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农 业 组 织Food and Agriculture
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Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agriculturaمنظمة
الاغذية والزراعة
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session - Quarantième session - 40.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 July 2017

The First Meeting was opened at 9.07 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 9 h 07
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera reunión a las 9.07
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to declare open the 40th Session of the FAO Conference and to welcome you to FAO headquarters. In particular, it is an honour and a privilege to welcome His Excellency President Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, and His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See.

We have also distinguished guests here, sitting in the Plenary, I will not mention all of them, but I want to thank them for their presence.

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

At its last Session, the FAO Council proposed that the Honourable Emmanuel Piñol, Secretary for Agriculture of the Philippines, preside over this session of the Conference.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you. I now invite the Honourable Emmanuel Piñol to come forward and take the Chair of this session of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

His Excellency, Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Director General Jose Graziano da Silva, Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please allow me to first thank the Honorable Director General Jose Graziano da Silva of the Food and Agriculture Organization for his warm welcome and kind introductory remarks, and on behalf of my President, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and the Filipino people, express our deepest appreciation to him for leading the FAO in coming to our aid in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan and the continuing support of the Organization to the Philippines.

The gesture of concern and compassion by Señor da Silva and the FAO, along with the FAO donor countries and partners, during the most difficult times when almost 10,000 Filipinos lost their lives will always be remembered by a grateful nation.

It is with deep humility that I accept this rare honour of presiding the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

On a personal note, I consider this election to the Chairmanship of the 40th Session as a victory of the ordinary family farmer for I lay claim to the distinction of being the first practicing farmer to be appointed as Secretary of Agriculture in my country.

Let me thank my colleagues and the members of the Asia Group for their trust and confidence and for nominating me to Chair this very important conference.

I also would like to thank the inspirational presence of two leaders of the Philippine Legislature - Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the Philippine Senate and Congressman Jose Panganiban, chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the Philippine Congress.

We now gather in this historic and hallowed hall during the most critical times in the history of humanity when the ability and capability of nations to produce food for their people face a new threat - Climate Change.

As one of the five countries in the world greatly affected by Climate Change, we have learned our lessons and with modest resources, our government has made adjustments.

We will share these experiences with other countries in my presentation of the Philippine Statement during this conference.

Just as alarming as the threat of climate change is the recorded downtrend in the investments made by government in agriculture and fisheries over the last few years.

Over the years, governments have been spending less for food production than they do for defence, infrastructure and education.

Billions of dollars have been spent by governments to perfect precision bombs but the development of precision farming technology has largely been left to the private sector.

Statistics provided by the FAO showed that the average public expenditure for agriculture of 51 countries from 1982 to 2007 steadily went down from 7.8 percent to 4.2 percent.

While we do not have the latest data on this, it is safe to say that if the downtrend continues, people in many countries around the world would suffer from food shortages in the coming years.

If this is left unchecked, the outcome could be catastrophic because it would not only result in reduced food production but also in massive poverty in the countryside and continued migration to the urban centers by people from the rural areas thus creating a serious social problem.

Food security is National Security.

When there are no roads, people would make their own trails; where there are no classrooms, students could gather under the shade of trees; when there is an armed conflict, negotiations could stop the war.

But there is nothing that could stop hungry people from staging riots.

It is a must therefore that we remind our governments that there should be more investments in agriculture not only to ensure availability and affordability of food but also to reduce poverty in the countryside.

Please allow me to end this message with this gentle reminder.

While we are here to represent our governments and our countries, while we belong to different nationalities, while we speak different languages, while we are separated by political boundaries, the truth is that we belong to one global community.

As members of this global family, we all must endeavour to contribute to the attainment of the Zero Hunger Advocacy and the Agenda 2030 as a whole, and ensure that no child and no human being would ever go to sleep at night with an empty stomach.

Thank you and may the Spirit of Brotherhood and the Love for Humanity prevail and guide us in the duration of this Conference.

I welcome you all to the 40th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference.

Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Mr Paolo GENTILONI (Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy)

Senior President of the Conference, Chairperson, Director-General, His Eminence Cardinal Parolin, Ladies and Gentlemen, first and foremost I would like to thank the Director-General Graziano da Silva for his commitment, and the results over the last six years of his term in office have been evident for us.

The Italian Prime Ministry has increasingly worked with FAO and the other two United Nations agencies here in Rome. This cooperation is something that is very important to us. The sustainable development and its link towards food and nutrition and the very close link to climate change and conflicts and migration are very much at the heart of the international agenda.

Before our eyes, near 800 million people still suffer from hunger and near two billion are malnourished, many of them children and women. At the recent G7 Summit in Taormina in May, we stressed the need to make a common effort to combat malnutrition and food insecurity particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the region in the world with the highest percentage of malnourished people.

We expressed high concern for countries like Nigeria, Yemen and others who are suffering situations of great food shortage that could bring about the worst food crisis since the Second World War. More than 20 million people run the risk of extreme shortage of food and there are certain areas specifically in South Sudan where these food shortages have already been declared.

In the face of this outlook, we must not be resigned but rather make renewed efforts to make extraordinary efforts as we have seen over the last 20 years. More than a million people have made their way out of extreme poverty over this period and the percentage of people around the world suffering from under-nutrition has been roughly halved and all of the world access to drinking water and having primary education and shortening the gap between girls and boys has also been fostered.

We know that we have a new ambitious objective ahead of us looking towards the horizon of 2030, food security improving malnutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. Zero Hunger is what will enable us to pursue peace, justice and equality and be able to conserve our planet for future generations.

If we deprive people of food we will be depriving them of justice, equality and freedom. Peace in and of itself is an objective and yet it is a prerequisite at the same time. In this challenge, Norman Borlaug Nobel Prize Ergonomist, father of the Green Revolution said some years ago that to attain peace we need to cultivate justice yet at the same time we need to till the land to produce more bread, otherwise there will never be peace in the world.

The relevance of the nexus between food security and peace is very sadly confirmed by hard facts today. Conflicts are determining factors in ten out of 13 crises around the world today, including those underway before our eyes today. Conflicts tend to push migratory flows and increase them. We support FAO's choice to support the World Food Day and bring to light this nexus. Men and women who are forced to leave their land because of war, prosecution or famine have nearly always lost everything except hope, which is their only and very precious good.

I am very proud to be able to remind you today in front of this FAO auditorium that here in Italy we very proudly are welcoming those who are arriving on our shores day by day. We have mobilized to face this migratory flow in the central Mediterranean and I will call upon Europe to share in this effort if Europe wants to be faithful to its own principles, to its own history and to civilization.

It is necessary for Italy to prevent these flows from being unsustainable. We must take care of our own society that has thus far reacted in an exemplary fashion showing humanity, a capacity to be welcoming and cohesion. The Italian initiative has born its first fruits and I certainly hope that these results will generate specific effects. But Italian welcoming is not enough.

Of course we must save human lives and welcome those who are crying out for help. We need to make joint efforts to offer new horizons to those who particularly in Africa are struggling day by day for their survival, offering them the possibility not to have to flee. This is why we are very much in favour, as non-permanent Members of the Security Council, for the United Nation's increasing interests and the FAO's interest to promote closer ties between peace and security with sustainable development along the lines of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to overcome or be up to the task of this 2030 challenge, we must promote sustainable agriculture beyond just responding to emergencies. We must avoid future shocks. These systems indeed are fragile and they will not have as much of a possibility to resist future impacts.

The meeting of the G7 Ministers of Agriculture in October will be in Bergamo and we have the Minister of Agriculture with us organizing it. At that meeting, the FAO is offering very significant contributions. We will be speaking about resilience, the protection of agricultural products through more effective risk management. We will also be confronting the positive effect that agriculture may have on migratory phenomenon in terms of leverage for development for countries.

All of this will lead us to look towards more resilient eco-sustainable and diversified agro-food production. We must not deny the fact that these systems thus far have produced a great amount of food for global markets but we must also acknowledge that these same systems continue to generate perhaps negative aspects on the environment and human health, a degradation of land, soil and water, high gas emissions, greenhouse gas emissions that is, loss of biodiversity, persistent hunger and nutritional failures.

We must work on diversifying crops and promote biodiversity to build healthy ecosystems and ensure fertility of soil for the long-term. A key dimension for this transformation is also combating malnutrition. In November, our country will host a high level meeting on nutrition with the objective of bolstering our common commitment to this issue. Perhaps not all of you are aware of this but there is an increasing number of Italian youth who are turning towards the land. Many urban youth and this is something characteristic of Italy. We are in an opposite trend not towards cities but towards the land. These young people value local traditions using innovative technology. They work on, of course, a global food market.

Our cooperation politics are congruous with this sustainable agricultural approach. This is why we are specifically concentrating on spreading technology and practices in crop growing in this direction. We are supporting small producers and bringing out the value of women's contribution, the involvement of local communities as well. This for us is a seal of Italian cooperation. At the heart of all of our relations, we must always place human dignity, which is central to decent work, the respect of different cultures and traditions, and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems.

The recommendations made by Pope Francis, and his conception of harmony with nature, around which all human production must hinge, as he stated before, the United Nations should encourage our work. This way, we can look towards transforming the land around the world into a land for hope instead of pushing people away towards huge cities or far off lands. They can look towards staying on a sustainable land of their own.

The Milan Expo in 2015 with the cooperation of our international partners put nutrition and sustainable development at the heart of its agenda. In the Milan Charter signed by more than a million people from around the world incarnates this shared conviction. Italy together with FAO and other agencies here in Rome share these very ideas.

I would like to convey to you, to the millions of men and women of different nationalities who are serving often times in risky difficult conditions who are working towards these goals with Italians, I would like to greet you. We are working in synergy with other United Nations agencies and very recently, at the IFAD and WFM agencies summits, we have had a very valuable opportunity to push forward integration here in Rome including working towards food security and international biodiversity.

We should not take for granted just how important food and sustainable development are on the international agenda. There are many contingent factors involved. All of you here can play a very significant role in this sense, working with your Capitals to get a strong clear message across when priorities and lines of action are set.

For Italy, being a host country for the FAO, means promoting not only debate but also commitment. Our presence in the G7 has placed us in a complex international situation and we are looking towards goal two which is maintaining food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. We will carry forward this commitment at the end of this week in Germany at the G20 meeting. This challenge that we have ahead of us is extraordinarily ambitious. It requires exceptional efforts but we will be up to the task.

We were working on lowering the number of people who are hungry or malnourished. There are not an acceptable number of people in this position. When we have Zero Hunger our task will be over, and that, will depend on each one of us as Governments, international organizations, associations, civil societies and private companies as well as local authorities and individual citizens, each man, woman, child be they young or old, people must work towards the goal mentioned by Franklin Roosevelt when

the United Nations was being founded. We must all work together with conviction along this path towards Zero Hunger.

I wish all of you a very fruitful type of work here at this conference. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Your Excellency, Paolo Gentiloni, Prime Minister of Italy.

I now have the honour to invite His Eminence, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See to deliver a message to the Conference from His Holiness Pope Francis.

Sr. Pietro PAROLIN (Secretario de Estado de la Santa Sede)

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, Señor Director General de la FAO, Señor Presidente del Consejo de la República Italiana, Señoras y Señores, Embajadores y representantes permanentes, Señoras y Señores.

Agradezco la cogida recibida y las palabras de bienvenida que me han dirigido, cumulo con agrado la tarea de dar lectura al mensaje que Su Santidad, el Papa Francisco, dirige a la Conferencia.

Señor Presidente, me complace dirigirle mi deferente y cordial saludo, así como a cada uno de ustedes, Representantes de los Estados Miembros de la FAO, reunidos para la cuadragésima Conferencia de la Organización.

Extiendo también mi saludo al Director General de la FAO y a los Responsables de los otros Organismos internacionales presentes en esta reunión, que está llamada a dar respuestas precisas al sector agrícola y alimentario, de las que dependen las expectativas de millones de personas.

No pudiendo esta vez estar con ustedes, según la consolidada tradición que se remonta al inicio de esta sede de la FAO en Roma, he pedido al Señor Cardenal Pietro Parolin, Secretario de Estado, llevar mi palabra de estímulo y apoyo, y manifestarles toda mi estima y consideración por la ardua tarea que deben realizar.

La Santa Sede sigue con mucha atención la actividad internacional y quiere cooperar a orientarla para favorecer no un simple progreso u objetivos teóricos de desarrollo, sino una real erradicación del hambre y de la malnutrición. Todos somos conscientes de que no basta la intención de asegurar a todos el pan cotidiano, sino que es necesario reconocer que todos tienen derecho a él y que deben por tanto beneficiarse del mismo. Si los continuos objetivos propuestos quedan todavía lejos, depende mucho de la falta de una cultura de la solidaridad que no logra abrirse paso en medio de las actividades internacionales, que permanecen a menudo ligadas solo al pragmatismo de las estadísticas o al deseo de una eficacia carente de la idea de compartir.

El compromiso de cada país por aumentar el propio nivel de nutrición, por mejorar la actividad agrícola y las condiciones de las poblaciones rurales, se concreta en el impulso del sector agrícola, en el incremento de la producción o en la promoción de una distribución efectiva de los alimentos. Pero esto no basta. En efecto, dichos objetivos lo que están pidiendo es que se considere cada día que el derecho de cada persona a ser liberada de la pobreza y del hambre depende del deber que tiene toda la familia humana de ayudar de forma concreta a los necesitados.

Entonces, cuando un país no sea capaz de ofrecer respuestas adecuadas porque no lo permite su grado de desarrollo, sus condiciones de pobreza, los cambios climáticos o las situaciones de inseguridad, es necesario que la FAO y las demás Instituciones intergubernamentales puedan tener la capacidad de intervenir específicamente para emprender una adecuada acción solidaria. A partir de la conciencia de que los bienes que nos ha entregado Dios Creador son para todos, se requiere urgentemente que la solidaridad sea el criterio inspirador de cualquier forma de cooperación en las relaciones internacionales.

Una mirada a la situación actual del mundo no nos ofrece imágenes consoladoras. No podemos, sin embargo, permanecer únicamente preocupados o acaso solo resignados. Este momento de evidente dificultad debe hacernos también más conscientes de que el hambre y la malnutrición no son solamente fenómenos naturales o estructurales de determinadas áreas geográficas, sino que son el

resultado de una más compleja condición de subdesarrollo, causada por la inercia de muchos o por el egoísmo de unos pocos. Las guerras, el terrorismo, los desplazamientos forzados de personas que cada vez más impiden o, al menos, condicionan fuertemente incluso las actividades de cooperación, no son fruto de la fatalidad, sino más bien consecuencia de decisiones concretas. Se trata de un mecanismo complejo que afecta ante todo a las categorías más vulnerables, excluidas no solo de los procesos productivos, sino también obligadas a menudo a dejar sus tierras en busca de refugio y esperanza de vida. Como también están determinados por decisiones tomadas en plena libertad y conciencia los datos relativos a las ayudas a los países pobres, que siguen mermando cada día, no obstante los reiterados llamamientos ante las situaciones de crisis cada vez más destructoras que se manifiestan en diferentes áreas del planeta.

Hay que ser conscientes de que en estos casos la libertad de elección de cada uno se conjuga con la solidaridad hacia todos, en relación con las necesidades, cumpliendo de buena fe los compromisos asumidos o anunciados. A este respecto, animado también por el deseo de alentar a los Gobiernos, quisiera unirme con una contribución simbólica al programa de la FAO para proveer de semillas a las familias rurales que viven en áreas donde se han juntado los efectos de los conflictos y de la sequía. Este gesto se suma al trabajo que la Iglesia viene realizando, según su vocación de estar de parte de los pobres de la tierra y acompañar el compromiso eficaz de todos en favor suyo.

Este compromiso nos lo pide hoy la Agenda para el Desarrollo 2030, cuando reitera el concepto de seguridad alimentaria como objetivo impostergable. Pero solo un esfuerzo de auténtica solidaridad será capaz de eliminar el número de personas malnutridas y privadas de lo necesario para vivir. Es un desafío muy grande para la FAO y para todas las Instituciones de la Comunidad internacional. Un reto en el que también la Iglesia se siente comprometida en primera línea.

Deseo, por tanto, que las sesiones de esta Conferencia puedan dar un nuevo impulso a la actividad de la Organización y ofrecer aquellos instrumentos deseados y esperados por millones de hermanos nuestros que ven en la acción de la FAO no sólo una contribución técnica para aumentar los recursos y para distribuir los frutos de la producción, sino también el signo concreto, a veces único, de una fraternidad que les permite confiar en el futuro.

Que la bendición de Dios todopoderoso, rico en misericordia, descienda sobre ustedes y sus trabajos y les dé la fuerza necesaria para contribuir a un auténtico progreso de la familia humana.

Desde el Vaticano, 3 de julio de 2017.

Papa Francisco

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Y como conclusión de mi intervención, quiero anunciar oficialmente que el próximo 16 de octubre, con motivo de la Jornada Mundial de la Alimentación, que propone este año reflexionar sobre el tema “Cambiar el futuro de la migración” y la presencia de los Ministros de la agricultura del G7, el Papa Francisco vendrá aquí a la FAO, acogiendo la invitación que le ha dirigido el Director General, el Profesor José Graziano Da Silva.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Your Eminence.

I am now honoured to invite Dr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, to deliver his statement to the 40th Session of the Conference of the FAO.

Director-General's Statement to the Conference
Déclaration du Directeur General a la Conférence
Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia
(C 2017/INF/3)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to start by welcoming and thanking all of you for the great turnout at this Conference. I am most grateful for the commitment you all demonstrate by being here today.

During the week, we will have the presence of 1 President, 1 Prime Minister, 1 Deputy Prime Minister, 82 Ministers registered at the moment, 16 Vice-Ministers, 176 Member delegations, and the total of 1.109 participants registered, including many international organizations, the Private Sector, and Civil Society Representatives.

This is a clear reflection of the importance of food and agriculture for Sustainable Development, as we have just heard from Prime Minister Gentiloni, and also from the Cardinal Pietro Parolin. We have to fully explore all the contributions that sustainable agriculture and food systems can give towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

This is why we have prepared 19 side events throughout the week. At least 6 of them are linked to climate change, which is the theme of this Conference. Climate change is today one of the main challenges we are facing. We will have opportunities to discuss the relationships between climate change and food security, nutrition, water scarcity and migration, among other issues.

I wish I could announce here today some good news regarding the global fight against hunger, as I did in the last Conference in 2015. But, unfortunately, it is not the case. Preliminary data available indicate for this year that the number of undernourished people in the world has increased, rising again. The final number will be released in September, with the launch of the State of Food Security and Nutrition, SOFI 2017. But, unfortunately, that is not good news.

I am sure that you are not completely surprised. Earlier this year famine was declared in parts of South Sudan. And by the time famine is declared, it means that thousands of people have already died from hunger. Alerts of high risk of famine were also issued for Northeast Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Nearly 20 million people are heavily affected in these four countries.

And this is happening less than two years after we agreed to eradicate hunger by 2030. Strong political commitment to eradicate hunger is fundamental. But it is not enough. Hunger will only be defeated if countries translate their pledges into concrete action, especially at national and local levels. It is there where the people are in need.

Today, conflicts and the impacts of climate change pose increasing challenges to our global efforts to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty. FAO currently identifies 19 countries in a protracted crisis situation. All of these 19 countries are engaged in internal conflict and violence, often combined with adverse climatic events.

Almost 60 percent of the people suffering from hunger in the world live in areas affected by conflicts and by the impact of climate change. They are predominantly rural people. Their livelihoods have been disrupted. Many of them have found NO option other than increasing the statistics of distress migration. In fact, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has doubled from 2007 to 2015 to nearly 60 million people.

Peace is of course the key to ending these crises. But we cannot wait for peace to take action. There is much we can do to fight hunger during conflicts and protracted crises.

FAO, WFP, IFAD and partners are working hard to assist these vulnerable people. We combine humanitarian assistance with development actions to protect and restore their agriculture-based livelihoods. It is extremely important to ensure that these people have the conditions to continue producing their own food where they live. To save lives, we have to save their livelihoods. We cannot save people and put them in camps.

It is a great pleasure to have with me on podium today Mr Gilbert Houngbo, President of IFAD, and Mr David Beasley, Executive-Director of WFP

At lunch time today, during the Zero Hunger side event, we will elaborate better our ideas to advance in the fight against hunger. On Thursday, FAO is also organizing a special event on conflict and famine. We will present concrete actions, and also share the results that have been achieved so far.

This Conference marks another important step in the FAO transformation process. The Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the next biennium, as well as the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021, have been designed to align FAO's work with the Sustainable Development Goals. In other words, our five Strategic Objectives will have the same targets as many of the SDGs. FAO's work is projected to contribute to the achievement of 40 targets of 15 SDGs.

This alignment has been possible because of the centrality of food and agriculture to the sustainable development agenda 2030. And also because, over the last five years, FAO has adopted an integrated, interlinked and interconnected approach, similar to the SDGs.

In the next biennium, FAO intends to increase its technical capacity in the 10 priority areas. This includes climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable agriculture production, poverty reduction, water scarcity, migration and the support of conflict-affected rural livelihoods. We will continue our work on nutrition, fisheries, forestry and the one-health agenda, including Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). And we are bringing the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to 14 percent of the core budget, as requested by the last Conference.

Let me also observe that the SDGs will greatly impact on the volume of our work in statistics. Just to compare, FAO was responsible for only 4 indicators under the framework of Millennium Development Goals, the MDGs. In relation to the SDGs, FAO is custodian or co-custodian of 25 indicators. This is six times more.

The Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015 presents the results achieved by the Organization during the past biennium. I am glad to announce that almost 90 percent of the output targets were fully achieved, with two thirds of these exceeded. This helped Members to accomplish nearly 80 percent of the expected outcomes. So FAO is delivering, and this is producing an important and measurable impact at the global, regional and especially national level.

This is also a result of the decentralization programme that we have put forward. And it is a great satisfaction to see that Member Countries are officially recognizing that today FAO is much more efficient and effective. National reports from many developed and developing countries now list FAO as an Organization that gives value-for-money.

This performance is also a result of an internal restructuring effort, while sharpening the focus of the Organization. And more important, we have been able to rearrange the Organization without affecting our overall technical capacity. This is the conclusion of the Independent Assessment of our Technical Capacity, presented earlier this year. The report indicates that, in quantitative terms, FAO has increased its technical capacity in the period from 2012 to 2016, both at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices. We are missing a qualitative approach and this will be undertaken internally at the next possible opportunity.

Since 2012 when I took office, we have been operating under the same nominal regular budget. This means a real budget decrease in the last 3 biennia. Despite that, we have found USD 116 million dollars over the last five years in savings, due to efficiency gains, the re-profiling of administrative jobs and also the use of consultants.

But we have cut to the bone. We cannot continue on this path for the future. For the next biennium, we are also de-emphasizing some specific activities to be able to invest in priority areas. We know the reality. We know that countries are facing difficult financial constraints. This is why I have proposed to maintain once more the nominal regular budget for the next biennium. FAO Council has endorsed this proposal, and recommended this Conference to approve it.

In this context, I ask you to remember that voluntary contributions are increasingly vital to FAO. We have elaborated an Information Note that explains the priorities, and also indicates the areas and

activities in which we are expecting to allocate voluntary contributions. And let me renew my appeal to countries to invest their money in FAO. OECD countries, for example, will pay almost 70 million dollars less assessed contributions in the next biennium, due to the new scale that will be approved in this Conference. I urge all countries to keep here at FAO their financial resources that will exceed the total of their new assessment contributions.

Let me conclude by saying that despite the recent setbacks in the fight against hunger, I am still very confident that we can become the Zero Hunger Generation.

We have the global commitment, and we have the tools and knowledge to achieve it. And this is a fight of everyone not just for FAO, WFP and IFAD. We need everyone on board. The SDGs are universal. And it could not be different. Today, what happens in the rural areas of Africa, Asia or Latin America has impacts in many other parts of the world. Migration shows that.

There is no peace without sustainable development, and there is no sustainable development without peace. Vulnerable people, rural people cannot be left behind, especially youth and women. We have to build conditions for them to thrive, for them to have hope. For them to exercise their human right to food.

Ending hunger is the core of FAO mandate. Promoting sustainable agriculture development also. And we will remain firmly true to our mandate, in order to contribute to a better, fairer and safer world for everyone.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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 2017/12; C 2017/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Director-General.

In accordance with Rule VIII (eight) of the General Rules of the Organization, the Conference, after having considered the recommendation of the FAO Council, shall elect three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

The 156th Session of the FAO Council held in April this year proposed three candidates for the three positions of Vice-Chairperson of this session of Conference and consequently the following nominees are now presented to the Conference for approval: Mr Aziz Akhannouch of Morocco; Mr Thomas Duffy of the United States of America; and Mr Matai Seremaiah of Vanuatu.

Can I take it that the Conference approves these nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

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 2017/12; C 2017/LIM/5)

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, Egypt, Malaysia, Peru, San Marino, Uganda, United States of America.

Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. Congratulations.

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee proposed by the Council: Austria, Canada, Cuba, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, New Zealand, Nicaragua, San Marino.

Does the Conference wish to endorse these nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. Congratulations.

Item 34. Any Other Matters
Point 34. Autres questions
Tema 34. Asuntos varios

Item 34.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture

Point 34.1 Conférence McDougall

Tema 34.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall

(C 2017/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to sub-item 34.1, under which the McDougall Memorial Lecture will be delivered to the Conference.

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 will now give the floor to the Director-General, who will introduce the McDougall Lecturer of this 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

Director-General you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have now the honour to introduce Mr Achim Steiner, recently appointed Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mr Steiner, is a development economist, has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. Over nearly three decades, he has worked to champion sustainability, economic growth and equality.

He has served across the United Nations system, looking at global challenges from both humanitarian and development perspective. Prior to his recent appointment he led the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2006 to 2016.

His 10-year term saw UNEP upgraded to universal membership and brought the voice for the environment of the UN system and the main global authority on the environment. His tenure was marked by many strong achievements, to the new global treaty on Mercury and, not least, the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The UN REDD programme, a partnership between FAO, UNEP and UNDP, was launched during Steiner's tenure in 2008 to combat deforestation, and forest degradation.

Mr Steiner has also been a vocal advocate for Sustainable Development Goals. Under his leadership, the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development launched the process that culminated in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

It is indeed an honour for FAO that he accepted our invitation to address FAO Conference. Furthermore, the Members have also proposed the same theme "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" for this biennial team 2018-2019 conference.

It is now a privilege for me to invite Mr Achim Steiner to address the Conference.

Mr Achim STEINER (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme)

I am honoured to deliver this year's McDougall Memorial Lecture. I feel some affinity with Frank McDougal who, like I, spent part of his life on a farm. He was an advocate of using science and analysis to inform policy decisions. And he was a forceful believer that better policies could improve both food production and distribution. He inspired the conference convened by US President Roosevelt in early 1943 that laid the foundations for the establishment of FAO after World War II.

I am also humbled to deliver this lecture, given the stature and knowledge of so many who preceded me, starting with President Lula two years ago, and including two UN Secretary-Generals (Kofi Annan in 2011 and Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1999), Indira Gandhi, and the "father" of the green revolution, Norman Borlaug. I was also preceded, in 2013, by Nobel Laureate in Economics Amartya Sen, arguably the most influential voice in the definition of UNDP's Human Development concept and practice - I will have more to say about Professor Sen's lecture here later in my remarks.

But let me tie my lecture, Amartya's teachings and Frank McDougall's legacy with the thread that has, in the near and recent past, allowed us to understand and fight hunger and poverty with renewed energy and ideas. That is what I intend to do, again, today with these remarks.

Taken at face value, agriculture may not appear central to today's global development and sustainability challenges. How relevant is agriculture, a sector which accounts for less than 4 percent of global GDP?

Yet, today I will argue that agriculture represents much more than what is measured as a sectoral contribution to GDP— first, because we all depend on the availability of and access to food, and second, because it represents one-third of global employment. Most importantly, it is on farms, big and small, around the world that the interaction between people, planet, prosperity and peace can unfold in ways that will either take us to sustainable development or will make our task virtually impossible.

It was the first agricultural revolution, more than 10,000 years ago, that enabled the emergence of civilization. As humans domesticated plants and animals, they built settlements and accumulated surpluses that advanced progress. Greater food production has arguably been the driving motivation for farmers for millennia and may be seen, by some, as the solution to feeding a growing global population. Seen from this perspective, all we should expect from agriculture is to continue to produce more.

I think the challenge, however, is more complex. The world's population is expected to grow to almost 10 billion by 2050, with two-thirds living in cities. This will boost and change agricultural demand,

with some estimating that the world will need to close a 70 percent food gap by 2050. With further income growth and urbanization in low- and middle-income countries, a dietary transition will happen towards higher consumption of meat, fruits and vegetables, relative to that of cereals, requiring commensurate shifts in output and adding pressure on natural resources. Within the complexity of this challenge we can unlock opportunities to advance sustainable development by transforming agriculture.

The “Agriculture Economy” that we inherited from the 20th Century.

The decisions made by a farmer anywhere around the world may appear to her as voluntary or under her control. Her decisions are, in fact, influenced – even determined – by a vast array of factors beyond her control. There is no question that her motivation is to provide for the livelihoods of those that live off the land, be it a small farmer or those that depend on a major agricultural corporation.

But past practices, existing incentives and regulatory frameworks, some global in nature, are leading to behaviour that is resulting in the following central challenge: the need to feed more people and to end hunger against agricultural practices that deplete the natural resource base on which the future of agriculture itself depends upon.

Agriculture was transformed over the last century, leading to greater production and distribution of food and other agricultural products for a rapidly growing population with ever higher incomes and more diversified tastes. Agricultural research, both public and private, became a major enterprise, leading to more efficient production, greater mechanization, and better resistance to pests and environmental stresses.

Complex economic and social interlinkages developed, downstream and upstream – downstream in industries linked to seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, and mechanization, and upstream in activities such as food distribution, packaging, cold-chains, retail, food and beverage hospitality, and tourism. Many of these industries are global in nature, with sourcing and distribution of agricultural produce crossing countries and continents.

Container ships, trucks, trains and airplanes move around the world enough maize, wheat, rice, and soybeans (the largest source of animal protein feed) to feed 40 percent of today’s population. Sophisticated regulatory systems were developed, including those aimed at ensuring food safety. This is the “agriculture economy” under which farmers operate, where economic incentives and a regulatory context, for the most part, are pushing inexorably towards more production.

I will argue that the dominant practices that emerged over the course of the 20th century will need to change on at least three dimensions: improving sustainability, ending hunger, and enhancing peace and stability. I will illustrate linkages across economic, environmental, and social issues and conclude by suggesting possible pathways for transforming agriculture.

Transforming agriculture to transition towards sustainability

The animals and plants upon which agricultural output depends use land and water and are at the mercy of weather conditions. Through human ingenuity, agriculture has evolved to make better use of these resources and to make production less vulnerable to climate conditions. While technological change and innovation will continue to enable progress, we are confronting a more fundamental challenge: an “agriculture economy” that leads to choices that are “mining” unsustainably the very natural resources upon which agricultural output depends.

Agricultural investments and technological innovations have boosted agricultural productivity, and there is more room to grow, both by continuing to raise the frontier of productivity and by helping farmers achieve higher standards of efficiency. The needed acceleration in productivity growth, however, is hampered by the degradation of natural resources and the loss of biodiversity. The risk goes beyond using natural resources in a way that harms agricultural production in the future. It is about us not being able to maintain the ecological infrastructure that underpins our economies and societies.

Agriculture today accounts for 70 percent of fresh water use at a time when one third of the world’s population lives under water stress, with this percentage set to increase to two-thirds by 2025. Over the

last century, three-quarters of the genetic diversity in agricultural crops has been lost, and we depend on only 15 plant and 8 animal species for 90 percent of our caloric and protein intake.

Agriculture continues to claim more land, including forested land, at a time when a quarter of existing agricultural land is already highly degraded. One-third of the world's arable land has been lost to erosion or pollution over the last four decades.

Another "self-defeating" dynamic has to do with agriculture and climate change, the well-chosen topic for the latest State of Food and Agriculture Report published by FAO. More than one-fifth of greenhouse gases emissions can be linked to agriculture, including changes in land use and deforestation. While higher latitudes may see net increases in yields in the short run, the overwhelming impact of climate change on agricultural production – especially in regions where local production is already under stress and over the longer run – is negative.

Climate change disproportionately affects food-insecure regions, jeopardizing crop and livestock production, fish stocks and fisheries. And given that soil is a major repository and storage for carbon, soil erosion and changes in land use linked to agriculture can further undermine efforts to reduce greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere.

But the challenges of sustainability extend beyond natural resource use and climate change. For instance, in the US, 80 percent of the antibiotics consumed are used in agriculture. Some of the major global health concerns at present have to do both with the transmission of infectious agents from animals to humans, as well as the threat of anti-microbial resistance.

This has been recognized not only as a major threat to our wellbeing, but also as a potential major economic challenge in the future. Widespread, often unregulated, use of antibiotics in agriculture compounds these challenges.

Transforming agriculture to end hunger and reduce poverty

For all its achievements during the 20th century, agriculture and the "agriculture economy" of the 21st century have failed to eliminate hunger. Even though the prevalence of undernourishment dropped from 19 percent in 1990 to 11 percent today, close to 800 million remain undernourished.

Again, this is a case in which the "agriculture economy" is, at times, signaling to farmers to produce more when the challenge is elsewhere. The challenge is that local production is not taking place where it needs to happen to feed currently hungry people, and the globalized "agriculture economy" is not making food accessible everywhere and at all times.

As Amartya Sen argued so forcefully in an earlier McDougall Lecture (in 2013), the main reason why there is so much hunger in the world is that a focus on "food production" detracts from considering the manifold challenges that preclude people from having access to the calories and nutrients they need. Ultimately, in Sen's assessment, lack of access to food can be explained by what he calls a loss of "entitlements" either because food prices are too high, income is not enough, or a combination of both.

What Sen's analysis clearly demonstrates – even if it may not be a complete or exhaustive diagnostic of the problem – is that many of the challenges that need to be addressed to end hunger lie beyond agriculture as such, and are much more within the realm of the "agricultural economy".

A bitter irony is that many of the people living in hunger or that are food insecure are themselves engaged in agriculture, either farming or livestock. In many African countries, where there is high prevalence of hunger, up to 80 percent of poor Africans depend on agriculture for income. There is a dual challenge in many of these settings.

The first is that agricultural productivity is typically extremely low, with yields having been stagnant for many years, trapping people in low value-added, family farming. Here agriculture needs to be assisted to transform itself in a similar way to what happened in much of South and East Asia. During the second half of the 20th century, sustained increases in agricultural productivity were the engine that reduced massive extreme poverty, generated income for the development of rural non-farm activities, and ultimately enabled the structural transformation towards manufacturing and higher value-added services. Of course, while technological change and innovation will need to play a role, charting this

pathway will require more than a mere replication of these “green revolutions.” Agriculture has to be transformed so that the massive sustainability challenges now faced by Asian countries are not replicated elsewhere.

The second is the confluence of rapid population growth in environmental stressed areas, as in the Sahel or in the Horn of Africa, and its interaction with natural hazards and conflict that leads to recurrent acute food security crises. In 2016 more than 100 million people globally were facing crisis-levels of food insecurity, 35 percent more than in 2015.

Areas harvested for cereals, as in parts of the Sahel, have grown, because gains in agricultural productivity have not kept pace with increases in populations. This has resulted in encroachment on traditionally grazing lands, with detrimental effects on land quality and social and political tensions.

Higher weather volatility and environmental shocks also generate acute food crises, as illustrated by the impact of El Niño last year in Eastern and Southern Africa. And conflict was, and remains, a main cause of food insecurity in many parts of the world. There is a need to enhance the management of transitory food production shocks. The recurrent inability to access food relates to the reduction in purchasing power, either due to drops in income or increases in food prices, or both. Often, these come together and are self-reinforcing, taking us back to Sen’s loss of entitlements.

To address recurrent inability to access food, we need risk management options that help buffer farmers against production variability (e.g., through weather-based insurance), as well as social protection mechanisms (e.g., cash for work, food for work) or other cash-transfer mechanisms. Greater efforts are needed to develop and expand social protection. The income provided by social protection can be instrumental not only in maintaining “food entitlements,” but more broadly in improving livelihoods and the resilience of the poor to shocks.

Transforming agriculture to enhance peace and stability.

Political and social instability, which can result in violent conflict, is the result of complex interactions among people, ecosystems, and economic and political factors. Environmental shocks and/or other factors that lead to sharp increases in food prices or loss of income have triggered social and political instability. This is exacerbated when there is competition over water or land, between competing claims over the use of these resources for agriculture, especially in environmentally stressed areas.

While this is a contentious field, evidence suggests at least an association between deviations from expected weather patterns (including rainfall, but especially temperature) and an increase in the risk of an outbreak of violence, especially when these environmental shocks interact with economic exclusion and horizontal inequalities. For instance, research found that while only 9 percent of armed conflict outbreaks between 1980 and 2010 coincided with disasters linked to droughts or heatwaves, this percentage increases to 23 – almost one quarter – in ethnically fractionalized settings.

The interaction between conflict, environmental shocks, political exclusion, and livelihoods has been shown to depend highly on agricultural practices. A recent study found that droughts significantly increase the likelihood of sustained violent conflict in low-income settings where ethnically/politically excluded groups are dependent on agriculture.

Another study traced the effect of the worst drought in recorded history in the Fertile Crescent, which started in 2005, on events that unfolded in Syria just prior to the 2011 uprisings. Both the drought and longer-term trends towards warming, reductions in soil moisture, and decreases in precipitation are shown in the study to be linked to climate change.

In 2008, during the driest winter in Syria’s recorded history, wheat production failed and almost all livestock was lost. As a result, 1.5 million people were internally displaced, moving – along with as many Iraqi refugees – to peripheral urban areas. Facing overcrowding and lack of basic services, with unemployment rampant, these areas faced civil unrest that intensified in March 2011. This does not imply causality between the drought and the conflict in Syria, but illustrates how events and dynamics related to how agriculture is managed can contribute to violent conflict or political instability.

The interaction between environmental stressors, conflict, displacement, and competition over scarce natural resources calls for strengthened joint work in bridging the large-scale immediate humanitarian

needs with interventions to build the recovery and longer-term resilience of vulnerable populations. Take for instance, the case of Somalia, where meeting food security needs call for hundreds of millions of dollars in food assistance, when rehabilitating the major irrigation systems in Somalia leading to a more productive agriculture would be much less.

The current humanitarian aid to guarantee food security could be rendered unnecessary if at some point we manage to break the vicious circle of need and instead invest to repair the five main irrigation systems of the country. The difficulty is to combine the life-saving assistance needed when the crisis hits with the structural investments in development so that it does not hit again.

The UN is already leading joint efforts by humanitarian, development and peace partners to deliver urgent humanitarian assistance and build resilience, in line with the agreements reached at the World Humanitarian Summit.

Pathways to transform our world through the transformation of agriculture.

For agriculture to survive on the right amount of water and land, for the planet to survive on the right temperature and use of resources, and for humankind to survive on the right amount of food, new pathways have to be charted towards agricultural transformation. Let me suggest three elements to consider as we reflect on what it will take to chart those pathways.

First, and perhaps the most important point, is that seeking to transform agriculture in a silo is not going to work. I would argue that this is valid beyond the discussion on agriculture. It illustrates the integrated approaches and the identification of interlinkages across sectors that we will need to consider as we advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Agriculture has to be understood as part of the “agriculture economy,” with all its upstream and downstream linkages, and this “agriculture economy” is, in itself, part of a broader economic, social, and political system.

Let me illustrate what I mean with an example. Food consumption preferences, as I argued above, will have a major impact on the future evolution of agriculture. What people choose to eat will have a bearing on the impact of agriculture on the environment, but also on our individual and public health. In fact, increasingly, non-communicable diseases, many linked to dietary habits, are already a major cause of premature death and disability, in both developed and developing countries.

So how much of a difference on future pathways for agriculture, the environment, and our health would a change in diets make? One recent study found that shifts in current dietary patterns towards more plant- and less meat-based diets, in line with current health guidelines, could reduce global mortality by 6-10 percent and greenhouse gases emissions by 29-70 percent by 2050 compared to a reference scenario.

Monetizing these benefits, the improvements in health and environment outcomes could be valued by as much as USD 30 trillion by 2050. Yet, acting to unleash these benefits through changes in diets lies largely beyond the purview of authorities with direct responsibility for agriculture, or even with influence on the broader “agriculture economy”, encouraging healthier diets that are more plant-based and shrinking excessive consumption of animal products calls for action in sectors such as public health.

Second, we have to shift market incentives and regulations away from maximizing production, and towards optimizing agricultural production systems to enable an “agriculture economy” that invests, maintains, and sustains the foundations on which not only agricultural but ultimately all livelihoods depend. Clearly, farmers and those working in the “agriculture economy” downstream and upstream are not taking these actions deliberately as an act of self-defeat – for them and, ultimately, for the planet. It only so happens that current regulatory systems and economic incentives are not fully capturing the total costs, including to future generations, of these unsustainable agricultural practices.

The challenge here is to ensure that the future of agriculture reflects true costs and true benefits, and that through both the market system and regulatory frameworks, prices are aligned to make agriculture sustainable, both to farmers, and to all of us. And while all natural resources matter, land has a central place in the future of agriculture, but also on how we manage challenges ranging from climate change to urbanization. After all, it was US President Roosevelt that, in the midst of the “dust bowl” – itself

the result of unsustainable and destructive agricultural practices – said that it was critical “*to conserve the soil as our basic asset. The Nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.*”

A reflection of how much room there is to improve within the “agriculture economy” is reflected in that one-third of all the food produced in the world is lost or wasted. Food losses reflect failures in the agricultural process or downstream to it (for example, in storage or marketing) that impede food to get to consumers, while food waste does reach consumers but is ultimately discarded. This is even more troubling when the economic, and business case is clear: a recent study showed that for every dollar invested by firms in reducing food loss and waste would generate 14 dollars in return.

And, similarly, the public initiatives are both effective and cost efficient. An initiative in the United Kingdom reduced household food waste by more than 20 percent between 2007 and 2012, with a 250:1 return on investment. These high rates of return should not be surprising, given the inefficiency of a system in which one in three of everything that is put into it – inputs, resources, human ingenuity and labor – vanishes. Something that would be unacceptable in most settings, but it is tolerated by today’s “agriculture economy.”

Third, we need to leverage agriculture to further enhance livelihoods, in and off the farm, in rural areas. Of the 570 million farms around the world, 90 percent – producing 80 percent of the world’s food - are managed by one person or a family. And 84 percent of family farms are small (occupying less than 2 hectares), with many small family farmers being both poor and food insecure. They are vulnerable to shocks, often hesitant to use new and better crops or methods, in the absence of risk management tools, with intensive resource use threatening the viability of their farms.

Yet, this is not the reality everywhere, and we know that farmers can be empowered if they are better connected to markets (for both inputs and outputs), have means to manage risks (including by diversifying their income, having access to insurance, and being provided social protection), and are given access, and a stake in developing, new technologies and farming innovations, including those that can lead to more sustainable use of resources.

With farmers more connected to markets, to information, and to knowledge, lives on the farm can make agriculture more attractive to youth, including young people with skills. Lives on the farm are not condemned to be seen as low-status livelihoods, if through the use of agricultural science, through the deployment of innovative ICTs, and through the development of financial products (from credit to insurance), opportunities are seized to both increase yields sustainable and raise farmers’ incomes, including by adding value to primary products (for example, producing jams out of fruits).

Higher purchasing power on the farm will also spur non-farm economic activities in rural areas, as lower food prices and higher incomes combine to increase demand for non-agricultural goods and services that can be produced in rural areas.

The subtitle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is: “Transforming Our World.” I would argue that through the three elements that I have just outlined, the transformation of agriculture can be a fundamental enabler for the achievement of the SDGs.

My main message today is that to transform our world, as called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we need to transform agriculture. Doing so cannot be seen as a technical challenge to be addressed within the agricultural sector, but rather as a complex undertaking that calls for integrated approaches considering economic, environmental, and social aspects. It is in many ways a profound political reforms agenda. And an agenda that needs to recognize farmers as agents of change, operating within a larger “agriculture economy”, that with the right incentives and enablers, can leverage agriculture to enhance livelihoods and sustainability.

The agricultural transformation has to happen with the same speed, if not more rapidly, than the changes that we saw over the course of the 20th century. The shifts need to be enabled by an “agriculture economy” that makes the enterprise much more than being about producing crops, moving agriculture towards enabling the management of ecological assets, from which we derive ecosystem services for agriculture and beyond. Agriculture has to be transformed to benefit those that have been “left behind,” amidst a world of excessive food production that coexists with the immoral

paradox of widespread hunger. And, finally, agriculture has to be transformed to enable risk management, including conflict risk, rather than being a multiplier of cascading threats.

It might be appropriate to end by quoting Amartya Sen, to whom I referred to earlier, and the conclusion of his McDougal lecture. He said that "*Doing one thing at a time is never particularly good advice when it comes to economic and social policy*". He went on to say that this is particularly misleading in tackling massive challenges like the prevalence of hunger in the modern world. He called, therefore, for all of us to do many different things – together. It is the same appeal that I leave you with today, so that we can transform agriculture to transform our world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank Mr Steiner for delivering the 30th McDougall Lecture.

As we all know, Frank McDougall was from Australia, hence I now call upon the Honourable Barnaby Joyce, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources of Australia to take the floor.

Mr Barnaby JOYCE (Australia)

It is a great pleasure to be here. Frank McDougall was not necessarily Australian, he started in England and came to Australia, and did a lot of work in the fruit section, and then he went to the United States of America and did a lot of work there. He lobbied Eleanor Roosevelt and it was part of the process of trying to set up this Organization here. It was instrumental and he did a great job.

I know how these things work. I am a politician but I am also a farmer. My father is a farmer, and I am a farmer. In fact, if we go back to our roots in Europe, when we go to visit them, they are farmers.

But I know how these conferences work. If you can remember all of the speakers, you are doing exceptionally well. If you can remember what they said you are a genius. So, I will try to keep this brief.

It is really quite simple. In the next 50 years, the world will have to produce as much food as it has, in humanity to this point. That is our task for the next 50 years. That is pretty awesome. The result, if you fail in that task is that people will starve to death. You might not see them or know them, but they will exist. Food is fungible like everything else. If you take something out of the stack of food in Europe. If you take something out of the stack of food in the South East Asia, then they might not be in the South East Asia or Europe where someone starves but it might be in the North Africa or in another part, or in one of the islands.

So, we have to take this as an honorable and just cause. An honorable and just cause. There is nothing more honorable than feeding and clothing people. So the task, that you are at, is an honorable task.

As the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, I had a choice of any portfolio. I have chosen this portfolio because it is imperative we get this calculation right. If there are four things that I want to leave with you, I will try to leave you with four things, the first thing is that no one is going to produce anything unless they get a fair return. Unless farmers get a fair return for the farm gate, they are not going to be motivated to grow much at all. They have to be paid, a decent wage, a decent return for the endeavors that they put in. It is an item number one.

I said it to my department when they asked what I was going to concentrate on. I said, get a fair return back to the farm gate and other things will follow after that. So, we concentrate on that.

In our nation since we have been in the Government, we have increased food production by about a third, across the nation. Including in the irrigation areas such as the marine island basin.

The second thing is trade. You have got to trade. You have to think about the logic of it. If Umbria just traded with Umbria there would not be much happening in Umbria. If we just had Tennessee trading with Tennessee there would not be much happening in Tennessee.

You have got to acknowledge that you must trade. You have to have the movement of products. Products have to move. People need to play to their strategic advantages. If we are going to make this task work. And these issues are before you at the moment. We have the free trade agreements coming up. Always push for trade.

Push for trade, if you want it to prevail.

Otherwise, we can go back as I was saying in Brussels the other day. Brussels would have been supplied by people 150 kilometers from Brussels. It was not a great economic model. You would have had beggars on the street and people starving. Not quite the way we want to go.

So let's get that trade moving as quickly as possible.

The obvious one that has already been mentioned by Achim Steiner. It is storage, we could feed about 250 million people extra per year. If we got our storage right. Especially in the tropical areas where you get spoilage. This is something that we were to concentrate on. In our small way, in our own nation we have increased the tax deductibility of storage. Because this is absolutely important. That is the low hanging fruit. Something that you can do straight away.

Final thing is innovation. If we think about what Norman Borlaug did. It was instrumental. Norman Borlaug in the Green Revolution, think about the innovation that he did. From about 1946 to 1963 instrumental in the wheat trade from Mexico increasing six fold. Because he had the capacity to see around corners. He was an iconoclast. Some of the crazy ideas that are out there, he made sure that people looked for the next step.

One of the crazy ideas I had then, was that it was believed that grain needed to rest, before you planted it. So, before you planted it, it had to rest. It had to give it a little bit of sleep. He fought against that idea to such an extent that he resigned. He thought this was crazy, we cannot stick with this crazy idea, however, people said that this was the status quo and you needed to believe in it. He resigned but he was encouraged to come back in. What an incredible endowment he was to the world.

We have to try and work out, how when dealing with this equation, dealing with the fact that by 2050 that we will have ten billion people in the world. In the next 50 years we need to find as much food as we have to be produced to this point now in humanity.

We better start being prepared to be iconoclasts as well and working on how to deal with some of these issues. Otherwise the result of this mathematical equation is quite simple, we are all sustained by protein, carbohydrates, and fats. If the equation is wrong you die. If we are going to try and make this work we are going to have to be iconoclasts as well. We cannot just sit in some sort of religious vessel. Thinking that we can make this work without actually looking around corners.

We are going to have to look at genetic modification. I get very frustrated when people say you should not. Wheat itself, a hexaploid gene. We have been marking about the wheat for about ten thousand years. In fact the genome is so complex, it is more complex than the human genome. Harder to map than the human genome. We do not have another ten thousand years to get to 2050. We do not have even another ten years that Norman Borlaug had in trying to get that increase in weight from Mexico which then he took to Pakistan and then the rest of the world. We do not have that time. We have to move now. We have got to move right now. We have to use the instruments that we have at our disposal. That intellect that resides there at the moment.

We have to make a stand. If you want to be on the side of a person, as happened in Australia, in which one goes and wiper snips the genetic modified wheat crop, as a form of protest. No, that is just another mechanism that will make this equation more difficult. We need to be smart enough to deal with these issues. Remember, even with what we do at the moment, we are trying to get new yields, all we are doing is bombarding it with radiation bombarding it with chemicals and trying to get mutations. Then picking the better mutation to use ourselves. That is what you do with genetic modifications. We need

to be brave enough to be the iconoclasts. We need to be aware that we are not going to make this equation work.

So what are the two big ones that I see? Well, part of it relates back to Norman Borlaug. He was looking at the photosynthesis. We should be looking at this again as well. How to get a more efficient use of the genomes of photosynthesis. This will give us an exponential jump in growth. That work is happening at the moment. If you can get the C4 gene and you can splice it in the C3 gene. If you can have the sugar cane, you can manage to splice it into things such as wheat you will have that exponential growth. If you can get that plant to be nitrogen fixation then that is also going to help you as well.

If a Conference such as this wants to concentrate on things such as that. If it was actually focused on the reality of how you create more food, then you are doing a worthwhile job. You have to remember. Global warming whether we can fix it or not, it is going to be there. You have got to deal with it. We have to try and manage it. However, do not think that if you just concentrate on that you can put aside the issue of how you actually feed people. That is going to be a task.

That is what you in this room are going to be judged by. You will be judged by what movements and what actions you took today to try and make sure that by 2050 that people were not starving. If you are doing that than you are part of that noble and just occupation. That noble cause of farming. Farmers that feed and clothe people. That is your part of this process.

I will close with this. One thing that you all have in common is that you are involved in government. In one way shape or form. You ask yourself where is agriculture in your cabinet? Where is it? How much of a say does it have? How much resources does it have? What type of resources does it have? What sort of resources are you putting towards it? How seriously are you taking it? That is what you take back to your countries.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 34.1. I wish once again to thank Mr Steiner for addressing the Conference at its opening meeting, and to wish him well with his appointment as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

I now have the honour to welcome His Excellency, Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, and to invite him to address the Conference.

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

Mr Wifred NGIRWA (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I should like to begin by offering my congratulations to the Honourable Emmanuel F. Piñol, Secretary for Agriculture of the Philippines, on his election as Chairperson of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. I wish Mr Piñol well as he guides us through this intense week of deliberations.

And I would like to thank Mr Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, for delivering a perceptive and stimulating McDougall Lecture, the keynote speech that sets the tone for the Conference.

I also wish to acknowledge the statement made by the Director-General, which Delegates will bear in mind during the deliberations that will take place in this Plenary Hall, and in the Commissions, throughout this week. I am sure we all appreciated the forward-looking and constructive approach, which characterizes not only Mr Graziano's address to the Conference, but also his leadership of this Organization.

As many of you will know, this is the second time that I have the honour to address the Conference in my role as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and now that I have reached the end of my second term of office, I should like to share some reflections on the past four years. But, before I start highlighting Council's recent past, please allow me to reflect briefly on the state of food and agriculture across the globe.

We have already heard from the previous speakers about the challenges impacting on food security and nutrition. Clearly the world has witnessed significant leaps in technology and innovation that have provided incomparable opportunities for increased agricultural production.

These positive trends should not, however, detract our attention from the continuing threats posed by: climate change, to which agriculture not only has to adapt, but also has an important mitigation role; unsustainable production practices; inequalities in income; displacement and migration – all these factors, and many more which jointly hinder our efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition. FAO is in the middle of this complex situation.

Since 2012 FAO and its Members have embarked on a joint exercise to decide how the Organization should be positioned to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness in a world struggling with complex and protracted crises.

Furthermore, as we are all aware from our experience at the national level, resources for development are ever more scarce, and this calls for prioritization of FAO activities and programmes.

Under the leadership of the Director-General, and within the constraints of available resources, FAO Management and Members, in line with the Director-General's "strategic thinking process", re-focused the strategic direction of the Organization.

The outcome of this process was the setting out of five comprehensive Strategic Objectives upon which the work of the Organization was aligned. The structural reform of the Organization has led to a streamlined and effective headquarters and a further consolidation of the decentralized offices.

The structural reform of the Organization was complimented by the reform of its governance structure and in this regard, I believe it is particularly significant that consensus on the budget level for 2018-19 was found upstream of this Session, when, in May 2017, the Council agreed to forward a draft resolution on budgetary appropriations to this session of Conference for approval. This was also the case in March 2015, and was referred to as an "historic consensus" at that time.

This constructive outcome is due in large measure to the willingness of Members to work productively with each other, and also with management, within the context of the Strategic Framework, in order to reach consensus.

I am therefore grateful to Members and Management alike, for your readiness to engage with complex and sometimes divisive issues in a frank and respectful manner.

I should like to briefly run through some key issues discussed by the FAO Council over the past four years. My intention is to give you a sense of my perception, also the range and scope of the work covered during the ten sessions I chaired from 2013 to 2017. Some of these issues became recurring themes over the period, and some were also discussed in informal inter-sessional consultations, often mandated by the Council itself.

I know some Members will recall that it took a decade-long reform process, and many sessions of the Council and Working Groups, to develop the Council's present business-like and transparent decision-making processes. Indeed, I am in the privileged position of having seen governance reforms coming to fruition over the past decade, as I was a Vice-Chairperson of the process.

Looking back over the past four years, I can confirm that positive changes did occur, and that the way Council works today is undoubtedly more focused and more efficient.

For example, Council's constructive approach was very evident during my first mandate when we built up a good team dynamic in the FAO/WHO Joint Working Group that negotiated the two outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). This led to a successful ICN2 in November 2014.

Later, in December 2014 the Council tasked me with leading an Open-ended Working Group on FAO's work on Antimicrobial Resistance. The outcome of these informal meetings was a Conference Resolution adopted unanimously by the Conference at its last session in June 2015.

Subsequently, I was mandated by the Council to hold consultations with the regional groups, and open to all Members, with a view to reaching agreement on the proposed rules for participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings.

Again, informal inter-sessional consultations were the basis of the decision by Council to maintain the status quo in this key aspect of FAO's activities.

Likewise, the outcome of the important review of decentralized offices was discussed constructively and negotiated through informal meetings and led to a clear decision by the Council and Conference.

All of the decision-making processes combined informal negotiations among Members, with high value input by Management, in an informal setting before Governing Bodies endorsed our decisions formally.

Before concluding these brief remarks, I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I am grateful to them for their unfailing support throughout their terms of office.

I am also very grateful to the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences.

As well as reaching the end of my four years as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, I am also completing a thirteen-year period in Rome.

Before becoming Independent Chairperson of the Council, I served as Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Rome UN-based Agencies; that is, FAO, IFAD and WFP. I am happy that the collaboration of the three Rome UN-based Agencies has enhanced its effectiveness and efficiency.

I am grateful to the Government of Tanzania for having assigned me with this important role and subsequently for having nominated me for the Office of Independent Chairperson.

I am also grateful to all Members for having made my task much easier by coming to talk to me informally about emerging issues. I would also like to thank our Host Country, the Republic of Italy, for its constant and generous support for FAO.

Likewise, I have also had many opportunities, whether as Permanent Representative of my country or as Independent Chairperson of Council, to appreciate how the FAO Secretariat provides highly professional and reliable assistance both during and between sessions of the Council and other Governing Bodies.

Before concluding let me remark on the ability of a multilateral Organization like FAO to work with Members to find solutions to the intricate global issues and crises that afflict the contemporary world in the field of food and agriculture.

The complexity of the challenges we face requires, more often than not, a degree of compromise by all parties. And compromise is, of course, easier to achieve in a forum such as the Council, where respect for diversity of opinion is a guiding principle.

Please now allow me to conclude by saying how much I am indebted to my loving wife and family for having constantly supported me here in Rome, and at a distance. I would never have been able to carry out my functions as Ambassador, and then as Independent Chairperson, without their patience, understanding and encouragement.

I am grateful to them for that, as I am grateful to Almighty God for having granted me sufficiently good health to face what have been both rewarding and challenging years.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much your Excellency Ambassador Ngirwa. Allow me to convey to you our very best wishes for your future endeavours now that your term of office is drawing to an end. Before closing our meeting, I will pass the floor to Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to 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 of Building D) for the First Meeting of the General Committee starting immediately after the close of this plenary meeting. Starting more precisely at 11.30.

I also wish to remind delegates of an important side event on “Zero Hunger: Turning Commitment into Action to Achieve SDG 2” which could start at 13.30 and last until 15.00 in this Plenary Hall.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Secretary-General, Mr Gagnon. This brings us to the end of our work for this morning. The Second meeting of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall at 15.00 hours this afternoon.

With this, I declare our First Plenary Meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11:08 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 08

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.08

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 July 2017

The Second Meeting was opened at 15.42 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 15 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 15.42
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Second Plenary Meeting of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference to order.

I wish to announce a change in the composition of the Bureau of the Conference, namely with regard to the Vice-Chairpersons. We have been informed that regrettably due to pressing commitments, it was not possible for His Excellency Aziz Akhannouch, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of Morocco to attend the Conference and will be replaced as Vice-Chairperson of the Conference by His Excellency Ambassador Hassan Abouyoub, Permanent Representative of Morocco to FAO.

Likewise, it was not possible for His Excellency Matai Seremaiah, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity of Vanuatu to attend and will therefore be replaced by Mr Noah Patrick Kouback, Counsellor at the Embassy of Vanuatu in Brussels.

Now, in the interest of the safety of all present, I request your attention for a few minutes for a video 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 for a short statement 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 2017/INF/2.

First Report of the Credentials Committee**Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs****Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales****(C 2017/LIM/21)****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 Monica Robelo Raffone of Nicaragua, Vice-Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Vice Presidente del Comité de Credenciales)

El Comité de Verificación de Credenciales celebró dos reuniones de trabajo los días 30 de junio y el 3 de julio de 2017. Su primer informe figura en el documento C 2017/LIM/21. En breve, se publicará otro informe en la medida que la información recibida esté evolucionando.

El informe proporciona información general sobre las normas y prácticas de trabajo del Comité de Verificación de Credenciales y sobre el hecho de que la FAO, a este respecto, sigue el Artículo 3 del Reglamento General de la Organización, así como la práctica y los criterios respaldados por los Órganos de gobierno de la Organización.

A la fecha, 170 Países Miembros han presentado credenciales o información sobre la composición de sus delegaciones. El Comité recomienda a la Conferencia que se acepten las credenciales de las delegaciones que figuran en el Anexo 1 del documento C 2017/LIM/21, y recomienda que se autorice a todas las delegaciones a participar en la sesión de la Conferencia.

Invito a los Países Miembros a que comuniquen directamente a la Secretaría a través de la Oficina de protocolo toda información adicional sobre sus cartas credenciales, así como cualquier corrección de

la composición de sus delegaciones. El primer Informe del Comité de Credenciales está disponible en el documento C 2017/LIM/21. Invito por tanto a la Conferencia a aprobar el informe oral.

CHAIRPERSON

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

My thanks go to the Chairperson and members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out.

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 2017/1 Rev.1; C 2017/12; C 2017/INF/1 Rev.1; C 2017/INF/2; C 2017/LIM/5; C 2017/LIM/18)

Item 4. Admission of Observers

Point 4. Admission d'observateurs

Tema 4. Admisión de observadores

(C 2017/13 Rev.1; C 2017/LIM/18)

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau de la Conférence

Primer informe del Comité General

(C 2017/LIM/18)

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*.

The General Committee met earlier this morning 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 2017/LIM/18.

I will now proceed to go through the report section by section, and will 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.

Furthermore, the General Committee recommended that the sub-item 18.9, *Proposed Establishment of a World Food Safety Day* be included on the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendments?

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted as amended. We now proceed to the following sections.

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 Independent Chairperson of the Council

Section F: Election of Members of the Council

Section G: Right to Vote

Section H: Right of Reply

Section I: Verbatim Records

Section J: Statements by Heads of Delegations

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

Section L: Attendance by Palestine

Section M: Conclusion

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

Thank you, the First Report of the General Committee is adopted.

Before we continue with item 9 on our Agenda, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for a brief announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to inform delegates that the first meeting of Commission I and first meeting of Commission II will start shortly in the Green and Red Rooms respectively, on the first floor of building A. In this regard, I wish to inform delegates that a majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for decisions on substantive questions.

Item 9. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture

Point 9. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

Tema 9. Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura

(C 2017/2; C 2017/12)

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I now invite those members of the delegations who will be participating in the meetings of the two Commissions to take their leave of the Plenary Hall and proceed to the Red and Green Rooms.

We will now commence with item 9 on our Agenda, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

There are two background documents for this item: C 2017/2 and C 2017/12. The latter sets out the theme the Council proposed for the General Debate, that is "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security"

I now give the floor to Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development who will introduce this item.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Honourable Chairperson of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is a growing international recognition that advancing climate change poses a threat to global food security. The agricultural sectors, crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry occupy a special role in relation to climate change and food security. It is precisely this reason for which we produced in 2016 the flagship report of FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), focusing on climate change, agriculture, and food security. The report that you have in front of you, a short conference document, is a summary of the SOFA report which I urge everyone to read. Mr Rob Voss who was sitting next to me was directing a longer report.

The basic facts concerning agriculture and food security are well known and they were raised several times in the Plenary this morning. Agriculture will be called to feed ten billion people between now and 2050 in an environment of declining resources both in quality and quantity, and that close to 75 percent of the poorest people in this world live in rural areas and derive their living directly from agriculture or from activities closely linked to it. So what happens in agriculture crucially affects global and household food security.

There are many reasons for focusing on agriculture, climate, and food security; that is, focusing on the effects on food security through the agricultural sector. Firstly, climate change is not only a growing threat it is a reality. Affecting the agricultural sectors and food security through extreme weather events and the increasing unpredictability of otherwise cyclical weather patterns. With a gradual rise in temperatures, those effects are expected to intensify in the future. We need to take action, so agriculture adapts to these changes.

Secondly, agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gasses (GHG) contributing to more than 20 percent of total GHG emissions, a great deal can be done to mitigate the effects of climate change through proper management of agricultural resources and practices. Therefore, agriculture is a major part of the solution. In short, agriculture will need to adapt to climate change and contribute also to its mitigation.

The main message of this report is “business as usual” is not the answer. We also need to change the way in which we manage agriculture and food systems. However, we should also consider the good news. The international community has taken notice with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, The Paris Agreement and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 22) in Marrakech, Morocco. Through those, the international community has recognized the need for urgent action to address climate change. Most countries have also recognized the need for both adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector. The 2016 addition of SOFA aims to help shape the required action by identifying some solutions and strategies.

Climate change is already affecting agricultural production in a negative way, and this will become increasingly severe over time. Given the uncertainty of the future effects, the scientific community has carried out several projections or future scenarios on what could be the future impact of climate change on crop yields for different locations and time periods.

The graphic that you see summarizes at the global level those projections. In this graph, the red bars are the bad news. They represent the percentage of those projections that show a negative impact on yields for different time periods. The dark colours represent the share of projections with the biggest impact. The lighter colours represent the share of projections showing a smaller impact. Similarly, the blue bars are the good news. They are the percentage of projections that show positive impacts of climate change.

If you look at the period 2010–2029, you will see that the sizes of the two bars are practically the same. That means that up to 2030 the negative and positive outcomes will likely offset each other at the global level; that is CO₂, carbon dioxide, may have some fertilization effects, or some areas that were not suitable for agriculture could become more suitable. However, beyond 2030 the share of negative impacts represented by the red bars clearly prevails over the positive impacts represented by the blue bars and the impacts become more severe.

The figure illustrates projections covering the whole world. However, analyses the figures, you will see the good news is in the higher latitude areas and more of the bad news is in countries in lower latitudes, which historically suffer from reduced agricultural productivity and food insecurity.

However, here we are not only speaking about magnitudes of agriculture but about people. The impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity will have effects on people. Lower productivity and more volatile production will have dramatic impacts on food security. It will particularly affect populations who already suffer high levels of undernourishment and food insecurity, particularly in countries at lower latitudes.

For countries and locations dependent on agriculture, a declining yield will have negative ripple effects in the whole rural activity that depends on agriculture and will cause prices to increase and become more volatile. Within agriculture, our results show that a vulnerable population group who depend on agriculture and do not have the means to adapt to climate change effects will be most heavily affected, in particular small-scale agricultural producers.

In the absence of policies to reduce poverty and inequality and strengthen the resilience of small-scale households to shocks, according to the World Bank, climate change could lead to an increase in the number of poor in extreme poverty by 35 to 122 million people by 2030. The date in which we set to

eliminate poverty altogether. Rural women will be severely affected due to limited access to assets and risk coping mechanisms; therefore, in the absence of interventions, it will be more difficult for women to adapt.

Farmers can adapt to climate change by using existing innovative solutions and production systems can be made more resilient to climate change. Several sustainable practices, exist whereas others have to come into place. Many can contribute to both adaptation and mitigation of climate change, for example, include no-tillage and integrated fertility management, improved pasture management, better management of water resources and developing improved nitrogen-efficient crop varieties. Suitable options will, of course, be context-specific and depend on both agro-ecological and socioeconomic conditions.

The agriculture sectors will also have to contribute to climate change mitigation. We have identified two ways of doing so. First of all, increasing the efficiency and lowering the emission intensities, that is the GHG per unit of output of agriculture production. For example, increases in yields of crops and livestock.

Secondly, creating *carbon reach landscapes* that sequester carbon from the atmosphere in both forests and agricultural production systems. Avoiding deforestation and increasing the area under forest cover as well as increasing the capacity of soils to sequester carbon, a huge potential restoration of soil degradation, avoiding over grazing, along with others, will be two of the key solutions to mitigation.

Now, we are already seeing progress. Crop and livestock efficiency has already increased significantly over the past decades and should not be ignored. Pressures on natural resources have been reduced and emission intensities have been going down. These efforts have to be scaled up significantly. However, we are not yet there. What we need is improved long-term farm management strategies which would reduce yield gaps, increase herd productivity, and reduce pressures on natural resources.

We have stated before that adopting improved farm practices that make production systems more resilient and efficient is a major challenge, but such practices can also increase profitability and efficiency on the farm. Several practices of adaptation and mitigation produce “side positive benefits” and are compatible with increasing efficiency and profitability in agriculture. The question is: if it is all so beautiful, why are we not adopting it? Well, smallholder producers face major barriers. Here is the problem. And it is not a problem only with technologies affecting climate change. It is the problem with adopting yield-increasing technology in general.

FAO conducted an extensive review of existing knowledge on barriers to adoption of different agronomic and agroforestry practices. The results show that the most important barriers, especially for small farmers, to adopt such technologies include land tenure security, access to credit and information, labour availability, the presence of social infrastructure such as cooperatives, produce associations, and fundamentally aversion to risk in conjunction with lack of risk management instruments.

Nobody will adopt a technology that will knock out its production and will have no recourse. Improved technologies will only be adopted on a wide scale if these barriers to smallholder farmers are overcome. As I said, this is not a new problem but it becomes much more pressing with the severe effects of climate change that we expect.

Now there are additional challenges beyond the farm gate. GHG emissions need to be reduced through interventions in the broader food system; that is from production to processing; and transportation to distribution. One should look at solutions throughout the food system, and that is why taking a food system approach, as the FAO does, is very important.

Additionally, we have to look at food losses and waste; the diets of people and promoting nutritious and balanced diets has been shown to be also environmentally and climate-friendly. Energy efficiency is also critical. A number of studies have looked at the environmental consequences of consumption patterns, and those can be certainly adjusted substantially.

Now beyond the farm, how do we protect livelihoods of people and make them more resilient? A key strategy here is diversification. There are two types of diversification. Firstly, agricultural

diversification means adding plant varieties and species as well as animal breeds to the production process. It may also involve landscape diversification with different crops and crop systems over space and time. The second goes beyond farm. It talks about livelihood diversification, meaning that farming households engage in multiple agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

What policies and investments can help households diversify and manage risk? Social protection programmes can be part of the solution. Enabling small-scale sustainable agribusiness development can be part of the solution. Let us not forget that men and women have different capacities to respond to climate change; therefore interventions to enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods should recognize gender differences.

What is the way forward from here?

Policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) are complex; include trade-offs; and are context-specific for making broad generalizations. What is needed is a comprehensive look at the whole policy framework, including inputs, diets, food policy, and other types of policy that support the transition to a sustainable framework in the future. Not an easy task, but something that has to be done. To ensure that all actors in the value chain do the right thing, appropriate policies must provide the right incentives to farmers, food processors, distributors, transporters, and consumers.

The SOFA report discusses a range of those solutions. Let me mention just a few. First, price incentives need to change. Many countries provide support to agricultural production in excess of what is needed, including subsidies of inputs, fertilizers, and energy, in the order of approximately USD 560 billion per year. That means some of those subsidies are harmful and do more damage than good. Suggesting there is fiscal space to put more money into climate-friendly actions.

Second, international cooperation for sharing knowledge and manage common resources such as fish stocks and agrobiodiversity.

Third, is revisiting policies on food consumption, nutrition prices, and improved transparency and participation of all stakeholders which has been shown to have positive effects in the solutions found.

Finally, I would like to talk a little bit about climate finance. Substantial climate finance is essential for large-scale transformation to a suitable climate-friendly system. International public finance for CCAM for the agricultural sector has increased recently but is below what is needed. We know that more finance is needed.

However, available resources, in our view, could be leveraged better. In particular, public funds should be oriented towards the following priority areas: up front support to increase productivity and build capacity for adaptation; reinforcing the enabling environment needed to overcome the barriers that I talked about towards the adoption of climate-friendly agriculture; strengthen the policy and institutional framework of many Governments addressing systemic capacity constraints; and unlocking private capital for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) investment is essential. To do that, climate finance should act as a catalyst and demonstrate the viability of CSA investments in order to attract private capital.

As argued throughout the 2016 edition of the SOFA report, the cost of not taking any action outweighed by far the cost of adapting to climate change in the agricultural sectors. Agriculture must change because of climate change. Doing so will not be easy, but it can be done and it will pay off, but action is needed now.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

Montenegro, Chile, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Cabo Verde, Thailand, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Brazil, Netherlands, Benin, Algeria, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Philippines, Uganda, Norway, Senegal, Egypt, Indonesia, United States of America, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovakia, Burkina Faso, Sweden, Costa Rica, Singapore

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 earlier this morning.

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 website and inclusion in the verbatim records of this session.

His Excellency Milutin SIMOVIC, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System, and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro (Original language Montenegrin)

It is my great honor to address you on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Let me stress the readiness and commitment of Montenegro to contribute to the achievements of the Agenda 2030 goals. Even though it is a small country, Montenegro is ready in cooperation with other members to help eradicate hunger as one of the key goals of the Agenda. Fulfilling the Agenda's goals has to be equally obligatory and requires joint responsibility of all member countries no matter their size. Only by doing so we can attain sustainability as an overall goal of the Agenda.

Sustainability in agriculture is under different influences and challenges. More often we are witnessing how the climate influence on sustainability in agriculture and reaching adequate and quality yields. High temperatures, droughts, fires, floods are just some of the challenges that are obliging us to think more responsible and to define adequate policies and innovative mechanisms as responses to them. These challenges are particularly demanding for small countries, and can have immense consequences on food production and survival of rural areas. Montenegro recognized the importance of sustainable management of the environment and adaptation to climate changes.

Activities undertaken by the Government of Montenegro have a goal to utilize the natural potentials with adequate preservation of the environment.

Once again ladies and gentlemen I am urging for the principle of union and joint action. Global challenges require global responses. The nature do not recognize administrative borders. I will not go further than the region of Southeastern Europe in order to stress the need of stronger and tighter cooperation. Last year in the region we had a common problem related to the animal diseases (Blue tongue disease and Lumpy skin disease). Livestock was endangered. Negative consequences were present and the existence of the numerous families that are working in the livestock sector was endangered. The epidemic was spreading around the borders and the common action was not timely. Something similar happened with floods in the Balkans. All this is a reminder that we need to manage the changes and that we have to work together on prevention rather than solving the consequences.

This is of the roles of the FAO that, as an organization that gathers large number of countries has a responsibility to, with our individual efforts, channel individual needs and measures that are undertaken and group them so the final effect becomes better. From the perspective of the small country we have to work more on decentralization of the activities so that our national policies are more in line with global goals. Regarding that we are glad with the activities that brought to the fact that more countries are involved in working together and that Montenegro will also have the

opportunity to chair European working group what presents the great honor, but also the responsibility, and we will make an effort to fulfill given expectations.

We consider of extreme importance good coordination and cooperation among all agencies of the UN system involved in issues related to rural development and enhancement of agriculture settled in Rome. This is a precondition of reaching the goals from the 2030 Agenda. Only with better cooperation and coordination of joint activities it is possible to ensure better living conditions in our villages and adequate quantity of quality food.

On all these challenges we need to provide quick and efficient answers. The intensity of climate changes and effects they have on every day work are admonishing us that our activities need to be more intensive, effective and sustainable, because we owe that to the generations to come. Growth of the world population and the growing demand for food are directing us to the need for fast responses and importance of our joint action.

In the interest of what I am stressing once again that, even though it is a small country, Montenegro will on bilateral but also on multilateral and regional plan give its contribution to the joint answers on the challenges of the climate change phenomenon and need for adequate adaptation and also eradication of hunger.

Dear Mr Chairman, let me thank you for the opportunity to address the Conference and I hope that during the work we will come to the conclusions that would be efficiently implemented on the field.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Carlos FURCHE, Ministro de Agricultura de la República de Chile

Es un honor estar nuevamente con ustedes para compartir brevemente la visión de Chile acerca del futuro de la agricultura y del sector agroalimentario en general. La agricultura enfrenta un escenario desafiante como consecuencia del crecimiento sostenido de la población y también del aumento de los ingresos medios. Ambos fenómenos sumados tienen y tendrán un impacto considerable en los años próximos respecto de la demanda por alimentos y también respecto del perfil de esa demanda, dado el cambio en los hábitos de consumo.

Por otra parte, la preocupación respecto a la seguridad alimentaria tiene una de sus expresiones más importantes en el acceso a los alimentos. Y esta necesidad difícilmente podrá ser cubierta sin un comercio expedito, lo que pasa por evitar eventuales corrientes proteccionistas que no llevarán bienestar a la población rural ni favorecerá el acceso de la población más vulnerable, especialmente a los alimentos.

En la actualidad, el comercio de alimentos valoriza crecientemente la producción local. Los consumidores en todo el mundo premian los productos caracterizados por su origen y por las personas que los produjeron. Esto ha llevado a la posibilidad de que las denominaciones de origen, los sellos de origen, o designaciones especiales como la que promueve la FAO con las localidades caracterizadas como SIPAM revelan o ponen de relieve no solo la producción, sino también la cultura y el desarrollo de territorios a nivel local.

Si bien, el aumento de la demanda es un dato positivo para el sector agroalimentario, esto naturalmente supondrá una mayor presión sobre el uso de los recursos productivos, particularmente el suelo y el agua, y posiblemente también impactos sobre la biodiversidad. Es decir, en el mundo requerimos un uso suficiente de los recursos hídricos, un uso sustentable de los suelos y una mirada ecosistémica del desarrollo agrícola, que tienda moderar el avance de la frontera agrícola en desmedro de la diversidad y ecosistemas prioritarios.

En otras palabras, enfrentamos el enorme desafío de producir más con un uso menos intensivo de los recursos productivos, particularmente recursos hídricos y suelos.

Si bien, estos problemas han sido intensificados; de hecho, hemos escuchado en el transcurso del día varios diagnósticos al respecto; es necesario avanzar más rápidamente y en un esfuerzo más coordinado entre los organismos de cooperación técnica y financiera a nivel global y regional.

De manera que, con las capacidades técnicas y las visiones estratégicas correspondientes, podemos responder al desafío que en cada una de las regiones y subregiones del mundo se hacen presente.

Hoy existe una gran cantidad de experiencias en cada uno de los países que están aquí representados, de las cuales todos podemos aprender y que deben ser compartidas en esquemas de cooperación horizontal, para lo cual se requiere trabajar decididamente en la articulación, las redes de trabajo que deben ser estimuladas, promovidas por los organismos de cooperación técnica internacional, como la FAO.

No obstante, el desafío más importante que enfrentamos en los años que vienen es el que ha sido descrito aquí hace algunos minutos con el Informe respecto de cambio climático. En los próximos años, los efectos del calentamiento global en los sistemas agropecuarios y en las localidades rurales serán cada vez más evidentes. El efecto sin duda es diverso, y así como hay muchas personas y regiones vulnerables por sequías, huracanes, aluviones y otros fenómenos climáticos extremos, hay algunas que también pueden favorecerse, porque dispondrán de mayores recursos hídricos o de otros niveles de temperatura, altas o medias. Sin embargo, lo que plantea esto es que tenemos que hacer un esfuerzo coordinado, en primer lugar, por adaptar los sistemas productivos a estas nuevas condiciones. Sin duda el sector agropecuario tiene también una contribución que hacer al respecto, de mitigación, pero nos parece a nosotros, desde América Latina y el Caribe, desde Chile en particular, que el esfuerzo principal que debe ser desarrollado en nuestros países es precisamente de adaptar los sistemas productivos, con especial énfasis en las poblaciones más vulnerables, en los pequeños y medianos agricultores que son justamente aquellos que tienen mayor dificultad para avanzar en ese proceso de adaptación.

Todo ello supone un enorme esfuerzo de mejor manejo de los recursos hídricos, de innovación tecnológica, de nuevos estándares de ordenamiento territorial y del uso intensivo de instrumentos de manejo del riesgo, entre otros. Vale la pena destacar que en América Latina y el Caribe hay cuatro países en el ranking de los 20 con mayor vulnerabilidad al cambio climático. Se trata de dos países de la región Andina, uno de Centroamérica y uno del Caribe. Y en consecuencia también, el trabajo coordinado articulado en nuestra región es una condición esencial para poder superar asociativamente los desafíos del futuro.

Quiero terminar mis palabras señalando que este esfuerzo en materia de cambio climático requiere noción técnica y asistencia financiera. Y creo que eso es parte de las responsabilidades colectivas que tenemos los países desarrollados, los países de desarrollo intermedio o renta media, con los países de menor desarrollo relativo. Y en este sentido, quisiera también concluir mis palabras haciendo un llamado a los países que están aquí representados, a la FAO y a otros organismos técnicos de carácter regional para que eleven sus estándares de coordinación y de trabajo conjunto. Efectivamente como se ha dicho aquí, necesitamos pasar rápidamente de los diagnósticos a la acción, y eso requiere el concurso de todos los que estamos aquí.

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

It is a great privilege for me to have this opportunity to attend the 40th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the outset I would like to appreciate Dr. da Silva and FAO for organizing this important Conference.

Climate change and its impact on food security are a common concern for all the countries as members of the international community. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an arid and semi-arid country, is well aware of these concerns, particularly increased occurrence of dust and storms, and to address them in a comprehensive manner, has aligned its agriculture sector strategies with the imperatives of improving the productivity of the production factors, especially water, as well as protecting the resource base for sustainable developments.

Just over the last four years, with the support of modern irrigation systems development policies, about 660,000 hectares of new schemes and modern irrigation systems have been developed across the country.

The Nation's programmes aiming at the conservation of the resource base include, *inter alia*, Catch Documentation Schemes, balancing the livestock population to the rangelands carrying capacity, forest protection, and the development of medicinal plants production as an alternative livelihood.

As regards the issue of dust and sand storms at the national level we have initiated extensive measures including the strengthening of the vegetative cover in thousands of hectares in the susceptible regions. However, this issue which is closely related to climate change and has affected the livelihoods of about 1.5 billion people, has a strong global and regional dimension. Hence the need for international cooperation in this area is felt more than ever.

In this regard I am pleased to state that the first high-level international conference on dust and sand storms will be held this week in Tehran with the participation of Ministers and officials from more than 40 countries as well as international organizations.

Support to the development of agriculture and protected spaces is another major policy of the Government to improve water productivity, with an outlook to have 60,000 hectares of greenhouses within a decade, 11,000 hectares of which have already been achieved.

Another major element of the recent strategies for sustainable agricultural development was improved research and education, coupled with a renovated extension system, which hinges on people's participation as a basis for the dissemination of modern technology and rendering organized support to producers.

These efforts were complemented with the improvement and diversification of the financing and government support mechanisms, resulting in a more favorable financial situation for the farmers. Improving the agriculture marketing systems through establishment of the agricultural commodity stock market and other means has contributed to higher market transparency and a more effective pricing systems for several crops in the recent years.

As a result of such measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved a tangible improvement in the level of its food security. As an indicator, during 2013 to 2016, the total agriculture production increased by 21 million tons, from 97 million tons in 2013 to 118 million tons in 2016. In the same period, the foreign trade deficit improved.

Concerning climate change and its challenging impacts on surface waters and ground water resources, I would like to highlight the need to develop and expand the use of appropriate technology for enhancing water productivity, water recycling, water table balancing, the management of regulated waters, and reducing severe evaporation from reservoirs. As a country which has taken various initiatives in these fields, I would like to use this important forum to urge the international community to enhance joint efforts aiming at developing appropriate technologies.

To this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Netherland jointly hosted a Seminar on Drought Management in Rome on 19 June 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva and the officials from about 120 countries and international organizations who actively participated in the Seminar. May I renew the commitment of my country to support the international community and countries of the region in order to attain the goals of food security and sustainable agricultural development.

His Excellency Maurizio MARTINA, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy of the Republic of Italy (Original language Italian)

It is a great honour for me too to address the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. As it was said this morning by our Prime Minister, Mr Gentiloni, the spirit of cooperation between Italy, FAO, and the other Rome-based Organizations has always been very strong and it has been strengthened in the last few years.

Many initiatives that we have promoted together bear witness to this, starting with the Expo Milan to more sectoral initiatives, for instance the recent agreement that was reached in the area of the traditional agricultural landscapes or others. There were agreements that were reached with the Carabinieri in the area of the environment.

We are convinced that agriculture will continue to have a key role in some of the major present and future challenges that are all closely interconnected and that is why I am very grateful to FAO for having dedicated today's debate to the subject of climate change, agriculture and food security.

These days, what we are witnessing in the Mediterranean and, in particular in Italy, is crucial and the work to eliminate hunger has to be a shared commitment. There are hundreds of millions of people who do not have access to food and we need concrete responses, useful answers for them in the face of those people who are facing famine, food insecurity, lack of water. It is impossible to just sit back and try to make a distinction between migrants for reasons of warfare or people migrating because they are hungry.

We need a common commitment not only in dealing with emergencies but also in taking decisions here together.

2030 is closer and closer on the horizon, and therefore we need to redouble our efforts to really build together as it was said by the Secretary-General. We really need to ensure a Zero Hunger scenario. Agriculture is vulnerable. There is a risk of climate change, extreme weather events that are becoming more and more frequent.

We see that temperatures are rising and this has an impact on the availability of water or on the spread of plant and animal diseases, also because of the loss of nutritious elements of different types of food. We also see greater volatility in prices due to conflicts and other factors and all of this undermines the profitability of agriculture and jeopardizes the livelihoods of farmers and the capacity of the sector as a whole to invest and innovate.

In this situation, in this framework, it is crucial that we build resilience in the sector so as to provide more income protection for especially the small and medium size farmers with better policies for risk management in agriculture. More resilient agriculture can also facilitate the contribution of this sector to achieving the sustainable development goals, in particular those relating to food security.

The Zero Hunger objective must necessarily entail more inclusion of smallholders, and in particular women and young people. The growth of the world population means that we also need to boost food production but we need to do so sustainably, also in the light of climate change, by combining productive needs with the need to protect the environment, water, soil, flora and fauna without which production is no longer possible.

And it is in this sense that good agricultural practices can give a major contribution, as the spread of organic agricultural practices can. We know quite a lot about it in Italy. We are in a leadership position and we are trying to consolidate it.

Biodiversity and its protection, investments in research and technology are all important.

Another important role is played by extension and technical assistance to farmers and this will become more and more important. It is essential that we empower the farmers, the safe keepers of the landscape and of biodiversity.

For these reasons, we want to put resilience protection of farmers against the risks of climate change at the very top of the Agenda of the Ministers of Agriculture Meeting of the G7 that will be hosted by Italy this year on 14 and 15 October in Bergamo and we want to promote the reflection on how to improve risk management tools which appear to be inadequate everywhere.

This meeting will be also a useful opportunity to think about the commitment of the G7 countries that was reaffirmed in Taormina, the objective to achieve zero hunger targets to promote sustainable agriculture starting from sub-Saharan Africa which is the region with the highest rates of under nutrition, rural poverty, and very heavy migratory flows.

We want to focus on the deep root causes of migrations, considering the close interrelationship between agriculture and migration and quite appropriately the next World Food Day will be dedicated to this theme here in FAO.

Our commitment as the Italian Government is to ensure that all of the men and the women of this world see that their right to food is recognized as is their right to life here and everywhere every day of their lives. This is our responsibility. This is the commitment that we wish to undertake and to take forward with the collaboration of all of us in this which is a very strategic era for the future of our planet.

Son Excellence Monsieur Gilberto CORREIA CARVALHO SILVA, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'environnement de la République de Cabo Verde (Langue originale portugais)

Je voudrais tout d'abord saluer l'ensemble des participants à la quarantième session de la Conférence de la FAO, féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'organisation de cet événement important, féliciter aussi le Président et les Vice-Présidents de la plénière pour leur élection et remercier leurs prédécesseurs pour l'excellent travail accompli.

Au nom du Gouvernement de Cabo Verde, je voudrais remercier la FAO de son travail de partenariat et de coopération, indispensable pour notre pays, en particulier dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de la pêche, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Cabo Verde est un petit pays insulaire situé dans le prolongement du Sahel, où la pluviométrie annuelle moyenne dépasse rarement 250 mm, où les écosystèmes sont très fragiles et les ressources naturelles très limitées. Ces vulnérabilités sont exacerbées par le changement climatique. En fait, comme les autres petits États insulaires, notre pays contribue très peu au réchauffement de la planète. En revanche, il en subit de plein fouet les conséquences. Je me réfère à l'aridité croissante et à la dégradation des écosystèmes marins et côtiers, y compris la salinisation des eaux souterraines, les phénomènes météorologiques extrêmes et l'émergence de maladies liées au changement de la carte épidémiologique.

Le grand défi est d'arriver à augmenter la résilience du pays pour faire face aux vicissitudes du climat et de ses changements tout en assurant son développement économique et social.

Dans ce contexte, Cabo Verde a lancé, il y a quelques dizaines d'années, un ambitieux programme de lutte contre la désertification et pour l'atténuation des effets de la sécheresse, afin de garantir le développement harmonieux de l'agriculture et de la pêche.

Les résultats de ce programme ont conduit au boisement d'environ 20 pour cent de la surface du pays, à la construction d'infrastructures nombreuses et variées de conservation des sols et de l'eau, à la création d'aires protégées terrestres et marines, à l'augmentation de la production et au renforcement de la capacité de production des systèmes agro-sylvo-pastoraux et de la pêche, à la mise en œuvre de politiques de sécurité alimentaire, au renforcement des capacités, à l'autonomisation des agriculteurs, des femmes et de la société civile, et à la création d'un cadre juridique et institutionnel favorable.

Le pays est aujourd'hui plus résilient, les améliorations obtenues sont reconnues au niveau national et par nos partenaires, en particulier en ce qui concerne la restauration des écosystèmes et l'amélioration du potentiel agro-sylvo-pastoral. Toutefois, le chemin à parcourir reste encore long, nous avons besoin de consolider les acquis et d'arriver à relever les défis énormes qui nous attendent.

Le secteur agricole est constitué à 99,7 pour cent par de petits agriculteurs pratiquant une agriculture de subsistance familiale sur seulement 9,3 pour cent du territoire national. Quant à l'agriculture pluviale, elle représente 82 pour cent, mais seulement 17 pour cent reçoit une irrigation de façon permanente, car l'eau est un facteur limitant de cette importante activité économique. Le secteur emploie, cependant, plus d'un quart de la population, en particulier dans les zones rurales, où la pauvreté touche 45 pour cent de la population tandis que 20 pour cent demeure dans l'insécurité alimentaire. La contribution du secteur agricole au PIB est faible et se situe à environ 7,2 pour cent.

C'est dans ce contexte de la réalité insulaire de Cabo Verde et une disponibilité limitée en ressources naturelles, en terres et en eau, que nous devons répondre à une demande croissante de produits alimentaires et que nous devons augmenter la contribution de l'agriculture au développement économique, aussi pour réduire le chômage, en particulier chez les jeunes. La priorité est à l'adaptation de l'agriculture de Cabo Verde aux effets du changement climatique et à la croissance de l'économie bleue. Le pays a déjà préparé son plan stratégique pour le développement durable, conformément aux Objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Nous avons signé les Accords de Paris. Concrètement, ces défis se reflètent dans une mobilisation accrue et une meilleure gestion de l'eau pour l'irrigation, en particulier grâce à l'utilisation de technologies de désalinisation plus efficaces, l'utilisation durable de sources d'eaux souterraines et de surface, la réutilisation des eaux usées après traitement, dans l'application d'une politique d'économie

circulaire et l'investissement dans les énergies renouvelables. Parallèlement, le Gouvernement estime qu'il est nécessaire d'investir massivement dans la recherche et le développement, la divulgation dans les campagnes, l'aménagement des bassins versants, l'accessibilité et les transports, les infrastructures et les équipements pour la valorisation et la certification des produits dans une logique de structuration des différentes chaînes de valeur, et enfin dans l'amélioration et le renforcement de l'accès aux produits, en résolvant des questions foncières, le système de financement des initiatives privées, les programmes de formation et professionnalisation des travailleurs agricoles, le renforcement de l'organisation des petits agriculteurs et la structuration du marché, en vue de stabiliser les prix et le revenu des producteurs.

Nous sommes conscients que ces défis nécessitent de renforcer la coopération et la promotion de plus d'investissements dans les secteurs productifs, notamment en matière de partenariats public-privé. Nous comptons sur une attention particulière de la coopération internationale, avec l'excellent maintien de l'engagement de la FAO et de nos partenaires de coopération multilatérale et bilatérale dans ce travail commun.

His Excellency General Chatchai Sarikulya, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand

I am honoured to have an opportunity to share with you Thailand's perspective and experiences among FAO member countries, national representatives and distinguished guests.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to FAO and other nations for your long-standing collaboration to improve agriculture sector and to resolve numerous matters which has enabled us to overcome various difficulties.

That being said, recent global climate pattern has now become drastically unpredictable and likely to intensify, unleashing direct impact to water quantity, moisture content and atmosphere: three indispensable components which are essential for agriculture and food security.

Thailand is fully aware of the severe effects of climate change, and of the shared responsibility of every country. We are committed to the Paris Agreement and stand ready to work with all countries of the world to limit global warming and to become a low carbon society.

The current Thai Government places great importance and firm commitment to resolve such issues in a sustainable manner by envisaging a 20 years long-term vision to mobilize Thailand towards three important pillars: security, prosperity and sustainability with a focus on building national security by utilizing appropriate usage of natural resource without damaging our environment in order to ensure long term sustainability.

Please allow me to reflect on Thailand beloved King, His Majesty the late King Rama 9 who spent his 70 years working tirelessly and visited his subjects everywhere. The King then developed plans to improve their livelihood and eventually came up with the Royal Development Projects, which are accounted for more than 4000 projects nationwide. Most of them are related to water resource and agriculture. The King is as a role model for the agricultural reform.

I would like to mention His Majesty the King's royal address which emphasized the needs to teach men to fish rather than giving them fish. The King had relied on knowledge, education, and methodology. Thailand has implemented agricultural development policy in accordance with His Majesty the Late King's royal address since then.

For some background, Thailand is located in a tropical zone and, there are huge diversity in crop plantation, fisheries and livestock. We have about 24 million hectares of farmland, with water resource accessibility standing at 20 percent.

Ten percent of these areas is estimated to be unsuitable for crops, according to the Agri-map Application which is an application used to match an area to types of crops. If farmlands are found unsuitable to grow certain crops, farmers can then only readjust their farming plan accordingly.

In terms of agricultural development, the Government has broadly classified the policy into three components:

First, Establishing Agricultural Learning Center nationwide to empower farmers' capacity-building in agriculture production using Agri-Map. Successful farmers are urged to pass on their knowledge to others as well.

Second, the implementation process. In the case of unsuitable farmland, where infertile soil and insufficient water are detected, if cultivation persists it would require heavy usage of chemical which could result in environmental damage. If farmers switch to suitable farmland it would benefit overall water conservation and increase their income.

In the case of suitable farmland, farmers are encouraged to form into cooperatives, which they can benefit from technological-sharing, participative administration and marketing planning, also known as Large Scale Farmland whose responsibilities and resources are fairly optimized resulting in increased productivity. Farmers can then select quality products that appeal to consumers and, thus it is more profitable.

Furthermore, the government also encourages farmers to pursue environmentally friendly, chemical-free organic farming. The government is planning to expand organic farmland areas to 250 000 hectares within the next 5 years.

Our irrigation system extending from mainstream water resources to farmland allows farmers to obtain adequate water for their plantation to boost efficiency in water resource management and would help to reduce the risk of flooding each year.

I can proudly say that based on His Majesty the late King Rama 9's Royal initiatives and under the greatest merit of the present King, Thailand has improved our agriculture sector and enhanced food security against the threat of climate change with environmentally friendly policy approach in addition to the FAO's Goals, which is also in line with Thailand's 20 years National Strategic plan that will mobilize our implementation effort into tangible result.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Rafael PARDO RUEDA, Ministro para el Postconflicto de la República de Colombia

Antes de aludir al tema central del debate en esta sala plenaria, deseo agradecer en nombre de mi país, Colombia, el decidido apoyo de esta Organización a Colombia en la construcción de una paz estable y duradera.

Como ustedes saben, la semana pasada, bajo la supervisión del Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas, las FARC, el grupo guerrillero más antiguo y más grande del continente americano, culminó la etapa final de desarme.

Un paso más hacia adelante en la construcción de la paz. La paz nos abre la posibilidad de cultivar ahora en tierras que antes estaban fuera del alcance de las comunidades rurales. Ahora tenemos acceso a más de siete millones de hectáreas en áreas cultivables, y por esta razón, la FAO ha catalogado a Colombia como una gran potencia en la producción de alimentos y en materia de biodiversidad.

Nuestro enorme potencial nos permite ser parte de la solución contra el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Utilizamos las directrices voluntarias para la gobernanza responsable de la tierra, agua y bosques como un referente para quedar políticas sostenibles que promuevan el uso adecuado de recursos naturales. Tenemos la capacidad y queremos satisfacer la demanda alimentaria de la creciente población mundial, mientras garantizamos la conservación del medio ambiente necesaria para mitigar los efectos de cambio climático y sus devastadoras consecuencias.

Sin embargo, las oportunidades que abre la paz no están desprovistas de desafíos, los cuales debemos abordar de manera decidida para lograr que la reforma rural integral contenida en los acuerdos de paz sea sostenible y logremos el potencial de producción de alimentos para el bienestar de la población, principalmente de aquellos que han sido víctimas del conflicto armado. Las regiones que hoy albergan los principales ecosistemas de Colombia han sido también las regiones donde se llevó a cabo el conflicto armado.

El desarrollo sostenible es uno de los grandes desafíos que requiere de acciones encaminadas a cerrar la frontera agropecuaria, parar la deforestación y garantizar un uso adecuado del suelo, así como la

protección de los ecosistemas estratégicos. Esto se logra con la implementación de zonificación ambiental, la cual incorpora entre otros los criterios de vulnerabilidad climática, un requisito para determinar acciones e inversiones productivas que hacen parte de la reforma rural integral. Vale la pena que todos estos elementos que fueron incluidos en el acuerdo de paz y hacen parte de este acuerdo final de paz.

Celebramos que el desarrollo de la resiliencia de la agricultura en el marco de la FAO esté estrechamente relacionado con la promoción de los máximos esfuerzos posibles de mitigación. Coincidimos en las tres esferas de intervención propuestas, como son la adaptación al cambio climático en los sistemas de producción agrícola en pequeña escala, la reducción de las emisiones e incremento a la captación de carbonos sectores primarios de la agricultura y en la disminución de las emisiones en los sistemas alimentarios en general. Es preciso mencionar que el marco programático de la FAO en Colombia para el periodo 2015 a 2019 ha establecido como objetivo mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de los colombianos, y reducir la pobreza y desigualdad de la población rural en apoyo al proceso de paz.

Queremos que las áreas programáticas definidas, que son alimentación y lucha contra la malnutrición, recursos naturales y gobernanza de los bosques, las tierras y el agua, innovación social y tecnológica para sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles y agricultura familiar y mercados inclusivos se alinean, además, tanto en el marco programático revisado de la FAO, que incorpora la Agenda 2030, y los Objetivos de desarrollo sostenible, como con los de cambio climático.

Sabemos que para lograr estas ambiciosas metas se requieren el compromiso y voluntad de todos los sectores y países, con lo cual apoyamos y celebramos las medidas que se proponen en la Conferencia y aquellas propuestas para el bienio 2018-2019, relacionadas con cambio climático y sus repercusiones en la labor y las actividades de la FAO. Y hacemos un llamado a que todos unamos esfuerzos para hacer del Acuerdo de París y la Agenda 2030 una realidad.

Quiero terminar esta intervención agradeciendo el trabajo constante de la Oficina de Representación de la FAO en Colombia, que redunda en beneficio de la construcción de la paz en nuestro país, con una visión de desarrollo sostenible. Con profunda alegría celebramos que la FAO haya otorgado a Rafael Zavala el premio que se otorga a los oficiales de campo que han contribuido de manera destacada al progreso en los países en los que se les ha destinado.

The Honourable Duminda DISSANAYAKE, Minister for Agriculture of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Let me at the outset convey the compliments of his Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and greetings from the peoples of Sri Lanka and my personal wishes to the Director-General of FAO and your Excellencies.

As the Minister of Agriculture, I am very pleased to address the 40th Session of the FAO Conference and seize this opportunity to congratulate and thank FAO for organizing this session focusing on “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security”, a theme which is very relevant to my country.

Indeed, at this very moment Sri Lankan Agriculture Sector and National Food Security are facing a serious challenge due to a continued drought over two seasons in the dry and intermediate zone, the major rice producing areas and an unprecedented serious flooding in the wet zone due to very heavy rains during a short period. The extreme weather during this year has shattered our food security status and affected the livelihood of thousands of farmers beyond recovery without urgent Government support.

Sri Lanka being an island located in the Indian Ocean is a subject to vagaries of weather due to its global positioning and proximity to Bay of Bengal as well as the Bay of Gulf.

Sri Lanka has suffered unprecedented drought and floods due to the impact of climate change which has brought serious crop losses and death and displacement to many families and has been challenging the national food security. The Government of Sri Lanka was able to implement climate change

adaptation and mitigation measures minimizing the impact on food security and rural livelihood of farmers.

While Government resorted to special importation of rice to stabilize national level food availability, it is very unprecedented that drought continued from one cropping season to the other, seriously impacting the livelihood of farmers due to shortage of water in the minor irrigation system, comprising nearly 14,000 minor tanks and many thousands of agro-wells creating very harsh conditions for living.

Government mobilized its drought preparedness plan with the support of FAO where the farmers were helped through FAO emergency response measures including distribution of seeds micro-irrigation systems to restore and diversify the farmers' production during the dry season. Sri Lankan Government through a crop insurance scheme paid compensation to many thousands of farmers for partial and full crop losses in an effort to minimize the impact of drought on farmers' livelihood.

FAO assistance to assess the food security situation was a great help for the government to estimate the requirement of food and other measures to follow on the adaptation measures in mitigating the impact of drought. Ministry of Agriculture having reviewed the strategies implemented by different institutions under the Ministry in minimizing the impact of drought on food security and livelihood, has now prepared a sound drought or flood disaster management plan to mitigate impact of climate change on agriculture in the future.

While continuing to improve on other agrarian, land and water management systems including rehabilitation of degradable agricultural land with FAO assistance, we are looking forward to build a climate-resilient agricultural production system through a conservation-oriented management and investment plan.

I take this opportunity to extend my personal gratitude and appreciation of the Government of Sri Lanka for the technical assistance provided by FAO in facing the challenges due to climate change and enhance efforts of my Government to build a climate resilient agriculture and food production system enabling us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

Chairman, let me finally express my personal appreciation to you, your representatives in Colombo who work very closely with my Ministry.

G-15 Joint Statement

Let me at the outset extend my sincere appreciation and that of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) to the Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and his team for organizing this very important Conference and for the opportunity to make this joint statement on behalf of the G-15.

The Group of Fifteen is a Group of Developing Countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin America established to promote and sustain fruitful South-South cooperation and policy cohesion on areas of mutual interest with a view of achieving economic progress, stability and sustainable development.

The Group appreciates the profound and commendable roles played by FAO to address the issues of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, food insecurity while building resilience and catalysing agriculture and rural development.

The G-15 views the 40th Session of the Conference of FAO as auspicious and timely, considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has now entered in the implementation phase since its adoption in September 2015. The G-15 views the 2030 Agenda as a plan for action for the 'people, planet and prosperity' built on the three pillars of social, economic and environment of the SDGs. The Foreign Ministers of the Group of Fifteen have identified the 2030 Agenda as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South.

With the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture and people whose livelihood depend 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 realisation of the 2030 global target to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and extreme poverty demands multi-faceted approach in complementing economic growth and productive capacities; strengthening rural resilience through social protection and sustainable agricultural development. In this respect the G-15 is committed to enhancing capacities among its member countries through robust South-South cooperation initiatives and also seeks opportunities for collaboration with international organizations, including FAO.

His Excellency Mohammed Bin Abdullah AL RUMAIHI, Minister for Municipality and Environment of the State of Qatar (Original language Arabic)

My country is undergoing a blockade. I am sure you are all aware of what is going on, an embargo due to measures taken by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. There is a blockade on my country. Because our borders have been closed off by air, land, and water, diplomatic relations with the state of Qatar have been interrupted.

The supply of food resources, drugs, as well as staple foods has been interrupted. 60 percent of what my country imports goes through harbours and airports owned by these countries. This is a clear violation of international rights and above all, of the UN Charter. It is an infraction on international human rights and a violation of the Arab League Charter as well as the Constitution of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 186 countries and organizations who did not give into pressure to take part in this embargo. My country is undergoing an unfair embargo. These are illegal, illegitimate measures. These countries have cut us off from food supplies.

These are unilateral measures which endanger food security across the region and not just in my country. I would like to remind you that 3 million people live in my country. Locals as well as foreigners. Those who live and work in my country are nationals of friendly countries, 500 000 from India; many from Pakistan and the Philippines; 100 000 from Bangladesh; 400 000 from Nepal; 200 000 from Europe; 300 000 from Egypt; 300 000 from Arab countries; 300 000 from other Asian countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka, and 200 000 from the African continent as well as 50 000 who come from the American continent, the Caribbean, and South America.

This food insecurity affects all of these people.

Ladies and gentlemen, this crisis triggered by these four countries I mentioned is still underway but thanks to our policies, we have been able to tackle the crisis and this challenge and we have managed to mitigate the effects of the embargo.

We have managed despite it to make up part of the effects of the blockade.

My country has mobilized USD 750 million on a weekly basis to find alternatives to our regular import measures. This, of course, has led to huge rises in the price of our staple foods and others.

Ladies and gentlemen, this crisis has an aim to hinder our development plans, our construction and development plans for the country, but they have not succeeded.

We will continue to work to achieve food security for all of our citizens. Nowadays we have an important place in the ranking of countries affected by these effects. We all know the food for peace initiative launched during the Regional Conference last year. There all countries were urged to contribute to help countries undergoing crises. We are all aware also of the Rome Declaration from 1996 during the first World Food Summit. We all know what the UN Charter says.

Based on all these international tools, we would ask that you condemn this unfair blockade and ask those four countries to lift the embargo as soon as possible. This blockade has negative consequences for the entire region and could endanger food security in the region and the world as a whole.

I would ask all the relevant organizations to do anything they can to end this embargo. We ask that FAO do what it can as this is part of its mandate since what is in play here is food security itself, the right to food. This is a fundamental human right, rights which are essential for the existence of the world's peace and security.

Ladies and gentlemen, from this podium I would ask FAO and all of its Member States to continue to work to tackle the challenges before us due to climate change. The effects of climate change have a great impact on water resources and on food production.

Climate change also affects livestock and fisheries. We have all seen the effects of climate change, especially on the most vulnerable refugees, displaced persons, the poor. We have committed to putting 0.7 percent of our GDP toward development aid. We have been doing this since 2007.

This is support that we provide to the poorest least developed countries.

I would like to pay tribute to what our Organization does. We are grateful for its cooperation with all countries in seeking to achieve one of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda that is ending poverty, eradicating hunger, and fighting under nutrition.

I would like to ask all countries to do this too and allocate 0.7 percent of their GDP to such initiatives. I would like to wish you every success in this Conference.

His Excellency Blairo BORGES MAGGI, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Original language Portuguese)

Brazil recognizes the centrality of food and agriculture issues in the United Nations system. It supports, from its inception, the objectives and the goals of FAO.

The agricultural sector is fundamental to the Brazilian economy and rural development. From smallholders to large-scale producers, it employs one in every five workers and accounts for more than 20 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. Brazil is today one of the largest producers and exporters of food in the world. Our productivity has increased 4 percent a year since 1975.

The Brazilian agriculture is developing in a sustainable way, in line with the 2030 Agenda. We provide diversified, safe and high quality food for our country and for a large part of the growing world population. Greater market access is essential for reducing food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. Brazil is committed to guaranteeing the right to food, to producing more and better, using natural resources more efficiently. We are demonstrating with practical examples that it is possible to change the pattern of agriculture production, particularly in tropical areas, and we would like to see this effort multiplied.

We understand that FAO, in the fulfilment of its mandate, should prioritize issues relating to food production, productivity and nutrition. In this context, high-protein foods, such as beef, as the Committee on World Food Security has noted, should be recognized for their contribution to food and nutrition security. Recommendations on reducing beef consumption due to greenhouse gas emissions should not be made by FAO. Moreover, there is already technology available, developed by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), for the production of beef with zero carbon emissions balance in relation to greenhouse gases. Environmental considerations related to agricultural activities should be analyzed – in a very specific way – in their real dimension and perspective, taking also into account the peculiarities of each country.

The Brazilian Government has been implementing policies to recover degraded areas, to conserve soils and to improve the management of water resources. We clearly support agroecology, innovation and integrated production systems with crops, livestock and forestry. We promote family farmers' access to markets to ensure better living conditions and guarantee food security. An example of this promotion is the award-winning National School Feeding Programme which ensures that more than 40 million children receive daily school meals made using family farming products. In addition, in Brazil, gender equality is a fundamental element for food security and rural development.

Sustainable food systems and healthier diets are two pillars that guide Brazilian public policies. Brazil was the first country to make commitments in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. It encourages other countries to do the same. It supports even closer coordination between FAO and WHO, particularly within the framework of the Nutrition Decade and Codex Alimentarius activities.

Brazil is recognized as a major promoter of the South-South and Triangular cooperation. It seeks, therefore, to share its successful experiences with other countries.

We are aware that all efforts to improve agriculture and food and nutritional security must consider the adverse impacts of climate change. Developing countries are those that are the most affected by historical emissions from industrialized economies. My country joins the international community in its concern for the effects of climate change on agriculture and food security.

Climate change is a big challenge for all of us. It requires reform in current production and consumption patterns, including food waste. Brazil is doing its part. We are committed to reducing emissions by 43 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. Brazilian legislation mandates that at least 20 percent of the rural areas must conserve native vegetation, which withholds carbon stocks and ensures corridors for biodiversity. This percentage varies according to the different biomes and can reach 80 percent of the area of rural properties in the North of the country. Moreover, the river banks and water sources must be preserved with native vegetation, without any subsidy for the farmer. 61 percent of land falls under this regulation.

The National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and the Low Carbon Agriculture Programme, the ABC Programme, are our priority and indicate positive results, including increased production and productivity. The area of implementation of integrated systems – agriculture, livestock and forest – has already reached about 12 million hectares in 2016, favouring the sustainability and income of many farmers.

Brazil supports FAO efforts to help countries implement their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. This Organization has a great comparative advantage in promoting resilience and adapting agriculture to the effects of climate change.

The Green Climate Fund allocates half of its resources to adaptation projects. FAO should use these resources to strengthen its adaptation activities, with additional mitigation benefits. Facing climate change and its effects requires adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, technology and capacity building. We believe that developed countries, in particular the world's leading emitters, should fulfil their commitments to the international community.

I reiterate Brazil's strong support for the purposes and objectives of FAO and the crucial role agriculture plays in addressing today's enormous challenges.

His Excellency Martijn VAN DAM, Minister for Agriculture of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

I have prepared a statement just like anyone else today but you hear a lot of statements so let me tell you just a little bit about myself.

I was born in 1978 in Western Europe, in the Netherlands. I do not know what hunger is. My parents do not know what hunger is. Only my grandparents do. They lived during the Second World War. Since the Second World War, Europe managed to produce plenty of food. The question for me is will we continue to do so during my lifetime? Will there be enough food in the world for all of its children when I become a grandfather myself? What can I tell my grandchildren?

Can I tell them later that we solved hunger in the world during my lifetime? Can I tell them that we solved the issues concerning food production for a growing population during my lifetime? We must. That is what today is about.

The question is not only if we can produce enough food. I am sure we can. We have the technology. We have the technology to do so. But can we do it in a way that our planet can cope with? Can we do it in a way that we can keep producing enough food for decades ahead? That is the real question.

And the tough answer is “no”, not if we go on like we are doing right now, not if we keep producing as we are producing today, not if we continue to consume food like we, especially in the Western hemisphere, are doing today. We would need another planet where my kids are my age if we continue to go on like this and that is what today is about.

We need to change and we need to do it quickly.

Climate change is not an abstract scientific debate. It is happening today. We see more droughts, more floods, more extreme weather. Now already ice is melting on the poles and on the glaciers. We see desertification where lush forest once grew. I do not have to convince you, I am sure. We all signed the Paris Agreement and there is only one president in the world who is doubting climate change.

Climate change related issues such as lack of water cause food and job insecurity already today and it contributes to instability and to conflicts. As a consequence, young people flock to cities in increasing numbers, looking for opportunities that are not there. Then they try to look somewhere else on the globe. Some do not survive the trip to Europe. Some end up in poverty in the streets here in Rome and all of them are leaving behind a depopulated countryside with lesser chances for a food secure future.

So we need to do something and we need to act from today on. We need knowledge and innovation to cope with these challenges and the good news is we can if we work together. The Netherlands is one of the most productive countries in the field of agriculture. We are a small country but still we are the second largest exporter of agricultural goods in the world and we can be that because of the level of knowledge and innovation.

Our agricultural universities, our businesses, our investors, our government, we are very much open for cooperation worldwide, for example, by working together in the Global Alliance of Climate-Smart Agriculture.

During COP 23 in Bonn, FAO and the Netherlands will organize a roundtable together for which you are all warmly invited and working together also means better coordination at the UN level. FAO, IFAD, and the WFP could achieve a unique impact by working together.

I would like to keep it short. I started my statement with this, a long day with a lot of statements. Let us not be daunted by the task ahead or by the global nature of the challenges. The goals are clear. We stated them in the Sustainable Development Goals. It is not others that will solve it. We cannot leave it to our children. We have to make sure that they can tell our grandchildren that we were the generation that solved the biggest challenges, climate change and food security. We can, we should, and we will if we work together.

Son Excellence Monsieur Delphin OLORONTO KOUDANDÉ, Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche de la République du Bénin

En prenant part à la présente session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la République du Bénin souscrit ainsi dans la dignité à son engagement en tant que membre de l'Organisation, d'œuvrer aux côtés de cette importante Institution des Nations Unies pour la réalisation de sa noble mission qui est de combattre la faim et d'éradiquer la pauvreté dans le monde.

Fidèle à cet engagement, le Gouvernement du Bénin, à travers son Programme d'action, nourrit de grandes ambitions pour le secteur agricole. A cet effet, cinq projets phares, offrant 146 000 emplois, ont été approuvés, à savoir un projet concernant les filières à haute valeur ajoutée que sont l'ananas, l'anacarde et les cultures maraîchères; un projet de cultures conventionnelles pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire que sont le riz, le maïs et le manioc; un projet concernant la viande, le lait et les œufs de table; un projet relatif à l'aquaculture continentale et enfin un projet de développement de la basse et moyenne vallée de l'Ouémé, la 2^{ème} vallée la plus riche du monde après celle du Nil, projet qui, à lui seul, se propose d'installer 5 000 jeunes entrepreneurs agricoles dans ladite vallée.

Pour les filières végétales indiquées ci-dessus, l'option est d'augmenter les superficies emblavées, d'améliorer la productivité et la qualité des produits, de renforcer la transformation et de booster les exportations. En ce qui concerne les filières animale et halieutique, contribuant pour une part importante à la sécurité nutritionnelle, il s'agira de réduire les importations et *in fine* de placer également ces produits sur le marché régional et même international.

Il n'est point un secret pour personne que nous sommes aujourd'hui confrontés à la convergence des défis alimentaires et climatiques. Le climat mondial change rapidement et mon pays, le Bénin, n'est pas épargné. Dans ce contexte, la production végétale fait face à plusieurs invasions cycliques de ravageurs endogènes classés comme fléaux, et à des introductions accidentnelles de ravageurs de

quarantaine, qui constituent de véritables menaces pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et pour l'économie nationale. Dans ce cadre, le Bénin a connu plusieurs nouvelles introductions de nuisibles ces dix dernières années. Il s'agit notamment de la mouche invasive des fruits en 2004, de la cochenille farineuse du papayer en 2012, du *Banana Bunchy Top Virus* en 2013, de la maladie bactérienne des feuilles du riz et de la maladie des stries bactériennes du riz en 2013. La dernière en date est la chenille légionnaire du papillon d'automne d'Amérique (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), qui, au cours de l'année 2016, a causé des dégâts sur plus de 40 000 ha de culture de maïs.

Le Bénin est loin d'être le seul pays touché par ces fléaux, c'est toute l'Afrique qui se trouve menacée. Et quand le continent, qui regorge à ce jour de 50 pour cent des terres arables du monde, est menacé, quand les villes croissent de façon exponentielle au détriment des campagnes, quand la population agricole vieillit dangereusement, quand les jeunes se sentent de moins en moins attirés par l'agriculture, c'est le futur de l'humanité qui est hypothéqué.

Le Gouvernement du Bénin réaffirme son soutien indéfectible aux engagements pris par l'Union africaine à Malabo en 2014 et à la mise en place en 2015 de l'Alliance ouest-africaine pour l'agriculture intelligente face au climat par la CEDEAO.

C'est ainsi que le Gouvernement du Bénin, à travers son Plan stratégique de développement du secteur agricole, met l'accent sur la résilience aux changements climatiques, à travers le développement et la promotion d'innovations capables de résister ou de réduire de façon considérable l'impact face aux chocs issus du changement climatique, sur les mécanismes assurantiels et sur le renforcement des filets sociaux. L'idée est de créer les conditions permettant aux producteurs de continuer à assurer la disponibilité et la durabilité des produits alimentaires.

Je voudrais ici attirer l'attention de notre illustre assemblée sur une dimension très importante qui manque au concept d'agriculture intelligente face au climat: il s'agit de la jeunesse. Cette dimension a été prise en compte hier dans la concertation Union africaine-Union européenne sur le thème «Faire de l'agriculture durable une opportunité pour la jeunesse en Afrique», précisément pour cette jeunesse, plus enclue à intégrer et mettre en œuvre les nécessaires adaptations aux changements climatiques, cette jeunesse porteuse de la dimension de durabilité, cette jeunesse qui constitue aujourd'hui notre principale ressource.

A ce propos, le Bénin, par ma voix, propose que soit ajoutée aux recommandations de notre assemblée «l'implication de la jeunesse», ne serait-ce qu'au point c) de ces recommandations, pour la réussite globale d'une agriculture durable adaptée aux changements climatiques.

Vive la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle! Vive la FAO !

Son Excellence Monsieur Abdelkader BOUAZGHI, Ministre de l'agriculture, du développement rural et de la pêche de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire (Langue originale arabe)

C'est avec un grand plaisir que je prends part aujourd'hui, à vos côtés, à cette Conférence alors que je viens d'être nommé à mon ministère il y a deux mois, ce qui montre la priorité accordée par mon pays, l'Algérie, à votre Organisation et au rôle qu'elle joue dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim et à sa contribution à la sécurité et la paix dans le monde.

Je saisirai cette opportunité pour adresser mes vifs remerciements à M. José Graziano da Silva pour les efforts qu'il déploie depuis son élection à la Direction générale de la FAO pour en améliorer la gouvernance et lui permettre de remplir sa mission avec une efficience maximale, et ce au profit des populations qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Comme vous le savez, cette 40^{ème} session intervient au moment où la communauté internationale engage la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et de l'Accord de Paris sur les changements climatiques.

En dépit des réalisations importantes enregistrées ces dernières années dans le cadre de la réalisation des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement, la pauvreté multidimensionnelle, la faim et la malnutrition demeurent encore une réalité préoccupante et quotidienne, qui sont aggravées par des événements climatiques extrêmes et également par des conflits dévastateurs.

Pour cette raison, lutter contre l'impact des changements climatiques et lutter contre la faim relèvent du même effort, du même impératif et de la même urgence.

La question de la durabilité du modèle productiviste se pose aujourd'hui avec plus d'acuité en raison de la dégradation des ressources naturelles de la planète - dont ce modèle est en partie responsable -, et en raison des effets redoutables du changement climatique sur l'environnement et l'agriculture, lequel reste un défi mondial qui se pose à tous plus que jamais puisqu'il a des dimensions locales, nationales, régionales et internationales.

Pour cela, accroître l'efficacité et la pérennité des mesures d'adaptation en matière d'agriculture est une nécessité absolue aujourd'hui, surtout dans les pays qui sont particulièrement vulnérables au changement climatique, où la baisse des rendements agricoles et l'accroissement démographique exercent une pression supplémentaire sur un système de production alimentaire qui est déjà fragilisé.

Pour faire face au défi, la seule stratégie qui fasse l'objet d'un très large consensus est celle de l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Les efforts d'adaptation doivent s'exercer dans la recherche de solutions alternatives au système de production agricole actuel ou au moins dans la recherche de modalités pour une transition maîtrisée de l'agriculture conventionnelle vers une agriculture moderne à faible empreinte carbone, qui soit en mesure de restaurer les ressources naturelles dégradées et d'exploiter de manière raisonnée celles qui sont encore disponibles, et qui soit également capable de répondre aux besoins alimentaires croissants de l'être humain.

Cette bataille devra être menée avec la participation active des populations rurales, qui sont la plupart du temps les dépositaires de pratiques ancestrales et de savoir-faire pertinents. Cela pourra contribuer efficacement à la préservation des ressources naturelles et à l'identification de systèmes de production agricoles susceptibles d'être construits ou reconstruits par les communautés et pour le profit de ces communautés.

Partant de ce constat, mon pays, l'Algérie, qui depuis l'année 2000 avec la clairvoyance de son Président de la République, Son Excellence M. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, a mené une politique de développement agricole et rurale dont la singularité reste liée à la fois à son climat aride et semi-aride et à la fragilité de ses ressources naturelles. D'autres moyens ont été utilisés et nous avons modernisé les systèmes agricoles pour instaurer la sécurité alimentaire dans notre pays. Les mesures que nous avons adoptées visent à préserver les pratiques ancestrales et les savoir-faire de nos ancêtres, notamment la phœniciculture et l'investissement dans l'agriculture oasis moderne.

Cette stratégie donne la priorité à l'économie de l'eau et à la mobilisation des ressources hydrauliques. Elle est considérée comme une bonne pratique et contribue à lutter contre le changement climatique. Ceci a été consacré dans notre Constitution, qui stipule que l'État garantit l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles ainsi que leur préservation au profit des générations futures.

De même, un plan d'action national a été mis en place pour faire face à la désertification, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts en matière d'atténuation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Il s'agit là également d'une continuation du grand projet «Barrage vert», qui a été lancé dans les années 1970 en Algérie.

Cette stratégie a permis d'aboutir à des résultats satisfaisants. En effet, le taux de croissance agricole moyen a atteint 8 pour cent et la production agricole 30 milliards de dollars. De même, la production agricole contribue aujourd'hui pour plus de 12 pour cent du PIB et permet de couvrir plus de 70 pour cent des besoins alimentaires du pays.

Ce sont là quelques éléments d'information et de réflexion que je voulais partager avec vous pour vous montrer la volonté de partage et d'association à une œuvre qui doit rassembler davantage la communauté internationale.

Je voudrais mettre l'accent sur la nécessité de solidarité avec les pays les plus vulnérables et les communautés les plus fragiles, notamment dans les domaines du savoir et du savoir-faire scientifique et technique.

Et je voudrais également souligner l'appui précieux qu'apportent les agences spécialisées de l'ONU, notamment la FAO dans la réalisation de cette grande ambition.

**His Excellency Alexander N. TKACHEV, Minister for Agriculture of the Russian Federation
(Original language Russian)**

It is clear that today addressing climate change is one of the most important factors in ensuring sustainable socioeconomic development and eradicating hunger and poverty throughout the world.

The facts attest to the relevance of this theme. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the average temperature of the Earth's surface in 2016 was the highest it had been since records began. That said, the rate of warming in Russia is two and a half times higher than the world average.

Such processes have a large impact on agriculture which depends on weather conditions to a far greater extent than any other industry.

At the same time, the agriculture sector itself contributes to global warming. According to FAO, almost one third of greenhouse gas emissions are in one way or another linked to the agricultural sector. It is of utmost importance that detailed analysis be conducted into the possible negative consequences for the global economy and comprehensive measures to counteract those consequences.

Russian research into the consequences of climate change for our country's economy by 2030 indicate a possible average loss of 1 to 2 percent of GDP per year. The agricultural sector will be threatened by more frequent extreme climate events, soil degradation, and the proliferation of plant and animal diseases and pests.

In this context, our country considers FAO to be the best platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices in adapting the agro industrial climate to climate change and mitigating its negative consequences.

We appreciate the Organization's regulatory work and welcome the endorsement by the FAO Council in December 2016 of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management. We believe that the guidelines will make a large contribution to the consolation of soils, the largest carbon sink on Earth.

I note that FAO's proposed approaches to climate and agriculture on the whole are in line with our national priorities. Russia's current Climate Change Doctrine 2020 states agricultural development programme foreseen measures to support smallholder farming, reduce risks for producers, restore soil fertility and improvement and introduce new crop varieties and technologies.

Progress is also being made in the development of the social sphere and rural infrastructure using outputs from the agricultural sector to increase the energy efficiency of the economy. In accordance with a decree from the President of Russia, in 2017 we have declared a Year of Ecology. This is a year of reform for our country. Our main goal is a real reduction in the scale of contamination entering soil, water, and the atmosphere, reducing the number of land fill sites, and restoring national parks.

Another aim is forming a more effective system of ecological monitoring, state and community level as well and we have conferences taking place all around Russia. We are also working within the framework of a clean village action. Our country attaches a lot of attention to issues of food security and we provide assistance to agricultural producers.

In 2016, we achieved record levels in many areas. Total agricultural production reached USD 88 billion. We have a 40 year record of cereal harvest, over 120 million tons. Russia maintains a status as a world leader of exporting in wheat.

We also have livestock farming, pig breeding and poultry breeding which are very strong.

In accordance with the Food Security Doctrine, we are not only providing for the needs of the internal market but we are also exporting internationally. In 2016, exports of our own agricultural production reached USD 17 million.

We believe that the Paris Agreement will be able to unite all world powers to hold back climate change. Guided by the agreement, our country has developed a national strategy on adapting to

climate change, state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. We are prepared to cooperate with all interested stakeholders for joint work to overcome the global negative impacts of climate change.

We are looking forward to continuing discussions on this issue at FAO events, including the 31st session of the Regional Conference for Europe which will take place in Russia in May 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested parties to this Conference in Russia.

His Excellency Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen AL-FADHLI, Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Original language Arabic)

It is a pleasure to be with you. I would like to convey the best wishes and thanks of Saudi Arabia. Thank you to the Director-General of FAO and his colleagues for the efforts made in preparing this Conference. We wish you full success in your work.

We welcome the role played in the last eight years, particularly in combating hunger and poverty and the efforts made to improve food security. We also welcome the efforts made by the Organization in the framework strategy to combat food insecurity.

I would like to confirm the priority attached by Saudi Arabia to food security and sustainable development. Through a programme of national transformation and fighting poverty and squandering of resources and also through strengthening competitively to better use natural resources and to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The growth of inhabitants of the planet require greater need for solidarity in agriculture to ensure that the current generations can continue and we need to take agricultural investments responsibly and help countries to use their resources in this area.

Climate change and conflicts have a huge effect on agriculture and this is why it will also have an impact on food security. So together we must take the measures needed to limit the impact of conflicts and climate change.

I would lastly like to express my gratitude and recognition to the Director-General of the Organization and everybody who works in this Organization as well as the Italian Government for their efforts made in organizing this conference.

Again, I wish you every success in achieving the goals that you seek.

And if I may, I would like to touch upon another issue which was expressed in the speech of my colleague from Qatar. There were some mistakes in that speech. Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries have taken a position vis-à-vis Qatar which is a boycott position rather than a block and the ports and airports in Qatar are open.

And we would like to encourage our brothers from Qatar to put an end to their activities in the region but unfortunately the state of Qatar has not responded to our requests and therefore we must work to protect the interests of the countries concerned.

We ask Qatar to put an end to those activities and to respect the claims of the countries that have put these to them.

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

It is a pleasure to address this august gathering. The current session of the FAO Conference is of immense importance as it provides us an opportunity to share and discuss issues of food and agriculture which effect the world today.

The theme of this year's Conference draws focus towards the important issues of climate change, food security and sustainable agricultural productivity. Today, the world is faced with renewed challenges posed by inclement weather, natural disasters, drought and flooding. To overcome these challenges we need to adopt climate change mitigation strategies and work for implementing the various measures to overcome these challenges. In addition, we also need to focus our energies towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to express appreciation to FAO for the partnership with Pakistan over the last 60 years. The two share a long history of rich cooperation in knowledge sharing and technological exchanges. Pakistan's collaboration with FAO has assisted us to develop and modernize its agricultural sector. I fondly recall the visit of the Director-General of FAO to Pakistan in 2016 which enabled us to identify new avenues of cooperation in future.

I take this opportunity to endorse the recommendations of the FAO Council following its review of the Medium-Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019. I firmly believe that these would address the challenges posed today to the food and agriculture sector globally. The alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also welcome. Pakistan supports the reviewed Strategic Framework of FAO.

Pakistan's economy is mainly dependent on agriculture, which remains its mainstay and life-line. Agriculture contributes over 20 percent to our national GDP and also maintains its important role as the raw material provider to our agro-based industries and employees more than 45 percent of our labour force. This sector has huge potentials for future growth and development. However, rapid fragmentation of land has caused increase in a number of small and marginalized farms which, together with the changing climate scenario, pose major challenges to the future of our agricultural sector.

It is heartening to see that today Pakistan is surplus in many agricultural commodities including wheat, rice, sugar, maize, potato and many horticultural commodities like citrus and mango. The livestock and dairy sector of Pakistan has also shown tremendous growth during recent years. Development of most modern livestock farms has enabled us to produce quality livestock. We have given priority to improve sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations that have enabled successful export of our agricultural commodities to many countries during the last four years.

Food Security is one of the key priority areas for the Government of Pakistan and is also part of the Government's Vision 2025. A national food security policy is being formulated to institutionalize the policy framework for food security at all levels.

Our major focus is to support small farmers and promote small scale innovative technologies, value addition and value chain development in the country. The Federal authority in coordination with provincial governments, international research organizations and development partners aims to launch initiatives to promote these activities.

Today, we aim to promote betterment of small farmers through good agricultural practices and provide safe and nutritious food to our local and foreign consumers.

I am convinced that FAO will continue to pursue its goals of international agricultural development with the active support of its members and other development partners.

I want to assure the Director-General of our support to the work of FAO and the initiatives of the new Country Head in Pakistan.

The Honourable Emmanuel F. PIÑOL, Secretary for Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines

I will deliver messages on behalf of the Asia Regional Group and my country, the Philippines, which I represent.

The Asia Region expresses deep concern over the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security. It is felt in the Asia Region where snow cover in major mountain ranges is melting, where there is an increased frequency of long dry spells and El Niño and the alarming coastal flooding in many islands.

As indicated in the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report, the greatest vulnerabilities are in South and Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where millions could suffer from hunger by 2050.

There is a need to focus on the vulnerable sectors which include smallholders, small farm families, pastoralists, fisher folks, women, youth and indigenous people.

The Asia Regional Group is thus making the following statements:

We heed the call in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement to address the challenges of climate change and pursue the goals of eradicating hunger and poverty, and improving nutrition. We concur with the SOFA Report on the need to take immediate action to make agriculture sustainable, more productive and climate change resilient.

We recognize the UNFCCC as the primary inter-governmental forum in negotiating the global response to climate change, therefore actions should be consistent with the objectives, agreements and mechanisms established by the UNFCCC. Since the Paris Agreement has been adopted under this Convention, it is imperative that commitments on food and agriculture, specifically financial resources, be fulfilled by the Parties to the Agreement.

We support the call for the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to address climate change through South-South and Triangular cooperation. With the restructuring of FAO to better manage such cooperation mechanism, we urge greater focus on the advocacy and sharing of experiences and expertise in climate change, agriculture and food security.

We present as an example of international cooperation the five-year ASEAN-UN Action Plan on the Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020) which aims to strengthen the capability of governments, private sectors and communities to adapt to climate change and foster risk reduction and resilience by accessing innovative mechanisms and include climate change concerns into national policies.

We are happy to note that several Asian countries have already made headways in integrating into their public investments priorities initiatives to address climate change. This is in keeping with a UNDP Review in 2015 which recommended the adoption of a comprehensive fiscal framework to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change interventions in public expenditure.

We encourage the realization of the commitment made by the Developed Countries to mobilise USD 100 billion financing every year by 2020 and the transfer of climate-friendly agricultural technology to support developing countries in addressing climate change concerns.

In conclusion, the Asia Group supports the suggested actions by the Conference contained in the reference document of agenda item 9.

I will now deliver a statement on behalf of my country, the Philippines.

Climate change is real and to those who claim that it is a farce, I ask them to live in the farm for them to see and feel the proofs. When rains do not fall during the times they are expected affecting the farmer's planting season; when the fruit trees do not bloom with flowers during the season they are supposed to and when typhoons come more frequently and more destructively, these are proofs of climate change.

The manifestations of climate change are unpredictable and greatly disruptive to food production.

As one of the countries in the world severely affected by climate change, we have learned our painful lessons and with our modest resources, our government has made adjustments.

We have designed a climate change resilient agriculture programme which closely monitors risks and hazards for the farmers and fisher folks through the National Color Coded Agriculture Map.

We are now designing the food depots or food storage facilities which could withstand typhoons to be established in vulnerable areas to ensure that there would be enough food for marooned communities.

A universal crop insurance coverage, solar powered irrigation technology, tree crop farming to prevent the loss of water sources, an easy access financing and the repopulation of the country's lakes, rivers and creeks with indigenous fish and non-invasive fish basins are among the interventions readied to address climate change.

It is in this light that the Philippines calls for greater cooperation in technology transfer and sharing between advanced countries and those with great potentials for food production.

Finally, to remind everyone that the mission to feed world must be shared by all nations, I would like to share with you this story.

In the village where I grew up, we shared with our neighbours whatever food we had in excess with the understanding that it would later be repaid, maybe in another form. If a family does not have rice for the next meal, the neighbours share the rice and nobody in the village ever goes hungry.

I am sharing this story with you because of the reality that today, while other countries are producing food or could produce a commodity in excess of their requirements, there are nations whose people are hungry. I am urging this body to please consider this Filipino tradition as a way to make sure that in the global village that we live in nobody would go hungry.

The idea of a World Food Bank, which I suggest should be managed by FAO, is being presented for the consideration of the members of this body. Any country which has an excess production of a commodity could make a deposit to the World Food Bank which in turn could be loaned out to nations who are suffering from food shortages.

The World Food Bank would not only ensure that commodities produced in excess by a country would not go to waste thus ensuring that the farmer will make money from his endeavour, it will also greatly contribute to FAO's vision of Zero Hunger.

Please allow me to repeat my statement at the opening of this Conference: Feeding the people of the world should be a shared mission of all nations, for after all we belong to one big global community.

The Honourable Vincent Bamulangaki SSEMPIJJA, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda

This statement is aligned with the aspirations of the 134 countries of the Group of 77 and China. It also espouses the views so far expressed by those countries that have so far spoken before me. Much as members of the G-77 and China are at different stages of development, they in totality host the highest number of people affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and undernutrition. Their agricultural development is negatively affected by climate change. Therefore their quest to secure sustainable food security and nutrition should aim at climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We thank the Secretariat's presentation of this agenda item, focusing on the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2016 Report, with the theme of "*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*". This fits well in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by Heads of State and Government in September 2015.

We also subscribed to the Paris Agreement commitments on food and agriculture adopted during the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21). If well implemented, it would bolster the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The biggest challenges for smallholder farmers in developing countries, Uganda inclusive, include lack of access to affordable credit and other financing instruments for investing in capacity building, new technologies and practices. Efforts should continue to strengthen developing countries' capacities to adapt to climate change, achieve food security and improve nutrition, including through South-South and Triangular cooperation.

In the quest to address the challenges of climate change, Uganda supported by FAO and other development partners including the EU and Irish Aid implemented a climate change adaptation programme jointly spearheaded by the Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and that of Water and Environment. The project provided finance to private sector agents and built their capacity to multiply and supply high value and high yielding planting materials to smallholder farmers in climate sensitive areas.

Besides the smallholder farmers in climate sensitive areas, producers are provided with microcredit to purchase small scale equipment for agro processing and value addition in addition to training them in alternative small and medium Enterprise development. They are also trained in various income generating activities that enhance their income levels. This approach addresses the three pillars of development, namely social, economic and environmental.

Despite the above efforts, farmers lack access to markets, they are vulnerable to different types of shocks such as pests and diseases, droughts and floods. They are not sufficiently organized and lack adequate capacity to mitigate the effects of climate change. The youth and women are particularly affected, and therefore require conscious programmes to prepare them to participate in gainful agriculture employment.

At the moment, Uganda is a host to many refugees from some of its neighboring countries facing insecurity and conflict. With the obligation to help others in need, the host communities embrace the refugees and share with them the available meagre resources. The high refugee population however, exerts pressure on the environment therefore exacerbating the effects of climate change that is causing hunger and food shortages.

Mr Chaiperson, allow me to finally thank the FAO Office in Uganda that has supported us during the drought and other challenges.

His Excellency Jon Georg DALE, Minister for Agriculture and Food of the Kingdom of Norway

I am pleased to note that FAO takes an active role in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to emphasize how important this is for Norway, and that as guest country to the G20 this year, Norway has taken an active role to promote Agenda 2030 also in that arena.

Norway welcomes the FAO Report "the Future of Food and Agriculture". It lists the many conflicting trends and challenges that food and agriculture will be faced with, if we are to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030. We must improve income-earning opportunities in rural areas, transform agriculture to attract the young and address the root causes of migration. At the same time, we must make food systems more efficient, inclusive and resilient to meet crises, disasters and conflicts.

Norway is a small country with an open economy dependent on trade. Global cooperation is therefore important to meet global challenges such as hunger and under-nutrition, poverty and climate change and an increasing demand for energy.

Food security in Norway is good and based on both sustainable farming on limited arable land, trade and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

Food production in agriculture shall increase and be more efficient, with high standards of food safety and animal welfare. I would also like to emphasize that Norway, as the first country in the world, has presented a Government White Paper on the role of the oceans in Norway's foreign policy.

In March this year, the Norwegian Government launched a new action plan on healthier diets. It will contribute to the follow-up of the UN Decade on Nutrition. Further, I am also pleased to announce that Norway has launched a Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest global health threats in our time and we must stop producing food in a way that endangers our health.

AMR knows no boundaries, neither geographical nor sectoral. If we are to combat AMR, we must take a One Health perspective and ensure that all relevant sectors cooperate to this end.

I hosted a meeting for the Nordic Council of Ministers last week and AMR was at the top of our agenda. We committed ourselves to a joint stance against antimicrobial resistance through increased regional cooperation.

Global cooperation is fundamental for dealing with antimicrobial resistance. Combatting AMR requires a global and multi-sectorial approach.

I encourage and expect all major food producing countries to follow the EU example and ban the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. The EU Action Plan and cross sectorial approach should be an inspiration to us all.

It is also of outmost importance to ensure that prescribing of antibiotics should not have strong economic incentives, as this is the case in many countries. The time has come to reserve some categories of antibiotics for human treatment only and not allow them to be used in veterinary medicine. If we do not take efficient actions worldwide, we face a future without effective antibiotics. FAO must take a lead role as key organization for global food security.

FAO has a vital role to play in providing resource assessments for sustainable forest management. We trust that FAO will continue to develop the Forest Resource Assessment in a way that it will remain the main source of information on forest resources.

Forests are of fundamental importance in the light of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. Norway has been a leading contributor to efforts aimed at reducing emissions from deforestations and forest degradation in developing countries for a decade. We will remain committed to this agenda in the years to come.

We commend FAO for its expertise and visibility in the area of managing marine resources sustainably. In March, a 43-year long cooperation in fisheries research between FAO, Norway and several coastal states was assured continuity through the new research vessel

Dr. Fridtjof Nansen number 3. In May, we were hosting the first meeting of the parties to the Agreement on State Port Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

We will still continue to contribute.

Son Excellence Monsieur Papa Abdoulaye SECK, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'équipement rural de la République du Sénégal

Tout d'abord, je voudrais saluer et féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Graziano da Silva, pour son leadership et pour le talent avec lequel il dirige cette Organisation si importante et si vitale pour l'avenir de l'agriculture mondiale.

Pour le Gouvernement du Sénégal, les changements climatiques constituent un enjeu planétaire et ne devraient pas être assimilés à ce qu'on pourrait appeler une mode parce que la mode ne s'inscrit pas dans la durée. Les sociologues du développement disent que la mode est une forme de laideur, si bien qu'il faut la changer tous les six mois. Donc, nous ne pouvons pas, au niveau de la communauté internationale, continuer à discourir sur les changements climatiques. Il faut plutôt agir, comme nos amis anglo-saxons le disent: «We have to stop designing and implementing rural development into computer and go to the ground and indeed, try to transform the ground. Time is for action».

C'est pourquoi le gouvernement du Sénégal s'est posé une question fondamentale: que faire par rapport au changement climatique? Nous voulons partager avec votre auguste assemblée dix de nos fortes convictions face au changement climatique.

Notre première conviction est la nécessité et l'urgence d'un changement des mentalités. En clair, nous pensons que les dérèglements climatiques ne constituent pas une fatalité en soi parce que l'homme peut effectivement y faire face grâce à des stratégies appropriées, l'homme étant évidemment la mesure de toute chose.

La deuxième de nos convictions est qu'il est illusoire de parler de changement climatique sans la construction d'une recherche agricole forte. Oui, il faut une recherche agricole forte, grâce à laquelle seront mises au point des variétés tolérantes aux déficits pluviométriques, et qui permettra d'avoir des techniques culturales susceptibles de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, d'exploiter les terres nationales, grâce à l'utilisation de fourrages, de protéger les sols contre la salinité et de promouvoir l'agroforesterie et l'arboriculture fluviale. Ainsi, la recherche agricole est fondamentale dans le cadre de la lutte que nous devons mener contre le changement climatique. C'est aussi grâce à cette recherche agricole que nous pourrons mettre au point des technologies qui nous permettrons de réfléchir autrement, de cultiver autrement, de récolter autrement, et enfin d'induire un changement positif et durable dans l'agriculture mondiale.

Notre troisième conviction repose sur la fortification du Conseil agricole et rural. Sans Conseil agricole et rural fortifié, il n'est pas possible d'assurer la diffusion de techniques culturales pour l'émergence d'agricultures performantes, qui devront bien évidemment intégrer ce que nous appelons

au Sénégal un amortisseur social, c'est-à-dire des bourses familiales, essentielles pour permettre aux pauvres de s'insérer dans le tissu économique.

La quatrième de nos convictions est dans l'approche participative et itérative sans laquelle il n'est pas possible de véritablement définir non seulement des programmes d'atténuation visant à minimiser les risques climatiques, mais aussi des programmes d'adaptation permettant la promotion de produits agricoles dont le développement végétatif est conforme à la turbulence de l'environnement.

Notre cinquième conviction est qu'il faut des approches plus interdisciplinaires, qui permettent de mettre en synergie plusieurs spécialités en vue d'une prise en charge du réel. En effet, il est reconnu que toute démarche disciplinaire est réductrice par rapport à la globalité du réel. Il nous faut donc un véritable brassage des différentes disciplines pour pouvoir prendre en charge cette problématique.

Notre sixième conviction concerne la promotion de technologies agro-écologiques pour concilier ce qu'on pourrait appeler les enjeux socio-économiques, environnementaux et de santé publique, car c'est cela qui va véritablement permettre d'atténuer les émissions de gaz à effet de serre et favoriser la durabilité, l'efficacité et l'efficience des capacités productives des écosystèmes. C'est pourquoi, en ce qui concerne le Sénégal, nous soutenons fortement l'initiative 4 pour 1000, initiative permettant effectivement de concilier ces trois éléments: la socio-économie, l'environnement et les problèmes de santé publique.

La septième de nos convictions se fonde sur l'augmentation de l'investissement dans l'agriculture. Celui-ci est fondamental parce qu'il permettra aux petits exploitants de supporter le coût des innovations technologiques et de favoriser également un secteur privé agricole dynamique et des approches de chaînes de valeurs.

La huitième de nos convictions est dans la formation et l'information des acteurs pour augmenter leur capacité opérationnelle à mieux identifier les problèmes et à agir avec célérité et pertinence, avec un accent particulier sur l'autonomisation des femmes et sur l'insertion intelligente des jeunes dans un secteur agricole qui se présente de plus en plus comme alternative crédible face aux préoccupations fondamentales des jeunes.

Notre neuvième conviction est la mise à niveau des services de météo et des statistiques pour l'obtention de données fiables permettant d'anticiper par rapport aux dérèglements climatiques. Il est impossible de gérer de façon optimale les changements climatiques sans service météo fiable, car c'est à partir des prévisions faites par les services météo que nous pourrons dessiner le profil de la campagne à venir et en conséquence élaborer des programmes d'atténuation et d'adaptation par rapport au changement climatique. En effet, si ces services météo ne sont pas en état, il est clair que nous ne pourrons pas obtenir de prévisions fiables. Il en est de même des statistiques.

Aussi, au lieu de discourir sur les changements climatiques, demandons collectivement à la FAO d'aider les pays s'équiper de services météo fiables, ensuite de services statistiques qui pourront générer des données nous permettant d'anticiper par rapport aux événements du futur et inventer le futur de l'agriculture, au lieu de laisser le futur de l'agriculture inventer le monde.

Enfin et surtout, il faudrait aussi adopter un code de bonne conduite culturelle, car c'est fondamental. Ce code devra s'appliquer à tous les pays pour nourrir le monde sans le détruire et faire accepter que les générations futures ont le droit d'exister et de bénéficier d'un bien-être meilleur qu'actuellement.

Ainsi, au Sénégal, nous avons lancé le concept de solidarité générationnelle agricole, qui signifie durabilité des capacités productives de nos écosystèmes. Pour conclure, je dirais: «L'heure est à l'action!», pour que l'humanité se protège plus et mieux face au dérèglement climatique et que demain doit exister et être meilleur qu'aujourd'hui. Or, en produisant mal, demain pourrait ne pas exister. Nous avons donc une responsabilité historique, celle de nous nourrir tout en laissant le soin aux générations futures de pouvoir se nourrir en intégrant cette donnée fondamentale que constitue le changement climatique.

His Excellency Abdel Moneem EL BANNA, Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Original language Arabic)

The current session of the Conference is under the title "*Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security*". There are many opportunities for sustainable development and there is the 2030 Agenda which gives hope to millions of people who suffer from poverty and hunger throughout the world.

Climate change can change agricultural seasons. This leads to a loss of productivity. Because of the importance of agriculture and because of its ability to adapt to climate change and because we want to reduce emissions, we hope that the Paris Agreement will allow us to find a solution to climate change which will not have a negative impact on agriculture and production.

So we have a historical opportunity to make positive changes for poor agricultural families to increase their revenue and we must therefore put in place new strategies to achieve food security and to face climate change and to achieve sustainable development.

The Strategy for Agricultural Development in Egypt until 2020 concentrates on the best use of natural resources in order to achieve or to increase the annual rate of agricultural production and to achieve more self-sufficiency and to increase the rate of sustainable development.

At the same time, we want to enhance our agricultural exports and Egypt has a comparative advantage in producing cotton and some flours and wheat. We have largescale projects which we have put in place in fish production. We have claimed 1.5 million feddans in the context of the Sustainable Development Plan in my country and we want to increase the revenue from our agricultural products, employ young people, and achieve sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the context of our ambitious vision which was put in place by the Egyptian government to achieve sustainable development and improve the climate for investment and to open the way for people to participate in achieving our plan, we have created the company to develop the Egyptian countryside and reclaim 1.5 million feddans of land.

The goal of this project is not only to reclaim 1.5 million feddans and to plant them, we also have a plan to create housing. We also want to improve self-sufficiency and create new job opportunities from this project which will be done in Upper Egypt and shows that we are putting our attention to the neglected parts of the country.

In this context, I would like to commend the role played by FAO which has cooperated with us since the visit of its Director-General in March 2017, during which he met the President of Egypt and they discussed and agreed upon many things during this visit. They agreed to increase bilateral production between FAO and Egypt in various fields such as clean technology and agriculture and the sustainable development of aquaculture and the Organization declared that it will host a forum on investment in agriculture before the end of this year.

We will invest in value added chains and create new job opportunities. We will concentrate on meats, on gardening, wheat, and sugar and we thank the Organization for its strong support to Egypt on its 1.5 million feddans project and we also aim to reclaim more than four feddans of desert land for largescale projects and we will make efforts to combat the lack of water in our country and we will do many other things.

I would like to insist upon the strong cooperation between Egypt and FAO. We thank FAO for supporting the project of developing countries in agricultural and food security in order to achieve food security and reduce the number of hungry people in the world and fight poverty, and also support the policies of countries in order to achieve more sustainable development in agriculture and achieve food security.

I should like to join my voice to what was said by the Honourable Minister from Saudi Arabia. I would like to reiterate that this is not a blockade as the Honourable Minister from Qatar said. This is a political situation and we would not like to politicize this Conference. The measures which were taken aim to achieve safety and security for Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Lastly, I hope that this important Conference and the various side events will be successful and that they will help the global efforts to achieve sustainable development and food security. I wish you all success and may the peace and grace of God be upon you.

His Excellency Andi Amran SULAIMAN, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia

It is a great honour and a privilege to have the opportunity to address the 40th Conference of FAO.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the critical issue of ensuring food security for the global population. Although we have taken serious efforts, the challenges for food security in the world, especially in the FAO least-developed and developing member countries, remain significant and even increased, due in particular to the impact of climate change. Though the challenges vary among our respective countries, we all generally have those in common, such as insufficient infrastructure and facilities, limited innovation and technology, supply chain mismanagement, and inappropriate policies.

It is well understood that climate change is a pressing issue for the international community, including Indonesia. The international community realized the importance of Paris Agreement to keep temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius due to its irreversibility and likelihood to cause terrible disasters toward human lives. Indonesia has committed, through its NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution), to reduce emission by 29 percent under the Business as Usual scheme by 2030, while an emission reduction of 41 percent is expected with international support. With this commitment, Indonesia will follow a low carbon development action.

Indonesia is a witness on how carefully-designed policies can mitigate the impact of climate change to food security. Aimed at reducing the risk of crop failure due to climate change-related natural disasters, we devised a planting calendar policy, which guides farmers on the best time and place to farm their crops.

Allow me to take this opportunity to also share Indonesia's experience in addressing the critical challenge of meeting the staple food needs for around 250 million Indonesians, which approximately amounts to 33 million tons of rice.

In order to address this major challenge, a holistic programme was launched. This programme included changing the existing policies, developing agricultural infrastructure and down-streaming industries, managing the supply chain, and empowering farmers and rural communities.

The policy changes have been diverse. Those included, most notably, the restructuring of procurement system of farming inputs, prioritizing assistance to sub optimal agricultural land, establishing production targets and streamlining processes of investment.

Improving agricultural stability would have been impossible without first prioritizing water management systems. To date nearly 3 million hectares of tertiary irrigation systems have been revitalized.

The infrastructure development goes hand in hand with the adoption of modernized agriculture. In order to further empower farmers, an education and mentoring programme was launched. This programme has promoted sustainable agricultural practices.

Improvements on supply chain management have also empowered farmers and benefitted consumers. The shortening of this once long supply chain has made our products more competitive, and accordingly improved farmer's income and overall rural welfare.

Last but not least, we also have renewed focus on research and innovation as we believe they are vital in boosting food production. As a result of our renewed focus on research and development high-yielding varieties of rice.

Through this special programme, Indonesia has managed to boost the country's agriculture production. In 2016, the production of rice was 79.1 million tons of ready-to-mill grain, an increase of 4.97 percent from 2015 and 11.7 percent from 2014. This figure is the highest in the last ten years. Although El Nino's devastating impact destroyed vast agricultural areas in our country, we still managed to secure our domestic supply of rice, and even succeeded to increase rice export volume.

Our efforts to increase our food production does not stop there, Indonesia still seeks alternative technology to achieve this goal. One alternative technology that we are currently looking at is Conservation Technology in the rain-fed land, where the FAO supports the leverage model in eastern part of the country. This year, Indonesia will scale up the model into other challenging rain-fed lands to generate more evidence of such model.

The one that makes all these efforts “priceless” is the improved welfare of farmers, indicated by the increasing trend of exchange rate of agriculture business by 2.88 percent in the last 2 years. Moreover, Gini-ratio and the number of poor are in decline. Indonesia Food Security Index is also showing a good progress.

The challenge of feeding our population, as the fourth largest in the world, lies not only in developing rural farming, but also mainstreaming food security and nutrition objective into our human policy development.

In the agricultural sector, we have implemented a nutrition-sensitive measure through promotion of Sustainable Home-Yard Food Garden (SHFG), which now has been largely adopted throughout the country. SHFG approach mainly promotes the empowerment of women to optimize the use of their home-yard as food and nutrition source with the potential to improve their income.

Furthermore, as part of an effort to enhance sustainable livelihood and well-being, Indonesia, as a mega-biodiversity country, is continuously strengthening its policy actions to mainstream biodiversity into planning and implementation of national development programmes including in the forestry, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture.

To conclude, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia, we underline the need for global concerted efforts to address the challenges of climate change, agriculture, and food security. We hope that close collaboration between FAO and its member countries will have greater impact for the community through establishment of a resilient agriculture, enhancement of food diversification, and improvement of farmer welfare.

Indonesia always stands ready to work with all members to ensure food security for our people.

Mr Jason HAFEMEISTER, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services of the United States of America

It is an honour and a pleasure to join my colleagues from all over the world as we work together to address global food insecurity at the 40th session of the FAO Conference.

This year we face challenges that reinforce just how vulnerable much of the world remains to the threat of food insecurity. Famine and near famine conditions are impacting millions in Somalia, northeast Nigeria, Yemen and South Sudan. The United States has provided nearly USD 1.2 billion in 2017 for humanitarian assistance in these four countries. In addition, the fall armyworm infestation is threatening the livelihoods of farmers throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Humanitarian assistance alone is not enough. The world must bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance, while also sustaining our long-term efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. The Rome-based Agencies are critical to filling this gap. The United States remains firmly committed to combatting poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, improving agricultural productivity, expanding opportunities for rural economic growth, and bettering the lives of families around the world. Thus, the United States stands ready to work together with FAO and its members to promote the common interests that we share.

These shared interests include the work of Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention, combating animal and plant diseases, conserving water and natural resources, promoting innovations in agricultural production, building linkages between rural and urban areas, promoting nutrition, and eradicating world hunger. FAO plays an important role in these areas, and only together we can achieve global food security.

Last year the Congress of the United States of America passed the Global Food Security Act, confirming the U.S. commitment to tackling hunger and malnutrition. The USA Global Food Security

Strategy, which was developed in response to this legislation, promotes inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, strengthens resilience among people and systems to increasingly frequent and intense shocks and stresses, supports a well-nourished populations, especially among women and children.

At the United States Department of Agriculture, we are tasked with ensuring the health and security of American farms and forests, rural communities, and food systems, as well as promoting fair and open trade and food security. The USA approach to food security can best be described as “multifaceted.”

We have a long history of contributing to global food security and nutrition through our international capacity building and development programmes, basic and applied research programmes, data and information sharing, and the promotion of science-based policies and regulations that expand agricultural markets and trade.

Our approach is predicated on the fact that direct food aid alone is not enough. We support innovation that sustainably intensifies food and agricultural production and improves farm livelihoods. We support risk management and information sharing that allows farmers worldwide to adapt to political, economic, and natural crises. And we support global participation in open and efficient food and agricultural markets.

Food security can only be advanced through improved agricultural productivity in-country, as well as through international trade. As Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has said, food is a noble thing to trade.

We in this room pursue global food security because it is good for domestic agriculture and good for the world. As countries become more food secure and global incomes increase, that helps expand markets and increases opportunities for agriculture producers.

We also pursue global food security because it is important to national security. We need only look to places like the four countries facing imminent famine threats right now to understand that conflict and strife can directly affect production of food and the access to available, affordable food. Thus, efforts to promote efficient, resilient global food and agriculture systems are of fundamental importance for global economic stability.

While the United States of America is one of the largest providers of food assistance, it is also one of the largest providers of development assistance. We believe that agricultural trade, investment, and innovation are crucial to economic development and to addressing poverty and hunger, and are important vehicles to help us address the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

That is why the United States of America works directly with developing countries to facilitate their integration into international organizations and global trading systems, for instance by helping them establish science-based regulatory systems and adopt international standards and by encouraging their participation in invaluable international standard-setting organizations such as Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the World Organization for Animal Health.

With the four crises, and one in nine people globally suffering from chronic undernourishment, the role of FAO in eradicating food insecurity remains pertinent as ever. As the foremost technical agriculture organization, it remains essential that FAO leverage its resources to maximize efficiency and impact of its work and continue to focus in particular on the areas of addressing food insecurity in which it has a comparative advantage over other organizations.

FAO cannot be all things to all people: as we know from Council’s recommendation for zero nominal growth in the 2018-2019 Programme of Work and Budget, FAO needs to make hard choices and prioritize where it has strengths like normative, technical, and programmatic work. We believe that this body can work within the fiscal realities we collectively face without negatively impacting FAO’s core programmes.

The United States of America recognizes the important role that international organizations play in addressing global food insecurity. The Rome-based Agencies – FAO, WFP, and IFAD – are essential to this task. We strongly appreciate the work done by FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies to eliminate duplication, increase transparency, and remain focused within their respective mandates and

areas of comparative advantage. We are pleased by the improved cooperation we see among the agencies, and we encourage the agencies to continue to expand cooperation.

In closing, I will note that food insecurity caused by conflict, weather, and other crises can be exacerbated by chronic under-investment in agriculture, inefficient inputs, underdeveloped markets, and poor governance. The approach of the United States of America to global food security is to get at the root causes of these issues through our food assistance, through our capacity building, research, innovation, and trade facilitation programmes, and through our investments in value chains, resilience, and nutrition.

Why? Because achieving food security is important not only to hundreds of millions of hungry people, but also to the sustainable economic growth of developing nations and the long-term national security and economic prosperity of the United States and, indeed, all nations in this room.

We in this room have a shared purpose under the Sustainable Development Goals: to end global hunger and food insecurity. Together we can, in the words of Sonny Perdue “do right and feed everyone”.

Son Excellence Monsieur Samir TAIEB, Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche de la République tunisienne (Langue originale arabe)

J'ai le plaisir, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de la 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je vous souhaite plein succès dans l'accomplissement de votre tâche. Permettez-moi aussi de remercier la FAO et tout particulièrement M. da Silva, le Directeur général, et toute son équipe. Permettez-moi aussi de rendre hommage aux interventions très positives, notamment en ce qui concerne les opérations sur le terrain, menées dans nos différents pays et qui, d'une manière générale, ont contribué à une approche fondée sur la collaboration, afin de tirer un parti optimal des ressources naturelles et renforcer les capacités nationales dans le domaine de la pêche et de l'agriculture pour obtenir des résultats techniques positifs.

Notre Conférence se tient alors que l'insécurité alimentaire à travers le monde s'aggrave en dépit des efforts internationaux déployés pour combattre ce problème. Aujourd'hui, 108 millions de personnes souffrent d'insécurité alimentaire, ce qui représente une augmentation non-négligeable en comparaison des 80 millions de personnes concernées en 2015.

De nombreuses études démontrent que nous serons confrontés à de nombreux changements du climat, qui auront des répercussions directes sur nos ressources naturelles ainsi qu'un impact économique et social dans de nombreux pays. Le nôtre n'est pas à l'abri et en souffre déjà, car il fait partie des pays méditerranéens les plus exposés aux effets du changement climatique. Au cours de ces dernières années, les températures ont beaucoup augmenté tandis que la pluviométrie a décliné. Nous avons également eu de longues périodes de sécheresse, ainsi que des tempêtes et une élévation du niveau de la mer, et pas plus tard qu'en juin, nous avons connu une augmentation de dix degrés des températures.

Le changement climatique est une réalité concrète qui a des incidences directes sur l'équilibre des écosystèmes, ainsi que sur celui du secteur agricole. Nous invitons la communauté internationale à accorder plus d'importance à ce problème en mettant en œuvre les Accords de Paris, afin de réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre de manière à ce que la température n'augmente pas de plus de deux degrés d'ici à la fin du siècle. Et nous espérons pouvoir soutenir des mécanismes d'adaptation au changement climatique et à son atténuation.

Mon pays s'efforce, au niveau national, d'accorder plus d'importance au secteur agricole, car celui-ci est crucial pour un processus de développement équilibré. Il est important de faire progresser nos zones rurales aux niveaux économique et social pour parvenir à la sécurité alimentaire et avoir des échanges commerciaux équilibrés avec les autres pays.

Le secteur agricole est pour nous une priorité stratégique. Notre vision d'avenir pour le pays comporte un soutien accru au secteur de la pêche, dont la contribution au développement rural est importante en raison de ses avantages comparés. Il peut en effet attirer des investissements tout en garantissant la pérennité d'une ressource naturelle. Voilà quelle est notre vision stratégique.

En vue d'atténuer les effets négatifs du changement climatique, nous avons mis sur pied un plan quinquennal pour 2016-2018, qui se fonde sur un plan national d'adaptation au changement climatique, englobant le secteur agricole ainsi que les écosystèmes de la pêche et des ressources naturelles.

Nous comptons commencer par nous concentrer sur le développement des ressources naturelles, ensuite sur la remise en état des sols; troisièmement, nous essayerons de développer nos systèmes de production; quatrièmement, nous voulons développer les investissements et nous efforcer de financer l'activité agricole afin que ce secteur devienne un secteur innovant et capable de rattraper les technologies les plus récentes et de les absorber tout en améliorant les structures en place et réexaminant les mécanismes existants.

Nous apportons un soutien, également, aux petites exploitations, notamment les exploitations familiales. Pour encourager les jeunes à investir dans le secteur agricole, nous essayons de les autonomiser, notamment les jeunes ingénieurs, en leur donnant la possibilité d'accéder à des crédits et avons donc créé un plan de soutien à ce mécanisme.

Nous souhaitons vivement poursuivre tous ces efforts afin de garantir des moyens d'existence décents à notre population, en particulier dans les zones rurales. Nous espérons que ces politiques seront soutenues par nos partenaires, notamment par la FAO, et bien sûr, nous évaluerons les résultats de ces projets.

The Honourable Joseph Mtakwese MADE, Minister for Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. May I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Conference and commend you on the very able and competent manner in which you are conducting our deliberations.

Let me also thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive document they have prepared to guide our discussion on this important topic.

I also want to thank the Director-General, Professor Graziano da Silva, for the excellent work that he is doing.

Two important points stand out in this document. The first is that developing countries will be disproportionately affected by climate change. The second is that these countries need support for adaptation and mitigation if they are to protect the livelihoods of the rural poor who depend mostly on agriculture and I think already mentioned by previous speakers.

In the Southern Africa region, in general, and in Zimbabwe, in particular, the effects of climate change are already being felt. We have suffered from successive droughts, with the most severe being the El Nino-induced drought in the 2015-2016 cropping season. As a result, Zimbabwe had to spend scarce resources of USD 500 million importing food, putting further pressure on an economy that is already struggling because of illegal sanctions imposed by some countries.

But 2016-2017 has been good in terms of rainfall. Although the rains came late, it rained consistently throughout the season. In some areas we even had floods which damaged infrastructure and killed livestock. That notwithstanding, the Government of Zimbabwe decided to take advantage of the abundant rainfall and introduced the Special Maize Programme for Import Substitution, dubbed "Command Agriculture."

The programme was meant to provide cheap financing for agriculture and targeted farmers with access to irrigation water and better rainfall. Participation in the programme was voluntary and farmers were provided all-round support on a cost recovery basis. The funds were sourced from local private players who saw business opportunities in the programme. As we speak, local commercial banks are lining up to participate in the programme in the 2017-18 cropping season.

The Special Maize Programme for Import Substitution, which has been hugely successful, complemented two ongoing programmes, namely, the Presidential Inputs Scheme and the More Food

Africa Programme, which were introduced to increase food production by smallholder farmers in the face of climate change.

The Presidential Inputs Scheme has been running for the past seven years and targets households in rural areas. On the other hand, the More Food Programme, which we are implementing jointly with Brazil, has provided mechanisation for tillage and irrigation equipment. This is a typical example of the South-South cooperation.

As a result of the three programmes, the good rains and the hard work of our farmers, there has been a phenomenal increase in output across all food crops. Cereals, tubers and pulses have increased by 321 percent, sorghum has increased by 401 percent and pulses have increased by 328 percent.

Overall, therefore, we are expecting to harvest slightly over 4 million metric tonnes from all food crops against a national requirement of 2 595 527 Mt. This means Zimbabwe will have a surplus of slightly over one million metric tonnes.

The three programmes will continue into 2018 and beyond, with the Presidential Inputs Scheme targeting this coming season 1.8 million households, 400 000 of which will be supported with a cash crop that is cotton.

This week the Government of Zimbabwe will also introduce a programme on livestock that will include also fisheries and wildlife as a special production to utilize marginal land that we think should be reserved for purposes of being included in a process of environment mitigation. It is prudent to undertake this programme this way because sometimes we are allowing farmers to operate on marginal land that is not suitable for direct cropping.

Let me conclude by saying that we would like therefore to see FAO scale up the work it has started to do in particular with the Southern Africa region. We also appeal, particularly facing the challenges of diseases and pests, we appeal that FAO looks with greater efforts to support the efforts that we started undertaking relating to the Fall Armyworm.

His Excellency Luis CAPOULAS SANTOS, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of the Portuguese Republic (Original language Portuguese)

Progress made in the fight against hunger and malnutrition is important but not yet enough. This scourge affects around 800 million people which is unacceptable for humankind and is a call to action for each and every one of us in the long way ahead.

Portugal is naturally in line with the joint positions taken by the European Union and its Member States.

FAO is a major player in this fight and its work is crucial to ensure global food security. Since September 2015, there is a new global framework resulting from the adoption in September of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations General Assembly and the approval in December of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the COP 21 in Paris.

This new framework creates a model and a global governance responsibility to reduce poverty, protect the environment, and promote prosperity and wellbeing.

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development requires a global partnership to continue the path towards sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agriculture and reduce food and nutrition insecurity.

Portugal is one of the countries at highest risk for the effects of climate change. Climate models predict a clear decline in rainfall during spring, summer, and autumn with higher concentration of heavy rainfall in the winter.

This scenario leads to an increase in forest fires and the frequency of extreme drought and flood phenomena, and forest fires are affecting us seriously right now.

Portugal has already defined a natural strategy for climate, water, and forests in line with European objectives in which agriculture plays a key role. We have a national strategy for climate change adaptation. One of the key features of this strategy is a programme to adapt agriculture to climate

change which is being developed with broad participation of public and private entities, representatives of the agricultural sector, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

Through public policies, we seek to adopt resilient practices for climate change mitigation, including sustainable water management, increased biodiversity, and improved ecosystems services.

The world needs to enhance its average productivity in agriculture to meet the growing food demand.

Irrigation is key in this strategy. In the scenario of climate change where it is necessary to increase the resilience of farm producers, this need is even greater in that scenario.

I would also like to mention the importance that Portugal attaches to the food and nutrition security strategy of the community of Portuguese speaking countries which seeks to fight hunger and malnutrition in all Portuguese speaking countries.

It is the first such extended experience to be recognized and supported by FAO since its inception in 2011 when it was adopted by the nine heads of state and government of the countries in the community of Portuguese language speaking countries.

The three development axis are improving governance of food security, supporting improvement of lives, and increasing availability of food based on small farmers and family farming. In Portugal, family farming is also considered an important issue to solve food security problems and combat desertification. By the end of this year, the government will approve a family farming status or statute, which will allow positive discrimination for improving the sustainability of its class of producers.

I would also like to express my strong support for the UN initiative to declare a Decade of Family Farming which is a relevant framework to raise awareness amongst society of this type of – this group of farm producers.

I conclude by restating our intention to keep up our good cooperation with FAO for whom I thank for all of the efforts they have made.

Her Excellency Géraldine MUKESHIMANA, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources of the Republic of Rwanda

It is my great honour to be here on the behalf of the Government of Rwanda and I bring to you greetings from the people in the Government of Rwanda in general and in particular from our President, his Excellency Paul Kagame.

My Government remains firmly committed to the mission of FAO to end hunger and to the goals of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We are happy to share the fact that Rwanda has almost half of the proportion of our people suffering from hunger and we are working hard to eliminate all forms of malnutrition.

Toward the successful completion of its third Strategic Plan for the transformation of agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda is formulating the focus for the period of 2018 to 2023 which will be used to update the sector investment plan in the country.

The agricultural sector policies and strategies are mainstreaming issues of employment, climate change, and gender to comprehensively address issues that are affected agro food systems.

Rwanda is also committed to working together with all towards the common goal of ending hunger.

The recent partnership of the Government of Rwanda, FAO, and the World Bank to develop a proposal that was approved for the global agriculture and food security programme goes to support the country-led investments to contribute to ensuring food and nutrition security is a testimony of what we are capable of achieving together.

I sincerely hope that we can be the generation to achieve the Zero Hunger challenge.

The FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is one instrument to help us move toward fulfilling a number of 2030 SDGs, particularly the target 2.5 and 15.6 with

regard to promoting sustainable agriculture and to conserving and using the world's food crop biodiversity.

It is therefore my privilege and my great pleasure to announce here today that Rwanda will be hosting the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture and I take this opportunity to invite you all to this critically important session.

The session of the Governing Body will be held from 30 October to 3 November 2017. We are looking forward to discussing on how the treaty can best contribute to the 2030 Agenda and I look forward to welcoming you all.

Her Excellency Gabriela MATECNÁ, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

Climate change as a phenomenon of the 21st century is one of the most serious challenges facing our world today. It seriously threatens our environment, agriculture, food security and the way of life. Since climate change is caused by human activity we can fight it only if we change human activities and behavior.

Let us not forget the climate – conflict nexus and the disgraceful consequences humanity faces today with four looming famines affecting 20 million people. But there is always a hope. A hope in the form of the new global development agenda adopted 2 years ago with the aim to end poverty, protect our planet, and ensure prosperity for all, leaving no one behind and reaching first to those furthest behind.

Recognizing the need for the urgent action the landmark Paris Agreement entered into force less than a year after its adoption. Slovakia was the fourth EU country that ratified it and constantly works towards meeting its objectives.

We can all agree that finding common solutions to fighting climate change is not an easy task. But agriculture definitely needs to be a part of the solution and should always feature prominently in all discussions related to climate change.

Further investment in agricultural research is a precondition for finding new innovative ways to develop sustainable agriculture that is economically viable, climate-friendly, safeguarding limited natural resources and at the same time producing sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

Approximately 50 percent of total emissions in Slovakia are produced by companies in the Emission Trading System and only 8 percent origin in agriculture. Slovakia was successful in stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions over the years 2000-2008, with its economy growing rapidly at the same time. As a result Slovakia had the largest decline of the energy and carbon intensities of the economy among the OECD countries.

Allow me to highlight the crucial role of forests in food and agriculture production, and in particular in conservation and restoration of carbon sinks.

The Slovak Republic is proud to be rich in forests that cover almost half of its territory. Sustainable forest management has a long history in our conditions. We have been using forest management plans for more than 250 years. Every year, our forest management allows growing wood and carbon stock in above and below-ground biomass, deadwood and humus and stabilizes its stock in soils.

In the last decade our forests have been threatened by strong winds followed by overpopulation of insect agents in protected localities where active forest management is not allowed.

Based on this experience, I would like to encourage you to take a very sensitive and science based decisions when not allowing the foresters to revitalize damaged forests.

To conclude, allow me to appreciate the valuable work of FAO in supporting countries to be able to mitigate and better adapt to the impacts of climate change in the agricultural and food sectors.

Son Excellence Monsieur Jacob OUÉDRAOGO, Ministre de l'agriculture et des aménagements hydrauliques du Burkina Faso

Je voudrais avant tout propos, au nom du gouvernement et de tout le peuple Burkinabè, vous témoigner notre gratitude pour cet honneur que vous nous faites en nous permettant d'apporter notre contribution sur le thème proposé, à savoir «Changement climatique, agriculture et sécurité alimentaire».

Mais avant d'en arriver à ce thème, dont l'importance n'est plus à démontrer, permettez-moi de saisir cette opportunité qui m'est offerte pour saluer et remercier Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO pour sa vision et les grandes actions entreprises pour une plus grande efficacité de notre Organisation dans le monde. Au nombre de ces grandes actions, on peut citer la création d'un département de statistiques qui sera la tribune fédératrice des statistiques agricoles de tous les pays membres. Nous remercions donc, par cette occasion, la FAO pour l'appui dont notre pays bénéficie dans le cadre du recensement général de l'agriculture «RCA»; la création d'un bureau sous-régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, dont le siège sera au Sénégal, dont la candidature a été retenue. Nous profitons de cette tribune pour féliciter ce pays et l'assurer que nous restons disposés à nous engager davantage à ses côtés pour des actions au bénéfice de tous nos pays et de la sous-région.

Revenons sur le thème qui nous réunit. Le changement climatique est susceptible d'affecter la sécurité alimentaire de nombreuses régions du monde, en particulier dans les pays en développement, où une partie de la population est déjà confrontée à la faim chronique et à la malnutrition.

Au Burkina Faso, les années marquées par la plus grande perte en valeur de production de céréales ont été les années 2005, 2008 et 2012 s'élevant respectivement à plus de 105, 67 et 37 milliards de nos francs. Les principaux risques exacerbés par le changement climatique sont la sécheresse et les inondations, la volatilité des prix des céréales et des autres cultures, les risques phytosanitaires et dans une moindre mesure, les risques fonciers. Ces risques et chocs entraînent et maintiennent les ménages agricoles, surtout les exploitants agricoles familiaux, dans un cycle de précarité alimentaire marqué par une érosion progressive de leurs moyens d'existence.

Les études prospectives sont pessimistes quant à l'évolution du climat et de ses risques. C'est pourquoi, engagé résolument dans la réduction des effets néfastes du changement climatique, le gouvernement Burkinabè a pris plusieurs mesures, aussi bien en termes de prévision que d'intervention. Ainsi, le Plan national de développement économique et social (PNDES 2016-2020) met la gestion des risques climatiques au centre de ses préoccupations et fait du renforcement de la résilience des ménages agricoles un objectif stratégique.

À l'échelle des passerelles agricoles, il s'agit entre autres de la récupération de terres agricoles dégradées, de la facilitation de l'accès aux semences améliorées, de la mobilisation de l'eau pour intensifier et sécuriser la production agricole, de la pratique des cultures de saison sèche, de l'amélioration de la fertilité des sols par la production et l'utilisation de la fumure organique, et enfin de la modernisation de l'agriculture par l'introduction d'une mécanisation adaptée.

L'organisation de la clôture de l'Année internationale des légumineuses (AIL) par le Burkina s'inscrit, du reste, dans cette optique de promotion des cultures nécessitant peu d'intrants, plus résistantes au stress hydrique et largement adoptées par les couches les plus vulnérables. Nous profitons de la présente tribune pour remercier une fois de plus la FAO pour cet honneur qui a été fait au gouvernement et au peuple Burkinabè de recevoir cet événement mondial.

À l'échelle des ménages et des communautés, les interventions prévues portent sur l'aménagement de périmètres irrigués et de bas-fonds aménagés, sur la construction de barrages et de petites retenues d'eau, sur la mise en place de mécanismes de gestion des risques agricoles devant soutenir le développement de l'assurance récolte, sur la promotion du warrantage et l'information sur les risques agricoles, notamment les prix et les prévisions pluviométriques, mais aussi les attaques des ravageurs.

À l'échelle nationale, le Burkina Faso a souscrit à la Mutuelle panafricaine de gestion des risques agricoles dénommée Africa Risk Capacity (ARC), afin de pouvoir faire face aux besoins des personnes touchées en cas de catastrophe. Le Burkina Faso est également membre de l'Alliance globale pour la résilience (AGIR). Par ailleurs, chaque année, il est élaboré et mis en œuvre

un plan de réponse et de soutien aux personnes vulnérables pour améliorer leur résilience face aux effets néfastes du changement climatique. Cette année, le coût global du plan est de 21 milliards de nos francs, soit 32 millions d'euro.

L'ensemble de ces interventions se nourrit de réflexions fructueuses venant des tribunes comme celle qui nous réunit aujourd'hui. Nous souhaitons que la présente Conférence permette des avancées significatives dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la 21^{ème} Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP21, tenue à Paris et de la 22^{ème} Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP22, tenue à Marrakech.

Avant de terminer mon propos, je voudrais réitérer mes remerciements à la FAO et à l'ensemble des délégations présentes pour leurs efforts inestimables en vue de promouvoir une agriculture climato-intelligence à même de répondre aux besoins de consommation des ménages et appuyer la transformation économique et sociale dont nos pays aspirent.

Ms Elisabeth BACKTEMAN, State Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs of Sweden

A few weeks ago, from 5 to 9 June, Sweden and Fiji hosted the UN Ocean Conference in New York. It specifically targeted SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Conference was indeed a success. Almost 10 000 participants, 100 Heads of State and Ministers as well as key persons such as the Crown Princess of Sweden who is a Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres and of course the Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva took part.

The Conference has led to over 1300 voluntary contributions including a Swedish contribution of 5.4 million USD to FAO for the implementation of measures to support SDG 14. Closely linked to achieve also the other goals.

The contribution specifically aims at supporting the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and the global Record of Fisheries Vessels. The funding will also contribute to FAO's ongoing work on discarded fishing gear.

We find that the PSMA is one of the best ways of combatting IUU fishing and its harmful economic, social and environmental effects.

The elimination of unsustainable fisheries subsidies is an important part of SDG 14 and it is of utmost importance that there will be an agreement on appropriate language to honour SDG 14.6 at the next WTO Ministerial in Buenos Aires in December this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO for its deep engagement in the Ocean conference and for FAO's constructive collaboration. Thank you very much.

The Conference aimed at finding momentum for one of the most complex SDGs. However, this conference has, in my mind, become something more. It was proof of the ambitions, and willingness of governments, NGOs, UN Organisations and other stakeholders, to achieve Agenda 2030 and to fulfil the SDGs.

The challenges are many. FAO has, in its reports on the State of Food and Agriculture, given us a presentation of some of the major ones.

One of the challenges that the Swedish Government has given high priority to is the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This is a shared Nordic priority and I would like to support what my Norwegian colleague stated in his speech earlier this afternoon. FAO is in a unique position to be a game changer in this field. Better conditions for animals, preventive measures and the use of antibiotics only when needed can take us far in reducing the risks.

This is why the Swedish Government has decided to sponsor a senior expert to FAO in the field of AMR. We are looking forward to a mutually rewarding exchange of expertise.

Finding ways of feeding the world's growing population and ensuring food security for all, without doing further damage to our environment is one of the most difficult challenges we face. But it is not an impossible challenge. There are solutions – some are traditional and based on experience, some are new and innovative. Some are simply based on greater efficiency and care.

In other words, we have to increase productivity in agriculture in a sustainable way. Essential components to succeed with this are research, field trials, innovation and extension services, but also well-functioning markets, good governance and investments in infrastructure.

Offering stable circumstances will attract investments, boost diversification and stimulate new thinking, thus making the agricultural sector a business for the future. This is key in getting the young to engage, a topic debated in yesterday's ministerial meeting between the EU and the African Union.

Absolutely crucial is to provide equal opportunities for both women and men. Gender equality is one of the most efficient ways of reaching results in decreasing poverty and increasing prosperity.

Providing education for all is at the centre of such an effort.

Another initiative I would like to mention is the newly established Agroforestry Network. This NGO-driven network based in Sweden aims at increasing knowledge on agroforestry methods particularly in developing countries. FAO's knowledge base and technical expertise is important for the success of the network.

As part of Sustainable Forest Management, applying agroforestry and planting crops and trees together can lead to decreased poverty as yields increase, it is effective in fighting climate change since trees store CO₂, it can help restore degraded land, combat desertification and halt the loss of biodiversity.

The effects of climate change and a growing world population means that we need to transition to sustainable ways of producing food, while respecting the environment, the economy and social factors in the process. Cooperation and collaboration between different actors and across sectors is a necessity. Global challenges cannot be tackled alone.

Sra. Ivannia QUESADA VILLALOBOS, Viceministra de Agricultura y Ganadería de la República de Costa Rica

Durante nuestra Administración, nos ha correspondido atender dos serios eventos climáticos que, si bien afectaron todo el país, tuvieron un efecto más fuerte en la Región Norte y Pacífica de Costa Rica. Dos años de sequías consecutivas y un huracán, el primero que ha tocado directamente al país en toda su historia, ingresando por el Atlántico y saliendo por el Pacífico, dejando a su paso impactos severos en infraestructuras, agricultura, e incluso generando pérdida de vidas humanas.

Estos eventos nos permitieron probar los mecanismos de prevención y atención de emergencias que durante tantos años habíamos venido fortaleciendo y debo decir con satisfacción que logramos atender los efectos adecuadamente.

Todo ello, nos ha dado una idea real de la vulnerabilidad de nuestro país y de la fragilidad de la seguridad alimentaria de nuestra población, frente a los embates del cambio climático, razón certera para profundizar en los esquemas de productividad, mitigación y adaptación, contando con ejemplos exitosos en Costa Rica como el NAMA Café y la política de ganadería baja en carbono.

Una de las líneas de acción del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería de Costa Rica subyace en generar valor agregado e innovación, con el objetivo que el productor participe activamente en las cadenas de valor, dignificando la vida de las familias rurales, los jóvenes y las mujeres productoras.

De estos procesos, derivamos lecciones que ahora quisiera compartir con ustedes:

La importancia de optimizar los mecanismos de gestión de riesgo y atención del sector agropecuario tales como: sistemas de información y alerta temprana, nuevas alternativas de adaptación, reforzamiento de la investigación y robustecimiento del apoyo a los agricultores.

La inversión en la infraestructura de riego y la implementación de sistemas como la cosecha de agua, el trasvase, la creación de reservorios y la optimización en el uso de recursos, es prioritaria.

Las familias de los agricultores más pobres son las que más sufren y tienen menos posibilidades de seguir en actividades agropecuarias luego de estas catástrofes. Estas personas cuentan con pocas alternativas de encontrar otra actividad económica, lo cual compromete los planes nacionales de reducción de la pobreza.

A pesar de los esfuerzos que ha hecho nuestro país, para combatir los impactos negativos del cambio climático en la agricultura, vemos necesario estimular los esfuerzos regionales y los compromisos globales en marcha. El Acuerdo de París, que reconoce en su preámbulo y artículo 2 la importancia de salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria y acabar con el hambre, se constituye en un instrumento inicial para lograr el cambio de paradigma de desarrollo que necesitamos, entendiendo a la producción agropecuaria como parte de la solución y no solo el problema.

La cooperación técnica y financiera de las naciones desarrolladas, para combatir y atenuar los efectos del cambio climático en los medios de vida de nuestros productores es trascendental. La cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular es un mecanismo de comprobado éxito para el combate al cambio climático.

Por lo tanto, si queremos realmente cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030 de las Naciones Unidas, fortalecer la agricultura familiar y atenuar los efectos del cambio climático, requiere del aporte responsable de todos los países.

Hago un llamado a los Estados a propiciar las mismas oportunidades para las mujeres productoras, propiciando de esta manera su independencia económica y fortaleciendo los niveles de desarrollo integral de los países.

Para concluir, insisto a realizar acciones reales que permitan a nuestros países, promover el apoyo a los agricultores familiares que están sufriendo limitaciones en sus medios de vida. Los principios de armonización, alineamiento y apropiación de la cooperación internacional son más que nunca relevantes y necesarios en la consecución de los objetivos de Hambre Cero e igualdad de género.

No quisiera finalizar mi intervención sin recordar que mi país ha decidido llevar adelante la iniciativa para la Proclama de un Decenio de Acción sobre Agricultura Familiar en el próximo período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. En este sentido, deseo invitar vivamente a todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO a que informen a sus colegas en Nueva York sobre la importancia de este asunto, de manera que juntos podamos extender los exitosos resultados del Año Internacional en 2014 y, consecuentemente, acelerar el logro de los ODS, en particular el número 2.

Ms Tan Poh HONG, Chief Executive, Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of the Republic of Singapore

With the global population projected at 9.7 billion by 2050, global demand for food will need to grow exponentially, putting food production resources such as land and water under immense strain. Plant and animal diseases, and antimicrobial resistance concerns will also pose significant risks.

Climate change is another global pressure causing great uncertainty to global food supply. Adverse climate change impacts can harm crop yields, destabilise food markets, impact global water supply even as agriculture competes with other needs for water, and further exacerbate the spread of animal and plant diseases and pests. As a small, import-dependent city-state with resource constraints, Singapore is similarly concerned with climate change challenges.

To feed the growing world population in a sustainable manner, food production must be more innovative to achieve quantum leaps in agricultural production and productivity. This is not an easy task and governments cannot do it alone. In this regard, strengthening public-private partnership is critical. Governments will require collaboration and cooperation with all stakeholders.

Within the industry, farmers, food companies, research institutes and institutes of higher learning must also come on board and collaborate with one another, for example via sharing facilities and resources for greater efficiencies and cost-savings. This will be a win-win outcome for all.

In hoping to contribute towards global food security efforts, Singapore is working to realise a vision of a high-tech, innovative, efficient, productive and sustainable agriculture sector, in close consultation with our agriculture industry players, through various work streams such as research and development,

knowledge transfer, and funding support for our farmers' adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies and investment in transformational farming systems.

To realize this vision, the Singapore Government has stepped up engagements with farmers who know the issues and challenges best as practitioners on the ground. Earlier this year, we formed an Industry Consultation Panel consisting of government agencies, farmers, and academics to work together to co-create and transform the agricultural sector in Singapore.

With the use of technology such as remote sensors, Information & Communications Technology (ICT), robotics and big data, this allows for higher precision production and increased productivity levels in controlled environments. As technology improves, we see this as becoming a viable means for larger-scale food production, particularly in and around dense urban food markets, and also for building resilience for adaptation to climate change. This will also attract a new generation of youth who will bring with them various expertise in fields ranging from engineering, computing, marketing, systems design and so on to liven up the agriculture sector.

We also conduct overseas technology sourcing trips to help farmers look for innovative technologies to adopt, technology matching sessions between farmers and solution providers, and assist farmers with test-bedding of new farming systems.

As Singapore progresses on our farm transformation journey, we look forward to serving as a “living lab” for food production technologies, and to playing a greater role in developing urban farming solutions. In this way, we hope to develop food solutions of benefit internationally, and play our part for global food security.

His Excellency Thani Ahmed Saeed Alshakkay ALZEYOUUDI, Minister for Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates¹

I would like to respond to his Excellency the Minister from Qatar. I would like to highlight that what we have done is a boycott and not an embargo and it is a right that we would like to exert. I would like to reassert that our country has full sovereignty to take this kind of measures because these measures have to do with national security and with the protection against terrorism.

Therefore, the decision to boycott Qatar has been the result of activities perpetrated by Qatar over the past 20 years and the purpose of the Qatar activities was to incite to disobedience. Also, the activities of Qatar aimed mainly at promoting terrorism, creating secession, create destabilization in the region, etc. We look forward to having Qatar answering our requests and we would hope for having together security and safety in our region.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I close the meeting I will pass the floor to the Secretary General for a brief announcement.

SECRETARY- GENERAL

I wish to remind delegates that we will have a Side Event tomorrow morning on “Sustainable Agriculture for Biodiversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Agriculture”. This will take place at 08.00 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Secretary-General, with that I declare the Second Plenary Meeting closed. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 20:02 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 02

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.02

¹ Right of reply

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 July 2017

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.41 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 9.41
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

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

Palau, Lithuania, Sudan, South Africa, Peru, Angola, Finland, Swaziland, Ireland, Oman, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Namibia, Spain, Japan, Ghana, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, Armenia, Canada, Georgia, Cambodia, Bangladesh, League of Arab States, Kenya

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Third Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

It is an honour for the Conference to have as our first speaker this morning His Excellency Tommy Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau.

His Excellency Tommy E. REMENGESAU, President of the Republic of Palau

It is indeed my great pleasure to be here with all of you today and to deliver this statement on the occasion of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

At the outset, let me begin by thanking FAO for the excellent arrangements. This is my first visit to Italy and to FAO and on behalf of my delegation, “grazie mille” for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Many of you here today know well that the Pacific Ocean is one of the world's greatest treasures. Looking at pictures of the Earth, your eyes have been trained to seek out land. The most prominent features are the continents, with the oceans there, merely to give them shape. However, if caught at just the right angle, the planet turns completely blue - the Pacific Ocean is the only thing you can see. It is enormous and it is beautiful.

And zoom in a little closer, and you would start to see tiny specks of green and gold - our islands. While we may not be able to see our islands in every photo or on every map, we know where they are. Surrounded by this great expanse of water, we have an intimate understanding of just how Large of an Ocean State we are.

My country Palau is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) located just 6 degrees north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean. While it is small in land, at only about 180 square miles, it is a large Ocean state or roughly the size of France, under its jurisdiction.

Needless to say, our natural resources are limited, and one of the great ironies of life on a small island is that, though we are defined by the ocean around us – it underpins our culture, our food security, and our economy.

On SIDS, we have an inherent appreciation of the interconnectivity between people and the ocean, the land, and the ecosystem as a whole. We grew up in a culture that emphasized the need to respect nature and the need to live sustainably today for the benefit of current and future generations – these are ideals that all here today share.

Perhaps, part of our challenges is the notion shared by some that we are the last of the human race on heart. That we have to harvest every opportunity before us and just let the next generation care of themselves. This is the mentality that would not ensure a sustainable planet for the next generations.

Therefore, for a future full of hope when we have before us a set of Sustainable Development Goals, and the most important goals in relation to Food Security and Livelihood fall under the work of FAO: eradicating hunger, clean water and sanitation, oceans, climate change and partnerships, to name a few.

It is good to know that since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway and the Agenda 2030, FAO has been in the forefront of the UN System in its reform to ensure that the organization is more results oriented and cost effective for its members, and most importantly the first UN Agency to begin implementing the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA), or the Samoa Pathway.

Let me pause and commend the work of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Graziano da Silva in his leadership, because the reforms are an example of what is needed in the UN System.

Furthermore, under his leadership, the SIDS have been highlighted within the FAO system; for example, in the last year there has been an increase in the Pacific SIDS becoming accredited to FAO: Tonga, Palau, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa. There has also been a staff increase from the Pacific region and for Palau a first historic time to work in the UN system through FAO, along with Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga.

For my country and many in the Pacific, oceans and climate change continues to be the priority, and therefore the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is important for all of us, who have to deal with the challenge of combating IUU. FAO accreditation to the GCF is also a welcomed development, as we will be able to partner in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Further improvement is definitely urged in the UN FAO system, for instance if we could also provide the full recognition of the special requirements of SIDS in achieving Agenda 2030 and the SAMOA Pathway.

We would also urge an additional seat for the South West Pacific in the Council.

We note the progress and achievements, including reports from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees that will be considered at this Conference. Despite our small administration, Palau participates actively in ocean and fisheries matters.

Indeed, the people of the Pacific are stewards of the largest ocean on the Earth - 98 percent of our region is ocean. Our countries' futures depend upon the health and conservation of our vast ocean and coastal resources, which affects every aspect of the sustainable development agenda in the Pacific region.

At the opening of the First Meeting of the Parties to PSMA held in Oslo at the end of May, I called on the meeting to send a clear and strong commitment to the international community, that we are serious about the effective implementation of the PSMA as one of the means to fight Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. The Parties certainly stood up to the challenge. I call upon States that have not done so to consider joining the Port State Measures Agreement. After all, the effectiveness of international efforts to combat IUU fishing depends on the participation of everyone.

In the first week of June, another historic event occurred. The United Nations Ocean Conference in New York effectively set a baseline for the international community to measure progress in the implementation of SDG 14 and its indicators. Among other achievements, the Ocean Conference also attracted over 1390 voluntary commitments and established partnerships between States, the private sector and civil society. We must now follow through with the commitments we have made towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Later today we will be officially launching the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS. I commend FAO for taking the lead in the development of the Global Action Programme and for responding to the call in paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway. The Global Action Programme is an opportunity to accelerate action on food security and nutrition in SIDS to support sustainable development.

Events like this Conference help us to focus and recognize the critical importance of food security and livelihood to our environment, to our land, our ocean and especially to our people. We have an important duty to ensure sustainability of resources for the benefit of present and future generations of our peoples. It goes without saying that the consequences of not taking this duty is severe.

His Excellency Bronius MARKAUSKAS, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

It is my pleasure and honour to be here with you in Rome today for this important joint conference. Our joint participation at the event is a clear indication of our shared commitment to addressing the issues of climate change, agriculture and food security for the sake of our sustainable future. And I am very thankful to FAO for having given me the opportunity to share with you my views. Our neighbouring countries Latvia and Estonia align themselves with this statement.

Let me begin by commending the FAO's efforts on climate change and its engagement, in close collaboration with other UN agencies and other stakeholders, to facilitate policy dialogue in line with the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement at global, regional and national level and to achieve greater policy coherence by increasing the capacity of governments to foster synergies in different policy areas.

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we took collective responsibility towards the entire planet for this and future generations for building a sustainable future and our commitment to act accordingly. We have a strong impetus for action, and a clear framework for moving ahead. But transition to resilient and more sustainable agriculture and food systems in the context of climate change is one of the main challenges ahead of us.

As we are all aware, climate change issues extend beyond national borders and the negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and agricultural production pose a serious and growing threat to food security. On the one hand, agriculture is a major source of man-made greenhouse gas emissions but on the other hand it has a unique potential in terms of possibilities to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.

Taking into account the ongoing discussions on the future EU's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), we will necessarily need to pay more attention to sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, which will continue to be among priorities for the CAP post 2020. I would like to highlight a few priority areas.

First, we need to invest more and better in knowledge transfer and innovation with a view to produce more from less and to produce better. Particular attention should be paid to the development and implementation of innovative technologies in agriculture, focusing on climate-smart agriculture and precise farming which could bring about significant improvements in food security, as well as resilience to climate change.

Second, due attention should be paid not only to the funding of scientific research but also to the dissemination of its results and its adaptability to production. It is essential that not only scientists, but also farmers, companies, and consultants collaborate in the development of new solutions. Also, greater attention must be paid to the development of mutual support foundations in order to increase the involvement of farmers in the risk management process.

Third, diversification could help farmers to better manage various risks in agriculture, but these activities should be individual and best suited to the local needs. As one of the possibilities for diversification, farmers could be involved in the sectors related to the development of bioeconomy such as production of bio raw materials, processing of their biodegradable waste into products with added value.

I could easily continue with more examples, but the point I want to make is the following: firstly, sustainable use of our scarce natural resources and economic activity are not mutually exclusive. Lastly, farmers must be placed at the centre of the solutions to these issues and ensure that agricultural activity and environment performance meet.

This is a challenging time for our sector but only by working together and with the invaluable support of FAO we can achieve our goals and overcome the effects posed by climate change, so let us turn aspiration into action and build a food secure, sustainable, and prosperous future for this and future generations.

His Excellency Abdullatif Ahmed Mohamed IJAIMI, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of the Sudan (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Representatives of various countries, may the peace of God be upon you all. I am happy and honoured to take the floor on behalf of Sudan.

I would like to state our full support to FAO and the development partners in order to achieve our strategic objectives. We do hope that this meeting would contribute to the sustainability of food production.

We in the Sudan, we highly appreciate the work of this Organization in promoting development and in helping Member Countries in order to secure food security in the face of many challenges, namely the rise in food prices. There are fluctuations. And as you are well aware, these challenges do need the synergy of international efforts in order to increase productivity, to increase the output of agriculture with the participation of all stakeholders.

I should like to inform this august gathering that Sudan in the past period has witnessed an improvement in our security situation. Indeed, a number of refugees have returned to Darfur. They have benefitted from the process of voluntary return. This was done with the help of brotherly and friendly countries. Indeed, in the Sudan, we were able to reach through dialogue a national accord document. This brought about the peace in dialogue. This document will be implemented for the upcoming three years. After which, we shall organize elections. This national accord policy will pave the way for more political stability.

As for the sanctions that were imposed on us for the last 20 years, those sanctions have been partly lifted which brought about a satisfaction among our people. It relieved some of our stress. And if these sanctions are totally lifted, they will undoubtedly lead to our prosperity.

We have a five-year plan related to sustainable development. The priority of this development is to promote investment in agriculture and to increase the investment in agriculture. The share of agriculture should be to the tune of 10 percent. We expect the agricultural sector to contribute by 6 percent of the GDP.

We do hope that this plan will take into account 7 key factors to create the adequate environment for development, to promote the capacities of those working in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, to increase and promote the management of agriculture, to set up knowledge networks, to secure access to markets, to tackle the problems of land and soil, to implement food quality standards. This would be upheld through sound management with the help of the private sector, the national and foreign private sector.

As of 2014, Sudan has prepared a food and nutrition security document. We have established a National Council entrusted with this task in addition to a mechanism which is entrusted with the task of preparing documents. Documents related to nutrition and food security are submitted to the Council of Ministers so that they can make the relevant policies. We commend the support of the various institutions. And we have established an early warning system.

Sudan is one of the countries affected by climate change. 70 percent of our arable land is rain-fed. We rely on the rain in order to produce our animals and our food crops; therefore, we are vulnerable to climate change. We do hope that donor countries will extend their support for us to be able to face up to the climate change, to adopt the mitigation and adaptation measures.

Sudan is anxious to promote the capabilities of smallholder farmers because they have small plots of land and they raise their animals in a limited way; therefore, we do hope to be able to hone their skills in order to promote their productivity.

We have also established a micro-financing institution linked to the Central Bank. This is a window that would help smallholder farmers find the way to get concessionary loans. We have also established institutions to guarantee those loans. We have clarified the conditions for the creditworthiness of these several borrowers. We enhanced the participation of young people and businessmen in order to promote the investment in agriculture. We try to make the best use of water harvesting. We look forward to seeing further partnership and support from other stakeholders and donor countries because we alone cannot achieve what we have in mind.

Finally, the African Regional Conference will be held in my country, in Khartoum, in 2018. It would be a good opportunity to tackle our problems and issues. We do hope that this will be an opportunity to attract your participation in order to take stock of what we can achieve. Sudan has a number of projects implemented by many UN agencies, and we do hope to draw benefit from the expertise and skills of this Organization.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the Organization for having put the name of Sudan on one of its meeting rooms. It is a source of pride for us. We do hope that the Almighty shall guide us towards unity and work together so that we can achieve stability, food security for all citizens of the world. May the blessing of God be with you.

His Excellency Senzeni ZOKWANA, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa

It is an honour to be part of an august gathering that commemorates the 40th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference. Let me take this opportunity to extend a vote of thanks to the organisers of the Conference and convey my fraternal greetings to the Ministers and the distinguished delegates gathered here today on behalf of the people of the Republic of South Africa. More importantly, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Graziano da Silva for providing sound leadership in managing the affairs of this organization.

The last three years were marked by one of the worst El Nino-induced droughts, which devastated the agricultural sector in a big way in our region. There were job losses as drought intensified, negatively affecting agriculture. The overall unemployment in my country, occasioned by low productivity, led to job losses of up to 27 percent.

We lost 200 000 livestock, affecting up to a quarter million smallholder farmers. Food prices rose, thus affecting the poorest of the poor, steep food inflation in the basic food basket increased to above 11 percent, making it extremely difficult for consumers to afford basic food items. The food basket moderated slightly in the past few weeks, easing pressure on disposable incomes used for food purchases.

South Africa's response to food insecurity is anchored by a National Food and Nutrition Security Plan (NFNS). The Plan has the high-level strong support of our Presidency. It seeks to strengthen collaboration amongst government Ministers in order to wage a collective response against food insecurity.

As set out in our National Development Plan (NDP), Food and Nutrition Security is identified as a key element to alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment and inequality by 2030. In an attempt to address these fundamental challenges, the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative (end hunger) was introduced. This initiative is in line with the continental policies such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration of Zero Hunger by 2025.

Our approach is complemented by the completion of the State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) Report. On the main, the report outlines the food security challenges at the national level. Furthermore, the report seeks to assess the state of national readiness for South Africa to allocate resources as required. Encouragingly, South Africa has had a 0.6 percent drop in the number of people who are food insecure.

South Africa is undertaking enormous strides in reducing the negative impact of climate change on food security. In this context, we support adoption of a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Strategic Framework. This framework is geared towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting initiatives of building resilience of production systems to reduce vulnerabilities of the sector to climate variability and other related risks. We are encouraged by the efforts of the Global Research Alliance in this regard. We should all work towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for every unit of food produced.

We are deeply mindful of the collaboration between South Africa and Southern African Development Community Member States in adapting to the effects of climate change. In this regard, the regional organization has established the South African Vulnerability Assessment Committee (SAVAC). Among others, the committee strives to create a coordinated information system for classifying, measuring and monitoring the pervasive household food insecurity and vulnerability levels.

Part of our working programme encompasses the strengthening of collaboration with developed countries to implement the Paris Agreement. Such cooperation should be based on a winning partnership that safeguards food and nutrition security uplifting the poor from unemployment, disease and homelessness.

South Africa encourages the establishment of sustainable partnerships within Africa and with other continents and sub-regions to advance the agenda of protecting citizens of the developing world against the effects of climate change, including the progressive realization of the right to food and nutrition security.

To this end, South Africa welcomes the African Union joint cooperation initiative with the European Union.

In conclusion, South Africa is confident that the outcomes of this Conference will contribute to long-term sustainable food and agriculture programmes for the benefit of our citizens. We owe it to the less privileged to act in a spirit of global partnership to ensure a better world for all, eliminating the scars of underdevelopment and raising the hopes of our citizens.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don José Manuel HERNÁNDEZ CALDERÓN, Ministro de Agricultura y Riego de la República del Perú

Es para mí un honor dirigirme a ustedes en el marco de este Cuadragésimo Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, cuyo tema central no podría ser más relevante: “El Estado de la Alimentación y la Agricultura: Cambio Climático, Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria”.

Perú comparte la preocupación por garantizar que la población mundial satisfaga sus necesidades alimenticias y nutricionales mediante el acceso y consumo de alimentos inocuos y nutritivos. Esto depende, entre otros aspectos, de la política económica, social y ambiental de nuestros Estados, del fortalecimiento de las cadenas de valor, del progreso de la ciencia agrícola y la tecnología limpia, de la reducción de las pérdidas post-cosecha; pero, sobre todo, del buen uso de los recursos naturales y su preservación para el beneficio de las generaciones futuras. Producir descuidando el medio ambiente no tiene sentido.

La actividad agraria es un elemento clave en la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de nuestro país. Por ello, nuestras políticas a mediano y largo plazo están enmarcadas en procesos de inclusión social y económica de la población rural, con uso sostenible de los recursos naturales. Nuestra Política Agraria prioriza la pequeña agricultura y la agricultura familiar, sin descuidar la agricultura de exportación, cuyo crecimiento ha sido notable en los últimos 15 años. Uno de nuestros objetivos es lograr el incremento sostenido de los ingresos de los productores del campo para reducir a la mitad la pobreza rural al 2021.

En buena medida nuestra Política Agraria se coordina e implementa a nivel multisectorial. El “Plan AGRO PRÓSPERO” al 2021 dirige nuestra política. Como parte de ese Plan, desarrollamos el Programa SIERRA AZUL, para asegurar el suministro de agua y mitigar los efectos del cambio climático, con siembra y cosecha de agua en las cuencas, aprovechando técnicas ancestrales de los antiguos peruanos; así como reservorios y tecnificación del riego; el Programa SERVIAGRO, ofrece asistencia técnica y capacitación para pequeños productores; la titulación de tierras para garantizar la propiedad a las comunidades nativas y campesinas, tantos años olvidadas; así mismo el Banco de Germoplasma es una apuesta importante para preservar el ADN de nuestra rica biodiversidad y productos nativos; así como programas de crédito y seguro agrario; el Plan de Desarrollo Ganadero; entre otros.

Del mismo modo, resulta necesario enfrentar los desafíos del cambio climático, que trae consigo eventos naturales de cada vez mayor frecuencia y magnitud, como las sequías, las heladas, la considerable disminución de disponibilidad de agua fresca o las inundaciones. Justamente Perú, este año ha enfrentado situaciones continuadas de incendios forestales, déficit hídrico e inundaciones, que han afectado considerablemente la economía del productor agrario. A pesar de haber avanzado en prevención y reducción de la vulnerabilidad de la actividad agraria, la magnitud de las últimas inundaciones superó nuestras estimaciones. Este último evento natural ha puesto de manifiesto el impacto negativo, que los patrones climáticos extremos podrían tener sobre la disponibilidad de alimentos, las alzas estacionales de los precios, y las dificultades en el suministro de los productos. Para enfrentar estas graves situaciones y recuperar la capacidad productiva del agro en las zonas afectadas, el Gobierno activó una serie de medidas durante y después de la emergencia en apoyo a los productores, así como trabajos de rehabilitación de la infraestructura hidráulica en el país. Los daños

fueron cuantiosos y hoy estamos en la etapa de reconstrucción de todo lo que fue destruido. Es necesario crear resiliencia en el agro ante estos eventos climáticos. Creemos que la FAO y su nuevo Departamento de Clima, Biodiversidad, Tierras y Aguas, jugará un rol importante en la materia.

Los espacios de diálogo que se nos presentan a lo largo de esta semana resultan sumamente relevantes para compartir experiencias en políticas públicas para enfrentar juntos los desafíos frente al cambio climático, el desarrollo rural, el envejecimiento de la población rural, la creciente urbanización, la creciente demanda por alimentos, así como la importancia de la modernización y mayor productividad de la agricultura para responder a la nueva demanda de alimentos; con tecnologías sostenibles que permitan disminuir la mayor presión sobre los recursos y optimizar procesos para su racional aprovechamiento.

Perú, como país megadiverso, con una inmensa variedad de productos naturales alimenticios está conquistando cada vez más mercados y paladares, y contribuyendo además, a mejorar los niveles de nutrición. La demanda a nivel mundial de los llamados “*Super Foods*”, por sus positivos efectos en la salud, es creciente. Un caso emblemático es el de la quinua, de la cual somos centro de origen, y que hoy en día se cultiva y contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de más de 70 países, en todas las regiones del mundo.

Nuestra gastronomía está revalorizando sus raíces y utilizando productos nativos, producidos localmente, deliciosos y nutritivos, y al mismo tiempo está procurando una producción sostenible de alimentos, al alcance de todos, junto con la conservación de la biodiversidad y con ello estamos conquistando el mundo. A partir del 18 de junio de este año, en Naciones Unidas, se celebra el “Día de la Gastronomía Sostenible”, a iniciativa de mi país.

Permítame concluir Presidente, destacando el compromiso peruano con la implementación de la Agenda 2030, sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, así como la implementación del Acuerdo de París, y, con ello, la necesidad de desarrollar políticas integradas de transformación del agro con el fin de lograr un agro próspero, competitivo e inclusivo.

Son Excellence Monsieur Marcos Alexandre NHUNGA, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République d'Angola (Langue originale portugais)

Il s'agit d'un grand honneur pour moi de participer, au nom du Gouvernement de l'Angola, à cette 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO, qui a pour sujet, « Le changement climatique, l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire », un thème au sens profond, compte tenu des impacts pernicieux des phénomènes climatiques défavorables pour l'agriculture et la pêche au niveau mondial, et qui affecte la vie et les stratégies de survie des populations, en particulier dans les pays en développement.

Tout comme ce qui se passe dans de nombreux pays du monde, ces cinq dernières années en Angola, la sécheresse a touché plus d'un million de personnes et les provinces du sud du pays. La situation a conduit le pouvoir exécutif, avec la participation de partenaires nationaux et internationaux, à mener une vaste opération de soutien à la population, afin de faire face et de se remettre des effets négatifs causés par la sécheresse.

Nous aimerais souligner la coopération exemplaire qui existe entre l'Angola et la FAO et l'attention particulière que Monsieur le Directeur Général a pu y porter. Cette coopération touche tous les secteurs du développement rural, à savoir l'agriculture, l'élevage et les services vétérinaires, les forêts, mais aussi les secteurs de la pêche, de l'environnement et le soutien aux femmes rurales, ainsi que l'assistance d'urgence dans le sud de l'Angola, région particulièrement affectée par des sécheresses cycliques.

Un ensemble de projets est actuellement en cours de préparation et/ou de démarrage, en partenariat avec la Banque mondiale, le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA), la Banque africaine de développement et l'Union européenne. Il s'agit de projets qui incluent la promotion de l'agriculture familiale basée sur les écoles de terrain, la réhabilitation agricole dans le sud de l'Angola et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des populations.

Avec l'assistance technique de la FAO, l'Angola se prépare à lancer un important et tant attendu processus qui permettra au pays de mener son premier recensement général agricole et d'élevage post-indépendance et la mise en place d'un système permanent de statistiques agricoles et de pêche.

Le 23 août de cette année, l'Angola va réaliser des élections générales, qui conduiront le pays à un nouveau cycle gouvernemental. Dans ce contexte, un nouveau Plan national de développement (PND 2018-2022), sera également approuvé pour le secteur agraire. Nous espérons que le défi urgent de développer l'agriculture et les petits agriculteurs, ainsi que la pêche, continuera à compter sur l'assistance de la FAO dans les années à venir, en particulier pour la formulation du nouveau Programme-cadre de coopération entre l'Angola et la FAO, pour la période 2018-2022.

Le Programme-cadre de coopération devra se concentrer sur la consolidation de la première phase des projets déjà réalisés ou en cours, en particulier sur le soutien à l'agriculture familiale basée sur les écoles de terrain, la vulgarisation agricole, la recherche, le recensement agricole et le système de statistiques agricoles.

D'autres priorités pourraient être envisagées dans le cadre de ce nouveau partenariat, à savoir les chaînes de production de café et de cacao, la santé animale et végétale en raison de récentes flambées de maladies animales et végétales, ainsi que le soutien aux centres provinciaux de recherche et d'extension rurale.

Le nouveau Programme-cadre de coopération devra intégrer toutes ces priorités et valoriser les facilités offertes par la coopération Sud-Sud, promue par la FAO. En outre, cette nouvelle dynamique de coopération devrait se situer dans un cadre plus approprié au projet d'Accord pour l'élévation du statut de Représentation de la FAO pour le Bureau de Partenariat et de Liaison et le nouveau Programme de Partenariat correspondant, à signer entre les Parties.

Le Gouvernement angolais réitère sa profonde gratitude pour l'excellent travail accompli par la FAO en Angola et le Ministère espère que ce partenariat soit intensifié et diversifié. Pour sa part, le Gouvernement ne ménagera aucun effort pour renforcer ce partenariat et le rendre encore plus dynamique et fructueux.

À l'ouverture de cette Conférence, nous avons eu l'occasion d'entendre des discours de plusieurs chefs d'État et de ministres qui ont voulu partager leur expérience, leurs préoccupations et les défis auxquels sont confrontés leurs pays et la communauté internationale. Nous avons été satisfaits par ce que nous avons entendu, les journaux internationaux parlant en permanence de conflits, de catastrophes naturelles, de crises financières, nous avons besoin d'entendre des messages positifs, des messages d'espoir, car nous croyons que nous pouvons et devons faire plus, davantage et mieux, que nous avons les capacités et les technologies pour modifier ce qui ne va pas et développer les immenses potentialités que nos pays offrent, dans le domaine agricole.

L'agriculture en Angola a augmenté les niveaux de revenu et, par conséquent, réduit les niveaux de pauvreté, mais nous pensons que nous devons faire beaucoup plus. En ce sens, et afin d'augmenter le niveau d'efficacité, de productivité et de bien-être des populations rurales, plusieurs programmes et projets sont en cours et j'aimerais en mettre quelques-uns en évidence.

Je dirais surtout que nous aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour faire référence au Fonds fiduciaire de solidarité africaine, géré par la FAO et que l'Angola préside, et qui a financé divers projets. Nous aimerais encourager les pays membres à contribuer au Fonds, vu son importance pour l'atteinte des Objectifs de développement durable en Afrique.

Je vais conclure en remerciant la FAO pour les ajustements apportés au budget, en réattributionant les fonds aux domaines prioritaires. L'augmentation de 14 pour cent du budget global, allouée au Programme de coopération technique (PCT) pour l'exercice biennal 2018-2019, dont nous nous félicitons, fournira une opportunité idéale pour mon pays d'augmenter le portefeuille avec des projets PCT, qui devrait contribuer à la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté en Angola et à la mitigation des changements climatiques dans les zones touchées.

His Excellency Jari LEPPA, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Finland

Climate change and more extreme weather patterns are impacting food production all over the world. The climate change impacts people differently and can further deepen inequalities. We have to take that into account in all decision-making.

Food and nutrition security is of critical importance as it is the key for human development. Meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda to eradicate hunger and poverty and to address the threat of climate change requires a profound transformation of food and agriculture systems, both in the developing and developed countries.

This is a global challenge: we need to produce more food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Agriculture provides the livelihood for almost two-thirds of the world's extremely poor people. Smallholder agriculture has to be at the centre of our efforts and especially women and young people need to be empowered.

Innovations in farming systems are important to meet the challenges of climate change. Risk-tolerant plants and production methods as well as social safety nets and affordable risk insurances are needed to increase resilience. Finland has many good examples of productive, carbon-wise and sustainable agriculture systems and innovations. Finland aims at developing a resource-efficient food system based on the circular economy.

We are well aware that over one-third of the food produced worldwide is lost or wasted. This cannot be accepted. Preventing loss of agricultural commodities and food waste are among our main priorities.

On Wednesday the FAO Conference will discuss the Initiative of Finland to declare the Year 2020 as an International Year of Plant Health. Each year almost 30 percent of the global harvest is lost to plant pests and diseases. New and emerging plant health risks due to climate change will lead to even greater losses. 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 the trade in agricultural products. This is naturally the case also for problems caused by animal health risks. In order to improve plant health world-wide I invite all delegations to support the International Year of Plant Health 2020.

Finland is deeply committed at all levels to foster all efforts towards climate-friendly food systems. Finland is pleased that FAO has increased the funding to climate change adaptation and mitigation for the next two years. FAO's work on climate and agriculture in the implementation of the Paris Agreement is of utmost importance. In this work, I encourage FAO to collaborate effectively with other multilateral agencies, especially those in Rome.

Finally, I would like to invite you to the One Health side-event on Thursday, organized jointly by FAO and Finland. I thank you for your attention.

His Excellency Moses VILAKATI, Minister for Agriculture of the Kingdom of Swaziland

It is an honour and a privilege for me to address the Honourable Governors at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. May I start by extending warm greetings to you all on behalf of their Majesties, the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the entire Swazi nation.

The Kingdom of Swaziland expresses her sincere appreciation for the positive impact made by FAO-funded projects and interventions to our communities. The bulk of the work being done by FAO is contained in the five-year Country Programming Framework, which was developed through a consultative process. We applaud FAO for the approach as it takes on board all the priorities at national level.

Swaziland contributes very little to the impact of climate change yet it is highly affected. It has been hit hard by dry spells and persistent drought, which has affected both livestock and crops. As a result, the country has developed resilience measures through the support of FAO and other development partners. Some of these include contour ploughing, adoption of climate smart agriculture, use of drought tolerant crops and conservation agriculture to mention a few.

In addition, the government introduced fully fledged input subsidy programme which has assisted the farmers recover after the drought.

The country has also seen the importance of promoting water saving irrigation systems and techniques water harvesting methodologies to conserve and store water for crops and livestock. In addition, the country has further encouraged the expansion of irrigated land through involvement of private sector and development partners.

The effects of climate change has also seen an increase in pests and diseases not experienced by the country before. For the first time army worms were experienced in the country and the region, and left heavy destruction to crops and vegetables.

In the Kingdom of Swaziland, FAO is very active and visible in the agriculture sector. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed in strengthening cordial partnership with FAO and other partners in sustainable natural resources management and development, and support to disaster risk reduction, emergency and climate change adaptation.

These interventions by FAO do not exhaustively address the challenges faced by the agriculture sector in our country but they go a long way in assisting us towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The activities are perfectly linked to this global initiative. In this regards, we would like to request continuous support in the area of agricultural statistics and monitoring and evaluation to enable us to effectively track progress at all levels and provide credible statistics to inform future interventions.

Finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Kingdom of Swaziland to thank FAO for the continued support provided to the country for agricultural development and also make an undertaking that we will dedicate ourselves to the implementation of agricultural development projects for our own benefit and the global community. We also applaud the decentralization programme implemented in the region.

The population of the world is continuously growing and all the people need food. It is therefore imperative for the present generation to maintain sustainable production systems for future generations.

His Excellency Andrew DOYLE, Minister of State for Food and Horticulture of Ireland

I am delighted to be here today, to represent Ireland on the occasion of the 40th FAO conference.

Climate change has made a significant impact on how agricultural activity is being carried out on a global basis. The increasing frequency of events such as rising sea levels, heat waves, droughts and floods has meant the conditions for agricultural production have worsened. These detrimental changes have been most pronounced in countries that can cope with them the least and which already have high levels of poverty and food insecurity.

Without climate change most regions in the world would expect to see a reduction in the number of people at risk from hunger by 2050. However, with climate change, it has been conservatively estimated that an additional 40 million people plus could be at risk from undernourishment.

Addressing this very real dual challenge of ensuring food security for all and preventing dangerous climate change is something that has been acknowledged across the globe in both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. If we are to combat climate change we will need to do so through a variety of measures. Agriculture needs to become more efficient. Otherwise food insecurity may increase and it is the most vulnerable that will be affected.

If we are to reach the goals we have set we will need to make serious efforts towards reducing emissions intensity. This is something that we have been focusing our efforts on in Ireland where we have made significant improvements in reducing the emissions intensity of our food output. Indeed the FAO itself has recognized the efficiency of our temperate grassland based production system.

We must also be prepared to innovate. My Ministry and its agencies continue to develop innovative measures and programmes. You may be familiar with our Origin Green initiative. This is a national food and agriculture sustainability initiative. At this point in time, most livestock farmers and major

food processors in Ireland have signed up to this initiative. They are measured for sustainability indicators such as carbon, water, waste, biodiversity and their impact on the local community.

Over 95 percent of Irish food and drink exports are from companies, which have committed to individual and independently accredited targets to reduce the use of water, energy and natural resources consumption. Companies also engage in programmes to reduce raw material usage and improve processing efficiency. Ireland held a side event at last year's FAO Council with Kenya to promote sustainable, 'green' agri-food systems.

Alleviating the effects of climate change and contributing to food security is something we must all work towards. In Ireland our ambition is to be a global leader in sustainable food production. This means that not only must our actions be coordinated and ambitious they must also be environmentally, socially and economically responsive.

Social responsibility is something we take very seriously in Ireland, both at national and international level. My Ministry is a long-term and committed partner to overseas development. We have close links with the FAO and its work resonates strongly with Ireland's commitment to contribute to the eradication of the global problems of hunger and food security.

Together with Irish Aid, my Ministry set up the African Agri-Foods Development Programme to develop partnerships between the Irish Agri-Food Sector and African countries, which supports sustainable growth of the local food industry and mutual trade between Ireland and Africa.

Ireland is also supporting a FAO project to build agri-food capacity in Africa through the African Agribusiness Incubators Network.

We have provided extra budgetary funding to the FAO on projects such as supporting vulnerable households affected by the Syria crisis in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, and funding immediate seed planting in Ethiopia due to a severe drought.

We also have a strong relationship with the World Food Programme (WFP) and in 2016 doubled our funding to the WFP to EUR 20 million for the subsequent three years.

Climate change, agriculture and food security require a coherent approach. Realising the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development goals relating to food and agriculture will not be easy. While there are many challenges there are also many opportunities. I would ask each and every one of you here today to focus on the opportunities.

His Excellency Faud ben Jaafar ALSAJWANI, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman (Original language Arabic)

Director-General of FAO, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I am very honoured to be able to speak before this very august assembly on behalf of the Sultanate of Oman during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference which takes place here in Rome.

Today people throughout the planet are trying to grapple with many different challenges that have adverse effects on their wellbeing and on their standard of living. They are confronted with poverty, hunger, and under-nutrition, which are great threats affecting over 800 million people in different countries throughout the world.

This is a situation that calls upon us to spare no efforts to provide sufficient food to those in need and to try to address climate change in every way that we can, along with land degradation, drought, desertification, because all this has an adverse effect on food production and calls upon us to reinforce our cooperation and share responsibilities between developed and developing countries.

So as to respond to all these phenomena, this is a shared responsibility and we have to find together adequate solutions to the problem, each one of us, of course, at the level of our respective development. We believe that this Conference could be the ideal framework to discuss this issue.

The Sultanate of Oman is very conscious of the adverse effects of climate change on food and food security. We have analyzed all the adverse effects in order to prepare for the future. In this framework, we have put in place a national strategy on climate change and we have also considered the data base

that will include future statistics on climate change for the whole of the country and their impact on food security and agriculture. We have also put in place a strategy for agricultural development with an investment plan up to 2020. There is a specific chapter devoted to the study of the impact of climate change on food. Then we have a strategy for fisheries up to 2040. This has actually enabled us to increase the quality and quantity of fishery activities. We also have an aquaculture project with the agreement of the Blue Initiative by FAO.

Thanks to all of these efforts, all of the various strategies that we have put in place will seek to implement projects and programmes in the years to come, this in order to mitigate the impact of climate change and the monitoring of climate-related impact nationally and internationally. The Director-General called upon us to increase our agricultural production, and I am happy, I am pleased to inform you of the fact that my country has been able to increase its production by 16.2 percent, both in agriculture and aquaculture.

Now in the Agenda of this Conference, we will have a discussion concerning the standards of food security in the world and other points concerning the outcomes of the Regional Conferences and other Technical Committees, including those that study biodiversity. All this calls upon us to guarantee food security and production for the years to come. We will also have to reinforce the private sector and involve it more in agricultural and food production investments because this is one of the ways to increase our production levels.

Finally, I would like to thank and express my thanks to the Director-General of FAO for all the hard work done. And I also would like to thank the Republic of Italy for hosting this Organization and for enabling FAO do all the work that it has been established for. I really do hope that the deliberations of this Conference will be successful and that in the end we will have resolutions that will serve humankind.

Son Excellence Monsieur Ghazi ZEAITER, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République libanaise (langue originale arabe)

Je suis très heureux de participer au nom du Liban à cette 40^{ème} session de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je souhaiterais vous exprimer nos remerciements et notre gratitude pour les efforts déployés par la FAO pour relever tous les défis auxquels sont confrontés le développement durable de l'agriculture, ainsi que le développement des régions rurales. Je félicite aussi Monsieur le Président Piñol pour son élection.

Tout d'abord, nous devons nous arrêter devant les obstacles, devant les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés mondialement, et particulièrement au Moyen-Orient et au Liban, à cause des guerres et des violences sans précédent que nous connaissons. Ces violences et ces guerres ont un impact considérable, résultant en migrations forcées très importantes, ce qui menace la sécurité alimentaire et les ressources naturelles, et provoque une concurrence accrue pour accéder à ces ressources naturelles. L'impact est donc très négatif sur les volets économique, social et environnemental des peuples de la région.

Le nombre de réfugiés syriens dépasse 1,5 million avec un impact négatif sur la situation économique; le nombre des familles vivant en-dessous du seuil pauvreté a augmenté. La situation des réfugiés affecte de façon négative tous les secteurs productifs et en particulier le secteur de la production agricole. Ces réfugiés vivent essentiellement dans des régions pauvres et rurales, où l'agriculture est la ressource principale pour près de 200 000 familles.

Le secteur agricole libanais, déjà confronté à un certain nombre de problèmes structurels, avec la crise syrienne doit à présent faire face à des défis majeurs, notamment l'absence d'accès terrestre pour exporter ses productions agricoles, qui entraîne une augmentation du coût du transport et une diminution de notre compétitivité au niveau international. Nos importations ont atteint les 3 milliards de dollars américains alors que les exportations ne dépassent pas les 700 millions.

Au cours des cinq dernières années, les États donateurs ont apporté leur appui au Liban pour essayer de trouver une solution. Nous voulons saisir aujourd'hui cette occasion pour vous appeler à continuer d'apporter votre soutien humanitaire et mettre aussi à la disposition du Liban les ressources financières

nécessaires pour répondre à la situation des réfugiés, et essayer de former des forces de travail dans les régions rurales en faveur de ces réfugiés.

Aujourd'hui, à l'aube de l'an 2020, le coût de cette situation a atteint 800 millions de dollars. Nous nous engageons à poursuivre notre travail pour atteindre l'éradication totale de la faim et ainsi réaliser l'un des objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Ces sujets représentent un défi très important auquel nous sommes tous confrontés, tant les États et organisations internationales que la société civile. Nous devons aujourd'hui travailler ensemble et nous attendons de la FAO qu'elle remplit le rôle très important qu'elle doit jouer pour faire en sorte que le secteur agricole et la production alimentaire puissent contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire. Nous attirons l'attention de l'Organisation sur la nécessité de trouver les moyens pour assurer une production durable.

Au Liban, nous travaillons avec une stratégie agricole qui va de pair avec le cadre stratégique de la FAO, dans les différents secteurs en vue de la réalisation des ODD. Au cours de ces deux dernières années, nous avons connu une croissance de la production agricole, une meilleure compétitivité et une meilleure production d'aliments pour le bétail; une reforestation très importante et un plan stratégique de gestion des eaux; l'établissement d'un texte de loi pour la gestion des ressources phytogénétiques, ainsi que la mise en place d'une nouvelle loi-cadre pour le secteur de la pêche et une loi destinée à la sauvegarde de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments et l'établissement d'une Commission nationale pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Liban essaie de tirer profit de l'équilibre et de la stabilité politiques internes, et en sus de ce qui précède, il travaille au renforcement du rôle de la femme dans les régions rurales, à la participation des jeunes dans le secteur agricole, ainsi qu'à la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire et de la gestion durable des forêts et des ressources hydriques, éléments essentiels au vu des futurs défis.

Le Liban est fier d'être membre de la FAO et fier aussi d'avoir, depuis la création de cette Organisation, essayé de jouer un rôle d'intermédiaire entre l'Organisation et la région. Nous avons en effet complété toutes les procédures administratives pour accueillir le Siège sous-régional de la FAO au Moyen-Orient, et ceci va nous permettre de réaliser tous les programmes et objectifs à l'aide des compétences de la FAO dans la région.

Enfin, je souhaiterais remercier et exprimer ma gratitude à M. Graziano da Silva, le Directeur général, ainsi qu'au Président de la Conférence. Je vous remercie pour tout l'intérêt et l'aide que vous apportez à mon pays, le Liban, pour garantir son rôle pionnier dans la région et pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et la stabilité de l'usage des ressources naturelles.

His Excellency Dato' Sri Tajuddin Abdul RAHMAN, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia

It is indeed a great privilege for me to speak on behalf of my delegate at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate the Director-General on the organization of this conference under his leadership and for guiding this organization for the past five and a half years towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

The weather pattern has become unpredictable due to climate change. Unexpected heavy rainfalls and temperature rise caused heavy floods and droughts which have become common phenomena or disasters.

Climate change has shown significant impact on agriculture by increasing water demand, limiting crop productivity and reducing water availability especially in the areas where irrigations are most needed. This phenomenon has a negative impact on crops, animal husbandry and aquaculture. The productions of important crops such as rice, vegetables and fruits are susceptible to extreme weather patterns during their varying stages of growth.

Being a tropical country, Malaysia has been experiencing frequent natural disasters namely massive floods and prolonged droughts which have affected our food production.

Malaysia experienced one of our worst floods in 2014 which has destroyed settlements and affected almost two million people. We have lost USD 87 million of our agriculture production, infrastructure, and the value chain of agro-food sector.

As for drought, the most significant one was the 1997-98 El Nino which caused extensive impact to our agro-food sector. In March 2016, we were again tested by the impact of El Nino, which affected crops, animal husbandry and aquaculture.

Recent study conducted by the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute in our northern granary area showed that a two degree rise in temperature could cause the yield of rice to drop up to 13 percent. On the other hand, the occurrence of flood (15 percent increases in rainfall) and drought (15 percent decrease in rainfall) during early growing season could cause the yield to drop as much as 80 percent.

The Government of Malaysia has always been very committed to face these challenges. Throughout the years, we have formulated our National Policy on Climate Change (2009) and the National Green Technology Policy (2009), to collectively guide the nation towards addressing climate change, ensuring climate-resilient development, developing a low carbon economy and promoting green technology.

Subsequently, we developed the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), from which one of the strategy focuses on climate resilient development (infrastructure, seedlings and research and development) that incorporates climate change considerations into policy and development planning, evaluation and implementation.

To reduce the effect of climate change, under the Nationally Determined Contribution, Malaysia has pledged and committed to cut its greenhouse emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and have already introduced measures to do so. These include developing new cities that are carbon neutral, giving tax incentives to companies that report and limit their emissions, procuring more environmentally-friendly Government assets and planting 13 million new trees since 2011.

Looking further ahead, the Government of Malaysia is actively engaging its people in formulating 'The National Transformation Plan 2050 (TN50)', aimed to gather views and hopes of the people, particularly youths, to generate a new 30-year transformation plan for the country that truly reflects the people's vision. The development of the agricultural sector will be amongst the highlight of TN50 in aligning food security and competitiveness as well as sustaining environment and natural resources for the future generation.

Malaysia urges FAO to continue prioritize its work where it maintains a comparative advantage by supporting Members Countries. These include increasing members' capacity in adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change. This could be achieved through: promoting knowledge sharing; sharing of good practices and innovation; mobilizing expertise; supporting members in identifying and prioritizing of country-specific actions; and assisting development partners in joint mobilization.

We must play a more aggressive role in addressing the effect of climate change especially its effect on agriculture and food security which could jeopardize our effort to eliminate poverty and hunger. The developing nations need FAO's strong leadership to improve the current global scenario. More climate finance is needed to fund developing countries' actions on climate change. Helping smallholders adapt to risk of climate change is the key for global poverty reduction and food security.

More efforts also needed in the area of conservation to ensure balanced development in pursuit of green growth and contribution to the global Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Partnerships that emphasize the SDGs as part of its objectives are laudable. Malaysia and Denmark for instance has forge collaboration in circular economy which can deliver key environment benefits and at the same time significantly strengthen our capacity across the agriculture sector.

There are still huge challenges in front of us, and Malaysia believe that FAO is doing its best together with member countries to transform these challenges into opportunities. We must take note climate change poses a major and growing threats to food security. Let us face these challenges and support each other to overcome it. I would also like to urge all member countries, brothers and sisters, to continue our strong collaboration in responding to all the threats in front of us.

Sr. Don Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑAS, Subsecretario para Asuntos Multilaterales y Derechos Humanos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

México reconoce la importancia vital que la 40^a Conferencia de la FAO aborda como tema central: la relación entre el cambio climático, la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. Tal como lo identificó la FAO en su documento *Tendencias y desafíos en el futuro de la alimentación y la agricultura*, esta relación es compleja e interdependiente

La agricultura y la alimentación son en realidad dos caras de una misma moneda: los sistemas de producción agrícola y patrones alimentarios actuales contribuyen de manera significativa al cambio climático: aproximadamente el 21 por ciento de las emisiones antropogénicas de gases de efecto invernadero anuales totales se originan en la agricultura, silvicultura y otros usos de la tierra. Al mismo tiempo, todos los sectores agrícolas están expuestos a las variaciones del clima, afectando a los productores y consumidores. El cambio climático constituye una amenaza a la seguridad alimentaria, no solo en lo que toca a la producción y suministro, sino al acceso y la estabilidad misma de la seguridad alimentaria.

Por ello, México considera que la incorporación de prácticas agrícolas sostenibles debe estar en el centro de los esfuerzos de prevención y mitigación de los efectos provocados por el cambio climático.

El Acuerdo de París y la Agenda 2030 marcan el camino a seguir. Dentro de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, 8 de los 17 objetivos están vinculados con el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales, la gestión de riesgos y la adaptación al cambio climático. Por ello es imperativo que todos los sectores agrícolas a la vez que adoptan medidas de adaptación al cambio climático, amplíen sus posibilidades de contribución a la mitigación del mismo. Tenemos la responsabilidad de coordinar y orientar los esfuerzos en este sentido a nivel global, regional y nacional.

Nuestro país reconoce la labor que lleva a cabo la FAO para impulsar una amplia variedad de prácticas agrícolas sostenibles como la diversificación de las actividades agrícolas y las fuentes de ingresos como los sistemas agroforestales, donde todos los productos generados son integrados dentro de un proceso sostenible.

También celebramos los esfuerzos que está llevando a cabo a favor de la biodiversidad, vinculada al cambio climático. La FAO sin duda fue un actor clave durante la 13^a Conferencia de los Estados Partes de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre Diversidad Biológica (COP13), en la que por primera vez se integraron a cuatro sectores productivos en las discusiones sobre la conservación de la biodiversidad: agricultura, pesca, bosques y turismo.

En el marco de la COP13, la FAO anunció la “Plataforma sobre Biodiversidad, Agricultura y Alimentación”, mediante la cual promoverá que los ministros competentes en agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura, pesca y ambiente entablen un diálogo intersectorial para debatir opciones realistas de producción agroalimentaria sostenible y establezcan sinergias entre producción agrícola y conservación de la biodiversidad.

En abril de este año, formamos el “Grupo de Amigos de la Biodiversidad y de los Ecosistemas en la FAO”, con el objetivo de impulsar dicha Plataforma. Consideramos que la FAO debe elaborar su Estrategia sobre Biodiversidad, y ofrecemos el apoyo decidido del gobierno de México.

Una de las prioridades de México es llevar a cabo acciones que reduzcan las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Hemos promovido cambios legislativos, normativos y de política pública para transitar a una agricultura amigable con el medio ambiente, alentando prácticas productivas sostenibles, así como la optimización del uso de los recursos.

También seguiremos instrumentando de manera decidida el Acuerdo de París sobre cambio climático, el instrumento más importante que tenemos para hacer frente a este desafío. El Acuerdo nos permite establecer metas claras sobre el camino para reducir los efectos del cambio climático sobre la agricultura. En este contexto México transita hacia políticas públicas más sostenibles, que den prioridad a los pequeños productores y faciliten la inclusión de las mujeres y los jóvenes en el medio rural.

Para concluir, me gustaría referirme a uno de los retos pendientes: el desperdicio de alimentos. Cada año se desperdician alrededor de la tercera parte de alimentos producidos, equivalente a 1300 millones de toneladas.

Esas pérdidas representan también un desperdicio de los recursos e insumos utilizados en su producción, como tierra, agua y energía, e incrementan inútilmente las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. La mala gestión de los desperdicios alimenticios tiene, además, un impacto considerable en la biodiversidad: provoca la destrucción de especies autóctonas y la invasión de especies nocivas. Por ello celebramos que en los últimos años el tema de pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos este recibiendo mayor atención en foros internacionales como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de la FAO y el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA). Es importante que estas discusiones tomen en cuenta su impacto en la biodiversidad y el cambio climático.

México propone analizar la pertinencia de elaborar un Código de conducta sobre pérdida y desperdicio de alimentos.

México seguirá trabajando de cerca con la FAO para mejorar la resiliencia de la agricultura global ante el cambio climático como un medio de generación de empleo, divisas y, sobre todo, combate al hambre y la pobreza, sin dejar a nadie atrás.

Mr Ryszard ZARUDZKI, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland (Original language Polish)

I would like to thank you for having invited me to participate in the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. It is an honour for me, since the FAO is the key forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and, especially, for cooperation in the field of world nutrition and agriculture. It is particularly important in the context of the long-term process of implementing the 2030 Development Agenda.

Climate change is becoming an increasing challenge for humanity. The rises in the average temperatures recorded by scientists are accompanied by the more and more frequent occurrence of violent weather phenomena which strongly affect humans and agriculture.

In recent years, also agriculture has been experiencing increasingly frequent losses as a result of drought, excessive precipitation, low temperatures during winter and late frosts in spring. The intensification of adverse weather events should be associated mainly with the issue of observed climate change which in our climatic zone mean the higher incidence of extreme phenomena. We may also see the adverse effects of observed climate change, such as the emergence of new pests of crops, or the increased weed infestation.

Therefore, farmers are forced to take measures aimed at adapting to new conditions of production.

In response to the new challenges of climate change, Poland developed (in 2013) the Strategic plan of adaptation for the sectors and areas sensitive to climate change by 2020, with a perspective to 2030, also for agriculture.

This document indicated the main directions for the adaptation of agriculture to climate change, namely: development of systems for the monitoring and early warning of threats; investment support for agricultural holdings in implementing innovations; technology training and consultancy, which allow the adaptation of the agricultural production to the increased risk of climate change.

Another example of aid to farmers are support programmes for integrated pest management, which are based on the local monitoring of meteorological conditions. They are implemented by advisory services with the support of research and development institutes.

In Poland, we take initiatives related to the creation of systems for the monitoring of adverse weather events in agriculture, support for the agricultural insurance system or assistance to farmers after the occurrence of adverse weather events. An example of this type of measures is the creation of the Agricultural Drought Monitoring System in Poland, which is aimed at better directing of aid to the regions where losses are the greatest.

Also, the EU Common Agricultural Policy is a tool which allows to adapt agriculture to climate change. In recent years, Poland has introduced numerous requirements related to agricultural production systems which must be followed by farmers seeking support within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy instruments, including as part of direct payments. An example is the crop diversification requirement at farm level, which helps reduce losses in the event of natural disasters caused by weather events, or the regulations on the rational application of the means of production and the use of water.

The implementation of new technologies, which guarantee the more rational use of the environment is supported by farmer cooperation programmes and advisory programmes carried out within the framework of the Rural Development Programme for 2016-2020. The priority is to support the development of the market of local traditional products as an important element of a low-carbon economy.

Climate change has negative consequences for food security. The uncertainty of access to food, both physical and economic, is growing. Poland and other European Union Member States may share their experience with the countries which are restoring their production potential. Europe has access to scientific research, techniques and technologies and organisation methods which allow to effectively reconcile production objectives and environmental objectives, while ensuring high quality of products.

The shortening of supply chains, development of local markets and direct sales are essential for maintaining or enhancing food security in individual regions, as an alternative to the industrial production. It is an opportunity for agriculture in the developing countries, provided that the production standards and high quality of products are preserved.

Still, it is important that the agricultural production is conducted with consideration of climate requirements, as otherwise it may lead to a decreased production potential of agriculture, as well as to a lower quality of agricultural products. The feedback between measures aimed at providing food security and those aimed at mitigating the negative effects of climate change can be observed.

The solution to this problem on a global scale requires wide-scale international cooperation, in particular within the FAO. I believe that in the course of the FAO work we can jointly find solutions inhibiting the development of negative trends caused by climate change.

In December 2018, Poland will chair and host the UNFCCC COP 24. Our ambition is that the results of the COP 24 strengthen the synergy between the global climate policy and the implementation of the sustainable development strategy in its environmental and social aspect as well as the broadly understood economic context.

Her Excellency Anna SHIWEDA, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia

It is my honour and privilege to address the 40th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Firstly, I would like to thank and congratulate FAO for organizing this Session under the theme "*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*". This theme is befitting and appropriate, as we are now at the time of engaging into a high gear for the accelerated implementation of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in the Namibian economy, as 70 percent of our population depends on this sector for their livelihoods. In addition, this sector is also an important source of foreign exchange earnings for Namibia.

Acknowledging the crucial role that the agriculture sector plays in the lives of our population, the right to food security and nutrition is protected under the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. In line with this constitutional provision, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is implementing various sectorial policies. The strategic objectives of these sectorial policies are to develop agriculture in its wider dimension along the entire value chain, and to increase food production under irrigation and rain-fed conditions, to ensure food security at national and household levels. In order to give effect to the above policies, Namibia is implementing a number of programmes to boost agricultural production and productivity.

Namibia has adopted and mainstreamed agricultural and environmental sustainability as a core principle in policy formulation and implementation processes. In this regard, all agriculture, water and forestry policies take into account the aspirations, objectives and targets of the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, EU Agenda 2063 as well as the Malabo and Maputo Declarations.

In this regard, Namibia, being a dry country, has been at the receiving end of the impact of Climate Change. For the past years, our country has experienced four consecutive droughts, which prompted our Government to implement costly Drought Relief Programmes. It is precisely for this reason that Namibia decided to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement without delay, as well as to implement programmes aimed at the adaption and mitigation of Climate Change.

To this effect, we are implementing with the technical assistance from FAO a Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme, under which farmers are expected to implement minimum tillage, crop rotation and organic soil cover. Allow me to express our sincere gratitude to FAO for this valuable support. There is no doubt that the world is facing a common enemy, namely Climate Change and its adverse impact on agriculture and food security.

The challenge posed by Climate Change on agriculture calls for the immediate implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG13 on climate action. The same challenge also calls for a prompt enforcement of the Paris Agreement. There is, therefore, a need for all FAO member states to act and rededicate their efforts towards the full operationalization of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Various studies indicate that global warming will have devastating effects on crop yields especially in developing countries. This is particularly a cause for concern as the majority of the world's 793 million undernourished people and those facing abject poverty reside in developing countries.

It is therefore evident that if the scenario that is predicted materialises, climate change will have a double impact and double burden on developing countries, namely, increased food insecurity and increased poverty. Given this situation, it becomes even more urgent for the development partners to fast-track their support to developing countries, as provided for in target 12.a of SDG 12, as well as in the Paris Agreement. This support will enable developing countries to build their technical and scientific capacity on Climate Change.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Conference that Namibia, remains committed to this noble course, and therefore, pledges its dedication towards the realization of the letter-and-spirit of the Paris Agreement, and further reaffirm its commitment to the attainment of the objectives of the SDGs.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Jaime Haddad SÁNCHEZ DE CUETO, Subsecretario del Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente de España

Me cabe el honor de presidir la delegación de mi país, España, ante este 40º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, Órgano supremo de esta Institución que constituye el principal referente mundial en el objetivo de la erradicación del hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza, así como la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria y el impulso del progreso económico y social.

Considero enormemente acertada y oportuna la elección del tema propuesto para debate, en el actual periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia: "Cambio climático, agricultura y seguridad alimentaria", ya que el cambio climático se ha convertido, por derecho propio, en la gran cuestión ambiental de este siglo. Sus previsibles consecuencias y las medidas que hemos de adoptar para mitigarlas han trascendido a los círculos científicos y políticos para convertirse en una cuestión recurrente en todos los ámbitos de la sociedad. Así, el sector agrario tendrá que afrontar el doble reto de contribuir a luchar contra los efectos del cambio climático y, además, contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria de una población mundial creciente.

Al repasar las actuaciones desarrolladas para combatir los desfavorables efectos del cambio climático, desde que, en el lejano 1992, fue adoptada la Convención Marco de NNUU sobre el Cambio Climático, podemos observar que los esfuerzos en el ámbito internacional en la lucha contra este fenómeno han sido constantes, si bien no exentos de enormes dificultades y resistencias.

Quizás el mayor logro de esa Convención Marco fue el del reconocimiento de la obligación de todos los Estados miembros adheridos a la misma, de actuar en interés de la seguridad humana, incluso a falta de certeza científica, circunstancia que se da con enorme frecuencia frente a esa potencial amenaza del cambio climático.

A la Convención Marco de NNUU le han seguido importantes acuerdos a nivel internacional que han supuesto mayores compromisos en la lucha contra este fenómeno y en la adopción de acciones para atenuar sus efectos. El Protocolo de Kioto de 1995 y el más reciente Acuerdo de París de 12 de diciembre de 2015 son claros ejemplos de esa concienciación internacional sobre la magnitud del problema y de los esfuerzos que debemos acometer para tratar de resolverlo.

Centrándonos en el análisis del cambio climático en la agricultura, tal como se nos plantea hoy, entendemos que debe ser realizado desde una doble perspectiva, de cómo puede contribuir la agricultura en la lucha contra el cambio climático, incluida las acciones de adaptación a sus consecuencias y la necesidad de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

En efecto, el sector agrario es dentro del conjunto de sectores difusos, el segundo en emisión de gases de efecto invernadero, detrás del sector transporte, teniendo la particularidad de ser el único sector capaz de producir emisiones, derivadas del uso de los combustibles fósiles, de la gestión de los suelos y del uso de fertilizantes, de la quema de residuos agrícolas y de la ganadería, pero también, es capaz de ejercer de sumidero de carbono a través de la capacidad que tiene el suelo y los cultivos leñosos de captar el CO₂ atmosférico fijando el carbono y liberando el oxígeno.

Se nos plantea en consecuencia el reto de lograr un sistema agrario eficiente, que maximice sus producciones agrícolas, ganaderas y agroforestales, minimizando las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y tratando de maximizar su papel de sumidero de carbono, mediante el desarrollo de las políticas más adecuadas.

Aunque la agricultura no es el sector de la economía que más contribuye en términos de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, también puede contribuir a reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, mediante el manejo de los servicios del ecosistema, la disminución de los cambios del uso de la tierra y la deforestación vinculada a ello, el uso de variedades de cultivo más eficaces, la nutrición mejorada del ganado de rumiantes, un manejo más eficaz de los desechos del ganado, el manejo del suelo orgánico, la agricultura de conservación y sistemas agroforestales. Sin olvidar que, además de reducir la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero, las tierras de pasto y cultivo, bien gestionadas, pueden secuestrar cantidades significativas de carbono.

Desde otra perspectiva, el sector agrario es un sector especialmente vulnerable a los impactos del cambio climático y, por ello, es imprescindible desarrollar políticas y medidas de adaptación que atenúen esos impactos y permitan que nuestro sector agrario se adapte al cambio climático.

Como es sabido, la meta principal de la adaptación es reducir la vulnerabilidad promoviendo el desarrollo sostenible. Pero la adaptación al cambio climático debe considerar no solamente cómo reducir la vulnerabilidad frente a los impactos negativos, sino también cómo beneficiarse de los positivos. Será necesario tener presente que el cambio climático no afectará por igual a todas las áreas geográficas, de manera que habrá zonas más afectadas que otras; será necesario hablar en términos de cohesión climática, para poder ofrecer asistencia a las zonas más vulnerables.

Con la mitigación lo que se persigue es reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero e incrementar los sumideros de los mismos.

En este sentido, es relevante destacar el Programa de Mitigación del Cambio Climático en la Agricultura (MICCA, por sus siglas en inglés) que refuerza el largo trabajo de la FAO para abordar el cambio climático en los sectores agrícola, forestal y pesquero, apoyando a los países que participan en los procesos de negociación del cambio climático en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático.

Examinados los vínculos existentes entre cambio climático y agricultura procede ahora, conforme al título planteado para estas intervenciones, introducir el tercer componente del sistema, la seguridad

alimentaria. La conexión entre seguridad alimentaria y agricultura es evidente al no poder concebirse la seguridad alimentaria sin el concurso de la agricultura.

El 25 de septiembre de 2015, los líderes mundiales adoptaron la Agenda para el Desarrollo Sostenible, integrada por un conjunto de objetivos globales para erradicar la pobreza, proteger el planeta y asegurar la prosperidad para todos, como parte de una nueva agenda de desarrollo sostenible, los denominados objetivos de desarrollo sostenible. El ODS 2 pone como meta acabar con el hambre, lograr la seguridad alimentaria y la mejora de la nutrición y promover la agricultura sostenible, claro reconocimiento de los fuertes vínculos entre estos tres importantes componentes.

Debido al aumento demográfico mundial, para el 2050 deberemos ser capaces de producir un 70 por ciento más de cantidad de alimentos que, actualmente sin embargo se prevé que los efectos del cambio climático producirán un descenso de la producción agraria en algunas zonas geográficas, por lo que el reto será aún mayor. Será necesario crear alianzas que apoyen acciones que reflejen un enfoque integrado de los tres pilares: productividad, adaptación y mitigación.

En consecuencia, las inversiones en el sector agrícola deben ir dirigidas a contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria, teniendo en cuenta el desarrollo sostenible, la adaptación al cambio climático y su contribución a la mitigación.

Sin ánimo de ser exhaustivo y como conclusión y resumen podríamos señalar que quizás el mayor éxito en este ya largo proceso en la lucha contra el cambio climático y sus perjudiciales efectos, ha consistido en haber logrado la concienciación de la mayor parte de la sociedad, acerca de la gravedad de este problema, pues para su resolución será necesario el concurso de todos sus componentes a través de una conducta responsable y respetuosa con el medio ambiente, el esfuerzo y compromiso de los Estados, instituciones públicas y privadas, empresas e individuos que hagan posible que podamos transmitir nuestro planeta a las futuras generaciones en las mejores condiciones ambientales.

His Excellency Yosuke ISOZAKI, State Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

It is my great honour to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of Japan.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Your Excellency Director-General of FAO, for your visit to Japan this May, which brought about great success for both FAO and Japan.

In particular, we greatly appreciate your visit to one of FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Japan, and your understanding that Japan is making all efforts to secure the safety of all foods from Fukushima, both of which have encouraged local communities. It was a happy coincidence that, during your visit, the Diet approved the conclusion of the Port State Measures Agreement, of which you are the depositary. And Japan became a party to the Agreement in June.

Fighting against climate change is a global challenge, as recognized by the Paris Agreement, and it is closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals such as hunger and poverty eradication, biodiversity conservation, and promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and it is an integral part in ensuring world food security into the future. Today, I would like to firstly talk about what we do in response to climate change, and then about our contributions to world food security through support to people who are vulnerable to climate change.

Now, I start with the first point: Japan's efforts to tackle climate change. Domestically, we promote mitigation and adaptation measures integrally in the fight against climate change.

Mitigation measures include promoting energy-saving greenhouse horticulture and agricultural machinery, sustainable forest management and farmland conservation. Adaptation measures include advancing Research and Development to mitigate a decline in the production volume and quality of agricultural products, for example by developing new rice varieties more resistant to climate change, and disseminating these findings. We also promote readiness for landslide disasters triggered by torrential rainfall.

Internationally, Japan supports developing countries in areas such as the development of rice and wheat cultivars resistant to aridity and salinity, and forest conservation.

To strengthen international cooperation in research and development, Japan hosted an event at the COP 22 in Morocco last November, on International Agricultural Research Cooperation for Climate Change as a follow-up to the G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting. Furthermore, through financial contributions to FAO, Japan is promoting climate change vulnerability mapping technology for developing optimum adaptation plans.

In addition, we are launching two new projects this year. One is to support the development of land-use plans for promoting afforestation and reforestation to increase carbon sequestration. And the other is to disseminate technologies to precisely measure the balance of greenhouse gasses into and out of farmland soils in the Asia monsoon regions.

Next, I will talk about Japan's contributions to world food security through support to those who are vulnerable to climate change. As confirmed at the G7 Taormina Summit, support to the most vulnerable people is urgently required. Japan is collaborating with FAO and other international organizations to promote the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), which aims for long-term nutritional improvement of vulnerable people, thereby enhancing the resilience of their livelihoods.

Furthermore, Japan promotes public-private partnerships for establishing food value chains and improving nutrition in developing countries. Japan also encourages the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) which promotes agricultural investment with due consideration to local residents.

Finally, Japan puts emphasis on the humanitarian-development nexus when supporting vulnerable people. FAO's agricultural support in collaboration with WFP's food aid is exactly in line with this concept. Such support helps rural communities retrieve their means of living and become more resilient to conflict as well as the adverse effects of climate change.

Japan will continue its efforts to fight against climate change and strengthen food security not just in our own country, but in the rest of the world in collaboration with other countries and relevant organizations, particularly FAO.

His Excellency George ODURO, Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana

We bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of Ghana who appreciate the long-standing partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization for the past 58 years. Our statement is aligned with that of the G-77 and China and all the countries belonging to the Group that have delivered their statements.

We thank FAO and partners for compiling the 2016 version of the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) under the theme "*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*". Coming immediately after the successful outcomes of two landmark processes; the adoption of the SDGs by UN General Assembly and Agreements of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris (COP 21), this publication focus the much needed attention on the issue of climate change and its effect on the various sectors of the economies of countries and especially, agriculture, which has a direct bearing on the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2.

It is a well-known fact that of all continents of the world, Africa is the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change. This global challenge has the potential in rolling back much of the progress made on the development front.

Appreciating the enormity of the potential impacts of climate change on the continent, the Africa Union in its Agenda 2063 has resolved to participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation that supports sustainable development on the continent. The priority of Africa's effort in addressing the global challenge is adaptation of all our actions to climate change.

Ghana has had its share of the effects of climate change; an erratic rainfall pattern, destructive downpours and widespread flooding, debilitating sunshine, extended dry spells, fire outbreaks, land degradation and threat of desertification, high tides, and pest infestations. We are currently battling a fall armyworm attack, a pest alien to our environment, and the implications for the farmers and country are enormous.

For a country that is heavily dependent on rainfall for its agriculture, the effects of climate change presents continuous challenges. The Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy indicates that, the total amount of rainfall are projected to decrease or experience great variability which will impact crop production and the livelihood of many in the rural areas.

We do recognize the importance of partnership and collaboration at both country and international levels towards mitigating and adapting to climate change and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is working closely with other Agencies in this regard.

Early 2016, the Ministry, working with national and international partners, launched a five-year Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security (CSA) Action Plan covering the period 2016 to 2020. This plan will serve as a vehicle for the implementation of the Agriculture and Food Systems Strategies of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP).

In response to this, various policies are set to be implemented towards enhancing agricultural production and productivity and especially towards achieving climate resilient agriculture. The government is set to roll out the community owned and managed small scale irrigation facilities under the “one village one dam” programme, to guarantee water availability for all-year round agricultural production (crop, livestock and fisheries) across the most vulnerable ecologies of the country.

That is just one of many planned interventions. The rehabilitation of existing public irrigation schemes together with developing new ones, especially in the Afram Plains, the Northern Savannah and areas along the spillage path of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso, are set to be rolled out.

The Government of Ghana recognizes the importance of science, technology and innovation in our efforts at adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change. It is also very important to draw on the tried and tested indigenous knowledge that reside with indigenous communities.

Information, especially in relation to the weather, and other factors of production and distribution of food is crucial in Ghana’s agriculture. It is therefore the focus of the government to ensure the revamping of the extension service and the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to complement information sharing amongst all actors.

Research and development will also remain key in government’s effort to continuously address the impacts of climate change in general and specifically in agricultural development.

In our national efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, we have worked closely with the FAO and other partners to undertake various programmes, an agenda which we will continue to prosecute. Ghana is currently participating in the FAO implemented project titled “*Support Transition towards CSA Food Systems*”.

We are also implementing an FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Resilient Landscapes for Sustainable Livelihoods. All these are assisting us to develop appropriate strategies to adapt to climate variability and change. We believe that other countries have also benefited.

Recognizing the potential challenges of the effects of climate change on food security, the Government has taken steps to commence the implementation of a programme known as Planting for Food and Jobs. The programme is designed to encourage all citizens (both urban and rural) to take up farming as a full or part-time activity as a step towards achieving household food security and eventually national food security.

The programme also has a job-creation objective along the agriculture value chain that is aimed at encouraging those not gainfully engaged in the labour market to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector to earn a decent livelihood. The programme is initially targeted at

value chains of the major staples; maize, rice and sorghum together with soybean and vegetables. The plan is to include other crops in subsequent years.

In concluding, we do acknowledge that climate change poses a major and growing threat to food security. We also acknowledge that climate change does present greater opportunities for action. There is therefore an urgent need for action to make our agriculture sector climate-smart and to maximize the benefits that come along with the changing climate to improve the food security situation of Africa and our individual countries.

Son Excellence Monsieur Bernard LEHMANN, Secrétaire d'État à l'agriculture de la Confédération suisse

Aujourd’hui, quatre pays de la planète font face à des crises alimentaires graves, une crise liée principalement aux conflits et aux troubles politiques.

Nous saluons l’engagement de la FAO et du Programme alimentaire mondial pour faire face à cette situation d’urgence.

Ceci ne doit néanmoins pas nous faire oublier les autres défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés. L’augmentation de la population, la pression accrue sur les ressources naturelles, le changement climatique et la perte de biodiversité ont en effet des conséquences importantes, qui touchent directement à l’agriculture et à notre alimentation. Pour pouvoir assurer sur le long terme une alimentation suffisante, saine et durable à tous les habitants de notre planète, il est essentiel de repenser nos systèmes alimentaires et notre agriculture.

Grâce au Programme de développement durable à l’horizon 2030, nous bénéficions du cadre d’action global qui nous permet de collaborer de manière inclusive et coordonnée avec les différents partenaires. Les objectifs de développement durable nous poussent à penser de manière plus systémique et plus intégrée. Ils nous offrent une possibilité unique de favoriser les synergies et la cohérence de nos politiques. La Suisse est décidée à saisir cette opportunité et travaille intensément pour intégrer de façon inclusive les objectifs de développement durable dans sa politique agricole.

L’agriculture fait partie des solutions au défi posé par le changement climatique et la sécurité alimentaire. Des efforts importants sont néanmoins nécessaires à tous les niveaux, notamment pour intégrer la biodiversité dans les pratiques agricoles. La mise en place de la Plateforme FAO pour intégrer la biodiversité est un pas important dans cette direction, à notre sens, de même que la création d’un nouveau Département «Climat, biodiversité, terre et eau». Ensemble, nous devrons désormais définir quelles mesures nous voulons mettre en œuvre, au niveau national, régional et international.

Pour la Suisse, il faut davantage inciter les agriculteurs à adopter des pratiques agricoles plus durables afin de réduire la perte de biodiversité et encourager la restauration des écosystèmes. Il s’agit également de renforcer les synergies entre les mesures en lien avec le changement climatique, l’agroécologie et l’utilisation durable de la biodiversité pour l’alimentation et l’agriculture. Enfin, par rapport à la FAO, il est important que l’intégration de la biodiversité dans l’agriculture soit évaluée par ses trois comités techniques comme thèmes transectoriels pour permettre un premier rapport sur les progrès réalisé lors de la prochaine Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP).

Des efforts importants seront également nécessaires dans le domaine de l’élevage. Ce secteur joue un rôle économique et social important, notamment pour les petits producteurs, mais génère des impacts élevés sur l’environnement et le changement climatique. L’élevage doit davantage contribuer à la résolution des problèmes en atténuant son impact négatif. Le Programme mondial pour un élevage durable «Global Alliance for Sustainable Livestock» (GASL) - que mon pays soutient activement – cherche à y parvenir. Nous exhortons la FAO et les acteurs concernés à continuer leur engagement à rendre l’élevage plus durable.

Nos considérables efforts pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, ne peuvent être concrétisés que par davantage d’innovation, par et pour tous. Ainsi, la digitalisation encourage la relève parmi les jeunes générations pour assurer la production alimentaire de demain. Les approches novatrices en matière de partenariats multipartites favorisent, quant à elles, le dialogue et la mise en œuvre de

solutions communes. En assurant la codirection du Programme pour des systèmes alimentaires durables, «10YFP», la Suisse participe au développement d'une agriculture et d'une alimentation innovantes.

Ensemble, nous pouvons être la génération faim zéro et nous pouvons contribuer à régénérer notre planète!

His Excellency Kim Kyeong KYU, Deputy Minister for Food Industry Policy of the Republic of Korea

It is my privilege to represent the Republic of Korea at this event. I hope this year's Conference will achieve a more productive result than ever. Before getting to the main topic, let me briefly tell you about the newly elected Government in Korea.

In his inauguration speech, our President said: *“Opportunities shall be equal, procedure shall be fair and the result must be just.”* Our new Government is ready to put democratic values first and protect the most vulnerable in our society. At the same time, we will spare no efforts to fulfill our role in the international community.

Climate change has an extensive impact on the planet. We are witnessing extreme weather patterns more frequently than ever. Europe and North America are hit by unprecedented heat wave while the temperature in Russia is well below normal. Korea is struggling with severe droughts while our neighbor countries are suffering from heavy rains.

The agricultural sector is especially more vulnerable than others to abnormal weather events across the world. Climate change has affected arable land. Heat wave has worsened pest damage to crops. All this poses a significant threat to food security of humankind. According to some reports, by 2050, the global temperature will rise by 2.3 degrees Celsius and that of Korean peninsula by 3.4 degrees.

These reports conclude that humans are the main cause of climate change. That is why we must take actions now to prevent irrevocable consequences before it is too late. This calls for sustained and substantial efforts under international coordination. The international community adopted the Paris Agreement in December 2015. This agreement requires developing and developed countries alike to do their parts in containing climate change.

If we do not act now, the biggest victims would be developing countries, given that they lack capabilities to cope with this challenge. Climate change knows no borders. It is a matter of sustainable development in agriculture. It is a matter of survival of humanity. Bearing this in mind, Korea is taking two approaches in designing its policies.

First of all, we are pursuing several policies to help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change. We are developing plant varieties and farming technologies more suitable for the changing weather. We are advancing pest control technologies. We are establishing natural disaster early warning system. Lastly, we are spreading ICT-applied farms.

At the same time, we are developing policies to cut emissions from the agricultural sector to reduce 1.5 million tons of agricultural emissions by 2020. Along with these efforts, Korea has recently taken steps to join the Food Assistance Convention to more effectively provide food assistance to famine-stricken countries. One in nine of the global population is still in malnutrition. And the vast majority of them, 780 million, live in the developing world, remaining vulnerable to climate change.

Additionally, we are carrying out joint projects with FAO such as pest surveillance investigation, plant and animal disease control activities. In line with each country's efforts, international bodies should boost their capabilities in dealing with climate change. FAO should also be more efficient and effective. Korea will surely be part of this change and pay keen attention to the progress.

Our new Government puts emphasis on sustainable agriculture. Korea will work closely with the international society to slow down climate change. We will continue to share our experiences with FAO member countries and strive to advance food security in developing countries.

His Excellency Ahmed AL QADERI, Minister for Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic (Original language Arabic)

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Conference, Excellencies, Ministers, Representatives of Member Countries, Heads of Delegations, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, I extend my thanks to the Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva. We appreciate his style and efforts in implementing the plans and programmes of FAO.

We also appreciate the results that led to the improvement of the achievement of Strategic Goals by the Organization and focusing on the poorest people that also suffer from hunger. We also appreciate the tireless efforts and commitment of the FAO staff, its experts in the headquarters, in the regional offices, and country offices. They spared no efforts in light of increasing challenges in the region and in view of the need for more collaboration to combat all problems in our region of the world.

It is my pleasure and honour to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in the FAO Conference. This session addresses important issues, namely the challenges of food security and climate change, their adverse impacts on all levels, globally, regionally, and locally, especially in Developing Countries, as well as the disasters and wars that led to social and humanitarian instability and the loss of food security in many regions in the world.

We appreciate and support the role of FAO in shaping the strategies and policies to combat food insecurity and malnutrition. We highly appreciate its contribution in the Developing Countries to improve their capacities, improve their productivity, and to work as a major partner to support the agricultural sector in these countries. The major benefits all over the world attest to FAO's role.

The Syrian experience over three decades before the crisis was of the most importance in the region. Syria achieved self-sufficiency in the production of crops and also had started to export crops having benefitted from research and support and subsidies to the agricultural inputs and outputs; however, the war on terrorism in Syria, in addition to the sanctions, led to the destruction of all economic sectors in general and the agricultural sector in particular.

According to an assessment by FAO, the damages in Syria amount to USD 16 billion. The damages in the agricultural sector will go beyond and far beyond this figure if no immediate support is provided. In addition to the increasing climate change, drought, and desertification, with its negative effects and impacts on agriculture and agricultural production, this puts at jeopardy the situation of food security, economic and social development in Syria.

The major needs of the agricultural sector in Syria require more support from the international community. Only 21 percent of the pledges from the international organizations was provided to implement the Immediate Response Plan in 2016. We also should like to highlight here the need for more collaboration among the partners in order to avoid overlap. The interventions should be aligned together and we highlight the way FAO provides its support to our farmers and to the rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, despite all of the problems and difficulties, as well as the unfair economic blockade suffered by Syria, the Government continues to uphold its constitutional obligation in providing the services and support as well as assistance to all areas in the country. We attach great importance to the agricultural sector. It is among our priorities that we provide support to the farmers to alleviate the negative impacts of the exceptional circumstances in the country and the FAO provides also major support to the country in those areas.

We highlight the sustainable way and manner in providing support to the agricultural sector, and we also highlight the improvement of livelihoods in the rural areas, tackling the problems of food insecurity, and we focus on the recovery of the agricultural sector in the coming period. We are bound by the Sustainable Development Goals to transform this world by 2030. We are also committed to the Paris Agreement. We have taken measures and actions to involve the plans in adaptation and mitigation in all national plans.

In conclusion, I should like to express Syria's appreciation of the major support and the collaboration with FAO. This is an ideal way of collaborating together and we have seen true results on the ground providing support to the farmers and livestock breeders.

I should like to express thanks to the Italian Government for all facilities, and also extend thanks to all FAO staff in the office in Damascus for their continuous efforts and collaboration to reach our common goals.

His Excellency Armen HARUTYUNYAN, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

I have the honour to address the distinguished audience today and the privilege to deliver statement on developments in agriculture in Armenia.

Access to adequate and nutritional food is among the key determinants of quality of life, and therefore, the government of Armenia is firmly committed to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including but not limited to improving nutrition, ending poverty and ensuring food security and sustainable development.

To achieve these goals, and to address other challenges and issues in the sector, we have adopted a multi-dimensional approach on development, ensuring that it is sustainable and inclusive. It focuses on four strategic areas: investing in human capital; upgrading rural infrastructure; improving institutions and regulations; and facilitating access to finance.

We believe that among the challenges to address food security, is limited access of farmers to knowledge and technologies. In this context, we have restructured public advisory system, but also supported formation of private service centers in all regions of Armenia. In three years only, 18 centers were established. Owned by farmers, they provide wide range of services, and also earning income enough to cover operational costs and earn profit.

To address one of the most essential challenge, weather risks and natural disasters, we have adopted triple level risk reduction and moderation approach, implying introduction of a better and more efficient physical protection measures, designing insurance schemes as well as providing capacity development trainings to farmers.

To ensure better and more efficient use of natural resources and to moderate the effects of climate change, Armenia is investing in better water management systems, which entails upgrade of infrastructure, and introduction of water saving technologies at farms, and in aquaculture sector. With the support of FAO, we are introducing new recirculation technology at fish farms for example, which would minimize the use of water, but also increase productivity.

In the perspective of better and sustainable food production, Armenia prioritized development of organic agriculture. Our current project supports farmers to transform from conventional to bio production, which has become a source of additional profit for small and medium farmers. In conclusion, I would like to articulate on transformations in the global economy, and impact it may have on agricultural sector.

We live in interconnected, interdependent and dynamically changing world, in an era of rapid technological development and growing rate of creative destruction, which has been shaping traditional way we live, communicate, travel and do business. In agriculture, introduction of several innovations and technologies, make production systems more efficient and productive, but also poses threat to very survival of small and family farms.

Taking into consideration that agriculture providing livelihoods for 40 percent of today's global population, means that urgent attention needs to be paid to this issue. Probably the most alarming would be further replacement of several jobs and activities with automated operations and other innovations. Small farmers in this context is the most vulnerable groups.

Therefore, we need to have firm commitment to address opportunities and challenges, and ensuring that millions of people living in rural area do benefit from global developments, and not endangered because of them. And it is our task to better address needs of small farmers, defining their role in the 21st century and ensuring that people all around the world can earn their decent living and raise their children in peace and prosperity.

Mr Frédéric SEPPEY, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Agriculture Negotiator of Canada

It is an honour for me today to speak on behalf of Canada's Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. Ten years ago, we were facing a food price crisis. This crisis had an important impact. Demand was outstripping supply, and high prices prompted increased production around the world.

Another development in recent years has been the growing importance of agri-food trade. The latest edition of FAO's State of Commodity Markets identifies that global food trade nearly tripled during the preceding decade. Another major milestone in the last decade has been the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. As FAO has reported, agriculture is at the centre of achieving many of these goals.

Canada is mindful that many challenges remain. As reminded by the Director-General yesterday, news are not good on the front of the global fight against hunger. Nearly 800 million people still suffer from undernourishment. Also, for women who work in the Least Developed Countries, it is estimated that nearly 80 percent of them work in agriculture. But, women in many countries have less access to land, tools, input, education, financing, and even to food than men do.

With regard to environmental considerations, FAO has forecasted that desertification and land degradation will mean that the world will have barely more arable land in 2050 than it did in 2009. Moreover, Canada is very conscious of experts' forecasts about how climate change will increasingly impact global production. So, what lessons does the last 10 years offer? What can we do to prepare for the future?

First and foremost, the world will not be able to reach SDG 1 – no poverty and SDG 2 – no hunger without enabling poor farmers to produce more food and earn better incomes. Second, we need to produce more food with the land we have. We need to increase agricultural productivity if, as FAO reports, the world must produce 60 percent more food by 2050. As mentioned yesterday by the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, we must consider every tool available to increase agricultural productivity.

In this regard, the FAO should better support developing countries' access to genetic resources and other information for agricultural research. Farmers in many developing countries have increased their productivity, reduced their environmental impacts, and earned better incomes by using agricultural biotechnology. Another insight is the growing importance of agricultural trade. Predictable trade links and access to markets can make a difference.

The FAO can and should do more. For example, it should provide evidence, data, and information to inform countries' trade policies; the FAO should also help countries align their trade policy to better reflect their specific agricultural needs and food security conditions in order to fully take advantage of agri-food trade.

Suite en français

Nous tirons tous parti d'institutions comme la FAO qui réunissent les pays dans la recherche de solutions aux enjeux globaux.

Ainsi, la Ministre canadienne de la coopération internationale, Son Excellence Madame Marie-Claude Bibeau, a récemment annoncé la nouvelle politique du Canada sur le développement international.

Le Canada consacre plus de 5,3 milliards de dollars canadiens à l'aide au développement chaque année.

Notre nouvelle stratégie de développement se concentrera sur les plus démunis de la planète, ainsi que sur l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes.

Ainsi, d'ici 2022, le Canada consacrera aux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne au moins 50 pour cent de son aide bilatérale au développement international.

Dans le même temps, au moins 95 pour cent de l'aide bilatérale du Canada au développement international ciblera ou intégrera l'égalité entre les sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles.

Les initiatives de développement du Canada serviront en partie à favoriser des réformes visant à éliminer la discrimination contre les femmes, notamment pour des aspects comme les régimes fonciers.

De plus, le nouveau programme de développement du Canada s'attachera davantage à la gouvernance de l'eau et du sol. Il encouragera aussi l'adoption de modèles de production adaptés au climat et d'innovations visant à améliorer l'efficacité des procédés de production.

Et il y a quelques jours seulement, le Premier Ministre du Canada, Son Excellence Monsieur Justin Trudeau, annonçait la nomination d'une ambassadrice pour le climat.

Cette nouvelle ambassadrice jouera un rôle de premier plan alors que le Canada investira 2,65 milliards de dollars canadiens dans le financement pour le climat au niveau international. Cet investissement servira à financer un vaste éventail de programmes conçus pour aider les pays en développement à non seulement atténuer les répercussions des changements climatiques, mais également à y résister et à gérer les ressources naturelles de façon durable.

Étant donné l'importance de l'agriculture quant à la lutte aux changements climatiques, et aux possibilités économiques s'offrant aux plus démunis et aux femmes dans de nombreux pays en développement, nous nous attendons à ce que l'agriculture joue un rôle de premier plan dans ce nouveau programme de développement.

En conclusion, le Canada reconnaît les progrès réalisés au cours des dix dernières années, mais il reste de très nombreux défis à relever.

Alors que le Canada est à célébrer son 150^{ème} anniversaire, notre pays s'engage dans une nouvelle politique étrangère et un nouveau programme de développement.

Nous sommes impatients de collaborer avec la FAO et tous les États Membres à la prise des mesures nécessaires pour préparer notre avenir commun.

His Excellency Nodar KERESELIDZE, First Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Georgia

It is my pleasure and privilege to represent my country at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to FAO for continuous support and dedication for the development of the agricultural sector in Georgia. Agriculture is an important sector in Georgia's economy. Around 43 percent of our total population is employed in the agricultural sector, contributing roughly 9 percent to the country's GDP. There are a number of challenges that Georgia still faces in the agricultural sector, such as fragmentation of agriculture farming lands, small size farm structures, low productivity, and competitiveness.

In order to address these challenges, a number of support programmes have been implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. Let me highlight some of the important programmes such as support to agricultural cooperatives, which envisions provision of technical assistance, technical support, and grand schemes to agricultural cooperatives which ensures the increase of productivity of small size farm structures.

Another support scheme that the Ministry is providing to farmers is accessible, affordable finances, which means that concessional agricultural credits are being issued to agricultural farms which makes the accessibility more affordable and easier to agricultural producers.

Another key component is developing an extension system through which we are supporting especially small and medium sized farms to have access to the information on modern technologies, modern agricultural practices, etc.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia implements a number of support programmes under the Rural Development Strategy which aims at diversifying economic opportunities in rural areas through supporting non-farm rural partnership, rural tourism, et cetera, that have positive effects on livelihoods in rural areas. Under these strategic goals, inclusion of local actors in the process is of paramount importance.

Local action groups have been established in a number of municipalities where all key stakeholders are represented, like farmers' associations, NGOs, governmental organizations, and jointly these stakeholder groups have a voice in terms of defining policies in rural development.

Climate change is a global challenge which affects the agricultural sector in Georgia as well. The Ministry of Agriculture elaborated Agricultural Development Strategy 2020, which, among other objectives, envisions mitigation and adaptation measures against climate change.

Let me highlight some of the key directions under the above-mentioned strategic objective. Firstly, this is rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage systems and introduction of modern drip irrigation systems. Under this objective, more than 100 000 hectares of lands have access to irrigation water already in Georgia with the objective to reach 200 000 hectares by 2020. Under the programmes planned for the future, up to 1 000 hectares of agricultural lands are provided with drip irrigation systems.

Another component is strengthening scientific research direction in order to ensure identification and dissemination of varieties of crops that are more resistant to climate change. Awareness programme for farmers is another key direction implemented by the Ministry to raise awareness on climate-smart agricultural practices. And this programme is also implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the extension centers that we have under the Ministry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank again FAO for providing tremendous support to the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia in elaborating good agricultural practices in terms of number of crops which is relevant for Georgia. This information is now disseminated through farmer communities by the means of extension centers.

We hope that this cooperation with FAO will give more results in the future while we are now in the process of drafting good agricultural practices guidelines for farmers for up to five, six crops relevant for Georgia.

Mr Ty SOKHUN, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia

We are from different countries, each within different stages of economic development, but we share common Sustainable Development Goals to at least free our world and ourselves from poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Furthermore, we have the common formidable challenge of producing more food with less inputs and less carbon emissions in effort to combat climate change.

The preoccupation with our past food production has resulted in the loss of natural resources, as well as environmental degradation. So, the underlying concern is how can we enable ourselves to achieve our common goals by 2030?

Agriculture must be profoundly changed to fulfill its multiple functions against harsher environmental conditions and both demographic and market movements. This transformation will depend on the significant alteration of our current patterns and practices of food production, distribution and consumption through targeted investments that will establish climate smart and resilient agriculture systems; ensure the efficient use of resources; develop no-waste supply chains; safeguard adequate nutrition; and encourage healthy consuming choices.

This accomplishment will be facilitated through an inclusive process that encourages the active participation of all stakeholders in a productive partnership at all levels among public and private sectors, development partners, civil societies, academia, scientists, researchers, farmers and local producers.

The development of such a productive partnership will depend on mutual trust. In the absence of trust, there can be no real partnership. Efforts to establish that trust will require transparency, accountability and more efficient governance in a process under which each participating partner will be needed to adapt and change.

Cambodia is an agrarian country! It has a great potential in agriculture with relatively rich endowment of natural resources, and good natural conditions for agricultural production and growth. Agriculture is

very important for Cambodia in terms of many things: GDP, employment, exports and livelihoods. However, Cambodia's agriculture is still dominated by smallholder farmers. The sector's development provides benefits to over 80 percent of the country's rural population, and employs almost 50 percent of the country's labor force. It accounts for more than one-fourth of the country's GDP.

The enhancement of the agricultural sector has been prioritized by the Royal Government of Cambodia under the enabling leadership of Samdech Techo Prime Minister HUN SEN, as the first pillar to accelerate an inclusive growth in the country's development policy "Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency and in the National Strategic Development Plan. The overall agriculture sector's goal is to promote annual growth by 5 percent through the enhancement of agricultural productivity, diversification and commercialization whilst ensuring high consideration for sustainable natural resource management.

In the past decade Cambodia's agricultural sector has achieved notable progress, which is reflected in an average annual growth rate of 5.3 percent in value added and 8.7 percent in gross production. However, these growths were very sensitive to climate change. The growth has varied from one year to another. The high growth was in the year of good climate conditions, but low or even negative growth in the year of bad climate conditions, particularly the year faced extreme events such as drought and floods.

It is important that the Government, Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations should strengthen their cooperation to coordinate climate resiliency investments at all levels, global, regional, national and local level.

I would like to conclude my remarks by taking the advantage of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our hosts, FAO and Italy, for their warmest hospitality and excellent arrangements. I wish each of you happiness and success in all of your endeavors, and extend to you my sincere desire for a fruitful and successful conference.

Mr Md Kaikobad Hossain, Secretary in the Ministry of Food of Bangladesh

This is indeed a great pleasure for me to present at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of our Honorable Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Government and people of Bangladesh, I extend the heartiest greetings to all of you. We hope that the session will have a successful discussion on the Review of State of Food and Agriculture to improve food and nutrition security of the world.

Just after the post Millennium Development Goal era, the world has initiated to begin the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals. Bangladesh, having achieved most of the MDG targets, has already started the SDG goals implementation.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in food production. In 1971, during our Liberation War, we produced 10 million tons of food grain, whereas in 2016 we produced 37 million food grains. In that gap of time, the population has doubled. A Sustainable Development Goal, which aims to "*end hunger, food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*", addresses directly the mandate of achieving food and nutrition security.

Given the growing importance of food security and nutrition in our country, the Ministry of Food in collaboration with other food security and nutrition relevant sectors are working towards minimizing the duplication of efforts and fragmentation of policy, monitoring, and instrumental frameworks.

We would like to stress on the 60 recommendations adopted through the Rome Declaration during the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN 2) in 2014. The Government of Bangladesh has embedded most of the ICN 2 recommendations in our National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) and our policy development framework has taken cognizance of the ICN2 recommendation.

Our Government has established the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) and a Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) through the food security authority. An integrated approach has been implemented to enhance food security across all private sources of production, such as fish, animal and crops.

The Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) aims to update the strategic policy planning, policy frameworks, and prepare the Second Country Investment Plan (CIP2). This is one of the first steps we have taken towards the SDG goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FPMU will play a key role in formulating, monitoring, and evaluating sustainable policy strategies.

We know that there are about 800 million hungry people in the world. So many issues have aggravated the hunger situation like war, conflict, displacement, climate change, natural and man-made disasters. Resources constraint is also another big issue to address this challenge. In my conclusion, no country can solve the problem individually. The global food security and nutrition objective can only be achieved through a multi-sectoral collaboration approach, multi-sectoral financing, and technical assistance for the farmers.

FAO is the right forum to provide guidance and technical assistance to address the climate change issues in agriculture production and involvement of the youth in agriculture. The development assistance, on the basis of the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), Rural Financing Programmes of IFAD, and the recently approved Country Strategic Plan of WFP, will enhance the food and nutrition security in Bangladesh.

Above all, the political will is the most effective instrument in achieving food and nutrition security. Our Government, under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, is working very hard to achieve food and nutrition security. It is my understanding that this session will provide further guidance and support to achieve food security and nutrition objectives.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to all participants for their valuable contribution in reviewing world food security.

His Excellency Aboul GHEIT, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (Original language Arabic)

It is no secret that the Arab area is one of the most vulnerable areas in the world to drought, water scarcity, and lack of food security. Arab countries have different levels of vulnerability to these serious challenges. Oil exporting countries can overcome these challenges and crises, at least most of them, thanks to their financial resources, whereas the most populous Arab countries find themselves vulnerable to concurrent crises that cannot be dealt with in the context of limited resources and unrelenting population growth.

There is no doubt that these crises have become more wide-ranging since 2011 in the Arab region, mainly because of the many civil strives that are ongoing on many Arab countries which have further exacerbated the crises of food shortage and the deterioration of the agricultural sector that have been ongoing. One can say that food security challenges were behind or one of the causes behind the wave of protests and attentions that were witnessed by many countries in the Arab region, mainly that these countries suffer from chronic food deficits that can only be remedied by exporting most food commodities, mainly cereals, from abroad.

The policies for agricultural and water resources management should be at the forefront of national agendas in Arab countries. Water, agriculture, and climate change are the main reasons behind instability in the Arab region. It is not a far-fetched danger but it is a very current one. One has to mention in this regard that there are 7 million people who are faced with an imminent famine in Yemen today, a country that has been going through civil war for years now. And many more stand to suffer from food shortage in other Arab countries which will have repercussions at an international level. These wars and conflicts have led to serious situations in Syria, Libya, and Somalia as well.

One can only deal with these challenges by joining efforts of UN agencies and other actors of the international community in order to mobilize urgent assistance. It is unacceptable in this day and age that millions would lose their lives because they have no access to food while the world looks on.

Arab countries are well aware of these serious challenges that undermine their future but their very existence as well. Many steps and measures were taken in order to deal with these challenges, namely the adoption of the Water Security Strategy of the Arab Region and the Plan of Action in order to implement it in addition to the Arab Urgent Food Security Programme. Efforts are ongoing in order

to fulfill the needs and requirements of our people in terms of water and food resources and the achievement of sustainable development. The main role played by international organizations and FAO in particular is not to be neglected, especially with regard to the water scarcity crisis in the Arab Region and the deterioration of arable land that is limited in amount. Therefore, the fruitful cooperation between FAO and the Arab League has had a major impact on giving more impetus to good water management and achieving food security by the Water Scarcity Initiative that was launched by both organizations.

The provision of food and staple crops, and in particular cereal, at reasonable prices is one of the major challenges faced by densely populated Arab countries. It is closely linked to social and political stability and a conducive environment for sustainable development, especially in the context of an expanding middle class in the Arab Region which leads to a change in lifestyle, in diets, and more demand for food.

The volatility in food prices leads to further inflation and wreaks havoc on food markets. These can only be dealt with by further international cooperation. There is no doubt that cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations is one of the best ways towards achieving food security, water security, and the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

Ms Harriet M. NDUMA, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to FAO

Let me clarify that I am making this statement on behalf of Mr Willy Bett, the Cabinet Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries of the Republic of Kenya who would have loved to be here with us for this important meeting. Unfortunately, he was not able to join us at the last minute. Therefore, I read the statement as the Cabinet Secretary would have done.

The theme of the Conference aligns the link between the three most important issues of our time, agriculture, food security, and climate change. Kenya is a classical case where the three issues have showed ramifications, especially in arid, semi-arid areas in our region, leading to food insecurity and conflict.

Agenda 2030, therefore, underpins the importance of addressing these interlinked issues for promotion of sustainable development and growth of livelihoods. Indeed, the envisioned sustainability where agriculture is expected to play a critical role is a priority if climate change and the resultant impacts are not addressed urgently and in a holistic manner.

Since 1970 for Kenya, we have experienced a total of 41 major floods affecting approximately 6.9 million people. We have also experienced 20 major droughts affecting to date a total of 47 million people. And furthermore, between 2008 and 2011, an estimated USD 6.9 billion in livestock losses, and another USD 1.2 billion in crop losses were experienced under the same period. Over the past 12 years, the government of Kenya has spent an average of USD 42 million per year on weather-induced disaster relief funding.

As you may be aware, this year Kenya experienced one of the worst droughts that has left so far about 3.2 million people extremely food insecure. Subsequently, on 10 February the same year, Kenya declared the ongoing drought in the country a national disaster. Last year, the seasonal rains have been highly depressed and erratic. This has resulted in declined crop and animal production and productivity.

Successive failed seasons have equally eroded and reduced livelihoods through livestock deaths and failed crop harvests which has cumulatively precipitated to acute shortage of common food staples, escalating food prices, and general increase in cost of living.

Effects of poor climatic conditions notwithstanding, as we gather here today, Kenya is battling infestation of fall armyworms, a new pest in Kenya. But I am gratified to note that there will be a side event on this very important issue. Kenya will make its contribution at the side event. The erratic nature of the 2017 March to May rainfall has provided favorable conditions for the rapid spread of the pest which has already attacked about 200 000 hectares of the current maize crop and another 650 000 hectares is under threat.

The government of Kenya has already disbursed funds to the tune of USD 244 million to respond to the drought. A further USD 216 million is required to sustain ongoing interventions until the end of this year. It is at this juncture that we call the international community to assist Kenya in combatting this menace. Besides, Kenya has also put in place various mechanisms to look at the regional level and the impacts of the drought in the Horn of Africa in particular.

Indeed, as a country of the Horn of Africa, Kenya and countries like Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, we are hugely affected by the impact of climate change. As well, besides having the following programmes to be able to make relevant interventions, we require support in the areas of food and safety net programmes, access of water resources, livestock support to cushion pastoralists, and support for the various ongoing conflict management initiatives to ensure sustainability.

For Kenya, these issues and the theme of this meeting are not just topics for discussion but they are real challenges confronting us currently and we require a lot of partnerships and support for all of us. Only last month Kenya successfully hosted the Ministerial Conference on Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition whose focus was catalyzing agriculture's transformation for inclusive growth and the theme of harnessing the demographic dividend through investment and food and nutrition data.

The Conference sought to mobilize high-level political support to ensure availability, accessibility, and disability of data for agricultural planning and decision-making in the global south. As a country, we are committed to improving our data and information system to enhance informed decision-making.

Kenya joins the international community in our collective effort of ensuring Zero Hunger in the world, and particularly in Africa. At the national level, the government of Kenya has identified rangelands as an important resource for livelihoods of pastoralists who are dependent on livestock. More than 70 percent of Kenya is classified as ASAL (arid and semi-arid lands) area.

Rangelands are facing degradation due to increased pressure from both livestock and humans and changes in the climate conservation management and protection of rangelands. It is in this regard that the government will soon be proposing that we observe an International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.

The government, in partnership with our development partners, and indeed with FAO has targeted over 250 000 households with provision of livestock feeds, distribution of water tanks, agricultural insurance, and other emergency and resilience-building strategies. Our partners are also supporting us. In this regard, I would like to appreciate the role of FAO in promoting climate-smart agriculture that targets to intervene and improve resilience to climate change risks in targeted smallholder farmers and pastoral communities in Kenya, and in the event of an eligible crises or emergency, provided effective and immediate response.

Moreover, Kenya is promoting aquaculture development to enhance food security and nutrition by embracing climate-resilient technologies that ensure water and land use in an effective manner. In this regard, we also wish to appreciate the role of FAO and other international partners in this regard. We appreciate that all of us collectively, together with the UN System and development partners, we are fighting food insecurity and drought in our region.

FAO since 1977 has greatly grown its Country Programme Portfolio. Today, FAO is in the forefront of both development and emergency assistance to the countries' agriculture-related sectors and in our region. It is in this regard that we appreciate FAO's work of promoting youth engagement in agriculture to enhance food security as well as ensure employment opportunities for the young Kenyan population.

In conclusion, let me underline the commitment of the Government of Kenya in enhancing our relationship with FAO and other partners in supporting our agricultural sector and the role of transformation. It is such efforts that will break the cycle of urban and rural poverty as well as hunger and hence achieve the ultimate goal of ending hunger and malnutrition.

CHAIRPERSON

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 lunch time:

In the Iraq Room from 12.30 to 14.00 the side event on “*Addressing Water Scarcity and Improving Food Security under Climate Change - Perspectives from the Near East and North Africa Region*”;

In the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 12.30 to 14.00 the side event “*Seed Money Matters – 15 Years of the German-FAO Bilateral Trust Fund*”.

May I also remind the seven members of the General Committee and the three Vice-Chairpersons, that the Second Meeting of the General Committee will take place at 13.00 hours in the Lebanon Room.

The meeting rose at 13:05 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.05

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 July 2017

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.41 hours
Mr Hassan Abouyoub,
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Hassan Abouyoub,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta reunión a las 14.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hassan Abouyoub,
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

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

Germany, Madagascar, United Arab Emirates, India, Guinea, Fiji, Iraq, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Cuba, Hungary

His Excellency Christian SCHMIDT, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany (Original language German)

I am delighted to be here at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference here in Rome and that we can send out signals for the future.

Today, 4 July is the American national holiday, just as a side remark, we find a situation where we are again talking about people who like many of the American citizens, had ancestors in other parts of the world and who, on a voluntary basis or forced, looked for prospects in other parts of the world.

And currently also here in Europe, we see scenarios, situations at Europe's coast that have to do with unrest, peace, war, migration, and conflicts.

According to the UNHCR, there are currently more than 65 million refugees all around the globe and we need to solve the problems that lie behind those conflicts and we need to create perspectives in order to be able to combat the root causes of migration.

First of all, we need to sustainably promote agriculture that creates high yields and we need to understand that nutrition, good nutrition, balanced nutrition is one of the basic foundations for peace on this globe. And this is why I believe that the tasks of FAO are increasing. FAO has grown beyond sectoral tasks. It has now exceeded an agricultural discourse and this is the right path to go. We need to prepare ourselves for the challenges of the future, especially climate change.

We need to react to crisis around the world, especially in order to prevent those crises to be proactive. That is why we need strong agriculture that adapts to our conditions, especially concerning resilience against climate change, also in the question of effective production in using new technologies, and I would like to point out the issue of digitization and the opportunities that come with precision farming. And agriculture also needs to take into account our obligations that were transferred to us by the United Nations to feed the world and to combat hunger.

I would like to urge all of us coming together here in Rome to not perceive us as a Rome-based special structure of the United Nations. Instead, we need to see that we are right at the center of the problem, that we have a responsibility here that together with the three Rome-based Agencies, IFAD, WFP, and FAO, need to find joint solutions. We need to create synergies in order to combat hunger in the short-term, in crises, and in the longer run by creating sustainable agricultural structures.

And I believe that this is why the FAO needs to restructure itself, needs to come up with new visions, and needs to be willing to find solutions in collaboration with others. And from my part, in the name of the German Government, I can tell you that we will collaborate in the future as well. We are one of the main donors to FAO. We have also created the bilateral trust fund and via this trust fund, we also provide voluntary contributions.

When it comes to these issues, to these events, we need to promote them to an international level and I am happy that Germany, as the G20 President right now, we will be able to introduce these issues at the G20 meeting and that we can take up what we already adopted at the G20 Meeting of the Agricultural Ministers in Berlin in January. And this means the issues of sustainable water management, sustainable farming, and antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you very much. I believe that this Conference is a great stepping stone.

Son Excellence Monsieur Rakotovao RIVO, Ministre auprès de la Présidence, chargé de l'agriculture et de l'élevage de la République de Madagascar

C'est un réel plaisir pour moi ainsi que pour ma délégation de participer aux travaux de cette 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO et nous remercions infiniment Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, ainsi que tout le personnel, de la qualité de l'accueil qui nous a été réservé.

C'est un grand honneur de vous transmettre les voeux les plus chaleureux et de plein succès de Son Excellence Monsieur Hery Rajaonarimampianina, Président de la République de Madagascar, en soulignant tout particulièrement l'intérêt qu'il porte à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et au changement climatique.

L'agriculture constitue la clé du développement rural et durable en Afrique. Effectivement, nourrir dix milliards de personnes d'ici 2050 est une priorité absolue de l'agenda mondial.

Un an après l'Accord de Paris, l'agriculture a été en priorité lors de la 22^{ème} Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP22, qui s'est tenue à Marrakech, avec la présentation de l'Initiative pour l'adaptation de l'agriculture africaine (triple A), à laquelle Madagascar a activement participé, tant à ses travaux préparatoires et que lors du sommet.

Aussi, je saisir cette occasion pour lancer un appel aux différents partenaires pour la concrétisation des engagements pris lors de ces assises, et je cite à titre d'exemple l'opérationnalisation effective du Fonds vert.

Madagascar, cette grande île, qui a l'ambition de devenir le grenier de l'Océan indien avec ses 30 millions de terres arables, dispose de fortes potentialités agricoles (ressources en eau, en sols, zones agro écologiques et climatiques variées, territoires maritimes), une population jeune et essentiellement rurale. Cette population rurale vit dans une multitude de petites exploitations agricoles dont les produits sont principalement destinés à l'autoconsommation.

Dans notre programme sectoriel agricole, notre vision est que Madagascar 2025 s'appuie sur une production agricole compétitive et durable, intégrant des exploitations familiales et des unités de transformation modernisées pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et conquérir les marchés d'exportation.

Durant ces trois dernières années, Madagascar figure parmi les pays de l'Afrique australe durement touchés par les phénomènes El Niño et La Niña. Les campagnes agricoles, notamment dans le Sud du pays sont compromises, et ont engendré une grave insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle. Notre pays fait partie des pays vulnérables aux effets du changement climatique. Je tiens à réitérer ici nos vifs remerciements à l'endroit du Directeur général de la FAO, qui était en visite officielle à Madagascar en août 2016 et a pu constater les impacts de ces phénomènes. Tout ceci témoigne de l'appui et du soutien apportés par la FAO à notre pays en vue d'atteindre l'Objectif faim zéro et de réaliser les Objectifs de développement durable.

Assurer la sécurité alimentaire nécessite ainsi des actions urgentes et coordonnées pour améliorer la productivité et la résilience climatique de l'agriculture, et améliorer les chaînes de valeur alimentaire afin d'assurer des approvisionnements alimentaires adéquats et abordables.

Toutes les activités de mon Département, que ce soit à travers les projets en partenariat avec le secteur privé national et/ou international, les partenaires techniques et financiers internationaux, ou sur financement interne du Gouvernement, tiennent compte obligatoirement de cette résilience au changement climatique et à la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous allons citer quelques points, à savoir les activités qui tendent à augmenter la production et la productivité agricole et permettent aux producteurs d'accéder aux marchés domestiques et régionaux et/ou internationaux; les projets de protection des bassins versants et périphériques irrigués pour préserver le capital sol; les actions avec des volets de protection sociale pour les populations les plus vulnérables, ainsi que les nouveaux projets de mise en place de centre incubateur de jeunes entrepreneurs ruraux pour la création d'emploi.

Avant de conclure, Madagascar s'est vu décerner en 2016 le Prix d'excellence des organisations sises à Rome. Les résultats obtenus sont le fruit d'une bonne collaboration sur le terrain des trois organismes des Nations Unies basés à Rome. Cette collaboration efficace et reconnue entre ces organismes a permis à mon Département de faire face à ses engagements pour trouver des réponses adaptées aux changements climatiques, mais également à l'insécurité alimentaire.

En outre, je voudrais juste vous signaler que l'Alliance parlementaire malgache pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle a déjà été mise en place. Elle a pour objectif de promouvoir un cadre juridique et de mesures législatives pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle de la population.

Pour terminer, je voudrais réaffirmer l'engagement du Gouvernement de Madagascar de faire l'agriculture un véritable levier de développement économique de notre pays, tout en préservant notre environnement pour un développement inclusif et durable, tel qu'il est mentionné dans notre Plan national de développement et son Programme de mise en oeuvre.

Je voudrais insister également pour que le dialogue multipartite sur le Plan d'investissement externe de l'Union européenne soit engagé rapidement, suite à la Réunion ministérielle Union africaine/Union européenne, qui s'est tenue juste avant cette session.

Nous sommes tous d'accord sur les diagnostics, et même sur les solutions; alors donnons-nous les moyens et ayons la volonté d'agir.

Agissons ensemble pour briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté, pour que cesse cette situation déplorable et intolérable de gaspillage, de trop et de trop peu, de manque de solidarité et pour relever ces défis, car l'histoire nous jugera.

His Excellency Thani Ahmed Saeed Alshakkay ALZEYOUDI, Minister for Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates (Original language Arabic)

Excellencies, Heads of Delegation, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure of expressing the congratulations on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and wish you every success in your work. I would also like to thank Dr Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of the FAO, and all of the FAO staff for the efforts made in sustainable agriculture and fighting poverty and hunger in the world. I am also pleased to congratulate Emmanuel Piñol who has been appointed as a Chairperson of the Conference and we wish him and his Vice-Chairs every success.

Climate change and all of the related phenomena are the greatest challenges that agriculture and agricultural production faces right now. We need today, more agricultural production to meet the growing needs as a result of demographic growth in the world.

At the same time, we must also limit greenhouse gas effects which have led to an increase in temperatures all over the world. Despite the circumstances and restrictions that we are facing in agriculture and agricultural production, my country has managed to launch an agricultural reform programme by reforming agricultural lands and providing necessary water resources for production.

We have supported development in the world as well as demographic growth.

My country has setup a number of policies and coordinated measures which will make the food production sector more sustainable. They have also stressed energy and water sectors. We have adopted a clean energy strategy. We have adopted an energy mix strategy also, 50 percent approximately right now.

We have also built more barriers and dams. There are now 145 in the United Arab Emirates which provide 30 million cubic meters of water. We are working on desalination of our seas also which provides 56 percent of the water required in the country.

We are also working on reinforcing agricultural production, protected and organic farming particularly, and cropping services have gone up by 124 percent between 2013 and 2016. We also use fertilizers and pesticides that are recognized and we have adopted the principles needed to fight plant disease.

All of this has allowed us to improve national productivity and the competitiveness of our country. Over 90 percent of farms in the country use modern technology. All of these measures have been boosted productivity by over 40 percent between 2012 and 2015.

We have setup adequate climate to encourage investment and partnerships between private and public sectors in agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock production. I would particularly like to say here at agriculture and aquaculture are priority sectors in the United Arab Emirates and we have setup a national plan for climate change just a few weeks ago to also galvanize the capacity of these two sectors to address the effects of climate change.

The Emirates play an important role in strengthening food security and fighting poverty in the world to give humanitarian assistance to countries that are suffering from disasters in the world. The Emirates also play an important role in supplying humanitarian assistance to many countries in the world and we are part of the debates that seek to find innovative, lasting solutions to certain issues like climate change, food security, and water security.

So we do meet needs in urgent disasters but we also think that investing in new technologies are a solution to fight poverty and hunger in the world in the long term and that goes hand in hand with the United Nations Agenda for 2030 as well as the Paris Agreement.

Seven hundred and fifty million people in the world are poor and smallholder rural farmers and so the priority right now is to provide them with solutions and innovative techniques in developing countries to build their capacity to deal with climate change.

We must put in place necessary policies at world level for this. We seek long-term solutions then to manage the problems that the world is faced with and we also want to renew our commitment to the FAO and the FAO's Members in seeking lasting solutions to problems that the world is facing, particularly those linked to food security.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the heads of delegation and state that are taking part in this meeting to a summit which will be held in February 2018 in Dubai which is a world meeting for governments which will stress environmental –

His Excellency Parshottam RUPALA, Minister of State for Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare of the Republic of India

It is my privilege to be a part of this FAO Conference. The subject chosen for debate *Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security* is highly relevant for the present and for the future. India represents 1.3 billion people and 3.3 million square km of area. We are committed to the global efforts of building food and nutrition security for all of our people on a sustainable basis. We recognize the urgency of addressing climate change effects in this regard.

This FAO Conference is important as we are meeting in the backdrop of our collective Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement. Across these agendas, Member States have committed themselves collectively to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition and provide a meaningful life to everyone.

FAO India Office is working with us to incorporate Agenda 2030 in national and sub-national strategies, plans and budgets. Through this partnership, we are convinced that FAO is uniquely placed to provide support both at policy and technical level and help realize the ideals of SDGs by addressing implementation challenges, data quality issues and strengthening monitoring, evaluation and governance capacities of national governments.

SDG 13 – a climate action has strong inter-linkages with SDGs 1 and 2. I am sharing this based on my experiences as the Minister looking after the Agriculture sector in India, and also as a practicing farmer over past 40 years. I am convinced, that impact of climate change on agriculture and consequently on the lives of the farmer is a certainty. In India, we have witnessed 2 consecutive years of drought, warmer winters affecting yields, erratic rainfall and changes in disease patterns of plant, livestock and fisheries.

India has to support 17 percent of world's population on just 2.4 percent of its geographical area and with just one percent of water. 85 percent of our farmers are smallholders. Land division and fragmentation are a challenge to viability and profitability of farming. In spite of such structural problems of agriculture sector in India, I am happy to share impressive achievements of our farmers. During 2016-17 we have achieved record food grain production of 273.37 million metric tons.

We have also achieved record production of pulses of 22.4 million metric tons making the country near self-sufficient in pulses. Our farmers have been doing well in other sectors including horticulture, dairy, poultry and fishery. India finds place in the top production bracket globally.

While mentioning these achievements, we are aware about our responsibilities of sustaining and enhancing the production in view of increasing population, changing consumption pattern and challenges posed by climate change. Over the last 3 years, we have gone back to drawing board and have realigned our strategies to enhance resilience of small holders to the impact of climate change on one hand and adopt sustainable production systems on the other.

I want to mention few interventions we have taken to cover the risks associated with farming and for making agriculture system resilient to climate change.

We have launched one of the largest agriculture insurance schemes in terms of coverage of farmers. In the first year of this scheme called "*Prime Minister Agriculture Insurance Scheme*", 57 million farmers have been covered with sum insured of USD 32 billion.

Secondly, we have launched Soil Health Card scheme wherein once in two years, each farmer will be provided with a Card indicating the nutrient status of his agricultural land. This will enable him to adopt need-based and balanced use of fertilizers and soil amendments. Out of 140 million farmers, 87 million farmers have already been provided with this card.

We are now supplying Neem Coated Urea i.e. urea coated with *Azadirachta Indica*. This has resulted in savings of 10 percent of nitrogenous fertilizer because of slow and efficient release of fertilizer to plants.

Further, micro-irrigation systems are promoted to enhance water use efficiency. This vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi of "more crop per drop" is bringing relief to the monsoon dependent farmers.

We are one of the first in the world to have adopted a separate Agro forestry Policy in 2014 and now as a follow up of this, we have launched a Sub Mission on Agro forestry. This will generate additional farm incomes and contribute to our national target of reducing atmospheric carbon by 2.5 to 3 billion tons by 2030.

Now I would like to attract your attention towards the need to diversify our consumption basket in view of varying influence of climate change on crops. At present wheat, rice and maize provide for 50 percent of world's plant derived food energy. Over the last few decades, the importance of millets in our food plates has declined. The value of Millets as health food needs to be recognized. Our knowledge shows that millets should be ideally called "*climate-smart nutri-cereals*". These are hardy crops and well suited to regions that suffer from abiotic stress.

We propose that FAO takes up research activities and advocacy to popularize these millets on a major scale, particularly in arid and semi-arid tropics. To bring desired focus on millets, I would propose for consideration of members of FAO that we work towards declaring an International year of Millets.

Climate finance is an important aspect of achieving increased investments in climate smart technologies. Smallholders in developing countries have limited access and capacity to invest in sustainable food production systems. Therefore, there is need to increase climate finance availability to agriculture and addressing capacity constraints in accessing and effective use of climate finance, especially in developing countries. Smallholders access to climate finance may prove to be a catalyst that helps leverage larger flow of public and private funding into sustainable agriculture

Before I conclude, I would like to state that agricultural growth is one of the top priority of our Government and we are addressing the concerns of our farming community with renewed focus. The

approach is not only to ensure food and nutrition security of our people, but also to enhance incomes of our farmers. It is the vision of our Prime Minister to double the income of our farmers by 2022. We are committed to our farmers especially small holders and women farmers and look forward to a fruitful partnership with FAO and with all of you, in eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

I thank you for the opportunity given and I wish the conference success in its deliberations.

Son Excellence Madame Jacqueline SULTAN, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République de Guinée

La 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO est une occasion opportune pour la délégation guinéenne que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, de saluer les efforts de la FAO face aux grands défis mondiaux pour contribuer à éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition, et ceci en dépit des menaces climatiques.

La population croissante dans le monde connaîtra une augmentation de plus de 2 milliards de personnes en 2050 et nécessitera l'accroissement de la production alimentaire entre 60 et 100 pour cent selon les régions.

Face à ce grand défi s'impose l'impérieuse nécessité de faire le lien entre l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et le changement climatique. En effet, la variabilité pluviométrique et l'évolution de la température sont des changements qui ont des effets négatifs sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire. Ces changements entraînent une baisse de fertilité des sols, une expansion des nuisibles et des maladies qui perturbent les systèmes agricoles et la production animale.

En Afrique, les populations agricoles, représentées à plus de 70 pourcent par des paysans, sont les plus vulnérables face à ce changement climatique du fait de leur situation géographique et économique.

La variabilité climatique actuelle limite déjà la production agricole et des mesures sont nécessaires pour adapter les systèmes agraires existants au nouveau contexte.

Malgré l'importance des ressources en terre et en eau dont dispose la Guinée, son potentiel agricole reste vulnérable aux perturbations météorologiques et climatiques. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement guinéen se positionne en véritable acteur des initiatives africaines pour la réalisation des objectifs de sécurité alimentaire, prenant en compte des solutions d'adaptation et d'atténuation au changement climatique face à la vulnérabilité des systèmes agricoles.

Dans le cadre de ces initiatives, je voudrais rappeler rapidement la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui s'est tenue en 2016 et a vu la Déclaration des ministres africains de l'agriculture sur la sécurité alimentaire et face au changement climatique. Cette Déclaration met en exergue notre volonté commune de contribuer à la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) relatifs à l'élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim sous toutes ses formes et à la promotion de l'agriculture durable à l'horizon 2030.

La Déclaration met aussi l'accent sur la nécessité d'une meilleure coordination de l'aide technique et financière et l'harmonisation des activités menées au titre du Plan détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA) et de la Déclaration de Malabo sur la croissance et la transformation accélérées de l'agriculture africaine.

C'est aussi le lieu de saluer les résultats de la rencontre de haut niveau organisée à Marrakech au Maroc, en septembre 2016, pour le lancement de l'initiative «triples A» Adaptation de l'agriculture africaine.

À ce titre, je voudrais signaler que la Guinée a adhéré pleinement à cette initiative et je fais un plaidoyer en invitant les partenaires techniques et financiers à soutenir cette initiative en vue d'accélérer le développement et le financement des projets contribuant à la résilience des systèmes alimentaires en Afrique.

Les avancées en matière de sécurité alimentaire en Guinée sont assez significatives. Il convient de constater une mobilisation accrue des financements pour la productivité agricole et la compétitivité des produits afin d'améliorer la résilience des populations aux chocs économiques, aux risques climatiques, environnementaux et sanitaires. À titre indicatif, l'épreuve douloureuse d'Ebola de 2014-2015 a marqué le caractère résilient de l'agriculture guinéenne. Le ralentissement de la croissance

durant cette période difficile a impacté la production agricole sans entraîner de crise alimentaire dans le pays. De même, la période dite de soudure n'a pas enregistré de pénurie alimentaire. Les prix des denrées de première nécessité telles que le riz ont été maintenus sur l'ensemble des marchés.

Dans le domaine de la diversification alimentaire et nutritionnelle, le Gouvernement axe sa vision sur une relance des productions maraîchères, qui s'est traduite par la disponibilité en toutes saisons de produits sur les marchés de consommation. Le développement des filières maraîchères a permis aux femmes et aux jeunes d'améliorer constamment leurs revenus.

L'initiative de relance des cultures de rente et agroindustrielles est en cours pour de multiple filières telles que l'arachide, le maïs, l'anacarde, le palmier à l'huile, le café, le cacao, l'ananas et la mangue. Ceci vous explique que la Guinée a une agro-écologie diversifiée qui nous permet toutes ces cultures. Ainsi, le développement de ces filières contribuera également à l'équilibre de la balance commerciale tout en jouant un rôle essentiel dans le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Les aménagements hydroagricoles sont également à poursuivre pour la maîtrise de l'eau dans les périmètres rizicoles et pour les cultures de contre-saison, la tendance étant de passer d'une agriculture tributaire des pluies et du climat à une agriculture irriguée garantissant deux à trois cycles de culture par an.

En perspective, la Guinée se place dans la dynamique de transformation de son agriculture pour laquelle des financements importants sont nécessaires pour l'accompagnement des producteurs. En outre, des investissements tant publics que privés restent encore à mobiliser en faveur de cette transformation.

Pour mener à bien des actions climato-intelligentes, le Gouvernement guinéen encourage les investissements dans l'agriculture en mettant l'accent sur la recherche, le transfert de technologies et l'aide à apporter aux populations rurales pour assurer une gestion durable des ressources naturelles et la préservation de l'écosystème et de l'environnement.

Dans ce cadre, nous avons commencé l'identification et le renforcement de 333 exploitations climato-intelligentes qui correspondent aux 333 communes rurales, afin d'en faire des modèles de référence pour les petites exploitations familiales.

Pour conclure, je voudrais réaffirmer ici la volonté du Gouvernement guinéen de renforcer la coopération avec la FAO ainsi qu'avec les institutions financières internationales et les partenaires techniques et financiers.

Il y a lieu d'espérer qu'ensemble nous pourrons bâtir une agriculture performante adaptée au climat, garantissant l'offre alimentaire au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition des populations.

The Honourable Viam PILLAY, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Fiji

On behalf of the Government of Fiji and the Fijian people, we wish to convey our greetings to you all and it is a wonderful privilege to be here in Rome for this very important event, the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

Fiji very much values its membership to FAO and I want to begin, by expressing our sincere appreciation for the support FAO and other member countries have given us over the years. Especially the support you are giving Fiji in 2017 as we take on the responsibility as president of COP23. It is critically imperative for all of us that we persuade the world to take urgent action on climate change, to mitigate its impact especially on agriculture and food security. We are therefore delighted to be able to participate in this important event - to share our experiences.

Agriculture is the backbone and plays a pivotal role in the development, growth and stability of the Fiji's economy. Primary production in non-cane agriculture contributes around 8.1 percent to GDP and even more when we consider all activities generated by agriculture, such as storage, transportation and manufacturing. The sector employs around 65 percent of the total workforce.

The Fiji Agriculture Census in 2009, recorded a total of 64 000 farmers of which 90 percent are in the

rural areas that relies on agriculture for their employment, income and livelihoods. Therefore, when we fix agriculture, we are actually addressing the livelihood of the rural and grass root people.

Fiji and other SIDS are amongst the highest at risk of experiencing the impacts of natural disasters. Climate change is real and whether we come from the small islands in the Pacific or developed nations, ultimately we cannot escape the impact of climate change. Climate change represents the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, social development and wellbeing of the world including Fiji.

The world's highest rates of sea-level rise are expected in the Pacific, and even under the most optimistic projections will lead to catastrophic impacts, especially for the region's low lying atoll nations like the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. Temperatures in the region have been increasing and if emissions remain at current rates, serious implications will be experienced for agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, fresh water resources, infrastructure, tourism, health and of course agriculture and food security.

For Fiji, droughts, floods, storms and other disasters triggered by climate change have risen in frequency and severity in the recent past causing damages to Fiji's agricultural sectors and its development. The 2014 United Nations World Risk Report ranks Fiji as one of the world's 15 most exposed countries to natural hazards.

Tropical cyclone Winston which hit Fiji in 2016 resulted in a total damage of USD 1.2 billion to Fiji's economy with USD 61 million attributed to the agriculture sector alone. Destruction to houses, infrastructure, and loss of vegetation, land erosion, coastal inundation, destruction of coral reefs and sea grass beds, and pollution of water supplies are all effects of these cyclone. Around 44 lives were lost.

In 1997, 1998 and 2015, we experienced one of the worst droughts in the history of Fiji. It caused hundreds of millions of dollars of loss in revenue in the agriculture sector, especially on sugar. The Western sides of Fiji were the worst hit regions, where 90 percent of the population received food and water rations.

Since 2009 to 2016, Fiji has been experiencing prolong days of heavy rain where flash floods were experienced especially on low lying areas and also on major towns and cities. The floods damaged roads, bridges and other infrastructures. It caused the loss of major crops like taro, cassava, ginger, banana, assorted vegetables, fruits and fruit trees which provides livelihood and food security to Fijians. It caused loss of livestock especially poultry, dairy, beef, pigs and other ruminant livestock. There was loss of lives through landslide and drowning.

In 2012, due to prolong rain, there was an outbreak of animal diseases like the Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis, which affected our livestock industry, especially our dairy industry. The Fijian Government had to import new breeding stocks from Australia and New Zealand to rehabilitate this industry. Again we have to seek assistance from other developing partners like FAO for the eradication and management of these diseases. Over those years, again hundreds of millions of dollars was lost which had an impact on agriculture development and food security.

There are other impacts of climate change I wish to share with you today, like the rising sea levels. Last year, 2016, our Government had to relocate three villages as seawater intrusion has washed the shores at an alarming rate. Seawater intrusion have wash out arable land or permanently increase its salinity through storm surges and flash floods which makes land unsuitable for agricultural production.

Landslides were experienced on some of the islands and have resulted in severe damage and destruction to agriculture and infrastructure. In the last few years, we were experiencing and increase in number of earthquakes and tsunami warnings.

Because of the important role agriculture plays, in the creation of national wealth and the population needs for food security, the agricultural sector appears as a highly vulnerable one. The loss on crops, livestock, trees or forests, and also on our ocean resources has long-term consequences on our production, productivity, food security and also the ability to generate income for livelihood.

Recurrent disasters in the same geographical area have led to reduced investment due to the perceived risk of asset loss.

Again I wish to thank FAO and its member countries for its support for Fiji in the rehabilitation work after major natural disasters. I also wish to thank FAO for supporting us especially on our presidency of COP23.

Excellencies, while I have said that, it is only natural given the part of the world I come from, that we want to see climate action in the Pacific. We have a particular interest in agriculture and food security, in our oceans and seas because they are our livelihood. Fiji is looking forward to your continued collaboration especially in the next biennium and beyond.

I want to close with an expression of thanks on behalf of every Fijian for the support, for the companionship and solidarity of those of you gathered here to seek solutions by working together and to commit to our effort to mitigate and to adapt to climate change for food security and sustainable development in agriculture as a whole.

Vinaka vakalevu.

Mr Ibrahim Hameed AL ZUBAIDI, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good day to you all. It is my pleasure to represent Iraq, my country, and representing Mr Falah Hassan al-Zaidan, the Minister of Agriculture in this 40th Session of the FAO Conference. It is a global platform for Member Nations to agree on policies, work plans, and trends that drive the work of FAO. This leads to the implementation of the objectives of FAO, particularly sustainable agricultural development, food security, hunger eradication, and improvement of rural livelihoods.

Agriculture is one of the key activities that contribute to national economy and the development of agriculture results in curbing unemployment and reducing imports. The local produce is eventually safer for the human consumption.

The development of the agricultural sector has many positive impacts on environment. Today we are facing the effects of climate change on human beings, natural systems, and the various economic sectors. This phenomenon is a reality today, particularly during the last two decades. It impacted heavily on the economic and agricultural systems that suffered from the adverse effects of climate change, particularly in developing countries.

Agriculture in Iraq is highly affected by the implications of climate change. During the last two decades, the temperature in Iraq soared and we faced many extreme weather conditions like drought, sand storms in addition to scarce rainfall. This contributed to negative impacts on plant and animal production in addition to the side effects on natural grazing lands and the expansion of desert areas. This aggravated and had many impacts on the soil due to the soil salinity and the scarcity of water resources.

We would like to mention as well the security situation and although we had defeated terrorism and we are about to claim victory, we would like to bring to your attention the negative impact of terrorism on the various sectors in our country, particularly the agricultural sectors.

The Ministry of Agriculture within its limits, implemented many projects and provided research and extension services in order to adapt to climatic changes, for example the modern irrigation techniques, the wheat plantation programmes, the combating of desertification, the development of natural grazing lands as well as conservation and organic agriculture.

The Ministry contributed efficiently while cooperating with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Water Resources to the implementation of many projects to this and it provided many studies and reports that are related to the agricultural sector and to the climate change.

Today, after signing the Paris Agreement and after receiving many pledges regarding the funds and the technological support to be provided to developing countries, the Ministry of Agriculture is bent on working to combat climate change effects by funding many national projects in this area.

In this vein, the ministry started taking new measures in order to support this workstream. We established the vision, focusing on the agriculture meteorological center in order to maximize our activities in this area. We are preparing a set of projects relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to present them to the various UN Agencies in order to attract funds.

We would like to stress the importance of the role played by the FAO when it comes to combatting the adverse effects of climate change and this was embodied by the new strategy to combat climate change across FAO and this falls under the mandate of FAO.

This is also clear from the TCP provided by FAO to the countries affected by this phenomenon. We hope that FAO would be able to play a pivotal role and we hope that it would support Iraq due to its expertise in this field.

In the end, we would like to thank those who organized this conference. We wish you all success and we thank you for your kind attention.

Her Excellency Alla LOMAKINA, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus (Original language Russian)

I would like to convey the greetings of the Agriculture and Food Ministry of Belarus to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. Food security remains one of the main pressing issues at the global and national levels. FAO's role in consolidating the efforts of Member States on this issue remains crucial.

The key to food security is sustainable rural development. Belarus has an active state socioeconomic and agricultural policy aimed at ensuring sustainable agriculture, food security, and improving the quality of life. It is fully in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Belarus is not only self-reliant in terms of food but also has significant export potential. National high quality produce provides food to the domestic market and over 30 percent of agro food products are exported. In terms of total production of the main types of agricultural produce, Belarus is one of the leaders among former Soviet states.

The level achieved in terms of production of agricultural raw materials and food allows us to guarantee peoples' access to food with necessary calories, eliminating hunger and malnutrition. Consumption of food is not limited by our own production resources but Belarusian diets remain unbalanced. The nutritional content includes a lack of protein and carbohydrates associated with fats.

Belarus is playing an active role at the international level and is highly ranked internationally in terms of food production and trade. According to FAO, Belarus is number 25 in the world in milk production and eighth in exports and is also one of the top 20 exporters of meat, sugar, grape seed oil, and flax fiber.

In Belarus, much is being done to further develop agriculture in rural areas. We are modernizing the material and technical base for production, stepping up cooperation and integration in industries, human resourcing is being improved, and we are creating social infrastructure in rural areas. All of this contributes greatly to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production to create a favorable environment to increase living standards in rural areas.

Undoubtedly, Belarus's agro-food sector is facing new challenges and threats both external and domestic. They need to be tackled head on which is why we are putting in place a monitoring system.

We have developed a targeted national strategy for legislation, institutional work, and scientific research. We currently have a draft new strategic document, the 2030 National Food Security Policy. This policy enshrines the goals and targets of the long-term government food security policy, guaranteeing high quality food for the population, demand for Belarusian produce in foreign markets, and integration into the global good market.

Belarus works actively on food security issues at the intergovernmental level as well. As a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, we are involved in the development of a policy for collective food security. Our systems and technologies for agricultural production are in line with the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia.

Our country is experiencing a prolonged period of high temperatures which has a positive and also a negative impact on the sustainability of agricultural production. This is why at the 71st Session of the General Assembly, Belarus was one of the first countries to provide the UN Secretary-General with documents on our accession to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Belarus is also one of the 60 countries which have officially undertaken international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With the joint efforts of international organizations and governments of Member States, the SDGs are attainable and food security can be guaranteed.

His Excellency Iurie USURELU, Acting Minister for Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova

I am honored to participate, in the 40th FAO Conference and be part of the discussions on critical and important issues on global agenda as *Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*. Climate change has been recognized as an unprecedented threat to the food security of hundreds of millions of people who depend on small-scale agriculture for their livelihoods.

Although the Republic of Moldova is a small country, agriculture has a crucial importance in terms of economic significance, employment, rural livelihoods, food security, rural development and exports. Agriculture has traditionally been a major component of the economy. Agriculture and agro-processing sector account for around 16 percent of GDP. Also agri-food exports account for a significant part of total exports (around 40 percent of total export).

Furthermore, agricultural sector provides 30 percent of employment for active labor force. More than 70 percent of the total land is used in crop production and animal breeding. These figures highlight the inherent vulnerability of the national economy to climate-related events that has an impact on the agriculture sector. This level of vulnerability is further compounded at a livelihoods scale, as 90.8 percent of the rural population earns less than USD 5 per day and is highly vulnerable to any changes in agricultural income.

Moldova is exposed to a variety of extreme climate events that have affected all aspects of life, especially agriculture that is the most important and sensitive sector. These extreme events include droughts, rainstorms, hail, frosts and floods. The most devastating event in terms of agriculture losses for Moldova is drought. Losses recorded during the most severe droughts in the last decade (in 2007 and 2015) account for hundreds of millions. The most affected were, in terms of income and economic well-being, smallholders with limited financial resources for which main source of their livelihood is agriculture.

The Republic of Moldova as other countries acknowledge the importance of these challenges. Adaptation to climate change in agriculture, food security, vulnerability to water scarcity have become an increasing concern on the agenda of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova has recently ratified the Paris Agreement and is involved in active ongoing process of adapting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to the context of the Republic of Moldova with support of UN Moldova.

The Government of Moldova highly appreciates the significant role of FAO both on the regional and global level and rely further on FAO outstanding expertise in order to address on long term the above-mentioned challenges.

FAO is already providing considerable support to the Government of the Republic of Moldova under their current Country Programming Framework (2016-2019), which was adopted. The third priority area of current CPF refers to improving capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk management.

Thus I consider that FAO priorities in the region should consist in: implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change commitments relating to food and agriculture; strengthening our state institutions capacity in view of their implementation; design and implementation of integrated policies that address agriculture, food and climate change; mainstream climate-smart agriculture approach into the national policy framework; building resilience

for adaptation to climate change through sustainable forest management, in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and disaster risk management.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Julio Andrés GARCÍA PÉREZ, Viceministro Primero de Agricultura de la República de Cuba

El Estado Cubano, desde el año 1959 ha dedicado todos sus esfuerzos para lograr una vida digna a su pueblo, donde la producción de alimentos ha sido y continúa siendo una prioridad en función de garantizar la Seguridad Alimentaria de toda la población, en importación de alimentos se invierten más de 2 mil millones de dólares anuales.

El estudio de evaluación de las tierras agrícolas para 29 cultivos reflejó que el 65 por ciento están afectados por factores limitantes, lo cual provoca un rendimiento potencial por debajo del 50 por ciento. A esto se añade que más de 1 millón de hectáreas forman parte de ecosistemas frágiles, por lo que la sostenibilidad de la agricultura cubana requiere de un alto grado de eficiencia y cuidado en el manejo de los ecosistemas.

A pesar de estas afectaciones, Cuba alcanzó la erradicación del hambre, incrementa el índice de boscosidad de forma sostenida desde 1959, cumpliendo con un año de antelación el compromiso contraído en la Cumbre de Río, ejecuta programas dirigidos a la restauración de suelos, el uso eficiente del agua, la reforestación, el incremento de la producción de bioplaguicidas, el uso de fuentes renovables de energía; de conjunto con la FAO trazamos una hoja de ruta para trabajar en temas de la agricultura de conservación.

Recientemente fue aprobado por el Gobierno Cubano el “Plan de Estado para el Enfrentamiento al Cambio Climático”, donde la reforestación y la restauración de los bosques, dirigidos hacia las zonas costeras y las cuencas hidrográficas constituyen una prioridad por ser estas las zonas más vulnerables.

También fue aprobado el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Económico y Social hasta el 2030, dentro del cual se identifica como uno de sus ejes estratégicos lo relacionado con los Recursos Naturales y el Medio Ambiente, el que tiene dentro de sus Objetivos Generales expresa *Garantizar un uso racional de los recursos naturales, la conservación de los ecosistemas y el cuidado del medio ambiente y el patrimonio de la nación.*

Son fortalezas de nuestro país contar con 15 centros científicos en el sistema de la agricultura y una integración sólida de todos los sectores y actores de la sociedad, con un marcado enfoque de género, donde las mujeres son protagonistas, tanto en el trabajo en las cooperativas, así como en las empresas e instituciones científicas. Se cuenta con una Estrategia de Género, a fin de incrementar el empoderamiento femenino, priorizando desde la comunidad la capacitación a las jóvenes. Más de 200 mil féminas están vinculadas al sector agropecuario del país.

Otro aspecto a destacar, son las políticas aprobadas por el Gobierno a favor de los productores en precios, suministro de insumos que benefician a las familias y a las comunidades rurales, para alcanzar un desarrollo sostenible.

A pesar de las duras condiciones económicas, que en el caso de Cuba, se agudizan por el injusto, inhumano y cruel bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por los Estados Unidos hace más de 55 años, los trabajadores, campesinos y cooperativistas del sistema de la agricultura continuaremos desarrollándonos y superando las dificultades. También mantendremos nuestra solidaridad, brindando nuestro modesto y desinteresado apoyo a otros países del mundo, fortaleciendo la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Reiteramos el compromiso de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Cuba está convencida y lo hemos demostrado, que seguiremos trabajando y luchando por el derecho al desarrollo. Nuestras acciones estarán focalizadas a una mayor eficiencia y resiliencia ante los desastres naturales porque conocemos que como expresó el Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro: “*el cambio climático es el peligro más inminente que en menos de un siglo puede hacer imposible la supervivencia de la especie humana*”.

Ms Katalin TÓTH, Deputy State Secretary of International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary

It is my pleasure to be here with you today and first of all I would like to say thank you for this opportunity to make my contribution to this Conference. Also I would like to express my appreciation to FAO for placing climate change in the centre of our discussions at this Conference. We have to take care of our Planet. As Pope Francis said, God always forgives, humans can forgive sometimes, but Mother Earth will never forgive.

All States, all people are affected by climate change. Although the effects and amplitude of this change differ from region to region, they force us to change our way of life including our food systems. We are experiencing extreme weather conditions, water scarcity, new animal and plant diseases that do not respect any borders; therefore, concerning these challenges joint actions are needed.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement are important milestones for humanity in creating a global, common vision on how to minimize the effects of climate change and to ensure a sustainable development path for all. Now it is time for action! Our agricultural and food systems has to be transformed to a more sustainable and more resilient system.

We believe that applying the agro-ecological approach could be a good basis in this transformation process as it provides a framework where among others biomass recycling, soil management, circular food production, sustainable livestock production and aquaculture, the preservation of biological and genetic diversity and the responsible use of natural resources are present.

Most importantly, agro-ecology has an important role in increasing the resilience of small-holder farmers, who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Furthermore, agro-ecology can assist us to improve the sustainability of our global food system in economic, environmental and social terms as well.

We are pleased to cooperate with FAO also in this field. Last November Hungary hosted the FAO Regional Symposium on Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in Europe and Central Asia. I am also pleased to inform you that the Government of Hungary, FAO and other partners are intending to hold a side event on agroecology at the COP 23 Conference in Bonn November 2107. This high level event will focus on how agro-ecological approaches can mitigate impacts of climate change and facilitate countries in meeting their Paris Agreement commitments.

FAO can and should take a leading role in this process, being the global knowledge organization that assists countries in the transformation and adaptation process. In this respect we welcome the announcement of FAO Director-General to hold a global agroecology event in April 2018. In order to have a stronger impact we call for strengthened cooperation with the involvement of the three Rome-based Agencies, other relevant UN bodies and all other stakeholders, including academia, private sector and civil society, and in particular the smallholder farmers, practitioners of agroecology.

We also share the views of FAO that “Adequate climate financing and agricultural investments are essential to enable the transition to sustainable agricultural practices”. At the same time we highlight that activities and projects financed through these channels should be mutually beneficial for all affected stakeholders. Therefore, we call for applying and implementing the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure and on the Right to Food, as well as the CFS-RAI principles.

Innovation and knowledge transfer will play a pivotal role in finding solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation. We support innovative technologies aiming to contribute to sustainable ecosystems. We acknowledge the great importance of innovation, developing techniques including biotechnological methods to develop climate resilient crop-varieties, to raise yields, to improve nutrition values and to prevent food and biodiversity losses.

However, in our view genetically modified organisms can have harmful effects to human health and to the environment and can cause serious input supply dependence. This is why we think that the precautionary principle should be followed when applying GMOs.

According to our standpoint every nation in the world should have the right to decide whether they wish to allow GMOs within their borders or not. Hungary's Fundamental Law contains the ban on the cultivation of GMO plants emphasizing that each citizen has the right to sustain a healthy way of live through consuming safe products.

As far as knowledge transfer is concerned good examples are highlighted by our scholarship programmes. The knowledge obtained at our universities might contribute to the innovative development of the countries in need.

Hungary is also promoting exchange of expertise in the field of sustainable water management. It is a hot issue as water scarcity is becoming a reality in many regions. The importance of providing innovative technologies in water management was also pointed out at the Budapest Water Summit that was organized by the Hungarian Government in cooperation with the World Water Council last November.

In conclusion, as a representative of the Hungarian Government, I would like to assure FAO and all Member States that Hungary will definitely remain committed to the common work in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, before we continue with the list of speakers, I wish to report back to the Plenary on the Second Meeting of the General Committee which took place today from 13.00 to 14.00.

The Second Meeting of the General Committee recommended that the deadline of 12.00 today for the submission of nominations for Council membership be extended to 12.00 tomorrow, Wednesday 5 July 2017. Subsequently, the Third Meeting of the General Committee would take place at 14.30 tomorrow afternoon and the Second Report of the General Committee would be presented to Plenary on Thursday morning for adoption.

Are there any comments with regard to this proposal?

Thank you. We will now continue with Item 9, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

Statements by Heads of Delegation

Déclarations des chefs de délégation

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, United Kingdom, China, Yemen, Estonia, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, France, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Argentina, Iceland, Zambia, Mauritania

Mr Jang Chun SIK, Deputy Director-General of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election of the Chairperson of this Conference. I express my confidence that the Conference will be successful under your able leadership. I also extend my appreciation to the Director-General and his team of the Secretariat for the efforts they made for the successful proceedings of the Conference.

FAO has undertaken satisfactorily its mandate to eradicate hunger and poverty and ensure food security on the global scale for the past two years. In recent years, FAO has increased the amount of TCP in the field of agriculture and fisheries and enhanced the effectiveness of cooperation, which largely contributed to improving food security and nutrition of the rural population.

In particular, FAO made advance efforts in view of minimizing the impact of climate change on agricultural production including the cooperation on deforestation and today the effects of these efforts became evident in several countries.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) acknowledges that the FAO's programme of work and budget for the next biennium submitted to this Conference are aimed at providing its Member States with effective assistance to food security and agricultural development. And therefore it expresses its full support.

As each country's strategy to build on its successes achieved in agricultural production and ensure food security is brought to fruition gradually, the FAO's role and its influence increases. However, agricultural production of each country has not yet reached a satisfactory level and hunger and malnutrition not reduced in many countries.

In this context, my delegation appreciates that the theme of this Conference was set as "*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*". My delegation would like to present its view that the FAO should consider and give its due attention to in its future activities.

First, the FAO should elaborate and diversify its assistance so that it can efficiently contribute to the efforts of the Member States in achieving the targets of the SDGs.

Natural and geographical environment and conditions of countries differ from each other. In order to ensure food security, it is important for the countries to work out agricultural policies best suited for their specific conditions. At the same time, it is necessary for the FAO to identify the contents of its assistance which can make tangible contribution to increasing the agricultural production in Member States.

FAO should further enhance the effectiveness of technical assistance in the field of seed improvement, effective use of land and water resources, crop nutrition management, protection from the pest and the post-harvest loss reduction.

Along with this, FAO should give due attention to exchange of good practices gained and lessons learnt in increasing the agricultural output among Member States.

Second, any act hindering international efforts for sustainable agricultural development and eradication of poverty should not be overlooked.

A peaceful environment is prerequisite to achieving the SDGs. However, some specific countries attempt to use their power to check the independent aspirations of developing countries.

Their power policy poses a serious threat to not only national sovereignty but also people's right to existence and economic development including agriculture.

A typical example is the act of those forces hostile to the DPRK imposing unprecedentedly inhumane sanctions on the DPRK in order to bring down the socialist system and even strangle people's livelihood.

The DPRK has suffered from unjustifiable sanctions on its overall economic development due to its self-defensive measures to safeguard the national security.

However, the reality shows that the more vicious the sanctions of hostile forces are, the stronger the will and spiritual strength of our people will be to safeguard the socialist system firmly.

As long as all sorts of sanctions and pressure that run against the trend of times remain, one can hardly expect success no matter how good sustainable development goals are. Neither can the ideal of humankind to build a free, peaceful and prosperous world be realized.

Today, in DPRK, under the wise leadership of the respected Supreme Leader Comrade Kim Jong Un the whole country turned out to counter sanctions and pressure of hostile forces with the might of self-reliance and self-development and achieve great successes in the struggle for building an economic giant and improving the people's living standards.

The DPRK Government set the agriculture as a key sector for building an economic giant and is concentrating the investment and efforts on it.

For the present, it sets the agriculture as one of the important sectors in implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development to be accomplished by 2020 and is making efforts to put this sector to an advanced global standard and increase sustainably the agricultural output by not only looking at today, but also looking far ahead into the future.

A strong wind of seed improvement, potato farming, double cropping and scientific farming has sprung up as never before. The movement for increasing crop yield is being pushed forward and tangible progress is being made in the field of animal husbandry, fruit farming and fisheries.

And the DPRK Government regards the rehabilitation of forest as a patriotic cause for the everlasting prosperity of the country and is pushing forward persistently the campaign of rehabilitation of forest according to a plan by year and the whole people have turned out into this work.

In conclusion, the DPRK Government, in the future too, will strengthen the cooperation with FAO and its Member States in line with its ideal of foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship. And it will make a positive contribution to the international efforts for the sustainable development of agriculture and eradicating poverty.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Elías Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM, Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO

Al celebrar el 40º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, hacemos un reconocimiento a este Organismo que ha asumido dentro de su Plan Estratégico, los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la búsqueda de soluciones al problema del cambio climático, como ejes centrales para los próximos años.

Esta década nos toma nuevamente con importantes crisis a nivel global; no obstante, si hablamos de crisis humanitarias es necesario diferenciar entre aquellas que se dan por fenómenos naturales y las que son intencionalmente provocadas. ¿Quiénes son los que provocan estas crisis? ¿Por qué la provocan? ¿Cómo se benefician de ella?

La crisis estructural del capital, en su dimensión ambiental, se expresa con el cambio climático, lo cual, sumado a la explotación indiscriminada de los recursos que nos provee la Madre Tierra, el cambio climático está ocasionando las sequías y las inundaciones que afectan al sistema agrícola y dan origen a problemas como el hambre y la pobreza, que obliga a poblaciones enteras a desplazarse desde sus territorios en búsqueda de mejorar su calidad de vida y satisfacer sus necesidades básicas.

Sin embargo, este fenómeno no puede verse aislado del factor económico. Con el uso de las llamadas tecnologías verdes, la promoción y establecimiento de un “capitalismo verde”, lejos de cuestionar el papel que ha tenido el sistema capitalista como generador de esta situación, lo que hacen los apologistas del capital es gastar grandes sumas de dinero, en campañas que se encargan de matizar los efectos del problema y desestimular a quienes luchan por una filosofía de vida diferente como la filosofía que acompaña la revolución Bolivariana de Vivir Bien. Decía, el gran escritor nuestro americano Eduardo Galeano *“la salvación del medio ambiente está siendo el más brillante negocio de las mismas empresas que lo aniquilan”*.

En el marco del principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, los países desarrollados, en virtud de las obligaciones financieras asumidas en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático y en el Acuerdo de París, así como de sus incuestionables responsabilidades por las emisiones históricas que han llevado a la actual crisis climática, están comprometidos y deben brindar apoyo a los países en desarrollo para que podamos alcanzar el crecimiento económico y social, la erradicación de la pobreza y la adaptación o mitigación al cambio climático.

El financiamiento adecuado del clima para mitigar lo provocado por el capitalismo tiene un alto componente en las inversiones agrícolas, esto es esencial para permitir la transición hacia prácticas agrícolas sostenibles, tal como señala de manera acertada el informe del El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación (SOFA). Se deben proseguir los esfuerzos para reforzar la capacidad de los países en desarrollo de ampliar acciones para parar el cambio climático, lograr la seguridad alimentaria y mejorar la nutrición, incluso mediante la cooperación internacional, como la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular y la Cooperación Norte-Sur para ayudar a todas las Partes.

Las mujeres, que representan alrededor del 43 por ciento de la mano de obra agrícola en los países en desarrollo, con menos dotaciones y derechos que los hombres y con un acceso aún más limitado a la información y a los servicios y con mayores responsabilidades domésticas, requieren en especial atención.

En Venezuela, a partir de la llegada de la Revolución Bolivariana, surgió la necesidad de contribuir con una solución para este problema. Esto se tradujo en una política que ha sido sintetizada en el Plan

de la Patria 2013 – 2019, en su V Objetivo Histórico: *Contribuir con la preservación de la vida en el planeta y la salvación de la especie humana*. En el preámbulo de dicho Plan se señala que “*nuestro país luchará en aquellos temas sensibles en materia ambiental en todos los ámbitos (nacional, regional y multilateral) con especial énfasis en la lucha contra el cambio climático, la transformación de los modelos de producción y de consumo sostenibles y la defensa de un nuevo modelo de desarrollo social, ecológico y socialista, como la única alternativa planetaria para garantizar la vida*”.

Lo anterior, aunado a una política social inclusiva, ha permitido una redistribución de la riqueza en el país que nos convierte en uno de los países menos desiguales de Latinoamérica, según el último informe de la CEPAL.

A pesar de todos los logros que hemos alcanzado en los últimos años, hoy somos víctimas de las más brutales ataques a nivel interno con una oposición nucleada en la llamada Mesa de la Unidad Democrática que no quiere dialogar, a esto se le suman poderosas fuerzas externas que nos bloquean económica, financiera y mediáticamente, las fuerzas externas imperialistas financian a amplios sectores de la población que han decidido desconocer al Gobierno, electo democráticamente, del Presidente Nicolás Maduro y conspiran para mermar el acceso y disponibilidad de alimentos, llegando al extremo de quemar centro de acopios de alimentos, medios de transporte y obstruir carreteras para que no lleguen los alimentos a la población. La oposición rechaza el diálogo que se le ha hecho, así como el continúo rechazo al llamado a la Asamblea Nacional Constituyente realizado por el Presidente Nicolás Maduro como acción estructural de gran diálogo nacional para evitar la violencia, impulsar la reconciliación y lograr el derecho a la paz con justicia.

Para finalizar, si queremos contribuir en la solución de los problemas mundiales que hoy nos aquejan, debemos empezar por asumir los principios de independencia, no intromisión en los asuntos internos de los Estados, respeto a la soberanía y autodeterminación de los pueblos, respetando su voluntad. Es por ello que aprovechamos este espacio, no sólo para contribuir con ideas para la búsqueda de soluciones a los temas que están dentro de nuestra agenda de trabajo. Cuenten con la diplomacia de paz del Gobierno Bolivariano para seguir impulsando políticas de inclusión, desarrollo social, económico y erradicar definitivamente el hambre y la pobreza.

Declaración del G77 y China

Esta declaración se está realizando en nombre de los 134 países en desarrollo miembros del Grupo de los 77 y China, con la firme intención de mejorar el estado de la alimentación y la agricultura a nivel mundial, regional y nacional, en colaboración con la FAO, las otras Agencias con sede en Roma y con las partes interesadas, para asegurarse de que nadie se quede atrás.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría la presentación del documento de referencia sobre este punto de la Agenda, basado en el informe sobre el Estado de la Alimentación y la Agricultura (SOFA 2016), con el tema “Cambio Climático, Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria”.

El cambio climático es descrito como uno de los mayores retos de nuestro tiempo en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. El Objectivo de Desarrollo Sostenible número 13 exige explícitamente una acción urgente para combatir el cambio climático y sus impactos. Como se subraya en el informe del SOFA, a menos que se tomen medidas para hacer la agricultura más sostenible, productiva y resiliente, los impactos del cambio climático comprometerán seriamente la producción de alimentos en regiones alimentarias que ya están altamente inseguras.

Los países en desarrollo están particularmente a riesgo de una disminución de rendimiento como resultado del cambio climático. La baja productividad en la agricultura como resultado tendrá serias implicaciones negativas para los medios de subsistencia y la seguridad alimentaria, especialmente para los pequeños agricultores y agricultores familiares de las zonas rurales.

La implementación del Acuerdo de París, es crucial para considerar las particularidades de la agricultura y los sistemas de alimentación en términos de sus contribuciones para la salvaguardia de la seguridad alimentaria y la eliminación del hambre. El principal desafío al que se enfrenta nuestro grupo de países en la implementación del Acuerdo de París, es esencialmente en relación a los medios de aplicación.

Si bien reconocemos que un área con un gran potencial para realinear las políticas es el rediseño de las medidas de apoyo a la agricultura para facilitar más que para impedir, la transición hacia la agricultura sostenible, advertimos que tal rediseño no debe conducir a una justificación para ampliar medidas de apoyo que distorsionan el comercio. Estamos de acuerdo en que las restricciones comerciales que limitan la respuesta de la producción agrícola mundial a los cambios en la demanda y la oferta en relación al cambio climático, deberían estar en consonancia con la Agenda 2030, en particular con el ODS 17, que promueve una normativa universal, no discriminatoria y equitativa en el marco de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

El G77 y China aprecia las conclusiones generales del actual informe sobre el estado de los alimentos y la agricultura. En cuanto a las medidas sugeridas por la Conferencia, cabe señalar que el Acuerdo de París reconoció la prioridad fundamental de salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria y erradicar el hambre, así como las vulnerabilidades de los sistemas de producción de alimentos y los efectos adversos del cambio climático. Sin embargo, en el Acuerdo no existe un compromiso particular sobre este tema. Por lo tanto, el actual punto c) sobre las Acciones Sugeridas, es un poco engañoso. Por lo tanto, proponemos que la Conferencia "destaque la importancia de aplicar el Acuerdo de París, tomando en consideración la imperiosa necesidad teniendo en cuenta el imperativo, la necesidad de promover la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, la agricultura sostenible y el desarrollo rural, a través de amplias políticas nacionales de transformación para los sistemas de producción y los sectores conexos".

En conclusión, el Grupo de los 77 y China sigue comprometido con la lucha contra el cambio climático, reconociendo que sus Estados miembros han sido los más afectados por los efectos negativos de dicho cambio climático, que erosiona nuestros logros en el desarrollo y socavan y retrasan el logro de los objetivos del Programa Desarrollo Sostenible 2030.

Finalmente, a la luz de estas observaciones y reconociendo la valiosa contribución de la FAO en el apoyo a los países en desarrollo, en la implementación de sus Contribuciones Determinadas a Nivel Nacional y Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible varios, el G77 y China aprueban las acciones recomendadas por la Conferencia en el documento de referencia.

Her Excellency Terri SARCH, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to FAO

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is proud of its record on international development and fighting global poverty. We continue to contribute 0.7 percent of our gross national income to official development assistance. We are committed to the United Nations and our record on assessed and voluntary contributions clearly demonstrates our commitment.

But whilst our support to the system remains steadfast, we are also committed to its improvement. Almost two years on from agreeing the SDGs, we require more from the UN system than ever before.

Climate change, natural disasters, and poverty have combined with conflict to generate unprecedented levels of need. We need better outcomes and more effective response to crises and the challenge of climate change. The system needs to step up and meet this challenge. The world's poorest people, and our taxpayers, deserve nothing less.

It is our commitment to the UN that explains why the United Kingdom is working to raise system-wide performance, we want the sum to add up to more than its parts. The UK is calling for greater collaboration between our UN partners and in particular between FAO, IFAD and WFP. Action to support members address climate change is a priority area where we would like to see the three Rome-based Agencies increase the joint planning and coordination of their work. Eighty percent of undernourished people in the world live in rural areas in developing countries and they are most likely to be affected by climate change. The world needs FAO to work in partnership with its Member States to implement integrated policies that address agriculture and climate change, and build resilience.

On the humanitarian side, the UK is asking for the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit to be implemented and reported on. How risk is managed, how resilience is built and how preparedness is strengthened are UK priorities. We are asking for greater accountability to affected

populations and to ensure that your programmes always target the most vulnerable, including girls and women.

The UK Multilateral Development Review – or the MDR - was published last December. The MDR recognised FAO's global leadership in responding to threats facing agriculture and food production. These threats include climate change and threats like the recent Fall Army Worm infestation in Africa, this was highlighted at the EU-AU Ministers' conference this weekend. And I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to the side-event on the Fall Army Worm that the UK is co-hosting with Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe in the Sheik Zayed Centre at 19:00 this evening.

The MDR also recognised the progress FAO has made with organisational reform. We welcome FAO's attention to value for money, and to ensuring that resources are effectively spent for the benefit of the people we serve.

The UK is calling on all multilateral agencies for a new openness about management and administration budgets. In this light, we would like to congratulate FAO for publishing its financial expenditure information with the International Aid Transparency Initiative for the first time in May this year.

And we commend FAO management on keeping the level of the Programme of work and budget flat. And within this, for allocating resources for combatting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is particularly welcome. The UK will continue to encourage FAO to achieve the organisational excellence to which we all aspire. This will move us closer to our shared goal of a world with zero hunger.

I will conclude this statement by assuring Conference that the UK will continue to be one of FAO's strongest reform supporters. We support FAO's alignment to the SDGs, we support FAO's commitment to the Grand Bargain and we support FAO's work to assist its members to meet the commitments we made in Paris. Finally, I would like to congratulate FAO again, on the launch of the Climate Change Strategy later this week.

His Excellency Niu DUN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to FAO (Original language Chinese)

The theme of today's Plenary debate is "*Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security*", which reminds me of the words of the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in January this year, the President said: "the Paris Agreement is a milestone in the history of climate governance. We must now allow this achievement to go down the drain. All parties should work together to implement the Paris Agreement".

And also at the G20 Summits both in Hangzhou and in Antalya, the President said "In the face of current changes, we should implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote inclusive treatment".

Eliminating poverty and hunger and achieving equitable, open, all around, and innovation driven development are not only our shared moral responsibilities but we also unlock inestimable effective demand.

China has always attached great importance to addressing climate change in the agricultural sector and is committed to work with the international community for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In recent year, climate change has led to more frequent global extreme weather event, impacting adversely, agricultural production.

The FAO should play a leading role and work with Member Countries to conduct in-depth studies on the impact of climate change on agriculture, explore strategies of adaptation and mitigation, promote policy coordination, encourage and urge developed countries to honor their commitments, strengthen funding support and technology transfer, and help developing countries to build their capacity to cope with climate change.

Developing countries should also strengthen exchanges and mutual learning to jointly enhance the adaptability and resilience of agricultural development.

China has always attached great importance to the issue of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers and is committed to developing agriculture, building prosperous rural communities, and enriching farmers.

As the world's most populous nation and the biggest developing country, China has successfully resolved the issue of food security and significantly reduced the number of rural poor by relying mainly on its own wisdom and strength.

In the new era while pursuing innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development, China will continue to promote more than agricultural development and implement targeted poverty elevation strategies. Our efforts have not only developed China but also made tremendous contributions to global agricultural development.

China has always attached great importance to international agricultural cooperation as committed to promoting global food security through the South-South cooperation.

We advocate and promote international agriculture exchanges and cooperation, experience sharing, and effort pooling in an unrelenting effort to build a community and shared future, a realized common prosperity in order to help other developing countries.

China has contributed USD 80 million to setup the South-South cooperation Trust Funds in FAO, dispatched agricultural experts to 28 countries in Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific to work together on a long-term basis with local farmers.

With regard to the issue of climate change, the Chinese Government especially established a China Climate Change South-South Cooperation Fund of Renminbi 20 billion, USD 2.95 billion to support developing countries to cope with the challenge of climate change.

Against the background of intensified climate change challenges, we should keep on innovating and fostering new types of partnerships. Stakeholders, governments, international organizations, the private sector, and the civil society should work together to promote inclusive and sustainable agriculture for the world.

We appreciate the FAO's efforts in leading the world to implement the 2030 SDGs in the field of agriculture. We hope that to see the FAO strengthen policy coordination and knowledge sharing and improve agricultural development for many poor countries through the implementation of pragmatic initiatives such as the TC programme and the South-South cooperation programme.

During this session of the Conference on the evening of 6 July, the Chinese Government and the FAO will co-organize a special event to present the chief experience of China and FAO's South-South cooperation and to look into the new dilemmas and plans of cooperation.

We welcome all Delegates to the event to discuss together the major plan for South-South cooperation.

Her Excellency Asmahan Abdulhameed Hezam ALTOQI, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to FAO (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Mr Chair, Excellencies, Director-General of FAO, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to represent Yemen and to address this assembly during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. We are holding this session while the world is facing many challenges like, for example, the decrease in economic growth, the expansion of poverty pockets, the various famines, the extreme weather conditions, water scarcity, the increasing levels of conflict, and so on.

All of these challenges are a hurdle before the implementation of the SDGs and this requires fast responses because the impacts of these challenges are not limited to specific countries but are impacting security and peace across the world.

I would like to add that besides these common challenges, Yemen is facing a disastrous humanitarian situation that might witness famine due to the implication of the malicious activities and to the disruption of the work in our country and we have now many segments of our population under the poverty line and this led to an increase of food insecure people numbers, particularly in rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, according to the estimates, the poverty levels in Yemen soared and according to a census conducted by UN Agencies, more than 80 percent of the Yemeni population are food

insecure, 18 million people, out of them 14 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.

Moreover, the current situation in Yemen led to an increase in the number of (internally displaced persons) IDPs. Two million IDPs are mostly from rural populations and 3 million of those IDPs are pregnant women and 2 million are children under five years old and they are all threatened by hunger and famine as well as they are threatened by malnutrition.

Eradicating poverty in all of its forms and putting an end to food insecurity is one of the greatest challenges in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. I would like to confirm that the Government of Yemen is trying to put an end to the coup and trying to restore the state in order to conduct its responsibilities. It commends the efforts of FAO as well as the other UN Agencies. It looks to have an immediate international response according to specific strategies and mechanisms that are completely away from bureaucracy and administrative complexities.

The situation is unprecedented and it requires an exceptional response from all stakeholders, particularly the United Nations Systems as well as its main agencies relating to food, rescue, and emergency in order to put an end to the challenges.

At the same time, we would like to confirm our full coordination in this regard.

In the end, allow me to thank all of those who organized the side events of this Conference. I wish you all success in your endeavors, hoping that we can achieve the noble objectives of FAO. Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr Ruve SCHANK, Minister Counsellor of the Republic of Estonia

I am honoured to speak on behalf not only of Estonia but also on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We thank FAO for the document C 2017/2 on the '*State of Food and Agriculture 2016: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*' addressing issues such as agricultural transformation, carbon emissions, trade, private investments, value chains, risk management and innovation. These issues are high on the policy agenda of both the EU and its Member States.

In addressing climate change challenges, agriculture is in the front line and can be a vector of change for the better. On the one hand, the agriculture sector is most affected by climate change; on the other hand, it is currently a source of greenhouse gas emissions, which can and should be reduced; but it also has the potential to provide a range of solutions, notably in relation to the storage of carbon. That is why agriculture must receive more prominence in the climate change debate.

Development and environmental concerns must go hand in hand. The European Union and its Member States recognise the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We have clearly expressed our environmental and climate-related engagement, in particular through commitments to the Paris Agreement and to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Agriculture has an important role to play in contributing to our commitments and, in order to realize that potential, the EU will continue to enhance the environmental sustainability and climate-resilience of agriculture in its policies.

We have already integrated the sustainable development dimensions into the objectives of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the agricultural trade policy and the agricultural research policy. And the next reform of the CAP will only go further in this direction. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to achieving the universal, transformative and ambitious Agenda 2030. This includes making agricultural production resilient and sustainable, while increasing and diversifying production, enhancing productivity, helping maintain ecosystems and improving the capacity for climate change adaptation. By no means an easy assignment. But an assignment we are taking seriously.

We acknowledge FAO's role in supporting Member States' efforts in climate smart agriculture. Furthermore, we support the Organisation's role in strengthening countries' capacities to access climate finance by providing assistance for drafting specific programmes focused on food and

agriculture. We are glad that FAO works in close collaboration with the Financial Mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in this regard.

We wish to underline that achieving sustainable agriculture can only become a reality by empowering the farmers themselves. Their role is central and their position in the food supply chain should be strengthened. In this regard, it is of special importance to address the barriers that women face, and ensure their effective participation on equal footing with men. However, farmers cannot do it all on their own: processors, retailers and consumers each have their role to play in making food systems sustainable.

Overall, agriculture will become increasingly knowledge-intensive. Building sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient food systems will require education, human and institutional capacity-building, as well as major efforts in terms of research and innovation.

Less than two months ago, the EU and its Member States adopted a new European Consensus on Development. This Consensus underlines that sustainable agriculture – together with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture – remains a key driver for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and that it is indispensable to end hunger and ensure food security.

It also states that the greenhouse gas mitigation potential of sustainable agriculture and soils must be harnessed, while resilience to climate change impacts should be enhanced. To do so, the EU and its Member States will among others support sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture including agro-ecological practices, and actions to protect soils, conserve water resources, and halt, prevent and reverse global deforestation.

We share the FAO's views that "adequate climate financing and agricultural investments are essential to enable the transition to sustainable agricultural practices". Over the years, we have been working in partnership with developing countries to support policies in agriculture, to improve business and investments environments, as well as to increase responsible investments for agricultural transformation. Given the challenges ahead, these partnerships will be strengthened, with governments, with farmer organisations and with the private sector.

FAO has highlighted that climate change is "likely to exacerbate existing imbalances between the developed and the developing world" and that "trade could play a stabilizing role for potentially lower productivity and higher price volatility by making available supplies from food surplus areas to food deficit regions".

We agree that mutually beneficial agricultural trade can be part of the solution and can contribute to sustainable development, food security and poverty reduction. In an increasingly interconnected world, we are committed to supporting farmers in developing countries to reap the benefits of trade.

Access to markets – local, national, regional and global – is an important source of jobs and growth. A better functioning trading system should assure quality standards, increase value added and market transparency, and ultimately raise incomes for farmers, while supporting a more sustainable management of natural resources and improving farmers' resilience.

We welcome FAO's analysis that social protection, education and active labour market policies are needed to mitigate many of the risks associated with diversification and migration; and the call for greater efforts to provide coverage for the poorest, especially in rural areas. We support building further knowledge to assist decision making in this respect.

Finally, we look forward to see the launch of the 2017 SOFA report focused on structural and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems which is a logical follow-up to the content of the present discussion.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE, Embajadora de la República de Nicaragua ante la FAO

En representación del Gobierno de la República de Nicaragua deseo transmitirles un fraternal saludo y agradecerles por la oportunidad de dirigirnos ante ustedes en esta importante ocasión.

La 40ma Conferencia de la FAO, se enmarca en un escenario global complejo y difícil, agudizado por los drásticos efectos del cambio climático, que continúan afligiendo a nuestro planeta e incidiendo en las poblaciones y sectores productivos más vulnerables. Mientras, el pasivo público contingente continua impactando negativamente las finanzas de muchos de nuestros países y de nuestras futuras generaciones.

El año 2016 ha registrado las más altas temperaturas, desde que se llevan registros, presentando un incremento exponencial que sin dudas repercute negativamente en la diversidad biológica, la agricultura, la pesca y la ganadería, erosionando las bases de nuestro actual dinamismo económico.

En nuestra región, aproximadamente 3.6 millones de familias dependen de la agricultura familiar y actualmente se encuentran en peligro de perder sus medios de subsistencia, debido a los estragos ocasionados por el cambio climático.

Esta cifra, representa unos 18 millones de personas que corren el riesgo de ser desplazadas, hacia las periferias urbanas o hacia los países del norte de nuestro continente, poniendo en seria dificultad nuestros sistemas económicos, seguridad alimentaria y nutricional y paz social.

Hacer frente a estas catástrofes humanitarias y prevenir que su aumento, con justicia y equidad, debe ser una prioridad de todos.

Y será posible únicamente con un cambio de dirección por parte de los gobiernos, la sociedad civil y los individuos, siendo indispensable un cambio en la conciencia colectiva e individual, acompañado por políticas internacionales congruentes con la gravedad de este panorama.

Así como, es imprescindible reconocer las asimetrías y paradojas de los factores, que influyen en el agravamiento de este fenómeno. Las diez economías más grandes y con mayor influencia política del planeta contribuyen con el 72 por ciento de las emisiones de CO₂ al calentamiento global, sin embargo sufren menos las consecuencias del mismo.

El aumento de las emisiones y el ausente compromiso político, legal y moral para su reducción, conllevan al incremento de la temperatura global en más de 4° C, impactando irreversiblemente el clima, la biodiversidad, la producción de alimentos de calidad y generando inseguridad alimentaria, grandes desplazamientos humanos y conflictos armados por el acceso al agua. En este contexto, el crecimiento económico y la reducción de la pobreza no serán posibles para los países en desarrollo.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua ha vislumbrado las múltiples variables de los efectos y las potenciales consecuencias del cambio climático. Y con una visión estratégica de corto, mediano y largo plazo, viene realizando esfuerzos monumentales para revertir sus efectos adversos, en congruencia con políticas económicas, sociales y ambientales integrales, encaminadas al desarrollo sostenible de nuestra nación.

Hemos incrementado la producción de energía renovable del 25 por ciento en el año 2007 hasta un 56 por ciento en 2016, bajando sus emisiones de 6.9 millones de CO₂ (e) a 4.8 millones. Estamos empleando todas las formas de reforestación, regeneración nacional, manejo de cuencas, tierras degradadas, agro forestal y silvo-pastoril así como de plantaciones, usando un enfoque integral de paisaje.

Paralelamente, nuestro Gobierno viene acompañando a los sectores más vulnerables, por medio de un modelo de trabajo directo con las familias y las comunidades. Creando capacidades, conocimientos y conductas que permitan a la población prevenir, enfrentar y recuperarse ante los desastres.

Con una atención particular a las Mujeres Protagonistas en la Producción, la Comercialización, la Pesca, la Agricultura, incorporando en todas las Medidas de Adaptación y Mitigación los Derechos consignados en los diferentes Instrumentos Legales sobre Equidad de Género.

Nicaragua aspira la instauración de un compromiso de justicia climática, que implique un mayor esfuerzo político y económico por parte de los grandes países emisores, que sea patente a través del aporte de ideas, tecnología, buenas prácticas y financiamiento de estrategias para la prevención, reducción y reversión de los efectos del cambio climático.

Abogamos para que la Comunidad Internacional aumente su apoyo y promoción a todos los actores comprometidos con los objetivos del desarrollo sostenible.

En particular a los jóvenes, porque ellos serán capaces de diseminar los valores de respeto, preservación y protección de nuestros recursos naturales, que les permitan consolidar una relación armónica con la naturaleza, indispensable para asegurar a las futuras generaciones un mundo donde se conjuguen el cuidado del medio ambiente, el desarrollo y la equidad social.

His Excellency Waheed OMER, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to FAO

After the Paris Agreement last October, the topic of “*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*” as the theme of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference is most significant and opportune.

Afghanistan’s agriculture is highly impacted by climatic factor. A sudden rise in temperature impacts fruit trees during their flowering stage and thus result in low production. A sudden extreme cold kills small ruminants and impacts negatively the livelihood of many small livestock producers in North and Northeast of the country. Sudden floods deprives rural communities from a good harvest.

Under the optimistic scenario the temperature in Afghanistan is expected to rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050 and by 3 degrees Celsius under the pessimistic scenario.

Under both scenarios, the growing season will get longer in much of the country. This is an advantageous factor for our agriculture. However, taking advantage of the longer growing season is constrained by the rise in evapo-transpiration due to warmer temperature and more precipitation coming in the form of rain rather than snow and greater prospects of earlier snow melt. High temperature, therefore, will increase the risk of flooding during the spring period and less water availability during the summer months, which is most needed for healthy crops.

In fact, Afghan farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists face two types of droughts. One resulting from below normal winter snowfall and spring rains. The other is reduced river discharge in the summer months. Snow and rain related droughts can be most severe in northern and central Afghanistan. Reduced river discharge affect most of Afghanistan’s 3.2 million hectares that are effectively under irrigation at present. The occurrence of both types of drought reduces the resilience of the rural households. Crop and livestock production is also affected by the onslaught of floods.

Most rural settlement in Afghanistan are concentrated around rivers and small streams and are therefore highly vulnerable to flooding. The intensity of floods is greater in southern and western parts of Afghanistan which are flat and sparsely vegetated. A heavy rainfall and the melting of snow in early Summer can easily turn into flood.

Environmental mainstreaming is embedded in the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and environmental management is the responsibility of several ministries under the guidance of the National Climate Change Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock takes the lead in land use planning, biodiversity conservation, adaptation measures to climate change covering crops, livestock and forests and for climate adapted irrigation practices.

With climate change, Afghanistan faces many challenges of which the following six are most critical:

To improve the level of nutrition of our population, especially of children under five years of age and other vulnerable segments of the population, through the diversification of crops and animal products and through an affordable publically administered social safety net. In 2016, 40 percent of our population remained food insecure.

To maintain a stable level of food production from irrigated areas by increasing water storage capacity through the construction of small, medium and large dams in all parts of the country. Special attention needs to be given to affordable micro-irrigation technology, especially for ground water use and in rain harvesting.

To accelerate adaptation measures by introducing drought resistance crop varieties, better rotation systems and adjusting the sowing calendar in response to climate change.

To take necessary measures in reducing the negative impact of high temperature on animal productivity, especially of small ruminants that are kept mostly by women, and on the yields of forages and feed crops in family farms.

To prevent tree mortality caused by stress of heat and drought and by outbreaks of pests.

To take measures in preventing the spread of pests, especially migratory pests, associated with changes in temperature, rainfall and wind patterns.

In meeting these challenges, Afghanistan is looking forward to assistance from multilateral and bilateral sources in building the resilience of the communities threatened by climate change, especially from the Rome-based Agencies and from the following three Funds: the Green Climate Fund administered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Special Climate Change Fund administered by the General Environment Fund (GEF); and the Least Developed Countries Fund also administered by General Environment Fund.

Son Excellence Monsieur Jérôme AUDIN, Représentant permanent adjoint de la France auprès de la FAO

C'est un honneur pour moi d'intervenir dans le cadre de cette Conférence et en particulier autour de ce thème «*Changement climatique, agriculture et sécurité alimentaire*».

L'Accord de Paris a marqué une avancée majeure en vue de relever le défi climatique. Le nouveau Président de la République, Emmanuel Macron, a démontré la volonté forte de la France en faveur de la mise en œuvre de l'accord de Paris. Et la France va d'ailleurs lancer dans quelques jours son nouveau "Plan action-climat".

Les changements climatiques sont une menace pour l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire: c'est déjà une réalité quotidienne des exploitations agricoles en France, mais c'est une réalité encore plus marquée dans d'autres régions du monde. Il est vrai que les secteurs agricoles et alimentaires, parce qu'ils émettent des gaz à effet de serre, contribuent au changement climatique. Mais les secteurs agricole et alimentaire sont aussi porteurs de solutions pour le climat: d'une part parce qu'ils peuvent contribuer à la réduction des émissions. Et d'autre part parce qu'ils peuvent et doivent s'adapter et améliorer leur résilience en vue d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Lors de la 21^{ème} Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP 21, à Paris, puis à la 22^{ème} Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP 22, à Marrakech, des initiatives phares ont été lancées dans le cadre de l'agenda d'action. Ces initiatives démontrent que nous pouvons changer de cap pour que les agricultures s'adaptent, soient plus résilientes et contribuent à la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique. Il faut continuer à faire avancer ces initiatives avec tous les acteurs impliqués: les États, le monde agricole, les entreprises et la société civile.

Parmi ces initiatives, la France est particulièrement attachée à l'initiative 4 pour 1000 qui vise à faire évoluer les pratiques et les systèmes agricoles en encourageant l'effet « pompe à carbone » des sols, car cet effet est bon non seulement pour le climat, mais il l'est aussi pour la fertilité des sols, donc pour l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire.

Je voudrais également souligner les efforts réalisés dans le secteur de l'élevage avec en particulier l'initiative *Carbon Life Dairy*, qui vise à une réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre liés à la production laitière, et le projet *Life Beef Carbon*.

Je voudrais aussi bien sûr mentionner les initiatives portées par la FAO comme *Save Food*, qui vise à réduire les pertes et gaspillages, *Water scarcity*, pour améliorer la gestion de l'eau agricole, ou encore *Blue growth* dans le secteur des pêches.

Face à ce défi climatique, nous aurons tous besoin d'une FAO solide, qui puisse accompagner et conseiller ses États Membres. La France se félicite de la récente stratégie climat dont s'est dotée la FAO. Le soutien de la FAO sera essentiel pour appuyer les pays dans la mise en œuvre des volets agricoles de leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national.

Plus largement, si nous voulons répondre aux défis du 21^{ème} siècle – c'est-à-dire nourrir une population croissante de manière socialement responsable et équitable tout en préservant notre environnement – il nous faut clairement changer de paradigme.

La France salue à cet égard les efforts de la FAO. Le nouveau Cadre stratégique reflète précisément cette nécessité d'accompagner la transition des agricultures, dans leur diversité, vers un développement agricole et alimentaire à la fois plus équitable et plus durable, mais qui soit également performant au plan économique, car il est essentiel que les agriculteurs puissent vivre de leur travail. La promotion des approches agro-écologiques prend évidemment tout son sens dans cette transition et elle reçoit tout notre soutien.

Nous avons la responsabilité de nous mobiliser collectivement pour faire de l'agriculture un des piliers du développement durable et de la lutte contre la pauvreté, en particulier sur le continent africain. Cela passe par un soutien à la mise en œuvre des stratégies régionales et nationales. Il est notamment fondamental que les engagements pris en faveur de l'adaptation de l'Afrique soient tenus. La France s'est engagée dans ce domaine et d'ici 2020, l'Agence française de développement va apporter son aide à la lutte contre le changement climatique de 3 à 5 milliards d'euros par an.

Pour accompagner les évolutions nécessaires pour que les agricultures répondent au défi de la durabilité, l'appui de politiques publiques volontaristes sera également essentiel.

En France, dans les prochaines semaines, le Président de la République va lancer avec le Ministre de l'agriculture, des États généraux de l'alimentation. L'objectif est de faire travailler ensemble tous les acteurs des filières alimentaires pour créer de la valeur et mieux la répartir entre les différents maillons tout en répondant aux attentes sociétales. Nous pensons que c'est dans cette direction que l'agriculture doit aller. Et, par ses travaux normatifs, par ses connaissances, qui sont mises à la disposition de tous, la FAO a un rôle majeur à jouer.

Enfin, nous sommes satisfaits de voir que la lutte contre l'antibiorésistance fait l'objet d'une attention particulière dans le prochain programme de travail de la FAO. C'est un sujet vital sur lequel il est indispensable de passer aux actes pour atteindre la suppression de l'utilisation des antibiotiques comme facteur de croissance.

Pour conclure, en vue d'obtenir des résultats, il nous paraît essentiel non seulement de maintenir une impulsion politique de haut niveau sur les questions d'agriculture durable et de sécurité alimentaire, mais également de poursuivre nos efforts dans la durée.

His Excellency Gregory FRENCH, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to FAO

There is a strong sense of community that exists among farmers. In Australia, it is a community that extends across vast distances of Australian bush, uniting families over four thousand kilometers apart.

As Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Honorable Barnaby Joyce said here yesterday farming is a noble profession feeding and clothing all of our people. He greatly appreciated the opportunity to respond to the Frank McDougall Memorial Lecture at the opening ceremony of this conference.

Global food consumption is set to rise 11 percent per person by 2050. Humans will consume more calories in the next 50 years than in the whole of human history. As food demand increases, improving agricultural productivity and creating new market opportunities for farmers will be essential to global food security. What we learn from each other will define our success.

What we can learn will help each nation to face its challenges and help farmers meet those demands.

Australians have a unique set of agricultural challenges and so a unique perspective on the theme of this Conference "*Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security*".

With respect to climate, we have a large but sparsely populated and mostly arid land mass. Climate will always be a critical factor in our agricultural production. Australian farmers have always had to manage and adapt to a variable climate and will need to prepare carefully for the climate risks forecast in the coming years.

Farmers must remain resilient and keep improving productivity in the face of increasing climate variability. Drought. We live in the driest of all inhabited continents. By necessity, we have learned to place a high value on water.

Central to meeting the demands on agriculture have been effective preparation for drought and developing robust risk management strategies. We do not throw farmers to the wind when times get tough. The better our farmers can prepare for, manage, and recover from adverse conditions like drought, the stronger the sector's contribution to rural communities and the national and international economies.

In recent years, our government has focused on delivering better seasonal forecasts to help decision making on the farm, encouraging investment in drought preparation and planning and extending financial support to farmers and communities that are doing it tough. We have done this while providing the second lowest level of support to farmers among OECD nations. Properly functioning agricultural markets are one critical way to support global food security.

Onto water. We have also made a long-term commitment to water security for our nation. Australia is not alone, of course, in this. Too much or too little water is a central dilemma for agriculture in all parts of the world.

In Australia, we have worked hard to put into practice the idea that water is a scarce economic and social good to be allocated and used efficiently and wisely to the benefit of all. We have learned to value water and where appropriate, our laws allow market mechanisms to decide where water can provide the greatest economic value.

At the same time, we have set policies and regulations that protect as much as possible, individual farmers, rural communities, and the environment.

Australia's water management governance and policies have come a long way over the past few decades but there is still a lot of work ahead for us. Across the globe, the role of good water management has never been more important and the challenges we face never clearer.

We live in a world in which billions of people still lack access to basic water supply and sanitation and rising demand for water, for agriculture, industries, cities, and the environment is increasingly threatened by water scarcity, drought, flooding, and pollution.

These are not problems that any nation can solve in isolation. On a global scale, better coordinated policies for water management will be vital to meet the challenges of food and water security alike.

Partnerships. So partnerships and collaboration are essential. Agriculture, fisheries, and water remain a major focus within our international development assistance programme over the coming years. We are committed to helping our partners strengthen markets, productivity, sustainability, and governance.

With some 70 percent of the world's poor living in rural areas and many of those working in agriculture, these themes will be central to improving food security, driving employment growth, and supporting stronger economies.

A key partner in this work is of course the FAO. Australia greatly appreciates the work this organization does to support agriculture and food security across the globe, in particular, the focus on technical, science, and evidence-based support of food security.

In conclusion, ultimately as individual governments and sovereign nations, our commitment must remain with the farmers. We can create an environment for them to succeed without government telling them how to farm. This includes making available new and improved technologies, including genetic modification within the appropriate regulatory safeguards.

It is the knowledge, skills, flexibility, and judgment of our farmers that will allow them to build resilience and improve food security for every person on earth.

As a global community, we must make sure that our farmers are prepared for the need to apply that knowledge and judgment. Our future together depends on it.

His Excellency Ofer SACHS, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Israel to FAO

I will open by saying that as a son and grandson of a farmer, I am honoured to speak here today. FAO's work in the field of food and agriculture is essential for the global community, and as we are all aware, climate change affects the developing as well as the developed world. The basic security of the world is at stake and we must act together in order to make sure we make progress and leave no one behind.

Agriculture is a cross-cutting issue, one that has the power to create economic growth, mitigate the effects of climate change, increase food security and nutrition, empower women, and protect and renew the environment. This can be achieved through collaboration, investment and innovation among all stakeholders.

For decades, Israel has struggled to meet the challenges created by our harsh climatic and geographic conditions. Despite severe water limitations, agricultural production in Israel continues to grow. This is the result of the close and ongoing cooperation between researchers, extension centers, farmers and agriculture-related services and industries. The agricultural sector in Israel today is based almost entirely on science-linked technology, with government, academia and the private sector working together to meet challenges and seek new solutions.

As you well know, Israel is a world leader in the field of water efficiency and desert agriculture. These innovative technologies bring Israel to the forefront of agriculture and water management. In Israel, 91 percent of the sewage is being collected and treated and 80 percent of the water in agricultural irrigation is wastewater reused. Other technologies such as drip irrigation and the development of techniques to increase crop yields and post-harvest technologies are essential for the flourishing of Israeli agriculture.

Within this context, MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, in alignment with Agenda 2030, addresses global challenges of climate change, agriculture and food security, including the incorporation of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, health, education, community development and environment aspects. MASHAV focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel's own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives.

We must work hard to address the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition, which include a lack of social and economic empowerment, natural resource degradation and scarcity, and demographic pressures, climatic pressure must also be seriously addressed.

Israel remains committed to sharing its experience and knowhow with our partners worldwide, especially in the developing world, to help identify the most efficient and successful methods to ensure food security, develop sustainable agriculture and to ultimately achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

His Excellency Patrick John RATA, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to FAO

The overall challenge is clear. We must produce significantly more food than we do currently to feed a fast growing global population, and we must do so in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and that minimises production of greenhouse gases.

Agriculture plays a vital role in New Zealand's economy: it accounts for 10 percent of our GDP and half of our export revenue. We are a country of 4.5 million people and we produce enough food to feed about 40 million people.

We export 85 percent of our product and we are the twelfth largest agricultural exporter in the world. Having said that, we are still a small player in production terms: for example, we produce only around 3 percent of the world's milk.

We are an ambitious country and we believe agriculture can do better, both economically and environmentally. New Zealand is committed to finding innovative ways to reduce the greenhouse gas

emissions that come from producing food while at the same time maintaining our ability to supply a growing global demand and help address food security imperatives.

New Zealand has an unusual greenhouse gas profile for a developed country, with agriculture making up about half of our total emissions. This is due both to our large agricultural sector but also the fact that New Zealand has already transitioned to clean energy sources.

Reflecting the important role that agriculture will play in meeting obligations under the Paris Agreement, New Zealand provides leadership in the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), formed to increase international collaboration in research, development, and the extension of technology to improve agricultural productivity whilst reducing emissions. The GRA now has 48 member countries and partnerships with over a dozen organisations including FAO.

Through the GRA, New Zealand has invested more than USD 33 million in collaborative research and capability development since 2010 connecting New Zealand's scientific expertise to more than 60 other countries. We intend to continue this investment and, together with our partners, and hope to expand the GRA's membership so that even more countries are collaborating on research to tackle this global challenge.

New Zealand has helped to organise a side-event on Partnerships for Climate Action in the Agricultural Sectors in conjunction with the GRA, FAO and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which will be held on this coming Thursday coinciding with the launch of the FAO's Climate Change Strategy – please come along if you can.

In addition to tackling greenhouse gas emissions in our domestic agriculture sector, New Zealand provides significant climate change support to Small Island Developing States.

At COP21 New Zealand announced we would provide up to NZD 200 million in climate-related support over four years (2015-2019), most of which will benefit Pacific Island countries. We are delivering on this commitment: providing approximately USD 44.6 million in climate-related support in the financial year ending June 2016.

Our co-hosting of Pacific Energy Conferences with the EU has enabled us to mobilise finance at scale. Combined, our 2013 and 2016 events mobilised over USD 2 billion in finance for renewable energy projects in the Pacific.

New Zealand welcomes the work FAO has done to develop its Climate Change Strategy. The goals of FAO are to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, reduce rural poverty, and make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable. It is clear that major transformation of agriculture and food systems globally is required to achieve these goals in light of climate change.

As developing countries start to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement, they will require assistance to transform their food and agricultural systems. Collaborative partnerships with organisations such as the GRA, the NDC Partnership and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition are central to supporting countries to access new knowledge and innovative technologies that not only mitigate the impacts of climate change, but facilitate sustainable resource use and improved productivity.

New Zealand also wishes to emphasise the increasingly important role that trade will play in climate adaptation by transferring food from food surplus regions to food deficit regions and by allowing food production to occur in regions where it can be carried out most efficiently. Trade restrictions need to be minimised and infrastructure needs to be improved to ensure this can occur.

The role of global standards in areas such as food safety is critical for enabling trade, and New Zealand very much supports the central role played by FAO in this regard as host of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Commission.

Finally, the world is facing unprecedented challenges at the nexus of climate change, agriculture and food security. These are truly global challenges that require us to work collectively in a spirit of collaboration and partnership to tackle. New Zealand looks forward to continuing our work with FAO and with the other countries in this room to address these challenges.

Excelentísima Sra. Doña María Cristina BOLDORINI, Embajadora y Representante Permanente Designada de la República Argentina ante la FAO

Me siento muy honorada de participar en representación de la República Argentina en la presente sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO, cuyos debates se centran en el tema “Cambio climático, agricultura y seguridad alimentaria”.

Existen suficientes evidencias que los efectos del cambio climático sobre el sector agropecuario tienen graves consecuencias para la seguridad alimentaria. Serán aún más agudas en el futuro, ya que se estima que la demanda mundial de alimentos aumentará. En consecuencia, será necesaria una mayor producción, la cual se desarrollará en condiciones climáticas distintas. Por tal motivo, la adaptación al cambio climático es un elemento esencial para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria.

Hemos asumido este compromiso en la agenda 2030 y en el Acuerdo de París.

En ese marco, el gobierno del Señor Presidente Mauricio Macri ha adoptado un conjunto de decisiones para aumentar la producción agropecuaria y agroindustrial, que al mismo tiempo coadyuvarán para hacer frente al cambio climático.

La Argentina se caracteriza por su excelencia en la producción de alimentos.

Nuestra amplia trayectoria como productor y exportador nos da la posibilidad de compartir con otros países y regiones, variadas prácticas y tecnologías destinadas a mejorar la calidad y eficiencia del sector agropecuario.

Al respecto, deseo resaltar dos herramientas fundamentales.

En primer lugar, la biotecnología: nos ha permitido incrementar la productividad de los cultivos y el valor nutricional de los alimentos y disminuir el uso de agroquímicos;

Segundo, el sistema de siembra directa: ha generado un uso más eficiente de los recursos naturales como el agua y el suelo, y en la actualidad se utiliza en más del 90 por ciento de nuestra superficie cultivada.

Otro elemento muy importante para la Argentina es la Cooperación sur-sur y triangular, a través de la cual mi país contribuye de manera significativa al logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y a superar las amenazas y dificultades que presenta el cambio climático para el sector agropecuario.

En este sentido, las principales áreas de cooperación son: la capacitación en materia de siembra directa y la utilización de maquinaria agrícola; el uso de alternativas innovadoras para el almacenamiento de granos me estoy refiriendo al silo-bolsa; la transferencia de conocimientos en materia de biotecnología; y el desarrollo de la agricultura familiar a través de programas específicos como “Pro-huerta”.

Cabe destacar que en varias de dichas actividades la FAO ha aportado su contribución, por ejemplo en materia de biotecnología.

Ahora bien, no obstante los desarrollos citados, deseo expresar que Argentina tiene y enfrenta importantes desafíos en materia de seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y reducción de la pobreza.

Nuestro gobierno está fuertemente comprometido con la resolución de estas problemáticas y trabaja para fomentar la llegada de nuevas inversiones, especialmente en las áreas de infraestructura, comunicación y energía, en particular renovables, con el objetivo de revitalizar las economías regionales y crear oportunidades en las zonas rurales para revertir los flujos migratorios, es decir, motivar el regreso al campo.

Celebramos que esta situación se presente en algunos países como Italia, tal como lo señaló el Señor primer ministro Paolo Gentiloni ayer en su intervención durante la apertura.

Tenemos certeza de que el logro de la seguridad alimentaria requiere de un sistema de comercio internacional agrícola abierto, transparente y equitativo.

Al respecto, el comercio de productos pesqueros merece una mención especial por su importancia en la nutrición y en la generación de empleo en los países en desarrollo.

Es necesario avanzar en la eliminación de ciertos subsidios que contribuyen a la sobre pesca y la sobrecapacidad, así como prohibir aquellos que facilitan la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada.

Asimismo, es imprescindible acordar en el marco de la Organización Mundial del Comercio la eliminación de medidas comerciales distorsivas a la agricultura, como los subsidios y las barreras al comercio.

Consideramos que la próxima Conferencia Ministerial de la OMC, que se tendrá lugar en diciembre próximo en Buenos Aires, será una ocasión propicia para trabajar en soluciones concretas en pos de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza.

Para finalizar, deseo destacar que la Argentina valora especialmente el trabajo que lleva a cabo la FAO en todos estos temas mencionados con el liderazgo del Director General, Profesor José Graziano da Silva.

En consecuencia, apoyamos el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio elevado a esta conferencia, dado que nos permitirá avanzar con firmeza en la consecución de los objetivos estratégicos de la Organización.

Mr Gudný BRAGASON, Minister Counsellor of the Republic of Iceland

Allow me to congratulate His Excellency Piñol upon your election as the Chairperson of this Conference, and thank the organization for the comprehensive State of Food and Agriculture report which gives us a good basis to build our work in the future particularly through its main theme of Climate Change.

Climate change poses a major threat to food security and to the Sustainable Development Goals. We laud our organization for integrating the SDGs into its structure and programmes.

I like to use my time here mainly to draw attention to the fundamental function that the oceans have for food security. Without clean, healthy and productive oceans, Agenda 2030 will be almost impossible to attain.

Sustainable management of natural resources is key to eradicating poverty and hunger. If we want the oceans to be a part of our commitment, it is imperative that science-based sustainable harvesting of marine resources become a universal practice.

The SDG 14 on the oceans gives a clear guidance, and was given a great boost at the Conference on the Oceans last month with a 14 point Call to Action and more than 1300 voluntary commitments.

Iceland puts a great emphasis on actions to reduce the pollution of the oceans. We have made voluntary commitments to reduce marine litter in our waters and to address acidification by producing an updated climate mitigation strategy by the end of this year, in line with the Paris Agreement.

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is the basis for a successful implementation of the SDG 14 and I also like to note that the management of high fisheries through RFMO's, in line with the Fish Stocks Agreement, has proven a firm basis for sustainable management of the living marine resources. FAO provides essential support to these bodies.

FAO has provided a good leadership through the Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture. We welcome the FAO Blue Growth Initiative, which aims at supporting the economy through efficient and sustainable industrial and small-scale fisheries.

The FAO Port State Measures Agreement is a milestone in our fight against IUU fisheries and needs wide ratification to meet its objectives. We further believe that global elimination of harmful subsidies in the fisheries sector is fundamental.

We welcome recent progress made in developing tools in combatting IUU fishing, such as the recent release of the first working version of the Global Record, and then today the endorsement of the Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes, aimed at keeping illegally caught fish off the market.

Let me add that Iceland fully stands behind the statement made yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture of Norway, on behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers, on the commitment of our countries in the fight against the great global health threat of anti-microbial resistance. FAO must take a lead role in this fight.

It is certainly alarming to hear that the number of hungry people in the world is on the rise again. It means that we need to intensify our work toward the SDGs and bring into these efforts the knowledge and instruments of FAO in fisheries, forestry, family farming, soil, restoration, renewable energy, gender equality and the human rights of vulnerable people, as well as its partnership programmes and long-standing cooperation with civil society and the private sector.

Ms Victoria MUSHIBWE, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Zambia to FAO

Zambia commends the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for maintaining agriculture, food security and nutrition at the top of the global agenda. We also applaud the strong commitment to complement the 2030 Agenda as well as the Paris Agreement.

However, the fundamental battle to achieve sustainable development will be fought in the rural areas of developing countries. It is there that extreme poverty and hunger are concentrated. If we fail to achieve SDGs 1 and 2, we will also fall short of many other SDGs.

Millions of small family farmers need technical and financial assistance to be more resilient and adapt to the impacts of climate change. They must be able to stay on their land, produce their own food and also have access to markets. This is an essential element to secure social stability and avoid distress migration. Without food security and adequate nutrition for all, sustainable development simply will be difficult to achieve.

The former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, once said and I quote “We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all”.

Climate change is already causing droughts and floods that have increased in frequency and intensity. It is undermining the health of soils, forests and oceans on which agriculture and food security depend.

Droughts and floods are more frequent and intense. We have seen first-hand their terrible impacts in the recent past farming seasons, as El Niño hit Africa, Asia and other parts such as the Dry Corridor of Central America.

The rural poor are the most exposed to these threats, and they are the least equipped to deal with them.

An increase in temperature by 0.8 degrees Celsius would risk crossing the so-called ecological tipping points for families and communities. Poor family smallholder farmers will be driven off their land as a consequence of prolonged drought. Pastoralists are forced to migrate in search of land on which their cattle can graze. These are not distant scenarios.

Hunger and climate change must be addressed hand-in-hand, and agriculture and rural development are key to doing so. Crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries are what connect human activity and natural resources.

They are the points of convergence between the fight against hunger and the fight against climate change. More sustainable, productive and resilient agricultural sectors can deliver the kind of transformative change we so urgently need. Such change can enhance incomes and food security among the world’s poorest.

This is precisely why today’s event is so timely because it shows how actions in the agricultural sector can be transformative. Agricultural activities that are resilient and result in the sustainable management of natural resources can deliver the transformative change.

Let me highlight the importance of water management as it is a fundamental part of the agricultural transformation we need to promote. It is this transformation that will help to address hunger, extreme

poverty and climate change simultaneously. Zambia hopes and counts on FAO's continued support for this important area of work.

Statistics by the Zambian Living Conditions Monitoring Survey showed a reduction in head count poverty of about 6.1 percentage points. Other indicators of malnutrition such as under five stunting has also been on the decline, from 45 percent in 2007 to 40 percent in 2014. The country has also recorded positive or surplus food to an extent of even maintaining strategic food security reserves.

We urge FAO to strengthen capacity building programmes on measurement of hunger not only with the Ministries of agriculture but also the National Statistics office.

Son Excellence Madame Lemina Moma, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République de Mauritanie (Langue originale arabe)

Je suis très heureuse de participer avec vous à la 40^{ème} session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, qui traite de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, dans le cadre du changement climatique; celui-ci a beaucoup affecté la production agricole dans un contexte de croissance démographique en augmentation.

Le grand déficit alimentaire que connaît le monde pose des problèmes considérables sur le plan du développement. Les pays du Sahel et les pays désertiques, dont la Mauritanie, doivent faire face à des sécheresses répétitives couplées à la déforestation et la réduction des zones rurales. Cette situation a beaucoup affecté la production de notre pays, où l'agriculture est un pilier important. Heureusement, dernièrement, il y a eu une forte coopération pour le développement et cette Organisation a joué un rôle premier dans ce domaine.

Nous essayons de réaliser les Objectifs de développement durable et du millénaire pour réduire la pauvreté. Je dois dire que les indicateurs sont encourageants. La Mauritanie fait partie des pays qui ont pu vaincre la faim et ceci grâce à une excellente politique suivie pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et pour combattre la faim et la pauvreté. Nous avons des programmes d'action et des stratégies pour augmenter la production agricole, assurer le développement durable. Pour combattre la pauvreté, nous avons aujourd'hui un plan d'action qui s'étend de 2016 à 2025, que nous avons mis au point avec l'aide de la FAO et qui a été approuvé par le Gouvernement.

Ce plan va compléter ce qui a été réalisé dans le cadre des Objectifs de développement durable et tient compte des nouvelles orientations stratégiques découlant de la stratégie de développement pour la période 2016 à 2030, et il va constituer le cadre de développement des pays pendant la période à venir.

Notre Gouvernement essaie de réaliser des projets structurels afin d'améliorer l'aménagement des sols, la maîtrise des ressources hydriques, l'irrigation, ainsi que la gestion des risques climatiques. Nous avons essayé de réhabiliter des zones entières et des surfaces agraires pour améliorer la production agricole. Ainsi, ayant récemment adopté la culture du blé qui dépend de la pluie, nous avons augmenté les zones irriguées. Nous avons également un programme horticole. Étant donné que nous avons aussi grand besoin de pâturages pour l'élevage du bétail, nous avons commencé à planter des cultures fourragères dans des zones où la production animale est plus fortement concentrée.

Sur le plan de l'écologie, nous avons intégré toutes les politiques comme faisant partie de nos objectifs et avons approuvé le document stratégique de la politique écologique et la stratégie nationale pour le développement durable, c'est une nouvelle démarche pour améliorer l'intégration de la problématique écologique et climatique dans notre stratégie.

Notre Gouvernement a réalisé un certain nombre de projets agricoles, qui ont permis la création de nouveaux emplois, en particulier pour les femmes et les jeunes, et d'avancer dans la réduction de la faim.

Malgré tout il reste encore beaucoup d'enjeux auxquels nous allons essayer de faire face avec l'aide des pays amis et des organisations pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et réduire la malnutrition.

La FAO nous a reçus le 30 novembre 2014 dans le cadre de cette action et ceci nous encourage à poursuivre nos activités pour éliminer tous les obstacles qui entravent notre développement. Je me

dois ici, avant de conclure, d'adresser mes vifs remerciements à la FAO, cette Organisation qui nous aide, collabore et coopère avec nous pour notre avenir.

CHAIRPERSON

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 after the Plenary Meeting:

In the Green Room from 19.00 to 20.30 the side event on “Launch of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”.

In the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 19.00 to 20.30 the side event on “Fall Armyworm”.

And tomorrow morning in the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 08.00 to 09.30 the side event on “FAO’s Role in Supporting the Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia: Advances and Challenges”.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of the Fourth Plenary Meeting. We will continue interventions on item 9 tomorrow morning when we reconvene at 09.30 sharp.

I wish you all a good evening

The meeting rose at 17:42 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 42

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.42

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

5 July 2017

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.59 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 59
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 9.59
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 9, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

May I once again remind delegates to respect the agreed upon five minute limit for your statements. 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

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

Slovenia, Panama, Jamaica, Albania, Andorra, Bahamas, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Cameroon, Nepal, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Seychelles, Somalia, Palestine (observer), UNEP

His Excellency Dejan ZIDAN, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia (Original language Slovenian)

I sincerely applaud the topic of today's discussion on such a current topic: climate change and its impact on agriculture and food security. I thank FAO and Dr Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director-General.

Every ninth people of this planet is suffering from hunger and the trend is not promising. We are talking about climate change which only is making these trends worse. Let me give you an example from Slovenia last year. We have suffered from frost in April for the first time in the past 40 years. We have been left with no fruits and we have suffered heavy losses in grapes, one of the main produce in Slovenia.

We were hoping the event would happen once every hundred years and will not be repeated, but this year it happened once again. So for forty or fifty years, nothing was happening and this year we have lost 80 percent of fruit, over 60 percent of grape, and this also shows that in Europe as well, climate is changing very rapidly to the detriment of agricultural production.

Climate change shows us that we need to show even more solidarity than before. We need to be less egoistic and we will only succeed if we try and find technological solutions together. If we look for new knowledge, if we make further steps in educating people and increasing solidarity, when farmers will be able to help each other when they are in need, when countries help each other when they are in need, and when regions help each other when they are in need.

Unfortunately, we have not reached that point yet, but hopefully we will be able to do so unless we want to realize in two, four, six, eight, ten years from now that there are even more hungry people on this planet than before.

That is why I would like to thank you once again for all of the support you have given us ever since 2014 for our project of the World Bee Day. Why is that important? Because food production has increased over the past years two-fold, but the production of crops that are dependent on pollinators has increased four-fold, and the only way to tackle famine in the world is to recognize the important roles of the pollinators who are also in danger.

Therefore, it is with utmost pleasure that I am looking forward today for the support given by your Organization to the World Bee Day, and I am looking forward to meeting you once again, probably in December this year at the General Assembly of the United Nations where I hope the International World Bee Day will be announced. I would also like to invite you to come to Slovenia next May 2018 when while celebrating the World Bee Day, we will also reflect on our duty to tackle famine in the world and here the role of FAO is extremely important.

I would like to thank you for your attention and wish you a good day.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Eduardo Enrique CARLES, Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario de la República de Panamá

Me siento muy complacido de poder participar en representacion de Panamá en tan importante evento.

Panamá, al igual que todos los país es que forman parte de la gran familia de las Naciones Unidas, ha adquirido compromisos en el marco de los 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). En este contexto me gustaría poder compartir algunas de las actividades que hemos realizado como país.

Lo primero que deseo resaltar es que hemos utilizado los 17 ODS como marco de referencia para alinear la politica social de estado panameño, generando acciones y proyectos tales como: el proyecto sanidad basica el cual responde al ODS numero 6 de agua limpia y saneamiento. Junto con el apoyo tecnico de la oficina subregional de la FAO que tiene su cede en Panamá hemos culminado hace algunos meses las mesas de dialogo por la pesca que nos brindan los linamientos para el desarrollo sostenible de esta actividad, que se alinea al ODS 14 de la vida submarina.

Sin temor a equivocarme, el ODS mas practicado es el 17 de las alianzas para lograr los objetivos. En el sector agropecuario hemos establecido cerca de 10 mesas individuales por rubro en donde con el acompañamiento de la FAO, los eslabones de cada cadena discutiran los desafíos que limitan el desarrollo sostenible de ellos y a su vez proveeran una hoja de ruta para que el sector público facilite su crecimiento.

Cuando leemos el ODS 1: fin de la pobreza, quizás algunos piensen que es una utopia sin embargo somos de la convicción que para erradicar la pobreza hay que generar riqueza. Pero esta riqueza tiene que permear a todos los estratos de la sociedad y a nivel de todos los territorios. Un crecimiento horizontal pero también vertical. En Panamá, hemos logrado en 10 años bajar la pobreza general al 22 por ciento actualmente en su mayoría indigena, y a 9 por ciento la pobreza extrema, también en su mayoría indigena. De igual manera para complementar estas mediciones, recientemente hemos adoptado el Indice de Pobreza Dimensional, como punto integral de medición.

Hay una frase muy corta pero de mucha profundidad que señala que la ‘pobreza es un negocio’. En este caso no hablamos de una pobreza económica sino de conocimiento. La principal via para hacer un cambio real hacia la erradicación de la pobreza esta en la educación, una educación de calidad en la que no solo preparamos buenos tecnicos sino que tambien buenas personas llenas de valores. Pero que dificil es llevar educación de calidad cuando los niños que la reciben no prestan atención producto del hambre y la malnutrición. En este sentido me atrevo a proponer que el ODS 2 de hambre cero debe subdividirse en adultos y en niños. El trato debe ser diferencial y la prioridad debe ser para estos ultimos.

Tenemos que reconocer que en nuestro país los mayores indices de desnutrición se encuentran en las comarcas indigenas, es por ello que actualmente estamos en la fase final para la firma entre el estado panameño y la FAO de un proyecto UTF en donde el país brinda los recursos económicos y la FAO el conocimiento técnico para masificar un modelo de desarrollo de capacidades en comunidades indigenas que mejore la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y la consecución de alimentos, sin erosionar la cultura gastronomica y con metodos de producción ambientalmente sostenibles. Es importante destacar que este proyecto lleva un fuerte componente de género.

En ese sentido, Panamá agradece el apoyo brindado por la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) con el fin de incorporar el plan para la seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre de la CELAC 2025 a las políticas públicas y establecer el Plan Nacional de seguridad alimentaria 2017-2021, todo esto alineado con la Agenda al 2030 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Por la posición geográfica que tiene Panamá ha jugado un rol importante en el continente como barrera fito y zoosanitaria. Un ejemplo de esto se dio en este año cuando se reportó un brote de gusano barrenador en los Estados Unidos, específicamente en la Florida y el equipo técnico de la comisión para la erradicación del gusano barrenador (Copeg) brindo el apoyo técnico y logístico para la dispersión de las moscas estériles y se pudo controlar en su totalidad este evento.

Actualmente estamos trabajando no solo para mantener este estatus fito y zoosanitario, sino elevarlo. Y en especial contra plagas y enfermedades restrictivas al comercio dado que por nuestro canal pasa el 6 por ciento del comercio mundial.

Del 20 al 26 de junio de 2016, Panamá fue escenario y anfitrión de la 6ta Agenda Global para la Ganadería Sostenible en donde se reunieron más de 250 representantes del sector público, privado, legislativo, sociedad civil, organismos internacionales de más de 50 países, quienes conjuntamente firmaron la declaración de Panamá la cual adoptó la producción pecuaria como importante contribuyente al cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo sostenible, ya que la crianza animal es una fuente importante de empleos e ingresos, proporciona alimentos de alto valor nutricional, beneficia circuitos económicos locales, gestiona recursos básicos como suelos, agua, biodiversidad, entre otros y podría generar menores impactos ambientales bajo una producción sostenible.

Como ejemplo de los pasos firmes de Panamá en este ámbito, el Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario, junto al Ministerio de Ambiente, la autoridad del canal de Panamá y con la especial contribución de la FAO, han liderado por más de 10 años el exitoso proyecto de manejo de cuencas hidrográficas con énfasis en la producción silvopastoril y agrícola en las fincas ubicadas en las riberas del canal de Panamá. En ellas, se combina la producción de café y ganadería con un enfoque de conservación hídrica como pilar fundamental e insustituible para el manejo operativo del canal, lo que garantiza en la actualidad, que la reciente inauguración de la expansión de esta vía interoceánica hace exactamente un año, ya esté generando réditos económicos sin precedentes a nuestro país. Este es un caso de una alianza estratégica de éxito y con una expansión económica muy importante.

Durante el 2017 hemos realizado importantes avances en los cuatro pilares del plan San-Celac. Los logros de mayor impacto han tenido lugar en las líneas de acción: fortalecimiento del marco jurídico institucional del derecho humano a la alimentación; facilitación del comercio; acceso oportuno y sostenible a alimentos y agricultura familiar.

Sobre esto último, en los próximos 60 días, el Ministerio de desarrollo agropecuario lanzará a nivel nacional la certificación orgánica pública para el fomento y certificación de la producción agroecológica, promoviendo salud, bienestar, y respeto por la naturaleza, lo cual contribuirá a opciones para la agricultura familiar bajo insumos económicamente accesibles, redes de mercado propias del rubro y oportunidades de precio diferenciado para este tipo de producto. Destacamos este logro como una iniciativa multisectorial a nivel nacional, a través de la primera alianza pública privada para el desarrollo, en este caso, del mercado nacional de agricultura orgánica, donde han participado el gobierno nacional, la empresa privada a través de asociaciones de productores y empresas privadas.

Panamá continúa con el proceso de desarrollo de su estrategia nacional REDD+ (reducción de emisiones de la deforestación y degradación de los bosques), incluyendo el establecimiento de metas de reducción de la deforestación y un compromiso de reforestar un millón de hectáreas en 20 años a través de la alianza por un millón de hectáreas, una iniciativa público-privada encabezada por la sociedad civil y adoptado por el estado como una prioridad nacional.

La implementación combinada de estas medidas sin duda incrementará la capacidad de absorción de los bosques de Panamá y aumentará la capacidad de resiliencia de la población panameña frente a los impactos del cambio climático. Panamá es la única nación que se ha comprometido a implementar todas las actividades definidas bajo el mecanismo REDD+. Para lograr este objetivo, se ha enviado a la Asamblea Nacional un proyecto de ley que reforma la ley forestal nacional y, entre otras cosas, proporcionará incentivos fiscales y no fiscales para fomentar actividades relacionadas con la silvicultura en todo el país.

El decreto ejecutivo no. 33 del 28 de marzo de 2017 crea las disposiciones para el otorgamiento de concesiones en áreas protegidas. Este decreto marca un hito de oportunidades para el manejo conjunto estado – población civil y busca la creación de conciencia y uso racional económico del recurso forestal.

Este enfoque integral permitirá a los panameños conocer los beneficios de la conservación y expansión forestal, al mismo tiempo que recibe incentivos monetarios y en especie tangibles para trabajar por el

manejo sostenible de nuestra cubierta forestal. Finalmente con esto dejamos por sentado el compromiso integral de Panamá y del desarrollo sostenible de América y del mundo.

The Honourable Karl SAMUDA, Minister for Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica

I commend the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat for the invaluable contribution to agricultural development and food security. I thank the Government of Italy for the gracious hospitality that has been extended to us.

Coming as we do from a Small Island Developing State of Jamaica, the home of Bob Marley and Usain Bolt, Jamaica welcomes the focus on climate change, agriculture and food security at this 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

We recognize the urgent need to address Climate Change and its impact on all areas of life and all sectors of the economy.

In Jamaica, renewal of growth in agriculture is making a significant contribution to national development. At the same time we are facing challenges posed by climate change and the recognition of the need to build the resilience of the agricultural sector is a priority for us in Jamaica.

Indeed, since I assumed office in 2016, the sector has been affected by a prolonged drought, continuing from 2015 to 2016. Then, since October 2016, we have been impacted by excessive rainfall, particularly in April of this year, causing crop losses of approximately one billion Jamaican dollars. For us therefore climate change is not a fiction, but a reality we live with daily.

For many countries, especially SIDS prolonged droughts, frequent intense rainfall, flooding and hurricanes are a common feature of our agricultural and national realities.

Jamaica is therefore moving to build resilience through the following initiatives: expanding areas with access to irrigation; currently only 8 percent or some 12,500 hectares of approximately 187,800 irrigable hectares of land in Jamaica is irrigated; by increasing our efforts to establish agricultural insurance schemes; and by Implementing more drought-resistant measures such as water harvesting and storage.

Furthermore, we are incorporating climate change adaptation strategies and methods in every aspect of agricultural planning and production.

We cannot succeed in addressing the challenges of climate change without global action, we therefore urge FAO to continue its valuable efforts in this area.

Agriculture contributes 7 percent to Gross Domestic Product, employs 20 percent of our labour force and provides food security for Jamaica.

It is a critical plank of Government's growth agenda and a centrepiece of our rural development strategy. Against this background, we are pleased that the sector recorded 13 percent growth last year.

As a matter of strategic policy, in Jamaica, the portfolios of agriculture and fisheries are combined with those of industry and commerce in order to move the sector further along the value chain and foster greater agro-industrial growth.

In recent years we created the capacity for the sector to make increased contributions to national food security and self-sufficiency. We have therefore developed strategies to support increased production of food items for which we enjoy competitive advantage. Our National (Irish) Potato Production Programme, has resulted in a 90 percent self-sufficiency rate, an increase over the 39 percent rate of 2008.

Building on this success, we are pursuing an Onion Production Programme, with the goal of increasing local production to 70 percent of demand, from the 12 percent achieved in 2015. Already we have attained self-sufficiency in the production of eggs, poultry meat and pork. This has been achieved through deliberate Government policy support, extension services and incentivizing farmers, especially in the wake of natural disasters.

This resulted in a 13 percent decline in the food import bill, since 2013 when our food import bill was at its peak. While we are encouraged by the progress I have mentioned, continued support from FAO and other partners, especially FAO “in country” presence, is of great importance.

Finally, let me recognize the important role of the Conference in shaping a global agenda for agriculture, aligned with the sustainable development goals set in Agenda 2030. You can be assured of Jamaica’s continued support in the achievement of these goals and we will work very closely with FAO in the years ahead.

His Excellency Edmond PANARITI, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration of the Republic of Albania

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the excellent organization of this very important event. Coming back to the issue of climate change, I do well remember as all of you, when we started our discussions about the potential climate change impact on agriculture some twenty years ago, nobody would have ever imagined that we would have reached to this time when we experience direct and serious consequences to our agriculture due to very rapid and deteriorating climate change parameters.

Of course, now we have to face the reality as my colleague from Slovenia, a country which is situated nearby Albania, indicated. This year we experienced a heavy frost unseen before. For 60 years’ time, we never experienced such frost which inflicted heavy damages to our agriculture.

And in five years’ time that I took over as Minister of Agriculture, we have been experiencing frequent floods never seen before. It looks like the weather has changed. The weather pattern has changed. We are experiencing a kind of tropical weather.

So we were used to some steady parameters of weather like steady rainfall during winter time. Now no longer. We don’t see that happening anymore. We have heavy rainfalls, enormous quantities of water dropping from the sky and creating a lot of constraints, a lot of problems to our irrigation and flood protection systems, creating casualties, so this is something happening. We have to deal with it and of course this cannot be dealt on a single base initiative.

On the other hand, of course we are experiencing the emerging of diseases, diseases which were not seen before in our region. It started in early 2000 when we had for the first time bluetongue appearing in our region. Bluetongue now has been spread up to the northern part of Europe, affecting Germany, Denmark. It is no longer a regional issue. It is a European Region issue. And it started by the fact that the vector starting diseases which were basically located in Africa, now have crossed Africa. Now they enter in our region and are carrying, of course, agents of disease.

This year, you know, we were heavily affected by lumpy skin, an old disease affecting our cattle, created a lot of problems. We had a lot of losses and, of course, we see that even the disease which entered Europe a couple years ago, it started moving from the European part of Turkey, crossing Bulgaria, entering Greece, entering Albania because of moving North and I can bet that it will surface sometime in the Northern part of Europe.

So it is no longer a regional issue. It is a worldwide issue, something which we need to address in a concerted way. We need to put in place strategies of controlling this disease, of trying to refrain it, of trying to protect our animals through mass vaccination which of course composes a lot of efforts, joint efforts.

And of course we see that now our agriculture has to cope with this reality. It looks however that we consider that small farming was considered as a matter of fact, as a handicap for the development of agriculture. And still it is not considered to be so competitive to compare to largescale agriculture.

But when it comes to climate change, it looks like small farming practices can easily adapt to the climate change challenges compared to largescale farming. So most probably we need to encourage now and not reframe small scale farming considering what is happening in terms of climate change.

As a matter of fact, there are a lot of issues that we would like to discuss with each other but I am sure that everybody from you is experiencing in your own country, the consequences of climate change and its impact on the overall agricultural production.

My message is clear. We need to have concerted actions. We need to adopt joint strategies in trying to cope with these events which are, as a matter of fact, actually having a negative impact on our agriculture, on our food production systems, on our food safety systems because you know, higher temperature can also have a negative impact on food safety issues.

So there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed in a joint manner, in a concerted manner, and only by having this common approach, we might hope that we can somehow mitigate the risk associated with climate change.

Once again, let me thank you again for providing this opportunity to address to this prestigious assembly and wish you all the best.

Son Excellence Madame Sílvia CALVÓ ARMENGOL, Ministre de l'environnement, de l'agriculture et du développement durable de la Principauté d'Andorre

L'agriculture contribue au changement climatique, mais en subit également les effets. Au niveau mondial, l'agriculture est responsable d'une partie des émissions de gaz à effets de serre et de modification des systèmes traditionnels de l'utilisation des sols. Mais d'autre part, il s'agit d'un secteur très sensible aux variations climatiques et à la météorologie surtout s'il s'agit de phénomènes extrêmes comme les sécheresses ou les inondations.

C'est pourquoi l'agriculture doit jouer un rôle important dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques, en effet aussi bien les sols bien conservés que les prairies, les forêts et les cultures sont des réservoirs potentiels de CO₂ et doivent donc être gérés et considérés comme tels.

À notre échelle, en Andorre, nous avons pu développer un modèle d'agriculture qui intègre les principes de l'agro-écologie, de la préservation des sols, de la biodiversité, des races adaptées aux zones de montagne et des habitats prioritaires. Trente pour cent de notre superficie agricole sert à la production de fourrage et 40 pour cent est constituée de pâturages. Le modèle prédominant de notre élevage est de caractère extensif et transhumant, et nous produisons actuellement 15 pour cent de notre consommation de viande.

Le reste de notre production primaire est composée de micro productions locales vendues en circuit court sur le marché national sous une marque collective. Bien qu'avec un faible impact sur la totalité de l'offre alimentaire, ceci permet de proposer aux consommateurs un modèle de consommation «km zéro» et de contribuer à la diminution de la production de déchets alimentaires.

Par ailleurs, il est important de mettre l'accent aussi sur le gaspillage alimentaire. En effet, la FAO a calculé que les aliments gaspillés représentent plus d'un tiers des aliments produits aujourd'hui, ceci permettrait de nourrir la population mondiale. Au-delà de la préoccupation morale que ces données provoquent, il faut souligner l'importance des impacts sur l'environnement notamment sur l'épuisement des sols, le gaspillage en eau, l'utilisation de produits chimiques.

Il est donc temps d'intégrer le concept de l'économie circulaire dans l'agriculture en se rapprochant d'un modèle de production respectueux des ressources de notre planète et de leur cycle de renouvellement, sachant qu'il est nécessaire de dissocier la croissance économique de l'augmentation de l'usage de nos ressources.

Dans un cadre d'économie circulaire, l'implication de tous les acteurs de la chaîne alimentaire est indispensable. Depuis la culture du produit jusqu'à sa consommation, choisir les produits les plus respectueux de l'environnement, mais aussi consommer les quantités adéquates d'aliments de manière à avoir un régime équilibré et à ne pas générer de déchets, va y contribuer.

Les grandes entreprises du secteur agroalimentaire, et bien entendu les administrations, doivent jouer le jeu et appuyer un nouveau modèle de société qui finalement n'est autre que celui du développement durable.

Et de là l'importance de la sensibilisation de nos citoyens. En Andorre, nous attachons une très grande importance à l'éducation des enfants; plus de la moitié d'entre eux sont scolarisés dans des écoles vertes, qui mobilisent l'ensemble des acteurs de l'établissement scolaire, mais également du territoire, autour d'un projet commun d'éducation au développement durable.

Les prévisions sur le changement climatique indiquent que les montagnes feront partie des zones les plus touchées par ce phénomène. Dans le cadre de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique et de l'Accord de Paris, nous avons engagé un processus de participation publique sur les questions d'adaptation, un processus qui a abouti à la définition de 94 actions dans des domaines tels que l'agriculture, l'énergie, les risques naturels, la biodiversité ou la santé.

Dans le domaine de l'agriculture, les principaux axes identifiés sont le développement de l'écotourisme pour diversifier les sources de revenus des agriculteurs, la recherche de nouvelles espèces adaptées aux nouvelles conditions, qui de plus favorisent les espèces pollinisatrices et évitent les monocultures. Dans le domaine de l'élevage il faudra adapter les zones de pâture en favorisant les structures qui produisent de l'ombre, soit de manière naturelle, soit comme les zones boisées ou artificiellement, ainsi que veiller à la disponibilité en eau pour les animaux. Les charges de bétail devront se faire suivant les conditions des pâturages naturels, c'est-à-dire principalement en fonction de la pluviométrie sur le long terme, maintenir les travaux de sélection raciale visant à obtenir des animaux rustiques et pouvant s'adapter aux variations de l'environnement. Finalement, il faut développer de nouveaux axes de recherche sur les maladies émergentes et les ravageurs qui peuvent porter atteinte aux cultures et aux animaux dans les nouvelles conditions de climat.

Ceci exige d'avoir une vision intégrée et interdisciplinaire des différents vecteurs environnementaux qui jusqu'à présent ont été traités de manière sectorielle, aussi bien par les responsables politiques que par les scientifiques. L'idée d'une approche commune, globale et fondée sur des synergies, telle que le préconisent les bases de l'économie circulaire, doit devenir une réalité. Il me semble qu'en ce début de 21^{ème} siècle les sociétés sont prêtes à faire le pas décisif de notre économie traditionnelle de croissance sans complexes à une véritable culture du développement durable, dans laquelle les gouvernements, les institutions, les entreprises et les citoyens doivent s'engager vers un avenir commun.

The Honourable Renward WELLS, Minister for Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Bahamas

The theme for this 40th Conference, “*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*” is aligned with the development priorities of the Bahamas, which are poverty elimination, food and nutrition security, sustainable resource management and promoting resiliency to climate change. These priorities are outlined in our country's Country Programme Framework 2016-2019.

The elimination of poverty as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals is an important policy priority of the Bahamas. The poverty profile indicates that: young people, households headed by women and people living in rural communities are inordinately impacted by poverty. These persons must benefit from initiatives that improve their livelihoods. Initiatives such as on-farm and off-farm activities which in the case of the Bahamas, link them to value-added products and the tourism sector.

The Bahamas, like many other SIDS faces the 'triple burden' of malnutrition, under nutrition and obesity. A 2012 survey indicated that the population consumes limited amounts of fruit and vegetables which is one of the contributors to the rise in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

Last year the 'Healthy Bahamas Coalition' comprising of private sector stakeholders such as insurance companies, pharmacies, physicians and other allied health workers along with the Bahamas' Chamber of Commerce began working together to empower people and communities to adopt healthier lifestyles. I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources is a partner ministry in this initiative, and we have undertaken nutrition counselling and health screenings for all staff as a part of a 'Wellness in the Workplace Initiative'.

In support of this policy focus, I would like to thank FAO for their assistance in preparing the draft Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan which focuses actions targeting households and communities to encourage them to make transformative changes in their food and lifestyle choices.

We look forward to continued support from FAO to develop evidence-based monitoring systems and to share best practices on supporting smallholder farmers and encouraging youth entrepreneurship.

With regards to resource management, the fisheries sector is an important part of the economy. Fisheries exports are estimated at USD 75 million annually and comprise 28 percent of exports from the Bahamas. FAO has been a very important partner in the development of fisheries legislation, working with public, private sector stakeholders and non-governmental organizations to improve fisheries and sustainability management.

Finally, I must address the issue of climate change. Over the period 1980 – 2010, the Bahamas has experienced 13 natural disasters (hurricanes and flooding) resulting in 19 fatalities and estimated total economic damage of near USD 3.2 billion. The Bahamas was hit in 2015 and again in 2016 with Hurricanes Joaquin and Matthew which impacted the entire archipelago resulting in combined estimated damages of up to USD 1.5 billion.

Climate change for all SIDS like the Bahamas, is about building resilience in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Efforts have been made to mainstream climate change adaptation measures into the sustainable resource strategies for each of these sectors and to encourage actions that would reduce the vulnerability of the natural and human systems to the impacts of climate change. Nearly 80 percent of the Bahamas is under some form of vegetative cover. And indeed, the careful management of our forests is an important part of our climate strategy.

Moreover, developing partnerships inside and outside the country are important to raise awareness of the impact of climate change and to move people to action. In this regard, we are particularly interested in FAO being a conduit to sharing experiences and best practices on resilience measures for rain-fed small farmer, livestock and crop systems.

I wish to thank the Government and people of Italy for hosting this Conference, the Director-General and technical staff of FAO for their support.

The Honourable Mogens KJORUP, Minister Counsellor, Ministry of Environment and Food of the Kingdom of Denmark

Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, you can still rely on Denmark in this organization's immense contribution to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, in your continuous efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO. We also acknowledge your contribution to our mutual pursuit of 17 SDGs, including being the custodian of many SDG indicators.

To reduce food losses and waste is a tremendous problem and requires focused actions and investment throughout the entire food chain in all countries and regions. Food losses and waste have to be reduced due to protection of the environment, climate mitigation, resource productivity and the economy as such – but most important to eliminate hunger, stunting and reduce malnutrition.

It is also a question of an ineffective use of energy, water, soil, fertilizers and pesticides. We ought to facilitate knowledge sharing and disseminate best practices, know-how and technologies. Residues from food production must also be seen in the context of circular bio-economy. In many countries it also requires a check of the legislations concerning food, food-processing and labelling. We have to invent better measures in order to monitor, more frequently and targeted, the achievements in the years to come.

I think that the concept of "food is precious", recently invented by IKEA, is an excellent one which should be taken more serious by all human beings. The app "Too Good to Go" gained the Nordic Environmental Award 2016 can also be mentioned.

Climate change mitigation and the conservation of fertile soils and biodiversity are crucial issues. Here we have to highlight cost-effectiveness in respect of reducing green gas emissions throughout the agricultural sector globally. We have to modify our agro-policies in order to enhance their efficiencies concerning climate change mitigation and to that end we ought to increase our knowledge of robust and fair climate mitigation instruments.

Local and regional flexibility taking advantage of ITC and big data as well as "individual soil smart agriculture" is crucial in our view in order to achieve our common climate goals – and not jeopardizing these extremely important issues at stake for humanity.

The insufficient level of investments and innovation including the dissemination of current knowledge and best practices is an obstacle for improving the entire food chain. There still is a dramatic need for improvement in the level as well as in the quality of investment in sustainable agriculture with emphasis on the scarcity of water, energy and soil. Links to the fulfilment of the SDGs by 2030 are unaccountable, literally speaking. The huge problems concerning the ongoing waste of food have to be addressed and the real residues from food production, i.e. fibres from crops and animal waste products not being recycled, can be reiterated.

The threat from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the biggest health challenging issues we are facing today. Here we have to focus on promoting a solid prevention-alert work and reduce the use of antibiotics to a more adequate use. It is also important to impose measures concerning the practices of presubscription without any economic incentives. Finally, some of the most critical, effective antibiotics should be used for human beings only and in normal, common circumstances not be allowed for animal use. Adequate resources for combating misuse of antibiotics and in particular, as growth promoters, AMR is a core issue for us. This indeed also goes for the work of Codex Alimentarius.

I will also like to recall SDG 17, concerning amongst other important issues, the strive for professional governance, including transparency and accountability of governmental activities, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In that respect a strong focus on the empowerments and rights of women and girls, gender equality, including access to and possession of capital, and the prevention and combating of any kind of violence against women are essential preconditions for equitable and inclusive development. And women's possible contribution to the increase of investments in rural, small farming activities in order to enhance employment and the functioning of food markets would imply more, healthier nutrition to more people.

The Director-General can count on our continued commitment.

Excelentísimo Sr. Don Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO, Embajador de la República Dominicana ante la FAO

Me complace reportar a la cuadragésima Conferencia General que –en el bienio transcurrido desde la sesión anterior– el Presidente de República Dominicana Danilo Medina prosigue convirtiendo en realidad su voluntad política de combatir el hambre y la malnutrición con miras a su erradicación definitiva de nuestro territorio.

El Presidente Medina expuso su visión y los componentes concretos de sus políticas agroalimentarias ante el vigésimo cuarto Comité de Agricultura en septiembre de 2014. Un elemento central de su programa consiste en las “visitas sorpresa” que realiza cada fin de semana a comunidades rurales. Durante 2017, las mismas se realizan bajo el lema del “Año Nacional del Desarrollo Agroforestal”.

La estrategia de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional del Presidente Medina tiene un especial enfoque en el desarrollo rural, en línea con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y nuestra Agenda Nacional de Desarrollo 2030. Este modelo supone que la alimentación es un derecho humano fundamental, según lo reconoce nuestra Constitución.

Las “visitas sorpresa” del Presidente a los agricultores familiares son el primer paso de un proceso basado en la identificación de expectativas, el apoyo puntual y la obtención de resultados, poniendo énfasis en la agricultura familiar y la producción de pequeña escala.

Este método pone al Presidente en contacto y diálogo directo con los hombres y las mujeres del campo, a quienes provee asistencia técnica en un amplio abanico que incluye transferencia de conocimiento y buenas prácticas, formación de asociaciones y cooperativas, empoderamiento de la mujer, apertura del crédito, incremento de la productividad, protección de la biodiversidad, acceso a los mercados, creación de capacidades locales, apoyo para cumplir las normas sanitarias y de inocuidad, defensa de la sostenibilidad medioambiental y edificación de infraestructuras, entre otras

áreas de acción concreta. Los proyectos que surgen de este paquete de políticas agroalimentarias ponen un foco especial de atención sobre los retos del cambio climático.

El fortalecimiento de las comunidades rurales incluye el incentivo a permanecer en ellas, pues al agregar valor a la tierra y al producto del trabajo se mejoran los medios de vida, y con ello se disuade el abandono del campo y el desplazamiento a los centros urbanos.

La validez del modelo agroalimentario del Presidente Medina fue confirmada por un estudio técnico de evaluación e impacto realizado de forma conjunta por la FAO y el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. El estudio de la FAO y el PNUD certifica la mejoría en los estándares de vida de los beneficiarios; es por ello que el modelo del Presidente Medina ha sido incorporado por otros países de la región, el cual ofrecemos como ejemplo dinámico de cooperación sur-sur.

Es oportuno que República Dominicana, como miembro del Cuarteto de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños – CELAC – aproveche esta oportunidad para traer a la atención de esta plenaria la más reciente Cumbre regional, celebrada en enero de este año en mi país, en el polo turístico y de convenciones de Punta Cana.

Como anfitrión de la Cumbre y partiendo de su compromiso con la meta regional de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición para 2025, el Presidente Medina formuló una invitación especial al Director General de la FAO para dirigirse a los líderes de los treinta y tres países de la región.

El profesor José Graziano da Silva afirmó ante los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno que nuestra región podría ser la primera del mundo en desarrollo en proclamar la soberanía alimentaria. Para alcanzar esta meta, ambiciosa y posible, el Profesor Graziano identificó al Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de la CELAC, también llamado “Plan SAN-CELAC” como una herramienta clave, pues – según sus palabras – “representa la cristalización de la voluntad política de los gobiernos de América Latina y el Caribe de erradicar el hambre en la próxima década”.

Desde ya estamos viendo a nivel nacional y regional los resultados concretos del Plan SAN-CELAC en áreas como la promoción de sistemas alimentarios saludables y sostenibles; la producción sustentable; la atención a los sectores más vulnerables; la educación nutricional; la inocuidad; las normas fitosanitarias; el etiquetado; la creación de capacidades locales; el impulso a la agricultura familiar; la reducción de pérdidas y desperdicio de alimentos; la expansión de las oportunidades comerciales; la alimentación escolar; el estímulo a la agricultura urbana y sub-urbana; el intercambio de experiencias exitosas y mejores prácticas a través de la cooperación sur-sur y triangular; todo lo relacionado con el impacto del cambio climático en la producción agroalimentaria; y los temas de género; es decir, estamos cubriendo todas las líneas de acción del trabajo que la FAO realiza en nuestros países.

En conclusión, al participar en esta cuadragésima Conferencia General, República Dominicana celebra la fortaleza, el dinamismo y la relevancia de esta organización; reafirma su compromiso con el mandato de liberar al mundo del hambre; apoya la visión del Director General plasmada en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio; y hace un llamado a todos los gobiernos del mundo a colocar a la mujer y al hombre del campo en el centro de sus políticas públicas.

Son Excellence Monsieur Henri Eyebe AYISSI, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural de la République du Cameroun

Je vous adresse à tous les salutations cordiales du Cameroun, sous la très haute égide de son chef, Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya, Président de la République, Chef de l'État.

Le Cameroun est honoré de prendre part aux présentes assises de la FAO ici à Rome, en Italie, au Siège de cette Institution. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de votre élection pour conduire ces assises, et pour féliciter et remercier le Secrétariat, au nom de la délégation camerounaise que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, je vous remercie tous pour la parfaite organisation matérielle de cette Conférence.

Je voudrais, en commençant mon propos, assurer Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO de la sollicitude constante du Gouvernement camerounais. J'annonce également que le partenariat entre le Cameroun et la FAO est excellent, et, pour la bonne information de tous, le Cameroun vient d'honorer

ses engagements, notamment pour la première année de fonctionnement du Bureau de partenariat et de liaison, qui a été créé à Yaoundé pour le compte de la sous-région de l'Afrique centrale.

Dans le cadre du débat général de cette quarantième session de la Conférence, le thème central qui a été soumis à notre réflexion porte sur: «*Changement climatique, agriculture et sécurité alimentaire*». Il s'agit d'un thème global, général et actuel. Le rapport sur *La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: changement climatique, agriculture et sécurité alimentaire*, qui a été préparé en guise de contribution à l'examen de ce thème, revient largement sur les enjeux de la question.

L'Accord de Paris sur le climat, qui a été conclu en 2015 et est entré en vigueur en novembre 2016 représente, sur le plan mondial, le cadre juridique contraignant dont dispose l'humanité pour lutter durablement contre les défis du changement climatique. Cet accord reconnaît une responsabilité partagée mais différenciée des États, c'est-à-dire une responsabilité évaluée en fonction des capacités respectives et des contextes nationaux différents.

Le Cameroun, en tant que pays africain, a signé et ratifié cet accord le 22 avril et le 29 juillet 2016 respectivement. À travers cette ratification, c'est la volonté politique du Gouvernement camerounais qui a été réaffirmée. Notre pays dispose d'un plan national d'adaptation aux changements climatiques. Les activités de ce plan ont été conçues en partenariat avec les différentes parties prenantes des secteurs public et privé; elles couvrent les cinq zones agro-écologiques du Cameroun.

De manière plus concrète, des projets sectoriels et transversaux ayant bénéficié d'un appui de plusieurs acteurs nationaux et internationaux sont mis en œuvre. Parmi les mesures en cours, on cite, notamment: i) la mise en œuvre d'une nouvelle politique agricole, dont l'un des axes stratégiques est la gestion durable des ressources naturelles avec en prime, la création, au sein du Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural, d'une équipe focale «changement climatique - volet agriculture»; ii) la limitation de la déforestation, qui constitue la source première d'émission de gaz à effet de serre, avec environ 76 pour cent; iii) les efforts de reboisement et de gestion durable des forêts; iv) le relèvement à hauteur de 25 pour cent de l'offre en énergies renouvelables avec, notamment, le développement du solaire et de la biomasse; v) l'engagement du Cameroun à réduire de 32 pour cent son empreinte carbone à l'horizon 2035.

Nous avons élaboré, par ailleurs, notre première Contribution déterminée nationale (CDN) pour la réduction des gaz à effets de serre. Elle montre que nous sommes en bonne voie pour la réalisation de nos objectifs.

Nous restons convaincus que le principal défi à relever sera la mobilisation des ressources pour financer les programmes nationaux de lutte contre le changement climatique.

Nous prenons bonne note et soulignons l'espoir que suscite l'engagement des pays développés à augmenter de 100 milliards par an leur contribution au Fonds vert pour le climat. Nous nous attendons à la multiplication du nombre de projets à financer à travers ce fonds.

Pendant les assises de la 22^{ème} Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP 22, à Marrakech, au Maroc, l'initiative d'un fonds dit «Fonds bleu» pour la préservation de l'écosystème forestier du bassin du Congo a été lancée. Le Cameroun fait partie de cet écosystème.

Le Fonds bleu pour le bassin du Congo s'inscrit dans le concept de «l'Économie bleue», défini par la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA). Nous sommes convaincus que le Fonds bleu jouera un rôle essentiel dans la promotion de l'économie bleue dans le bassin du Congo, en vue de la croissance économique et du développement durables des pays riverains et du bien-être des populations concernées.

Je puis d'ores et déjà dire que l'engagement du Cameroun pour contribuer à ce fonds est entier. Je pense pouvoir relever que tous les pays appartenant à cet écosystème gagneraient à ce que cette initiative prenne effectivement corps.

Nous avons relevé, au cours de cette Conférence, l'ensemble des préoccupations exprimées par différents pays sur la nécessité des actions concrètes pour lutter contre le changement climatique, notamment en ce qui concerne les actions de mobilisation des financements et de mise à disposition

des technologies adaptées au profit des pays africains. C'est le lieu pour moi, au nom du Cameroun, de remercier tous les pays qui se sont engagés, à l'instar du Canada, à soutenir les pays, africains notamment, dans la mise en œuvre des programmes nationaux de lutte contre le changement climatique.

Pour le Cameroun, seule une solidarité internationale agissante permettra de faire face à ces défis planétaires, que représentent la lutte contre le changement climatique, la faim et la malnutrition, dans la perspective du renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Mon pays continuera à participer aux actions initiées ou soutenues par la FAO dans ce sens. Il remercie la Direction générale de la FAO et l'ensemble de son équipe pour son engagement personnel et constant pour cette noble cause.

The Honourable Suroj POKHREL, Secretary of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

It gives me great pleasure and the honour to address the 40th session of the FAO conference on the theme "*The State of Food and Agriculture: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*" representing the Ministry of Agricultural Development from the Government of Nepal.

First of all, let me extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to FAO for the warm hospitality and support accorded to my delegation that has enabled our participation to discuss on the theme of the Conference. The climate change and its effects on agriculture production, food and nutrition security are intertwine and enduring issues in the developing countries, particularly in South Asian countries and more pronounced in Nepal. This Conference is more relevant to building resilience to climate change on agriculture and leading to improving food and nutrition security in those countries where agriculture is the major endowment for the economic development.

Indeed, climate change threatens agriculture and food security for the low-income smallholder farmers. The man-induced changes in the environment have intensified the risk of climate-dependent crop production over the last decades. The trend and pattern of rainfall has been highly uncertain as the most of our crop land is rain fed and these changes are causing serious threat to the agro-ecosystem services and to food security.

This has been an emerging issue and challenges to be able to adapt and mitigate climate changes effects on agriculture. Nepal, as a least-developing agriculture based economy with smallholder farmers and adopted integrated farming practices, such agriculture system gives more advantage for improving food and nutrition security.

In order to achieve zero hunger goal, the government of Nepal have been implementing Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS 2015), Zero Hunger Challenge National Action Plan 2016 (2016-2025), Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action (FNSPA) of Nepal 2014, and Multi-Sector Nutritional Plan 2012, as a result, the trend of malnutrition has been decreasing and the food and nutrition situation has been improving in the country.

In this prestigious Conference, I would like to focus on some major challenges on zero hunger goal: research and development in agriculture system; transformation of subsistence agriculture into commercialization and making it competitiveness; climate resilience to agriculture, ecosystem services, including plant pollination; enhance the economics of scale of smallholders; optimizing and efficiency in agriculture: inputs, outputs, and marketing; value chain management of major agricultural commodities; global partnership and commitment at all levels such as international, central governmental, local governmental, private sector, NGOs/INGOs, and civil societies.

I hope this Conference would be able to guide policies in climate change, food security and nutrition, rural development, and emphasize the need for international support to developing countries to design and implement integrated policies that address agriculture and climate change. In addition, the Conference would be milestone to address the SDGs especially SDG 1, in achieving the targets of zero hunger by 2030.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks once again to FAO for this opportunity and accomplish my remarks with best wishes for the success of this Conference, which would be helpful to

develop policy and impact pathways in the sector of agriculture and food security in relation to climate change in Nepal.

Mr Asmerom Kidane TECLEGHIORGHIS, Alternate Permanent Representative of Eritrea

First, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the FAO, for inviting H.E. Arefaine Berhe, Minister for Agriculture, who could not come due to other urgent official tasks, and on behalf of whom I am honoured to participate in this timely and important Conference and deliver this statement.

The Global Food Crises that we are still experiencing today started long time ago, which was followed by high-profile summits organized by FAO and other countries with inputs from the United Nations. However, in spite of all the good will and pledges to run things around, little has improved since that time. Therefore a lot of work is remaining before us to enhance agricultural system, particularly in the developing countries, and eradicate hunger and sustain food security and nutrition.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, built on our ongoing effort to translate into action the vision of a food secure and sustainable world. Hence the SDGs has been streamed into FAO's strategic documents to the achievement of 40 targets, 17 goals and 53 indicators. The achievement of this targets I believe, first and foremost, is the responsibility of every country and not only the task of FAO.

To that extent Eritrea has been giving to climate change, agriculture and food and nutrition security the highest priority and earmark proportional resources to increase production and productivity.

Climate centered programmes and irrigation are not just obligations and responsibilities for Eritrea to meet the 2030 Agenda , but on the contrary they are increasingly becoming part and parcel of Eritrean culture and everyday life, which goes in action with today's theme "*Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security*". Accordingly, environmental protection and forestation plans come in to play, green clubs, terracing programmes, in all mountains of the country were undertaken through summer programmes that involve youngsters, in planting trees on the way carrying out their civic duties contributed to the environmental protection strengthened by enacted laws and regulations.

Eritrea is situated in Sahelian part of Africa, where the rains are usually insufficient and erratic. Eritrea with the cooperation of UN organizations and through its self reliance policy has initiated a lot of work in soil and water conservation, forestation and sustainable system of irrigation in all agro-ecological zones. Soil and water conservation in general, and water harvesting in particular has direct bearing on the productivity of both crops and livestock and the final target of food and nutrition security. Our strategy is to practice intensive and integrated agriculture, so that we can dedicate most of the land, especially the sloppy and drier areas to tree planting and closure establishment in order to enhance our natural resources base.

However, to progress and step forward the support of FAO, UN Organizations and Global Trust fund is very important and crucial. Strengthening rural community awareness in rural societies is generally recognized as a prerequisite for agricultural productivity, reducing poverty and hunger, and promoting economic growth. We, therefore, appreciate you very much for your future support.

Son Excellence Monsieur Georges KAZADI KABONGO, Ministre de l'agriculture de la République démocratique du Congo

L'un des plus grands politiciens et anciens Présidents de notre Continent affirmait à juste titre que «L'Afrique a la forme d'un revolver dont la gachette est logée au Congo».

En effet, située au cœur de l'Afrique, avec une superficie de 2 345 409 kilomètres carrés et une frontière longue de 9 165 km, partagée avec neuf pays, la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) est un creuset et en même temps un dépositaire des bonnes traditions de l'Afrique, c'est une terre d'hospitalité et un sol où il faut bon investir.

La République démocratique du Congo abrite une cuvette centrale qui protège la plus grande portion de la forêt dense équatoriale du continent représentant ainsi le plus gros stock de carbone séquestré, et de ce fait se classant parmi les plus importants du monde.

Cet atout naturel, combiné avec tant d'autres tels qu'un fleuve long de 4 700 km, classé parmi les cinq plus grands du monde, et le deuxième de l'Afrique après le Nil, qui traverse neuf des onze ex-provinces, sans oublier ses dix affluents, dont la Mongala, la Rubi, l'Aruwimi, la Lomami, la Lindi, la Lowa, l'Ulindi, la Lukuga, la Luvua et la Lufira fait de la RDC la plus belle zone humide et verte du continent.

Cet autre atout naturel associé à 80 millions d'hectares de terres arables fait de la République démocratique du Congo une terre rêvée des investisseurs et autres opérateurs économiques du secteur agricole. Il convient de signaler que le fleuve lui-même, ses dix affluents, les lacs périphériques et notre côte maritime constituent un bon réseau de communications, qui se mesure comme suit: 16 000 km de rivières navigables et 1 300 km pour les lacs. Les 156 000 km de route et 5 138 km de chemin de fer disponibles viennent s'y ajouter et sont en entretien progressif, sinon en réhabilitation par notre Office des grands travaux, soit sur fonds propres, soit sur assistance de nos partenaires techniques et financiers.

Au regard de la diversité climatique et de l'alternance des saisons agricoles, la République démocratique du Congo est à même de pratiquer toute l'année sur son étendue, sans interruption, une diversité de cultures tant vivrières, maraîchères, horticoles que pérennes.

En termes de production animale, je dois signaler la grande capacité de charge en gros bétail de nos pâtures des hauts plateaux du Sud, du Sud-Est, du Nord-Est, du grand Nord, sans oublier les savanes du Centre du pays.

En termes de pêche et autres ressources halieutiques, hormis 1er fleuve et ses affluents, les autres plans d'eau tels que: le triangle Atlantique (c'est-à-dire l'espace estuaire et la zone marine côtière de Moanda/Banana), les grands lacs de l'Est et du Katanga; les lacs internes tels que Mayidombe, Munkamba, etc., les lacs saisonniers présents durant toute l'année sont à citer. À ce propos, rien que le fleuve Congo et ses affluents couvrent à eux seuls 86 080 km², l'équivalent de 3,5 pour cent du territoire national et leur capacité moyenne de production est estimée à 550 000 tonnes par an.

Sur le plan démographique, selon des indicateurs tirés de récents rapports, notre population est estimée à ce jour à 80 millions d'habitants, dont 70 pour cent vivent en milieu rural, et près de 60 pour cent de cette population est constituée de jeunes. La contribution de l'agriculture à l'économie nationale est estimée à 52 pour cent. Cette croissance démographique est caractérisée par une progression géométrique qui se laisse percevoir par l'expansion de nos zones péri-urbaines et par les engouements dans nos centres urbains, comme c'est le cas pour la Ville-Province de Kinshasa qui, à elle seule, compte déjà plus de 16 millions d'habitants.

Il y a donc une forte demande qui progresse sans cesse et, pour faire face au déficit, le pays est obligé de recourir aux importations de produits agricoles, ce qui déstabilise une économie nationale déjà fragile au regard des milliards de devises que cela exige.

La connexion des bassins de production déjà identifiés comme futurs parcs agro-industriels à partir du barrage hydroélectrique d'Inga n'attend plus que la finalisation des études sur l'impact environnemental tel que cela a été exigé par nos partenaires financiers pour pouvoir démarrer.

Quant à la production agricole proprement dite, elle est basée sur des filières végétales liées aux cultures et habitudes alimentaires de nos populations (comme notre pays comprend plus de 400 tribus et ethnies), à savoir: cultures vivrières, dont essentiellement manioc, maïs, riz, banane plantain, haricots, nyébe, arachides, etc.; cultures maraîchères, dont essentiellement: pommes de terre, patates douces, tomates, oignons, épinards, choux et une diversité des légumes; cultures d'exportation, dont essentiellement: café, cacao, palmier à huile, hévéa, canne à sucre, différents arbres fruitiers etc.; sans oublier plantes médicinales, et arbres à chenille.

Mon discours serait incomplet si je terminais cette section des filières végétales sans parler des différentes contraintes qui constituent des obstacles à la production agricole, tant au niveau familial qu'industriel, il s'agit entre autres de perturbations, sinon d'inversion, des saisons agricoles, dues au changement climatique; sécheresse; destruction massive et répandue des diverses cultures par une Chenille légionnaire appelée «*spodoptera frugiperda*» qui ravage surtout les maïs, attaquant les épis, les feuilles, les tiges et même les racines, cette chenille ravageuse a déjà atteint sur son parcours plus

de 50 territoires de notre pays, anéantissant tout espoir pour les paysans et laissant déjà présager des périodes de disette dans les mois à venir; autres insectes ennemis des plantes cultivées tels que criquets, chenilles indigènes, autres chenilles étrangères, etc.; autres maladies des plantes telles que la mosaïque du manioc, la striure brune du manioc, *de Wilt* de la banane, *tracheomycose* du café, etc., manque d'engrais et fertilisants connexes, manque de pesticides, pertes post-récoltes, manque de semences de qualité, manque de tracteurs et autres machines agricoles, etc.

Sur le plan administratif, je dois signaler certains évènements qui n'ont pas manqué d'impacter sur les activités agricoles, il s'agit entre autres: du découpage territorial avec le passage de 11 à 26 provinces, ce qui exige des investissements en termes de renforcement des capacités sur le plan tant administratif, technique que stratégique; de la scission du Ministère mère de l'agriculture, pêche et élevage en deux ministères séparés avec celui de l'agriculture séparé de celui de la pêche et de l'élevage; de la Réforme administrative visant le rajeunissement et la réduction ainsi que la maîtrise des effectifs; à ce propos, il faut signaler que les effectifs actuels du Ministère s'élèvent à près de 23 000 agents pour l'ensemble du pays avec plus de 4 000 seulement pour l'administration centrale du ministère.

Sur le plan politique, je dois signaler, la signature de l'Accord politique inclusif et, l'Arrangement particulier sur le partage du pouvoir réalisé par les partenaires politiques de la majorité présidentielle et du rassemblement de l'opposition et même de la société civile, qui ont fini par harmoniser leurs visions après des semaines de discussions à la Cité de l'Union africaine et au Centre interdiocésain de Kinshasa. Cela a abouti à la mise en place d'un gouvernement d'union nationale, dont je suis membre. Le cap est actuellement jeté sur des élections libres, transparentes et démocratiques, attendues à la fin de cette année 2017. Dans cette optique les enrôlements par la Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI) se déroulent sans incident dans tout le pays.

Sur le plan sécuritaire, toute l'étendue du territoire national est pacifiée, toutes les forces négatives ont été centralisées et la situation est sous le contrôle des forces de sécurité à travers l'ensemble du pays.

En termes de stratégie nationale, la politique agricole du pays est articulée sur quelques outils exploités comme référentiels, à savoir, le Plan national de stratégie pour le développement (2016-2022), le Plan national d'investissement agricole (PNIA), le Plan détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA), Malabo 1 et Malabo 2.

Aussi, la RDC adhère à tous les accords signés sur le plan régional, notamment dans le cadre des organismes suivants: CEMAC, SADC et COMESA, et la RDC est un État Membre actif de l'Union africaine.

En termes de stratégie sectorielle et de méthodologie, les activités de production s'opèrent suivant un certain nombre d'axes et options, à savoir, forte implication du genre et des jeunes, forte implication des Pygmées, les familles et/ou ménages, les organisations paysannes et ONG, les plateformes des ONG, les sociétés privées via la Fédération des entreprises du Congo, FEC, l'agro-business, l'agro-industrie axée sur la pratique de parcs agro-industriels orientés vers la transformation, les chaînes de valeurs et la commercialisation, d'où le besoin d'implantation et de valorisation des organisations paysannes, de vulgarisation, de désenclavement via la création et la réhabilitation des voies de desserte agricole, des pistes agricoles, de l'aménagement et du désensablement des plans et cours d'eaux respectivement, des infrastructures de commercialisation ainsi que de marchés, chambres froides, etc. À ce jour, 22 bassins de production ont été identifiés pour devenir les prochains parcs agro-industriels dans les différentes provinces du pays. Synergies avec les autres ministères, notamment ceux de la santé publique, du développement rural, de l'environnement, des infrastructures, travaux publics et reconstruction, du genre et famille, de la jeunesse, des affaires et sports; du commerce extérieur, etc.

À propos du climat des affaires, un cadre juridique consolidé a été mis en place, matérialisé par les outils suivants: la loi N° 11/022 du 24 Décembre 2011, portant principes fondamentaux relatifs à l'agriculture, l'Arrêté ministériel visant le relâchement des taxes et permettant les exonérations et les importations d'articles destinés à la production agricole, le soutien des ONG impliquées dans la production agricole en les inscrivant au bénéfice des interventions économiques de l'État.

Concernant le partenariat entre la FAO et la RDC, le Bureau de la Représentation de cet organisme des Nations Unies dans notre pays gère un portefeuille de 25 projets, dont le budget total s'élève à

31 610 102 USD, mais dont 20 482 632 sont encore disponibles: 30 pour cent desdits projets sont des réponses d'urgence principalement pour les déplacés internes, les réfugiés, ainsi que les familles d'accueil dans les provinces du Sud-Kivu, de l'Ituri, du Tanganyka et du Kasaï; 50 pour cent sont orientés vers la gestion des ressources naturelles; 20 pour cent de ce portefeuille concerne des projets de résilience, de coopération Sud-Sud et d'assistance technique.

Mr Antoine Marie MOUSTACHE, Special Advisor, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of the Republic of Seychelles

The Seychelles as a SIDS of the Indian Ocean identifies strongly with the debate topic of this session: climate change, agriculture and food security. Growing demands for food translate into higher carbon output. SIDS are net food importers sometimes importing as much as 90 percent of their food needs. They are distantly placed from the main markets of the world and have many competing ends for scarce natural resources such as water and land which could be dedicated to agriculture, in the face of a growing national demand for food.

Seychelles stands in solidarity with other SIDS of the world and indeed with the other member states of the organization to deplore all actions that might further jeopardize the Paris Agreement.

Seychelles continues to engage actions to implement national policies that will reduce its over dependence on imported fossil fuels hence further reduce its carbon foot print, its contribution to the greenhouse gases, global warming and sea level rise. It has set a goal of achieving 15 percent of energy needs by 2030 through renewable sources, particularly using the photovoltaic cells. It is committed to its share in minimizing global warming.

Seychelles is already feeling the adverse impacts of climate change. Derailed traditional seasons and the proliferation of invasive species seriously perturb agricultural production. The now regular phenomenon of near 100 percent coral bleaching threatens artisanal fish stocks which provide 40 percent of the dietary protein with consequences to national food and nutrition security. However, the Seychelles have recently engaged in successful proliferation of coral. The very finite low lying areas with important socio-economic infrastructure are subjected to the continuous onslaught of tidal surges which translate into economic costs.

Seychelles defined A National Food and Nutrition Security Policy up to 2020 with technical assistance of the African Union's NEPAD and the NPCA. The policy document recognizes the intricacies of national food production, the many dimensions of nutrition as well as the significance of personal lifestyles in an effort to curtail growing malnutrition cases. Overweight and obesity engender a national scourge. The rise in cases of non-communicable diseases, their associated mortality, morbidity, and medical costs which transpire into national economic costs and reduced personal productivity impose a very severe economic burden.

Seychelles has through the African Union CAADP process, promulgated a national agricultural and a fisheries investment plan up to 2020, in part with the technical assistance of the FAO. The investment plan targets five areas of intervention which require immediate resource input.

These areas of intervention coincide with the Regional Programme for Food Security and Nutrition (PRESAN), an initiative of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and FAO which should be replicated in other SIDS groups. The PRESAN was adopted by the 31st Council of Ministers of the IOC held in 2016. It was also presented on the sidelines of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

The Seychelles' Country Programming Framework 2014-2017 reinforced the technical collaboration between the Government of Seychelles and FAO. The upcoming Government will surely consolidate this cooperation.

I would like to convey to you the best wishes of the Government and the people of Seychelles for fruitful deliberations.

His Excellency Ibrahim Hagi ABDULKADIR, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the UN Agencies

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address the 40th Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Since 1991, Somalia has experienced a persistent complex emergency due to widespread conflict, recurrent droughts and floods and consequently chronic food insecurity. The 2011 drought, widely regarded as the worst in 60 years, severely deteriorated food insecurity among pastoralist and farmers, resulting in famine which left, unfortunately, dead almost a quarter of million people.

One again, today Somalia is in the grip of unprecedented and devastating food crises where millions of Somalis are facing starvation across the country. Due to two to three consecutive seasons of poor rainfall in the last two years, most areas of Somalia are faced serious drought conditions resulting in a rapid and severe worsening of food insecurity.

More than 3.2 million people are experienced crises and emergency levels of acute food insecurity, including nearly 700 000 people facing emergency-level acute food insecurity. An additional 3.5 million people face stressed acute food insecurity, bringing the total acutely food insecure population to 6.7 million people which is more than 50 percent of the total population. Compared to the 2011 drought in Somalia, the 2016-2017 drought is less severe but more widespread.

Thanks to many relief and aid agencies, especially UN Agencies FAO, WFP and UNICEF, which provide food, water, medicine to families who are in desperate need, famine has been avoided but it is still on the brink and the food crisis continues to spread across the country.

Following poor 2016 GU and DEYR rainy seasons, the 2017 April-June GU rains began late and have been below-average across most of Somalia, slowing the regeneration of pasture and water sources and adversely impacting rain fed crop production.

Despite improvements in recent months, an elevated risk of famine remains; malnutrition rates remain among the highest in the world and persistent insecurity and restricted humanitarian access in southern and central parts of the country continue to create challenges to delivering assistances which contribute to the complex emergency in Somalia.

This means that continued large-scale humanitarian assistance will remain necessary throughout 2017 and pastoral households in particular will take multiple seasons to recover.

The Government of Somalia would like to highlight the urgent need for increased resources to scale up our responses to save more lives.

His Excellency Abdallah Saleh LAHLOUH, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture of Palestine (Original language Arabic)

It is a pleasure to start my intervention by acknowledging and appreciating the role that the Food and Agriculture Organization, headed by the Director-General, is playing towards his global vision of a hunger free world, in which agriculture and food contribute to improving the wellbeing of all. I would like to thank the partners and those who are providing the various resources in support of the agricultural sector in Palestine.

The importance of agriculture as the way to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and reduce poverty continues to increase, especially in light of the global challenges posed by the political, economic and financial crises, and its negative effects as climate change and its current and future consequences. In addition to the global challenges that affect the Palestinian agriculture, the Israeli occupation with expanding sentinel activities and arbitrary measures represents the most important challenges and obstacles facing the agriculture and food security in Palestine.

As you know, more than 62 percent of the West Bank Territory, which is area C, and more than 85 percent of the water resources are still under the full control of the Israeli occupation, which prevents the Palestinians from exploiting these resources. Moreover, the establishment of the separation wall has destroyed 75 000 dunums per acres of agricultural land and isolated more than 700 000 dunums of fish, 150 000 dunums of agricultural fertile lands, in addition to the latest Israeli

assault on Gaza Strip in July-August 2014 and the ongoing siege on the Strip that has led to the destruction of most aspects of economy and life in Gaza.

I would like to say that the World Bank Report in October 2013 referred to the fact that if the Palestinians manage to exploit the so-called area C, this will lead to further income for the Palestinians of USD 3.4 billion. Therefore, there is no need to receive assistance from any part. The report of the World Bank said if the Palestinians have their rice and water resources, the irrigation area will be six times more and this, of course, will lead to more jobs.

We have reviewed with great interest the revised version of FAO MediumTerm Plan 20182021, in particular the content related to the priority programme areas that the Organization focus on in the period 2018-2019, which includes climate change, sustainable production, technical cooperation, peacebuilding, and conflict analysis.

I would like to say that these key areas are priorities for the Palestinian State, in particular and the Near East countries in general.

The excellent work FAO has been doing in Palestine over the past decade has proved to be extremely instrumental in our efforts toward the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and building the resilience and improving food security for the Palestinian farmers, herders, fishers, as well as building the institutional capacities of the Palestinian Government and non-governmental institutions as part of the state building process.

Since we are an observer at FAO, we cannot have direct access to technical cooperation projects. In this fact, we would be grateful if FAO could provide seed funds, special seed resources to enable technical support to Palestine, especially in the areas of recycled water use in agriculture, solar energy in agriculture, and nutrition sensitive agriculture.

On the other hand, we highly appreciate being able to participate in the global and regional meetings.

Despite the limitations and challenges, the Palestinian agriculture has witnessed remarkable development in terms of productivity, competitiveness and sustainability while the role of the State remains concentrated on providing the appropriate environment to bring about growth and attract investment.

We will continue of course to implement the plans; we are trying to plant more than one million trees. Therefore, we are focusing on water harvest and using non-traditional sources of water in agriculture. In addition to that, we have established a special fund for agriculture and have established the Palestinian Institution for Support to Small Farmers and Women to enable them to work in a proper manner.

The Palestinian Government is trying to achieve the Sustainable Objectives and especially SDG 2, and based on that, the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from FAO, has recently finalized the new agricultural sector strategy, resilience and sustainable development 2017-22. Based on that, FAO is currently engaged in the formulation of its Country Programme Framework in Palestine for 2018-22.

Ms Mette WILKIE, Director, Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Programme, also known as UN Environment, welcomes the report on the State of Food and Agriculture with its timely focus on climate change, agriculture and food production.

Given that more than 70 per cent of agricultural production relies on rainfall, increasing climate variability poses an unprecedented challenge to food production systems across the world.

We also welcome FAO's climate change strategy and its guiding principles - not least the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches, and we are pleased that FAO is an active partner in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. This Coalition brings together 116 partners to showcase how countries can achieve quick wins and multiple benefits for climate and air quality while at the same time improve livelihoods and food security. Many countries are, for example working through the Coalition on climate-smart paddy rice production – adopting practices like “alternate wetting and drying” that save precious water resources and reduce methane emissions.

Sustainable Food Systems is an emerging and integral part of UN Environment's work and, as I hope you know, we host the Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme, under this framework, is the perfect vehicle for us to scale up, collaborate and ensure that we increase our collective impact. It is with this in mind that FAO and UN Environment have developed an Interagency Umbrella for Sustainable Food Systems, which will be launched at a side event tomorrow.

As we have heard in the last few days, about one third of all food production world-wide is lost or wasted. In industrialized nations, retailers and consumers discard around 300 million tonnes that is fit for consumption every year. This is more than the total net food production of sub-Saharan Africa and would be sufficient to feed the estimated 800 million people hungry in the world. This is why FAO and UN Environment joined forces in 2013 to launch a campaign to reduce food loss called "Think. Eat. Save".

To help developing countries adapt to climate change, UN Environment and FAO are jointly hosting the secretariat of the UN Climate Resilience Initiative, a multi-stakeholder initiative that strengthens three key capacities for climate resilience: the capacity to anticipate climate hazards through early warning and early action; the capacity to absorb shocks through climate risk insurance and social protection; and the capacity to reshape development pathways to foster climate resilience.

Together with the United Nations Development Programme we are also jointly supporting countries to mitigate climate change through the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in 64 countries as part of the UN-REDD Programme.

To further enhance our many collaborative efforts, UN Environment and FAO established a new cooperation agreement in 2014. It covers four broad areas of work: Sustainable Food Systems; Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity; Data and Statistics; and Legal Instruments and Regulations. We are having discussions this week to expand this agreement to also cover joint efforts on oceans and on climate change.

Lastly, let me inform you that the next meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 4 to 6 December this year with a focus on pollution. Given that the 5 December is World Soils Day, we would like to invite you and FAO to celebrate this day in Nairobi and to use it to create awareness around the issue of soil pollution and what we all can do to address it so as to secure the foundation for sustainable agriculture and food security for generations to come.

Israel²

Listening to the statement delivered by Mr Abdallah Saleh Lahlouh, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Palestinian Authority brings up the question of the purpose of this event.

The State of Israel is disappointed with the words said by Mr Lahlouh, who brought up the political situation of the Israeli – Palestinian conflict from a one-sided perspective. We believe that using this language on this stage divert the message that we are all focus on – achieving zero hunger around the world.

Israel works with the Palestinian people in order to improve their lives, and examines ways for cooperation with the goal of leaving no one behind. We continue to cooperate and to establish new collaborations with global partners in order to share our know-how and expertise. We believe that working together will lead us to global achievements in the field of climate change, agriculture and food security.

We expect the Food and Agriculture Organization to avoid any politicized message so we could all work together to achieve our common goals in alignment with Agenda 2030.

² Right of reply

Viet Nam³

Natural disasters and extreme climatic events are increasing in almost every part of the world and become a global concern in the 21st century. According to statistics from 1970 up to now, in the Asia-Pacific region, where Viet Nam is situated, over 5 000 disasters have occurred, causing more than 2 million deaths and affecting about 6 million people. The high economic growth rate in the area is also seriously affected by disasters.

Viet Nam is a country that is annually affected by a wide variety of natural disasters which increase in both intensity and frequency because of climate change. Over the past 10 years, on average, disasters have killed over 300 people every year, with economic losses ranging from 1 to 1.5 percent of the GDP. Every year an average of six to eighth typhoons and tropical depressions directly affect Viet Nam. More and more intense storms occur recently. The landing area of tropical cyclones tends to shift south and the storm season ends later. Many storms have complicated, abnormal paths. Droughts tend to increase with the level of unevenness among climatic zones. Hot weather and drought has increased remarkably in many parts of the country, especially in the Centre and the South.

In 2016, extreme weather conditions caused by El Niño, including severe cold in the North, prolonged droughts in the South-Central Coast and Central Highlands, salt intrusion in the Mekong Delta were the most serious in many years. This has caused thousands of hectares of rice, fruit and other crops to die or without yield. As a result, thousands of people lost their livelihood, more than 1 million tons of rice has been lost, 2 million people were lacking clean water and economic losses amount to USD 1.7 billion.

The Government of Viet Nam has taken all measures to reduce the consequences of the disaster and to restore the livelihood to our people. And to this success, I would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation and thanks to FAO, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other distinguished partners for their great supports to us to solve the consequences of the last year disasters.

Despite scarce and limited resources for development, Viet Nam has been actively implementing the National Strategy on Climate Change and the Green Growth strategy, disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies. Viet Nam is also strongly committed to work together with the international community, including with FAO and UN Agencies to respond effectively to climate change.

Viet Nam committed to implement our National Determined Contribution to combat global warming that was clearly identified at Paris Agreement. Accordingly, Viet Nam targets 2030 to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent compared to conventional development scenarios by domestic resources and could increase it to 25 percent with international support.

Over the years, with the valuable support from the international community, the Government and people of Viet Nam have made continuous efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters. To respond to the challenges of climate change, more than ever, we are facing the urgent need for capacity building, building resilience for the most vulnerable people and on the other hand, to actively contribute to reduce Greenhouse Gas emission by its co-benefits in Agriculture Sector, we need more advanced technologies to apply in large scale of CSA's Models towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. This brings us to the end of Item 9.

I have been informed by the Delegation of Viet Nam that the Head of the Delegation was unable to deliver the statement in Plenary this morning, and has requested that the text be included in the Verbatim Records of the meeting.

Before I close the meeting, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement.

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.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind delegates of the Special Event on “*Leaving No One Behind: Achieving Gender Equality for Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture*”, taking place during lunch time in this Plenary Hall from 12.30 to 14.30.

I also wish to inform Members that there will be no Plenary meeting this afternoon.

Finally, I wish to remind delegates of the “*FAO Awards Ceremony*” scheduled this afternoon from 18.00 to 19.30, will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre. The Awards Ceremony will be followed by a Reception on the terrace of Building B on the 8th floor.

CHAIRPERSON

Before closing our meeting, may I remind the seven members of the General Committee and the three Vice-Chairpersons, that the Third Meeting of the General Committee will take place at 14.30 hours this afternoon in the Iraq Room.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of the Fifth Plenary Meeting. We will reconvene in Plenary tomorrow morning at 09.30 sharp. I wish you all a pleasant afternoon.

The meeting rose at 11:51 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 51

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.51

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

6 July 2017

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 9.49 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 49
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 9.49
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

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

I also wish to inform that Israel has availed itself of the Right of Reply and yesterday submitted a statement which has been published on the FAO Conference webpage under item 9, *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*.

Furthermore, I wish to inform that a request has been received from the FAO Staff Bodies to deliver a statement to Conference. If the Conference is in agreement, I would propose that the statement be delivered under item 34, *Any Other Matters*, scheduled to be taken later this morning.

Do I take it that Conference is in agreement with this proposal?

Second Report of the Credentials Committee

Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales

(C 2017/LIM/24)

CHAIRPERSON

I now wish to invite Ms Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, to present the Second Report of the Credentials Committee.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held two meetings on 30 June and 3 July 2017.

As of today, 178 Members have submitted original credentials or information on the composition of their delegations. The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials or information on the composition of delegation, as contained in document C 2017/LIM/24, be accepted and recommended that all delegations be authorized to participate in the session.

The Second Report of the Credentials Committee is available as document C 2017/LIM/24. I would invite the Conference to approve the 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 members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out.

Second Report of the General Committee

Deuxième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence

Segundo informe del Comité General

(C 2017/LIM/23)

CHAIRPERSON

The General Committee met yesterday afternoon and prepared its Second Report containing proposals on the following items: Election of Council Members, Payment by the European Union to cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization, Voting Rights and Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee is set out in document C 2017/LIM/23.

I will now proceed to go through the report section by section, and will read the title of the first section – Section A: Election of Council Members.

I will ask the Legal Counsel to provide some information on this matter before we consider the Section. Mr Tavares you have the floor.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you recall, Mr Chairperson, at the General Committee, some discussion surrounded the question of whether Members nominated for seats of the Council and to be elected by the Conference tomorrow – could share mandates.

There are some doubts as to whether this is strictly in line with the Basic Texts which foresee only terms of office of three years. However, sharing of seats has now been done for a few years and to some extent this is becoming a practice. At the same time, this is primarily an issue for the Members and not for the Secretariat. This is a governance issue that reflects a desire on the part of the Members to be fully involved in the workings of the Council of the Organization.

After some discussion, it was proposed that all nominations be accepted as submitted. This is a pragmatic and practical solution that avoids divisive debates and disruption of the proceedings.

At the same time, it is proposed that in the course of the forthcoming biennium the matter be reviewed and, possibly, that rules regarding tenure in the Council be reconsidered.

In this spirit, I trust that the Conference will be able to accept the recommendation of the General Committee on this matter.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Are there any comments? If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section B: Payment by the European Union to cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization.

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

Section C: Voting Rights. If there are no comments I declare the section adopted.

Section D: Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. If there are no comments I declare the section adopted.

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

Thank you, the Second Report of the General Committee is adopted.

Item 25. Implementation of FAO Governance Reform Actions

Point 25. Mise en œuvre des actions relatives à la réforme de la gouvernance de la FAO

Tema 25. Aplicación de las medidas relativas a la reforma de la gobernanza de la FAO

(C 201/31 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We take up now item 25, *Implementation of FAO Governance Reform Actions*. Please ensure you have document C 2017/31 Rev.1 before you.

I now invite Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, to introduce the item.

Mr Wilfred NGIRWA (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I am deeply honoured to have been involved in the process of the reform of FAO since its beginning in 2007 until today which sees the report to the 40th Session of the Conference on the Implementation of FAO Governance Reform Actions, as requested by the 39th Session of the Conference in 2015.

The 39th Session of the Conference in June 2015 endorsed a set of actions under Resolution 7/2015, arising from the Assessment of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms. I am happy to report that this set of 12 recommendations, which you have before you in document C 2017/31 Rev.1, have all been implemented by the competent Governing Bodies of the Organization.

As requested by the 148th Session of the Council in December 2013, I held open-ended informal meetings with the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups over a period of more than one year in order to guide and facilitate the Independent Review process and to fulfil the oversight role assigned to me for

the entire review process, which culminated with the Report of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms.

Therefore, I wish to seize this opportunity to thank all actors involved from Members to Management and the Secretariat for their efforts and commitment to successfully meet these objectives and fulfil Members' desire for a renewal of FAO.

This is why I trust that the Conference will acknowledge the improved governance process which now prevails in the Organization, and endorse the document setting out the recommendations of actions taken.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I consider that the Conference approves the recommendations set out in document C 2017/31 Rev.1?

It is so decided. This concludes item 25.

Item 20. Biennial Theme 2018-19

Point 20. Thème biennal 2018-2019

Tema 20. Tema bienal para 2018-19

(C 201/35 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We take up now item 20, *Biennial Theme 2018-19*. Please ensure you have documents C 2017/35 Rev.1 before you.

I now invite Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy-Director General, Climate and Natural Resources, to introduce the item.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy-Director General, Climate and Natural Resources)

I am very pleased to introduce this important item.

In line with Recommendation ONE of the Assessment of FAO Governance Reform, the first ever Biennial Theme is proposed today for your approval. The Assessment requested that this theme be consistent with the scope of the approved Reviewed Strategic Framework and within the priorities identified by Governing Bodies for work within the PWB.

The 155th Session of the Council in December 2016 endorsed "*Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO*" as 2018-19 biennial theme.

The theme will enable FAO to critically review the linkages between the trends and challenges related to climate change, and FAOs ongoing and future work in this area vis-a-vis nutrition, food security, migration, oceans, fisheries, resilience, land use, sustainable management of forest and others, all linked to climate change.

FAO has a unique strength to address climate change adaptation and mitigation and the consultative process of developing and approving its Climate Change Strategy, involving the FAO Technical Committees, represents a benchmark success in this regard. Several important global developments have guided the selection of the Biennial Theme, such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, just to mention these two.

Hence, this biennial theme is very timely and will guide FAO and its Member Nations in the coming two years to take the necessary actions to revise and adapt policies, strategies, institutions and activities that are supporting the development and sustainability of food and agriculture systems in order to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change, and to the extent possible to contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

FAO, we consider, is fit for this purpose. Climate change has become a cross-cutting theme of FAO's Strategic Framework in 2016. In addition, FAO Governing Bodies approved, in 2016 the first ever

FAO Corporate Strategy on Climate Change and we witnessed the creation of a dedicated Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water.

Following the approval of the Biennial Theme by the 40th Session of the Conference, relevant Governing and Statutory Bodies of FAO will discuss in 2018 and 2019 items on climate change including the FAO Regional Conferences, the FAO Technical Committees and the 159th and 160th Sessions of the Council. In 2019, the 161st Session of the Council will draw conclusions from the 2018-2019 Biennial Theme which the 41st FAO Conference will consider. We have a two-year roadmap to discuss the theme and come to the next Conference with recommendations for your consideration and approval.

A Side event this afternoon will inform more detailed how FAO is partnering to scale up Climate Action in the Agriculture Sector. I hope you will be able to join us for discussions. In concluding, the Conference is requested to approve the proposed biennial theme and to mandate relevant Governing Bodies to include an item on “Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO” in their agendas for the coming biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there comments from Members?

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Côte d'Ivoire prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le «thème biennal» 2018-2019: *Le changement climatique et ses incidences sur les travaux et les activités de la FAO*, point 20 de l'ordre du jour.

Le choix du thème proposé est le fruit d'un examen mené au sein des organes directeurs durant l'exercice 2016-2017. Il a été adopté par le Conseil à sa 155^{ème} session (décembre 2016). Le Groupe régional Afrique se félicite du choix de ce thème, dont l'objectif est de lancer un examen critique des imbrications propres aux évolutions exogènes et défis liés au changement climatique, ainsi que de la multitude de travaux et activités menés par la FAO dans ce domaine, notamment en lien avec la nutrition, la sécurité alimentaire, les migrations, les océans, la pêche, la résilience, l'utilisation des terres, la gestion forestière, la réduction des risques de catastrophe et d'autres domaines.

Le Groupe régional Afrique considère qu'il faut accorder une attention particulière à cette thématique qui s'inscrit au cœur du mandat de la FAO. Il se félicite de la prise en compte par la FAO de ce défi en l'incluant dans les priorités de son Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2018-2019, au point 8.a) du document C 2017/3, présenté à la Conférence, et en créant une Direction générale dédiée à cette problématique dans sa contribution à la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Le Groupe Afrique note avec satisfaction que le Cadre stratégique de la FAO comprend un sixième objectif, *Qualité technique, statistiques et thèmes transversaux (changement climatique, parité hommes-femmes, gouvernance et nutrition)*, qui prend en compte le changement climatique dans l'exécution des programmes relatifs aux objectifs stratégiques.

En effet, les pays africains ne font pas partie des gros émetteurs, mais ils sont particulièrement touchés par le changement climatique.

En Afrique, les conséquences du changement se voient directement, notamment dans le secteur agricole. Les événements climatiques extrêmes sont de plus en plus violents et de plus en plus fréquents: les sécheresses, les inondations, les difficultés d'accès à l'eau, la désertification, l'érosion des sols, la perte de fertilité, l'érosion côtière, etc., ont des conséquences dramatiques pour les petits paysans et pêcheurs.

Comme on peut le constater, le changement climatique impacte le mode de vie des populations. Ses effets dévastateurs sur l'environnement, la sécurité alimentaire, la santé des populations, les activités économiques, la paix et la sécurité des États ne sont plus à démontrer.

D'après l'indice de vulnérabilité au changement climatique 2015, sept des dix pays les plus menacés par le changement climatique sont en Afrique. Par ailleurs, le continent enregistre trois sur les quatre

foyers de famine sévissant dans le monde et dont les causes peuvent être rattachées au changement climatique.

L'urgence de la question appelle donc une réponse collective et responsable de la communauté internationale.

À cet égard, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'adoption de l'Accord de Paris, et de l'initiative des «trois A», l'*Adaptation de l'agriculture africaine* (AAA), issue de la 22^{ème} Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP22, de Marrakech.

Le continent africain, déjà confronté aux effets néfastes du réchauffement climatique, salue la mise en place du Fonds vert pour le climat (FVC), et l'éligibilité de la FAO à ce fonds ainsi que les actions déjà entreprises par la FAO pour appuyer les États dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de leurs politiques d'adaptation au changement climatique.

Le Groupe régional Afrique, tout en saluant d'une part l'adoption à la 156^{ème} session du Conseil, en avril 2017, de la Stratégie de la FAO en ce qui concerne les activités de l'Organisation relatives au changement climatique, et d'autre part le Programme d'action mondial pour aider les petits États insulaires en développement à relever les défis liés à la nutrition et au changement climatique, lancé au cours de la présente Conférence, le 4 juillet 2017, recommande qu'un accent particulier soit mis sur le renforcement des capacités pour améliorer la résilience, anticiper et prévenir les catastrophes.

Il encourage aussi l'Organisation à soutenir la coopération entre États en vue de partager les expériences et acquis en matière d'adaptation au changement climatique.

Monsieur le Président, avec ces quelques remarques, le Groupe régional Afrique approuve le thème biennal proposé.

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

Brazil has provided extensive comments on the Climate Change Strategy during the sessions of the technical committees last year and we expect that they can also be useful during its implementation. We fully support the proposal of working in the next biennium.

We believe that it is important to provide a forum in order to exchange views and possibly engage Member States in the implementation task. Since it might imply governmental collaboration in the provision of national data, information, and methodologies with regard to the climate change.

We are in agreement with the proposal. We believe it is important to keep us updated on the progress made in the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy and we would like to have Member States fully engaged in the work in the next biennium.

Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)

It would have been remiss of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Caribbean, not to have commented on this particular issue.

Particularly in regard to the fact that the GAP Project was launched two days ago. We see the theme on climate change for the next biennium as entirely supportive of the issues and the challenges facing SIDS, not only in the Caribbean but elsewhere in the planet. And accordingly, we are unhesitatingly supportive of this endeavour to designate climate change as the biannual theme for 2018-2019.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

I make this statement on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement.

We fully endorse the approved proposal for the 2018-2019 biennial theme, “*Climate change and its impact on the work and the initiatives of FAO*”. We welcome the emphasis on climate change and agriculture within the FAO Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, particularly to support Member Countries to swiftly and fully implement the Paris Agreement.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is increasingly central to FAO's work in all areas of its mandate. The development and adoption on the strategy for FAO's work on climate change is an opportunity to strengthen the Organization's comparative advantage in this area. With a goal of becoming a major global player in addressing links between agriculture and climate change to be able to provide appropriate technical advice to countries in need.

We encourage FAO to take full advantage of the launch of the strategy, also to enhance cooperation with the other Rome-based Agencies, including through the Committee for Food Security.

Food and agriculture indeed lay at the intersection of the many fold social, economic, environmental fate, and demographic challenges that impact on and are impacted by climate change as evidenced also by the inclusion of agriculture in the large majority of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) mitigation and adaptation plans.

It is precisely in its support to LDCs that FAO's role is invaluable and we are fully committed to cooperating with FAO on this and over. We should more ever progress in the overarching framework set by the 2030 Agenda, thus effectively working on the organic links between SDGs 13 and the other SDGs.

We should also keep supporting and encouraging the various initiatives launched in Paris and then Marrakesh for the food and agriculture sector to tackle climate change challenges, namely the 4 per 1000, Soils for Food Security and Climate Initiative, the Safe Food Initiative, the Life Beef Carbon Initiative, the Blue Growth Initiative, the FAO Programme Coping with Water Scarcity in Agriculture, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and Adaptation for African Agriculture Initiative.

Standing at the forefront of international efforts on climate change, the EU and its Member States are already taking steps to implement the Paris Agreement target to reduce emissions by at least 20 percent by 2030, with agriculture playing a key role in this effect.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the mainstreaming of climate change in FAO's activities through its inclusion in the six objectives of the Organization's Strategic Framework. We also welcome the increased priority given to climate change in the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 and the additional USD 3.7 million allocated to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including support to countries to access climate, finance, and the small island developing states.

We look forward to regular updates on the results achieved towards the outcomes and goals agreed in this strategy and Programme of Work. We encourage FAO to continue with international development finance institutions and in this regard, we wish to encourage FAO to make substantive efforts to help countries develop proposals to the Green Climate Fund.

We also underline the added value of effective collaboration with other multilateral agencies in this and over, in particular with the other Rome-based Agencies.

Mr Noah Patrick KOUBACK (Vanuatu)

I would like to commence by commending the work of FAO to initiate this very important work programme and the delegation of Vanuatu just wanted to echo the same sentiment like Trinidad and Tobago.

Climate change is one of our most urgent issues that needs to be addressed within the international community and we would like to echo the fact that linking climate change with food security is a very important issue and just a few days ago, SIDS have initiated and launched this Global Action Programme (GAP). Now the work is needed to be done and we wanted to see that implementation of this GAP needs to be effectively implemented within the activities and duties of the FAO.

The other point I wanted to raise is that even though we have these initiatives, we need to have enough financial commitments to ensure that these initiatives are implemented in a manner where all of our constituencies back in our communities and countries will benefit at the end of the day. And lastly with respect to the Mid -Term Review of these kinds of activities.

I think it is vital to have this initiative reviewed in two years or three years' time.

Mr Jianmin XIE (China) (Original language Chinese)

China thanks the Secretariat for having proposed the document and thanks the Deputy Director-General for his presentation. Generally speaking, we agree with the document.

However, we have a proposal to paragraph 8 of the Document. Proposal on themes that could be undertaken in 2018-2019. Sub-paragraph 1.b “*partnership*” because China believes that partnership in all directions and inclusive partnership will enable synergies to help confront climate change.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Could I respectfully ask China to repeat the proposal because I heard 1.b at least in English translation and I am not quite sure what it would come about in the document with your indulgence?

Mr Jianmin XIE (China) (Original language Chinese)

Under paragraph 8, *Proposal for topics which may be considered for discussion in 2018-19*, we propose adding the issue “*partnership*” to both sub-paragraphs “a” and “b”.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chair is pleased to acknowledge the endorsements and manifestations of support from Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Estonia, Vanuatu, and China. Can I consider that the Conference approves the recommendations set out in document C 2017/35 Rev. 1 with consideration to the recommendations of China? This concludes Item 20.

Item 29. Audited Accounts 2014 and 2015 (Draft Resolutions)

Point 29. Comptes vérifiés 2014–2015 (projets de résolution)

Tema 29. Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2014 y 2015 (proyectos de resolución)

(C 2017/5 A; C 2017/5 B; C 2017/6 A; C 2017/6 B; C 2017/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Our next item on the agenda is Item 29, *Audited Accounts 2014 and 2015*. Please ensure you have the relevant documents before you: C 2017/5 A; C 2017/5 B; C 2017/6 A; C 2017/6 B; C 2017/LIM/3.

I invite Mr Laurent Thomas, Deputy Director-General Operations, to introduce the item.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

I am pleased to introduce the Item 29, *Audited FAO Accounts for the years 2014 and 2015*.

The document C 2017/5 Part A and C 2017/6 Part A contains the official financial statements of the Organization for the years 2014 and 2015. These together with the opinion of the External Auditor on the financial statements.

Part B of the document presents a report of the External Auditor for each year, typically referred to as the long form report.

As in previous years, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2014 and 2015 Financial Statements of the Organization. The results and official accounts of 2014 were examined by the Finance Committee (FC) at its 160th Session from 2 to 6 November 2015, and by the Council at its 153rd Session from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

The results and official accounts of 2015, were examined by the FC at its 164th Session from 7 to 11 November 2016 and by the Council at its 155th Session from 5 to 9 December 2016.

The Audited Accounts of 2014 and 2015, are now before you for adoption, by approval of the Draft Resolution submitted by Council in document C 2017/LIM/3.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

The UK welcomes the Reports of the External Auditor for 2014 and 2015 that are included in the Audited Accounts.

We have looked at the recommendations the External Auditor has made. I would like to recall the request made in December's Council Meeting, for FAO Management, to track the implementation of External Audit Recommendations as a key performance indicator for FAO's Functional Objective 10 on oversight, governance, and direction.

We, call on FAO to track progress with both internal and external audit recommendations within its Strategic Results Framework.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of External Audit Recommendations that are of particular priority to the United Kingdom.

Firstly, I will turn to recommendations 20 and 21 in the 2015 External Audit Report.

These encourage FAO to improve fraud risk management. We call on FAO to prioritize action to address these recommendations.

Secondly, I turn to Recommendation 16 in the 2015 Report. This encourages FAO to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of staff travel. We urge FAO to address this recommendation and to ensure that travel costs are closely and transparently monitored.

Finally, I would like to turn to the recommendations made to improve FAO's Human Resources Management in both the 2014 and the 2015 reports. Again, we urge FAO to address these recommendations.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial, Angola y Madagascar hacen esta intervención en nombre de los países del Grupo Africano, los cuales felicitan al Señor Laurent Thomas por su excelente y brillante presentación de su estado de las cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondiente a los años 2014 y 2015, respectivamente.

El Grupo Africano felicita al Director General de la FAO y su *staff* por haber preparado este estado de cuentas siguiendo las normas internacionales de contabilidad para el sector público y las normas y reglamentos financieros de la FAO, lo que ha facilitado la implementación de la política de rendición de cuentas y la introducción del marco de control interno de la FAO. En este contexto, la FAO refuerza su compromiso de seguir protegiendo los fondos que sus Estados Miembros le confían para cumplir sus metas y objetivos.

Agradecemos a la FAO por la adopción de las normas internacionales de contabilidad porque se observa que ya está poniendo de manifiesto la mejora en la calidad, la posibilidad de comparación y credibilidad de los informes financieros de la Organización, al igual que ha conseguido una mayor armonización en la presentación de los estados financieros entre los organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas y la mejora considerable en la posibilidad de comprobar los estados financieros con otra Organizaciones Internacionales y los gobiernos nacionales.

El Grupo Africano se muestra satisfecho por los procesos de control interno y rendición de cuentas que se está llevando a cabo continuamente en todos los niveles de la FAO, lo que facilita una mejor transparencia.

No obstante, el Grupo Africano quiere exhortar a la FAO que continúe velando por el cumplimiento de los mecanismos de respuesta de fraude en las oficinas de los países, para que dichas oficinas prosigan con la actualización de sus planes de control de fraude y otras políticas corruptas con el propósito de garantizar una visión más completa de los acontecimientos que puedan influir en el nivel de riesgo.

Con esos comentarios, el Grupo Africano apoya la aprobación del proyecto de resolución que corresponde a este tema.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

Thank you, United Kingdom and Equatorial Guinea for giving me the opportunity to briefly present and highlight actions taken to ensure that we continue to pursue the highest efficiency in the administration of the resources entrusted to the Organization.

This is what good operations are about.

Firstly, it is important to be precise, United Kingdom, indeed proposed at the Council at the statutes, the state of implementation and creation of audit recommendations be part of the key performance indicators under functional objective 10. I am pleased to confirm that indeed, the Secretariat will follow this recommendation and this will be part of the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 that will be presented to the Council in the audit 2017.

There will be key performance indicators (KPIs) on the implementation of Audit Recommendations. This will be part of the KPIs for Functional Objective 10.

Secondly, regarding the wish of the Secretariat to continue to build and strengthen the robust system of internal controls and risk management. Many actions have been taken in this regard. We have a risk management framework put in place as well as an accountability policy developed and published in 2015. In addition, we have a strong policy against fraud and other corrupt practices.

In fact, the Director-General appointed the Deputy Director-General Operations, to be in charge of the implementation of this policy.

There is a zero tolerance policy towards fraud and corrupt practices. We are monitoring this closely, communicating with staff in all locations and ensuring that relevant training is undertaken, so there is no wavering on this important aspect of the Internal Control Framework.

Thirdly, we have a stronger Internal Control Framework being developed each month. This should be culminated by the Director-General together with the Financial Statement for the year 2017 of an Internal Control Statement at the end of the first quarter 2018, when we submit the Financial Accounts for 2017.

To conclude, the last point raised by the United Kingdom "*the need to continue to work on the control and the containment of the cost and work on cost efficiencies regarding travel*", I wish to remind the Members of the Conference that FAO has been working on this matter since 2012.

In fact, the change of travel policy with the threshold of the number of hours for travel in business class moved from nine to twelve hours. This was implemented in 2014. This continued to generate savings of more than USD 1 million per year.

We also have a Preferred Hotel Programme (PHP) that continues to generate savings of more than USD 650 000 per year. We are engaging in a much stronger monitoring of the travel, particularly the local travel, and we believe that we will have further savings. So, I can reassure Members of the Conference that we will pursue intensifying the efforts to find savings on all areas for cost effective management of the operation of the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any other comments on this matter? There is none. Do I take it that the Conference approves the Audited Accounts for 2014 and 2015? It is so decided. This concludes Item 29.

Item 30. Scale of Contributions 2018-19 (Draft Resolution)

Point 30. Barème des contributions 2018–2019 (projet de résolution)

Tema 30. Escala de cuotas para 2018-19 (proyecto de resolución)

(C 2017/INF/7; C 2017/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Thomas will remain with us for the next item, which is item 30, *Scale of Contributions 2018-19*. The relevant documents are C 2017/INF/7 and C 2017/LIM/6.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO scale of contributions for the years 2018-2019. This has been derived from the United Nations scales of assessment enforced during 2017. The 2016-2017 scale is also shown for comparison purposes.

The proposed 2018-2019 scale of contributions was reviewed by the Finance Committee at its 166th Session in March 2017 and by the Council at its 156th Session in April 2017. The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council on the scale of contributions for 2018-19 as presented in Document C 2017/LIM/6.

M. Fernando Pedro MARQUES (Angola)

Cette intervention, relative au barème des contributions, est effectuée au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Nous pensons que celui-ci est conforme à la norme des Nations Unies. En termes généraux, il n'y a pas de grandes modifications à y apporter. C'est pourquoi le Groupe Afrique ne voit pas d'inconvénient à soutenir l'approbation du document.

Mr Mesah TARIGAN (Indonesia)

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia is ready to fulfil its contribution obligation in accordance with the scale of contributions 2018-2019.

We are aware that the new and pressing challenges faced by FAO Member Countries will require more resources. Based on this new scale of contributions, many developing countries, including Indonesia, will be subject to significant increase in their contribution to FAO. In our case, Indonesia contribution will increase from 0.346 in 2016-2017 to 0.504 for the next two years. This represents an increase of more than USD 1.0 million or 46 percent for the next biennium.

We have high expectations for the Organization to follow this increase in contributions to increase the TCP for the next biennium, particularly in following countries. This commitment we believe will inevitably lead to the fulfilment of FAO mandates themselves.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chair recognizes the comments made by Angola and Indonesia. Are there any other comments? There is none. Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the resolution concerning the scale of contributions for 2018-2019 set out in Document C 2017? The Chair recognizes China.

Mr Jianmin XIE (China) (Original language Chinese)

I was a bit late in putting up my plate. China would like to thank the Secretary for its document. Also, we would like to thank Mr Laurent Thomas, the Deputy Director-General for his introduction.

We support 2018-2019 scale of contributions. However, we have the following three comments to make. First, this scale of contributions for different countries the adjustment range has been very different especially the scale of contributions by the development countries have increased while that of the developed countries has dropped. Therefore, we hope FAO will give more attention to the interest and demands of the developing countries.

Second point, for China, our scale of contribution has increased from 5.149 to 7.922 percent, an increase of about 54 percent compared with last biennium. This range of increase and the increase of contributions on the one hand shows China's commitment and its obligations to the international community. China will continue to pay up its contributions in full and in time.

On the other hand, we hope FAO will regard China's proposals especially concerning the South-South cooperation and also in helping other developing countries in capacity building and agriculture development render more support.

Third, China hopes that other countries especially the developed countries will not reduce their support to FAO due to the less contributions made by them as appealed by the Director-General the capital severance can be used as extra budgetary funds to support FAO in its most noble cause in service of mankind.

China especially welcomes developed countries to join us in the South-South cooperation and we look forward to entering to the South-South or Triangular cooperation and other forms of cooperation for the benefit of other developing countries.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

I think we have taken note of the comments and we will make sure that we act accordingly. We are continuing to pay the highest attention to the South-South cooperation. This is an area where we believe we can make a big difference in achieving the results of the Strategic Framework and ultimately to deliver on the Agenda 2030. We intend to scale-up further the South-South cooperation, and in this regard, the contribution of China as one of the lead countries to support this programme is much appreciated.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the resolution concerning the scale of contributions for 2018-19 set out in document C 2017/LIM/6?

It is so decided and item 30 is closed.

Item 31. Payment by the European Union to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization

Point 31. Paiement par l'Union européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation

Tema 31. Pago de la Unión Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización

(C 2017/LIM/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 31, *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, which we have just adopted has dealt with this matter, I propose that we move on to item 32.

Item 32. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

Point 32. Autres questions administratives et financières

Tema 32. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

(C 2017/LIM/19)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 32 covers *Other Administrative and Financial Matters*.

As agreed by the Conference when it adopted the First Report of the General Committee on Monday, we will now consider the Commissary Accounts – Staff Welfare Fund.

I would like to give the floor to Mr Laurent Thomas to introduce the matter as contained in document C 2017/LIM/19.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

It is my pleasure to introduce this document C 2017/LIM/19 presented under agenda item 32.

Following a special review by the Office of the Inspector-General, with the report issued at the end of 2016, the Corporate Services Department, under my oversight, undertook a detailed examination of the Commissary. We examined all aspects concerning the management starting from the mission of this Commissary that was established in 1952. During this process, the issue of the funding mechanism of the Staff Welfare Fund was examined.

In accordance with resolutions of the Conference, the Staff Welfare Fund is currently financed by Commissary profits, after reserves are replenished and as approved by the Director-General. This was proposed and endorsed by Conference Resolution 69/53; it is also funded by one percent of the total yearly sales of the Commissary as supported by Conference Resolution 18/93.

This funding scheme, based on one percent of total yearly sales, was put in place in 1993, when the Commissary had a very different financial situation than the one we have today. With the cessation of

the sale of petrol coupons in 2013, the ban on tobacco products in the WFP Commissary outlet in 2015 and now in FAO this year, as announced by Management at the *World No Tobacco Day* on 31 May, the overall volume of sales of the Commissary significantly diminished, as did the profits, and this trend will continue.

The Commissary is expected to function autonomously financially at no cost to the Organization. The automatic payment of one percent of the annual sales of the Commissary, regardless of the actual profit level, exposes the Commissary and the Organization to a financial risk. The principles of good management of the resources entrusted to FAO call for a change to this resolution. Already, in 2014, the Commissary ended the year with a net loss of nearly EUR 40 000 after the one percent deduction of gross sales revenue to the Staff Welfare Fund, although the operational income was positive.

At this point in time, there are two main issues regarding the Commissary. Firstly, to address as a matter of priority the current exposure of the Commissary, and as a result the Organization, to potential financial risks by proceeding with the modification of the funding mechanism of the Staff Welfare Fund defined in Conference Resolution 18/93;

Secondly, for Management, to ensure the financial sustainability of the Commissary over time and, for this, a new business model is being discussed internally by Management and with relevant Italian authorities. We hope to put in place this new model very rapidly.

The proposed revision of Conference Resolution 18/93 was supported by the Finance Committee at its 167th Session and presented by the Secretariat at an informal consultation convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council with Chairpersons of Regional Groups prior to the Conference. It aims to modify the funding mechanism of the Staff Welfare Fund, whereby part of the annual net profits of the Commissary would be provided to the Staff Welfare Fund as good management practice in the interest of the financial health of the Organization, and also to help safeguard the sustainability of the Commissary. This revision now requires the approval of Conference as previous resolutions were approved by the Conference. The Secretariat is therefore submitting this draft resolution for your review and endorsement.

Together with my colleagues of the Secretariat, I would be pleased to answer any queries Members of the Conference may have on this proposed draft resolution as presented in document C 2017/LIM/19.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

Egypt as a Member of the Finance Committee reaffirms its endorsement of the proposed Conference Resolution.

We encourage FAO Management to review the business model of the Commissary with the objective of maintaining it and supporting it through a financially sustainable funding mechanism. In the meantime, we continue to call on FAO to identify ways to support the Staff Welfare Fund to enable it to continue delivering its functions and objectives.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no other comments can I take it that the Conference wishes to approve the draft resolution on the Commissary Accounts – Staff Welfare Fund?

Thank you, it is so decided.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give a brief report on documentation for this Session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the 40th Session of the Conference 46 main documents have been issued, including some web annexes and supplementary documents: 28 documents were published on the Conference Webpage more than two months ahead of the beginning of the session and a total of 45 documents were online by the publication deadline of 22 May 2017. The last main document was issued two weeks and a half before the start of the session.

CHAIRPERSON

Do any delegate wishes to comment on the information provided by the Secretary-General?

Item 8. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

Point 8. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel

Tema 8. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(C 2017/10 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with item 8, *Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*. The relevant document is C 2017/10 Rev.1.

I will now pass the floor to Mr Fernando Servan, Deputy Director of the Office of Human Resources, to inform the Conference of the candidatures. Mr Servan, you have the floor.

Mr Fernando SERVAN (Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources)

Mr Chairperson, the Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the Staff Pension Committee:

Mr Anton Minaev, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO, to replace and complete the term of Mr Bah Konipo, to serve as Member, whose term of office ends on 31 December 2019.

Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed Daak, Agricultural Adviser of the Republic of the Sudan to the UN Agencies in Rome to replace and complete the term of Ms Abla Malik Osman Malik, to serve as Member, whose term of office ends on 31 December 2018.

Mr Antonio Ricarte, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO, to serve as Member from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

Mr Vlad Mustaciu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania, to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

Ms Alice Gisèle Sidibe-Anago, Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to FAO, to serve as Member from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.

Mr Shahin Ghorashizadeh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO, to serve as Alternate Member from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.

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 the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Can I take it that the Conference has no objection to the list of candidates that has just been read out?

It is so decided. That completes item 8.

Item 34. Any Other Matters**Point 34. Autres questions****Tema 34. Asuntos varios*****Item 34.2 Review of FAO Awards Ceremony******Point 34.2 Examen de la cérémonie de remise des prix décernés par la FAO******Tema 34.2 Examen de la ceremonia de entrega de premios de la FAO******(C 2017/34)*****CHAIRPERSON**

We take up now item 34.2, *Review of FAO Awards Ceremony*. Please ensure you have document C 2017/34 before you.

I now invite Mr Enrique Yeyes, Director, Office for Corporate Communication, to introduce the item.

Mr Enrique YEYES (Director, Office for Corporate Communication)

As requested by the 38th Session of the Conference, we are presenting an update on the FAO Awards ceremony in the document “*Review of FAO Awards Ceremony*” following the first edition of the event held in November 2015.

FAO’s recommendation is to continue with this new arrangement. The decision to establish the FAO Awards ceremony as a stand-alone event, independent of the Conference agenda was to: give greater public visibility of the Awards and Awardees; increase the time available during Conference sessions to focus on substantial agenda items; streamline selection processes and timelines; and take advantage of synergies with an existing FAO event to increase international media attention of the Awards.

The first edition of the “The FAO Awards” ceremony was held on 30 November 2015 on the margins of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council. Promotional activities gave greater visibility to the awards and awardees and resulted in an overall increase in the number of candidates. Incidentally, yesterday evening, we held another successful edition of the FAO Awards Ceremony as a side event during the FAO Conference which many of you attended.

Selection processes and time lines for the awards have been effectively streamlined. Now the four awards are coordinated by OCC and the selection processes coincide. No substantial increase in cost as the ceremony has been held on the margins of another FAO event, therefore limited expenses for increasing visibility. For future editions of “The FAO Awards” ceremony, the Organization aims to take advantage of synergies with existing FAO events and to build on their media appeal and audience. In conclusion, we recommend to continue with this new arrangement.

Mr A. Haruna-Rashid KROMAH (Liberia)

Liberia is honoured to make this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group on Agenda Item 34.2, *Review of the FAO Award Ceremony* as contained in Conference document C 2017/34.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the decision to maintain the FAO Award Ceremony as a standalone event, thereby not including them as a standing item on the Agenda of the Conference session.

We are of the view that such an event, which prioritizes the acknowledgment of diligent work and outstanding contributions by various actors in the area of world food security, is commendable. We note that the stated aim of making this event a standalone is to ensure greater visibility to issues relating to the global mission of ensuring food security.

Placing the spotlight on those going the extra mile to play a significant role in this work is definitely one of the ways to achieve this aim. Further, events such as these enable the Organization to give due reward and credit to those who deserve it and by the same token, encourage other actors in the field to do better in their respective fields.

In particular, the categories that award governments who proactively support the food security organizations and mainstream it in their national development plans should be a beacon for all of us to

encourage our governments to play a more proactive role. These awards are indeed to be viewed in a positive light in co-work which the United Nations Rome-based Agencies are rallying behind, which include global food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

In this breadth, the Africa Regional Group endorses the decision to maintain the FAO Award Ceremony as a standalone event, thereby not including them as a standing Item on the Agenda of the Conference Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I consider that the Conference approves the recommendations set out in document C 2017/34?

It is so decided. This concludes item 34.2.

Item 34.3 In Memoriam

Point 34.3 In Memoriam

Tema 34.3 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 a minute of silence?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the last session of Conference, the following staff members died while in service: Mr Marc Antoine Petit-Frere, Mr Ronn Sann, Ms Carine Fabienne Coll, Mr Pierre Jean Laurent Lagoda, Mr Sergio Perciballi, Mr Edmundo Gudkor Zuleta Sarabia, Ms Angela Kim Alleyne, Mr Mohammad Tahir, Mr Mohammad Younus, Mr Jemal Mchedlishvili, Mr Boubker Essafi.

CHAIRPERSON

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 2015?

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

CHAIRPERSON

Under the item “Any Other Matters” delegates are also offered the opportunity to speak on an information document: Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Director-General (C 2017/INF/4).

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this document?

There are none. With this we will close item 34.

Item 33. Date and Place of the 41st Session of the Conference

Point 33. Date et lieu de la quarante et unième session de la Conférence

Tema 33. Fecha y lugar del 41.^º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the last item on our Agenda for today, item 33, *Date and Place of the 41st Session of the Conference*, which requires the Conference to set dates for its next 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 Saturday 22 June to Saturday 29 June 2019.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

We would like clarification on the dates. At the moment, we are doing from Monday to Saturday so why are we going back to doing Saturday to Saturday?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I was saying the answer is relatively simple. At the next Conference, we will have an election to the position of the Director-General of the Organization and this in itself takes a significant amount of time. So based on past experience, we need to return to a seven day Conference with such an event during the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

To clarify that, the proposed dates for the next Session of the Conference are 22 to 29 June 2019 here in Rome.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

So we would like then to clarify that, perhaps, somewhere it should be noted that this just for the purposes of a Conference in which there is an election for a Director-General as last time at the previous Conference, we agreed to have a six day Conference only. So we would appreciate if it could be noted that this is just for the purposes of a Conference, in which an election of the Director-General will be taking place.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Australia, your intervention is right on point because when the proposal was made to reduce the length of Conferences, it was clarified that this would apply except in years where we have an election to the post of the Director-General. So this is understood.

CHAIRPERSON

Does the Conference agree to the proposal to hold the 41st Session of the FAO Conference from Saturday 22 June to Saturday 29 June 2019?

It is so decided.

Item 34.4 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies**Point 34.4 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO****Tema 34.4 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO****CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, as agreed at the start of our meeting, we shall now listen to an address by Mr Roberto Bonafede, Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies.

Mr Roberto Bonafede, Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies

In opening we would like to thank the Director-General and the Conference itself for giving the Staff Representative Bodies (SRBs) the opportunity to address you. It is an honour for us to regularly speak before the Governing Bodies and share with you the opinions and concerns of the staff we represent.

In so doing, we constantly strive to make a constructive contribution for the benefit of the Organizations as a whole which inevitably calls for the recognition of the values and commitments of its dedicated employees.

On this occasion, we do not want to recite lengthy staff-specific issues which are of concern to staff. We have already drawn most of this to your attention in our statements to recent Council Sessions. Considering the fact that the Conference is the supreme Governing Body of the Organization that only meets every other year and that the Members that are represented here are at the highest political level, this time we wish to focus on matters of a more general and strategic importance.

Therefore let us get straight to the point.

Unlike what happens in other sister organizations, staff-management relations in FAO remain very poor. Nowadays, consultation with staff bodies is essentially formal with little consideration for the crucial mandate they have of liaising between staff and management to safeguard staff interests and needs as regards their terms of employment and welfare.

A role, let us not forget that the Organization acknowledged a long time ago by subscribing with the staff bodies their respective recognition agreements, and respected until a few years back by adhering to their provisions. Little consideration is demonstrated by management both from a formal and substantive level. On a formal level, while we stand in the regular meetings with staff bodies, management frequently fails to respond to the queries or requests we address to them.

Moreover, management often hampers consultation with the SRBs by withholding information and data that are essential to facilitate open, evidence-based discussion and frequently provides one-sided information on matters discussed with the staff representative bodies.

On a substantive level, it is disappointing to note that very often, management disregards the staff bodies' points of view and rejects our suggestions or considers them to such a limited extent that it does not improve the proposals.

Furthermore, as of late, management has launched initiatives aimed at excluding the staff representative bodies and the representatives of the entire staff from established internal committees that deal with a variety of topics of extreme relevance to staff, rendering such committees inoperative simply bypassing them or even unilaterally abolishing them without prior discussion with any of the stakeholders.

We may cite, in this respect, the proposal to remove AP-in-FAO, UGSS and FFOA from the Joint Advisory Committee on Medical Coverage or the unilateral decision to abolish the joint commissary committee. The staff representative bodies feel that these actions mark the current trend to fully centralize management positions.

Management would have us believe that the main objective of these measures is to contain cost. It should be recalled however that although the Organization's budget has experienced a steady reduction in real—and sometimes even nominal—terms, since 1996, the framework of fora for consultation and decision making has continued to be fully operational. Furthermore, management has taken numerous administrative actions that unnecessarily worsens staff working conditions and work/life balance with no evident financial benefit, such as the decisions to curtail teleworking, make more difficult to obtain Special Leave Without Pay, or deny compensatory time off for staff obliged to work on official holidays.

All of this makes staff feel like there is a basic distrust of staff at all levels, including line managers, on the part of senior management. Every situation that may warrant action should be dealt with individually and supervisors and managers should have the necessary competencies and tools to ensure that the staff deliver to the best of their ability.

Staff is certainly willing to collaborate with management to identify cost containment opportunities, demonstrating our continued support to the FAO mission. However, we cannot agree with actions that are unproductively erode working conditions, work and work-life balance and do not promote professionalism and merit. In other words, we cannot agree with actions that impact negatively on self-motivation and productivity, as well as on the pride they take in working for this Organization.

The Staff Representative Bodies are fully aware of the financial constraint under which the Organization is required to operate in a difficult political, economic, and global context which affects everybody. We also are very concerned by the further significant budget cuts, which have been recently seen announced in the media.

Indeed, it is in this critical circumstances where we believe we can offer management our professional support to identify workable solutions, which would enable the Organizations to achieve its savings targets, limiting at the same time disruption to conditions of employment to the maximum possible extent.

We are confident that management will not miss this important opportunity for dialog with the Staff Representative Bodies.

We would like to stress that our concern is not motivated by self-serving considerations. Naturally, we are worried about the gradual erosion of the condition of service but believe us when we say that we are also deeply genuinely concerned about the effects that the current management style may have on the Organization, on its technical capacity unless it is resolved in the long run.

FAO is a knowledge based organization and staff are naturally its main assets. But staff by and large are often penalized by general measures taken in rushed attempts to resolve potential or individual issues instead of being considered as a resource to assist in targeting the actual problem in a consultative manner.

We strongly emphasize the centralized decisions without regard for specific cases as a trend that has a negative impact on staff and as such should be of concern to FAO Membership. As previously stated, FAO is profoundly committed to the Organization's mission and dedicated to their work. We are confident that anybody who had the chance to interact with FAO staff, would assure you that this is the case.

However, a motivated workforce and a peaceful, harmonious work environment are essential to ensuring the long-term effectiveness of any organization, but right now staff morale and motivation are at an all-time low.

Job satisfaction is not only linked to salaries and benefits. There are many other factors, some of them intangible, which are equally if not more important in a sense. We repeatedly signal this worsening situation to the Council in the hope that as key stakeholders of this Organization, Member Countries might encourage Senior Management to proceed in the right direction. We know that many of you understand our concerns and the importance of the issues we usually raise.

For years we have struggled to maintain a fruitful collaboration with Management. We have expressed our desire to engage openly, seriously and honestly with them to try to improve the conditions to the benefit of the Organization itself and most importantly, its beneficiaries worldwide with disappointing results. We have made it clear that we will always favour dialogue and the search for common ground over a confrontational approach even though as time went by we were forced to acknowledge that this attitude was proven to be less and less effective.

Recently, management has reacted positively to the public expression of our dissatisfaction shared with our Members and with FAO Staff at large. Management has in fact assured that they will positively consider some of our requests and would be willing to discuss other issues of importance with the staff bodies. However, we have previously received similar assurances prior to important governing bodies' meetings which did not finally materialize.

Nonetheless, with a full sense of responsibility and in the interest of the staff we represent, we welcome these developments and look forward to them coming to fruition when the Conference is over. To conclude, we are ready once again to give Senior Management the benefit of the doubt and carry on consultations and try to find agreement in a cordial manner.

As we know, this is a common practice in many other sister agencies, which means it should be possible for FAO if there were the will to do it. We pragmatically welcome management's recent offer to open a frank, transparent and productive discussion. We have been expecting this positive development for a long time and therefore we expect concrete results in a reasonable timeframe.

Applause
Applaudissement
Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

We have come to the end of our work for this morning. Ladies and Gentlemen, please note there is no plenary meeting this afternoon.

I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

If your country has not yet registered its participation at the 157th Session of the Council taking place on Monday 10 July 2017, you are kindly requested to do so as soon as possible by using the online registration system available on the Notice Board page of the FAO Members Gateway.

I wish to inform the members of the Drafting Committee of Commission I that the second meeting of the committee will convene at 14.30 in the Mexico Room. The Drafting Committee of Commission II finished its work yesterday evening. The Adoption of the Reports of Commission I and II will take place on Friday morning in Plenary.

I now wish to remind delegates of the side events taking place today.

There are a total of eight side events taking place this afternoon, including two side events taking place during lunch time: the side event on *“Looking for Sustainable Solutions to Fight Famine in Conflict Situations”* from 12.30 to 14.00 in the Iraq Room; and the side event on *“Launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Interagency Umbrella”* from 12.30 to 14.00 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

The full list of the side events for today is available on the Conference webpage.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. I look forward to seeing you here at 09.30 hours tomorrow.

With this I close the Sixth Plenary Meeting and wish you all a pleasant afternoon.

The meeting rose at 11:28 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 28

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.28

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 July 2017

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima reunión a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Item 24 (part of) Point 24 (partiel)	Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2018-19 Adoption du projet de résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2018-2019 (vote)
Tema 24 (en parte)	Aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2018-19 (votación)

CHAIRPERSON

I declare open the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the FAO Conference. Before starting our work, I would like to propose that this assembly adopt the draft Report of Commission I as Commission I; thereafter, as Commission II, adopt the draft Report of Commission II. Secondly, I suggest that the Plenary reconvene this afternoon to proceed with the adoption of the final reports of Commission I, Commission II and Plenary. Are there any objections to this proposal?⁴

CHAIRPERSON

Before we proceed with the items on our agenda for this morning, I wish to inform the Conference that since the report of the Credentials Committee was presented to Conference yesterday morning, Uzbekistan has registered and presented valid credentials. This will be reflected in document C 2017/LIM/24 Rev.1.

We will now proceed to the adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2018-19. 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 2017/II/DRAFT REPORT under item 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. 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. In order to establish the 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? I will now close the voting system.

CHAIRPERSON

As we can see on the screen, there are at least 141 delegations present in the plenary hall.

We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution set out in document C 2017/II/DRAFT REPORT under item 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.

I repeat, green to vote in favour, red to vote against, and yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

⁴ [See documents C 2017/I/PV and C 2017/II/PV]

CHAIRPERSON

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 Conference.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As you can see on the screen, we have 142 votes for, zero votes against and zero abstentions. We have a total votes cast of 142.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much and congratulations. The Conference has thus adopted the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2018-2019.

Is there anybody on the floor who would like to make any comment? If there is none, the Resolution is adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

There are concerns raised by two countries that their names were not recorded even after they had voted. I would like to refer back to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have been informed by Qatar and Burkina Faso that they wanted to have their vote registered in support of the Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations, so the final count will be 144 and not 142.⁵

⁵ [Result sheet on following page already amended accordingly]



07/07/2017 10:16:10 AM

Vote on: Item 24: (part of) Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2018-19
 Vote sur: Point 24: (partiel) Adoption du projet de résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires 2018-2019
 Votación para: Tema 24: (en parte) Aprobación del proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 2018-19

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	144 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	144
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:

Votes pour:

Votos en favor:

Abstentions:

Abstenciones:

No Reply:

Aucune réponse:

Ninguna respuesta:

Armenia, Bahamas, Belize, Central African Republic, Dominica, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Niger, Palau, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones



Rule XII.3(b) 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(b) 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(b) 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. Amendments to the Basic Texts**Point 27. Amendements des Textes fondamentaux****Tema 27. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales**

Item 27.1 Amendment to Paragraph 2 of Conference Resolution 9/2009 concerning qualifications for the Independent Chairperson of the Council (Draft Conference Resolution)

Point 27.1 Amendement au paragraphe 2 de la Résolution 9/2009 de la Conférence concernant les qualifications requises pour les fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil (projet de résolution de la Conférence)

Tema 27.1 Enmienda al párrafo 2 de la Resolución 9/2009 de la Conferencia, relativa a las cualificaciones del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia)

(C 2017/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with item 27, *Amendments to the Basic Texts*. Under this item, we are going to deal with two sub-items. We shall begin with sub-item 27.1, *Amendment 2, Paragraph 2 of Conference Resolution 9/2009 concerning qualifications for the Independent Chairperson of the Council*.

The proposal is set out in document C 2017/LIM/8.

I give the floor to Mr Tavares, the Legal Counsel, to introduce the item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Document C 2017/LIM/8, which is before the Plenary of the Conference, is an extract of the Report of the 153rd Session of the Council held in November 2015. This document includes the Draft Conference Resolution with an amendment to paragraph 2 of Resolution 9/2009 on the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

This Resolution is included in the Basic Texts of the Organization and was approved by the Conference of FAO in 2009 in the context of the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal and deals with the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The same Immediate Plan of Action decided that the Conference would assess progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action with an Independent Review in 2015.

As you are aware, the Independent Review was carried out in 2014 and early 2015. The Council in March 2015 and the Conference in June of that year approved the final report of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms and approved various actions. The Conference decided in particular on an amendment to Resolution 9/2009 on the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

The purpose of the Draft Resolution is to amend that Resolution. The Draft Resolution responds to a request to this Conference at its last session in 2015, was reviewed by the CCLM and was endorsed by the Council, which recommended its approval by this Conference.

Following the adoption of the Resolution that is now before the Plenary, Resolution 9/2009, set out in Volume II of the Basic Text of FAO, would be amended accordingly.

Mr Chairperson, through you, I invite the Conference to adopt the Draft Resolution which is contained in document C 2017/LIM/8 by general consent.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments? There is none. The resolution is adopted.

Item 27.2 *Amendment to Rule XXV, Paragraph 6(a) of the General Rules of the Organization (Vote)*
Point 27.2 *Amendement au paragraphe 6 a) de l'article XXV du Règlement général de l'Organisation (vote)*
Tema 27.2 *Enmienda al párrafo 6 a) del artículo XXV del Reglamento General de la Organización (votación)*
(C 2017/LIM/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to sub-item 27.2, *Amendment to Rule XXV, Paragraph 6(a) of the General Rules of the Organization*. The relevant document is C 2017/LIM/15 and contains the text of a draft resolution.

I shall ask again Mr Tavares to introduce this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Document C 2017/LIM/15 is an extract of the report of the 156th Session of the Council that was held in April of this year. The document contains a Draft Conference Resolution, with a twofold purpose.

First, it contains an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization. The proposed amendment removes a reference to the dispatch of the Provisional Agenda of the Sessions of the Council by airmail, which is no longer done.

Second, the Resolution contains a general reference to the fact that whenever the General Rules of the Organization or the Rules of Procedure of governing our statutory bodies refer to the dispatch circulation or communication of correspondence or documents in connection with meetings or with any procedural steps involving the transmittal of information by the Organization, those references shall include distribution by electronic means and other means using widely available modern technology.

I should like to add that management had initially considered to take some of the actions foreseen in the Resolution on its own authority. However, Members were consulted a few years ago and the CCLM and the Council recommended that the matter be addressed through the formal resolution that is now before the Conference.

This was also in consideration of the general nature of operative paragraph 2. This Draft Resolution was reviewed by the CCLM and by the Council which recommended its approval by the Conference. This matter is fully consensual.

The Draft Resolution which is before you and needs to be adopted through a nominal vote by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast, insofar as it involves an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments? I now ask the Secretary-General to provide an explanation of the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Legal Counsel has just recalled that under our rules, we need a two-thirds majority. So I just want to specify without repeating what he has said that two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required. The total number of affirmative 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 2017/LIM/15.

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.

I repeat, green to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow to abstain. You can vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

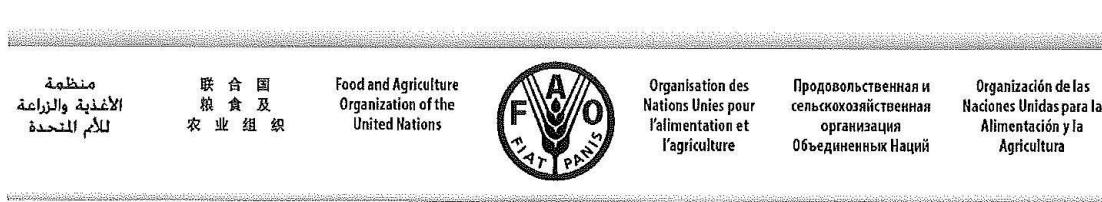
I will now ask the Secretary-General to read the results. The Results sheet will be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

So as you can see, we have 145 votes for, zero against, zero abstentions. The majority required was 97, so the Resolution is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON

The resolution is adopted.



07/07/2017 10:25:07 AM

Vote on: Item 27.2: Amendment to Rule XXV, Paragraph 6(a) of the General Rules of the Organization
 Vote sur: Point 27.2 Amendement au paragraphe 6 a) de l'article XXV du Règlement général de l'Organisation
 Votación para: Tema 27.2: Enmienda al párrafo 6 a) del artículo XXV 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	145 (at least 98)
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	97
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	145
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes for: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Votes against:

Votes contre:

Votos en contra:

Abstentions:

Abstenciones:

No Reply:

Aucune réponse:

Ninguna respuesta:

Armenia, Bahamas, Belize, Central African Republic, Dominica, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nauru, Niger, Palau, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Rule XII.3(b) 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(b) 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(b) 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 28. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
Point 28. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
Tema 28. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

Item 28.1 FAO Constitution - Request from the United Nations Treaty Section for filing and recording
Point 28.1 Acte constitutif de la FAO - Demande de la Section des traités de l'ONU relative au classement et à l'inscription au répertoire des Nations Unies
Tema 28.1 Solicitud de archivo e inscripción de la Constitución de la FAO cursada por la Sección de Tratados de las Naciones Unidas
(C 2017/LIM/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with item 28, *Other Constitutional and Legal Matters* and its sub-item 28.1 *FAO Constitution – Request from the United Nations Treaty Section for filing and recording*.

Please ensure you have before you document C 2017/LIM/9 which contains the draft Conference resolution. I now invite Mr Antonio Tavares, Legal Counsel, to introduce the item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Document C 2017/LIM/9 is an extract from the Report of the 150th Session of the Council of May-June 2016. The document contains the Draft Conference Resolution entitled Filing and recording of the FAO Constitution with the United Nations Secretariat.

The Resolution authorizes the Director-General to transmit the FAO Constitution and related instruments to the United Nations Treaty Section for Filing, Recording, and Publication, in the United Nations Treaty Series, under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

This matter is very straightforward, but I would still wish to provide a couple of words of explanation. The Charter of the United Nations makes provision for treaties concluded after its entry into force to be registered with the United Nations. FAO and the adoption of its Constitution predate United Nations and this formality of registration was never accomplished. The matter was discussed on a few past occasions.

The United Nations Secretariat and the Office of Legal Affairs proposed now that the Director-General should transmit to the United Nations the FAO Constitution and all related instruments submitted by FAO Members for filing, recording, and publication. The proposal was that this should be done on the authority of the Conference.

This is why the Conference has before it this Draft Resolution authorizing the Director-General to transmit to the United Nations, the FAO Constitution in all related instruments submitted by Members for filing, recording, and publication.

The Resolution as proposed by the CCLM was endorsed by the Council which recommended its approval by the Conference. If I understand, this matter is fully consensual and I would invite the Conference, through you, Mr Chairperson, to adopt the Draft Conference Resolution which can be adopted by general consent.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is open to Delegates who may wish to intervene. I see none. The resolution is adopted.

Item 7. Election of Council Members
Point 7. Élection des membres du Conseil
Tema 7. Elección de miembros del Consejo
(C 2017/11 Rev1)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall proceed with agenda item 7, *Election of Council Members*.

You have before you document C 2017/11 Rev.1 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 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 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there are four seats to be filled and the candidates are: Algeria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, South Africa.

For the period 1 July 2018 to the end of the 42nd Conference, there are three seats to be filled, and the candidates are: Congo, Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Africa?

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

It is so decided. We now move on to Asia.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Asia, with regard to the period from the end of the 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: India, Pakistan and Thailand.

In addition, the Conference is requested to note that Thailand and Malaysia applied jointly for one Council seat as follows: Thailand would occupy a seat from the end of the 40th Session of the Conference, 8 July 2017, to 31 December 2018. Malaysia would replace Thailand for the remainder of the term of office, from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020.

For the period 1 July 2018 to the end of the 42nd Conference, there are six seats to be filled, and the candidates are: China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Viet Nam.

In addition, the Conference is requested to note that Philippines and Myanmar applied jointly for one Council seat as follows: Philippines would occupy a seat from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. Myanmar would replace Philippines for the remainder of the term of office (from 1 January 2020 to the end of the 42nd Conference Session (June 2021)).

Further, the Conference is requested to note that Viet Nam and Indonesia applied jointly for one Council seat as follows: Viet Nam would occupy a seat from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. Indonesia would replace Viet Nam for the remainder of the term of office, from 1 January 2020 to the end of the 42nd Conference Session (June 2021).

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Asia?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. We now move on to Europe. Mr Secretary-General, please proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The candidates for Europe are as follows:

For the period from the end of the 40th Conference to 30 June 2018, there are two seats to be filled and the candidates are: Estonia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For the period 1 July 2018 to the end of the 41st Conference, there are two seats to be filled, and the candidates are: Austria and France.

For the period from the end of the 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there are four seats to be filled and the candidates are: Bulgaria, Finland, Italy and Spain.

For the period 1 July 2018 to the end of the 42nd Conference, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: Estonia, Russian Federation and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Europe?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. 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 40th Conference to 30 June 2018, there is one seat to be filled and the candidate is Venezuela.

For the period from the end of the 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there is one seat to be filled and the candidate is Ecuador.

For the period from 1 July 2018 to the end of the 42nd Conference, there are three seats to be filled, and the candidates are: Chile, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

In addition, the Conference is requested to note that Chile and Peru applied jointly for one Council seat as follows: Chile would stand for a seat from 1 July 2018 to the end of the 41st Conference Session. Peru would replace Chile for the remainder of the term of office, from the end of the 41st Conference to the end of the 42nd Conference Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. 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 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there are three seats to be filled and the candidates are: Afghanistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

For the period 1 July 2018 to the end of the 42nd Conference, there is one seat to be filled, and the candidate is: Jordan.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for the Near East?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided. We now move on to Southwest Pacific.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the period from the end of this 40th Conference to 30 June 2020, there is one seat to be filled, and the candidate is Australia.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidate for Southwest Pacific?

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

It is so decided.

May I congratulate the countries which have just been elected to membership of the Council and take the opportunity to remind you that the 157th Session of Council will open on Monday 10 July at 09.30 hours in the Red Room.

Item 6. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council**Point 6. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil****Tema 6. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo**

(C 2017/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 6, *Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council*. Under Article V, paragraph 2 of the Constitution the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We have six candidates for the post as mentioned in document C 2017/9, namely: Ms Lauresha Grezda (Albania); Mr Halil Omanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus); Mr Suseno Sukoyono (Indonesia); Mr Khalid Mehboob (Pakistan); Ms Marieta Okenková (Slovakia).

We will now proceed with the vote by secret ballot for the election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Under Rule XII, paragraph 3(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the required majority for the election shall be a majority of the votes cast.

I shall now call on the Secretary-General to give further details regarding the voting procedure and to ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Rule XII, paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization, in any election for one elective place, other than that of the Director-General, if a candidate fails on the first ballot to obtain a majority of the votes cast, successive ballots shall be taken until a candidate obtains such a majority.

In an election for one elective place in which there are more than two candidates, the candidate having received the lowest number of votes at each ballot shall be eliminated. So at each ballot, the candidate having obtained the lowest number of votes will be eliminated.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 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.

We will now calculate the number of Member Nations present at this Plenary Meeting. Please press the green button, located at the front of your desk, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

Have all the delegates present pressed the green button? Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

The electronic voting system indicates that there are 147 Delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

Delegates will be called in English alphabetical order to the voting area, where they will receive a ballot paper with the names of the six candidates. Delegates are invited to indicate the candidate they wish to vote for with an 'X'.

Delegates are required to vote for one candidate only.

On the basis of Rule XII, paragraph 4(b) (iii) of the General Rules of the Organization, ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

It should also be noted that, in accordance with the same Rule, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Under the same Rule, 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.

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 14 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.

Also in accordance with Rule XII, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representatives or their alternates. May I therefore ask the delegates of Canada and Uganda to proceed to the voting area.

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now call the voters to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has now been completed. The tellers in accordance with Rule XII.10(g) the scrutineers appointed by the candidates will leave the room. The tellers with the assistance of the officers in

charge of the election, will now count the votes. We will temporarily suspend this meeting while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 11:16 to 12:00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 16 à 12 h 00

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.16 a las 12.00

CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with item 6, *Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council*. The Secretary-General will read the result of the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have in front of me the Report of Ballot for nomination of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We had ballot papers deposited 148. Abstention – one. Defective ballots – zero. For the number of votes cast is 147. With this, a majority of 74 was needed.

Here are the results: not elected: Ms Lauresha Grezda, Albania, with 4 votes; Mr Spyridon Ellinas, Cyprus, with 26 votes; Mr Suseno Sukoyono, Indonesia, 19 votes; Mr Khalid Mehboob, Pakistan, 65 votes; Ms Marieta Okenková, Slovakia, 32 votes; and one candidate is eliminated: Mr Halil Omanović, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 2 votes.

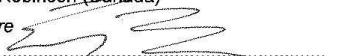
REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	1	NOMINATION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL DESIGNATION DU PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL DESIGNACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO 2017-2019
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	148	4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	147
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1		
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0		

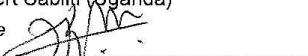
5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	74
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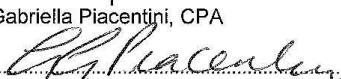
Elected – Élus – Elegidos	Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos	Eliminated – Eliminé – Eliminado
	Ms Lauresha Grezda (Albania) 4 Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus) 26 Mr Suseno Sukoyono (Indonesia) 19 Mr Khalid Mehbob (Pakistan) 64 Ms Marieta Okenková (Slovakia) 32	Mr Halil Omanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 2

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mr Eric Robinson (Canada)
Signature 
Firma

Date 07/07/2017
Fecha

Mr Robert Sabiti (Uganda)
Signature 
Firma

Ms Gabriella Piacentini, CPA
Signature 
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

At this point in time, the Chair would like to ask the Members if there would be anybody who would like to take the floor while we are preparing for the second round of the voting.

Ms Lauresha GREZDA (Albania)

At this point, I would like to withdraw my candidacy. Thanking everybody for providing me this opportunity to present myself, my country, what I have been doing all these years. Thanking the countries which voted for me. I hope I will have other occasions in order to contribute to this Organization, and hope I will have the opportunity to work with all of you in the future.

Thank you so much. And I wish all the best for the rest of the candidates.

CHAIRPERSON

So with the withdrawal of Albania, we are left with four countries. Can I ask the Secretary-General to please read again the names of the countries that will be voted in the second round?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the names by English alphabetical order of country: Mr Spyridon Ellinas from Cyprus, Mr Suseno Sukoyono from Indonesia, Mr Khalid Mehboob from Pakistan, and Ms Marieta Okenkova from Slovakia. We are left with four candidates.

There will be a second ballot. We will now suspend for 15 minutes because we need to print the ballot papers, something we could not do before we knew the results of the first round. So we will suspend for about 15 minutes and then we will call the meeting to order again and we will start the second round of election.

CHAIRPERSON

The session is suspended for 15 minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 12:06 to 12:35 hours

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 06 à 12 h 35

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.06 a las 12.35

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to a second round of voting. I kindly request that the tellers return to the voting area. But before that the Secretary-General will read out the names of the countries entitled to vote, the Chair would like to recognize Indonesia.

Ms Esti ANDAYANI (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to thank you and appreciates all the Delegations who have voted for Indonesian candidate for ICC of FAO. In particular the existing Members of the Asian Group and G77 and China.

After observing the results of the first round and to maintain the spirit of brotherhood, of like-minded countries on the region, Indonesia would like to withdraw our candidacy and give all the support of Indonesia to the candidate of Pakistan.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As you have heard, we have a development just now, so it means that we have to prepare new ballots but this time it should take less than 15 minutes so if you can bear with us a few more minutes we should be able to start the second round of voting soon.

CHAIRPERSON

The Session is suspended once again.

The meeting was suspended from 12:38 to 12:48 hours

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 38 à 12 h 48

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.38 a las 12.48

CHAIRPERSON

We will proceed to a second round of voting. I kindly request that the tellers return to the voting area. The Secretariat will call out the names of the countries entitled to vote.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, we have been asked to suspend the proceeding by approximately five minutes so I will ask for your indulgence in accommodating this request. I am told it should not be too long.

CHAIRPERSON

The Chair declares a five minute recess.

The meeting was suspended from 12:49 to 12:51 hours

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 49 à 12 h 51

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.49 a las 12.51

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Chair would like to ask whether there is any Member Country which would like to take the floor.

Mr George POULIDES (Cyprus)

Thank you, everybody, that has voted for us. Cyprus and its candidate has decided to withdraw from the election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Would any other country like to make a manifestation?

Ms Marieta OKENKONVÁ (Slovakia)

Slovakia similarly, like Cyprus, has decided to withdraw from running for the second round of the elections and would like to appreciate all the Members that have cast a vote in our favour. We are really very much grateful for this opportunity to run. It has been an enriching experience for us and we are willing to withdraw from the race and really thank all the candidates and all the Members.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

With these developments we are in a situation where we have no more candidates than vacancies for the position of Independent Chairperson of the Council. In such a situation, the Chair can submit to the Conference that the appointment be decided by clear general consent. I am quoting from Rule XII.10(b) of the General Rules of the Organization. So, Mr Chairperson I would invite you to ask the Assembly if they wish to elect the remaining candidate by clear general consent.

CHAIRPERSON

In view of the withdraw of the other delegations, may I ask the Conference to please confirm the election of Mr Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

The Chair and the Secretariat would like to congratulate Mr Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan on his election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council. May we ask whether any delegation would like to take the floor? Bangladesh is recognized.

Mr Kaikobad HOSSAIN (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh has the honour to deliver the statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. Asia Group congratulates Mr Khalid Mehboob for your appointment as Independent Chairperson of the Council. Your knowledge, expertise, leadership will contribute a lot to performing as the ICC in the coming days. Rest assured that Asia Group will cooperate with you in performing your duties. We look forward to work with you in the future for a better FAO contribution in the field of food and agriculture and in the Agenda 2030 for SDGs.

At this time, Mr Chairperson, we would like to convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa for his outstanding performance as Independent Chairperson of the Council for the last four years. We are thankful to him for maintaining the independent character of the position without any bias and for his tireless effort for better handling of the Council with positive contributions. We appreciate the result achieved through the informal consultation with Membership on different issues before formal consideration in the Council. This way is a very good initiative and we expect it will be continued in the future. We pray for his good health and happy life.

Mr Sikander Hayat Khan BOSAN (Pakistan)

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan as well as my own, I would like to extend my sincere vote of thanks to all of you for electing His Excellency Khalid Mehboob to the position of Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council for the period 2017-2019.

His election is a manifestation of the confidence you have proposed in him in Pakistan. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to Mr Mehboob on this occasion. Let us all give him a big hand.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

While welcoming Mr Mehboob to his new position, I would also take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to the outgoing Chairperson, His Excellency Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa for his successful and dedicated service to the Council over the last four years. We need to give him a big round of applause.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

I am positive that the rich experience of Mr Mehboob's long association of over 45 years with FAO first as a Senior Staff Member and later as Pakistan Alternate Permanent Delegate would enable him to effectively lead the Council in its work in these challenging times. I have no doubt that Mr Mehboob's knowledge, experience and negotiating skills will enable him to operate diligently, effectively, efficiently and independently.

I would like to take this opportunity to request all Members to assist Mr Mehboob in his work. I am convinced that he will be able to see consensus which is of immense importance for effective attainment of goals of the FAO and coordination among the Rome-based Agencies.

In conclusion I would like to once again extend my deepest gratitude to all of you and wish FAO a bright future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

I would also like to thank Indonesia, Cyprus and Slovakia for their gesture which kept the spirit of consensus alive. This is the way forward.

Mr Shanin GHORASHIZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group wishes to congratulate Mr Mehboob for his election as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council for the next two years.

The election was fair and democratic and Mr Mehboob became the winner due to his qualification, experience, negotiation skills and capacity to lead reaching consensus when required.

The Near East Group is confident that Mr Mehboob will make a superb Independent Chairperson of Council and the Member Countries of Near East will do all it can to provide him the support needed to conduct smoothly and effectively the dedicated responsibilities of the ICC.

Chairperson, the Near East Group also takes this opportunity to convey to his Excellency Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa the outgoing Independent Chairperson of the Council for the leadership that he exercised so professionally and successfully during the past four years as the ICC. He performed his constitutional duties diligently, tactfully in a diplomatic manner and with determination. His negotiation skills for reaching consensus among Members was remarkable, especially in reaching agreement on the level of the assessed budget over the biennium 2016-17 and the current biennium 2018-19.

The Near East Group wishes Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa a healthy, happy and long life.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The European Union and its Member States would first of all like to express the appreciation and gratitude to Mr Ngirwa for his great commitment and relentless efforts in the past four years.

We congratulate the newly elected Independent Chairman of the Council Mr Mehboob for his appointment as Independent Chairperson of the Council. You have our full support and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation in the next two years. You will have a very important role. We value your independence and we are sure that you will facilitate effective and transparent communication between the Membership and the FAO Management.

In this respect, we attach particular importance to informal meetings ahead of the Governing Body sessions. A crucial task for the Independent Chairman of the Council will be to forge consensus among the Membership and to seek balance and mutually acceptable solutions. This may be challenging at times but you can count on our active contribution and cooperation.

We also expect the Independent Chairman of the Council to listen closely with the Membership in the intersessional periods including through informal consultations and regular contacts with the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters as well as with Chairpersons of the Technical Committees of the regional conferences.

Our last point concerns the Rome-based Agencies cooperation. We believe that the Independent Chairman of the Council can play an important role in enhancing interaction and synergy between the FAO Council and the Executive Boards of IFAD and WFP. We stand ready to support your efforts in this regard.

We again congratulate you with your appointment and wish you every success.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

En nombre del G77 más China, deseamos expresar y reiterar las más sinceras felicitaciones y agradecimiento al Señor Wilfred Ngirwa por su excelente desempeño como Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Ya en la plenaria del G77 y China hicimos un reconocimiento por esa labor tan extraordinaria que llevó adelante el Señor Wilfred Ngirwa. Gracias.

Igualmente, el G77 y China quiere felicitar al Señor Khalid Mehboob como nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo y aprovechamos la oportunidad de manifestarle nuestro apoyo en el desarrollo de sus funciones, que esperamos pueda llevarlas adelante con gran éxito.

M. Floréncio DE ALMEIDA (Angola)

J'avais demandé la parole parce que le Président de mon groupe régional va parler au nom du groupe Africain.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je voudrais d'entrée de jeu, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter, ainsi que tout le Bureau, pour votre conduite exceptionnelle de cette Conférence. Le Cameroun s'associe à plusieurs autres voix qui ont reconnu en vous toutes les qualités d'un meneur d'hommes et d'un conducteur de séance. C'est pour ça que, définitivement, nous allons avoir une journée libre demain, ce que tout le monde apprécierait et apprécie.

Nous voulons saluer l'esprit de consensus, en tant que groupe Africain, qui a régné tout au long de ces élections. Nous avons remarqué aujourd'hui depuis l'adoption de la résolution sur les ouvertures de crédits, en passant par les modifications à apporter aux textes fondamentaux, un consensus parfait, ce qui est encore une fois à votre actif, Monsieur le Président.

Nous voulons remercier l'Ambassadeur Joseph Ngirwa pour une tenue exceptionnelle des réunions du Conseil pendant les quatre années que nous avons vécues avec lui. C'est un homme également de grande valeur. Nous lui souhaitons bon vent dans ses prochaines activités.

Et pour tous les candidats au poste du Président indépendant du Conseil (Chypre, Indonésie, Pakistan, Bosnie Herzégovine, Albanie et Slovaquie), nous voulons leur tirer notre chapeau d'avoir pris le courage de se présenter, mais également d'avoir privilégié l'esprit de consensus qui nous a empêché un second tour de vote.

Et ainsi donc, parce que nous n'avons pas eu un second tour de vote, nous avons élu M. Khalid Mehboob du Pakistan. C'est un homme que nous connaissons, un homme qui traîne derrière lui une expérience exceptionnelle, et de ce point de vue, le groupe Africain, par notre voix, lui souhaite la bienvenue comme Président Indépendant du Conseil, et nous attendons de le lui dire encore, le lui répéter lundi lorsqu'il présidera la première réunion du Conseil.

Sra. María Abelina TORRES DE MEILLIEZ (El Salvador)

En nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, GRULAC, queremos felicitar al Señor Khalid Mehboob por la elección como Presidente del Consejo Independiente. También agradecer a Señor Ngirwa por todo el trabajo realizado. Estamos seguros, Señor Mehboob, y convencidos que trabajaremos para llevar a cabo un excelente trabajo. Le deseamos lo mejor y puede contar con los países de América Latina y el Caribe en el ejercicio de sus funciones.

También queremos felicitar y agradecer a los demás candidatos que han participado en la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region would like to congratulate Mr Mehboob on his appointment as Independent Chair of the Council. Australia has been fortunate to work with him in his role as Chair of the Finance Committee and we have appreciated his very collegiate approach and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

The region would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Independent Chair of the Council, Ambassador Ngirwa. We have greatly appreciated your calm approach and patient approach to chairing the Council and also helping Members navigate some difficult issues towards consensus. We thank you very much and we wish you well in your future endeavours and also good health to you and your family.

Mr Thomas M. DUFFY (United States of America)

On behalf of the North American Regional Group, we would like to join the other regional groups in offering our congratulations to Khalid Mehboob as the incoming ICC Chair. We witnessed an election campaign with six strong candidates, very well-run campaigns, and a gracefully coordinated process which resulted in a consensus selection.

Our thanks also to the outgoing Chair, Wilfred Ngirwa, for his work over the last four years. We look forward to working with the incoming Chair as we all work together on the important work ahead.

Mr Damien KELLY (Ireland)

First of all, Ireland would like to align with the EU statement issued by Estonia. And in doing that, further congratulate Mr Khalid Mehboob on his election. We have no doubt at all that he will continue the excellent atmosphere of consensus in the Council.

In addition, we would like to pay particular compliments to all the candidates for bringing about a very lively debate and very good-natured debate and highlighting many new issues which can be recalled in the future.

In addition, Chair, Ireland would like to further thank the outgoing ICC, Mr Ngirwa, for his very considerable contribution to facilitating consensus in the Council. There is recognition that his distinguished career extends way back beyond his career here and many colleagues recall collaboration with him in his home country in Tanzania. Mr Ngirwa, I have no doubt that you will continue to be a wise counsel and I wish you the very best in the future.

M. Hassan ABOU AYOUB (Maroc)

Vous devenez que je prends la parole plus en tant que Membre du Bureau que en tant que représentant d'un groupe régional, pour d'abord joindre ma voix à toutes celles qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter notre frère Joseph Wilfred Ngirwa pour le travail remarquable et remarqué qu'il a mené à la tête du Conseil. J'ajouterais aussi en tant qu'ambassadeur de son pays auprès de la FAO, où il a fait un travail que je dois encore une fois rappeler et bien sûr lui rendre hommage.

Grâce à lui, nous avons évité une élection, il se rappelle, et grâce aussi à ces candidats que je voudrais également saluer pour leur grand esprit de consensus mais surtout l'extraordinaire campagne qu'ils ont menée, « clean », comme on dit, transparente et digne des compétences qu'ils ont su mettre en valeur.

Je voudrais associer, pour cette économie de temps, également, un pays qui nous a aidé à éviter une élection, je veux parler du Nigéria, qui grâce à sa compréhension, il y a deux jours, nous a permis de trouver une solution à la représentation du groupe Africain au sein du Conseil.

Ceci m'inspire également, Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, pour ouvrir de nouveau, grâce à Monsieur le nouveau Président, Khalid Mehboob, que je salue, que je félicite, que je connais depuis des années, au sein de cette belle maison, et lui envoyer le premier message—je suis certain que vous serez tous d'accord avec moi sur ce message — c'est de commencer le chantier de la réforme des procédures de nominations, surtout au Conseil, mais pas seulement.

Je crois que, au sein du Bureau, et vous vous rappelez, Monsieur le Président, un consensus très fort a émergé sur le besoin de donner plus de transparence, plus je dirais de légalité à des besoins légitimes de représentation d'un certain nombre de pays dans leurs groupes est sous-groupes régionaux.

Je pense, et on s'est mis d'accord avec nos frères Africains au sein du groupe, que nous aurons le privilège de prendre une initiative et nous compterons sur nos amis du Secrétariat et sur Antonio Tavares, grâce auquel on a géré ce Bureau avec beaucoup de flexibilité, sous l'autorité d'un Président

éclairé, et grâce aussi au soutien de Louis Gagnon, que je tiens à saluer pour l'occasion pour sa remarquable contribution, et je n'oublierai pas ceux qui nous aide à nous comprendre: les interprètes.

Mr Yaya Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Thank you, Chairperson, for the way you have conducted this Conference. It has been extraordinary.

Nigeria wants to join its voice with that of the African Group and all the other groups that have appreciated what has been accomplished today. Without doubt, we had excellent candidates that are very competitive with respect to this exalted position. And in the light of the way the election has been conducted, there is no doubt that we will continue to work as one. I strongly appreciate all that has been done.

To my dear friend and mentor, dear brother Ngirwa, and his lovely wife that has given him all the support, I say thank you. Your wise counsel will continue wherever you find yourself. And I am sure this is not the last time we will see you.

And for the Ambassador of Morocco, the two of them have worked as twins to sort out a lot of problems many years back, and there is still much to do. They are not retired. They are not old soldiers. They are competent. Thank you both of you.

Let me also come and thank Mr Mehboob. I am sure that with the experience, the calmness, and the ability to listen carefully to all sides, he will lead us for the next two years, and possibly four, to the destination that will make FAO greater.

Mr Wonchul JOO (Republic of Korea)

On behalf of the Asia Group, we congratulate Mr Khalid Mehboob as incoming ICC. We already notice his excellent leadership and wisdom all the time. And all the best wishes to him during his term.

Also our thanks go to the outgoing Chair, Mr Ngirwa, for his outstanding leadership and work shown in his term. Thank you again and all the best wishes to you.

Mr Mohammed A. ALGHANDI (Saudi Arabia)

I would like to join my previous colleagues in congratulating and thanking Mr Wilfred Ngirwa for his excellent service in the past four years. I am confident that he will be a great addition to any place that he chooses, wherever he chooses to serve.

I would like to thank all the candidates, the excellent candidates that we had, and we thank them for helping us reach consensus.

And I conclude by congratulating my colleague, Mr Khalid Mehboob. And his name, the word Mehboob in Arabic means beloved and lovable and someone who can make consensus, and he is in fact true to his name. We will continue to work together as one family and really as United Nations together.

Mr Mehmet BULUT (Turkey)

Turkey congratulates Pakistan and Mr Mehboob on his election as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. And we would like to wish all the best and successes for him during his tenure. We believe that Mr Mehboob's experience and dedication will enable him to successfully fulfil the mission and contribute a lot to the work of the Council.

We also extend our thanks to Mr Wilfred Ngirwa for his work and contributions to FAO works.

CHAIRPERSON

Unless there are other delegations which would like to make a manifestation, I would like to call on the newly elected Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr Khalid Mehboob, to make a statement.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

I am thankful to you all for electing me as the Independent Chair of the Council. I am most humbled by the trust which you have reposed in me. The encouragement and the support which was given to me in the last few months was most touching. I will always cherish these moments.

With my long experience at the FAO, both as a staff member and as a member of its Governing Bodies, I am fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead. I will do my best to work towards a proactive facilitation role to enable the Council to discharge its role in governance and to achieve consensus among Member States and work for the accomplishment of our shared goals. This can only be done with your active support which I am convinced you will provide me.

I will always welcome your ideas, advice, and inputs which I am convinced are very important for the successful working within FAO. I would like to take this opportunity to thank especially my colleagues at the Pakistan Embassy for positively running my election campaign. I will need your support to undertake the work in my new position. I will always be available and I am looking forward to working with you all for the common cause of realizing the goals of FAO.

I should also like to thank my colleagues who were also candidates for the ICC and for the generosity with which they withdrew from the campaign to enable me to be elected.

In conclusion, I would like to say a word about Ambassador Ngirwa and thank him for his leadership and the example he has set in always bringing unity and consensus within the Council. I will do my best to build on his approach when chairing the Council.

Applause
Applaudissements
Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Before we close this meeting, I would like to invite the Secretary-General to make an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wanted to remind delegates that we will have two side events that will start after this session of the Plenary.

The side event *Innovation in Plant Breeding for Food Security and Nutrition* will start at 14:00 in the Sheik Zayed Center, a second one *Blue Ocean, Blue Growth: People, Resources, Innovation*, will take place in the Iraq Room and will start at 15:00.

We will gather here again in the Plenary for adoption of the Report of this 40th Session of the Conference at 16:30 this afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of our work for this morning. The Plenary will reconvene this afternoon at 16.30 for the adoption of the draft report of the Commission I, Commission II and the Plenary Report of the 40th Session of Conference.

The Seventh Plenary Meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13:28 hours
La séance est levée à 13 h 28
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.28

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Fortieth Session
Quarantième session
40.^º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 July 2017

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 17.01 hours
Mr Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 17 h 01
sous la présidence de M. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava reunión a las 17.01
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. Emmanuel F. Piñol,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME****CHAIRPERSON**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Eighth Plenary meeting to order. This afternoon we will adopt the reports of the Commissions and the Plenary meetings.

Please ensure that you have before you the three reports tabled for adoption:

C 2017/REP Plenary contains items discussed in Plenary meetings;

C 2017/I/REP Commission I contains Commission I items; and

C 2017/II/REP Commission II contains Commission II items, including item 24 with the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2018-19 adopted by the Conference this morning.

I would like to remind the Conference that any suggestions for editorial changes in the language versions should be passed on to the Secretariat after the meeting.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I
(C 2017/I/PLENARY/REP)****CHAIRPERSON**

I would like now to invite Mr François Pythoud of Switzerland, Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, to introduce the final report of that Commission. Please ensure you have before you C 2017/I/REP concerning items taken in Commission I.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Vice-Chairperson of Commission I)

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been an honour for me to have served as Vice-Chairperson of Commission I of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

Before presenting the report of Commission I for adoption by the Conference, I would firstly like to thank the Chairperson of Commission I, Dr Hamoud Al-Hasani of Oman, who led the Commission through the first days of the discussions.

I would also like to thank the other Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, Mr Royhan Nevy Wahab of Indonesia.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos of Greece, who successfully led the discussions of the Drafting Committee and reached consensus on all items of the report of the Commission. I extend my thanks to all the members of the Drafting Committee in making this a success. Last but not least, my thanks to the Secretariat for their ongoing support over the week and, of course, to all Commission members who participated very actively and constructively in the discussion.

The Report of Commission I was adopted by the Commission this morning and is now presented to the Conference for adoption in document C 2017/Rep, Issues Concerning Commission

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION II
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II
(C 2017/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 2018-19 at its Seventh Plenary meeting this morning.

I would now like to call on Mr Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen of the Netherlands, who chaired Commission II, to introduce the final report. Please ensure you have Report C 2017/II/REP.

Mr Johannes HOOGEVEEN (Chairperson of Commission II)

It is an honour for me and a pleasure to present the Report of Commission II as adopted this morning during the Plenary as Commission II. This morning I said “thank God it's Friday” and I still say “thank God it's Friday”, but especially because during the whole day I think we have seen a spirit of cooperation, a positive spirit working together. That was the spirit in which we conducted our work in Commission II, and not only Commission II but also in the Drafting Committee. I think this kind of spirit, what we are seeing in Commission II and in the Drafting Committee, but especially today, is the spirit which we need for this wonderful Organization for the future.

I would like to thank Mr El Tawee, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and the members of the Drafting Committee for arriving smoothly and very quickly at a consensus. Moreover, I would like to thank all of the members of Commission II for the excellent way and the spirit in which we have conducted our work, how we were efficient and effective, but especially that we could arrive at a consensus on sometimes difficult issues. But again, I think that is the way in which we should work together. It was for me more than a pleasure but certainly I was very proud to serve you as the Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF PLENARY
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA
(C 2017/PLENARY/REP)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the reports on the items examined in Plenary contained in C 2017/REP.

Once again, I wish to remind the Conference that any suggestions for editorial changes in the language versions 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?

Sra. María Cristina BOLDORINI (Argentina)

Simplemente la Delegación de Argentina desearía hacer un comentario respecto al punto nueve, “Examen del estado de la alimentación y la agricultura”.

Al respecto, en el punto 2f, nuestra delegación entiende que debería incorporarse una breve aclaración y quedaría el párrafo redactado de la siguiente manera: “Recalcó la importancia de cumplir los compromisos relacionados con la alimentación y la agricultura contraídos”, y ahí, incorporaríamos el agregado: “en el contexto de las contribuciones nacionalmente determinadas en virtud del Acuerdo de París, y reiteró su compromiso a alcanzar los objetivos y las metas establecidas en la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible”. Es decir, para concluir, el agregado que propone nuestra delegación es: “en el contexto de las contribuciones nacionalmente determinadas”.

CHAIRPERSON

Unless there are comments from the floor, the amendment or additional text in the resolution as proposed by Argentina is hereby carried.

Before we adopt the reports, the Chairperson would like to acknowledge and recognize the presence of the Director-General of FAO. Let us give our Director-General a round of applause, please.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to propose that the Reports of Commission I, Commission II and Plenary be adopted in block.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

You have adopted the Report of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference, and that brings to an end our substantive work. 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 François Pythoud, Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, and the whole Bureau of the Commission for the work carried out in Commission I. I wish to thank Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos from Greece, who was the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I, along with the other members.

I also wish to thank Mr Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen for his work as Chairperson of Commission II. My appreciation also goes to Mr Khaled Al-Taweel from Egypt, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission II, along with all the other members.

May I propose that we applaud their valuable contribution to the success of this Session?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson of the Conference, I wish to thank every delegation in this hall for the spirit of cooperation which was ever present throughout the five 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 this Session well and can be proud of the tangible results we collectively achieved thanks to your teamwork approach, keen sense of purpose, pragmatism, patience and respect for one another. Your open and constructive attitude on various agenda items made my job even easier and I am grateful for this as well as for the support you gave me.

I wish to underscore our achievement in the approval of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 2018–19. The work of Commission II was made less arduous during this Session of the Conference as the budget level was agreed upon at the 156th Session of the Council in April 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 elected Mr Khalid Mehboob for the term of office as our Independent Chairperson of the Council. We wish Mr Mehboob well in this assignment. I also would like to convey the appreciation to the outgoing Independent Chairperson, Ambassador Wilfred Ngirwa, for the dedication, wisdom and diplomacy with which he guided the Council over the past four years. We wish you every success in your future endeavours, Mr Ambassador.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I wish to say a special word of thanks to the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference as well as to the members of the General Committee for their diligence in examining sensitive issues that allowed for the smooth functioning of the Conference. I would like to thank the Chairperson and members of the Credentials Committee for their valuable contributions. I wish to thank the Director-General, the senior managers of FAO and other staff of the Secretariat for all the preparation put into ensuring a smooth-running session.

On a personal note, I would like to thank personally our Director-General for giving me the opportunity of presiding over this very important Conference. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the Members of this Conference for your cooperation and support. This is an experience I will never forget for the rest of my life. Born on a farm and having witnessed the hardships of farmers and their muted dreams and cries, this is an opportunity that allowed me to share their dreams with you.

For five days, a farmer presided over a meeting of world leaders who will set policies which will determine how much food could be produced today and how to address hunger in the world. I thank you all for making a farmer's dream come true. On behalf of my President, Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Philippines, and the Filipino people, I, Chairperson of this Conference, Emmanuel F. Piñol, a farmer, would like to thank you and tell you that I will never forget this experience for the rest of my life.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Our appreciation also goes to the interpreters, to the men and women who were fixing the microphones, the translators, the printers, the report writers, the verbatim hub, the FAO staff who work behind the scenes, the room messengers, and the security personnel. We wish to thank all of them for their support.

Before I close the meeting of the 40th Session, would any member of the body wish to take the floor?

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

Chairperson of this Conference, Honourable Director-General, dear colleagues, I must thank you, the Chairperson of this Conference, for saving one day. This is a very successful event for you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I would like to request the incoming Chairperson of the Conference in the future to follow this same practice so that we can save one day in 2019. Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for an outstanding performance. We all know the results of the Conference are very fine, wonderful. I would like to thank you from the core of my heart for doing a very good job as Chairperson of the Conference. I thank both Chairpersons of Commissions I and II. We welcome the newly elected Chairperson of the Council, Mr Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan. Heartiest congratulations and welcome from us.

We would like to work together in the future days for the successful performance in this single body with consensus in the Council under your leadership.

At this point, I would like to also thank from the core of my heart our outgoing Chairperson of the Council, Wilfred Ngirwa, for a wonderful performance and particularly I must remember that you have done a splendid job in the name of informal consultation. A lot of things we have actually resolved in the informal consultation under your leadership.

Thank you and we will be with you. Please remember us and we will also remember you for the rest of our lives.

I would like to conclude by mentioning the leadership of the Director-General, actually, I must say the FAO performance. I am almost five years in Rome and working with the different committees on different occasions. I must say that the whole decorum, output and performance under your leadership, Mr Graziano, you are doing a really splendid job. FAO is now more visible outside, not in Rome, outside in the whole world.

So we also wanted to see the trend continued and I know that the budget level was almost the same. Even then you are doing more with less resources and this initiative will be continued.

I would like to thank from the cores of our hearts, from the Members to the Chairperson, Director-General, all of the Members who are working for the benefit of the whole world, so that we can at the end of 2030 see that nobody is going to bed without food.

So let us achieve together and have a successful Conference. All the best for all of you and safe return to those who are going back home. Thank you all. Thank you, Chairperson. Goodbye.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any delegations who would like to make manifestations? If there are none, I would like to give the floor to the Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, for his closing remarks.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Emmanuel Piñol, Chairperson of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference, Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Mr François Pythoud, Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, Mr Johannes Hoogeveen, Chairperson of Commission II, Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

We have had a very intense and productive week. I believe we could say that, over the last five days, FAO has been at the centre of the international debate on sustainable development. We have had the presence of Heads of State and Government, 105 Ministers and vice-ministers, many parliamentarians, high representatives of international organizations and regional bodies, the President of the UN General Assembly and even a Princess: a total of 1.150 Delegates from 181 countries around the world.

The presentation and discussions were of high quality, especially in the 19 side events. I managed to participate in twelve of the side events in the midst of 70 bilateral meetings that I had with ministers and vice-ministers.

I was impressed, for instance, with the engagement of the Near East and North Africa countries in finding ways to face water scarcity. Fourteen ministers from the NENA Region attended the side event on this topic.

They debated openly on how to improve collaboration despite any political differences. I notice the pride in such a fashion of many ministers and vice-ministers in showing the good result of the programmes implemented by FAO.

We saw the Minister of Post Conflict of Colombia highlighting how food, agriculture and rural development are key elements for the peace process in his country.

We saw the Prime Minister of Italy pointing out the importance of rural development in the fight against distressed migration in Africa.

We saw how confident the SIDS countries were with the launch of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition.

At least six side events were related to climate change, the central theme of this Conference. We heard your call for FAO to reinforce its work on climate change. From now on, nourishing people must go hand in hand with nurturing the planet in all FAO's work.

We need to implement sustainable food systems that provide nutrition and accessible food, ecosystems service, and climate change resilience to all now and in the future.

All of these confirm that food and agriculture are essential elements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also indicate the high expectation that Members place in FAO for more assistance and to deliver more results.

Furthermore, FAO today not only plays its traditional and fundamental role as a neutral forum for discussions and negotiations. Today FAO is also one of the key global stages that help to set the international agenda.

We are in fact now a knowledge organization with our feet on the ground. Looking forward, I wanted to remind you that our next high-level meeting will take place here in this Plenary on 16 October in celebration of World Food Day. It will focus on issues linked to migration.

Also on this day, G7 Ministers for Agriculture will meet here in FAO and we will also be graced by the presence of Pope Francis as informed by Cardinal Parolin during the opening session of this Conference.

Let me also highlight that the three Rome-based Agencies are furthering our collaboration. I am grateful that Mr Gilbert Houngbo, President of IFAD, and Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director, accepted our invitation to participate in the opening of this Conference and also in the side event on Zero Hunger.

During the side event on Zero Hunger, you could see how the three agencies are working together to combine humanitarian and development actions. Building resilience and protecting the livelihoods of poor communities is crucial to eradicating hunger and poverty.

This is especially true today with the increasing intensity of conflicts, violence and the impacts of climate change. But bear in mind that, to win this fight, we need everyone on board, especially donor countries. Financial resources must flow to help the vulnerable people that are suffering from hunger.

Let me thank especially the Chairperson, Mr Piñol, farmer and Secretary for Agriculture of the Philippines, for conducting this Conference.

I also thank the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II for their effective work.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Khalid Mehboob for his election as Independent Chairperson of the Council. It will also be pleasant for all of us to work with Mr Mehboob for the next two years.

Excellencies, thank you for approving the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-19. I am particularly honoured to notice that the PWB was approved by all countries present in this Conference without any abstention.

Consensus has been one of the hallmarks of my tenure since I took up the position in 2012. Together we have managed to overcome past division between Members.

Keeping this consensus may be challenging in the near future with elections on the horizon.

I am now entering the last two years of my mandate as Director-General of FAO and let me highlight that the mentality of early elections will benefit nobody. For the next two years, we need your strong support to implement the actions and initiatives that are part of the PWB you just approved.

Trust among ourselves is one of the most valued and important things that we have built over the last five years. Let us preserve this and let us keep the focus on the substantive aspects of our common agenda and our Programme of Work.

In terms of finance, I am aware that Members are facing economic constraints. But the Organization must move ahead. In this scenario, I wanted to appeal to all Members to increase their voluntary contributions, especially to support those around the world that are being left behind.

Ladies and gentlemen, I opened this Conference mentioning that the number of malnourished people is rising in the world, especially due to the complex challenge brought by the combination of conflicts and the impacts of climate change.

I want to close with the certainty that the political commitment to eradicate hunger still stands strong among us. Let us move forward together and believe that eradicating poverty and hunger is just a question of time. Thank you very much for your support and attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind the delegations that the 157th Session of the FAO Council will begin on Monday 10 July in the Red Room at 09.30 hours under the Chairpersonship of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Khalid Mehboob. I wish him well in carrying out his duties.

I now declare the 40th Session of the FAO Conference closed. To those who travelled long distances to come to this beautiful city of Rome, I wish a safe and pleasant journey home.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

The meeting rose at 17:41 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.41



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