo XII.3(c) RGO: Con sujeción a las disposiciones del párrafo 1 del Artículo XX de la Constitución, cuando esta o el presente Reglamento exijan para una decisión de la Conferencia una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos, el total de votos a favor o en contra deberá sumar más de la mitad de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Si no se cumplen estas condiciones, la propuesta se considerará rechazada.

- 26.3 *Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)***
26.3 *Propositions de modification à apporter à l'Article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation (projet de résolution)*
26.3 *Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización (proyecto de resolución)*
 (C 2015/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now take up sub-item 26.3, *Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution)*. The relevant document is C 2015/LIM/4.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document before the Plenary of the Conference is document C 2015/LIM/4 and it consists of an extract of the Report of the 150th Session of the Council that was held in December 2014, together with a draft Conference Resolution for approval by the Conference.

The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the conditions under which special or extraordinary sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) may be convened. This matter was under discussion by the CFS, its Bureau, and a Working Group dealing with amendments to the Rules of Procedure and working procedures of the Committee.

The draft Conference Resolution proposes an amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization. In addition to having been reviewed by the CFS and its Bureau, the proposed amendment was reviewed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Council. As I understand, this matter is fully consensual.

This draft Conference Resolution that is before the Plenary needs to be adopted through a nominal vote by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. I would invite the Conference to approve the Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments? Can I take it that the Conference may proceed to adopt this Conference Resolution? I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The same procedure described before applies for this draft Resolution which is to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now vote on the draft Conference resolution contained in document C 2015/LIM/4. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green if they wish to vote in favor, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain.

(Delegates vote)

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now invite the Secretary-General to read the results sheet, which will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

They were 123 votes cast. The majority required is 82. Votes for: 123. Therefore, the Resolution is adopted

CHAIRPERSON

The Resolution is adopted. Item 26 is closed.

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12/06/2015 10:19:43 AM

Vote on: Proposed Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Propositions de modification à apporter à l'Article XXXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation
Votación para: Propuestas de enmiendas al artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	123 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	82
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	123
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Estonia, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephan Boud



Rule XII.3(c) GRO: Subject to the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or these Rules for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

Article XII.3(c) RGO: Sous réserve des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'article XX de l'Acte constitutif, lorsqu'en vertu dudit acte ou du présent règlement une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des États Membres de l'Organisation. Si ces conditions ne sont pas remplies, la proposition est considérée comme rejetée.

Artículo XII.3(c) RGO: Con sujeción a las disposiciones del párrafo 1 del Artículo XX de la Constitución, cuando esta o el presente Reglamento exijan para una decisión de la Conferencia una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos, el total de votos a favor o en contra deberá sumar más de la mitad de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Si no se cumplen estas condiciones, la propuesta se considerará rechazada.

Item 27. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
Point 27. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
Tema 27. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos
(C 2015/LIM/12)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 27, *Other Constitutional and Legal Matters*. Please ensure you have before you document C 2015/LIM/12 which contains the draft Conference Resolution on the Review of FAO Statutory Bodies.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document before the Plenary of the Conference is an extract of the Report of the 150th Session of the Council which was held last December. The document contains a draft Conference Resolution entitled “Review of FAO Statutory Bodies”. Unlike previous resolutions, this draft Resolution does not amend the General Rules of the Organization and does not need to be adopted through a vote.

The purpose of this Resolution is, in essence, to reaffirm the relevance of a previous Resolution of the Conference of 1997. At that time, the Conference noted that over the years many Statutory Bodies had been established and some of them had ceased to operate and become obsolete, at times dormant. The Conference decided to abolish a number of such bodies and limit the creation of new bodies to those which were strictly necessary and met a number of criteria.

The text that is before the Conference requests the Secretariat to take an active role in identifying Statutory Bodies that the Council or the Conference may wish to abolish because they are inactive or are mandated to discharge functions that could be undertaken through more flexible, task-oriented and time-bound arrangements. This is especially important during this period of financial stringency.

The draft Conference Resolution also requests the Director-General to enhance cost efficiencies for Statutory Bodies, in particular in relation to meetings of such bodies. The draft Resolution authorizes the Director-General, where possible and following any consultations that may be required, not to convene sessions of some bodies when it appears that effective decision-making will not be possible because of anticipated lack of quorum.

The Resolution also decides that proposals to establish new bodies under Article VI or Article XIV of the Constitution should comply with a number of criteria set forth in the Resolution.

As I understand, this Resolution is fully consensual. The matter was reviewed by the CCLM and the Council on two past occasions and it was endorsed by the Council at its 150th Session, which recommended it to the Conference for approval.

I would invite the Conference to adopt this Conference Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is now open for delegates who wish to intervene. May I propose that the Conference adopts the draft Resolution by acclamation?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Resolution is adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Item 8. Election of Council Members
Point 8. Élection des membres du Conseil
Tema 8. Elección de miembros del Consejo
(C 2015/11)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall proceed with Item 8 of the agenda, Election of Council Members.

You have before you document C 2015/11 and the Daily Journal, which includes a chart of countries nominated by region and by electoral period.

Given that paragraph 10(a) of Rule XII (twelve) of the General Rules of the Organization allows for the election of Council Members by clear general consent when the number of candidates is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled, I suggest we carry out the election of the candidates by clear general consent when there are no more candidates than vacant seats for a region.

If no delegation wishes to make a comment or request clarification, we shall now proceed.

I call on the Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in today's Journal, the candidates for Africa are as follows:

For the period from the end of this 39th Conference to 30 June 2018, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia.

For the period 1 July 2016 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are five seats to be filled and the candidates are: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho and Zambia.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Africa?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It is so decided. We now move on to Asia.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Asia, with regard to the period from the end of this 39th Conference to 30 June 2018, there are six seats to be filled and the candidates are: China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In this regard, please note that as Thailand and the Philippines applied jointly for one Council seat, Thailand will occupy the seat from the end of the 39th Session of the Conference to 31 December 2016. The Philippines will then replace Thailand for the remainder of the term of office, that is, from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2018.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Asia?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. We now move on to Europe.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for Europe are as follows:

For the period from the end of this 39th Conference to 30 June 2018, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: Cyprus, San Marino and Spain. In this regard, please note that as Spain and the United Kingdom applied jointly for one Council seat, Spain will occupy the seat from the end of the 39th Session of the Conference to 30 June 2016. Thereafter, the United Kingdom will replace Spain for the remainder of the term of office, that is, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018.

For the period 1 July 2016 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are three seats to be filled, and the candidates are: Germany, Montenegro and Romania.

In addition, the Conference is requested to note that Italy will step down as Council member effective 30 June 2016 and will be replaced by the Russian Federation for the remainder of the term of office, that is, from 1 July 2016 until the end of the 40th Session of the Conference in June 2017, in accordance with Rule XXII.9 (Twenty-two) of the General Rules of the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Europe?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It is so decided.

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Latin America and the Caribbean

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean are as follows:

For the period from the end of this 39th Conference to 30 June 2018, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: Chile, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

For the period 1 July 2016 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are five seats to be filled and the candidates are: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It is so decided.

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the Near East.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for the Near East are as follows:

For the period from the end of this 39th Conference to 30 June 2018, there is one seat to be filled and the candidate is Kuwait.

For the period 1 July 2016 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are two seats to be filled and the candidates are: Qatar and Sudan.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for the Near East?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to North America.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the period 1 July 2016 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are two seats to be filled and the candidates are Canada and the United States of America.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for North America?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

CHAIRPERSON

May I congratulate the countries which have just been elected to membership of the Council and take the opportunity to remind you that the 152nd Session of Council will open on Monday 15 June at 09.30 hours in the Red Room.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 7. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

Point 7. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

Tema 7. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

(C 2015/9 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 7, that is the Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Under Article V (five), Paragraph 2, of the Constitution the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We have one candidate for the post as mentioned in document C 2015/9 Rev.1, namely:
Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa (United Republic of Tanzania).

In line with the amendment to Rule XII (twelve), subparagraph 10(a) of the General rules of the Organization regarding Quorum and Voting Arrangements at Meetings of Conference and Council, which the Conference adopted under Item 26.1 this afternoon, as there is only one candidate for the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council, I propose, taking note also of the recommendation of the General Committee, that the Conference appoint the sole candidate, Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa, by acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I am very pleased to congratulate Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa on his re-election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council. I wish him well for his continued good work in this very demanding role. May God bless you and give you strength and wisdom on your continuation of your post. Does any delegation wish to take the floor?

Mr Gofrey Weston ZAMBI (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all FAO Member Nations for their firm support expressed in the re-election of Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa to the position of the Independent Chair of the FAO Council.

To all of you, we say “asante sana” which means thank you very much in Swahili. We take this unanimous re-election to be a clear testimony of the confidence of the Member Nations in his leadership, exemplified by the achievements attained by the Council during his first term of two years. We know this has been possible through enhanced trust and unity among Members, as well as between Members and the Secretariat.

As we congratulate Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa for his re-election, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is also increasingly aware of his firm leadership abilities, wisdom, and experience, and is confident that he will continue to diligently discharge his duties in collaboration with FAO Members and other stakeholders. And in so doing, he will make possible more substantial achievements over the Council's mandates and objectives. In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you once again on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for placing your confidence in Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa for a second term and we kindly request for your continued support to him

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I will speak just on behalf of Bangladesh not the G77. First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa on his re-election as Independent Chair of the Council. In addition, I would like to thank him from the core of my heart for the splendid and outstanding job he has done these last two years. We are very grateful to him for combining the whole Council in a very unique situation and we have solved a lot of problems under his leadership, able leadership I must say, and we are confident that in the next two years he will be also able to have the same or even more success in leading this Council.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the Conference members here present that re-elected him, Mr Ngirwa, for undoubtedly it indicates that he has done a very good job and we expect that this trend will be continued in future. Now, I have an appeal for the election of the next Independent Chair of the Council in two years' time, I would like to see one female Independent Chair of the Council so that there should be gender balancing in the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Abdelhakim AMMOUCHE (Algérie)

C'est avec un grand plaisir que je vous présente au nom du Groupe régional Afrique nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses pour votre réélection en qualité de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO.

Votre réélection, votée à l'unanimité, témoigne de la haute estime et de la grande considération, dont vous jouissez parmi nous pour votre action, menée avec détermination, et qui vous honore. Une action en faveur de notre Organisation, la FAO, et ce en dépit d'écueils conjoncturels que vous avez su surmonter de par votre expérience et votre sagesse.

Permettez-moi Excellence, de saluer à cette occasion en vous le digne fils de cette Tanzanie militante qui a marqué l'histoire de notre continent, en se souvenant du combat mené par l'illustre Julius Nyerere pour un continent libéré du colonialisme.

Je tiens enfin à vous redire, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO, la satisfaction et la fierté des membres du Groupe Afrique de vous voir accéder de nouveau à cette fonction hautement

méritée et à vous assurer de notre entier soutien pour mener à bonne fin les objectifs que vous vous êtes assignés.

Mr Tazwin HANIF (Indonesia)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia Group. Asia Group extends its congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa who has been unanimously re-elected as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We, the Asia Group, enjoyed working closely together with Ambassador Ngirwa, a seasoned diplomat, with his excellent leadership in chairing the Council over the last two years.

Ambassador Ngirwa has successfully built and maintained trust and collaboration among Members as well as among regional groups within the FAO. We are confident that with his leadership skills, vast knowledge, and experiences, Ambassador Ngirwa will be able to lead Members of the FAO to achieve the objectives and the agenda of work of the Council for the next two years.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Regional Group. Please allow me to congratulate Mr Wilfred Ngirwa on his re-election as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

Dear Wilfred, we wish to congratulate you on your re-election. We are pleased that you will continue to fulfill this important role. We feel that your leadership in the past years has contributed to the improvement of the work of the FAO Council and the Council Committees to further strengthen FAO's work.

We highly appreciate your efforts to make Council's work more efficient and in line with the approved FAO reforms. In particular, we commend your able leadership and patience in successfully guiding all discussions on the budget level in March or in the difficult issue of the antimicrobial resistance.

As Chair of the European Regional Group in this semester, I personally wish to tell you that I feel very much honoured to be involved in your regular exchange of views with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of regional groups.

We appreciate your constant availability for Members. We further encourage you to follow the spirit of constructive and inclusive debates also in the future. We support your efforts in strengthening and extending cooperation among the three Rome-Based agencies for food and agriculture, as well as having a strong collaboration with the improved and reformed CFS. In your important role as facilitator, we ask you to pay attention and to remind us all of having dedicated and competent members and gender balance in the Council Committees. This requires facilitation in early stages.

Dear Independent Chairperson, we wish you all the best for the second term as Independent Chair of the FAO Council. We wish to assure you that all Member Nations of the European Regional Group are very much committed to continuing to work in close collaboration with you to reach our common goal, Zero Hunger.

Sr. Junior ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Esta declaración en calidad de presidencia pro tempore y en nombre de los Estados Miembros que conforman el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). El GRULAC desea expresar su satisfacción por la reelección de Su Excelencia, el Embajador Ngirwa, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

A la vez, quisiera expresar nuestro profundo agradecimiento al Embajador Ngirwa por todos los esfuerzos y dedicación brindados durante estos últimos años, durante los cuales ha sabido guiar nuestra labor con sabiduría y en búsqueda permanente del consenso. Este compromiso solidario debe seguir siendo alentado, así como la búsqueda de una gobernanza dinámica, responsable y estratégica.

Los resultados alcanzados nos hacen sentir que hoy día contamos con una FAO y un Consejo más fortalecido para enfrentar los nuevos retos y lograr de esa forma alcanzar la nobleza de los propósitos encomendados a esta Organización, que son erradicar el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria.

Señor Presidente, señores delegados, nuestro grupo regional está dispuesto a seguir colaborando intensamente con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo para que su gestión continúe por la senda del éxito y lograr juntos los objetivos establecidos.

Ms Amira GORNASS (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I am making a statement on behalf of the Near East Region. I would like to highly congratulate Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa on his re-election as Independent Chairman of FAO.

I would also like to reassert the fact that our group supports Mr Ngirwa in all of the efforts that he has deployed in order to bring closer together and a meeting of minds among viewpoints during meetings that he has with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairmen of Groups and Regions.

His patience and his wisdom have made it possible for us to forge an historic agreement during the 151st Session of the Council relative to the budget. And this in order to duly apply what has to be done to obtain the objectives for 2016-17. This falls within the mainstream of a number of successes that he has marked during his period as Independent Chairman of the Council. He also deployed the necessary efforts in order to ensure the success of the ICN2, better governance, and also an agreement regarding the Draft Resolution on the AMR. I would like to voice the support of the Near East Region for his work and his office.

We are prepared, ready, willing, and able to collaborate with him during his second term of office as Independent Chairperson of Council so that FAO can do what it is mandated to do and attain the goals common to all Member Nations.

Mr David LANE (United States of America)

The United States and Canada congratulate our friend Mr Ngirwa on his election for a second term as the Independent Chair of the Council. Wilfred, we are grateful for your strong leadership on the Council. We have appreciated the regular informal meetings and efforts to help members reach a consensus on many important and sensitive issues and we look forward to continuing our productive working relationship.

Ms O'Love Tauveve JACOBSON (Niue)

(Song) Tangaroa (God of the Sea) is the traditional God of Polynesia, a God that the fishermen would pray to, to embrace them that he stands in the front at the back and surrounds him so that they may be able to catch plenty of fish and they can take it home and feed their families.

To you Sir, it gives me a great pleasure to speak on behalf of our region, Southwest Pacific. We congratulate you and look forward to every success and ask that the God would bless you with knowledge understanding and compassion. We look forward that you will go ahead and do everything that you can in your power to assist all of us in our endeavours and maybe Sir your first woman Member on Council can come from this small region of Southwest Pacific and I can promise you that we will bring good things to the table and plenty of fish that we can share with everyone.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for this, delegate. I have already applied on your behalf for one of the opera places in Rome for you to sing.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia takes the floor to express thanks to Ambassador Ngirwa. We align ourselves with statements made on behalf of the Africa Region by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria as well as statements made by Tanzania.

Ambassador Ngirwa, we congratulate you on your reelection as Independent Chairperson of Council. You have demonstrated your neutrality in chairing the Council during your first term of office and

I am very proud to say that during my tenure as Chairperson of the Africa Regional Group of Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, I worked very closely with you as Independent Chair of Council. I can assure all of the distinguished delegates in this room that this great son of Africa played a neutral role in his capacity for which some may have seen in a different way.

He truly performed in line with his function as Independent Chair. He never took sides even though he is from the Continent but he was always neutral in his work and this is what we believe the Council intended to see as Independent Chairperson.

Even when Africa Group thought that he needed to intervene in some issues, he remained neutral and true to his term of office. Liberia therefore expresses great satisfaction for the election of Ambassador Ngirwa. We thank all of the distinguished delegates who have bestowed their confidence in him.

Ambassador Ngirwa, we want to say you have done a great job and we from Liberia want to say to you thank you for a job that you have done so good and so well. We want to take the opportunity also to thank the different Regional Groups in FAO for their support because without their support, we would not have had you as Chairperson of the Council.

To end my statement, in line with statements made by Bangladesh, Liberia having elected the first female president of the continent of Africa, we recommend a successor to you when you end your term of office in the person of the current hardworking CFS Chairperson to be the next Council because we believe that she is indeed a very, very qualified and hardworking person. This is a risk but we, in Liberia, we are prepared to put forward that candidature.

Ms Carla Elisa Luis MUCAVI (Mozambique)

I also want to recognize the presence of the Director-General. I want to add my floor to those who have spoken before me, particularly Tanzania, Algeria, and the Group of G77 to really congratulate Ambassador Ngirwa on his reelection to the position of Independent Chair of FAO Council.

This unanimous reelection is really a testimony of the confidence that Member Nations have entrusted upon you based on the results-oriented approach that characterizes the way of working Ambassador Ngirwa takes.

Under his leadership, a lot has been achieved. He has proved to be a good listener and particularly a consensus builder on the adoption of the budgetary appropriation 2016-17 by consensus for the first time in the history of this Organization. It really proves or is one of the sound results that express the efficiency of his leadership and also of his working methods.

I should end by saying that Ambassador Ngirwa rest assured of our unconditional support and he knows that we have been saying that of course the successor will be a lady and we are working for that.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Uno, mis saluciones a quienes me antecedieron en la palabra, en especial, la expresada por la representación del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe y, ciertamente, me llena de orgullo poder saber que usted nuevamente es reelecto, que usted ha logrado este amplio consenso que se ha expresado con la aprobación de su candidatura por aclamación.

Hemos estado juntos en esta Organización más de 7 años y conozco su trabajo y su capacidad política para unir a todos los miembros de esta Organización. Lo hizo cuando presidió el proceso de reforma y lo hizo ahora en su primera gestión, y estamos celebrando su consenso hoy, pero es que usted trae este consenso desde el Consejo pasado. Ya lo decía la distinguida, su Excelencia Embajadora Carla de Mozambique, que efectivamente, con la aprobación de la cuantía del presupuesto en el Consejo del mes de marzo, abrimos el camino para llevar adelante una Conferencia con las características que ha sido esta Conferencia.

Yo me atrevo a decir que esta Conferencia, que ha tenido consenso prácticamente desde la elección del Director General pasando por la suya y la aprobación de los más importantes temas por vía de consenso se debe en gran parte, permítanme que lo diga Miembros de esta digna Asamblea, se debe a su esfuerzo.

Ese consenso que usted trajo desde el mes de marzo trabajando con paciencia con todos los Estados Miembros para alcanzar de manera inédita la aprobación del presupuesto, permitió llegar a esta Conferencia unidos y esa unidad se ha visto en todos los procesos en que hemos tenido que someter algún tipo de elección la cual se ha alcanzado por consenso.

Creo que el trabajo sobre la reforma de la gobernanza, la resolución sobre los antimicrobianos, ha sido un ejemplo de ese trabajo en el cual todos los Estados Miembros y todos los grupos regionales le hemos dado apoyo. Queda un compromiso importante en esta próxima gestión suya para el 2015-18: la negociación de las normas para la participación de la sociedad civil y del sector privado. Esperamos que ese proceso también sea un proceso que lo llevemos con calma, mucha calma, con altura. Hay decisiones importantes que tomar ahí que pueden poner en riesgo nuestra institución pero que además, igualmente, determina lo que esta institución va a ser para el futuro. Yo creo que hay que ir con sumo cuidado y que yo creo que usted al frente va a ayudarnos a hacer ese delicado trabajo.

Muchas gracias por su trabajo, por la digna representación que ha dado y por lo independiente que ha sido en ese cargo tan importante.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe joins other FAO Member Nations in congratulating Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa of the United Republic of Tanzania, our brother in arms. As you can see from the CV of Ambassador Ngirwa, he had experience in Zimbabwe in particular.

Zimbabwe and Tanzania do share a lot of experiences, particularly in agriculture. And I am also proud to note that Ambassador Ngirwa has done a wonderful job toward other FAO Member Nations indicated. I have been informed that he has been a unifier, a pillar of strength, and I want to wish him well in his reelection and I have no doubt that he is going to excel in his second term of office.

CHAIRPERSON

That ends the list of speakers. I will now pass on the floor to Ambassador Joseph Wilfred Ngirwa, the reelected Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I am deeply honoured and also greatly encouraged by the confidence you have placed in me today, by electing me for a second term of office as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. My heartfelt thanks go to one and all.

The support you have expressed today reflects the unfailing cooperation and collaborative spirit that has characterized our work together over the past two years, and I am most grateful to all of you for that. It is also a challenge to me to fulfil your expectations.

Please allow me also to express my sincere thanks to my Government, the United Republic of Tanzania, for nominating me for this second mandate as ICC. I am also grateful to the Tanzania delegation attending this 39th Conference led by the Honourable Zambi, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, for their support.

Nobody can deny that the Council covered a lot of ground of the last two years: implementing the IPA actions on governance and evaluating them for this session of Conference; negotiating the ICN2 outcome documents agreeing on a budget level, and, more recently, reaching a consensus position on the draft Conference Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance – not to mention our regular informal meetings, one-on-one consultations which do so much to facilitate the work of the Council.

Certainly, the many positive achievements by the Council were the fruit of joint efforts by all concerned: Members, the Chairpersons and Members of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the CCLM; External Experts and Secretariat alike. I would also like to recognize the unfailing support shown by the Director-General and the Secretariat as a whole.

Let us build on and further consolidate our working methods, which are rooted in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Reform, and which are growing from strength to strength with each Governing Body session.

To maintain the momentum of good governance we need to engage continuously in protecting and nurturing the IPA gains, not only in terms of efficiency but also in terms of trust and a willingness to listen to each other's points of view – particularly when we have diverging views on a particular issue.

Looking to the future, and following the adoption of the Resolution on the “Assessment of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms” by this session of Conference, I can see that the next two years also promises to keep us on our collective toes as new tasks are channelled through the Council.

With your continued engagement and commitment I am sure we will, once again, prove that the Council is up to the challenges before it. Once again, my most sincere thanks to all of you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on I would like to inform you that the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco has submitted a statement to the Conference for insertion in the Verbatim Record of this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, we now have the privilege and honour to be graced by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain.

Her Majesty Queen Letizia has graciously accepted to be FAO's Special Ambassador for Nutrition.

I will now pass the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Su Majestad Doña Letizia, Reina de España, Su Excelencia Isabel García, Ministra de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente de España, Sus Excelencias Ministras y Ministros, Sus Excelencias Embajadores, y Representantes ante la FAO. Distinguidos delegados y delegadas, Su Majestad, es un gran honor para mí darle la más cálida bienvenida a esta casa, que une a la comunidad internacional para la realización de un objetivo común a todas las naciones: la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional del mundo entero.

La ambición de un mundo sin hambre y sin malnutrición es también un fuerte empeño personal de Su Majestad.

Lo demuestra, por ejemplo, su participación activa en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición el año pasado, importante reunión que se realizó con el apoyo del Gobierno de España.

En aquella oportunidad, Su Majestad hizo hincapié en que la malnutrición es la principal causa de enfermedad en el mundo. Y subrayó la necesidad de invertir para mejorar la nutrición, no solamente como imperativo moral sino también como una inversión económica.

La FAO, junto con sus Miembros y socios, está determinada en intensificar las actividades dirigidas a implementar los compromisos de la Conferencia.

Para garantizar la financiación de estas actividades, hemos establecido un Fondo Fiduciario de Acción para la Nutrición al cual invitamos a todos ustedes a contribuir.

Quisiera reafirmar que la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional debe de ser para todos, y que entre los más indefensos están los niños y niñas.

Hoy se celebra el Día Internacional contra el Trabajo Infantil.

Juntémonos para asegurar que todos niños y niñas tengan el derecho a una alimentación y nutrición adecuada, de estudiar de y jugar; y no la obligación de trabajar para complementar los ingresos de sus familias.

Valoro el liderazgo de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo en liderar ese esfuerzo. Y reafirmo el compromiso de la FAO en trabajar con sus socios en ese tema, en el marco de nuestras acciones para reducir la pobreza rural.

Su Majestad, a raíz de su compromiso personal y el de España con la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, nosotros hemos decidido nombrarla Embajadora Especial de la FAO para la Nutrición.

Es un gran honor y un orgullo para nosotros que la Reina de España haya aceptado el cargo de Embajadora Especial.

Agradecemos profundamente la disponibilidad y el empeño de Su Majestad. Es una importante responsabilidad que valoramos y apreciamos infinitamente.

Erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición puede y debe ser el mayor legado que dejemos a la humanidad. Hagámoslo realidad.

Tenemos las condiciones y debemos ser la generación del Hambre Cero, y ojalá, de la Malnutrición Cero.

Tenemos la total confianza de que con su talento de experta en comunicación y su pasión por la investigación científica para la promoción de la salud, la educación y la innovación, Su Majestad dará una gran contribución a ayudar a los más desfavorecidos a romper el círculo vicioso de la subalimentación crónica y la malnutrición.

Tampoco hay duda de que sus esfuerzos permitirán ampliar la sensibilización y fomentar la movilización no solo del sector público, sino también de toda la sociedad, en esta lucha para extirpar el hambre y la malnutrición del mundo.

Quisiera terminar agradeciendo el empeño de Su Majestad, ahora Embajadora Especial para la Nutrición, por ayudar a la FAO para que el hambre y la malnutrición, doliente realidad de hoy, se conviertan, mañana, en una historia del pasado.

Bienvenida a la FAO, y muchas gracias.

CHAIRPERSON

I now have the honour to invite Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain to address the Plenary. Please, you have the floor now Your Majesty.

Su Majestad Reina Letizia del Reino de España

Señor Presidente de esta Asamblea. Señor Director General de la FAO, autoridades, señoras y señores,

Quiero primero, si me lo permiten, felicitar a todos ustedes por esta Asamblea y también al Director General, al señor José Graciano Da Silva por su reciente reelección como Director General.

Muy buenos días. Me gustaría transmitir de forma precisa y certera lo que significa que ustedes hayan confiado en mí para nombrarme hoy Embajadora Especial de la FAO para la nutrición. Me siento muy agradecida y orgullosa y les garantizo que mi empeño desde ahora mismo será servir a todos los objetivos de esta Agencia de Naciones Unidas del modo más eficaz posible.

Gracias, de corazón, por considerarme acreedora de este honor en un año, además, en el que iniciamos el recorrido hacia los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible post-2015, y la nutrición en realidad, todo lo que implica la nutrición que es mucho, tiene un papel muy destacado, por cómo afecta a la salud y el bienestar de las personas.

En un planeta en el que se produce más de lo que se consume, es decir, un mundo en el que desperdiciamos mucha comida es inaceptable, es intolerable que más de 800 millones de personas padezcan hambre. Es cierto que hemos progresado, pero hay que continuar. Y no es solo un problema de recursos o de la distribución de estos recursos. A estas alturas del siglo tenemos la capacidad técnica para producir alimentos saludables y suficientes para todos, donde debemos por tanto incidir sobre todo en movilizar voluntades, pero seguir avanzando en el desafío que supone mejorar esa cifra aterradora de personas que padecen hambre requiere el concurso de todos. Una acción colectiva que implica a gobiernos, desde luego, pero también al sector privado, a la sociedad civil y en definitiva a

cada individuo. Así se recoge en la Declaración de Roma sobre Nutrición que resultó de esa segunda Conferencia Internacional del pasado mes de noviembre y en la que participé con todo interés. En aquel momento hablé de —lo ha recordado el Director General—, hablé de lo importante que es afrontar el desafío de la malnutrición en todas sus formas como una inversión siempre rentable, como la mejor forma de prevenir y de mejorar, por tanto, las vidas de las personas.

La paradoja contemporánea que vivimos revela que, mientras que millones de personas no tienen qué comer, más de 1000 millones comen mal y comen en exceso, lo que significa que padecen sobrepeso y obesidad, epidemias ambas que a menudo son discapacitantes y que están, como saben, vinculadas a enfermedades, a patologías cardiovasculares y metabólicas. A este doble reto se enfrentan las autoridades sanitarias de todo el mundo y solo el abordaje desde todos los sectores implicados hará posible una solución.

No me voy a extender, ni voy a entrar a considerar los equilibrios en los sistemas alimentarios, la agricultura sostenible, la seguridad alimentaria, el cambio climático, el comercio agrícola, las políticas comerciales, la volatilidad de los precios, los cambios en los hábitos de consumo, la globalización en la producción de alimentos, la pobreza rural, la mejora en las cadenas de suministro y de distribución... En fin, ustedes saben muy bien, mucho mejor que yo, de qué estoy hablando. Tan solo quiero incidir en dos puntos que considero también capitales. Por un lado, el papel de la mujer. Lo dije en noviembre e insisto ahora en ello, y está además contenido en la Declaración de Roma. Una mujer con acceso en igualdad al conocimiento, y piensen en la magnitud de lo que eso significa cuando me refiero a cada mujer de cada país en cada uno de los diferentes modelos sociales que existen en el mundo; una mujer con acceso al conocimiento en condiciones de igualdad al resto de las personas —digo—, es la mejor garantía de que una comunidad mejore. No voy a profundizar en esto, solo recuerdo aquí ahora también lo esencial que es la alimentación de la madre gestante y lactante, y por supuesto, también la alimentación del hijo en los primeros años de vida.

Por un lado, el papel de la mujer, y por otro lado dos asuntos que también me importan mucho. Primero, la importancia de que la industria agroalimentaria mundial participe de forma activa y responsable en la toma de conciencia general para llevar una vida saludable y por tanto, libre de enfermedades; a punto también un papel fundamental que juega la ciencia como proveedor, a través de la investigación de evidencias, que avalen las mejoras en las prácticas de producción y la fabricación en la cadena alimentaria. Sería además, desde luego, deseable, capitalizar los avances que ya existen en la investigación del genoma para lograr una medicina preventiva, precisa, personalizada y por tanto, eficaz.

Estos eran puntos a los que me refería en noviembre, pero quería de nuevo incidir en ellos. Termino ya, voy a ser lo más breve que pueda. Mi país, España, está plenamente comprometido con todos los objetivos de la FAO de forma muy activa. No solo con las diferentes políticas llevadas a cabo desde el Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medioambiente, también, por supuesto, con el desarrollo de nuestra política exterior a través de la herramienta que tenemos en la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional y Desarrollo.

Tenemos además en nuestra dieta mediterránea el mejor ejemplo de alimentación saludable y sostenible. Les invito, por cierto, a que comprueben en la Expo Milán 2015 las bondades de esta dieta y la decidida apuesta de España por la salud en el ámbito de la nutrición: dieta mediterránea que como saben es más que un patrón alimentario, es una forma de vida.

Termino. Gracias de nuevo por su amabilidad, por su confianza. Nuestro deber es contribuir cada uno desde su responsabilidad a que esta realidad que todos conocemos, la de la malnutrición en todas sus formas, cambie. Cuenten conmigo para ello como nueva y feliz Embajadora Especial de la FAO para la Nutrición.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Your Majesty. Ladies and gentlemen, Director-General will now present her Majesty with a scroll confirming her appointment as Special Ambassador for Nutrition.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

This brings the Tenth meeting of the 39th Conference to a close. Please note there is no Plenary Meeting this afternoon.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning at 10.30 hours for the address by His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, followed by the adoption of the Report.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Chairperson has just reminded the assembly that tomorrow morning at 10:30 hours there will be an address by his Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, followed by the adoption of the report. So tomorrow morning at 10:30, we will have in this assembly the address of the President of Mexico.

I now wish to remind delegates of the Side Event “Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture: The Way Forward” starting immediately after the close of this plenary meeting in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

I should also like to inform delegates that the address to the Conference delivered yesterday by His Holiness Pope Francis is now available at the Documents Desk on the first floor of this building, and can also be downloaded from the Conference Web site as document C 2015/INF/9.

The document is now available in Spanish, French and English and the other FAO languages will be available in the course of the afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish you all a pleasant afternoon and look forward to seeing you at 10:30 hours tomorrow morning for the adoption of the report of this 39th Session of Conference.

The meeting is now adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.34 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.34

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones
Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
13 June 2015

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 10.47 hours
Mr Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 10 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima reunión a las 10.47
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I call the Tenth Plenary meeting to order. But before we start, I would just like to say our last prayer for today. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, how majestic is thy name in all the earth. We come before thee this morning to offer you praise and thanksgiving as we approach the last hours of our Conference here in Rome. We thank you for your blessings, love and guidance. Soon we will all depart from this headquarters of FAO in Rome and return to our respective homes and countries. We sincerely hope we have achieved what we came here to accomplish, in order to sustain food security and eradicate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition completely from this world where we live. Forgive us for any shortcomings. We also ask thee for thy blessings upon thy servant, the Director-General Tagaloaletoa Ole Malae OleToto, the Secretariat and all the staff of FAO. Protect and guide us safely as we travel back to our homes whether by air, sea or land. May thy peace and love dwell forever and ever on this earth. In thy name we pray, oh God. Amen. Thank you very much.

This morning we will adopt the reports of the Commissions and the Plenary meetings.

However, before we proceed with our agenda, I have the privilege to welcome His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, and His Excellency Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, President of the Republic of Colombia, who will address the Conference.

I now would like to ask the Director-General to take the floor please.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Doctor Enrique Peña Nieto, Presidente de México; Doctor Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, Presidente de Colombia; Señores y Señoras Ministros, Distinguidos delegados, Señoras y señores, Es un honor darle la bienvenida a la FAO al Presidente de México Enrique Peña Nieto y su delegación, así como al Presidente de Colombia y su delegación.

Esa es la primera vez en 40 años que el más alto mandatario de México visita nuestra Sede. México es un de los 72 países que ya alcanzaron la meta del hambre del primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio. La FAO ya ha reconocido ese logro y tomo esa oportunidad para felicitarle nuevamente al Presidente Peña Nieto.

Desde que asumió el Gobierno, dejó claro su liderazgo y total compromiso con la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. La Cruzada Nacional Contra el Hambre traduce ese compromiso en acción, y le otorga la más alta prioridad política al tema. La cruzada busca garantizar la ciudadanía a siete millones de mexicanos en condición de pobreza extrema de alimentación, la población más vulnerable del país. La estrategia está alineada al Desafío Hambre Cero, encara el hambre como un problema multidimensional, busca enfrentarlo con un conjunto de acciones que incluyen medidas de corto y largo plazo, e involucrando a todo el Gobierno y a toda la sociedad en ese esfuerzo.

México también está fortaleciendo su marco institucional para apoyar la lucha contra el hambre. El Sistema SinHambre fue creado en 2013 para apoyar el monitoreo y el progreso de las acciones. Ahora, tramita en el Parlamento la Ley del Derecho Humano a la Alimentación. Será el marco orientador de una política de seguridad alimentaria sostenible que la FAO está lista para apoyar.

Señor Presidente, cuando yo estuve en México en 2013, firmamos un acuerdo para apoyar al país en la lucha contra el hambre. Somos agradecidos por la posibilidad de contribuir al éxito de sus políticas y estamos listos para hacer más.

Es en este sentido estamos estudiando la posibilidad de abrir una oficina subnacional en México junto a la Comisión Nacional de Zonas Áridas (CONAZA), como conversado con el Secretario de SAGARPA durante la ExpoMilano 2015.

También esperamos poder contribuir a la democratización de la productividad en el campo, a través de una política integral de mejoramiento de la productividad de la agricultura familiar y campesina en México.

Señor Presidente, hay mucho que hacer, y un gran potencial a desarrollar. El potencial de nuestra colaboración no se resume al apoyo que la FAO puede entregar a México. También involucra el apoyo que el México puede dar a otros países, a través de la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

México es un país de ingresos medianos altos, con experiencia y tecnologías para compartir con sus vecinos. La FAO está adecuando su presencia en el país para facilitar ese intercambio. Ya hemos dado un gran paso con el lanzamiento de la iniciativa por una Mesoamérica sin Hambre, con la colaboración técnica de la FAO, y en el marco de la Iniciativa América Latina y Caribe Sin Hambre. Esta alianza dará una importante contribución a los esfuerzos de los países mesoamericanos para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de sus ciudadanos.

Señor Presidente, Es un honor tenerlo hoy en la Sede la FAO.

Quisiera concluir felicitándole una vez más por transformar su compromiso contra la injusticia social en acción concreta, no solo en México sino en toda la región. Muchas gracias por su atención.

Sr. Enrique PEÑA NIETO (México)

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, FAO, Distinguido Dr. José Graziano Da Silva.

Agradezco mucho sus palabras, la hospitalidad que hoy nos dispense y la oportunidad de compartir con todos y todas ustedes los esfuerzos que México realiza en favor de abatir el hambre entre los mexicanos.

Saludo con especial afecto al Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República de Colombia, apreciado amigo, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, a las y los embajadores de los países integrantes de la FAO y a representantes de distintas naciones hermanas aquí presentes.

Señoras y señores, señores representantes de los medios de comunicación, hace 7 décadas, 51 países fundaron la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y establecieron a la FAO como una de las instituciones centrales del sistema de la ONU. Desde 1945 México ha sido un aliado permanente de esta prestigiada agencia internacional en su lucha contra el hambre y en sus esfuerzos para lograr la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Por esos motivos como Presidente de México, es un honor dirigirme a ustedes en la propia sede de esta noble institución.

En primer término, expreso mi mayor felicitación al Dr. José Graziano Da Silva por su elección para un segundo periodo al frente de la FAO. Se trata de un merecido reconocimiento a su ardua labor al frente de los esfuerzos globales para erradicar la subalimentación y para elevar la productividad agrícola en el mundo.

Quisiera en segundo término, agradecer al Dr. Da Silva, el reconocimiento que se entregó a México hace un año por los logros en su lucha contra el hambre. Nos alienta que los esfuerzos que estamos realizando en mi país tengan eco a nivel internacional. Sin duda, esto nos convoca y compromete a redoblar esfuerzos en favor de esta causa.

Señor Presidente, en 2015 concluye el plazo para alcanzar los objetivos del desarrollo del milenio. Para cumplir estas metas, los mexicanos hemos fortalecido las políticas nacionales de desarrollo, mejorando la gestión de gobierno y ampliando la coordinación entre las distintas dependencias de la administración pública federal. Hay avances importantes: hemos logrado reducir a menos de la mitad el número de personas en condiciones de vida por debajo del umbral de la pobreza definido por la ONU. Con el programa de inclusión social PROSPERA, se atiende a más de 700 000 familias en situación de pobreza extrema, para que una vez superada esta condición se integren a la vida productiva de nuestro país.

Además, la proporción de niños menores de 5 años que padecía hambre también ha disminuido de manera significativa, lo que nos ubica en condiciones para cumplir esta meta. Estos logros se han visto reforzados con las políticas de desarrollo social que estamos aplicando, particularmente, la cruzada nacional contra el hambre. Basamos esta iniciativa a principios de año 2013, reconociendo algo que pocos o casi nadie se había atrevido a aceptar, que en México había más de 7 millones de personas que padecían hambre.

Estoy convencido de que sí es posible reducir la pobreza extrema y la desnutrición de manera acelerada, sustancial y sostenible. Para lograrlo es imprescindible que haya voluntad política, una clara identificación de la población objetivo, así como de una estrategia integral que sume recursos y acciones en su favor. En palabras del propio Dr. Da Silva y cito textualmente “el haber casi alcanzado las metas sobre el hambre de los objetivos del milenio nos muestra que podemos realmente eliminar este flagelo en el curso de nuestras vidas”. Y efectivamente, Doctor, la nuestra puede y debe ser la generación que acabe con el hambre en el mundo. El primer paso, insisto, es reconocer que tenemos un problema, y asumir el compromiso político de hacerle frente. Eso fue precisamente lo que hemos hecho en México.

La cruzada nacional contra el hambre es una estrategia transversal, de inclusión y bienestar social que opera en todo el país para asegurar el derecho a la alimentación de quienes viven en pobreza extrema. A dos años y medio de su puesta en marcha, comparto con ustedes algunos datos relevantes de lo que hemos alcanzado.

Hoy 4,3 millones de personas reciben el apoyo de al menos uno de los programas de la Cruzada Nacional contra el Hambre. 4 300 comedores comunitarios atienden cada día a más de 430 000 beneficiarios, niños, mujeres embarazadas y en lactancia, adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad. Más de 730 000 familias cuentan con una tarjeta denominada sin hambre que les permite adquirir productos básicos a precios preferenciales. Adicionalmente, como una iniciativa de cooperación de México con los países de Centroamérica, lanzamos la iniciativa Mesoamérica sin Hambre para hacerle frente a este flagelo. El proyecto cuenta con un financiamiento inicial de 3 millones de dólares aportados por México y en él participan El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, en una primera etapa, y en el segundo semestre de 2015 se lanzará en Belice, Colombia, Costa Rica y República Dominicana. Para asegurar la oferta de alimentos que requiere el país, también estamos fortaleciendo al sector agroalimentario. En México, el sector primario tiene una importante dimensión social. 6,5 millones de personas laboran en él y 1 de cada 5 mexicanos vive en el campo. Para reducir la pobreza rural debemos lograr que su actividad sea más rentable y que brinde mayores ingresos.

El acceso a insumos básicos como el crédito, el riego y la tecnificación, permitirán hacer del campo una actividad más productiva, y al mismo tiempo, fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria del país. Hoy la humanidad enfrenta el reto de incrementar la producción sustentable de alimentos en 60 por ciento para satisfacer la demanda de una población de 9000 millones de habitantes que se estima habrá hacia el año 2050.

La FAO ha señalado que el mayor crecimiento de la productividad agrícola tendrá que llevarse a cabo en países en desarrollo y, particularmente, con la participación de los pequeños productores. Por ello, en México estamos promoviendo una verdadera transformación del campo centrada en los pequeños productores y la agricultura familiar, facilitando su inserción en los mercados locales y regionales. Estamos sumando esfuerzos y conjuntando talentos para poner en movimiento la ciencia, la tecnología, el extensionismo y los sistemas de innovación en su beneficio. Con este enfoque, en 2014, las actividades primarias en México crecieron 3,2 por ciento a tasa anual y 6.8 por ciento durante el primer trimestre de este año 2015.

Adicionalmente, estamos comprometidos con reducir el desperdicio de alimentos. Es dramático, que mientras una parte de la población sufre hambre, 30 por ciento de los alimentos se pierden o se desperdician. El gobierno de México está promoviendo inversiones en sistemas de logística, para que los productos puedan llegar de manera oportuna a los mercados y al mismo tiempo apoya a la sociedad civil en el establecimiento y operación de bancos de alimentos.

A pesar de todo, somos conscientes de que combatir el hambre no solo implica proveer alimentos sanos y nutritivos a la población, sino también asegurarles oportunidades de desarrollo y condiciones de vida digna. Por ello, la Cruzada Nacional contra el Hambre tiene como objetivos adicionales como garantizar el acceso a la educación de niños y jóvenes a través de becas, dar certeza jurídica con la regularización y escrituración de casas y terrenos, ofrecer viviendas dignas a través de programas de crédito, construcción y mejoramiento de la vivienda, y llevar servicios básicos a los hogares, como drenaje, agua y luz. Con acciones como estas, México ha hecho suya la visión amplia que promueve le

FAO para atender las causas estructurales de la pobreza y el hambre, mediante el desarrollo de las capacidades productivas de las familias.

Señores Presidentes de FAO y de Colombia, muy distinguida audiencia, sin duda, hay avances alentadores en el mundo en la lucha contra el hambre pero no suficientes. Hoy 795 millones de personas padecen desnutrición, afortunadamente, frente a este inmenso desafío, las naciones del mundo cuentan con la experiencia y la generación de conocimientos de la FAO. Esto es particularmente importante, cuando la humanidad enfrente el reto del cambio climático por sus graves implicaciones en la seguridad alimentaria del mundo.

Como bien lo saben ustedes, el calentamiento global está modificando sustancialmente los patrones de precipitación pluvial, prologando la persistencia de sequías y con el potencial de cambiar dramáticamente las fronteras agrícolas. Por ello, celebro las mejores prácticas en materia de mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático que está impulsando la FAO. Me refiero a medidas para reducir las emisiones del sector agrícola y disminuir su vulnerabilidad ante riesgos asociados a este grave fenómeno. En respaldo a estas acciones, México fue la primera región de América Latina y el primer país en desarrollo en presentar su compromiso de reducir emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero en un 25 por ciento para el período 2020-230, reducción que podría ser de hasta un 40 por ciento si contamos con apoyo internacional.

Señoras y señores, el espíritu que dio origen a los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, no solo tiene que permanecer vigente, sino que debe renovarse y actualizarse en función de los nuevos retos que enfrentamos. México se ha unido a los esfuerzos de la comunidad internacional para establecer un marco global para el desarrollo posterior al 2015. Se trata, no solo de continuar y fortalecer los alcances logrados, sino de establecer objetivos más audaces y eficaces que ayuden a erradicar la pobreza y la desigualdad.

En esa ruta hemos impulsado la adopción de una perspectiva general de inclusión social y económica en la agenda del desarrollo post 2015. Esta agenda, creemos nosotros, debe incluir objetivos específicos en materia de alimentación, educación, igualdad de género, medioambiente, empleo y crecimiento económico. En especial, México considera fundamental conformar una perspectiva transversal que combata las desigualdades, la generación de oportunidades y el desarrollo de capacidades para las personas que viven en condiciones de mayor vulnerabilidad.

Por eso es que les invito a que trabajemos juntos en una agenda post 2015 centrada en la inclusión social y en la oportunidad de generar progreso y prosperidad para todos.

Por su atención, muchas gracias.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Es un gran honor presentarles hoy al Presidente de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos.

No es la primera vez que tengo el privilegio de estar con el Presidente Santos, pero sí es la primera vez que le recibimos en la Sede de la FAO.

He podido acompañar y apoyar de cerca ese trabajo conjunto cuando ejercí la función de Representante Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe.

Quisiera reafirmar, como Director-General, el compromiso de la FAO con el desarrollo sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de Colombia.

Más que eso: quisiera felicitarle al Excelentísimo Señor Presidente por sus esfuerzos a favor de la paz en el país, y reafirmar el compromiso de la FAO en apoyar ese proceso.

En Colombia, las agendas de la paz, desarrollo rural, manejo sostenible y seguridad alimentaria y nutricional están vinculadas.

El Presidente ha enfatizado ese punto al afirmar que: “La paz comienza en el campo”.

La FAO está comprometida en apoyar la Política Nacional de Desarrollo Rural para la Transformación del Campo Colombiano que impulsa el Presidente Santos.

Nuestro apoyo tiene que ver con darle a familias desplazadas la posibilidad de reconstruir sus vidas. Tiene que ver con la reinserción en la sociedad de colombianos que estuvieron vinculadas al conflicto. Y tiene que ver con fortalecer no solo la capacidad productiva de la agricultura colombiana, sino también hacer que el campo y la agricultura sean mecanismos de inclusión y de reinserción social.

Las Directrices Voluntarias para la Gobernanza Responsable de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques, que la FAO busca implementar, son una herramienta valiosa en ese esfuerzo.

En ese marco, un importante desafío es implantar un modelo de desarrollo que viabilice la agricultura familiar, y el surgimiento y fortalecimiento de pequeñas y medianas propiedades rurales en zonas de conflicto, y que promueva nuevas oportunidades de empleo para mujeres y jóvenes.

Recientemente, la acción de la FAO en el país ha sido reforzada por la inclusión de Colombia en la iniciativa regional de la FAO sobre Agricultura Familiar con Enfoque Territorial.

Ese conjunto de acciones permitirá al país avanzar en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, y ayudará a cerrar la brecha que aún existe entre el desarrollo de las zonas rurales y urbanas en toda América Latina.

Señor Presidente, para concluir quisiera afirmar que yo también estoy convencido que la paz en Colombia, pero no solo en Colombia – comienza en el campo, y que la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional para todos es clave para el futuro del país, de la región y del mundo.

Cuento con el apoyo de la FAO a sus esfuerzos por la paz, seguridad alimentaria y nutricional y el desarrollo rural sostenible de Colombia. Muchas gracias por su presencia en la Sede de nuestra Organización.

Sr. Juan Manuel SANTOS CALDERÓN (Colombia)

Señor Director General de la FAO, José Graziano Da Silva, muy apreciado Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, Enrique Peña Nieto; Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, Le Mamea Ropati Mualia; Señores Embajadores; Señores Ministros; Señores Representantes de los Miembros de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que nos acompañan el día de hoy; Señores invitados especiales; delegados; delegadas; amigos todos.

Antes que nada, quiero decirles que me siento muy complacido de estar en la Conferenciad de esta Organización tan importante para el desarrollo y para el bienestar de la humanidad, y de tener la oportunidad de dirigirme a ustedes en nombre del pueblo colombiano. Colombia es un país rural; el campo colombiano ha crecido a una tasa superior al 2,5 por ciento en los últimos años y su participación en nuestro producto interno bruto se acerca al 7 por ciento, lo que demuestra que la agricultura ha sido, es y seguirá siendo motor de nuestro crecimiento económico. Hoy continuamos trabajando en la lucha contra el hambre. Trabajamos por el equilibrio en las regiones, por el desarrollo de sistemas de agricultura inteligente con capacidad de adaptación al cambio climático, con inclusión social y trabajamos en el fortalecimiento de nuestra democracia y nuestra seguridad desde los territorios.

Este panorama, sumado a la importancia que tiene hoy la discusión de la sostenibilidad alimentaria en el mundo, que se tradujo en la declaración del año pasado como el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar por parte de la ONU, nos debe llevar al diseño e implementación de un modelo de desarrollo del campo y de sus habitantes. Este modelo, en nuestro caso, se basa en tres pilares fundamentales: el diálogo social, el desarrollo rural y el desarrollo agropecuario que permita elevar la calidad de vida de los habitantes del campo, de los campesinos. En Colombia, estamos avanzando en esos tres pilares. Con el diálogo social buscamos mantener una comunicación fluida, permanente y sincera con todos los actores de nuestro sector rural: campesinos y empresarios del campo, mujeres, jóvenes, comunidades étnicas, entre muchos otros, pues así reconocemos nuestras debilidades y construimos juntos las condiciones para atender las necesidades y la demanda y superar cualquier dificultad.

En lo que respecta en desarrollo rural, venimos avanzando en una política de infraestructura apropiada, para que los trabajadores agrarios y empresarios del campo puedan desarrollar mejor sus actividades. En esta dirección, avanzamos en programas de formalización de tierras, de empleo, de vivienda rural,

de acceso al agua, del fortalecimiento de los distritos de riego, de educación y de prácticas agrícolas sostenibles, entre otras políticas.

Este es un aspecto tan importante, que en los diálogos de paz que adelantamos con las guerrillas de las FARC en la Habana, incluimos como uno de los puntos de la agenda el desarrollo rural integral. y de hecho, ya logramos un acuerdo de fondo sobre este punto. Ese acuerdo implica programas de desarrollo para el sector rural con modelos innovadores en educación y en salud, e implicará la creación de un fondo de tierras para los campesinos sin tierras, alimentado en parte, por predios adquiridos ilegalmente; se creará una nueva jurisdicción agraria para proteger la propiedad rural; incentivos para el buen uso de la tierra y programas de seguridad alimentaria y servicios rurales.

No se está negociando la propiedad de la tierra ni nuestro modelo económico. Sin duda, para el campo colombiano y para la seguridad alimentaria mundial, la terminación del único conflicto armado y el mal viejo que subsiste en todo el continente es una gran oportunidad. Lo es también para el medio ambiente y la lucha contra el cambio climático que tanto daño le hace a la producción alimentaria. ¿Por qué? porque la guerrilla, las FARC, han sido durante muchos años responsables por lo que hemos denominado, un verdadero ecocidio. Ellos protegen la producción de la hoja de coca, el narcotráfico y esa producción de hoja de coca lo que ha hecho des devastar miles y miles de hectáreas de nuestros bosques tropicales de nuestras selvas, produciendo así y fortaleciendo y alimentando el cambio climático.

También con sus ataques terroristas e irracionales, como los que hicieron hace un par de días en donde, en un acto que nadie entiende su lógica, paran 200 tractomulas que transportaban petróleo y las obligan a derramar el petróleo, ahí, en el sitio, petróleo que inmediatamente va, busca las quebradas, los ríos y contamina, para siempre, las aguas del mundo. Por eso, decimos que la paz en Colombia tiene un altísimo dividendo ambiental y esperamos que ese dividendo se pueda dar.

Y si Colombia ha logrado tantos avances sociales, tantos avances económicos en medio del conflicto, imagínense ustedes, señores delegados, lo que podríamos hacer si sacamos ese conflicto, ese freno a nuestro desarrollo del medio. Por eso, he agradecido en los diversos escenarios en que he intervenido esta semana de visita a Europa, la disposición de los países europeos de apoyarnos en la etapa de post conflicto a través del Fondo Fiduciario para la Paz, que se ha planteado crear a través del mecanismo de cooperación de la Unión Europea. Y le agradezco muchísimo, al Director General sus palabras de apoyo por parte de la FAO a nuestro proceso de paz.

La FAO puede jugar y debe jugar un papel muy importante en el desarrollo del post conflicto, pues como ustedes bien lo han mencionado y me ha citado, la paz comienza en el campo porque ahí está concentrado el conflicto colombiano.

Uno de los temas en que Italia, nuestro país anfitrión, puede contribuir más con Colombia y muchos de los países que tienen ese conocimiento y esa tecnología en un eventual post conflicto, es el de las cooperativas agrícolas, que aquí en Italia, por ejemplo, han implementado con tanto éxito y que pueden ser un mecanismo ideal para sembrar progreso y reconciliación en el campo colombiano.

Y paso al tercer pilar: el de desarrollo agropecuario. La FAO ha identificado a Colombia como uno de los países que será la futura despensa de alimentos para el mundo, algo que nos complace, pero que implica también una importante responsabilidad. Para cumplir con este papel determinante en la alimentación del planeta, como ya dije, estamos trabajando para terminar con el conflicto que afecta, como ya dije, principalmente nuestras zonas rurales. Y a nivel nacional estamos empeñados en hacer más competitivo nuestro campo con líneas de crédito para las cadenas productivas, garantizando la calidad sanitaria requerida para los mercados e impulsando la asistencia técnica y la investigación.

Algo muy importante: estamos realizando una revolución en nuestra infraestructura, sobre todo la del transporte. Hemos hecho la más grande inversión en vías en toda nuestra historia para facilitar la movilización de nuestros productos de los centros de producción a los puertos y centros de consumo. Los tres pilares mencionados son complementarios y son la plataforma para que todas las regiones afectadas por el conflicto puedan alcanzar su verdadero potencial productivo.

Otro aspecto en que trabajamos es en la erradicación de cultivos ilícitos utilizados para la producción de drogas y su sustitución por cultivos legales. En Colombia se ha reducido sustancialmente el número

de hectáreas cultivadas de coca, pero tenemos todavía una larga y dura tarea por delante. Recientemente, decidimos suspender la aspersión aérea de los cultivos ilícitos con el herbicida glifosato, atendiendo una recomendación de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, y dando cumplimiento a una sentencia de nuestra Corte Constitucional. Hay que aclarar que éramos el único país que asperjaba glifosato para combatir los cultivos de drogas.

Esto, por supuesto, no significa claudicar en la lucha frente a la siembra de estos cultivos, sino un cambio de énfasis. Ahora vamos a incrementar la erradicación manual, pero sobre todo pondremos en marcha una estrategia mucho más efectiva de sustitución de cultivos que no solo ofrezca una alternativa productiva a los campesinos que dejen de sembrar coca, sino que garantice mejores condiciones de vida a las comunidades con una mayor presencia del Estado.

También avanzamos en el desminado de las zonas rurales. Somos el segundo país más minado del planeta. Y avanzamos en esa dirección, pues las minas anti persona sembradas por la guerrilla son un inmenso factor de riesgo que ha afectado a la población y la producción en varias regiones del país. Dentro del proceso de paz, ya se pactó con el apoyo de una organización noruega, un programa piloto de desminado donde los mismos guerrilleros que sembraron las minas están colaborando con el propio ejército para desactivarlas. Este programa ya empezó, y empezó en una vereda llamada El Orejón, un departamento del país que se denomina Antioquia, y es un lugar muy simbólico, pues en ese sitio hay más minas sembradas que personas, así que pueden imaginarse la transcendencia de adelantar este trabajo.

En estos lugares del país, donde haremos más efectiva la sustitución de cultivos y el desminado, se debe llegar rápidamente con proyectos productivos para las comunidades, y aquí el apoyo de la FAO va a ser fundamental.

Colombia, por otra parte, tiene una enorme frontera agrícola sin explorar y con las mejores condiciones para recibir inversión, y esperamos atraerla para incrementar la oferta al mundo apenas erradiquemos de esas zonas el conflicto.

En nuestro país contamos con 22 millones de hectáreas con potencial de desarrollo agrícola, de las cuales, solo algo más de 5 millones están cultivadas. En el Congreso de la República se está discutiendo en este momento un proyecto de ley para incentivar el desarrollo de proyectos productivos asociativos en zonas estratégicas del país. Una de estas zonas es la región que hemos llamado la Altillanura, ubicada al oriente del país con más de 3 millones de hectáreas que tienen un inmenso potencial para el desarrollo productivo, la agricultura familiar, economías campesinas y la agroindustria. Estamos trabajando para dinamizar y posibilitar los proyectos productivos también en esta región.

Y en relación con la inversión para el desarrollo rural y la eliminación de la pobreza rural, Colombia ha hecho grandes esfuerzos por consolidar una política de inversión en el campo, conducente a mejorar las condiciones de vida de sus habitantes.

Desde el año 2010, cuando tomé posesión del Gobierno, venimos aumentando el presupuesto de inversión en el sector agropecuario. De hecho, el año pasado fue un 50 por ciento mayor que el año inmediatamente anterior, y todo esto sigue reflejando en la disminución de la pobreza. Nuestra visión para el país es el de una Colombia en paz, mejor educada y con más equidad.

Pero para lograr másequidad, para poder luchar contra la pobreza y la pobreza extrema, es indispensable mejorar las condiciones del campo, donde precisamente están concentradas más la desigualdad y la pobreza. Y eso es lo que hemos venido haciendo, y por eso hemos obtenido unos resultados bastantes positivos aunque nos falta mucho camino por recorrer. En los últimos 5 años, hemos logrado disminuir la pobreza en Colombia 12 puntos porcentuales, sacando 4,4 millones de colombianos de la pobreza. Eso nunca lo hemos logrado y somos el país de toda la región que más ha logrado disminuir la pobreza dentro en este periodo de tiempo. Lo mismo con la pobreza extrema, y nuestro objetivo es erradicar totalmente la pobreza extrema del país en el año 2025, y para eso también necesitamos la ayuda de la FAO.

Finalizo reiterando la adhesión de Colombia al preámbulo de la Constitución de esta gran Organización, que reconoce que el objetivo final de la Organización es asegurar a la humanidad el

derecho a estar protegida contra el hambre y contribuir así a la expansión de la economía mundial. En un mundo necesitado de alimentos, Colombia está lista para volcarse al campo, para incrementar los proyectos agrícolas y agroindustriales, para mejorar las vías que saquen nuestros productos a los mercados y para proveer de los mejores frutos de la tierra a la comunidad internacional. Muchas gracias.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I
(C 2015/I/PLENARY/REP)**

CHAIRPERSON

We turn to our agenda for this final Plenary meeting. Please ensure that you have before you the three reports tabled for adoption: C 2015/PLENARY/REP contains items discussed in Plenary meetings; C 2015/I/PLENARY/REP contains Commission I items; and C 2015/II/PLENARY/REP contains Commission II items, including Item 4 with the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2016-17 adopted by the Conference yesterday.

I would like to remind the Conference that any suggestions for editorial changes in the language reference should be passed on to the Secretariat after the meeting.

I would now like to invite Mr Luca Frattini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO who chaired Commission I, to introduce the report of that Commission.

Mr Luca FRATTINI (Chairperson, Commission I)

Dear friends, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. From the outset, I would once again like to thank the Membership of FAO for entrusting me with this task. I was deeply honoured to chair Commission I during this very fruitful Conference and I hope I have performed well enough.

I also wish to commend all Members of Commission I for the excellent and fruitful atmosphere and cooperation that I witnessed during the proceedings of the Commission. And finally, one word of thanks goes to the Secretariat for their invaluable support throughout the week. Now, if you allow me, I would read the report.

Item 11 – *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters arising from:* 11.1 – the *Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East*. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which Iraq had chaired the Regional Conference.

11.2 – *Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Mongolia, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

11.3 – *Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa*. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Tunisia, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

11.4 – *Report of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe*. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Romania, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

11.5 – *Report of the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It also thanked Chile, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

11.6 – *Input from the 3rd Informal Regional Conference for North America.* The Conference also took note of the practice of the North America Region to host an Informal Regional Conference allowing Member Nations of the region to make inputs into the Organization's prioritization process.

I have been told that it is not necessary to strictly read the Report, so I will simply summarize it.

The summary is quite easy because, as I was saying, we were having a very fruitful discussion. Regional Conferences did not raise any major point for concern or debate, whereby on the Technical Committees the discussion was very lively. We had a number of points raised under the Fisheries Committee and I would like to just highlight that FAO was commended for their excellent work on the Blue Growth Initiative, the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, among others, and, of course, there was a general welcoming for the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security.

On the Committee on Forestry, I would highlight definitely the participation of FAO in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. And also, we expressed as Commission the importance of cooperation within existing initiatives working on boreal forests. And on this one, FAO was requested to scale up its support to countries. We also - and this is a point which might be of interest to the Membership - highlighted the fact that, on forestry in particular, COFO is requested to enhance its cooperation with other bodies such as COAG, COFI and also CFS.

I would quickly move to COAG, Committee on Agriculture, and we have here a number of interesting and important points. We called for a very thorough role of FAO in trade facilitation programmes in close collaboration with relevant partners as an important means for supporting the delivery of the strategy of FAO for enhancing food safety globally. We supported the implementation of the *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Control and Eradication Programme, and also we endorsed the conclusion of COAG on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and on the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. Of course, one of the highlights of COAG was the approval in Commission I of the Draft Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance which was successfully negotiated among the Regional Groups. And for this, I would like on this occasion to commend the Independent Chair of the Council, Ambassador Ngirwa, for his excellent work.

I will move quickly to the CCP, Committee on Commodity Problems, where the Commission I, among other things, stressed the importance of Medium-Term Commodity Market Projections as an essential tool for policy debate and planning, and welcomed the OECD-FAO collaboration on the agricultural outlook and encouraged further strengthening of this partnership with the OECD. The Committee also welcomed the implementation or the progress made with regard to the implementation of AMIS, or the Agricultural Market Information System.

On the CFS, there would be many things to say, but, of course, the first one is RAI. The adoption of RAI was welcomed by Commission I. We also encouraged the implementation by CFS stakeholders of the policy recommendations of the two Plenaries which were held last year and the year before last on Biofuels and Food Security, Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition, Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems, and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. We also welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis which will now be submitted for endorsement to the 42nd Plenary in October. I would also like to mention that the Commission supported the role of the CFS in nutrition and in fostering the implementation of the outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition held here in Rome in November last year. Of course, the multi-stakeholder model of the CFS was also praised.

I will now say a few words about the MDGs and the SDGs. The Conference is asked to welcome the Report presenting the progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs, and in particular MDG 1(c), which is very relevant to the mandate of this Organization, and also, of course, called for greater efforts to achieve the MDGs globally, recognizing FAO's primary responsibility for supporting members in achieving the remaining MDGs. We also look forward to the Third Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July, also to the Summit in New York in

September which will lead us to the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, and encouraged all FAO Members to ensure that adequate financial and non-financial means of implementation are made available for the effectiveness of the new development framework.

On QCPR, or Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, the Commission recognized the far-reaching transformational changes undergone by FAO and we expressed appreciation for FAO's consistent commitment in supporting Member Nations in their development efforts. We also acknowledged that the FAO's Corporate Resource Mobilization Strategy is important and leads to a diversified donor base.

On the Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Commission in particular approved the Report of the 15th Regular Session held in January this year, approved the Voluntary Guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning and invited countries to implement those, and among other points we called for increased cooperation between the Commission and relevant FAO Technical Bodies as well as the CFS and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

On Item 17, which is the Joint FAO-WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition, I would like to highlight that the Commission, and therefore the Conference, is now called to appreciate the successful outcome of the ICN2 last year, to endorse the ICN2 outcome documents, that is the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action as adopted last November in Rome, and we expressed satisfaction with the ICN2 follow-up actions, including the mainstreaming of nutrition by FAO as a cross-cutting theme. May I also mention that there is a request made to the UN Secretary-General for the UN General Assembly to endorse the outcome documents and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025.

The Commission appreciated the efforts made in this regard and, of course, FAO is encouraged to continue its collaboration with WHO on the substantive contents of ICN2 implementation. We also welcome the efforts to improve UN System coordination and, in particular, we encourage consideration of further steps by Members to enable the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition. We welcome advocacy initiatives aim at promoting and amplifying the food security and nutrition messages of ICN2, notably through Expo Milano 2015 which is based on the message and key title, *Feeding the Planet: Energy for Life*.

On the International Years and Days, there was a long and fruitful debate on the four past, present and future years. So on quinoa, basically it was an endorsement of the Evaluation Report and we recognized the achievement in raising public awareness on quinoa's potential role as an ally in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. On family farming, we welcomed the strong will and right political commitment at the highest levels that emerged in favour of family farming during last year, and we noted that this legacy will have to materialize in national and regional policies. We also recognized the role played by FAO in facilitating the Year at all levels and we requested FAO to further integrate family farming in its Strategic Framework. On soils and World Soil Day, we noted with appreciation that the role of FAO helped facilitate and coordinate and we believe that we are on a good track for the activities under IYS 2015 to support soil fertility and to reverse soil degradation. In this respect, all FAO members are invited to observe and promote IYS at national, regional and international levels.

On the Pulses 2016, we expressed support for IYP 2016 and its objectives, particularly on the role of pulses in sustainable food production and their contribution to global food security and nutrition. Also in this respect, the role of FAO was fundamental. Now, of course, the Commission underlined the need to ensure adequate funding for the IYP and FAO members are encouraged to respond generously with extra-budgetary resources as well as attracting voluntary contributions from other stakeholders, including the private sector, to support the implementation of IYP activities and attain its objectives. This is obviously true for the IYS as well. On Global Soil Partnership, there was a major achievement by the Commission which was the endorsement of the Revised World Soil Charter, which I would like to highlight, and the adoption of the relevant Resolution.

Finally, on the United Nations FAO World Food Programme, we endorsed the Annual Report of WFP Executive Boards to ECOSOC and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2013, commended WFP on its efforts to address the emergency food assistance needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by the rising humanitarian crisis, particularly the level three crisis, and we recognized WFP's work in the field. Finally, WFP was commended for its efforts to strengthen collaboration with the other RBAs, in particular with regard to the Post-2015 process, and for the continuous support provided to the CFS.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION II
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II
(C 2015/II/PLENARY/REP)

CHAIRPERSON

As regards the Report of Commission II, I should like to remind Delegates that the Conference adopted the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2016-17 at its Ninth Plenary meeting yesterday morning.

I would now like to invite Mr Khaled Mohamed El Taweel, Alternate Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO who chaired Commission II, to introduce the report.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Chairperson, Commission II) (Original language Arabic)

Yesterday I made a presentation before all of you about Commission II and the Report was approved in the Drafting Committee, and the Members of the Committee also agreed on the content of the document. Today, it is my honour to present to you this Report as part of the Plenary of our FAO Conference.

Continues in English

It is an honour for me to have chaired Commission II of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. A number of very important and crucial matters of a problematic and budgetary nature were discussed by the Commission. Foremost among these were the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.

We are all aware by now of the historical, unprecedented consensus reached by the 151st Session of the Council on the budget level for the next biennium. This enabled Commission II to endorse the Conference Budgetary Appropriation Resolution by acclamation at the start of its deliberations on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget on Monday afternoon.

In line with the historic nature of this Conference, yesterday you Member Nations voted strongly in favour of the budget resolution with an unprecedented score of 118 to zero; so 100 percent of those who attended the session yesterday. This is a very important message of support for the Organization and its mandate and objectives and its leadership as well.

In Commission II, and after endorsing the budget level, we had an in-depth debate on the Programme of Work 2016-17 proposed by the Director-General which Commission II agreed needs to be protected. The higher areas of priority identified, such as nutrition, climate change, south-south cooperation and social protection, were supported. We also welcomed the identified savings and the fact for the first time ever the Programme of Work and Budget document listed areas of de-emphasis.

Commission II supported the proposal to source extra-budgetary resources to be used exclusively to strengthen Technical Cooperation Programme in support to Small Island Developing States in 2016-17.

The Commission recommended that the TCPs, the Technical Cooperation Programme Appropriation in 2018-19, be in line with Conference Resolution 9/89. This is an important step for countries benefitting from these programmes. We stressed the importance of continuing with decentralization efforts while maintaining a critical mass of technical capacity at headquarters as well as using a tailored approach to middle-income countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the MTP and Programme of Work and Budget, Commission II debated three other important agenda items and I would like to highlight the key aspects of each one. In examining the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13, Commission II welcomed the transformational changes brought in FAO since 2012 and stressed the need for continuing in the Organization's strategic direction. The Commission welcomed as well unprecedented efficiency savings achieved since the 2012-13 biennium.

Commission II also welcomed the Programme Evaluation Report 2013-14, and in particular the reforms brought to the Office of Evaluation since the appointment of the new Director last year, to shift the focus of evaluation work at FAO toward more thematic and result-oriented work. In line with the Reviewed Strategic Framework of the Organization, the Commission supported the reform process initiated by the Office of Evaluation and looked forward to continued enhancement and the shift in focus to evaluating results and better alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework. Finally, while reviewing the Synthesis Report of the Evaluation of Regional and Sub-Regional Offices, Commission II agreed the recommendation of the Council for an independent review of FAO's Decentralized Offices Network to be presented to the 153rd Session of the Council through the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, friends, this is a brief snapshot of the content of the Report of Commission II of the 39th Session of the Conference which I have the honour to present to you for consideration. Thank you. *Shukran. Merci. Gracias. Spasiba. Xie Xie.*

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF PLENARY
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA
(C 2015/PLENARY/REP)**

CHAIRPERSON

I also believe the longer the name the more wisdom you have. Thank you very much for the presentation. I now welcome the Director-General back.

Ladies and gentlemen, we now move on to the reports on the items contained in C 2015/REP. Once again, I wish to remind the Conference that any suggestions for editorial changes in the language mentioned can be provided directly to the Secretariat after the meeting. Does any Delegation wish to take the floor on the section of the report concerning items taken in Plenary?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sr Javier PONCE (Ecuador)

No hay ninguna observación al texto. En realidad, como siempre y como de costumbre en un organismo internacional, burocráticamente está perfectamente redactado.

Mi observación es referida a los dos temas políticos. El Informe del pleno debe resaltar la presencia de un gran número de presidentes de la república en esta Conferencia, de un gran número de primeros ministros, de casi todos los ministros de agricultura. Debe resaltar el Informe porque es un tema de política que reconoce la nueva FAO que estamos viviendo.

Y el segundo punto que debe resaltar el Informe no es solo el hecho de que en la elección del Director General se diga que la votación fue secreta: no. La votación fue secreta, el resultado no es secreto y el resultado de más de 179 votos a favor es del reconocimiento del mundo entero a la labor del nuevo Director en reconocimiento a la nueva FAO; debe constar entonces cómo fue elegido el Director General y no solamente que se eligió en votación secreta.

Sra Maria Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

Quisiera respaldar plenamente lo que acaba de señalar el delegado del Ecuador. Estos dos puntos creo que son fundamentales.

Primero, la importante presencia de jefes de estado y de primeros ministros en esta Conferencia, y segundo la forma en que fue reelegido nuestro Director General.

Creo que eso tiene que quedar reflejado en el informe de esta Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the interventions by Ecuador and El Salvador. I think those are very relevant points. And please be informed that this will be reflected in our report.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to fully support the statement made by the two earlier delegations.

Number one, I would like to thank the Chairperson of this Conference for your very efficient management of this Conference and also this Conference is a unique one in the sense that this is the first time in history that we have adopted the budget pre-conference level. So we do not have any problem with that and for that reason we are thankful to the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Director-General, and all of the Members who have come to a consensus before Conference.

We would like to welcome again the Director-General and Independent Chairperson of the Council for their second term to date. We are thanking, from my delegation, the Commission I Chair and Commission II Chair for their outstanding performance.

We also would like to reiterate our thanks and welcome to the presidents and prime ministers attending this Conference, particularly today at the end of the final day of the Conference, the President from Mexico as well as from Colombia.

So we would like to reiterate our thanks and congratulations to both of the presidents to be present in the session here at the end of the Conference.

We are thankful again to all of the Members attending the Conference for having a very successful Conference. And finally, I would like to reiterate my earlier position that I said yesterday. I do not know from whose region the next ICC will come. The region may consider having one female Independent Chair of the Council for up to two years.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to the adoption of the report of the Commissions and the Plenary. I wish to propose that reports of Commission I, Commission II and Plenary be adopted *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. You have adopted the report of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference and that brings us to the end of our substantive work. Distinguished delegates, what has come before the Plenary is the product of hard work by Commission I, Commission II and the Plenary meetings of this session of Conference.

I therefore wish to thank Mr Fratini, Chairperson of Commission I, for guiding the work of the Commission I. I also wish to thank Mr Ahmad Farooq from Pakistan who was the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I, along with the other Members. I wish to thank Mr Khaled Mohamed El Taweel for his work as Chairperson of Commission II. My appreciation also goes to

Mr Spyridon Ellinas of Cyprus, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission II along with all of the other Members.

May I propose that we approve their valuable contribution to the success of this session?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank every delegation in this hall for the spirit of cooperation which was ever present throughout the past eight days and for the transparent and harmonious way in which you conducted the work of the Conference.

I hope you will agree with me that we come out of the session well and can be proud of the tangible results we collectively achieved. Thanks to your teamwork approach, clear sense of purpose, pragmatism, patience, and respect for one another, your open and constructive attitude on various agenda items made my job easier. I am grateful for this as well as for the support you gave me.

During this session of Conference, we re-elected Dr. José Graziano da Silva as Director-General. That Mr Graziano Da Silva was elected by the largest number of votes in history of FAO is testimony of our appreciation for what he has achieved in his first term and clear support for the direction in which he is leading FAO. It is also an overwhelming mandate for him in his second term to deliver on the vision and goals of the Organization for food security and nutrition.

I also wish to underscore our achievement in the approval of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. The work of Commission II was made less arduous during the Session of the Conference as the budget level was agreed upon for the first time ever at the 151st Session of the Council in March this year, thereby facilitating the Plenary's adoption of the budget resolution by consensus.

As you know, consensus is the hallmark of international cooperation and solidarity. This Conference also re-elected by acclamation Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa for a second term of office as our Independent Chairperson of the Council. We wish Ambassador Ngirwa well for his second mandate.

I wish to say a special word of thanks to the three Vice-Chairpersons and other members of the General Committee for their diligence in examining sensitive issues that allowed for the smooth functioning of the Conference. I also would like to thank the Chairpersons and members of the Credentials Committee for their valuable contributions.

I thank the Director-General for attending the Plenary Sessions despite his busy schedule and wish to express gratitude to the senior managers of FAO and all of the staff of the Secretariat for the preparation and timely distribution of the Conference documents for their brief presentations and for making the necessary logistic arrangements to facilitate our work and, in particular, I am thankful to the Conference Secretariat for the support it has given me and the Chairpersons of the two Commissions as well as the invaluable advice I received from the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Our appreciation also goes to the interpreters, translators, printers and report writers. The verbatim help of FAO staff who work behind the scenes, the Rome messengers and the security personnel, we wish to thank them all for their support.

Before I close this last meeting of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, would anyone wish to take the floor?

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Nous sommes arrivés au terme de cette 39^{ème} session de la conférence de la FAO. Permettez-moi, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique auprès de la FAO et en mon nom personnel, de réitérer nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, suite à sa brillante réélection à la

tête de cette noble et prestigieuse Organisation qu'est la FAO et de lui exprimer nos vœux les meilleurs de succès dans sa mission.

Nos chaleureuses félicitations vont également à l'endroit de Son Excellence l'ambassadeur Wilfred Ngirwa, Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO, à l'occasion de sa réélection à ce poste qui a recueilli l'unanimité autour de lui, ce qui témoigne de la haute considération et de l'estime dont il jouit parmi nous.

Je saisis cette occasion pour exprimer mes félicitations à Monsieur Le Mamea Ropati Mualia, Ministre de l'agriculture et des pêches et de l'Agriculture Store Corporation du Samoa pour l'excellente présidence de cette Conférence.

Je tiens aussi à féliciter Monsieur Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général de la Conférence, et à l'ensemble des membres du Secrétariat pour l'excellente organisation de cette Conférence, qui nous a permis de travailler dans des conditions idéales pour sa réussite.

Je voudrais également souligner l'esprit de solidarité, de compréhension et de respect mutuel qui a régné tout au long de nos travaux et a permis d'adopter l'ensemble des documents soumis lors de cette Conférence, mais également au sein des membres du Conseil de la FAO où il a permis de développer un dialogue constructif et de parvenir, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de cette Organisation onusienne, à un consensus sur le budget 2016–2017. Je ne saurais terminer sans remercier l'ensemble du personnel qui a contribué de près ou de loin à la réussite de cet important événement. Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I now pass on the floor to the Director-General for closing remarks.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson of Conference, Minister Le Mamea Ropati; Mr Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference; Mr Chairpersons of Commissions I and II, Luca Fratini and Mohammed El Taweel, Your Excellencies Ministers, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen.

A successful Conference comes to an end.

I want to thank the Chairperson Le Mamea Ropati, my good friend, for his effective conduction of this Conference. I also want to thank the chairs of Commissions I and II, Luca Fratini and Mohammed El Taweel.

Let me also congratulate again the Independent Chairperson of Council Mr Ngirwa for his re-election, and thank him for the work he put in the past two years. He was key in reaching the historic agreement on budget-level during the Council in March. My dear Wilfred, I am delighted I will work two more years with you.

This week, the Conference confirmed consensus and gave its unanimous support both to our Programme of Work and to our Budget. I thank all of you for that. We have come a long way together.

Think about it: four years ago there were six candidates for Director-General and 186 Members were present.

Now, I ran as only candidate and you re-elected me with a historic 177 votes. I received only one vote against. That is another record. And that reminds me that we still have much more to do. I thank you for your trust and continued support.

This is really a Conference of records. The largest number of countries participating, voting, and all the Pacific Islands Members were present. The highest number of Heads of State and Government, ministers, delegates – and even a Queen, who became our Special Ambassador for Nutrition.

I also want to thank all FAO staff involved in the Conference. A lot of work goes into preparing for Conference and most of it happens behind the scenes. I thank FAO staff for its support.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the past three years we broke the divide between developed and developing countries at FAO. Consensus can sometimes make us start slower, but it provides solid ground that later allows us to move forward more consistently and rapidly.

And let me remember that building consensus is a process that does not end. Never. Every action builds trust or undermines it. We must be alert to this all the time, and not backtrack from consensus that we have already achieved.

In many ways, leading a divided organization can be easier than creating unity. But we built unity and I am acting upon a clear commitment to move forward together. I have said this since the very beginning. And I will do my utmost to build, support and strengthen this consensus, as long as you, Members, show that this is the way you want to move forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, this week we presented to you concrete results from our regional initiatives and our Programme of Work and Budget. The transformation of FAO is tangible. We can see and feel a new FAO. In the air we breathe. In the way we work. In the results that we deliver. At Headquarters and in our decentralized offices.

Our next PWB will consolidate our work on the strategic objectives and will add emphasis to priority areas, like climate change and nutrition. You did your part. And now I will do mine: implement the PWB. Allow me to remind you that we have an integrated programme of work and budget. That means we need voluntary contributions to deliver it.

The extra-budgetary funding received last biennium was a record high. I thank you. But so far in 2015 they are lower than in the past. I acknowledge the difficult global economic context. But at the same time, we cannot risk the Programme of Work, this biennium or in the next.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have heard many inspiring statements in the past few days. Let me recall some of them.

Pope Francis said that our work will not be complete until we end hunger. And that to get there, FAO must continue decentralization to be closer to the people we are here to serve.

The Prime Minister of Tunisia said that Conference recognized our determination to work together for food security and sustainable development.

The President of Mali explained how his country was able to reach the international hunger targets despite conflict. And he stressed the need for political will to fund food security and rural development from the national budget.

The Prime Minister of Fiji warned of the threat of climate change, and of how powerless the Pacific Islands are because it is not their action that causes sea levels to rise.

The President of Argentina emphasized that poverty was the main cause of hunger today, and not insufficient production – and this comes from one of the main grain producers in the world.

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia reminded us that drought does not need to spell famine, in an inspiring story of how his country is overcoming hunger.

The Queen of Spain spoke of the need for collective action to tackle all forms of malnutrition, from hunger to obesity.

The President of Italy said that hunger triggers violence and war, and that fighting hunger is a valuable step towards peace.

Much more was said, but I cannot go on quoting them because of the short time we have left. But these statements identify successful strategies to promote food security, adequate nutrition and sustainable development.

Allow me to point out that our Programme of Work and Budget reflects the issues that were raised. If FAO's main mission is to end hunger and malnutrition, then: FAO needs to offer holistic support; FAO needs to support sustainable production and management of natural resources; FAO needs to be

able to offer support in social protection to reduce rural poverty; FAO needs to improve access to markets by family farmers; and, FAO needs to help build resilience in rural populations.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to lay out some of the next actions that are planned to improve the assistance that FAO provides to Members.

First, we will continue to strengthen decentralization. This Conference has approved an independent review of geographic coverage/decentralized offices. I welcome this decision. You will receive a concrete proposal to move forward at the December Council session.

We will build on our current efforts, extending the range of our action to include subregional offices. They will be reinforced to improve our support in regions such as West Africa, Central Asia, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean.

And I want to assure you that we will continue to do this without weakening the technical and normative capacity at Headquarters. This is not magic. It is the result of streamlining administrative procedures, of cutting red tape so that we can do more and better with less.

Second, we will also continue with our efforts to support south-south cooperation, especially by middle-income countries. We spoke earlier today of the example of Mexico and Central America. Our proposal is to open liaison and partnership offices or strengthen this function in existing representations. We have already done this in Argentina this week, as well as in Azerbaijan, Equatorial Guinea, and Kazakhstan.

And we are currently in negotiations with Cameroon, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, the Republic of Korea and Russia. In fact, we will sign the liaison office agreement with Russia at the end of this month.

Third, based on the lessons learnt in the current biennium, we will make adjustments to allow our internal structure to better deliver our Strategic Objectives (SO). SO Coordinators will dedicate their full time and attention to the delivery of the Strategic Objectives.

Fourth, we will continue to consolidate our human resources policies. This includes improving the general service staff selection processes, opening up general service vacancy announcements to external candidates, enhancing performance evaluation and implementing the staff mobility policy.

Human resources issues will continue to be the subject of consultations with the staff representative bodies. This needs to be a dialogue without threats of staff protests and with a clear understanding that we will not compromise our Programme of work.

Ladies and gentlemen, FAO is the spiritual home of the right to food. But we need to be much more than that. As Mahatma Gandhi said: "For the hungry, God can only exist as bread".

FAO was created to help people have bread. Fiat Panis. Through productive support, through social protection, through building resilience and, always, by working with partners, close to the governments and to the hungry people.

The Ambassador from France shared with you this week a dream he had when he walks into FAO: be here in 2030, when the FAO Director-General is announcing that we have kept our commitment to the world's disenfranchised and met the Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger.

We have given and heard many declarations at this Conference. We must transform our commitments into action. More, better, and faster, because the hungry people cannot wait.

I look forward to working with you for the next four years. Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General. I once again congratulate you on your re-election and, on behalf of the Conference, wish you all the best for your second term. May God guide you and protect you.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I remind the delegations that the 152nd Session of FAO Council will begin on Monday, 15 June, in the Red Room at 9:30 hours under the chairmanship of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Ambassador Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa. I wish him well in carrying out his duties for another two years. God bless you, sir.

For those who travelled long distances to come to this beautiful city of Rome, I wish you all a safe and pleasant journey home. May God guide you safely back to your homes.

I now declare the 39th Session of the FAO Conference closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12:55 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55



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