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Thirtieth Session • Trentième session • 30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE

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QUINZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
15ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(23 November 1999)

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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

12 November 1999

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours
Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10h 10
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 99/LIM/1; C 99/LIM/2)
1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 99/LIM/1; C 99/LIM/2)
1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 99/LIM/1; C 99/LIM/2)

DIRECTOR-GÉNÉRAL

I am pleased to welcome you to the FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

Our first item of business is the election of the Chairperson of the Conference. At its session which concluded yesterday, the Council proposed that His Excellency Benalia Belhouadjeb, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Algeria, preside over this Conference Session. Can I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and if it is so, this can be confirmed by acclamation.

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

May I now invite His Excellency, the Minister Benalia Belhouadjeb, to come forward and take the Chair.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est un plaisir et un honneur pour moi et pour mon pays, d'être élu Président de la Trentième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de féliciter le Directeur général et le Secrétariat pour l'excellent travail qu'ils ont accompli pour la préparation de cette session. Qu'il me soit permis de même de vous exprimer mes remerciements pour la confiance que vous avez placée en ma personne et à travers moi à mon pays pour présider cette Trentième session de la Conférence de la FAO, session importante et hautement symbolique à plus d'un titre. Importante, puisqu'elle va nous permettre d'arrêter la stratégie de notre Organisation pour les 15 années à venir comme elle va nous permettre d'approfondir notre réflexion sur les rôles et fonctions de l'agriculture dans le cadre d'un développement durable symbolique, parce que se tenant à la fin du siècle et du millénaire et, nous l'espérons tous, qu'elle l'augurera d'une ère nouvelle pleine d'espoir et de grands succès dans la lutte contre la faim la malnutrition, l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté. Nous aurons, pendant ces quelques jours, à évaluer la situation de l'alimentation dans le monde et à impulser, je l'espère, une nouvelle dynamique pour concrétiser les engagements pris lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation ici même, sous l'égide de la FAO.

Nous aborderons également des questions non moins importantes comme celles ayant trait au programme et au budget de l'Organisation pour les deux années à venir 2000 – 2001. Nous aurons a élire le Directeur général de l'Organisation, le Président indépendant du Conseil, les Membres de ce Conseil, ainsi que de pourvoir les autres postes électifs. Tout ceci pour dire que la tâche sera lourde mais je l'espère facilitée grâce à la contribution et à la compréhension de chacun et à la précieuse collaboration du Bureau de la Conférence et du Secrétariat.

Je ne terminerai pas mon intervention sans remercier le pays hôte, l'Italie, pour l'accueil si aimable qu'il nous réserve à chaque fois et les facilités qu'il accorde pour que les travaux de la Conférence se déroulent dans les conditions optimales.

Enfin, en tant que Président, je veillerai scrupuleusement à l'accomplissement de ma charge afin que nous puissions aboutir à des décisions pertinentes et adéquates sur toutes les questions que nous aurons à examiner. Encore une fois, je vous remercie.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Maintenant je me réfèrerai au point 1 de l'Ordre du jour. L'Article VIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation stipule que la Conférence, après avoir examiné le rapport du Conseil et le rapport de la Commission des candidatures, élit les 3 Vice-Présidents de la Conférence, les 7 membres du Bureau et les 9 membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs. La Commission des candidatures, à qui revient de formuler des propositions à cet effet, a été élue par le Conseil de la FAO à sa cent dix-septième session tenue du 9 au 11 novembre, conformément aux dispositions de l'alinéa b) du paragraphe 5 de l'Article XXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

La Commission des candidatures s'est réunie et a formulé ses recommandations pour les postes que je viens de mentionner. Je demanderais maintenant au Président de la Commission des candidatures, M. James Allen des États-Unis d'Amérique, de saisir la Conférence des candidatures approuvées par la Commission. J'invite le Président de la Commission des candidatures à commencer son rapport par les 3 Vice-Présidents de la Conférence.

James ALLEN (Chairman, Nominations Committee)

In accordance with Rule VII-2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following three nominations to the Conference: Juan Nuiry Sanchez of Cuba, Saeed Nouri-Naeeni of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Jan Berteling of the Netherlands.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous venez d'entendre les propositions de la Commission des candidatures concernant les trois Vice-Présidents de la Conférence. S'il n'y a pas d'objections on peut considérer que la Conférence approuve les candidatures des trois Vice-Présidents.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 99/LIM/2)
2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 99/LIM/2)
2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 99/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Maintenant passons au point 2 de l'Ordre du jour qui traite de la proposition du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs. J'invite le Président de la Commission des candidatures à faire connaître les propositions de cette Commission concernant les 7 membres du Bureau.

James ALLEN (Chairman, Nominations Committee)

In accordance with Rule X of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following seven nominations to the Conference: Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, Estonia, Mexico, Sweden, and United States of America.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous venez donc d'entendre les 7 pays: Burkina Faso, Chili, Egypte, Estonie, Mexique, Suède et États-Unis, qui sont les 7 États Membres qu'il vous est proposé d'élire pour construire le Bureau. En l'absence d'objections les 7 États Membres ont été dûment élus en fonction de membres du Bureau de la Conférence.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande maintenant au Président de la Commission des candidatures de nous faire connaître les propositions concernant la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs.

James ALLEN (Chairman, Nominations Committee)

In accordance with Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits nine nominations to the Conference: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan and Tunisia.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je considère que ces 9 pays ont été dûment désignés pour siéger à la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs. Le Rapport de la Commission des candidatures est terminé, je voudrais en votre nom remercier Monsieur Allen et sa commission d'avoir assisté la Conférence.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS
CINQUIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES
PARTE V: OTROS ASUNTOS

28. Any Other Matters
28. Autres questions
28. Otros asuntos

28.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 99/INF/9)
28.1 Conférence McDougall (C 99/INF/9)
28.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (C 99/INF/9)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons maintenant au Point 28.1 Conférence McDougall. La Conférence va maintenant entendre la Conférence McDougall, 21ème d'une série qui a commencé en 1959. Ces Conférences sont dédiées à la mémoire de Frank McDougall, un des pères fondateurs de notre Organisation. Le Directeur général va maintenant présenter le conférencier McDougall de cette année.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

C'est pour moi un très grand plaisir de présenter Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali qui va faire la Conférence McDougall de cette année.

Elu Secrétaire général de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie au septième Sommet de la francophonie en novembre 1997 à Hanoi, Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali, diplomate, juriste, universitaire et auteur de nombreux ouvrages, possède une longue expérience des affaires internationales. Comme on le sait de janvier 1992 à décembre 1996 il a exercé les fonctions de Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Avant cette nomination, et cela depuis mai 1991 il avait assuré la fonction de Vice-Premier Ministre du Gouvernement de la République Arabe d'Egypte chargé des affaires étrangères. Alors qu'il était Ministre d'État aux Affaires

étrangères Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali a joué un rôle éminent lors de la négociations des accords de Camp David entre l'Egypte et Israël en 1979. Avant son élection au Parlement égyptien en 1987 il fut, de 1949 à 1977, professeur de droit international et de relations internationales à l'Université du Caire. En sa qualité de membre de la Commission du droit international de 1979 à 1991, de la Commission internationale des juristes, de l'Institut de droit international, de l'Institut international des droits de l'homme, de la Société africaine d'études politiques et de l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques de France, Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali a pris part à de nombreuses réunions sur le droit international, le droit de l'homme, le développement économique et social, la décolonisation, la question du Moyen-Orient, le droit humanitaire international, le droit des minorités, le non-alignement, le développement de la région méditerranéenne et la coopération Afro-arabe.

En reconnaissance de sa contribution à la communauté internationale plusieurs pays et institutions lui ont déferré des distinctions honorifiques et des décorations qui font honneur à ce grand serviteur de la cause de la paix. Je suis heureux de lui demander maintenant de prendre la parole pour la traditionnelle Conférence McDougall.

Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI (Secrétaire général de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie)

Permettez-moi de vous dire combien je suis heureux et honoré d'être aujourd'hui parmi vous, ici, à Rome, à l'occasion de la 30ème Session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Et je tiens à remercier, le Directeur général, mon ami Jacques Diouf, qui m'offre tout à la fois l'occasion de saluer le rôle éminent de cette Organisation et de partager avec vous, un certain nombre de réflexions sur les nouveaux enjeux de la "démocratie à l'heure de la mondialisation".

Ces considérations peuvent, apparemment, sembler bien éloignées des défis politiques, économiques et sociaux qui se posent au monde aujourd'hui. Mais permettez-moi de m'élever, quelques instants, au-dessus des contingences de la réalité internationale quotidienne et d'esquisser, devant vous, ce qui me semble être l'enjeu principal de la Communauté internationale de demain.

Il est clair que nous sommes entrés dans l'ère de la société globale, tant dans le domaine économique et financier que dans celui de l'information. La mondialisation de l'économie se caractérise, avant tout, par une compression de l'espace et du temps qui abolit la notion même de distance et qui donne, à une petite fraction de la population, la possibilité d'agir à distance sur le territoire local ou national.

Nous sommes, désormais, en présence d'une élite extraterritoriale, voire mondiale, qui constitue le sommet d'une hiérarchie, à la base de laquelle se trouvent les populations rattachées à la localité.

La mobilité, parce qu'elle est devenue le privilège de quelques-uns, constitue une nouvelle manière de différencier les individus, en creusant chaque jour un peu plus les inégalités entre les "mondialisés" et les "locaux". Car, dans le même temps, ces modifications considérables font prendre conscience à l'opinion publique internationale et aux États que certains problèmes majeurs du devenir humain sont essentiellement des problèmes transnationaux. Qu'il s'agisse, par exemple de la protection de l'environnement, de la maîtrise de l'avenir démographique, de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde, il est aujourd'hui évident que toutes ces questions se posent désormais à l'échelle planétaire, et ne peuvent que très partiellement être appréhendées à l'échelle de l'État Nation.

Dans ces conditions, n'exister que localement, dans un univers mondialisé, pourrait bien devenir, si l'on n'y prend garde, signe de dégradation, de dépossession et d'exclusion. Nous avons donc aujourd'hui l'impérieuse obligation de réfléchir à un nouveau projet de vie collective pour offrir

aux États et aux Nations, aux hommes et aux femmes du monde entier des raisons concrètes d'espérer.

C'est dans cette perspective que l'idée de démocratie, de démocratie globale, mais aussi de solidarité, prend toute sa signification. Car si nous ne faisons rien pour amener un régime universel à la démocratie, il se changera en totalitarisme. Et si nous ne faisons rien pour l'obliger à la civilité, à la citoyenneté et à une solidarité d'un nouveau type, il se changera en machine à broyer les individus, les sociétés et les identités.

Il me semble donc important, tout d'abord, face aux nouvelles perspectives de la vie internationale, non seulement de promouvoir l'idée démocratique, mais aussi de la penser en termes globaux. Nous devons bien comprendre que, pour que la démocratie ait un sens réel, elle doit pouvoir s'exercer dans tous les lieux où se concentre le pouvoir. A l'échelle nationale, bien sûr, mais aussi à l'échelle internationale et désormais à l'échelle transnationale. Car la démocratie n'est pas seulement une forme de gouvernement de l'État ou entre les États. La démocratie doit être le mode d'exercice de tout pouvoir, quel qu'il soit, dans la société internationale contemporaine. Autrement dit, je voudrais fortement affirmer ici que le phénomène de mondialisation de l'économie doit aller de pair avec un mouvement de mondialisation de la démocratie.

Cette mission globale de démocratisation ne peut être conduite qu'en agissant à tous les niveaux où s'exerce le pouvoir dans la société internationale.

Et je voudrais, à cet égard, vous soumettre quelques priorités. Cette universalité de l'impératif démocratique nous impose, d'abord, de mieux diffuser la démocratie au sein même du système des Nations Unies.

J'ai eu l'occasion de le dire maintes fois: la démocratie entre les nations implique que tous les États, petits et grands, prennent part aux décisions qui concernent les affaires mondiales. Car ce n'est qu'à ce prix que les nations se respecteront mutuellement et que les conditions d'une paix durable pourront être instaurées entre elles.

Il y a quelques années encore, nul ne parlait de démocratiser le système des Nations Unies. Même si aucune solution n'a encore été arrêtée, la question, revient aujourd'hui, régulièrement à l'Ordre du jour. Vous savez aussi bien que moi tous les débats qui s'attachent à la composition du Conseil de sécurité, à son élargissement et sa légitimité. C'est cette même volonté qui explique largement la décentralisation conduite par l'organisation mondiale depuis quelques années et qui doit être poursuivie.

En effet, depuis la fin de la guerre froide, les Organisations régionales sont en train de développer un nouveau régionalisme, non pas en tant que néo-sphère d'influence, mais comme un complément sain à l'internationalisme. Plus encore, au moment où la demande se fait croissante, mais l'intérêt décroissant pour l'action internationale, le potentiel que constituent les institutions régionales, tant dans le domaine de la sécurité et de la paix, que dans celui du développement, a pris une importance accrue.

Nous avons tous en mémoire la coopération entre l'ONU et l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine en Somalie, entre l'ONU et l'Organisation des États Africains en Haïti ou l'ONU et l'ECOMOC au Libéria. L'intégration des Organisations régionales dans le système des Nations Unies, aussi dans les reactions interrégionales constituent un pas important sur la voie de la démocratisation de la communauté internationale.

Mais, je l'ai souligné en commençant cette conférence, cette volonté de démocratisation risque d'être privée d'une partie de son sens si, en même temps, le pouvoir à l'échelle mondiale échappe aux États, et si les nouveaux espaces de pouvoir, ne sont pas eux aussi, régis par des principes démocratiques. Il est clair, en effet que dans une société qui se globalise, les marges laissées aux décideurs nationaux s'amenuisent.

Ce changement de perspective impose un nouveau impératif: celui d'inscrire l'idée démocratique de la globalisation de la vie internationale, en faisant naître de nouvelles formes de solidarités. Je suis convaincu, en effet, que seule une nouvelle conception de la solidarité permettra d'éviter, ou du moins d'atténuer, les inévitables exclusions que porte en elle-même la société globale.

Mais la solidarité ne se décrète pas. La solidarité, c'est d'abord la conviction d'appartenir à un même monde. La solidarité, c'est aussi le désir de fonder l'avenir sur un nouveau contrat social.

La solidarité ne peut donc résulter que d'un engagement collectif, c'est-à-dire de l'adhésion des États, mais aussi des acteurs privés de la société internationale contemporaine.

C'est à cette nouvelle étape de la démocratisation que s'inscrit la vaste réflexion collective menée, ces dernières années, dans le domaine économique et social, à l'occasion de conférences internationales consacrées à de grands problèmes transnationaux qui conditionnent l'avenir voire le devenir de l'humanité. C'est dans cet esprit qu'il faut comprendre les Conférences de Rio en 1992, de Vienne en 1993, du Caire, en 1994, de Copenhague, en 1995, de Pékin, en 1996. Et, toujours, en 1996, le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, qui s'est déroulé ici même, au siège de la FAO.

En conviant l'ensemble des États à s'engager sur des questions concernant l'avenir global de la planète, l'ONU a montré, par-là même sa volonté de passer, insensiblement, de la concertation interétatique à la coopération transnationale, et de s'instituer en véritable assemblée démocratique de la planète. Mais, pour autant, cela reste insuffisant, parce qu'en dernière analyse, rien ne sera véritablement possible sans la volonté déterminée de la grande majorité des États de s'engager sérieusement dans les affaires du monde. Car il est clair, aujourd'hui, que seule une petite proportion d'États veulent jouer pleinement leur rôle au sein du système des Nations Unies ou sur la scène internationale.

Nous avons tous à l'esprit l'exemple d'États de petite taille ou faiblement peuplés, avec un potentiel économique ou militaire modeste, et qui exercent néanmoins une influence importante. A l'inverse, d'autres États, économiquement et politiquement puissants s'abstiennent de s'engager sur la scène internationale, souvent au nom de contraintes intérieures, politiques ou constitutionnelles. Or, je reste convaincu qu'il n'y aura pas de démocratisation possible à l'échelle internationale, qu'il n'y aura pas de solidarité effective tant que certains États auront fait le choix de l'immobilisme.

Mais je l'ai dit, ce mouvement de démocratisation doit aller plus loin. Et il exige aussi la participation des acteurs privés, des acteurs non étatiques. A cet égard, l'entreprise transnationale est, aujourd'hui un lieu fondamental de pouvoir à l'échelle de la planète. En tant que telle, elle doit être associée plus étroitement aux décisions internationales.

Mais dans le même temps, elle doit accepter d'inclure les perspectives de l'intérêt général et du bien-être collectif dans ses stratégies économiques. Car nous sommes tous conscients qu'il ne s'agit plus aujourd'hui, ni de prôner je ne sais quelle planification générale, ni de laisser la loi du profit gérer l'avenir économique du monde et des générations futures.

Il est donc indispensable d'introduire les entreprises transnationales dans le processus de démocratisation, afin qu'elles apparaissent non comme des prédateurs qui se joueraient des lacunes de l'ordre social international, mais bien au contraire comme des acteurs du développement et des facteurs fondamentaux de l'intégration sociale.

Cette participation des entreprises à l'élaboration d'un nouvel ordre social transnational est d'autant plus importante que l'affaiblissement des moyens de contrôle étatiques, la plus grande perméabilité des territoires que j'évoquais en commençant, et l'émiettement des intérêts économiques nationaux, nécessitent d'inventer de nouvelles règles et de nouvelles pratiques dans le domaine de la concurrence. Pour ce faire, je suis persuadé de la nécessité de faire participer les grands responsables économiques privés à l'élaboration de ces règles. C'est par la

démocratisation des modes de décision et de réglementation que l'entreprise transnationale pourra participer à l'élaboration d'un nouvel ordre social et se sentir, elle aussi, d'une certaine manière, citoyenne du monde.

Je voudrais enfin insister sur l'importance que j'attache au rôle des organisations non gouvernementales dans le processus de démocratisation de la société globale. En effet, pour fonder une démocratie ouverte et vivante, il nous faut prendre en compte, non seulement la volonté des sujets politiques et le comportement des agents économiques, mais aussi les aspirations des acteurs sociaux et culturels. Les organisations non gouvernementales sont un élément fondamental de la représentation du monde contemporain. Et leur participation aux organisations internationales est, d'une certaine manière, une garantie de la légitimité politique de ces dernières. Sur tous les continents les ONG ne cessent aujourd'hui de se multiplier. Elles sont passées de 1 300 en 1960 à plus de 36 000 en 1996. Et elles se sont réunies, voilà quelques semaines, à Séoul, en Conférence internationale.

Ce développement est inséparable de l'aspiration à la liberté et à la démocratie qui aujourd'hui, sous des formes diverses anime la société internationale. Dans cette perspective, nous avons besoin aussi de la participation de l'opinion publique internationale et du pouvoir de sensibilisation, d'information et de mobilisation des médias.

En esquissant ainsi, devant vous ce qui pourrait être un nouvel ordre social et démocratique dans la société globale d'aujourd'hui, j'ai bien conscience de m'être livré à une réflexion largement prospective. Mais je reste convaincu que ce sont des valeurs éthiques autant que des réalités économiques qui fondent, qui légitiment, qui structurent et qui régissent les sociétés. Peut être plus que toute autre, la communauté internationale est, avant tout, une société de finalité. Elle doit reposer sur une perception démocratique et universelle de l'avenir pour pouvoir, sans cesse, se construire et se dépasser.

Voilà, ce que je voulais vous dire, aujourd'hui, je suis d'autant plus heureux de le dire dans cette enceinte de la FAO que nous partageons les mêmes objectifs. Et que nous partageons la même volonté de coopérer, comme en témoigne l'accord que nous avons signé, récemment, entre la FAO et l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Que nous savons, aussi, que la paix n'est pas seulement une affaire politique, mais aussi un problème de développement économique.

Chacun doit être bien conscient que le sous-développement est un facteur de troubles politiques. Disons-le clairement, la faim est aussi insupportable que la guerre. Et seule notre mobilisation à tous – Organisation universelle, Organisations régionales et Organisations non-gouvernementales – permettra d'avancer vers ce monde qui est celui de nos idéaux et de nos combats.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En votre nom, je souhaite remercier vivement Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali pour son allocution. Comme vous le savez, Frank McDougall était originaire d'Australie, c'est pourquoi, j'invite maintenant la délégation australienne à prendre la parole.

Warren TRUSS (Australia)

Mr Chairman, His Excellency Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali and delegates.

I thank you for this unique opportunity to respond to the McDougall Memorial Lecture given today by Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali. It is indeed an honour to have the distinguished former Secretary-General of the United Nations at this FAO Conference and, in particular, to have him deliver the McDougall Memorial Lecture honouring the contribution of a distinguished Australian.

Excellency, on behalf of us all here today, I would like to thank you for your thought-provoking and insightful address, which highlighted some of the important challenges facing the international community as we prepare to enter a new century.

Before responding further to Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali's comments, I would like to reflect briefly on the man this lecture commemorates. Frank Lidgett McDougall was an Australian who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO. As a fellow Australian, I am particularly proud of the outstanding contribution Frank McDougall made to the establishment of FAO more than half a century ago. I want to acknowledge also FAO's enduring recognition of his achievements through this biennial lecture.

Australians may be rightly pleased with what FAO stands for and our role in the formation and evolution of the Organization. Indeed, we have continued since the time of Frank McDougall to maintain a strong commitment to the goals of the Organization, and have actively participated in its important and diverse range of activities. This has often been as the representative of the Member Nations of the Southwest Pacific Region.

McDougall was a visionary. He would clearly have been warmed and stimulated by the scholarly and global assessment presented to us today by your Excellency. Indeed, the challenges which face us today in this era of rapid globalization are no less demanding of our wisdom and commitment than they were for Frank McDougall.

Frank McDougall's vision of a world without hunger and poverty had its beginnings in the early 1930s. His ideas have become a basic tenet of this international organization and have been fundamental in shaping and setting the direction of its activities. His life and work should be an inspiration to all of us who are involved in multilateral endeavours aimed at achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

The occasion of this lecture therefore also provides us with an opportunity to reflect briefly on the challenges that still lie ahead.

As Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suggested, there are great challenges. The developments that have taken place in agricultural and food production, technology and trade since the foundation of FAO are quite remarkable. Yet despite this, and the fact that the world can produce enough food to meet the demands of the global population, we are constantly reminded of the fact that some 800 million people still do not receive enough food to meet their daily nutritional needs. As confirmed in FAO's recent sobering report, *The State of the World's Food Insecure*, food insecurity is unfortunately still a persistent global problem.

This major challenge of adequately feeding the world's increasing population is, not surprisingly, well reflected in the goals laid out in the Preamble to FAO's Constitution. The goals of raising levels of nutrition and standards of living; securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; bettering the conditions of rural populations; and contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger, are still the key challenges FAO and the world community face today. FAO's comprehensive response to these challenges is of course most recently reflected in the World Food Summit outcome and its Plan of Action.

For many developing countries, agricultural and food production is the key to economic growth, employment and poverty alleviation. However, many developing countries are denied the opportunity to develop their food and agricultural sectors to their full potential due to the inappropriate policies by other governments that prevent them from competing fairly on world markets.

In an age of rapid globalization, this is a fundamental impediment to the ability of developing countries to enhance their national welfare and food security. It also highlights the need for global approaches in which all key stakeholders can make a genuine contribution, as pointed out by Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali. As he also rightly pointed out, the impact of change and in particular the impact of globalization and advances in technology, present both new challenges and opportunities to international organizations such as FAO as well as to individual countries.

I do not believe we can or should even want to halt globalization. The challenge is to see globalization deliver, in an equitable way, higher living standards, more jobs and sustainable developments. This requires more open economies and trade and the full participation of all countries, including developing and least-developed countries, in the world economy and trading system.

I would mention a number of pressing global issues very relevant to this Organization and its agencies which demand international attention. All are, in my view, inextricably linked to meeting the food needs of our future populations. These are access to the benefits of biotechnology, food safety, overexploitation and management of our marine resources and achieving the right balance between more intensive agricultural production and environmental degradation.

The theme of full participation or enfranchisement on key transborder issues was also a common one throughout Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali's lecture. As a Member of Parliament, I know well how important it is to have all stakeholders involved and to take ownership of issues. In my own area of responsibility in Australia, we are proud of our efforts to better enfranchise rural women and in facilitating community actions at the local level on the environment through our National Landcare Programme. FAO can also be well pleased with its efforts with respect to rural women and small farmers which are so important to food production in many developing countries. FAO has an important role to play in empowering developing countries to be more equitable partners in the world economy through capacity-building and technical assistance.

Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali also mentioned the increasing importance of regional institutions in the UN System. This is well demonstrated in terms of the operation of this Organization. We commend the work of the FAO Regional Office in the South Pacific, whose activities are playing a vital role in the development of the Southwest Pacific Island Members of FAO.

FAO must continue to strive to deliver on the goals its founders set for it, while also maintaining its relevance to the broader membership in this rapidly changing and demanding era of globalization. It is our responsibility to build on the foundations laid by these pioneers and on the contributions to FAO's ideals made by the very many people in the intervening years.

Given this unique role and position that FAO holds, it is beholden upon the Membership to ensure that FAO continues to be a forward-looking and innovative organization, well positioned for the challenges of the next century.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the McDougall Lecture on behalf of Australia, and thank Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali for his excellent contribution at the beginning of this Conference.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vois que le délégué du Burkina Faso veut demander la parole.

Issa Martin BIKIENGA (Burkina Faso)

Nous avions demandé à intervenir plus tôt, mais cela n'avait pas été possible. Ceci dit, je prends la parole au nom du Groupe africain pour vous féliciter pour votre élection à la haute direction des travaux de cette Trentième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Nous sommes convaincus que votre savoir-faire, votre expérience, ainsi que vos talents et votre engagement sont des gages de succès pour nos travaux. Au nom du Groupe africain, nous sommes particulièrement heureux qu'un fils d'une de nos régions ait été désigné à cette fonction et nous vous assurons de notre entière collaboration pour vous permettre de vous acquitter au mieux de vos tâches de Président.

Aux Vices-Présidents et à l'ensemble du Bureau, le Groupe africain adresse ses félicitations et prodigue ses souhaits de bon travail et plein succès à nos travaux. En terminant, je voudrais féliciter Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali pour la qualité de son intervention à l'occasion de la Conférence Douglas.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je tiens à remercier le délégué du Groupe africain pour ses félicitations, et je compte beaucoup sur l'assistance de la Salle pour la réussite de notre Conférence. L'examen du Point 28.1 est terminé, nous allons donc suspendre la séance pour permettre à Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali de prendre congé, et nous allons continuer.

Nous avons examiné tous les points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour de la première séance plénière. Je voudrais maintenant inviter les membres du Bureau, c'est à dire les trois Vice-Présidents, à savoir Messieurs Nuiry Sanchez, Nouri-Naeeni et Berteling ainsi que les représentants des septs pays suivants: Burkina Faso, Chine, Egypte, Estonie, Mexique, Suède et États-Unis d'Amérique à me rejoindre dès l'ajournement de la séance dans la Salle du Mexique D-211, pour notre première réunion. La séance plénière est levée, elle reprendra à 14 heures 30.

The meeting rose at 11.10 hours.
La séance est levée a 11 h 10.
Se levanta la sesión a las 11.10 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA

12 November 1999

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la deuxième séance plénière. Avant de poursuivre, je donne la parole au Secrétaire général qui a une brève annonce à faire concernant la participation de la Communauté européenne.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Avant de faire cette annonce concernant la participation de la Communauté européenne, si vous le permettez, j'ai une annonce à faire. La présidence du Groupe africain annonce qu'il y aura une réunion du Groupe africain à 15 heures dans la Salle Malaisie, B-227.

La Communauté européenne participe à cette séance conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. J'ai été prié de vous informer que la déclaration de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres figure dans le document d'information portant la cote C 99/INF/16 qui a déjà été distribué à tous les membres de la Conférence. J'attire l'attention de la Conférence sur cette déclaration.

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session (C 99/1; C 99/16; C 99/INF/16; C 99/LIM/1)
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session (C 99/1; C 99/16; C 99/INF/16; C 99/LIM/1)
3. Aprobación del programa y la organización del período de sesiones (C 99/1; C 99/16; C 99/INF/16; C 99/LIM/1)

First Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/14)
Premier rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/14)
Primer informe del Comité General (C 99/LIM/14)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons au Point 3, Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session, et ses documents C 99/1, C 99/16, C 99/LIM 1 et C 99/INF/16. Comme demandé par la Conférence ce matin, le Bureau s'est réuni et a préparé son Premier rapport contenant des propositions sur les points suivants: Adoption de l'ordre du jour, Organisation de la session, Répartition des points de l'Ordre du jour, Admission d'observateurs et d'autres dispositions connexes. Je propose maintenant que le Secrétaire général lise le Rapport du Bureau, section par section, pour que la Conférence puisse examiner le Rapport. Le Rapport lui-même sera disponible demain sous la cote C 99/LIM/14. Puis-je demander au Secrétaire général de lire la première section du Rapport?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

A. *Agenda for the Session.*

Paragraph 1, the General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda, set forth in document C 99/1, and noted that following the deliberations of the Hundred and Seventeenth Council Session there would be four sub-items under *Other Constitutional and Legal Matters*, namely, Item 18.1, *Cooperation Agreement With INFOPECHE*; 18.2, *Cooperation Agreement*

with LVFO; 18.3, *Cooperation Agreement with INFOPESCA*; 18.4, *Use of Gender-Neutral Language in the Basic Texts*.

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Provisional Agenda, including the additional sub-items specified in paragraph 1 above.

Having noted at the request of the Hundred Sixteenth Council Session, the Provisional Agenda printed in document C 99/1 was followed by a list of subjects on which information documents were tabled. The Committee also recommends that delegates wishing to comment on these documents be given an opportunity to do so under Item 28, *Any Other Matters*.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée. Nous passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL

B. *Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session.*

At its Hundred Sixteenth Session, the Council formulated proposals concerning the Organization and Timetable for the Thirtieth Session of the Conference, proposals which were communicated to all Member Nations in document in C 99/16. The Committee recommends that (a)the Conference establish two Commissions to consider and report on Parts I and II of the Agenda, respectively; (b) that Item 21, *Payment by the European Community to Cover Expenses Arising out of Its Membership in the Organization* be examined first by the General Committee; (c) that Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture begin in Plenary on the afternoon of 13 November, with the Secretariat's introduction in the morning if time permits, and conclude in the morning of 18 November, and that Plenary examine Items 16, 17 and 18, in the afternoon of 18 November.

With respect to the communication received from the Ambassador of Argentina regarding the insertion in the Provisional Timetable of a statement by Ambassador Vignaud on the morning of Saturday, 13 November, the Committee noted that since Item 24, *Appointment of the Director-General*, would be entirely concluded by the time that the Statutory Statement by the Director-General on the work of the Organization would be delivered, there was no need to insert in the Timetable a statement by Ambassador Vignaud.

The Committee noted that since His Holiness Pope John Paul II would be granting a Papal Audience for Conference participants on Thursday, 18 November, the morning meetings that day would need to end earlier than usual. It further noted that the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, the President of Brazil and the President of Finland would be visiting FAO Headquarters to address the Conference. The Committee recommends that they be permitted to do so on the understanding that the hour and date are shown in the appropriate Journal of the Conference.

The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council, taking into consideration the modifications indicated in paragraphs 4 and 5 above. It is understood that this Timetable may be subject to modications in the light of progress made in the Plenary and in the Commissions.

The attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers, the duration of each intervention should not exceed five minutes.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée. Nous passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL

C. *Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the two Commissions.*

In accordance with Rules VII.1 and XXIV.5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization, and as indicated in document C 99/LIM/1, the Council at its Hundred Seventeenth Session proposed the following candidates for chairing the Commissions: Commission I, Luigi M. Fontana-Giusti, Italy; Commission II, Bhaskar Barua, India. The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal.

In accordance with Rule X-2(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee recommends that the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission be as follows: Commission I, Ms Victoria Guardia Alvarado de Hernández, Costa Rica; Bob Francis Jalang'o of Kenya; Commission II, Ms Anneli Vuorinen of Finland, Mr Bill Doering of Canada.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare cette section adoptée. Nous passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL

D. *Resolutions Committee.*

The Council at its Hundred Sixteenth Session had recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven Members, one from each FAO Region. Its Terms of Reference are described in document C 99/16, Appendix C, as are the criteria, which should govern the formulation of resolutions.

The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal and that the following Member Nations identified by the Region to which they belong comprise the Resolutions Committee: Africa: Angola; Asia, Philippines; Europe: Finland; Latin America and the Caribbean: Nicaragua; Near East: Sudan; North America: Canada; Southwest Pacific: Australia. Delegations of the countries concerned are requested to communicate to the Chairman of the Conference as early as possible the name of their representative on the Resolutions Committee. The Committee further recommends that the Resolutions Committee be chaired by Ronald Rose of Canada.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Nous passons au Point 4 *Admission d'observateurs*, C 99/13 et C 99/13-Sup.1.

4. Admission of Observers (C 99/13; C 99/13-Sup.1)
4. Admission d'observateurs (C 99/13; C 99/13-Sup.1)
4. Admisión de observadores (C 99/13; C 99/13-Sup.1)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

E. *Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership.*

As is customary, the Director-General has provisionally invited applicants for Membership to be represented by Observers until a decision has been taken on their application. The Conference will no doubt wish to confirm the invitation in respect of Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau and San Marino.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée. Nous passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL

F. *Admission of Observers from Non-member Nations.*

Since it might be appropriate to facilitate attendance by Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Non-member Nations which had been represented at the World Food Summit in 1996, invitations to attend the Conference in an Observer capacity were sent to the Governments concerned. It was pointed out, however, that they were subject to confirmation by the Conference in accordance with the principles relating to the granting of Observer Status to Nations, (Basic Texts, Section O, Paragraph B-1) which specifies that Non-member States of FAO may on request be invited by the Conference to be represented by an Observer at a Session of the Conference.

The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the invitations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette section ? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée. Nous passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY-GENERAL

G. *Admission of New Member Nations.*

In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization the following applications for Membership have been received by the deadline of 12 October 1999: Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau, San Marino. The General Committee notes that the Federated States of Micronesia has informed the Organization that it will not be able to complete the formalities for its application for Membership in the Organization at this Conference Session.

Under Article II of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. " 'Votes cast' shall mean affirmative and negative votes, and shall not include abstentions or defective ballots", as per Rule XII-14(a) of the General Rules of the Organization. Membership becomes effective the date when the Conference approves the application.

The Committee recommends that the Conference hold the vote for the admission Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau and San Marino at the Plenary meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 12 November. The result of the vote will be announced later in the same meeting, followed by the ceremony for installing the new Members. As is customary, the Chairperson will welcome the new Members, each of whom may make a brief statement.

In accordance with the Provision of Article II.3 of the Constitution, an application for membership was received on 18 October 1999 from the Republic of Kiribati. The application includes a request that the application be placed before the Session of the Conference convened in November 1999.

Rule XIX-2 of the General Rules of the Organization provides *inter alia* that applications for Membership shall be placed on the Agenda of the next Session of the Conference which open not less than 30 days from the receipt of the application. Rule XLVIII.1 *Suspension and Amendment of Rules*: provides that subject to the provisions of the Constitution, any of the foregoing Rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any Plenary meeting of the Conference, provided that notice of the intention to propose the suspension has been communicated to the delegates not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which the proposal is to be made.

In order to allow the present Conference to vote on the application for Membership from Kiribati, the Committee recommends that the Conference hold a vote on the suspension of Rule XIX.2 at the Plenary meeting in the afternoon of Monday, 15 November. In the event that the Rule is suspended, the Conference would then vote on the admission of Kiribati to Membership. The result of the vote would be announced at the same meeting followed by the ceremony for installing the new Member.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

Contributions of the new Member Nations.

In accordance with Regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount of the contribution to be paid by newly-admitted Member Nations, beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved.

According to the established principles and customs, the minimum contribution due from the new Members for the last quarter of 1999 and the advance to be made to the Working Capital Fund are provisionally: Kiribati, last quarter 1999 contribution US$ 797.88, Working Capital Fund Advance US$ 250; Marshall Islands, last quarter 1999 contribution US$ 797.88, Working Capital Fund Advance US$ 250; Niue, last quarter 1999 contribution US$ 797.88, Working Capital Fund Advance US$ 250; Palau, last quarter 1999 contribution US$ 797.88, Working Capital Fund Advance US$ 250; and San Marino, last quarter 1999 contribution US$ 1 595.75, Working Capital Fund Advance US$ 500.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

I. *Appointment of the Director-General.*

By the date established by the Council, that is, 8 April 1999, the following nominations had been received for the post of Director-General. Jacques Diouf, Senegal, and Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud, Argentina. These nominations were notified to all Members by Circular Letter G/CF/4/2 of 29 April 1999. Under the terms of Rule XXXVI-1(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election, it being understood that the appointment of the Director-General at a regular session shall begin and be effective within three working days following the opening date of the session. The election is by secret ballot. A candidate who obtains a simple majority of votes cast, abstentions and defective ballots not being counted, is elected.

The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place on the morning of Saturday 13 November 1999, immediately after the Plenary adopts the Report of the Credentials Committee as envisaged in document C 99/16 *Arrangements for the Thirtieth Session of the Conference.*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Il n'y a plus d'observations sur cette section. En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

Election of Members of the Council

Rule XXII-10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of Members of the Council and the date by which nominations must be submitted. The Committee accordingly recommends:

a) That the election begin on the morning of Friday 19 November, and

b) That nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary General of the Conference in room B-202, by 12 hours on Saturday, 13 November at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the Conference the valid nominations received, at least three working days before the date selected for the election in accordance with Rule XXII-10(d) of the General Rules of the Organization.

In this connection, the Conference will note, in particular, the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization in selecting Members of the Council.

Paragraph 3: "In selecting Members of the Council, the Conference shall give due consideration to the desirability of:

a) including in its Membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;

b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure towards the success of the Organization;

c) giving to the greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity, by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council.

Paragraph 4: Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election.

Paragraph 5: No Member Nation shall be eligible for election to the Council if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years.

Paragraph 7: A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contribution due from it for the two preceding calendar years, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive sessions of the Council."

The Committee recommends, that for the Council elections on 19 November 1999, San Marino be in the Europe Region, that Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue and Palau be in the Southwest Pacific Region and that the distribution of other Member Nations by Region remain as shown in document C 99/11 which provides all relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted and the forms for submitting nominations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

K. Right to Vote.

The General Committee notes that the following Member Nations have not paid sufficient amounts of their assessed contributions to retain their vote in the Conference. Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Moldova (Republic of), Nicaragua, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

Article III-4 of the Constitution states: "A Member Nation which is in arrears in payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the Conference if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such a Member Nation to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation."

In the meantime, however, the Committee recommends to the Conference, in accordance with past practice, that all Member Nations in attendance be authorized to vote on Friday 12 November, on Saturday 13 November and on Monday 15 November, on the understanding that contacts with them shall be continued with a view to regularising their arrears situation. Some Members indicated their reservations on this recommendation. The Committee also expressed its concern at the large number of Member Nations in arrears.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare cette section adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

L. *Right of Reply.*

At its sixteen previous Sessions, the Conference had decided that if delegates wished to reply to criticisms of their Government's policy they should preferably do so on the day on which such criticism has been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak.

The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present Session.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare cette section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

Rule XVIII-I of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that: Verbatim Records shall be kept for all Conference, Plenary and Commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is expressly recognized in Rule XVIII-2 of the General Rules of the Organization. The accuracy of records may be maintained by either correcting typing and other errors or by amending a word or phrase actually used. In practice, such corrections or amendments to statements are accepted only from the delegation which made the statement and should be submitted within 48 hours of circulation of the draft Verbatim Record concerned.

In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers, who so desire, may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time. While the Committee sees no objection, in principle, to the insertion of statements in the Records, when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the Right of Reply to any criticism of their Government's policy made in the inserted statement. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that:

a) the Plenary or the Commission concerned is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, or a substantive addition to a statement that has been delivered, is being inserted in the Records; b) the text handed over to the Chairman for insertion is in Arabic, Chinese, English, French or Spanish; c) the provisional Verbatim Record containing the additional statement is circulated, at least, three days before the close of the Session; and d) delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the Right of Reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, a statement relating to the additional statement.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare cette section adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

N. *Statements by Heads of Delegation.*

The Committee recommends that a List of Speakers be published daily in the Journal of the Conference in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of five minutes.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare cette section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

O. *Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-governmental Organizations.*

The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in observer capacity at this Session of the Conference is given in documents C 99/13 and C 99/13-Sup.1. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement, and to International Non-governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference.

After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

P. *Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-governmental Organizations having Consultative Status.*

The General Committee was apprised of requests from the following International Non-governmental Organizations in consultative status with FAO to address the Plenary of the Conference. The International Cooperative Alliance, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, IFAP. Having examined these requests, the Committee, in accordance with Rule X-2(g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting to the Conference and recommends that the Conference grant Speaking Time to the above-mentioned Organizations on the understanding that, in no case, will such Organization be given priority in speaking over Representatives of Member Nations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare cette section adoptée. Passons à la suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

Q. *Informal meeting of Observers from Non-governmental Organizations.*

The Council recommended that, as in previous sessions of the Conferences, Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programme may be communicated to the Conference.

It is suggested that this meeting take place on the afternoon, Saturday 13 November. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations, je déclare la section adoptée. Passons à la section suivante.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

R. *Attendance by Liberation Movement.*

In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session, the Palestine Liberation Organization has been invited to attend the Conference in an Observer capacity. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm this invitation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur cette section? En absence d'observations je déclare la section adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARY GENERAL

S. *Conclusion.*

The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for this Session and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 9.30 to 12.30 hours in the morning, and 14.30 to 17.30 hours in the afternoon. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous venons d'adopter le rapport du Comité général, les Points 3 et 4 de l'Ordre du Jour.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Passons au Point 23, *Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation*, avec ses documents C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1, et C 99/10-Sup.2.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS
PARTE IV: NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2)
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2)
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames, Messieurs, la Conférence va maintenant examiner le Point 23 relatif aux demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation des quatre candidats, à savoir: les îles Marshall, Nioué, Palaos et Saint-Marin, étant donné que la Micronésie a renvoyé sa demande d'admission à une session ultérieure de la Conférence.

Quant au cinquième (Kiribati), comme nous avons décidé selon la recommandation du Bureau et pour respecter les règes, le vote sera déplacé à lundi dans l'après-midi.

L'Article II.2 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO stipule que "la Conférence peut, à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés et sous réserve que la majorité des États Membres de l'Organisation soient présents, décider d'admettre à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation tout État qui a déposé une demande d'admission accompagnée d'un instrument officiel par lequel il accepte les obligations découlant de l'Acte constitutif en vigueur au moment de l'admission".

Les demandes d'admission en question font l'objet des documents C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1 et C 99/10-Sup.2. Je vais maintenant demander au Secrétaire Général de vous expliquer la procédure de vote et de prendre les dispositions pour connaitre le nombre de pays dans la salle.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les délégués recevront un bulletin pour chaque État candidat. Chaque bulletin de vote comporte trois cases où sont indiquées les mentions "pour", "contre" et "abstention". Le représentant devra cocher la case correspondant à son choix pour chacun des candidats. Il est noté que conformément à l'Article XII.4-c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme portant la mention abstention. Veuillez noter également que conformément au paragraphe 4-d) du même article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent comporter aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon que la machine électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes.

Avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, j'invite encore les délégués à appuyer sur le bouton vert. La plupart l'ont déjà fait, mais s'il y a une ou deux délégations qui ne l'ont pas encore fait, je les invite à le faire avant de clôturer le vote.

Le nombre de votes se chiffre à 134. Nous avons donc largement le quorum.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Conformément à l'Article II.2 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO et aux dispositions de l'article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le quorum requis pour cette élection est une majorité des États Membres de l'Organisation. Autrement dit, au moins 88 membres devront être représentés cette fois-ci.

Puis-je vous rappeler que conformément au paragraphe 14 de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, lorsqu'un scrutin a été ouvert, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut l'interrompre, sauf pour présenter une motion d'ordre touchant le vote.

Conformément au paragraphe 9c) de l'Article XII du règlement général de l'Organisation, le Président de la Conférence nomme deux scrutateurs, choisis parmi les délégués ou les représentants ou leurs suppléants. J'invite les délégués de Malawi et Viet Nam à se diriger vers la zone réservée au vote.

Le Secrétaire Général adjoint va maintenant appeler les votants à se diriger vers la zone réservée au vote.

Vote
Vote
Votación

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le vote est terminé, les scrutateurs vont maintenant quitter la salle avec les urnes afin de procéder, avec l'assistance des Membres du bureau chargés de l'élection, au dépouillement du scrutin.

Pendant le dépouillement du scrutin, nous allons décerner le Prix B.R. Sen, le Prix A.H. Boerma et le Prix Edouard Saouma et la Médaille Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS (continued)
CINQUIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)
PARTE V: OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

28. Any Other Matters (continued)
28. Autres questions (suite)
28. Otros asuntos (continuación)

28.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 99/INF/6)
28.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen (C 99/INF/6)
28.2 Entrega de los premios B.R. Sen (C 99/INF/6)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous en sommes maintenant au Point 28.2 de l'Ordre du jour, Remise des Prix B.R. Sen pour 1998 et 1999. Ce prix a été créé par la Conférence en mémoire de M B.R. Sen qui a été Directeur général de la FAO de 1956 à 1967. Ce prix est décerné chaque année à un fonctionnaire de terrain ayant particulièrement bien servi la cause du/des pays dans lequel/lesquels il/elle a été affecté/e. Le lauréat reçoit une médaille, un certificat, la somme de 5 000 dollars E.-U. en espèces et un billet aller-retour pour Rome où le lauréat assiste à la session de la Conférence durant laquelle les prix sont remis. Je vais maintenant demander au Directeur général de présenter les lauréats et de remettre le prix B.R. Sen.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Avant de procéder à la remise des prix, j'ai le grand plaisir d'accueillir aujourd'hui, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui a dirigé cette Organisation pendant une longue période. Agronome, diplômé en chimie agricole de l'Université Saint-Joseph à Beyrouth, ancien élève de l'École Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier en France, Edouard Saouma est Docteur *Honoris Causa* de nombreuses universités de par le monde et a reçu de multiples distinctions honorifiques et décorations.

En 1962, il avait accepté le poste de Représentant régional de la FAO pour l'Asie du Sud-Est, à New Delhi, et en 1965, il a été nommé Directeur de la Division de la mise en valeur des terres et des eaux. Il a également occupé un nombre important de postes au service du Gouvernement du Liban, notamment celui de Premier Directeur général de l'Institut national de la recherche agronomique et en 1970, il fut Ministre de l'Agriculture, des pêches et des forêts. Monsieur Saouma présentera tout à l'heure le prix Edouard Saouma.

Je souhaite maintenant passer à la présentation des lauréats du prix B.R. Sen pour 1998 et 1999.

(continúa en español)

El Premio B. R. Sen de 1998 se concede al señor Eduardo Seminario Martín, ciudadano del Perú, en reconocimiento de su gran contribución al desarrollo y la utilización de enfoques participativos en la ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas, así como a la elaboración de la política y planificación del medio ambiente en Burundi.

El señor Seminario Martín ha afrontado notables desafios en materia de protección y conservación del medio ambiente, participación activa de las poblaciones en el desarrollo sostenible y la mejora de las condiciones de vida de las poblaciones rurales. Las autoridades de Burundi han apoyado con complacencia su designación y han expresado su sincero agradecimiento al señor Seminario Martín.

Eduardo SEMINARIO MARTÍN

Estoy muy honrado de haber sido seleccionada para el Premio B.R. Sen de 1998. Hoy es ciertamente el día más feliz de mi vida profesional. Considerando que Burundi, país donde yo trabajé, es un país francófono permítame continuar en Francés.

(continue en français)

Cette unique opportunité me fait réaliser que j'ai pu apporter une modeste mais significative contribution aux zones rurales dans les pays les plus pauvres en voie de développement de l'Afrique. Le projet interrégional sur lequel j'ai travaillé a basé son approche sur le concept de la planification et de la gestion participative et intégrée des ressources naturelles en s'inspirant du Chapitre 13 de l'Agenda 21 "Développement durable des montagnes" dont la FAO est l'agence *leader*. Cette reconnaissance de la part de ma chère Organisation m'encourage comme pour mes collègues, à redoubler nos efforts pour atteindre les objectifs les plus louables du système des Nations Unies. Je voudrais remercier la FAO pour m'avoir donné l'opportunité d'apporter ma contribution à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles des hautes terres comme une alternative pour le développement rural durable.

Bien sûr, cela n'aurait pas été possible sans l'appui de nos différents départements et services techniques, des Opérations, des Finances, du Personnel, qui ont toujours été prêts à nous appuyer. Je leur adresse mes remerciements, en particulier à Messieurs El-Hadji Sène et Douglas McGuire, les points focaux pour le développement durable de montagne et pour l'année internationale des terres de montagne UN-2002. Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi à Monsieur Ahmed Chikhaoui et Rugabina Daniel, mes deux CPO pour leur appui dans la mise en oeuvre des projets. Je voudrais ne pas oublier aussi le projet interrégional pour la conservation et le développement des hautes terres, avec pour coordinateur Monsieur Luca Fedostiani, ainsi que les équipes nationales de terrain de la Bolivie, du Népal, du Pakistan et de la Tunisie pour les échanges riches en expériences tout au long de la vie du projet. Mes remerciements s'adressent au Gouvernement italien pour avoir bien voulu accepter de financer ce type de projet à long-terme. Ceci nous a permis de consolider au niveau du terrain le processus d'institutionalisation de l'approche participative et intégrée préconisée par le projet. Ceci assure à ne pas douter de la durabilité des activités entreprises par la population. J'espère que l'expérience acquise durant ce projet international fera tache d'huile et que d'autres donateurs se joindront à cet effort afin de faire face à ce défi.

Je voudrais remercier d'une façon toute particulière la population de Vugiso qui a bien voulu m'accepter pour travailler avec eux à leur auto-développement à travers la planification et la gestion de leurs ressources naturelles.

J'ai également une pensée toute particulière pour les autorités et les services techniques locaux qui ont soutenu, à tous moments, les activités du projet. Je les remercie tous ainsi que chacun des membres de l'équipe nationale de terrain du Burundi, car sans eux, le succès n'aurait pas été

possible, surtout dans la situation de guerre civile qu'a traversé le pays. Je tiens à rendre hommage postume à l'ancien Directeur national du projet, Monsieur Simon Sinai Renola qui était très motivé et dynamique. Grâce à lui, nous avons fait l'extension de l'approche préconisée par le projet à toute la province de Makemba. Je voudrais exprimer mon souhait le plus cher envers le Burundi, qu'il retrouve la paix qui est la base du développement durable. J'espère très vivement que ce souhait devienne bientôt une réalité, car la population attend cette paix avec impatience pour se consacrer au développement du pays à travers la gestion durable des ressources naturelles.

Je souhaite ne pas passer sous silence la contribution des consultants qui nous ont appuyé pendant de courtes périodes sur le terrain, en particulier je voudrais remercier Maria-Teresa Cobeli, pour son appui dans la mise en oeuvre de l'approche participative, et Jean-Paul Ledan pour son appui dans l'élaboration de la stratégie nationale pour l'environnement et de son plan d'action. Mes vifs remerciements vont au Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement, pour le travail effectué ensemble avec notre Organisation comme agence d'exécution.

Au moment de ceuillir les lauriers de cette offre collective, je voudrais féliciter le PNUD qui a bien voulu accepter de financer le nouveau projet BDI/96/001 "Appui à la restauration et à la gestion de l'environnement au Burundi" afin d'étendre l'expérience sur l'approche participative dans la gestion des ressources naturelles, sur presque toute l'étendue du pays. Ce projet nous a permis aussi d'élaborer les stratégies nationales pour l'environnement - le plan d'action environnemental -, d'actualiser la loi cadre pour l'environnement au Burundi, de créer un Centre d'information environnemental, d'élaborer un schéma directeur des marais, ainsi que de relancer le programme national de reboisement et le programme de production des semences forestières. Je voudrais remercier Monsieur Josef Tchicaya, Représentant de la FAO au Burundi, pour son appui soutenu auprès du PNUD et son application dans le nouveau projet BDI/96/001.

Finalement, je remercie mon épouse et mon fils pour leur compréhension et pour avoir accepté une situation d'évacuation pendant presque cinq années afin de me permettre d'atteindre les objectifs du projet et de réaliser mes propres aspirations professionnelles. Permettez-moi de recevoir ce prix et de partager cet honneur avec toutes les personnes que je viens de mentionner.

Abdelouahhab ZAID

It is an honour and privilege to me to have been selected to receive the distinguished B. R. Sen Award for 1999. As I stand here today to receive this award, may I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to FAO for the trust and confidence placed in me, as well as to the people and institutions who have seen me worthy of receiving this award, and indeed nominated me for it.

The success of the Date Project is the product of collaborative effort, which is the hallmark of FAO's Technical Assistance Programmes. I would fail in my duty if I did not express my thanks to the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development and the Namibia Development Corporation, for the trust you have shown by allowing me to provide technical assistance to the Namibia date production for about four years now, and for the hospitality they have accorded to my family.

How did it all happen? During 1993, I was recruited by FAO as a consultant to investigate the potential date production in Namibia and to draft a project proposal. This investigation and this project document resulted in the Government of Namibia and the private sector to get involved with the development of this important component of the country's national development objective. The date production support programme was launched during 1995. Achievement through this initiative could briefly be summarized as being: creation of a national capacity through study tours and training courses; establishment of three commercial date plantations at three major sites, Naute Dam, Eersbegin and Aussenkehr; establishment of a date palm gene

bank for selected varieties; initiation of the construction of a modern date packing house; and the activation of private-sector involvement into the establishment of the date plantations.

The Namibia Date Project contributed toward food security, improved nutrition of rural people, promoted crop diversification and creation of job opportunities, income generation and settlement of landless peasants, produced foreign exchange earnings and served to control desertification.

Future activities that are already under way include hosting of an International Date Palm Symposium in Namibia during 22-25 February 2000, establishment of at least three settlement projects where date palm will be included as one of the crops, and investigation of project proposals for a second phase for the date production support programme in Namibia and a regional date project in Southern and Eastern Africa.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution and support of the FAO Headquarters, Regional Offices and national representations, as well as that of the Namibian Government; the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development and the Namibia Development Corporation, who made it possible for me to be able to contribute to the development of Namibia. My special thanks go to FAO for guidance and support during the planning and execution of activities; the Namibia Government who funded these important initiatives with an amount of approximately US$3.5 million to date; the Namibian Development Corporation for creating a conducive environment and availing officials to be part of the National Date Team and the members of the National Date Team, to whom I am especially appreciative for their support and tremendous contribution towards the development initiatives.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my family for their support and understanding.

This nomination is also a confirmation of the decision to launch the Date Project in Namibia. I am highly confident that the project's work will be felt in the rest of the Southern African subcontinent. In conclusion, this achievement is a testimony of the Namibian Government's commitment and dedication towards the socio-economic advancement of its people.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je tiens simplement à signaler que la Délégation namibienne a demandé que sa déclaration sur le B.R. Sen Award, soit incluse dans les verbatims, ce qui sera fait.

S. WEBSTER (Namibia)

With your permission I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Namibia concerning the conferring of the B. R. Sen Award we have just witnessed. I am aware that it is not the normal practice of the Conference for delegates to speak at such occasions but I beg for your grace that I may say something.

May I express my delight that Dr Zaid has been honoured with one of the most prestigious Awards, the B. R. Sen Award. Dr Zaid has made tremendous contributions towards the development of Namibia, especially in the field of date production and support to establishing the date industry in Namibia and in Southern Africa.

Through his expert leadership and tireless guidance, Namibia sincerely and proudly boast of the following major achievements:

Three established commercial date plantations in the south of the country, stationed respectively at Naute Dam near Keetmanshoop, Eersbegin near Khorixas and Aussenkehr near Noordoewer along the Orange River.

A fully functional Tissue Culture Laboratory in Windhoek for the micro-propagation of selected date palm varieties.

Dr Zaid was instrumental in other initiatives such as the Date Settlement Programme whose purpose is to introduce the date industry to the communal-tenure farmers I Namibia. He also initiated the establishment of a Date Palm Global Network, and a Telefood in Namibia. Through his efforts Namibia will be holding the International Date Palm Symposium during February 2000.

Because of his efforts, the impact of the project has gone beyond the borders of Namibia with the result that the rest of the world has begun to recognize Namibia as one of the key players with immense potential in the global date industry.

Having noted this, allow me to express our most sincere appreciation and a special word of thanks to Dr Zaid for his selflessness, dedication and outstanding contribution that he has made and continues to make towards ensuring the successful implementation of this initiative.

May I further call your attention to the fact that Namibia is the only country so far that features twice in the listing of the B. R. Sen Award, since 1965, remarkably within a period of three years. This confirms the country's commitment towards the socio-economic development of its people.

In conclusion, allow me to furthermore express my Government's sincere appreciation and thankfulness for the support that the FAO continues to make towards addressing the socio-economic development challenges that our country faces, particularly in the areas of agricultural development and food security.

To Dr Zaid, I would like to say, accept the Award, with humble appreciation, gratitude and trust, knowing Namibia fully supports your international recognition and is profoundly grateful for your contribution. My friend, I salute you.

Last, but not least Mr Chairman, accept words of congratulations and well wishes from my delegation and myself for having been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the deliberations of this Conference. My delegation and I wish you wisdom from Above, and assure you of our highest cooperation during the whole process.[1]

28.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 99/INF/7)
28.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma (C 99/INF/7)
28.3 Entrega del premio A.H. Boerma (C 99/INF/7)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Depuis Boerma, la Conférence a accordé un prix tous les deux ans à un écrivain ou à un journaliste, dont les écrits ou les interventions à la radio ou à la télévision ont contribué à sensibiliser l'opinion internationale aux problèmes de la faim dans le monde et aux mesures à prendre pour les résoudre. Le lauréat reçoit un certificat, une somme de 10 000 dollars EU en espèces, et un billet aller-retour pour Rome pour assister à la cérémonie. Cette fois, le prix est partagé entre deux journalistes. J'invite Monsieur le Directeur général à présenter les deux lauréats et à leur remettre le prix.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

One of the privileges of the Director-General of FAO is to present the Addeke Boerma Award, which was established by the Conference in 1975 to commemorate the leadership of Dr Addeke Boerma, who served as Director-General from 1968 to 1975. This award, which honours a journalist or group of journalists whose outstanding coverage of development issues has helped focus public attention on the problem of world hunger and malnutrition, is intended to acknowledge and encourage the essential role of the media in the global endeavour for food security.

[1] Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

Jounalists have an important responsibility in providing the public, as well as policy- makers, with reliable information on major issues regarding agricultural development and food security, and on the efforts and solutions that are being implemented. In many cases, in particular through information programmes reaching the rural populations, they also contribute to the success of these efforts by providing farmers with valuable information on how to increase food production and access to food.

I am, therefore, very pleased to announce that on this eleventh occasion, the Boerma Award is shared by two distinguished journalists, Mr Patrick Luganda, Uganda radio journalist and Senior Features Writer of *The New Vision*, and Mr Alain Zolty, Editor-in-Chief of the French magazine *Afrique Agriculture*.

Mr Luganda's articles in *The New Vision* and his weekly programme on *Radio Uganda*, specifically targeted at rural audiences, have helped to increase agricultural knowledge and skills among farmers in his country, and have provided an essential link between research and improved farming methods.

Being an active farmer himself, he has a grassroots understanding of farmers' problems and has worked with young farmers to help local people improve farming practices and market their product. When Uganda's cassava crop was hit by a devastating virus, his broadcasts provided local farmers with valuable technical information for restoring production, thus helping thousands of vulnerable people to avoid starvation. Mr Luganda is also known for reports that give equal voice to all the stakeholders, including policy-makers, researchers and farmers.

(continue en français)

Le prix Boerma a été décerné également à M. Alain Zolty, rédacteur en chef et directeur du mensuel *Afrique-Agriculture*. Monsieur Zolty s'occupe du développement agricole depuis plus de trente-cinq ans et a produit de nombreux articles sur les sujets tels que la désertification, l'environnement, la santé animale et les ressources hydrauliques. Sa vaste expérience se reflète dans la qualité du mensuel qu'il dirige. Cette publication bénéficie d'une large audience internationale et contribue à combler l'écart en matière d'information technique, scientifique et économique entre le monde industrialisé et les pays africains en développement.

Ses dossiers spéciaux sur l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et la foresterie, et ses nombreux articles sur la coopération Nord-Sud s'adressent aussi bien aux responsables du secteur public qu'à ceux du secteur privé, ainsi qu'aux associations d'agriculteurs, aux instituts de recherche, à l'agro-industrie et aux universités. En assurant un courant permanent d'information sur ces sujets, *Afrique-Agriculture* a contribué à améliorer la compréhension des problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et à élargir le débat sur la sécurité alimentaire.

(continues in English)

Mr Chairman, I am sure that you, the delegates and all the participants in this Conference will join me in expressing our great appreciation to these dedicated media professionals whose words and concerns have greatly contributed to raising public awareness and understanding of important aspects of world food security issues.

Patrick LUGANDA

It is with pride and pleasure that I accept this prestigious Boerma Award. I will continue to make my humble submission to the development of agriculture in my country and the Region. I am indeed honoured to receive this award. It brings warmth to the heart of many citizens within my country, and Africa as a whole.

As we sit here, there is still before us the gigantic task of how the world will support close to the 800 million people estimated by FAO as food insecure. The global agenda set in 1996 to halve this massive population is a challenge that requires the concerted efforts of all. For more than 30

years the developed world poured millions of dollars worth of food aid in the developing world. It had little success in eliminating hunger and food insecurity from the list of wars that checked progress in this country. Africa, in particular, was a bottomless pit. It was like pouring water into a palm basket. It never fills. It was not long before the donor world became fed up with throwing good money after bad. Donor fatigue, they called it.

Slowly, steadily, the message today has begun to sink in. The First World did not owe the developing world a living. Food aid *per se* is like giving a starving person by the lakeside a fish to feed on daily. The hunger cycle persists and never really goes away. The best thing that can happen to our starving fellow is to be told how to toss a hook into the lake and catch the fish himself. The developing world is at last learning how to fish. This is what dwindling donor support, with food assistance, is doing today to help developing countries.

There is an urgent need to maintain this increase in food production by changing some attitudes towards work, especially in the developing world. However, there is a change on the horizon. Famine committees are increasingly treating farming as a profitable undertaking. More farmers and financial institutions are willing to invest money and equipment into the farming sector. The returns from this investment need to be realized and put into future investments.

In sub-Saharan Africa there are a number of invisible resources that have been grossly misused and at times abused. If properly handled, these obvious but very crucial resources could not only help to address food insecurity but also contribute to poverty alleviation. Poor management of these resources has partly contributed to the vicious cycle of poverty, particularly in Uganda of which I am best knowledgeable.

This goes with time management. Time is our most precious resource which the rich and poor partake in equal measure. At a usual glimpse, time management seems the least problem, obvious entry to solving food security, let alone poverty. We all have a 24-hour day. How we manage the valuable time of the day to use for work that will, at the end of the day, translate into our daily earnings, is the big question. The more we work, the more we expect to earn. It should therefore hold true that with more time invested in farm work and management, more earnings should be realized.

However, this does not hold true for the poorer farming folk of the world. There are many farmers who I know, who on average spend not more than four hours on the farm. The rest of the day is spent in social gatherings, such as group drinking or leisure games, including gambling. In many farming communities the amount and quality of time put into actual farm practices and management is very limited. The male population, which is naturally the most energetic, is the least active in tilling the land. Farm work is left to women and children. The men, with an increasing number of youth in tow, prefer to sell their labour for a fee and then they invest in things like alcohol and other niceties. The children and their mothers are forced to make up for their husbands and spend most of the day toiling to fend for the families. Surprisingly, at the end of the day, the persons we have talked about want to eat the best food. They also hijack the marketing of the farm produce at harvest times. The money goes to alcohol, women and the good things in life, and this directly contributes to food insecurity.

One other resource that needs to be mentioned here is food itself. Many people in the food-producing regions prefer to place a price tag to the food in their hands. This causes an uneven balance in the distribution of the available food throughout the year, and families have to do with less amount of food, at times of the year, far below the recommended 2 700 calories needed daily.

Food for cash has attained growing prominence in the world trade. The potential for the developing world to dominate the food trade is there, as better farming methods are introduced. Forward planning is needed to absorb the increased production as formerly food-deficient countries enter the Green Revolution phase. Africa, in particular, has the untapped potential not

only to feed itself, but also to feed the other continents. Our resources are vast. If the amount of time and food wasted annually were to be quantified, the money realised would go a long way in wiping out the debts on the balance sheets of economies.

The media must be brought on board to handle issues regarding agriculture and farming. Presently there is a shortage of media personnel in our countries specifically trained to handle reporting on agriculture in the print and electronic media. Training programmes need to be developed to bring on board the media to mobilize communities to embrace the crusade against food insecurity.

Lastly, I would like to thank *The New Vision* newspapers for grooming me in my writing career. Thanks also go to the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Sasakawa Global 2000 who have enabled me to present a rich, well-researched radio programme in agriculture every Sunday morning. I personally thank the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations for giving me audience at this august assembly. I pray that this Boerma Award will act as the springboard for the struggle against food insecurity and poverty, for God and my country.

Alain ZOLTY

Merci beaucoup pour ce prix. C'est très gratifiant pour nous, journalistes, de se voir attribuer un prix pour la contribution au développement par les personnalités qui connaissent parfaitement bien les tenants et aboutissants de ce vaste et énorme défi. Mais restons modestes. Tous ceux qui depuis 25 ans ont fait en sorte que notre magazine *Afrique-Agriculture* poursuive sa route, savent combien la contribution à la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim a été limitée. Néanmoins, je voudrais remercier aujourd'hui ceux qui on porté *Afrique-Agriculture* jusqu'à ce jour et qui ont réussi 268 bouclages depuis 1975 sans trop gâcher de forêts !

Je saisis cette occasion pour rappeler que notre magazine a été créé par l'éditeur Michel De Breteuil avec Sophie Bessis, une femme, journaliste et écrivain, comme première rédactrice en chef; beaucoup la connaissent. *Afrique Agriculture* a été ensuite piloté par Christophe Naigeon, lauréat lui aussi du prix Boerma en 1991 pour la création de l' Agence SYFIA, puis par Benoit Catrisse aujourd'hui dans la recherche agronomique au CIRAD en France. Je suis devenu à mon tour Directeur de la publication en 1991. C'est donc grâce à ces rédacteurs en chef ainsi qu'aux nombreux journalistes qui ont fait leurs classes sous leur tyrannie, avec abnégation, qu'*Afrique-Agriculture* a l'honneur de recevoir ce prix qui nous valorise tous. Mais bien sûr, ce prix ne nous fait pas oublier les quelque 800 millions d'affamés qui meurent en silence dans ce monde, alors que de nombreux pays connaissent actuellement une forte croissance économique.

Face au peu de progrès réalisés pour appliquer les mesures qui mettraient fin à cette violence facile, je me demande si les Gouvernements consacrent vraiment tous les moyens dont ils disposent pour y mettre fin. Et là je parle en tant que journaliste. Les pays riches ont-ils vraiment le sentiment de faire respecter le droit fondamental des peuples à se nourrir en attribuant en 1998, 362 milliards de dollars en subventions à leur agriculture? Enfin, au risque de passer pour un radoteur, je demande une fois de plus pourquoi ces Gouvernements dilapident annuellement 700 milliards de dollars de fonds publics sur les armes, pour s'en servir bien souvent contre des populations civiles, alors qu'autour d'eux la misère s'accroît et que cette misère est la source même des conflits.

Nous savons tous ici que la paix réside essentiellement dans l'évolution du niveau de vie, le respect de la personne humaine et de son environnement.

Je voudrais à cet égard évoquer à l'instar de Monsieur Jacques Diouf, le rôle primordial de la société civile dans le maintien de la civilisation, de la paix et du développement.

La coopération de la FAO avec le secteur privé et les ONG témoigne de cette volonté en cherchant à créer de la plus value dans les pays plus démunis. Et c'est bien là où se trouve la solution.

Pour y parvenir, il faut aller plus loin dans cette voie. Il me semble en effet essentiel, et là je parle en tant qu'éditorialiste et journaliste, d'intégrer les organisations les plus représentatives de la société civile dans le processus de la bonne gouvernance. Des mécanismes sont certainement inventés dans ce sens au sein des Nations, au niveau des États.

Enfin, je voudrais terminer sur une note d'espoir en considérant que les hommes de bonne volonté qui nous ont précédés, et ils sont légions, qui ont imaginé et mis en place les grandes organisations internationales, ont ouvert la voix au dialogue et à la tolérance. Ils nous ont offert une plate-forme solide pour aller plus loin face aux trois grands défis de notre temps: démocratie, écologie et savoir. *Afrique-Agriculture*, aussi modeste que soit sa contribution, poursuivra sa route dans cette voie et le prix Boerma, que nous décerne aujourd'hui la FAO, est à la fois une reconnaissance et un encouragement dans ce sens.

28.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 99/INF/8)
28.4 Remise du prix Edouard Saouma (C 99/INF/8)
28.4 Entrega del premio Edouard Saouma (C 99/INF/8)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Point 28.4, remise du Prix Edouard Saouma pour 1998-99. Le Prix Edouard Saouma, institué par la Conférence à sa 27ème Session, est attribué tous les deux ans à une institution, ayant exécuté avec succès un projet financé par le Programme de copération technique. Le lauréat reçoit une médaille gravée au nom de l'institution et une somme de 25 000 dollars EU en espèces. Je réitère les vœux de bienvenue que le Directeur général adresse à Monsieur Saouma et lui exprime nos remerciements pour avoir accepté de présenter le Prix à cette session de la Conférence de la FAO. J'invite maintenant Monsieur Saouma à présenter les deux co-lauréats et à leur remettre le prix.

Edouard SAOUMA

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur général de son invitation qui m'a procuré le plaisir de retourner sous cette enceinte après six années d'absence. Avant de m'acquitter de ma tâche agréable de donner des Prix, je voudrais faire quelques réflexions avec votre permission.

J'ai noté avec plaisir, en parcourant rapidement le projet de Programme de travail et de budget pour le prochain biennium, que les allocations budgétaires pour le Programme de coopération technique représentaient toujours 14 pour cent du budget.

J'ai noté cela avec plaisir. J'ai noté aussi que plus de 6 000 projets, pour un montant supérieur à 700 millions de dollars, ont déjà été exécutés par ce programme depuis sa création en 1976. Longue vie à ce programme!

Mais j'ai constaté avec surprise et une certaine amertume que le budget proposé pour le biennium 2000-2001 est légèrement inférieur à celui qui a été approuvé à l'unanimité par vous mêmes, ici même, en 1993 pour le biennium 1994-95. Et pourtant la population mondiale a augmenté de près de 500 millions d'habitants depuis six ans, dont 80 pour cent vivent dans les pays en voie de développement.

Je suis convaincu que le monde, qui doit doubler sa production agricole dans les prochaines 25 années sans détruire son environnement, aura besoin plus que jamais de la FAO. C'est bien avec l'aide de la FAO, si infime soit-elle, que les deux institutions qui vont être primées, ont pu accomplir des progrès remarquables dans le développement de leur forêt et agriculture. Il s'agit, tout d'abord, d'un projet forestier à Cuba où les forêts constituent une richesse de grande valeur, du point de vue économique, social et environnemental. Une réforme de législation forestière existante était devenue nécessaire. Sur demande du Gouvernement, la FAO a délégué une équipe d'experts qui a travaillé la main dans la main avec les cadres, la Direction des forêts. Le projet préparé par les experts cubains a été minutieusement revu par les experts de la FAO. Il en est résulté un texte qui *inter-alia* sauvegarde la durabilité des forêts cubaines, implique les

populations locales dans leur exploitation et autorise le secteur privé à participer. Le projet a été promulgué par L'Assemblé nationale et les textes d'applications ont été élaborés par le Ministère des forêts et ont déjà été approuvés.

Monsieur le Président, je signale que la durée de ce projet de coopération technique était de deux mois, de 60 jours, et son coût de 35 000 dollars dont 29 000 dollars comme émoluments pour les experts de la FAO.

Permettez-moi donc, d'appeler Monsieur Elias Linares, Directeur national des forêts de Cuba, responsable du projet, à venir prendre au nom de son Institution, le prix qui lui a été décerné.

Elías LINARES (Cuba)

Integrantes del Comité de Selección del Premio Edouard Saouma, Señor Edouard Saouma, Distinguidos Representantes de los países en esta Conferencia, en nombre de los forestales cubanos, del Ministerio de la Agricultura, de la Dirección Forestal y del pueblo cubano en general, expresamos nuestro más sincero reconocimiento a la FAO quien durante tantos años ha mantenido alta cooperación y profundas relaciones de amistad que se fortalecen más cada día y agradeciendo el alto honor que para nosotros representa el otorgamiento del Premio Edouard Saouma.

El Proyecto TCP/CUB/5612 y la valiosa cooperación de los señores funcionarios de la FAO: Manuel Paveri y Mekouard Ali, significaron acciones determinantes en la formulación y aprobación de la Ley 85, Ley Forestal de Cuba. Esta Ley ha significado para los forestales un paso de avance decisivo en la política forestal y las acciones para lograr el manejo forestal sostenible en nuestro país. A partir de la colaboración en este Proyecto, se formularon el reglamento y las contravenciones de la Ley, los cuales ya se han aprobado por el Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo de Ministros e implementados en Cuba. Tanto la ley, el reglamento y las contravenciones recojen aspectos novedosos en el manejo forestal sostenible para todos los tenentes y usuarios de recursos forestales. Establecen las obligaciones de todos los ciudadanos y los derechos del uso de los recursos forestales, garantizando el manejo sostenible, funciones sociales y valores medio ambientalistas. El país ha trazado su política forestal y su programa hasta el año 2015, el cual establece un crecimiento del área forestal del 21,4 por ciento actual al 27 por ciento en el año 2015 y la nueva Ley representa una gran paso de avance en lograr este objetivo por los conceptos legales y bonificaciones que establece. Tiempos cercanos demostrarán la justeza de su decisión y los bosques, sus tenentes y el pueblo cubano serán ejemplo en el uso y desarrollo de los recursos forestales.

Edouard SAOUMA

Je serai bref. Le second projet privé concerne la lutte contre le puceron des pêchers au Yémen. Cet insecte n'a cessé de causer depuis 1993 des pertes énormes au secteur fruitier du Yémen. Ceci concerne presque 200 000 paysans. L'utilisation des insecticides s'est révélée très dangereuse tant pour les paysans que pour le milieu ambiant. Son coût était élevé.

L'aide de la FAO a consisté à mettre en œuvre un contrôle chimique efficace et sans danger pour parer à l'immédiat et ceci par l'usage d'un insecticide qu'on appelle systémique. Une solution durable et à long terme fut préconisée. Il s'agissait de la lutte biologique qui consiste à introduire l'ennemi naturel du puceron du pêcher. En l'occurrence c'est une guêpe. Le Gouvernement dispose à présent de moyens pour multiplier et lâcher l'ennemi naturel au cas où le parasite réapparaîtrait. Le projet a eu un impact significatif sur les petits agriculteurs et a permis d'obtenir de bons résultats à un prix modéré et en sauvegardant surtout le milieu ambiant.

Ce projet complexe, qui comprend des activités de recherche, de formation et de fourniture d'équipement, aura duré 3 ans pour un coût de 253 000 dollars. Il sert déjà de modèle pour les pays dans la région. Permettez-moi d'appeler Monsieur Mohammed Al-Gashim, Directeur du

Département de la protection des plantes du Yemen, à venir prendre, au nom de son équipe, le prix qui lui a été attribué.

Mohammed AL-GASHIM (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, your Excellencies, Ministers of Agriculture, Mr Edouard Saouma, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to bring you words of greeting from Yemen and express to you our heartfelt wishes of a successful outcome of the Conference of FAO.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and also my acknowledgement to FAO for having made it possible for me to be here today. There is a special ceremony for the presentation of the important Saouma Award which has been awarded to the Plant Protection Department in the Yemen. I feel very proud to have received this Award on behalf of my colleagues in the Plant Protection Department and in the Ministry of Agriculture in the Republic of Yemen, sharing this Award quite obviously with the others.

I think you know that Yemen is a country which has long-standing agricultural experience, an agriculture which historians date back to five thousand years. Agriculture is a core part of our country and a core part of our population. We produce many things, for example, fruit, coffee, wheat and many other commodities. Twenty-eight years ago, we started an agricultural reform system and we have now started developing new forms and modes of farming. This has led to a rather interesting increase in both quantity and quality terms. On the other hand, however, the fact is that we are having difficulties with regard to our harvest and our crops because of the need to ensure proper plant protection.

The Plant Protection Department of Yemen was set up in 1985 in order to work in protecting crops against plant pests and plant diseases and also to ensure the proper use of pesticides and insecticides. We have protection units located all over Yemen. Yemen has focused a special interest on plant protection. We have come up with a series of strategies and also signed a number of International Plant Protection Agreements and Conventions, and are doing our utmost to be an active player in this area and in the Desert Locust Control Endeavours.

We are a basic member in the Arab Agricultural Development Organization. Yemen has recently promulgated new laws for plant protection and the use of pesticides in the country. The Plant Protection Department is also in charge of putting this into practice to ensure the proper protection of our plant resources and in order to make sure our country complies with international laws and that any plant diseases and pests do not promulgate the country. However, the proper application of these laws requires additional technical assistance from international organizations and donor countries.

Yemen has had to cope with a very serious environmental problem which has been of great concern to all of us over the last 15 years, and that is the effect of pesticide accumulation in our country over the last 40 years. Pesticides are now out of use, but fortunately we were able to destroy the accumulative pesticides through a project executed together with European countries under the supervision of FAO and with the assistance of Germany and the Netherlands.

With regard to the peach aphid, we noted its appearance in our country for the first time in 1993. It caused serious losses in our orchards. Countless trees were also destroyed and there are practically 200 000 people living off what these orchards produced in rural areas. Yemen deployed a major effort to protect these almond trees We allocated the necessary resources to cope with that pest and to eliminate it.

First of all, we started off by using chemical control means to protect the trees, even though we knew that this was not the best long-term solution, but that was the only solution we were able to apply until we were able to come up with other methods. Therefore, we requested the assistance of international organizations and donor countries to help us resolve that problem. The first

response we received came from FAO which supplied emergency assistance under the general heading of TCP.

The second response we received came from the Government of the Netherlands which financed a project for the purchasing of equipment and material, in addition to training farmers and experts, as well as other assistance on the part of interested institutions. Through a study of the methods that they were telling us about and our control measures, we see that biological control is the most suitable. Hence we have allocated the necessary resources in order to provide the proper training for the international institutes of biological control. There we were able to identify a natural enemy which is an insect, a sort of wasp, which was brought into Yemen and released. We were able to train some experts and technicians to see how it would be possible to work on the parasite with that natural enemy. Obviously, this involved training and we had some of the training done in Pakistan.

With regard to the training of the experts for these control campaigns, more than 1 000 people have been trained and also 1 000 farmers. In the course of the same period of time, January 1997 to December 1998, we bred and released 500 000 wasps as the natural enemy of the fruit tree pest. We were able to see the effectiveness of that treatment and we can prove that when we do compare the impact pesticides used to have. We used some 20 000 tonnes of pesticides in 1995 and in 1999, only two-and-a-half tonnes.

The fact of having awarded us this prize for 1998-99 constitutes a very important development, an important encouragement for the Plant Protection Department of Yemen we shall pursue our efforts to protect all of those plants and all of those crops which are threatened by pests or by diseases in our country, without compromising environmental protection.

Lastly, I would like to manifest the gratitude on the part of all those who work in the Plant Protection Department of Yemen to FAO and to its Office in Yemen for the assistance we received from FAO during the most difficult times, from Germany and also to similar departments in the Netherlands, for the ongoing assistance they do provide us on so many occasions.

Samir EL-KHOURY (Liban)

C'est un plaisir pour moi, au nom du Liban, que de vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à l'unanimité comme Président de notre Conférence générale de la FAO. Je vous souhaite tout le succès possible dans la direction de nos travaux.

J'aimerais maintenant, au nom du Liban, remercier Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de l'Organisation, qui a lancé une invitation à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, ex-Directeur général de la FAO, pour qu'il nous présente le Prix qui porte son nom.

Je tiens aussi à remercier Monsieur Saouma d'avoir été présent personnellement pour remettre en personne ce Prix. Le Liban est très fier du fait qu'un de ses fils les plus connus ait dirigé cette Organisation pendant trois mandats, de 1976 à 1993, et qu'il ait pu tout au long de cette période et malgré les difficultés rencontrées, transformer la FAO en une des organisations les plus efficaces de la famille des Nations Unies et des institutions spécialisées, grâce à des programmes importants et des activités multiples qui ont pour objectifs de lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire des populations pauvres.

Le Prix Edouard Saouma est remis aux institutions les plus remarquables obtenant des résultats importants en matière de coopération technique en faveur du développement agricole des pays qui en ont besoin, afin de lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Je tiens à féliciter les deux lauréats de cette année, et j'exprime également l'espoir que le Prix Edouard Saouma puisse constituer une incitation, un encouragement à l'octroi à d'autres prix pour tout ce qui peut contribuer au développement agricole dans les pays.

28.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 99/INF/10)
28.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (C 99/INF/10)
28.5 Medalla de Margarita Lizárraga (C 99/INF/10)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Point 28.5. *Remise de la médaille Margarita Lizárraga*. Ce Prix a été institué par la Conférence à sa vingt neuvième session il est remis tous les deux ans par la Conférence à une personne ou à une organisation dont les activités ont facilité l'application du *Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable*. Cette médaille rend hommage à Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga , Fonctionnaire principale chargée de liaison à la Division des pêches à la FAO, qui a joué un rôle décisif dans la promotion du *code de conduite*.

Je voudrais demander maintenant au Directeur général de présenter le lauréat pour l'exercice 98-99.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded biennially to the Conference upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. The Medal pays tribute to Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior Fisheries Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in the promotion of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost 40 years, great dedication to FAO and for her strong commitment toward fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

For the 1998-99 biennium, the Secretariat short-listed seven nominations on the basis of criteria agreed upon by the Selection Committee. The Non-governmental Organization, National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka, was selected unanimously for having taken very practical steps to translate the Code into the Singhalese language by printing it and widely distributing it among fish workers. Without this work, it is highly likely that this fishing community would not have had access to the Code.

May I now call on the Head of Delegation of Sri Lanka to receive the award.

T. H. WOUTERSZ (Sri Lanka)

It has fallen to my privileged lot to accept on behalf of the National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka the medal dedicated by the Food and Agricultural Organization to the memory of the late Dr Margarita Lizárraga Saucedo, the fisheries expert from Mexico, who had such a distinguished professional career.

I read with great interest the impressive biography of this great lady, who passed away unfortunately at the pinnacle of her career, when heavily involved in the implementation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

The regulatory mechanisms which we are trying to introduce and implement, with the involvement of the fishing communities of the developing countries, must take into account certain ground realities. Fisherfolk in our part of the world live often under very difficult conditions, lacking the benefits of high literacy, and very often conversant only in their local language. The National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka has been able to fill this literacy vacuum through its initiative in translating the contents of the *Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries* into the Singhalese language and to print and distribute it among the community of fisherfolk in Sri Lanka.

I take this opportunity on behalf of my country to thank Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the FAO, and his evaluation team for selecting the National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka as the winner of this medal. We accept this medal in the spirit that it is not only an appreciation of

the work done by this NGO in inculcating the concept of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* but as an honour bestowed on all the fishing communities of the developing countries.

José ROBLES-AGUILAR (México)

Antes de todo deseamos felicitar a usted así como a los otros integrantes de la Mesa por su elección. Para mi delegación y para mi país reviste un gran significado la entrega por primera vez de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga a la organización National Fisheries Solidarity de Sri Lanka por sus esfuerzos y medidas en la aplicación del *Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable*. Consideramos que el establecimiento de este premio constituye un merecido homenaje a una distinguida mexicana que dedicara su vida profesional y personal al sector pesquero.

Como bien lo señalara usted así como el Dr Jacques Diouf, el principal logro profesional de la Dra Lizárraga fue el decidido impulso que dio a la aceptación, negociación y, posteriormente, a la adopción por la Conferencia del *Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable* que hoy, junto con la CONBELMAR, constituye un instrumento de referencia obligado en el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos pesqueros.

Muy significativa resulta la presencia en esta ceremonia de dos personas: del Sr Salvador Lizárraga, hermano de la Dra Lizárraga, y del Dr Saouma, con quien profesionalmente trabajara durante varios años. Mi delegación quiere hacer patente a la Organización y a los Miembros de la FAO el apoyo que se brindó para la adopción y para la entrega de este merecido premio.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV: NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2) (continued)
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2) (suite)
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 99/10, C 99/10-Sup.1; C 99/10-Sup.2) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au dernier point de l'Ordre du jour qui est le Point 23: *Demande d'admission en la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation*. Le Secrétaire Général doit lire les résultats de ce vote.

C 99/RS/1

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	132

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	89

M A R S H A L L I S L A N D S

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma L.L. TAMBALA

Malawi

Signature
Firma Ms NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG

Viet Nam

12.11.99

Date
Fecha

D. Debilde

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALM

C 99/RS/2

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	126
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	84

N I U E

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature L Tambala
Firma Mrs L.L. TAMBALA
Malawi

Signature
Firma Ms NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG
Viet Nam Na m

12.11.99
Date
Fecha

D. Debilde
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALM

C 99/RS/3

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	124

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	83

P A L A U

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma L Tambala
Mrs L.L. TAMBALA
Malawi

Signature
Firma
Ms. NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG
Viet Nam

12.11.99
Date
Fecha

D. Debilde
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALM

C 99/RS/4

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	135	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	12	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

S A N M A R I N O

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature L Tambala
Firma Mrs L.L. TAMBALA
Malawi

Signature
Firma Ms NGUYEN THI XHUAN HUONG
Viet Nam

12.11.99
Date
Fecha

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALM

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après ces résultats, les Iles Marshall, Nioué, Palaos et Saint-Marin sont désormais Membres de la FAO et leurs délégations vont prendre place parmi nous.

Je saisis cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux États Membres de la FAO.

Je donne maintenant la parole au Directeur Général.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je serai bref. Je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue aux quatre nouveaux Pays Membres et les féliciter chaleureusement. Je suis certain que leur appartenance à la famille de la FAO, non seulement apportera des bienfaits aux populations de ces pays, mais aussi enrichira, fortifiera notre Organisation commune, et renforcera son caractère universel.

Dion TAUFITU (Niue)

This is indeed a momentous occasion for Niue to be admitted to the Membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. On behalf of the Niue Government and its people, I wish to thank you all for accepting my small nation into your fold. We came here full of apprehension, in a country so far away and not knowing how the outcome of Niue's wish would turn out, but now it is worth the distance and the cost associated with seeking this Membership.

For a long time, Niue has felt to have been treated as an outcast in many FAO-organized and funded fora. Now we can take full advantage of our Membership as well as looking to the challenges we applied to deliver. FAO, we believe, has a very important mission to ensure that there is enough food now and in the future to feed the world's ever-growing population, and we want to be part of that mission. At this time, we would like to acknowledge the assistance of the New Zealand Government in supporting our quest to be a Member of FAO, as well as the encouragement of the FAO Sub-regional Office in Apia, Samoa.

We look forward to your continuing support in the future. For us, this is a good beginning to enter the new Millennium.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Hersey KYOTA (Palau)

As this is my inaugural and the first participation of our Government in this forum, I would like to observe and learn more from the delegates and report back to my Government. However, I would like to begin by bringing warm greetings from His Excellency Mr Nakamura, the President, and the people of the Republic of Palau. On behalf of the Government and the people of Palau, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Organization and to all Member Nations for supporting our application for Membership of this august body. Your support and approval will be remembered and treasured by my Government and my people for many years to come.

As a new Member, the Republic of Palau will need the support and guidance from FAO as we strive to develop our agriculture and food production sector, not only to support our population but also to support our growing number of visitors and guests. We realize that agricultural and food production are the keys to successful sustainable development. As we embark on our journey and struggle for economic self-sufficiency, Palau needs to approach development of

agriculture and food production and safety standards perceptively and aggressively. While we have begun small-scale agricultural projects and food production, we have a long way to go, and it is our hope that our Membership in FAO will help us in this developmental process.

Once again, I would like to thank the Organization and the Member Nations for supporting and approving our Membership. As we take our seat in this Organization, I take this opportunity to affirm and assure FAO and all Member Nations of Palau's commitment to work cooperatively with FAO and all Member Nations to faithfully implement the objectives and mandates of this Organization.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Gabriele GATTI (Saint-Marin)

Au nom du Gouvernement de la République de Saint-Marin et en nom personnel, j'exprime aux délégations des États Membres nos sincères remerciements pour le consensus manifesté lors du vote pour l'admission de mon pays à la FAO et pour la confiance démontrée.

Le redoutable problème de la faim dans le monde, causé tant par les catastrophes naturelles que technologiques, frappe des millions de personnes et ne connaît aucune sorte de limites. Ce n'est guère le problème d'un seul gouvernement. La participation de la société dans son ensemble est donc nécessaire. Il faut accroître la conscience d'être tout et partie d'un même univers. Les conquêtes de la science et de la technologie, la capacité d'informer en temps réel des millions de personnes sur les tragédies qui frappent l'humanité, les ressources économiques et humaines, les gens dans lesquels nous croyons fermement et qui seront les futurs responsables de la construction de l'avenir, sont les instruments précieux que les Gouvernements ont à leur disposition pour vaincre définitivement le fléau de la pauvreté et de la malnutrition.

Saint-Marin s'est toujours inspiré dans les siècles aux valeurs de la démocratie et de la solidarité et au respect des droits de l'homme et de la dignité de l'individu. En acceptant donc la constitution de la FAO et en partageant les finalités du Plan d'action défini lors du Sommet mondial pour l'alimentation de 1996 sur les droits des peuples à être libérés de la faim, la République de Saint-Marin confirme sa volonté de jouer un rôle actif vis-à-vis de ce défi qui est aujourd'hui plus que jamais l'engagement principal de cette Organisation et le défi de l'humanité pour l'an 2000.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Ainsi s'achève le premier examen du Point 23 de notre Ordre du jour qui porte la composition de l'Organisation à 179 États Membres. La cérémonie traditionnelle du lever des drapeaux des nouveaux États Membres se tiendra demain à 8 heures 45 sur le côté du bâtiment "A" où les drapeaux de tous les Etats Membres sont déployés.

Comme vous le savez, nous avons un ordre du jour assez chargé pour demain matin, à commencer par l'élection du Directeur général. Donc, je vous demande d'être tous présents ici à 9 heures 30 précises.

Je vous rappelle aussi que dans l'après-midi du lundi, nous allons voter pour la suspension de la règle XIX.2 et pour l'admission du Kiribati.

La séance plénière est levée, et je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours.
La séance est levée à 17 h 50.
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA

13 November 1999

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

You certainly may have heard through the press and the media the tragic news. A World Food Programme plane crashed near the top of a 4 600-foot mountain near the village of Slakovce, 20 miles north of Pristina. Madame Bertini issued a statement which reads as follows:

"With the confirmation early this morning that there were no survivors on the World Food Programme plane which crashed north of Pristina yesterday morning, WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini publicly offered condolences to the family members and friends of all the 24 victims, three of whom were WFP staff members. She said, 'With my deepest regret and a great sadness in my heart, I reach out to all those mothers, fathers, spouses, children, relatives and friends of our lost colleagues'. And she added, 'You are in our hearts and we too here at WFP are finding this accident and the loss of life very difficult to accept'".

The Pristina-bound plane, which departs daily from Rome, was expected to arrive at its destination at 11.30. The last radio contact with the plane was at 11.15. Upon learning of the news of the plane's disappearance, WFP contacted KFOR in Pristina to begin a search and rescue mission. The plane was located yesterday evening approximately 15 kilometres north of Pristina in a rough and hilly terrain dotted with land-mines.

I would like, on behalf of FAO, to express my condolences to the families and friends of the victims, to Mrs Bertini, to the WFP staff , to the Representatives of Governments from where those who were in the plane came from and, in particular, to our friends from Italy. We are all very sad today. This is a great loss for the international community. This is also an example of the sacrifice that international civil servants, UN staff, NGOs and humanitarian organizations are making all around the world for a better world.

I would like to ask you, if the Chairman so agrees, to observe a minute of silence for the people whom we lost.

One Minute of Silence
Une minute de silence
Un minuto de silencio

Second Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/15)
Deuxième rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/15)
Segundo informe del Comité General (C 99/LIM/15)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons aborder le deuxième rapport du Bureau. Je vais donner la parole au Secrétaire général pour nous compléter le rapport du Bureau.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

These are the remaining sections of the Report of the General Committee, which are now submitted to the Conference for approval.

Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

By the date determined by the Council, that is 20 August 1999, two nominations had been received for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council. These nominations were notified to all Members by Circular State Letter G/CF4/3 of 27 August 1999. Subsequently, the Government of Guinea, on 9 November 1999, informed the Secretariat of the Conference that it was withdrawing the candidature of Jean Camara. The text of the notification appears in document C 99/19-Corr. 1. This withdrawal has been confirmed by the head of the Guinea Delegation to the Conference on 12 November 1999. The text of this further notification appears

in document C 99/19/-Corr. 2. Accordingly, the sole nominee for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council is Sjarifudin Baharsjah from Indonesia.

Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b), of the General Rules of the Organization, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place on Friday, 19 November 1999.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations pour cette section? S'il n'y a pas d'observations, je considère cette section approuvée. Passons à la section suivante.

Paras 1 and 2 adopted
Paras 1 et 2 adoptés
Párrs. 1 y 2 aprobados

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Adoption of Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP.

The General Committee noted that the Conference was scheduled to adopt amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP dealing *inter alia* with the distribution of seats on the WFP Executive Board, under Agenda Item 17. This was originally scheduled for 13 November in the Provisional Timetable approved by the Council in June and has now been postponed until 18 November, under the Timetable approved by the Conference on 12 November.

The General Committee was informed that the Director-General had received a letter from the President of ECOSOC on 12 November, informing him that ECOSOC has scheduled its meeting to elect a Member to the WFP Executive Board on Monday 15 November at 10.00 New York time, on the basis of the previous Conference Timetable, and had asked if the Conference could see its way to conclude its work on the adoption of the amendments, if possible, before then. In response to this appeal, the General Committee now recommends that the Conference now take up Item 17 on the afternoon of 13 November.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations? S'il n'y a pas d'observations, je déclare la section approuvée.

Paras 3 to 5 adopted
Paras 3 à 5 adoptés
Párrs. 3 a 5 aprobados

First Report of the Credentials Committee (C 99/LIM/16)
Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 99/LIM/16)
Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales (C99/LIM/16)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de procéder avec le Point 24, nous devons approuver le premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs et je donne tout de suite la parole au Président de la Commission.

Carl-Josef WEIERS (Chairman of the Credentials Committee)

In accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization, I have to inform you about the findings of the Credentials Committee. I will follow the Rules but, at the same time, proceed as quickly as possible. The document with our findings was provided to you this morning as document C 99/LIM/16.

There is no change in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, so I will skip these. Because of the changes in figures, and for your information, I will reread paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 to inform you about the newest situation which changes nearly every hour.

In accordance with the Rules, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 171 delegations. The countries which submitted credentials which were found valid are shown in your attached List A, but have increased since printing to 158 Member Nations, and the countries whose credentials were considered only as information are shown in List B; the number has diminished to 13.

It is recommended that the Conference accept both the credentials of the delegation on List A and those on List B, on the understanding that formal credentials of FAO Members referred to in List B, that means the 13, will be communicated to the Director-General as soon as possible.

In addition, in accordance with Rule III-5 of the General Rules of the Organization and FAO practice, pending the Final Report of the Credentials Committee and the decision on the Report by the Conference, all delegates are authorized to participate fully in the work of the Conference Session and to vote.

Four Member Nations have advised the Secretariat that they will not attend the Conference this year. They are Cambodia, Cook Islands, Grenada and Guyana.

To date, in addition to those mentioned above - that means the 171 - 6 Member Nations have not presented any form of credentials. Any other credentials which will be received from Members, as well as credentials of Representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and related organizations, will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Président de la Commission. Y a-t-il des observations? En l'absence d'observations, je déclare le rapport approuvé.

Report was adopted.
Le rapport est adopté.
El informe es aprobado.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV: NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

24. Appointment of the Director-General (C 99/18; C 99/LIM/24)
24. Nomination du Directeur général (C 99/18; C 99/LIM/24)
24. Nombramiento del Director General (C 99/18; C 99/LIM/24)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Point 24 de l'Ordre du jour "Nomination du Directeur général". Il y a deux candidats pour ce poste, comme indiqué dans le document sous la cote C 99/18, Monsieur Jacques Diouf et Monsieur Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud.

L'Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO stipule que l'Organisation a un Directeur général nommé par la Conférence pour un mandat de six ans. Il est rééligible.

Le vote se déroule à scrutin secret. Le Directeur général est élu à la majorité des suffrages exprimés comme spécifié dans l'Article XXXVI 1 b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Je propose maintenant que le Secrétaire général lise les instructions sur la procédure du vote à scrutin secret.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les pays seront appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote portant les noms des candidats par ordre alphabétique.

Pour voter, les délégués devront indiquer leur choix en marquant d'une croix la case correspondant au candidat choisi.

Au terme de l'Article XII, alinéa 4 c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront comptés comme abstention.

Au terme de l'alinéa 4 d) du même Article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication, ni aucun signe autre que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage, sous peine d'invalider le bulletin de vote. Les scrutateurs qui seront désignés auront une autre fonction qui est de statuer dans les cas douteux sur la validité du bulletin de vote.

Je voudrais ajouter, pour l'information des délégués, que l'alinéa 9 f) de l'Article XII en question prévoit la substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin blanc, l'échange devant être effectué avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En application des dispositions de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le quorum requit pour cette élection est constitué par la majorité des États Membres de l'Organisation, autrement dit au nombre de 90 États Membres.

Maintenant, le Secrétaire général va préparer les dispositions pour connaître le nombre de pays dans la salle.

Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre. C'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon que la machine électronique puisse vérifier le nombre des délégations présentes. Je répète, appuyez donc le bouton vert sur vos pupitres. Est-ce que toutes les délégations ont activé le bouton de présence? Dans ce cas là je vous remercie. Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a 164 délégations présentes dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder au scrutin.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puis-je vous rappeler que, conformément à l'Article XII-14 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, lorsqu'un scrutin a été ouvert, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut l'interrompre sauf pour présenter une mention d'ordre touchant le vote.

Conformément à l'Article XII-9c du Règlement général de l'Organisation pour procéder à scrutin secret, le Président de la Conférence nomme deux scrutateurs, choisis parmi les délégués, les représentants ou leurs suppléants. Ainsi j'invite les délégués du Kuwait et de la Suisse pour servir comme scrutateurs pour cette élection. Qu'ils prennent place.

Vote
Vote
Votación

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le vote est terminé. Les scrutateurs vont maintenant quitter la salle avec les urnes afin de procéder, avec l'assistance des membres du Secrétariat chargé de l'élection, au dépouillement. Conformément à l'Article XII-9c seul les candidats, ou le représentant, un représentant pour chaque candidat, peut assister au dépouillement sans toutefois y prendre part. Donc, je demande aux scrutateurs de quitter la salle avec les urnes. Nous allons suspendre la séance quelques minutes pendant l'opération du dépouillement.

The meeting was suspended from 11.10 to 11.55 hours.
La séance est suspendue de 11 h 10 à 11 h 55.
Se suspende la sesión de las 11.10 horas a las 11.55 horas.

C 99/RS/5

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	164
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	163
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	163
6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	82

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		Eliminated - Eliminés - Eliminados	
Jacques DIOUF (Senegal)	137	Juan Carlos Roland VIGNAUD (Argentina)	26		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma
Rolf GERBER
Switzerland

Signature
Firma
Jassen M.H. AL-BADR
Kuwait

13.11.99
Date
Fecha

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Permettez-moi de féliciter, en mon nom personnel et en votre nom à tous, Monsieur Jacques Diouf. Je le félicite vivement pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO.

Le renouvellement de votre confiance placée en la personne de Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et ceci par l'intermédiaire de la majorité des Pays Membres de la FAO, est une reconnaissance de sa sagesse et de son talent. C'est également une reconnaissance des mesures qu'íl a adoptées afin de régler les problèmes auquel notre monde est confronté dans le domaine de la sous-alimentation et dans le domaine de la faim. Soyez sûr, Monsieur le Directeur général, que nous allons être auprès de vous, de même que tous les Membres seront solidaires, afin d'assurer votre succès.

J'aimerais également, à cette occasion, rendre hommage à Monsieur Juan Carlos Vignaud qui a fait témoignage de l'importance considérable qu'il a accordé à notre Organisation. Je suis persuadé que Monsieur Vignaud va poursuivre sa participation aux travaux de notre Organisation et à notre lutte, en vue du développement durable dans le monde.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je voudrais du fond du cœur, en mon nom, au nom de mon épouse et de mes enfants, vous exprimer ma profonde gratitude pour ce témoignage renouvelé de confiance. En me réélisant à la tête de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture vous avez augmenté, comme je le disait il y a six ans, le poids qui pèse sur mes épaules. Vous avez augmenté les responsabilités qui sont à la mesure de votre large confiance.

En m'élisant pour un nouveau mandat de six ans, vous m'encouragez dans la voie que j'ai essayé, avec votre aide, de suivre au cours des six dernières années. Cette voie était d'abord la voie de l'universalisme de l'Organisation: que ce soit une Organisation dans laquelle chaque État Membre se sente à sa place; que ce soit une Organisation dans laquelle, grands ou petits, les États Membres ont la même considération; que ce soit une Organisation où nous fassions preuve de disponibilité à l'égard des problèmes et des préoccupations des États Membres; mais que ce soit aussi une Organisation qui réalise qu'en fin de compte, ceux que nous devons servir ce sont les peuples, et au sein des peuples, les communautés rurales; que ce soit une Organisation qui mène toutes les actions nécessaires en vue de créer les conditions pour rassembler et analyser toutes les informations nécessaires sur le secteur agricole, pour diffuser ces informations, pour améliorer le commerce mondial, pour établir des normes nécessaires ainsi que pour garantir la santé des consommateurs; que ce soit une Organisation qui crée les bases d'accords entre les pays pour l'utilisation durable des ressources naturelles; que ce soit une Organisation prête à aller sur le terrain, dans les villages au niveau des cultivateurs, au niveau des éleveurs, au niveau des pêcheurs, pour les aider à asssurer leur production, à augmenter leur productivité et à améliorer leurs conditions de vie.

C'est cette FAO que nous avons essayé de diriger avec votre aide au cours des six dernières années. Si nous avons pu le faire, c'est grâce à vous puisque si nous avions des idées - et certaines de nos idées d'ailleurs ne faisaient que reprendre des propositions que vous nous soumettiez, individuellement ou collectivement - encore fallait-il les faire approuver au niveau du Conseil, au niveau de la Conférence, et à chaque fois vous avez été à nos côtés, vous nous avez accompagnés dans ce long chemin vers la sécurité alimentaire.

Si nous avons pu le faire, c'est aussi grâce aux cadres et aux différents agents de cette Organisation qui ont fait preuve de compétence, d'abnégation, de sacrifice, et qui ont été sur le terrain, y compris dans des pays où règnaient des conflits ou des famines. Ils ont accepté ces conditions difficiles pour la cause de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Mais, si j'ai été en mesure de faire tout cela, si j'ai passé des journées dans les avions, dans les États Membres, en étant pendant tout ce temps loin du foyer, c'est parce que j'ai pu compter sur la compréhension de mon épouse et de mes enfants auxquels je voudrais rendre hommage ici.

Je voudrais aussi remercier tous les amis qui m'ont encouragé, aidé, et conseillé et qui aussi m'ont incité à la patience. Et ce n'est pas toujours facile d'être patient. A eux tous, je voudrais exprimer du fond du cœur ma gratitude. Mais, naturellement ma gratitude première va au Chef de l'État du Sénégal, au Président Abdou Diouf, qui m'a fait confiance, m'a présenté à ses pairs, a mobilisé la diplomatie sénégalaise, et a mené les contacts aux niveaux appropriés pour que je sois là aujourd'hui, au poste de Directeur général. Je voudrais exprimer toute ma reconnaissance à lui ainsi qu'à tous les membres de la délégation sénégalaise, aux responsables de la diplomatie sénégalaise, à tous ceux qui, au sein des ministères techniques, et notamment de l'agriculture, ont été à mes côtés et ont fait tous les sacrifices nécessaires.

Je voudrais aussi remercier tous les Présidents de groupes qui ont été en contact avec moi qui m'ont conseillé, et m'ont aidé, et tous ceux qui n'ont pas hésité à faire le déplacement au delà des mers, sur des milliers de kilomètres, pour être avec nous ici aujourd'hui. Grâce à votre confiance, je suis convaincu que nous pouvons et que nous devons atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous avons déjà des chiffres encourageants, une diminution annuelle de 8 millions du nombre des personnes qui ont faim dans le monde. Ce n'est pas suffisant, nous devons atteindre une réduction de 20 millions par an. Et nous ne le ferons qu'avec votre aide, avec vos ressources, avec vos conseils, avec votre soutien et le soutien de nos partenaires du systèmes des Nations Unies, en commençant par les partenaires qui sont à Rome, le PAM, endeuillé, le FIDA, mais aussi les institutions de Bretton Woods. Nous le ferons avec la société civile, nous le ferons avec les organisations non gouvernementales et les organisations humanitaires. Seul ce partenariat nous permettra de lutter contre une injustice, l'injustice de 790 millions de personnes qui aujourd'hui n'ont pas un accès adéquat à la nourriture, dont à peu près le quart est constitué d'enfants de moins de cinq ans.

Encore une fois, je voudrais dire à tous les États Membres, ceux qui ont voté pour moi, comme ceux qui ont cru devoir exercer leur droit à la démocratie en votant pour mon concurrent, que je suis à leur disposition, qu'ils sont les États Membres de cette Organisation, que je dois tous les servir et que je m'efforcerai de le faire avec l'aide de Dieu.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Juan Carlos Roland VIGNAUD (Argentina)

El resultado de las elecciones ha sido claro en el sentido de que el candidato de Senegal ha recibido un apoyo muy consistente, y deseo antes que nada felicitarlo por haber concitado ese apoyo entre los Países Miembros de esta Organización.

Quisiera asimismo agradecer de todo corazón a los países que me han apoyado hoy y a aquellos que antes de hoy me han alentado para que trabajase en favor de lo que se consideraba un aporte hacia la democracia de la Organización, cual es el de que los países tuviesen la opción, más allá de que la usasen o no, pero almenos de que tuviesen la opción.

Deseo agradecer también muy especialmente a los países del Grupo de América Latina, que me prestaron su consenso. Creo que los países del GRULAC constituyen una zona de gran potencial

agrícola, una zona de importantes realizaciones agrícolas, pero a la vez con problemas. Por ello yo creo ha habido un sentimiento común de que luego de más de medio siglo, desde el nacimiento de esta institución, podían con justos títulos aspirar a la Dirección General. Y de allí entonces el deseo de incorporarnos a esta elección.

Deseo agradecer también a mi Gobierno, que me ha apoyado y me ha alentado en esta campaña, y muy especialmente a los colegas del Servicio Exterior Argentino, que han hecho un enorme esfuerzo, y al grupo de voluntarios, al pequeño grupo de voluntarios, que integraron mi reducido equipo de campaña y que me enriquecieron con sus conocimientos y con su experiencia.

Deseo agradecer también a mi familia, que pacientemente me ha esperado cuando he emprendido largos viajes para tratar de hacer conocer mis propuestas a muchas capitales del mundo.

Regreso a mi capital con una enorme tranquilidad de espíritu y con una enorme felicidad porque, a pesar de haber sido derrotado en esta elección, durante la campaña icé algunas banderas que están contenidas en mi compromiso de trabajo, *pledge* en inglés, que fue la base de mi campaña, y quiero señalar que sigo profundamente comprometido con ese compromiso de trabajo y con esas propuestas y más aún después de haber visitado lejanos países donde he visto escenas de pobreza y de miseria que realmente me han conmovido.

Espero que esas banderas que he izado durante mi campaña no sean arriadas. Espero que los que han tenido el gesto de apoyarme en esta elección, y aún otros, continúen con esas banderas, porque son banderas que intentaban fortificar el proceso democrático dentro de la institución, a incorporar opciones en la elección. Intentaban fortificar el proceso democrático, a incorporar la idea del debate, del intercambio de propuestas como medio para beneficiar tanto la Organización como los Estados Miembros. Intentaba preparar a la FAO para los desafíos de este Tercer Milenio a través del logro de una mayor eficiencia, de una mayor transparencia y de una mayor focalización en sus actividades. Sigo comprometido con todas esas propuestas, seguiré trabajando por ellas y vuelvo a mi capital con la esperanza de que esas banderas no sean arriadas, porque si siguen flameando en el futuro van a beneficiar a esta Organización y a los Estados Miembros.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Issa Martin BIKIENGA (Burkina Faso)

Nous venons de reconduire Monsieur Jacques Diouf au poste de Directeur général de la FAO pour six ans, lui témoignant ainsi la reconnaissance des États Membres pour la gigantesque œuvre accomplie, à la tête de notre institution commune, contre la pauvreté et la faim dans le monde et ce, malgré l'adversité et les difficultés de tous ordres que nous connaissons bien.

Au nom du Groupe africain, je voudrais féliciter de tout cœur, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour sa brillante réélection et lui redire notre fierté, notre confiance et la disponibilité de tous les États Membres africains, tant des dirigeants que des populations, à œuvrer à ses côtés.

Valeureux fils de l'Afrique, vous avez su, Monsieur le Directeur général, incarner tout au long de ces six dernières années, l'honnêteté, la dignité et la combativité que requiert la noble fonction de Directeur général d'une grande institution internationale comme la FAO.

Infatigable, vous avez travaillé jour et nuit, sillonné le monde partout où le devoir de votre charge vous amenait. L'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine (OUA), a eu raison en faisant de vous son unique candidat à ce poste, par la résolution de son 34ème Sommet de juin 1998 à Ouagadougou.

De même, ont vu juste l'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique (OCI), à travers la Résolution de sa Conférence ministérielle de juin 1999 à Ouagadougou, et le Caribbean Community (CARICOM), par le soutien collectif de ses membres lors de sa réunion de juin 1999.

Votre bilan parle de lui-même pour vous, et force l'admiration, même de ceux qui avaient fait un autre choix, dans le cadre de cette élection, et je citerais comme exemple le Président Menem d'Argentine qui, à l'occasion du *Téléfood 1999*, disait tout récemment: "J'ai eu la chance de parler en deux ou trois occasions avec Monsieur Jacques Diouf, le Directeur général de la FAO, un homme excellent, un être humain d'un niveau exceptionnel, qui a travaillé inlassablement afin de surmonter les terribles drames qui se produisent dans le monde".

L'édifiant bilan à votre actif se rapporte, entre autre, à la décentralisation qui a permis de rapprocher davantage la FAO des populations, la convocation de l'historique Sommet de l'alimentation en novembre 1996, qui depuis constitue notre référence pour agir, la concrétisation du partenariat dynamique avec le FIDA, le PAM et d'autres agences des Nations Unies, les ONG et les institutions financières internationales, les efforts soutenus et visibles d'économie et de gain d'efficience face à des ressources toujours en chute libre, l'attention particulière aux femmes du monde rural et la plus grande responsabilisation des femmes dans le système cadre, l'heureuse initiative du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire au bénéfice des quelque 800 millions de sous-alimentés, le lancement de *Téléfood* qui, tout en mobilisant des ressources additionnelles, donnent à la FAO une plus grande visibilité dans le monde.

Au nom toujours du Groupe africain, permettez-moi de remercier ceux des Gouvernements des États Membres, des ministres et Chefs de délégation ici présents, des groupes régionaux à Rome, de leurs présidents ainsi que ceux des ambassadeurs et Représentants Permanents qui ont apporté leur soutien et œuvré pour la réélection de Monsieur Jacques Diouf à la tête de la FAO.

Le Groupe africain salue son Excellence, Monsieur Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud, pour son courage et ne doute pas qu'il saura être pour la FAO une contribution constructive pour les défis restant à relever.

Enfin, encore une fois, toutes nos félicitations à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et tous nos meilleurs voeux de succès.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Robert SAGNA (Sénégal)

C'est au nom du Chef de l'État, le Président Abdou Diouf, du Gouvernement et du Peuple sénégalais, que je voudrais remercier la communauté des États ici réunis pour la confiance renouvelée à l'un de ses fils, Jacques Diouf, que je voudrais également féliciter chaleureusement pour sa brillante élection.

Je voudrais en particulier remercier mes frères africains, avec à leur tête, le Burkina Faso, sans oublier le Groupe des 77, pour les efforts déployés afin d'assurer à cette élection le succès attendu. La présence ici même à Rome de M. Salim, Secrétaire général de l'OUA, de Monsieur Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secrétaire général de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie, est la preuve manifeste, concrète du désir de l'Afrique de rendre hommage au reste de la communauté internationale pour la confiance qu'elle a placée en cette Afrique.

Les défis à relever sont énormes et le plébiscite que vous venez de manifester à l'Afrique par l'un de ses éminents fils, Jacques Diouf, accroît notre responsabilité. Je voudrais également féliciter l'Argentine et notamment son candidat, Monsieur Vignaud, pour avoir, en toute démocratie, appuyé le succès que nous venons d'enregistrer et remercier sa délégation pour la manifestation d'intérêt démocratique à assumer avec nous, avec le reste du monde, les responsabilités qui sont aujourd'hui sur les épaules de l'Afrique.

Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, le Directeur général rappelait que les défis sont nombreux, mais grâce à votre confiance, à votre appui, à vos conseils, nous tâcherons de relever ces défis.

Le Sénégal, quant à lui, vous est gré encore une fois par son chef, le Président, Abdou Diouf, de toute cette manifestation de confiance, confiance si appuyée, et encore une fois, qui accroît nos responsabilités. Comme l'a rappelé le Directeur général, la faim dans le monde reste le défi majeur. Les efforts que l'Organisation a déjà déployé pour régler ce problème, ces efforts méritent d'être accrus. Mais nous saurons compter sur vous, sur nos partenaires, les organisations non gouvernementales, les organisations humanitaires, les pays donateurs, pour que la priorité soit accordée à ce grand problème de la faim et de l'alimentation dans le monde.

Je voudrais terminer en vous félicitant pour votre élection à la tête de la Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je souhaite que votre présence, et celle de toute l'Afrique, du monde entier, contribuent au succès et que nous sortions de cette assemblée avec des résolutions, mais surtout avec la volonté de toujours aller de l'avant pour qu'enfin nous puissions atteindre les objectifs qui nous ont été assignés en 1996, lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Encore une fois merci au nom de la délégation que j'ai l'honneur de conduire, à toute la communauté internationale pour cette marque de confiance et ensemble, nous vaincrons, j'en suis certain.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Abdallah Ben Abdel Aziz Ben Fahd Bin M'AMMAR (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of)

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, I thank you. It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of the Saudi Arabian delegation, to take part in this Session of the General Conference. Now on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Group to which we belong, it is an honour to present to His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf our warmest congratulations on the occasion of his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a second six-year term.

We are all aware of the magnitude of the task and the size of the responsibility that it behoves you to bear as you head this Organization that plays a pioneer role in the United Nations System - specialized in providing food to an increasing number of human beings throughout the world. Nevertheless, we are convinced that you will be able to carry out this task with your usual competence.

I would not like to conclude without first greeting Mr Juan Carlos Vignaud and thanking him for having taken part in this honourable contest for the leadership of FAO. I do hope that he will have great luck in his future life, and I would like to thank you all for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Lyle VANCLIEF (Canada)

On behalf of Canada and the United States, the North American Region, I want first of all to congratulate you for chairing this Thirtieth Session of FAO. I personally had the privilege of chairing the Twenty-ninth Session and I know that it will be a very very important week here for you.

Specifically, this morning, on behalf of Canada and the United States, I want to congratulate both, Dr Diouf and Ambassador Vignaud, and thank both of these distinguished gentlemen for offering their personal skills and their passion to lead this great Organization. I want to thank them for their leadership of the past, the present and, I know, their leadership of the future in continuing the debate and the discussion around the work of more success in FAO.

We have supported Dr Diouf in the past and we have supported him, not only for his personal qualities, but because of his determination to reform and reanimate, to re-energise FAO in an effective and efficient way, and we will encourage and work with him in that direction. As we all know, FAO is becoming more and more an important part of international action on a number of key topics in the agriculture and agri-food industry and requirements around the world, such as international trade, and certainly the most important one, the need to feed the world.

To you again Dr Diouf, we offer our congratulations and we pledge our continuing support.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Warren TRUSS (Australia)

I am delighted, on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, to join in congratulating Mr Diouf on his reappoint as Director-General. I would like to assure him of the close continuing involvement of the Region and our support for him in his vital work with FAO and assure him that cooperation will continue throughout his term as we all remain firmly committed to the objectives of FAO as the leading international organization addressing food and agriculture issues.

Can I also compliment Ambassador Vignaud on allowing his name to be put forward as a candidate, and for his continuing commitment to FAO and its principles? We acknowledge the efforts that he has put during this campaign towards raising issues of significance to the FAO, issues which you, Mr Director-General, will now have the opportunity to address by being re-elected to this important post.

On behalf of the Members of this Region, we look forward to working closely with the re-elected Director-General and other Member Governments in responding to the challenges of the future and in shaping the direction of FAO to the benefit of all Members.

Congratulations Mr Diouf, and we wish you well in your forthcoming term.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Osman Elhadi IBRAHIM (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, may He alone be praised, in peace to the Prophet.

On my own behalf, and on behalf of the delegation that I have the honour to head, I would like to offer you our heartiest congratulations on your appointment to the Chair for this Session. We would also like to thank the Chairman, and would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf. We admire the competent way in which he has always run the Organization, and we would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the way you have guided us in our debate so far.

Mr Jacques Diouf will, I hope receive our congratulations on his second term of office. I think that this shows that we appreciate his efforts at the head of the Organization, despite constraints, for perhaps doing more than anyone could have expected. We would like to thank him for the effort he put into preparing for the World Food Summit, the *Telefood* programme and his untiring efforts to enlarge FAO's field of endeavours in an attempt to help the Organization achieve its objectives. As I say we would like to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf yet again, and feel that our choice is the just appreciation of his past efforts. We would like to thank all those who have helped him, and we can assure him of our cooperation.

I would like to offer our sympathies to the FAO for the losses it has had to bear. I am referring to the loss of a number of officials who have lost their lives as they endeavoured to carry out their work.

We would like to thank and praise Dr Vignaud who gave the Director-General's election a new dimension. We hope that he will nevertheless support Mr Jacques Diouf in his next term of office.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Tony DEVLIN (Ireland)

Ireland, speaking as current Chair of the European Regional Group, wishes to express its warm congratulations to Mr Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of FAO. We wish him every success over the next six years as he leads our Organization into the new Millennium, and hope that FAO will continue to play a leading role in achieving food security and combating hunger and poverty in the world. Mr Director-General, you can be assured of the continued backing and support of the European Regional Group.

To the unsuccessful candidate from Argentina, Ambassador Vignaud, we convey our best wishes and thank him for the statement he has just made.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

My delegation would like to join other delegations who have spoken before me in expressing my delegation's most sincere congratulations, not only to you because of your landslide victory today, but to all FAO Member Nations for the excellent choice that they made today.

Mr Director-General, the seat of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this Plenary hall is the closest to your chair on the podium. Be assured that this shows how close the minds and hearts of Iranians and especially Iranian farmers are sure to stand in all areas related to food and agriculture and combatting hunger and food insecurity.

Mr Director-General, we know that during the last year you have been away from home and family for a total of 48 weekends in search of more resources and support for the noble goal of *Food For All* and this is why, today, you see that we are all with you in your struggle toward the objectives of the World Food Summit.

My delegation also thanks Ambassador Vignaud for the new thoughts and momentum brought to the Organization during the past few months. We wish him full success.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México)

El Gobierno de México por mi conducto desea sumarse a las solicitaciones que la comunidad internacional ha expresado antes de mi al Señor Jacques Diouf por su merecida elección como Director General para un nuevo periodo. El Gobierno de México asegura al Señor Diouf que continuará apoyando los programas y las directivas de nuestra Organización.

Asimismo solidariamente deseo felicitar al Señor Embajador Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud de Argentina por la gallarda y limpia campaña que ha hecho porque como ha dicho, las ideas que él ha aportado, contribuyan a enriquecer el panorama programático de nuestra Organización.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italie)

Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais vous présenter tous mes compliments pour cette importante charge que vous recouvrez. Cela me ramène à mon premier poste à Alger, au début des années 60.

(continues in English)

I would like also to congratulate the Director-General Diouf, speaking not only following our Irish colleague that expressed the support of the European Region, but as the Host Country which is proud to have FAO in its capital.

I think that Mr Diouf received the support of Minister Dini since he represented his candidacy, and the vote is a recognition of the importance that we attach to Africa, which is one of the priorities in our foreign policy. On the same occasion, I would like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Vignaud, who waged a very active, courageous and positive campaign. I would like to make some observations regarding some of the lessons that we learned, and maybe as a personal judgement, I would have wished to have had more of a dialogue before the election, instead of a series of interrupted monologues.

Anyhow, now that the process is over, I am sure that everybody will work in the best interest of the Organization, which has such an important role to play to fight hunger in the world and to bring back rural poverty among the priorities of our Governments. I think it is very important that the World Food Summit drew the attention of the Governments to the importance of fighting hunger. I think a lot of action needs to be taken, and I think that even with the support of the main organizations here in Rome and with all the UN System Organizations, we still need a further effort to reduce the number of malnourished people by half.

I am confident that Director-General Diouf will note some of the elements of the electoral platform that Ambassador Vignaud presented. I quote, among other examples, the role of Permanent Representatives in Rome that I would like to see increased, and I will come back to this point on another occasion.

I would like to conclude these remarks to say that from this debate the Organization was enriched by ideas, by the possibility of finding new ground to exploit, new horizons to conquer, and for that I wish all the very best to Director-General Diouf.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Syarifuddin KARAMA (Indonesia)

Through this opportunity allow me, on behalf of the Indonesian Government, to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on your second term as elected Director-General of FAO.

Indonesia, as an agricultural country, will continue to work hand in hand with FAO and all Member Nations to strengthen agricultural development in the world, especially with regard to food production and incomes of people, particularly farmers, in eliminating poverty and malnutrition.

We realize there are many problems and difficulties in accomplishing this task. However, we believe with your leadership and talents, and, of course, with the blessing of God and solidarity and comparative spirit among Member Nations, we will be successful.

We expect you, at the very first opportunity, to visit Asia, particularly Indonesia, because of the economic crisis and the fact that the majority of the population of the world is in Asia.

We also would like to congratulate Mr Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud from Argentina for your great personality in promoting the democracy in FAO.

Finally, we pray to God for you, Dr Diouf, and for your family, so that you will always be in good health and spirits. We wish you every success.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Saeed bin Mohammed AL RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful, in the name of the United Arab Emirates, we would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election for a second mandate as Director-General of FAO. This success and this re-election are an approval of his programmes and his efforts for this Organization.

We, with the help of God, will support him and we know that all countries, in fact, approve the programmes laid down by Dr Jacques Diouf. We in this international forum should be all proud of the efforts of Dr Jacques Diouf, and therefore, in my name and on behalf of my country, we wish him success. We wish also the distinguished Ambassador from Argentina success in his future activities.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

TA QUANG NGOC (Viet Nam)

Speaking on behalf of the Asia Group and the delegation from Viet Nam itself, I would like to extend our warm congratulation to His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf, for his successful appointment to the position of Director-General of FAO.

It cannot be denied that his contribution to the alleviation of poverty and hunger, to food security and agriculture, throughout the world' duration your first six year term have been enormous and effective. We believe that, taking up again the mission as Director-General, you will work much harder. We are confident in you, and we will support you because the fight against hunger and poverty is always our common goal.

We wish you good health and new achievement in your second term-of-office.

On behalf of the Viet Nam delegation, I would like also to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Juan Carlos Roland Vignaud for his goodness and his commitment to contribute to our common goal. We would like to wish him good health and success in his work.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Romicà TOMESCU (Roumanie)

Au nom du Gouvernement de Roumanie et de la délégation de Roumanie ici présente, ainsi qu'en mon nom, permettez moi de féliciter Son Excellence, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, à l'occasion de sa réélection à la haute fonction de Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Cette occasion me permet de remercier le Directeur général de cette prestigieuse Organisation et sa direction qu'il dynamise pour la politique raisonnable et active sur le plan mondial concernant l'agriculture et l'alimentation, mais aussi en ce qui concerne la gestion durable des forêts dans l'esprit des principes adoptés par la Conférence des Nations

Unies pour l'environnement et le développement de Rio 1992, ainsi que dans la problématique générale de la protection de l'environnement et la conservation de la nature.

J'ai la conviction que l'excellente collaboration avec la FAO va se poursuivre et je vous assure de notre constant souhait de la voir s'élargir notamment dans le domaine du développement et de la mise en pratique d'un programme de prévention des phénomènes naturels majeurs.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh)

On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and my delegation present here, and also on my personal behalf, allow me to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his appointment as Director-General for the second consecutive term. We are very delighted that you will continue for another six years in guiding the efforts of FAO. The very high number of votes that he had polled is indicative of the confidence and trust that the Member Nations have in him.

During his first term of office, he has shown exceptional ability in successfully holding the World Food Summit, which showed his deep commitment to the eradication of hunger and poverty from the world. He has made his mark in conceiving and organizing some innovative programmes, such as the Special Programme for Food Security and *Telefood*, which will help, I believe, in achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit. We strongly believe that, during the next six years, his dynamic leadership will help in further achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit.

At the same time, I take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Vignaud of Argentina for his close interest in the affairs of FAO, and hope that he will continue to associate himself in the future with the activities of the Organization.

I believe Bangladesh is assuming the Chairmanship of the Asia Group from January next year, and this Group will continue to provide full support and cooperation to you, Dr Diouf, for your second term.

Finally, we wish you and your family continued health, happiness and prosperity.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

François SEVERIN (Haïti)

Au nom de la délégation haïtienne, au nom du Groupe Amérique Latine et Caraïbes et en mon nom, je voudrais féliciter vivement Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection en qualité de Directeur général de notre Organisation. Cette réélection est le témoignage éloquent de la haute appréciation de notre Assemblée pour le travail réalisé au cours de son premier mandat.

Je voudrais également féliciter l'Ambassadeur d'Argentine, Monsieur Juan Carlos Vignaud, pour le grand intérêt et la contribution qu'il porte à l'avancement de notre Organisation.

Pour être bref, je voudrais souligner que l'importance des défis à relever pour éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde exige la mobilisation de toutes nos ressources et de toutes nos énergies pour améliorer les conditions de vie de millions d'hommes et de femmes du monde rural. Le prochain millénaire qui s'annonce sera celui de la haute compétition et de la haute compétitivité. Tout cela nous porte à travailler beaucoup plus au niveau de notre Organisation pour que ce millénaire soit aussi un millénaire de solidarité, solidarité dont a tant besoin le monde rural. Encore une fois, toutes nos félicitations, Docteur Diouf.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Júlio C. GOMES dos SANTOS (Brésil)

Nous voudrions en tant que délégation vous féliciter, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, de votre réeélection. Le Brésil vous a appuyé dès la première minute qui a suivi le compromis accepté à cet égard par le Président Cardoso et le Président du Sénégal. Lors de la réunion du Groupe des quinze au Caire, au mois de juin 1998, l'appui du Brésil à votre réélection, à la suite du compromis auquel les deux Chefs d'État sont arrivés, a représenté aussi un apport important. Mon pays, dont la vocation agricole dans la région latino-américaine était discutible, représente aujourd'hui plus de 14 millions de dollars d'exportation. L'appui du Brésil à votre réélection sera donc responsable aussi, pour une bonne partie, de ce poids de responsabilité qu'on pose sur vos épaules et dont vous avez parlé dans votre mémorable discours.

Au candidat Argentin, notre frère du Sud, nous réservons notre amitié et notre admiration. Comme l'a dit notre Ambassadeur au Vietnam, dans un télégramme à notre Ministère après l'avoir connu, je lis: "Je sais que nous ne voterons pas pour lui mais je trouve qu'il est un *true believer*". Continuez, Monsieur Vignaud, à croire en ce que vous proposez, ce sont des propositions constructives et je suis sûr qu'elles seront prises en considération par tous.

Finalement, nous vous souhaitons que le bon vent souffle toujours en votre faveur au cours des six années qui vous attendent, mais surtout que Dieu fasse souffler plein de bonnes et nouvelles idées pour le bien de cette Organisation et les objectifs qu'elle se propose d'atteindre.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Anthony WOOD (Barbados)

On behalf of the Government and people of Barbados and the Caribbean Community, I offer heartiest congratulations to Dr Diouf on his most remarkable election victory. The Caribbean Region has supported Dr Diouf in the past and this time around was unanimous in its support for his candidacy.

We in the Caribbean are convinced that despite the difficult conditions in which Dr Diouf has had to run FAO, this noble institution has achieved much. The Caribbean Community has certainly benefited from his policy of decentralization through the establishment of FAO's Subregional Office in Barbados. We are also very fortunate to be hosting the *Telefood 1999* concert in Jamaica on 28 November.

We in the Caribbean Region would like to assure Dr Diouf that we stand ready to offer our fullest support to his future programmes. The task ahead will not be an easy one, but I am sure that with his continued dedication and strong leadership, and of course the support of Member Nations, FAO will achieve much success during his second term.

Before I close, let me thank Ambassador Vignaud for offering himself as a candidate. He certainly raised some important issues during his campaign, and he urged Dr Diouf to seriously consider some of them.

Once again, let me on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados and the Caribbean Region wish Dr Diouf the very best during his second term, and may God continue to guide and strengthen him.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Lyana Lexa TAMBALA (Malawi)

On behalf of the Malawi Government, and on my behalf, I wish to congratulate you on your re-election as Director-General of FAO. We are pleased with your re-election because of all our endeavours in promoting food security, initiated six years ago, such as the Special Programme on Food Security, South-South Cooperation and *Telefood* that will continue to benefit Malawi.

We wish you, Mr Director-General, and the Organization well in the years to come.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 13.10 hours.
La séance est levée à 13 h 10.
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

13 November 1999

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La Quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h10
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 15.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES
PARTE III: ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

17. Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP (C 99/LIM/9)
17. Amendements au Statut et au Règlement général du PAM (C 99/LIM/9)
17. Enmiendas al Estatuto y el Reglamento General del PMA (C 99/LIM/9)

Draft Resolution: Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP
Projet de Résolution: Amendements au Statut (ex-Règles générales) et au Règlement général du PAM
Proyecto de Resolución: Enmiendas a las Normas Generales y al Reglamento del PMA

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la quatrième session plénière. Comme décidé ce matin à la Conférence, suivant la recommandation du Bureau et pour respecter les exigences du Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies (ECOSOC), nous allons considérer le Point 17, *Amendements aux règles générales du PAM* le document sous la cote C 99/LIM/9, contient un Projet de résolution qui a été approuvé déjà par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et par le Conseil à sa session de juin 1999 et avant de poser la question y a-t-il des observations, je souhaite donner la parole au Conseiller juridique pour plus de précision.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you have noted, the Report of the General Committee which the Conference approved this morning has already explained the reasons why this Agenda Item has been brought forward at the request of the President of ECOSOC to allow ECOSOC to proceed to elect a Member of the WFP Executive Board under new arrangements for the distribution of seats on Monday, 15 November.

The amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP are set out in document C 99/LIM/9. Since WFP is a joint programme of both the United Nations and FAO, the amendments need to be adopted by parallel resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and this Conference.

I should like to say a few words about the proposed parallel amendments. There are, in fact, two sets of amendments. The first dealing with the resource and long-term financial policies of the Programme; the second dealing with the distribution of seats in the WFP Executive Board.

On the first set of amendments, the WFP Executive Board established a formal Working Group in May 1998 to review further WFP resource and long-term financial policies and to recommend any necessary changes to improve their effectiveness, to ensure the financial stability of WFP and its programmes and to enhance its ability to attract contributions of Members. The implementation of the proposals of the Working Group as approved by the Executive Board of WFP involves a few changes to the Financial Regulations, the General Rules and, in particular, to Article XIII, Paragraph 2, of the General Regulations of WFP.

The amendment to the General Regulations allows for more flexibility in accepting contributions from developing countries, countries with economies in transition and other non-traditional donors, under conditions laid down in the General Rules of the Programme which are to be approved by the Executive Board. This is the first amendment before the Conference.

This amendment to Article XIII, paragraph 2, of the General Regulations of WFP was reviewed by the FAO Finance Committee in January 1999, approved by the WFP Executive Board and endorsed by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session in June 1999, and has also been approved by ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly.

On the second set of proposed amendments, parallel resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference in 1995 decided that the distribution of seats of the Executive Board of the WFP should be reviewed within two years after its establishment, that the review be conducted in parallel by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference, taking into account relevant inputs from ECOSOC and the Council of FAO, and that the new proposal should enter into force on 1 January 2000. Parallel Working Groups based in New York and in Rome reached a consensus position, which is reflected in the proposed Draft Resolution amending Appendix B of the General Regulations of the Programme on the distribution of seats in the Executive Board.

The amendments have been approved by the Executive Board, of course. Their Draft Resolution was endorsed by the FAO Council at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session in June 1999. The Resolution was also endorsed by ECOSOC on 26 March 1999 and approved by Resolution 53/223 of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 7 April 1999.

The Conference is now invited to approve both the amendment to Article XIII, paragraph 2, of the General Regulations of the Programme and the amendments to Appendix B of the same General Regulations on the Election of Members of WFP Executive Board as set out in the Resolution before you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après cet éclaircissement de la part du Conseiller juridique je vous donne un peu de temps pour voir s'il n'y a pas d'observations. Y a-t-il des observations sur le texte? En absence d'observations, je déclare le document approuvé.

The amendments were adopted.
Les amendements sont adoptés.
Las enmiendas quedan aprobadas.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE (C 99/INF/5)
DÉCLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL À LA CONFÉRENCE (C 99/INF/5)
DECLARACIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA (C 99/INF/5)

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Une période de six ans, c'est très bref à l'échelle de l'histoire. C'est relativement court à l'échelle d'une vie humaine, voire même, pour une institution fondée il y a exactement cinquante-quatre ans. Néanmoins, ces six dernières années ont compté pour l'Organisation au regard des défis qu'elle a dû affronter et des nombreux changements qu'elle a subis pour son amélioration et son adaptation à un nouvel environnement politique et économique.

Avant de faire le bilan de cette période, je voudrais évoquer brièvement la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde.

Les perspectives pour l'année en cours au titre de la production céréalière mondiale se sont quelque peu améliorées récemment. Néanmoins, on prévoit que la production globale, estimée à environ un milliard 870 millions de tonnes, sera inférieure d'environ un pour cent à celle enregistrée en 1998, et de deux pour cent à celle de 1997. Cette dernière avait toutefois été exceptionnellement bonne. Le seul accroissement prévu concerne le riz, alors que les récoltes de blé et des autres céréales seront en baisse. Pour la première fois depuis quatre ans, la consommation projetée de céréales dépassera la production, impliquant un recours aux stocks disponibles qui devraient donc baisser de neuf millions de tonnes pour atteindre 331 millions de tonnes, soit un ratio stock/utilisation de 17,3 pour cent qui est dans la fourchette de sécurité fixée entre 17 et 18 pour cent.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant de prévoir pour la prochaine saison une augmentation de l'ordre de deux pour cent dans le commerce mondial des céréales, qui devrait atteindre 218 millions de tonnes. Malgré tout, les prix des céréales sur les différents marchés mondiaux sont généralement

inférieurs à ceux observés l'an dernier, un facteur positif pour les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, ainsi d'ailleurs que l'augmentation du volume de l'aide alimentaire qui devrait avoisiner le seuil des dix millions de tonnes pour la saison 1998-99.

Un autre signe encourageant vient du secteur de la pêche, car on prévoit une remontée de la production halieutique en 1999.

Mais le point le plus positif est la diminution de 40 millions du nombre total des mal nourris dans les pays en développement entre 1990-92 et 1995-97, comme l'a montré la première édition du rapport de la FAO sur *l'État de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde*. Cette diminution de l'ordre de 8 millions de personnes par an en moyenne est encourageante, mais elle reste largement insuffisante par rapport au chiffre de 20 millions nécessaire pour atteindre l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Par ailleurs, la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est marquée par beaucoup de zones d'ombre. Trente-cinq pays font actuellement face à des pénuries alimentaires graves. Elles ont leur origine principalement dans les intempéries et dans l'émergence ou la persistance de conflits internes ou de situations de guerre mais peuvent aussi être dues à de sérieux problèmes économiques. Ces pénuries touchent toutes les régions du monde: en Afrique, 15 pays sont concernés, surtout en Afrique centrale et orientale. Sept pays d'Asie et quatre d'Amérique centrale ont actuellement besoin d'aide alimentaire d'urgence. Mais ces pénuries ne sont pas limitées aux pays en développement. Cinq pays appartenant à la Communauté des États indépendants et quatre pays de la Région des Balkans sont aussi concernés.

Malheureusement, il n'y a pratiquement plus de période de l'année où la nature ne déchaîne des phénomènes climatiques désastreux. Ce peut être la sécheresse, comme cette année au Proche-Orient et en Afrique de l'Est, ou précédemment dans le Pacifique et en Indonésie où des incendies gigantesques ont sévi, ou au contraire des tornades, des cyclones ou des pluies torrentielles avec leur cortège d'inondations et de destructions catastrophiques, comme tout récemment en Inde et au Viet Nam.

Face à ces situations, le rôle de la FAO est plus important que jamais, tout d'abord pour évaluer la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et les besoins en aide alimentaire, et en informer la communauté internationale. Dans ce domaine, depuis près de 25 ans, le *Centre d'information et d'alerte rapide* de la FAO a fait preuve de diligence et de neutralité grâce notamment au professionnalisme de son personnel, qui travaille en collaboration étroite avec les agents du Programme alimentaire mondial.

En outre, un vaste effort est en cours pour la mise en place du *Système d'information et de cartographie sur l'insécurité et la vulnérabilité alimentaire*, conformément aux décisions du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Ce système, qui constituera un outil précieux notamment pour gérer les situations d'urgence est mis en place à l'échelle internationale mais surtout nationale, avec la pleine coopération des partenaires du système des Nations Unies dans le cadre d'un comité inter-institutional.

Dans les situations d'urgence, la FAO doit aussi aider à la relance de la production agricole en évaluant les besoins en coopération avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies dans le cadre des appels consolidés pour l'aide alimentaire et surtout en fournissant une aide directe aux agriculteurs. Depuis la dernière session de la Conférence, le Service spécial des opérations de secours de la FAO a dû intervenir dans 64 pays. La valeur de ses interventions a doublé entre 1997 et 1998 en passant de 43 à 86 millions de dollars, et pourrait atteindre 100 millions de dollars en 1999. Parmi toutes ces situations d'urgence, je ne soulignerai que deux exemples significatifs: l'ouragan Mitch et la crise du Kosovo.

L'ouragan Mitch a dévasté durant l'automne de 1998 de larges pans de l'économie et des infrastructures de plusieurs pays d'Amérique centrale. Les phases habituelles d'alerte et de détermination des besoins, ont conduit à la formulation d'un programme d'assistance. Outre

l'aide alimentaire d'urgence de plus de 58 millions de dollars approuvée conjointement avec le Directeur exécutif du PAM, la FAO a fourni un total de 1 920 000 dollars en équipement et fournitures pour la relance de l'agriculture, dont presque un tiers grâce au Programme de coopération technique et le reste à travers des fonds fiduciaires.

En réponse à la crise du Kosovo, la FAO s'est concentrée d'abord sur les communautés rurales hébergeant des réfugiés en Albanie et dans l'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine. Un total de 3,5 millions de dollars a été mobilisé pour des projets spécifiques et 14 agents de la FAO volontaires ont été affectés dans les deux pays. Depuis la stabilisation de la situation au Kosovo, la FAO a établi à Pristina une unité de coordination des opérations d'urgence qui coopère avec l'administration de l'ONU et fournit un appui technique aux organisations non gouvernementales. Grâce au généreux soutien de plusieurs donateurs, l'aide de l'Organisation aux Kosovars s'élève actuellement à 6,7 millions de dollars.

Dans le même temps, la FAO s'est vue de plus en plus confrontée à d'autres "crises". Il s'agit des problèmes liés à la qualité et surtout à l'innocuité des produits alimentaires ou à l'impact de nouvelles techniques de production agricole, généralement dérivées des progrès rapides de la biotechnologie. La crise de la "vache folle", la présence de dioxines dans la chaîne alimentaire et la diffusion, à travers les échanges commerciaux, d'organismes génétiquement modifiés sont autant d'exemples récents des problèmes auxquels se sont heurtés les Gouvernements.

C'est là un domaine où l'activité de la FAO sera très certainement amenée à croître dans l'avenir. En effet, l'opinion publique, sensibilisée par les médias, cherche à obtenir une information objective sur les risques éventuels et exige des moyens de protection efficaces. En outre, si le "théâtre d'opérations" de telles "crises" est plutôt cette fois au niveau des pays avancés, la même inquiétude est partagée par les pouvoirs publics et les populations de bon nombre de pays en développement qui ne disposent pas de capacités suffisantes d'analyse.

L'Organisation répond à ces défis et à ces demandes. Ses organes compétents, comme la Commission pour les ressources génétiques, s'occupent activement de développer des codes de conduite. Un programme interdépartemental a été lancé pour traiter de tous les aspects techniques de ces problèmes. Les programmes de la Division mixte FAO/AIEA des techniques nucléaires dans l'alimentation et l'agriculture sont actuellement examinés pour renforcer leur contribution dans ces domaines. Les questions d'éthique sont, quant à elles, examinées par un comité interne appuyé par un groupe d'experts. Le *Codex Alimentarius* reste l'instrument majeur pour la détermination de normes internationales - une activité essentielle dans le contexte du commerce qui se développe et se globalise.

La FAO, tout en restant sensible à l'importance et à l'urgence de ces problèmes, doit se concentrer sur la fourniture d'une information fondée sur des bases scientifiques, établies par des experts reconnus internationalement.

Deux facteurs constituent la clé de voûte dans l'analyse de ce qui a été accompli par l'Organisation au cours de ces deux dernières années: d'une part, l'impact des réformes depuis la réunion extraordinaire du conseil en mai-juin 1994 et, d'autre part, l'élan donné par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de novembre 1996.

La préparation de 150 stratégies nationales de développement agricole à l'horizon 2010 fut un point de départ important du suivi du Sommet. Actuellement, l'effort porte sur l'amélioration de ces documents au niveau national, notamment en associant la société civile à leur revue. En outre, des stratégies régionales sont en cours de préparation pour prendre en compte les synergies potentielles, en particulier dans le domaine du commerce agricole, et les harmoniser dans le cadre de l'action des groupements économiques régionaux existants.

Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire est quant à lui opérationnel dans 50 pays et en cours de formulation dans 25 autres pays.

Je rappellerai que ce Programme a pour objectif d'assurer une augmentation durable de la production agricole dans les pays qui connaissent un déficit alimentaire et qui n'ont pas de ressources suffisantes pour couvrir ce déficit par des importations. À ce jour, 84 pays ont demandé à y participer, y compris six pays qui ne font pas partie du groupe cible. L'allocation du Programme régulier n'est que de 10 millions de dollars sur deux ans. À la demande des gouvernements concernés, le Programme de coopération technique a jusqu'à présent contribué pour un montant de 8 millions de dollars aux activités du Programme spécial. Ces contributions jouent un rôle essentiellement catalytique, l'Organisation ayant réussi à mobiliser des pays donateurs et des institutions financières internationales, dont l'apport représente d'ores et déjà 50 millions de dollars. La mobilisation de ressources supplémentaires est indispensable pour poursuivre un développement ordonné du Programme et donc appuyer la mise en œuvre de la première phase dans un plus grand nombre de pays et jeter les fondements de la seconde phase.

Heureusement, le Programme spécial bénéficie aussi de l'appui de l'initiative de coopération Sud-Sud lancée par l'Organisation. Jusqu'à présent, 25 pays en développement plus avancés ont confirmé leur volonté de participer à cette initiative, parfois en faveur de plusieurs pays. Neuf accords tripartites ont été signés, ce qui représente un engagement pour la fourniture de plus de 900 experts et techniciens. Mais des ressources financières additionnelles sont nécessaires pour aider les pays participants à couvrir une partie de leurs engagements et assurer le relais du financement initial de la FAO.

L'autre programme spécial lancé en 1994, EMPRES, le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, a également bien progressé, ici aussi grâce à l'appui des donateurs. Pour la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, un total de 4,9 millions de dollars a été mobilisé pour 1998 et 1999. Ceci a permis de rendre le programme pleinement opérationnel dans la zone centrale autour de la mer Rouge. Mais ces ressources additionnelles sont nécessaires pour poursuivre les activités au-delà de l'an 2000, mais aussi et surtout pour l'étendre à la Région occidentale et à l'Asie du Sud-Ouest.

En ce qui concerne la composante santé animale d'EMPRES, l'action a essentiellement porté sur la coordination du programme global d'éradication de la peste bovine, mais aussi sur l'élaboration et la diffusion de stratégies pour la prévention, la surveillance et la maîtrise des principales épizooties. Les foyers de peste bovine sont maintenant limités à quelques pays en Asie et en Afrique et il devrait être possible d'atteindre une éradication complète d'ici à l'an 2005. Au niveau des stratégies EMPRES, elles ont été largement diffusées, notamment dans le cadre de nombreux séminaires régionaux, et mises en œuvre avec succès dans plusieurs pays, comme pour le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse aux Philippines ou de la peste porcine en Côte d'Ivoire.

EMPRES est l'un des domaines où la FAO a su exploiter son avantage comparatif et jouer un rôle de chef de file pour la coordination des actions nationales de lutte contre les ravageurs et les maladies, et pour l'assistance directe aux pays affectés.

La décentralisation des activités de la FAO à partir du siège a été une composante majeure de l'ensemble des réformes. Elle s'est étalée sur près de quatre ans, une période difficile surtout sur le plan humain, mais qui a été surmontée grâce à la mise en place, en collaboration avec les associations du personnel, d'un système transparent et objectif de redéploiement et aussi en ayant recours à la procédure de départ par consentement mutuel.

Les équipes techniques pluridisciplinaires renforcées, qui sont désormais présentes dans les cinq bureaux régionaux, et les équipes associées des cinq bureaux sous-régionaux, permettent un accès plus immédiat des États Membres à l'expertise disponible au sein de l'Organisation.

Entre-temps, le réseau des bureaux de la FAO dans les pays a continué d'assurer ses fonctions complémentaires de liaison et de soutien, mais à un coût bien moindre qu'auparavant. Le système de correspondants nationaux pour les pays où les contraintes budgétaires ne permettent pas

l'établissement d'un bureau a connu un grand succès. Vingt correspondants nationaux sont maintenant en fonction et d'autres devraient être désignés très prochainement.

La décentralisation commence à porter ses fruits. J'en veux pour preuve l'accroissement récent des approbations de nouveaux projets, après une période de latence résultant des changements. Ainsi, les nouvelles approbations en 1999 pourraient atteindre le chiffre record de 430 millions de dollars, soit 100 millions de plus qu'en 1998. Ces chiffres semblent indiquer un renversement de tendance dans le programme de terrain puisqu'en 1995 le montant des nouvelles approbations s'était élevé à seulement 250 millions de dollars. Il faut toutefois mentionner que le bon résultat de 1999 est en partie dû au montant exceptionnel des opérations d'urgence et à l'approbation d'un très gros projet de 35 millions de dollars.

Je souhaite à ce propos exprimer toute ma gratitude aux donateurs, tant au titre de l'assistance multi- et bilatérale que des fonds fiduciaires unilatéraux, qui démontrent ainsi leur confiance dans l'Organisation. En fait, nous avons maintenant un groupe plus diversifié, avec bien sûr les donateurs traditionnels toujours fidèles, mais aussi de nouveaux partenaires qui nous confient leurs ressources.

(continues in English)

One of the basic tenets of an FAO that is more modern and more open to the outside is the broadening of its partnership base - a move firmly upheld by the Conference of FAO and its other bodies.

This broader partnership begins with the other agencies and programmes of the United Nations System, in particular the agencies based in Rome. Cooperation with WFP and IFAD has been significantly raised thanks to the routine multilevel consultations held between the Secretariats. As a result of these consultations, not only can action and procedures be coordinated and resources shared - such as conference rooms, translation, information services and technologies, administration and staff training - but also joint activities can be decided. Besides the traditional actions of formulating investment projects for IFAD and evaluating food aid needs in countries affected by emergency situations with WFP, many other joint projects have seen the light of day, as reported in a recently-published booklet jointly established. Moreover, FAO has this year signed Cooperation Agreements with WFP and IFAD for joint action for food security, in particular for implementation of the Special Programme for Food Security.

Another cooperation initiative in follow-up to the World Food Summit is the establishment under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the United Nations of the Network on Rural Development and Food Security that is jointly managed by FAO and IFAD, in close cooperation with WFP, and in which 20 United Nations organizations participate. Under this network, thematic groups are set up at a national level under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator and with technical support from the FAO Representative, primarily to monitor implementation of the Summit Plan of Action. Some 80 countries are involved in this scheme.

Another form of partnership is the important role played by FAO in generating investment projects financed by the World Bank and other international financial institutions. The annual volume of new investments for agricultural development generated by the Investment Centre has regularly increased in recent years, from US$ 2 billion in the early 1990s to US$ 3 billion in 1997 and 1998. This is more than 100 times the joint cost of the programme to FAO and the financial institutions themselves.

The new partnership programmes have mainly centred on the technical cooperation agreements between developing countries and countries in transition which have been signed by 125 countries, and which have so far helped commission 1 582 experts and consultants from these countries.

Further cooperation with universities and research institutes has benefited FAO with the services of 342 visiting experts, while 1 343 retired experts have worked under the corresponding retiree programme. The programme for young professionals from developing countries has now helped train 26 young people "on the job", and the recently-introduced volunteer programme will give the Organization another means of complementing its human resources and reinforcing international cooperation. In total, some 3 300 persons have been employed by the Organization under these new schemes.

Other actions have also helped open the Organization towards the outside. Two prominent target groups in this connection are the Non-governmental Organizations and the private sector. There is now a unit at Headquarters devoted exclusively to strengthening cooperation with these key partners.

World Food Day and its associated activities continue to spearhead the Organization's efforts to mobilize public opinion. World Food Day continues to be celebrated throughout the world. The theme chosen for this year is particularly apt, with its emphasis on the role of youth in overcoming hunger. There are more than one billion young people, some 50 percent in rural areas, who have a vital role to play for the agriculture of the future to be sound and dynamic.

The *Telefood* operation, which received your support at the Conference of 1997, has significantly helped sensitize public opinion to the root causes of food insecurity and to the need for action against hunger and malnutrition in the world. Over 60 countries were directly involved in one way or another in 1997 and 1998, enabling the operation to reach out to some 500 million people and to collect US$ 4 million in donations. Several events have already taken place throughout the world this year, but the major media event will be the concert planned for the end of this month in Jamaica and which will be broadcast on the television screens of many countries on 4 December.

The funds so far collected by *Telefood* have permitted the implementation of 457 concrete small projects designed to boost food security in 96 countries, for a total value of US$ 3.5 million.

We cannot overlook the importance of having modern and effective logistic resources if an organization is to operate in the four corners of the world, often under emergency conditions.

Decentralization necessitated heavy investment in telecommunications infrastructure, which is now virtually complete and has enabled all the Offices to be linked under one network. Almost all the staff, whatever their workstation, can now exchange electronic messages, documents and data quasi-instantaneously. Moreover, widespread access to the vast resources of the Internet and of our internal Intranet have boosted staff analytical capacity tenfold.

This infrastructure for the dissemination of information is not only at the service of the staff but is also and especially at the service of users throughout the world. FAO can be particularly proud of the exponential success of its Internet site, which now posts some 6.5 million hits every month. In this way, the wealth of information and statistical data in the World Agricultural Information Centre, WAICENT, are turned to better account.

Nor have the buildings been neglected. Our Headquarters now possess a selection of meeting rooms, a press club and audio-visual centres of enviable quality - so much so, in fact, that other organizations are increasingly eager to hold their meetings here. This has been made possible by the generous contributions of many donors, foremost among whom the Government of our Host Country, Italy. I should like to reiterate the profound gratitude of the Organization for these contributions.

I should also like to thank the Governments of the countries hosting FAO's decentralized offices throughout the world for their ongoing efforts to improve the facilities.

An institution like FAO also needs an effective system of administrative and financial management. As was noted by the External Auditor, the FINSYS system of financial

management, and to a lesser extent the PERSYS system of staff management, both developed on the basis of existing administrative procedures, were too rigid and complex, and in particular failed to provide all the essential information needed for good management. A consultant also confirmed that it would be far too costly to modify this software which should preferably be replaced. This proposal was examined by the Finance Committee, which accepted its validity.

Following a call for tender, the ORACLE software was selected at the end of 1995 as the platform for the new system. The preparatory phase took longer than expected because of insufficient resources. Also, it involved putting in place a system adapted to offices in the process of decentralization that could be integrated into the central system developed for Headquarters and the Regional Offices.

The new financial system became operational in May 1999. However, its functioning will continue to be centralized within the departmental management support units until the last technical problems have been ironed out. But from the beginning of next year, all division directors, service chiefs and project managers will have direct access to the system, which will enable them to manage their budgets and initiate the more straightforward transactions. The more complex operations will be handled by a new central management support service.

Implementation of such a system should be matched by a simplification of administrative procedures and greater delegation of authority. However, we need to proceed with due care if we are not to undermine the assurances of good functioning of the necessary controls. All the administrative aspects of the Organization are therefore being reviewed. The related structural adjustments at Headquarters and in the regions are included in the proposals that are put before you under the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

How has all this been achieved – decentralization, the opening of new subregional and liaison offices, the modernization of resources, the introduction of new programmes - while at the same time maintaining a satisfactory level of activity in all those priority areas of the Governing Bodies, when FAO's biennial budget changed from US$ 673 million in 1994-95 to US$ 650 million in the last two biennia, equivalent to a real loss of purchasing power of 10 to 15 percent?

It meant systematically identifying all areas where efficiency gains could be made: reduction in administrative posts provided a permanent annual saving of some US$ 3 million; elimination of a number of posts of Assistant to Heads of Department and Division, thus of a redundant level in the hierarchy: US$ 4 million; new partnership programmes which gave FAO access to expertise under far more favourable terms than conventional consultant hiring procedures: US$ 4 million; replacement in FAO Representations of internationally-recruited programme officers with locally-recruited officers: US$ 5 million; downgrading of posts to redress an undefined upward trend inherited from the past: US$ 3 million; elimination of posts among administrative, secretarial and manual staff thanks to the modernization of computer resources and office automation, and recourse to outsourcing: US$ 10 million; impact of decentralization resulting from differences in salaries between Headquarters and decentralized offices; US$ 7 million; more economical travel: US$ 3 million; increased outsourcing of layout, translation and printing of publications: US$ 6 million; more advantageous communications contracts by drawing maximum benefit from competition among suppliers: US$ 2 million; reduction in the duration of Governing Body meetings - your meetings - and production of more concise documentation: US$ 2 million.

Overall savings thus realized - and which have a permanent impact on the budget - amount to some US$ 50 million per year. I think there can be no more eloquent answer to my simple question. However, we need to remember that our reforms have transcended the need to economize. The quality factor has always been on our minds.

(continúa en español)

¿Cuáles son ahora las orientaciones para el futuro?

Ante todo hay que consolidar los logros y, por lo tanto, mantener la lógica: de una FAO cada vez más abierta al exterior; de una FAO consciente de sus triunfos y sus límites y, por lo tanto, dispuesta a asumir sin timidez sus responsabilidades, pero también a cooperar con otros; de una FAO moderna en cuanto a sus instrumentos de trabajo, que se mantiene muy cercana a los Estados Miembros y a su población rural.

¿Cuáles son las tendencias y fuerzas principales que influirán en las actividades futuras de la FAO?

Ante todo, pese a la reducción irreversible de las estructuras estatales, hay que señalar la confirmación de la función esencial del Estado en algunos sectores, puesto que no se ve qué otra entidad podría establecer una política y un marco jurídico favorables para el desarrollo sostenible.

La continuación de la mundialización y de la liberalización del comercio y, sobre todo, de los intercambios de los productos alimenticios y agrícolas.

La estratificación creciente de los países en lo que respecta a los ingresos y, por consiguiente, también en lo que respecta a las necesidades de ayuda exterior, y la influencia cada vez mayor de las agrupaciones regionales y subregionales.

El carácter inaceptable de la pobreza y los riesgos constantes de situaciones complejas de emergencia derivadas de catástrofes.

Las consecuencias de la urbanización creciente de la sociedad.

La evolución de las formas de alimentación y la sensibilización creciente del público con respecto a las cuestiones de inocuidad y calidad de los alimentos y a los problemas ecológicos.

La presión cada vez mayor sobre los recursos naturales y la competencia por su utilización.

Los progresos constantes de la investigación y desarrollo tecnológico, acompañados de una persistente desigualdad en el acceso a las ventajas de él derivadas, cuya consecuencia es el impacto creciente de las tecnologías de la información y de la comunicación en las instituciones y las sociedades.

Por último, los cambios en la naturaleza y composición de la financiación del desarrollo agrícola, y la evolución de la función e imagen del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Todas estas cuestiones se han tenido en cuenta al elaborar el Marco Estratégico que guiará las actividades de la Organización durante los próximos quince años.

Indudablemente el futuro de la FAO dependerá también de los recursos que se pongan a su disposición. A este respecto, no puedo menos de hacer votos por que el período de restricciones termine pronto para esta Organización, lo mismo que para las demás de la familia de las Naciones Unidas que comparten sus objetivos y sus combates.

Desearía abordar ahora el programa de este importante período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Se somete a la aprobación de ustedes el Marco Estratégico que acabo de mencionar. La FAO no es la única institución empeñada en una reflexión de esta envergadura. No obstante, es preciso señalar el carácter plenamente participativo del proceso de elaboración del documento, así como los análisis detallados que se han realizado para darle la necesaria amplitud de miras.

Se ha hecho un esfuerzo extraordinario para consultar a todos los asociados, en especial a otras organizaciones y programas del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Ciertamente se ha dado prioridad a los Miembros de la Organización en este proceso. En la historia de la FAO no hay sino pocos ejemplos de documentos que hayan sido objeto de debates intergubernamentales tan amplios, fundados en varias versiones progresivamente enriquecidas. Las principales instancias de la FAO, desde las Conferencias Regionales, pasando por los Comités Técnicos del Consejo, hasta el Consejo mismo y sus órganos auxiliares, pudieron formular sus opiniones y aportar su

contribución, en algunos casos, repetidas veces. Por otra parte, era ésta la condición necesaria para crear en todos los Miembros un sentimiento de propiedad del contenido del documento.

Otro documento que se presenta a la Conferencia es, como siempre, el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

A petición del Consejo, el documento contiene tres opciones principales. La primera corresponde a cierto, si bien mínimo, *crecimiento real*, la segunda, a un *crecimiento real cero* y la tercera, a un *crecimiento nominal cero*. Todas ellas se basan en un tipo de cambio provisional de 1 800 Liras italianas por un dólar estadounidense.

La opción del *crecimiento real* implicaría ciertamente un aumento de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros de un 6,5 por ciento aproximadamente. Pero permitiría a la Organización responder de forma mucho más completa a las solicitudes expresadas por las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos del Consejo, sin olvidar las importantes conferencias celebradas este año en la Sede sobre los *Sectores Forestal y Pesquero y sobre los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo*.

El crecimiento real cero implicaría un aumento notablemente menor de las cuotas, en torno al tres por ciento. Pese al reducido margen de maniobra, se mantienen en él las actividades económicas y técnicas esenciales de la FAO. Se puede incluso introducir una serie de medidas adicionales para corregir el desequilibrio en la utilización de los idiomas en la Organización, respondiendo así a las expectativas de los Países Miembros interesados. Es importante subrayar que esta opción incluye también una reforma de las estructuras administrativas en la Sede, que puede realizarse gracias a la introducción de nuevos sistemas informáticos de gestión.

La tercera opción, *crecimiento nominal cero*, repite sencillamente la cuantía de 650 millones de dólares aprobada para el bienio 1998-99 y, es preciso recordarlo también, para el bienio precedente 1996-97. Esta opción ha exigido determinar recortes por un valor total de unos 15 millones de dólares. Podrá hacerse esto solamente mediante la aplicación de otras reformas de estructuras en las oficinas regionales. Resultan también afectados los programas técnicos y económicos, pero quedan protegidos unos cuantos sectores prioritarios.

Estos sectores "protegidos", con arreglo a los puntos de vista expresados por ustedes, incluyen en particular: los sectores pesquero y forestal; la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos y zoogenéticos; las normas alimentarias (*Codex*); la asistencia a la mujer rural; el centro mundial de difusión de información; la aplicación de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria; el sistema de alerta en situaciones de escasez de alimentos; la asistencia a los Estados Miembros en el marco de las nuevas negociaciones internacionales sobre el comercio; y las consignaciones presupuestarias destinadas al Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria y al Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Corresponde a los representantes de los Estados Miembros reunidos en esta Conferencia hacer la elección acertada con pleno conocimiento de causa. La Secretaría, por su parte, pondrá fielmente en práctica las decisiones que adopte la Conferencia.

Además del Marco Estratégico y el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, la Conferencia tratará otras cuestiones importantes en este período de sesiones.

Dos de ellas afectan a la esencia misma de la labor normativa de la Organización: el Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y las conclusiones de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el Convenio de Rotterdam para la Aplicación del Procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo. Ambos temas demuestran que los aspectos normativos siguen siendo prioritarios en la labor de la FAO.

Por último, la Secretaría seguirá con atención los debates sobre los progresos logrados en el seguimiento de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y la integración de las cuestiones de paridad hombre-mujer en la FAO.

A este propósito, quiero destacar la importancia de la Consulta de Alto Nivel sobre la Mujer Rural y la Información que tuvo lugar aquí mismo a comienzos del mes pasado. La Consulta reunió a 326 participantes provenientes de 111 países, incluidos 43 miembros de Gobiernos, y ha contribuido ciertamente a fomentar el reconocimiento, especialmente por parte de los responsables de las decisiones, de la función de la mujer en el desarrollo. La reunión apoyó una Estrategia de Acción para la adopción de políticas que armonicen los objetivos de la seguridad alimentaria y los de la paridad hombre-mujer. Esa estrategia quedará incorporada en el nuevo Plan de Acción de la FAO para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo, que se les presentará a ustedes en el 2001.

Deseo recordar asimismo los esfuerzos constantes para elevar el porcentaje de mujeres dentro del personal de la FAO, sobre todo en las categorías superiores, y en las representaciones de los países. Estos esfuerzos empiezan a dar fruto ya que, en comparación con enero de 1994, la proporción de mujeres en la categoría de directores ha aumentado del 4 al 11 por ciento y el número de mujeres representantes de la FAO ha pasado de 2 a 10.

Señor Presidente, Excelentísimas Señoras y Señores:

Indudablemente, la Organización está hoy bien equipada en lo que respecta a sus estructuras y medios logísticos, y lo estará próximamente en lo relativo a sistemas de gestión. Se ha actualizado totalmente con respecto a los cambios excepcionalmente rápidos en las tecnologías registrados en su sector de actividad, así como con respecto a las técnicas de ofimática y comunicaciones, que caracterizan nuestra época. En el contexto de un mundo tan diversificado en el umbral del tercer milenio, ha sabido mantener y, en caso necesario, reforzar su cooperación con sus asociados naturales, entablando a la vez otros vínculos prometedores con los colaboradores de la sociedad civil.

(continues in original language Arabic)

Nevertheless, FAO must always be able to demonstrate that it deserves the confidence of its Members, while making efficient use of the resources made available to it. It must show that it is still the effective instrument of international cooperation in the important field of food and agriculture that its founders had envisaged. Finally and above all, it has a duty to continue serving, to the best of its ability, the expectations of the needy, of all the people of the world who suffer poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

That is the cause that I have always felt compelled to serve and that, before this assembly, I undertake to serve again.

(continues in original language Chinese)

Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Directeur général pour sa brillante déclaration, brillante par la richesse de son contenu et je tiens en votre nom, à lui adresser nos vifs remerciements et à lui présenter nos vives félicitations pour cette déclaration. Je demande maintenant au Président indépendant du Conseil, Monsieur Sjarifudin Baharsjah de prononcer son discours à la Conférence.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
DÉCLARATION DU PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL À LA CONFÉRENCE
DECLARACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Independent Chairman of the Council)

May I first convey to the newly-admitted Members my sincere congratulations and extend to them a warm welcome. I am sure that they will become active participants in the work of our Organization. I should also like to convey to the Director-General my heartfelt congratulations on his re-election. The statement we have just heard will no doubt serve to orient the work of the Conference in the days ahead. I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and Vice-Chairman on your election.

The Conference has on its Agenda substantive policy and strategy issues that the Council in fulfilling its mandate has had under consideration since you last met in this forum two years ago. It is my hope that the preparatory work of the Council will ease your deliberation and permit you to reach conclusions on these issues which will affect the food and agriculture sector as we start on with the new millennium. Since the Twenty-ninth Session of the Conference in November 1997, the Council has had four regular sessions involving a total of 16 days of intensive discussion. My sincere gratitude goes to the Members and Observers of the Council, as well as to the Director-General and his staff, for making the Council, meetings during this period so purposeful and meaningful.

In 1997, the Conference felt the need for a strategic vision of the Organization's future roles that would go beyond the horizon contemplated in the current programme and planning documents, that is, the Programme of Work and Budget, and the Medium-Term Plan. In response to its Resolution 69/7, a fourth version of a Strategic Framework document has been prepared looking ahead to the years 2000-2015. This document was prepared in the light of an intensive process of intergovernmental discussion, in which the Technical Committees of the Council, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council itself have taken an active part. As desired by the Conference, the document has been the subject of broad consultations to its stakeholders and partners of FAO. During its recently-concluded session, the Council decided to forward the document to the Conference. The Council has suggested the adoption by the Conference, taking into account all the comments made on version 4.0 of the Strategic Framework. I hope it will meet with your approval.

It goes without saying that implementation of the Strategic Framework will entail difficult choices, in light of the raised objectives and the limited availability of budgetary resources for the Organization. In this same room, three years ago, Heads of State and Governments of most countries of the world declared without hesitation that 800 million people without access to adequate food represented an intolerable situation, and set the course aimed at overcoming this state of affairs. FAO as a key player needs to be endowed with the necessary means to help ensure that the targets of the World Food Summit are achieved. As you will recall the Council last June reaffirmed the crucial role of the Committee on World Food Security, in monitoring the implementation of the World Food Summit decision by Governments, United Nations Agencies, and other international institutions. It also welcomed the reporting format proposed by the Committee carry out the task.

In the area of governance, the process started by the Council in 1993, to increase savings and efficiencies, and to streamline structures and procedures has given good results. The sessions of the Governing Bodies are now shorter and more focused. The documentation has become more concise and action-oriented. The cost sessions of the Governing Bodies including the Council

itself, have been cut by as much as fifty percent from one biennium to the next. In 1997, the Council took up immediately after the Conference the question of streamlining the latter's structures and methods of work. You will be considering later on in the Session, some amendments to the General Rules of the Organization proposed by Council. These include the possibility of electing Council Members by clear general consent, whenever the number of candidates is equal to the number of seats available. On the other hand, a measure like the reduction in the number of Commissions from three to two, is already being implemented at the present Session with the Plenary dealing with constitutional, legal and administrative matters, items previously handled by Commission III.

In this period the Council has also received an approved on your behalf, a Final Report on the Implementation of the Review of FAO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts pursuant to the Resolution adopted by the last Conference. After an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of the Statutory Bodies created over the years, a number of these Bodies and their subsidiaries have been abolished. This has resulted in savings for the Organization. May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Director-General for the prompt and effective action taken by him and his staff in translating into concrete action the decisions of the Governing Bodies and completing the process in a single biennium.

The Council has played an important role in bringing about long-sought improvements to the governance process of FAO. However, we are also well aware, of the fact that FAO provides a unique worldwide forum for intergovernmental discussions on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In this connection, I am somewhat concerned that the continuous search for savings might one day impair the capacity of the forum to reflect and act in full consideration of all the factors involved in these issues under consideration.

The Council has similar concerns and has recommended that the length of the Governing Body session not be reduced any further. I would therefore recommend that the period of consolidation and analysis of the effect of the measures so far taken be allowed to pass before embarking on new reforms.

The importance attached by the Council and by the Programme and Finance Committees to enhancing the linguistic diversity of the Organization will need continuing attention, as the ability to communicate with vast areas of the world and reach audiences worldwide constitutes one of the major assets of FAO. The Council was unanimous in reaffirming the principle of equality of the five FAO languages and emphasized that appropriate resources should be made available under each budget option to progressively reduce the imbalance among the languages of the Organization that occurs at present.

The effort to enhance regional and subregional roles in the Organization's work is yet another example of the Organization "re-inventing itself," *vis-à-vis* the multiple demands being placed upon it. By bringing FAO closer to its constituents through its multidisciplinary team in its Regional and Sub-regional offices and by providing more economical modalities of action and a provision of FAO services at the local level. FAO has once again proven itself to be an innovating agent in development work. The fact that a Council agreed during its Hundred and Sixteenth Session in June 1999 to periodically assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Organization's decentralization policy is indicative of the Organization's desire to change with the times and to adapt to the circumstances at hand.

I wish to take a few moments to touch upon the question of gender mainstreaming. All of us are aware of the important contributions that rural women make to the economic development of their respective countries. Evidence, suggests however, that often men and women enjoy different economic status within rural households. FAO continues in its efforts to promote the significant role of women in economic development endeavours. By the same token, it has taken it upon itself to also promote the notion of gender mainstreaming within the Organization. This Conference will be presented with a series of information papers prepared by the Division of

Women and Population that focus on the measures taken by FAO in the recent past in this regard. The papers not only deal with progress to date in gender mainstreaming, but attainment of benchmarks for the future.

This year has seen the convening of the Technical Committees of the Council to discuss issues of great consequence for the Organization. The Committee on Commodity Problems, for example, requested that attention be paid to the countries covered by the Marrakech Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries, as well as on Small Island Developing States. The CCP also expressed support for the Programme of Work on Assessing the Effects of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agricultural Markets, and stressed the importance of helping developing countries to prepare for the forthcoming negotiations in Seattle. It is my understanding that FAO is already actively engaged in this endeavour through its "Umbrella Programme" of training on the Uruguay Round and Future Negotiations on Agriculture Commodity Trade.

The Committee on Agriculture, COAG, urged increased focus on countries' special needs for capacity-building on technical, legislative and trade-related matters particularly in relation to the new round of talks on multilateral trade negotiations.

The COAG also supported the Organization's programme on agricultural biotechnology to assist Member Nations in obtaining the full benefits of the new developments while minimizing risks, and appreciated FAO's role as a standard-setter for quality science-based information, especially in connection with the International Plant Protection Commission (IPPC) and the *Codex Alimentarius Commission*. FAO's key supporting role in organic agriculture, especially with regard to product certification and market information, was acknowledged by both COAG and the Council, as was the contribution of urban and peri-urban agriculture to food security.

This year's meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forestry were especially noteworthy for their significant input to the Programme of Work and Budget exercise. The COFI, for example, underlined the importance of FAO intensifying its work with developing Members to strengthen capacity-building in the fisheries sector and to further strengthen regional fisheries bodies. FAO's assistance with support to developing countries, countries in transition and Small Island Developing States was also requested by the membership for the implementation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. The Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, in March of this year, agreed that the *Rome Declaration on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, adopted by COFI, would be a very valuable instrument in serving to promote sustainability in fisheries.

The Committee on Forestry highlighted the increased importance being given to forestry matters in recent years, in line with the global policy dialogue on forests after UNCED. In so doing, resources commensurate with the global, regional and national needs of the forestry sector were requested, in addition to the request for higher prominence to be given to forestry in the FAO Strategic Framework. The Ministerial Declaration on Forestry, issued upon the conclusion of the COFO Ministerial Meeting in March of this year, also served to promote sustainability in forestry.

The Council has followed closely the progress in the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, under the able guidance of the Chairman of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ambassador Gerbasi. It supported the mandate given him to convene the Montreux meeting early this year, which allowed him to draw up the "Chairman's Elements" that the Commission has decided to use as the basis of subsequent negotiations. The Council also endorsed the process currently underway, where, through meetings of the Commission's Contact Group, the negotiators are aiming to meet the deadline of submitting the revised Undertaking to the Council in November year 2000. As the Council requested, Ambassador Gerbasi will be reporting on progress to this Session of the Conference.

I have not touched upon a matter of crucial importance for the work of this Organization, namely the level of resources that Conference will allocate for the biennium 2000-2001. I have not done this because the Council has referred different options to the Conference for decision. However, in concluding my statement, I should just like to say that FAO still faces many challenges. The nature and gravity of these challenges are determined by the situation of the countries and populations that urgently require access to food, drinking water, medical care and, above all, hope for the generations that will occupy their land in the Millennium that is so close to us.

It is my fervent hope that the Conference will find its way to a consensus that will provide FAO with adequate resources to fulfil its mission.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais en votre nom remercier Monsieur Sjarifudin Baharsjah, Président indépendant du Conseil, pour son excellent discours.

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons maintenant poursuivre notre travail avec le Point 5 de l' ordre du jour: *Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture*. Le Sous-directeur général du Département économique et social, Monsieur de Haen, va faire une présentation audiovisuelle.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the Item on the State of Food and Agriculture. Document C 99/2 presents recent developments as of August 1999. More recent information and illustrations can be found in a leaflet entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture in Figures* which is in the five official languages of the Organization and should be available at the Document Desk.

I would like to begin by referring to recent developments in world food security. The first graph, shows the estimated number of chronically-undernourished in developing countries has been on a declining trend, for quite some time. According to our latest estimate the number has declined for the first time below 800 million. The Director-General just referenced this figure as well.

The graph also presents two projections for developing countries to the year 2015. The upper projection, in yellow, assumes a business-as-usual scenario which would still leave the number of undernourished above 600 million by 2015.

The lower projection, in red, shows the trend needed to achieve the Summit target of halving the number to around 400 million by not later than 2015.

If the halving target is to be met, the annual rate of reduction in the number of undernourished in developing countries needs to be stepped up from around 8 million in the early 1990s, to at least 20 million per year in the period to come.

In the five years of the 1990s, the first half of the 1990s, undernutrition still increased by 60 million in 59 countries. This is shown in blue, while it also declined in another group of countries by 100 million, but this group was just 37 countries. Progress in India and China alone contributed to almost two-thirds of this reduction of 100 million, which is shown in yellow. The net result was an overall decline of 40 million from 830 to 790 million. The conclusion is that progress has to be achieved by many more countries in the future.

The next set of graphs shows the long term change in the percentage of undernourished in Regions of the developing world. This long-term development refers to from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. The first red block is the Near East and North Africa Region which experienced a steep decline to about 9 percent. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there has also been a considerable reduction. East and Southeast Asia succeeded in a dramatic drop from 43 to 13 percent. South Asia also achieved a remarkable reduction in the proportion of undernourished people.

Finally, sub-Saharan Africa is the major exception to these long-term improvements. Here the percentage of undernourished has remained at around one-third of the population and due to population growth, the absolute number has even doubled from 90 to 180 in sub-Saharan Africa since the early 1970s. But not visible in these average figures is the fact that five West African countries have been amongst the most successful in comparison with all developing countries worldwide, bringing their percentage of undernourished down over this longer term period.

Turning now to the state of global agriculture, and first to the demand side. Developments during 1998 and 1999 were very much influenced by the financial crisis which began in Asia and subsequently had implications for commodity markets worldwide. The sudden reduction in capital inflow, and tightening of monetary and fiscal policies, resulted in economic contraction and increased unemployment which translated into a reduced demand and output -- time does not allow me to go into details here – overall the developing countries displayed a relatively greater economic slow down than the advanced industrial economies, but both groups are expected to show recovery in 1999. Partly as a result of the reduced purchasing power of consumers, international commodity prices, which were already on a downward cycle, following the 1994-96 boom, declined further. These graphs show the period from 1991 to 1998 and then the first three quarters of 1999. This is the period to which these slides refer, the declining trend for all foods and cereals, as well as beverages and agricultural raw materials. The impact on food security differed, of course, from country to country, depending on their trade position and income level.

I now turn to the supply side by looking at recent agricultural production developments. Here I refer to the developing countries first. In this group of countries the agricultural output has grown only marginally in 1998 and 1999, that is by less than 1 percent per year. This is for the first time in a decade that growth was less than 3 percent per annum. As the growth rates in this next graph, which applies to developed countries, shows agricultural production in the developed countries has fluctuated over the last nine years. Production declined in 1998 and is expected to grow only very modestly in 1999.

In summary, at the global level, following several years of growth total crop and livestock production, 1998 was a sluggish year with zero growth and 1999 is expected to end with a growth rate of just under 1 percent.

In some parts of the world, food security has been, and still is, under a direct threat of food shortages, therefore a few remarks on this phenomenon. Some 35 countries currently face exceptional shortfalls in food supplies requiring external emergency assistance. Fifteen of these

countries are in Africa, seven in Asia, but countries in Central America, in the CIS, and in Europe, and here in particular the Balkans, are so affected.

The next graph shows that over the last fifteen years there has been a discernible shift in the causes of food emergency which we have shown and published in the latest issue of the *Food Outlook*. Whereas man-made disasters contributed to only about 10 percent of total emergencies in 1984, and this is the red line, by late 1999 they were a determining factor of food emergencies in over 50 percent of all cases.

In concluding the discussion of the food situation, I would like to highlight the supply and demand situation for cereals only. Although the document covers all other commodities, cereals contribute to just over 50 percent of daily energy supply worldwide, therefore the limitation to this commodity group.

World cereal production is likely to decline slightly in 1999 and this for the second consecutive year, our latest forecast points to a global production of 1.87 billion tonnes, down about 1 percent by the already reduced 1998 level. We anticipate that there will be a small increase in utilization in 1999-2000. Cereal food consumption is likely to keep pace with population growth but livestock feed utilization of cereals could decline largely as a result of the decline of the Russian Federation.

Overall, and this is shown on this slide. For the first time in four years demand is expected to exceed production and as a result stocks will be drawn down slightly. This is shown in green. This is a reversal of the build up of stocks observed over the past five years. Nevertheless, the stock-to-use ratio is forecast at 17.3 percent which FAO considers to be still within the minimum safe level and range. I should add that against this background, some recovery in cereal prices in the coming month cannot be ruled out.

Finally, I would like to mention the issue of investment in agriculture and official development assistance which is also discussed in the document. This brings us back to the first slide which showed the projections of undernourished people. Our projections indicate, as I said before, within a business-as-usual scenario. The World Food Summit target for the reduction of the number of undernourished would not be achieved. As part of the extra effort required, FAO believes that the countries affected by hunger will need to invest more heavily in agriculture than they currently do. We estimated the needed level at US$ 180 billion per annum in the developing countries as a whole.

This brings me to the final graph, which shows the total Official Development Assistance, which has declined since the early 1990s. It also shows that Official Development Assistance to agriculture, as well as its share, shown in the green line, in total ODA have declined since the late 1980's.

In conclusion, world agriculture and food security have made fairly good, though rather uneven progress over the last decades. More recently progress has been slower, negative in some countries, due to a number of adverse factors. Economies and demand are expected to recover in the medium-term, however, unfavourable conditions remain in many parts of the world and much more needs to be done in order to meet the common target of the World Food Summit.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie Monsieur de Haen pour la qualité de son exposé et nous passons aux interventions des pays.

Avant de donner la parole aux délégués, je tiens à vous rappeler la décision prise par nous-mêmes hier, de mettre en pratique la limite de cinq minutes pour chaque intervention.

Donc pour ceux à qui sera donnée la parole: vous commencez quand la lumière verte apparaîtra à votre gauche. Après quatre minutes, une lumière orange vous indiquera qu'il ne vous reste plus qu'une minute de temps. A la conclusion des cinq minutes octroyées, la lumière rouge apparaîtra. Nous allons donc commencer par la Thaïlande, Son Excellence Monsieur Pongol Adireksarn, Ministre de l'Agriculture et des coopératives.

GENERAL DISCUSSION
DÉBAT GÉNÉRAL
DEBATE GENERAL

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE DELEGACIONES

Thailand, Finland, Burkina Faso, United States of America, China, Canada, Sudan, Belgium, Brazil, Mauritius, España, Angola, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Zimbabwe, Australia, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Nigeria, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Dominica, Mozambique

Pongpol ADIREKSARN (Thailand)

On behalf of the Thai delegation, allow me first of all to congratulate you and your vice-chairman of this Conference and to extend the best wishes of the Kingdom of Thailand to the new Member Nations. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for having been re-elected as Director-General and to assure him of our continuous and full support for the benefit of all FAO Member Nations.

As a nation, Thailand is fully committed to our pledge to the Rome Declaration on World Food Security. All the commitments have been addressed, or are being addressed by a number of constituencies from both public and private sectors, NGOs, producers and the civil societies.

However, despite Thailand's status as one of the world's major food producers and exporters, we have not fully reached the goal of food security within our own country at the household level. We may have been well on the way to achieving this goal but the financial crisis that surfaced in the middle of 1997 has been the intervening factor, which made it necessary to critically review the structural flaws and the weak foundations of the economy.

To restore our economy and pursue the development goals, we need to confront and overcome many challenges in the coming decades. Our main concerns and our priority will be to ensure food security at the household level. This is based on our firm conviction that we cannot realize the food security goal if the majority of agricultural producers, through markets and marginalization processes, become themselves food-deficit households. Our efforts will therefore be focused on improving their productive capacity, minimizing their economic risks and strengthening their learning processes. The Constitution of 1997 and the ideology of our present Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan, in putting the people at the centre of development and ensuring democratic and participatory processes, will provide a socio-political context in which this goal can be achieved.

Placing development priority on food security at the household level means looking into practical approaches to promoting sustainable agricultural production, among the major objectives being to ensure reproductive capacity of the natural resources base and, insofar as possible, to minimize risks and stabilize income of the small-scale farmers. We recognize that effective protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological systems have a direct bearing on Thailand's continued progress towards achieving food security. How we balance private gains against social

and environmental costs will therefore be of critical importance to the continued existence of these resources.

With the benefit of hindsight, we realize that the drive towards competitiveness in the past has been pursued with too much hastiness in accepting the externally-induced modern technology. In the interim, the technology gap will perpetuate Thailand's dependency on imported technology. Nevertheless, experiences will teach us to be more selective in our choices of technology, and not to place short-term economic considerations before adequate knowledge is known with regard tot he likely impacts from their applications. We are certain that part of the technology gap can be filled by local technology, traditional knowledge and customary practices. Our efforts will be directed to intellectual property rights protection and finding modes in which legal rights and fair economic returns can be equitably enjoyed by relevant parties involved. Our desire is that FAO should play a proactive role in assisting less developed countries in this endeavour.

On international trade, the disadvantaged position in which less developed countries already find themselves is likely to be further aggravated by more subtle forms of non-tariff barriers. Ironically, keeping up with the international rules and regulations, knowing all the intricacies of the market, forming alliances and entering into multilateral trade agreements and forming regional and sub-regional groups have become the necessities of market survival in a world committed to trade liberalisation. While Thailand fully abides by those agreements, fair practices can only be achieved if the same level of commitment is apparent among more developed countries. Here, too, our expectations are that FAO should intervene to ensure that trade liberalisation is not simply a political rhetoric.

The pursuit of world food security requires effective North-South cooperation in production and marketing processes. We recognise and appreciate that some of the initiatives already undertaken reflect this spirit of cooperation such as the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the establishment of an institutional framework for undertakings related to plant and animal genetic resources and the preparation of a draft *Code of Conduct on Biotechnology and Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer*. On our part, Thailand has developed an equivalent Thai Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and has taken a proactive role with other ASEAN Members to develop a Regional Code. With external technical and financial assistance, Thailand has also designed and compiled poverty indices and indicators of well-being.

Hitherto, the extent to which Thailand can be supportive of the international initiatives has been and will be somewhat thwarted by the technology gap and limitations of financial resources. To this end, we look upon the strategic and functional role of the FAO. We believe that the mandates and areas of operation place the FAO in a highly-strategic position to foster North-South cooperation, particularly in mediating to ensure fairness of trade in the interest of world food security. We look to the FAO for technical assistance in the production of food and the logistical control of its distribution, in providing up-to-date information on biotechnology science and in designing and launching a coherent programme to assist less-developed countries through the framework of IPPC and Codex. Both North and South face many challenges ahead, but it is hoped that we can find supportive paths where each national can follow in a world united.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Kalevi HEMILÄ (Finland)

As President-in-office of the Council of the European Union it is my great pleasure to address this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

Three years have passed since we convened here at the World Food Summit. It is a sufficient period to draw some conclusions from the subsequent developments. The 15 Member States of

the European Union share the concern of the FAO Secretariat over the slow pace of positive development in reducing the number of the undernourished. In 1996 we set the target of halving this figure by the year 2015. At the speed indicated in the statistics that are presented to us, we would meet this target not until sometime after the year 2040. It is quite clear that this is unacceptable, and we must be able to do better than that.

The World Food Summit is an integral part of the global agenda. The Millennium Assembly next year will address poverty-related issues. There is a clear link between hunger and poverty. Through its mandate FAO's role is to improve food security and the access to food for the most vulnerable.

This FAO Conference, which is the last one in the Twentieth Century, takes note of many extremely worrying developments in the food and agriculture situation of the world. We have to face these problems and not give up. We have to strengthen our efforts, analyse deeper the causes of these misfortunes and then act accordingly. FAO has a central role to play in rebuilding agriculture and improving food safety and food security.

FAO should continue to fulfil its mandate as a lead agency in matters related to food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This role calls for increased activity and support for intergovernmental cooperation and negotiations on sustainable development under the Commission on Sustainable Development, on forestry under the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, on biodiversity under the Convention of Biological Diversity, as well as in combatting climate change. FAO should provide its expertise and knowledge to the subsidiary bodies of the *Climate Convention* and the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* in order to resolve issues related to land use, land-use change and forestry.

Sufficient supply of food and access to it is our major concern here today. However, we must not forget that agriculture as well as forestry and fisheries have multiple functions in our societies. They contribute to our environment and to the viability of our rural regions in general. Multi-functionality has become one of the key words on the contemporary agricultural policy debates. The term has become closely associated with discussions relating to the reform processes in agriculture. In particular, multi-functionality of agriculture has been tied to the issue of the "non-trade concerns" of the international trade talks.

The concept of multi-functionality of agriculture and land use has evolved from the theme of sustainable agriculture and rural development defined in the Rio UNCED Conference of 1992 and the process thereafter. Thus on this forum it does not basically engage in today's trade debates.

At this Conference, we have to finalize the discussion on the Strategic Framework for FAO. The European Union has set high expectations to this Framework as well as to its regular review process. We have stressed the need to set clear priorities for the Organization in order to focus on the key areas of its expertise. While congratulating the Director-General on his re-election, we call for him to continue the organizational reform of FAO and to continue to deepen cooperation with relevant multilateral organizations in efforts to eradicate hunger from the world.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Issa Martin BIKIENGA (Burkina Faso)

La tenue de la Trentième session de notre Organisation me donne l'occasion, au nom de la délégation du Burkina Faso, de vous adresser toutes nos félicitations pour tous les efforts consentis pour la convocation, l'organisation et la tenue effective de la présente session.

Aux Membres nouvellement élus au sein de l'Organisation, nous présentons nos chaleureuses félicitations.

A l'adresse de Monsieur Jacques Diouf, les très vives félicitations de Son Excellence Blaise Compaoré, Président du Burkina Faso, pour sa brillante réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO pour un nouveau mandat de six ans et nous sommes déjà convaincus qu'il sera aussi riche du résultat que celui des six dernières années. Il me plaît de redire ici notre fierté de ce bénéfice pour l'Afrique et notre pleine confiance en l'avenir.

Notre Peuple et ses Autorités confirment leur disponibilité à poursuivre et renforcer la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire. Le Burkina Faso, pays sahélien exposé aux risques climatiques, a un indice de développement humain parmi les plus faibles du monde. Cela signifie qu'en matière de sécurité alimentaire, beaucoup d'efforts doivent être développés, en tout premier lieu dans le secteur agricole.

En effet, l'économie burkinabé est en dominante rurale où le secteur de l'agriculture et d'élevage emploie 86 pourcent de la population active fournit 30 pourcent du Produit Intérieur Brut et 80 pourcent des recettes d'exportation. Les terres à vocation agricole sont estimées à quelques 9 millions d'hectares, soit plus du tiers du territoire national, environ 3,5 millions d'hectares ou 39 pourcent, sont mises en culture annuellement. C'est une agriculture de subsistance parmi les céréales vivrières qui occupent à elles seules plus de 88 pourcent des surfaces enclavées annuellement avec des rendements moyens inférieurs à 850 kg par hectare.

Cette agriculture est dominée par des petites exploitations familiales de trois à six hectares en moyenne et fait face à d'importantes contraintes. En dépit de ces multiples contraintes, il existe des potentialités et des atouts permettant de jeter les bases d'une croissance accélérée du secteur agricole. S'agissant de l'alimentation, celle-ci se caractérise par un régime alimentaire dominé par les céréales, d'une offre alimentaire provenant essentiellement de la production intérieure à laquelle viennent s'ajouter les importations commerciales et l'aide alimentaire, une consommation alimentaire marquée par un niveau de satisfaction des besoins nutritionnels encore trop bas.

Une telle situation conduit à des risques d'insécurité alimentaire. Les statistiques indiquent que 4,8 millions de personnes, soit 53 pourcent courrent le risque de ne pas manger à leur faim, dont 1,7 millions d'une insécurité alimentaire chronique. Les plus hautes autorités de mon pays et la conscience nationale, et certainement universelle, sont interpellées par la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation ainsi décrites et cela nous rappelle qu'aucune initiative, aucun effort ne devrait être épargné pour surfaire notre monde de la pauvreté, de la faim et de la malnutrition.

L'enjeu est de taille, les défis sont nombreux, et mon pays s'y attelle résolument. C'est ainsi qu'avec les ajustements qui ont consacré le développement de notre économie et à la faveur des engagements du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, nous avons entrepris l'élaboration d'une stratégie de croissance agricole durable dont notre orientation et le plan stratégique opérationnel sont aujourd'hui une réalité.

Cette stratégie identifie la fertilité des sols, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, la modernisation de l'agriculture, le soutien aux producteurs et à leurs organisations, l'appui institutionnel comme des programmes prioritaires dont la mise en œuvre cohérente devrait créer les bases favorables au développement des filières qui supportent notre économie. Cette stratégie prend également en compte le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, initiative particulièrement heureuse de Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, dont la mise en oeuvre, entamée depuis 1996 avec succès, offre des opportunités tant de valorisation de nos acquis, de recherche, que de renforcement, de la confiance de nos producteurs.

Nous en appelons à la solidarité entre les pays nantis et les pays à faible revenu et à déficit céréalier pour maintenir un budget à Croissance Réelle Zéro comme un minimum pour notre Organisation.

En ce qui concerne le Cadre stratégique 2000-2015, le Burkina Faso apprécie à sa juste valeur cet effort de projection à moyen terme et accueille avec satisfaction le résultat de cet excercice

commun pour y parvenir. Ce Cadre stratégique transformé en option opérationnelle, nous en sommes convaincus, contribuera sans doute à atteindre l'objectif de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim, ce qui était le pari pour le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Vive la coopération internationale.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Daniel R. GLICKMAN (United States of America)

Before I begin, I would like to express my country's profound sadness at the tragic loss of the WFP plane yesterday in Kosovo with so many dedicated people on board.

First, I want to acknowledge our Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies on Food and Agriculture, Senator George McGovern. His vision in 1961 made the World Food Programme a reality, and I want to thank him for the pivotal role he continues to play in alleviating world hunger.

We congratulate Dr Diouf and are pleased that, under him, the first Strategic Framework that will guide FAO for the next 15 years has been developed. As FAO begins to implement the Strategic Framework, I propose that we take an in-depth look at how we allocate scarce dollars to our most important priorities before we meet at our next Conference in 2001. This is particularly important under the Zero Nominal Growth policy that the United States has for all international organizations, including FAO.

I now want to briefly address three of the most pressing challenges I see facing agriculture in the new century - feeding a hungry world, expanding free and fair trade and using new technologies to benefit both developing and developed countries.

When I lead the United States delegation to the World Food Summit in 1996, we joined with other nations in setting a goal to reduce by half the number of undernourished people in the world by the year 2015. To meet that goal last March I announced the United States Action Plan on Food Security, designed to help get at the root causes of hunger - poverty, income inequality, political instability, poorly-managed natural resources, lack of infrastructure and more.

In 1998 and 1990 there were an unprecedented number of disasters that resulted in a sharp increase in hunger around the world: floods in Bangladesh, drought and flooding in North Korea, Hurricane Mitch in Central America and other natural disasters. The United States helped meet this increased need, providing ten million metric tonnes of food aid over the last year to help starving people affected by those crises. This is the most food aid we have provided in any of the past 25 years. The United States stands ready to assist citizens of other countries who face immediate threats of hunger.

In the United States, we are enjoying our strongest economy in 30 years and one of the world's most abundant food supplies, yet even in America billions of pounds of perfectly good, nutritious food are thrown away each year. What we have done at home we would like to see replicated around the world. We have embarked on a gleaning and food recovery campaign to rescue some of the food and get it to people who need it. Governments cannot do this alone. We have helped set up partnerships with community-based organizations and private businesses. Restaurants are now redirecting good wholesome food from garbage dumpsters to soup kitchens. Farmers are now gleaning perfectly edible produce that normally would have been ploughed under. Abandoned inner-city lots are being transformed into urban gardens across the United States.

Recently I participated in a Global Conference on Poverty co-chaired by Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela at the Carter Centre at Atlanta, Georgia. Their leadership exemplifies how private and non-profit and non-governmental organizations have joined the crusade to help fight poverty and hunger, from local community solutions to international assistance efforts. We need

to reach across traditional boundaries and across country lines to create new partnerships from the ground up, as opposed to just dictating solutions from the top down.

But we can only meet the challenge of feeding the world by embracing sustainable agriculture in a truly free and fair world trading system. During my four-and-a-half years as United States Agriculture Secretary, I have witnessed the extraordinary impact that trade has had on agriculture's bottom line for all our countries. It is abundantly clear that if our economies are to continue to prosper, we all must look for new markets, and that means we need an open trading system. Since 1960 tariffs worldwide have fallen by 90 percent while global trade has grown 1 500 percent. In two weeks, the next round of the World Trade Organization talks will begin in Seattle. The United States has some very clear positions going into these talks, positions that we believe are rooted in fairness for all: reducing tariffs, eliminating export subsidies, assuring adherence to proven science-based principles and building on the achievements of the Uruguay Round. In the Twentieth Century, we have made monumental gains in breaking down trade barriers, but especially in agriculture we have a very long way to go. We must be firm in our resolve not to allow anything to deter us from achieving universal free and fair trade.

That brings me to biotechnology, my last subject. On this issue, more than any other I have dealt with in my nearly three decades of public service, I wish I could wave a magic wand and get rid of all the excess rhetoric, all the hyperbolic self-promotion on one side, and all the inflammatory fearmongering on the other.

The use of biotechnology involves two moral imperatives. First, because of its tremendous potential to reduce human suffering, we must allow this technology to blossom. It has the potential to help us feed more people, using less water and less land, to protect the environment through decreased pesticide use and to develop better methods for waste treatment.

On the other hand, it is morally incumbent upon all Governments to ensure that the public safety and the environment are always protected by all emerging technologies. We have seen what happens when the frenzied rush to embrace new technology blinds us to its potential risks - as in the early days of nuclear energy, when we did not fully understand either the need for adequate safeguards or regulatory oversight. These are not arguments in favour of halting progress. Rather they make the case for wise, technological and science-based stewardship, and in the long run sound scientific progress cannot be stopped.

The United States looks to FAO to take a leadership role in biotechnology and to be an objective and analytical clearinghouse in the current debate. Uniform and scientifically-sound global standards under the *Codex* and the *International Plant Protection Convention* must be developed. Only through a system routed in science and untainted by ideology or profit-seeking can the best of biotechnology's potential be realised and its risks averted.

But biotechnology is just one significant technological advance that will change the world in the new millennium. Within the next decade, revolutionary hand-held communication devices will link billions of people like never before. Wireless technology. And that will also dramatically change the face of rural communities and global agriculture, and FAO can be intimately involved in the development and the transfer of this new technology.

Hunger, trade and new technologies: By embracing these issues head on, I think we can go a long way towards facilitating the freer flow of food and feeding the whole world in a sustained manner in the years to come.

I would like to close with a story about a young boy, a very curious and inquisitive young boy, who had the opportunity to visit a submarine and was fascinated by its ability to stay under water for so long, so he asked the captain, "What happens when the submarines run out of fuel?" The captain explained that they run on nuclear energy and can remain under water for a decade. "Well," the boy said, "what happens when they run out of drinking water?" The captain explained all the different distillation methods for making seawater drinkable. The boy persisted with,

"What happens when they run out air?"' The captain told him about their oxygen tanks. And finally the boy said, "So when do submarines come up?" "That's easy," the captain said, "when we run out of food."

The production of food remains the most important work of humankind. How we meet out obligation to feed the world will be the true measure of our generation, and I believe FAO's leadership will play a pivotal role in helping us meet that goal.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Chen YAOBANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I wish to warmly congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. At the turn of the century, it is my great pleasure to gather here with friends in this ancient city of Rome to discuss issues of global food and agriculture. On behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Director-General and FAO Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for this Conference.

Food and agricultural issues directly concern the very existence and development of mankind. Since the World Food Summit, national governments and the international community have made further efforts in developing agriculture and eradicating poverty and hunger, and thus food security has improved to a certain extent. However, there still exist problems and other constraints that have long been hampering world food security.

First, food and agricultural development is unbalanced, and many developing countries are facing dual constraints of low production and weak purchasing power. Second, hunger and poverty remain a serious problem, and there are still 800 million people suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition. Third, infrastructure for food and agricultural production in many developing countries is very fragile. Degradation of their resources and environment is severe, rendering no momentum to their sustainable food and agricultural development. Fourth, external assistance to agriculture in developing countries remains at a low level. Therefore, it is still an important task for us and a common responsibility of all governments to make genuine efforts in implementing the follow-up activities of the World Food Summit, strengthening international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture, vigorously developing food and agricultural production, eradicating hunger and malnutrition and improving world food security. Developing countries should put more emphasis on their own food and agricultural production. The international community and developed countries should make further efforts to continuously strengthen international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to agricultural and rural issues and considers agriculture a top priority of its national economic development. Thanks to the hard efforts over the past 50 years, since the founding of New China, and in particular the efforts over the past 20 years since the reform, China's agriculture and rural economy have made great achievements that have attracted the world's attention. The output of farm products increased by a big margin, thus achieving a historical leap forward from the long-term shortage in the past to a generally sufficient supply of major farm products, with surpluses in years with good harvests.

Township and village enterprises emerged like a special force and brought about changes to the rural production structure and employment pattern, promoting the development of small cities and towns and opening a path for rural modernization with Chinese characteristics. With improved farmers' living standards, the country's rural areas have, on the whole, been moving from just having enough food to eat and enough to wear to a new phase of enjoying a well-off life. With its agricultural development, China has made significant contributions to world agriculture and food security.

Naturally, we are clearly aware of the fact that China is a country with very low *per capita* share of resources. The scale of China's farming operations is very small, and its foundation of agriculture is very weak, with 42 million people still suffering from poverty, and the problem of providing our people with enough food and clothing has not yet been fully resolved. Ecological concerns have been imposing more and more constraints on China's agricultural development. Therefore, it remains an extremely arduous task to further stabilize the development of food and agricultural production, increase farmers' income and continue to improve the quality of people's lives.

We shall firmly give agriculture the highest priority in our national economy, stabilize our basic policies towards the rural areas for a long time to come and continue to push forward the market-oriented reform in the rural economic structure. Taking advantage of the current valuable opportunity of fairly abundant supply of agricultural commodities, we shall guide the farmers to adjust and optimize their production structure in light of market needs. I am convinced that with the relentless efforts of its people, China's agricultural and rural economic development will surely achieve greater success in the next century.

Since its inception, FAO has done a great deal of work in promoting global rural economic development, improving world food security and in eradicating hunger and poverty. Over the past few years, FAO has accorded the highest priority to helping Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries to increase their food production and to ensure food security, implementing *the Special Action Programme for Food Security* and strengthening South-South cooperation, which have achieved tangible results. For this we express our appreciation and support. As the Twenty-First Century is approaching, we hope that FAO will take more action-oriented measures with a view to achieving practical results and make further efforts in enhancing international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture, in helping to speed up food and agricultural production in developing countries, in ensuring world food security and in realizing sustainable agricultural development.

The Chinese Government will, as ever, support FAO's endeavours, and we are ready to make greater contributions to promoting world agricultural development and improving world food security.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair.
Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence.
Ocupa la presidencia Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia.

EL PRESIDENTE

Permítanme agradecer tanto en lo personal como en nombre de nuestra Región de América Latina y el Caribe la confianza depositada en Cuba para ocupar el cargo de Vicepresidente de este importante evento, en la seguridad que se pueda contar con nuestra más sincera colaboración para el éxito de nuestra tarea en esta importante Conferencia, bajo la certera dirección de Su Excelencia el Ministro de Agricultura y Pesca del hermano país de Argelia. El agradecimiento solicitado al principio conlleva un compromiso.

Lyle VANCLIEF (Canada)

First of all, on behalf of all Canadians, I would like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of those who unfortunately lost their lives yesterday in their desire to improve the lives of others. Our thoughts and our prayers go to those families and friends, including those of the Canadian on board.

At this conference two years ago, I spoke of the transition the Canadian agriculture and food industry was undergoing as it adapted to more liberalized trade, less government support, changing consumer demands and rapid advances in information and other technologies.

The people who produce and market Canada's food – our farmers, our processors, our distributors and our retailers – have continued to adapt over the last two years, and they have demonstrated their ability to harness change and seize emerging opportunities. They are innovative, incredibly productive and competitive on a world scale.

In Canada, agriculture and food is one of our largest and most important industries. It accounts for almost one-tenth of our gross domestic product, and in addition to the vital role it plays feeding Canadians, the industry's exports contribute to our positive trade balance and provide food and other products for millions of people around the world.

But while the fundamentals of the sector are strong, it still faces some very serious challenges. Canadian producers, like their counterparts around the world, continue to grapple with the fallout from low commodity prices, worldwide oversupply and economic downturns in some key markets. This situation has been aggravated and prolonged by farm subsidies in other countries.

I know many of you share my concern about the use of trade and production-distorting subsidies and the hurt that they cause farmers in many countries. They hinder, rather than help, our common cause of increased food security. Farmers should not have to compete against the treasuries of foreign governments.

Reining in these subsidies and leveling the playing field of international trade is one of the biggest challenges that we all face heading into the next round of the WTO talks at the end of this month.

Another important challenge facing the world's agriculture and food trade is the one of biotechnology. In Canada, we stringently regulate these products. The health and safety of our citizens, of our plants, of our animals and the integrity of our environment come first.

However, this doesn't change the fact that trading nations need to come to some understanding on products derived from biotechnology in order to ensure that international commerce in food and other agricultural products continues smoothly. It is for this reason that Canada is proposing the establishment of a Working Group on Biotechnology at the WTO negotiations.

By working together in the international arena on these and other matters, I am confident that we can find solutions. Out national Government and its provincial and territorial counterparts work with every link in the food production chain in Canada to assure food safety, to pursue and open new markets and to develop programmes that support our farmers without distorting trade and production.

We also work together to develop solutions from the ground up, in response to the unique challenges often faced by those one-third of Canadians who live in rural and remote areas.

We work together on food security as well. With our Action Plan now in place, our recently- established Food Security Bureau, housed in my Ministry, the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food is working with other government departments and with civil society to follow up on the commitments made at the World Food Summit

From its founding meeting in Quebec City in Canada over 50 years ago, to the *Agricola Medal* awarded to our Prime Minister last month, Canada has never wavered in its commitment to the work of FAO to reduce hunger and promote sustainable agriculture in countries around the world.

Through the work of FAO and the contributions of its Member Nations we are making progress in furthering agriculture, and in turn food security. Obviously, there is still a tremendous amount

of work to be done. But, again, by working together, I know that we can and that we will meet our World Food Summit goal. Certainly Canada stands ready to do our part.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Osman Elhadi IBRAHIM (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, may prayers be upon His Prophet Mohammed.

Allow me to extend my congratulations to you and to the Vice-Chairmen and to the new Members. It is indeed my pleasure to address the General Conference of FAO. This is particularly so since we are a state where the agriculture sector is a mainstay of the economy. Its contribution constitutes 48 percent of the GDP and makes up 90 percent of its export earnings and employs 70 percent of the workforce. This contribution is possible thanks to the wealth of natural resources that God lavished upon us: vast lands and abundant water resources which entitle us to adopt sectoral macropolicies that consolidate agriculture.

Since 1989, the salvation revolution has emphasized the agricultural sector to achieve the following objectives: food security, increased agricultural sector contribution to the GDP and exports, and its contribution to the state over all revenues, ecological balance and rational use of natural resources. With a view to achieving these objectives, our agricultural programmes have followed policies that aim at achieving the following objectives: to develop animal and agriculture and plant research, to develop crop protection services and animal disease control, to develop veterinary and agriculture extension services, to use improved seeds and better means of animal husbandry, and to support irrigation facilities and infrastructure. We praise Allah for these achievements. However, the problem of food security rears its ugly head in some countries affected by natural phenomena such as unsteady waterfall, floodings and torrential rains, although the Government may be trying to set up a strategic reserve of food.

Our country, while appreciating the primary role of the Organization, reiterates its commitment to the instruments promulgated at the World Food Summit of 1996. We are developing agriculture products using irrigation, which has covered a substantial area of our land. We have taken positive steps with a view to adopting the *Special Programme for Food Security* document, and we are conducting negotiations for its funding. We stress the role of women and their contribution to the economy. We have made tangible progress in mainstreaming gender issues in rural and cultural development, including in the decade-long Plan of Action 1996-2005. We stress the complementarity of all activities of the agricultural sector, however, we highlight the role of the subsector of animal resources which contributes more than 20 percent to one GDP and 20 percent to export earnings. We are focusing on this sector to overcome natural adverse effects such as drought through well-thought-out programmes. Overcoming water shortages is one of the most important development objectives in Sudan, and we pay great attention to it. As far as ecological preservation is concerned, we are focusing on combating desertification and converting our national forests to national reserves.

Our country has created an enabling and favourable economic and political environment through the adoption of a standing constitution by universal suffrage, which enlarges the participation of citizens without any distinction of the basis of race, sex or religion. The Constitution has made citizenship the basis for rights and duties. Parties have the right to carry out their political activities without conditions, save to respect democratic practices. We have included economic and political reforms, which led to an improved economic situation and an average growth rate of 7 percent for ten years. This has been praised by the IMF among other regional institutions. We have enacted in an Investment Law of 1999, which is very advanced in the region since it does not discriminate between citizens and non-citizens in granting advantages and exemptions.

Praise be to Allah, we have entered our third month of oil exports, and the agricultural sector has been given priority and benefiting from oil revenues to achieve breakthroughs in agriculture. Through this General Conference, we appeal to all states and donor institutions to support Sudan, to put an end to the war, restore peace and support developing projects so as Sudan can implement to the World Summit decision of 1996.

My thanks and greeting to you, imploring God Almighty to grant you success in your Conference. May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Jaak GABRIELS (Belgique)

Comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le faire personnellement, je tiens encore une fois à féliciter officiellement Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection. Le poids qui pèse sur ses épaules est lourd, en effet la FAO s'est fixée un objectif ambitieux, celui d'assurer une alimentation suffisante à la population mondiale tout en préservant l'outil de production qu'est la terre. Mais comment parler de l'importance et la spécificité de l'agriculture sans évoquer les services multiples qu'elle offre à la société au-delà de la fourniture d'aliments et de fibres meilleures rapport qualité/prix? De tous temps l'agriculture a dégagé des plus values jointes non commercialisables au profit de l'environnement naturel, du cadre social et culturel et enfin de l'économie rurale non agricole.

Au delà du maintien d'une agriculture durable, ces diverses fonctions agricoles répondent aux aspirations d'ordre culturel et socio-économique des populations rurales et urbaines. Elles ne sont cependant pas des acquis définitifs. Dans les économies développées, et la Belgique est particulièrement concernée, l'intensification parfois excessive de la production, la libéralisation de l'économie et une population rurale non agricole en pleine expansion, altèrent la manière dont l'agriculture remplit ses fonctions traditionnelles non productives et par là met en question la durabilité de notre développement.

Parallèlement, on constate qu'au sein de l'Union européenne, plus de fonctions multiples de l'agriculture sont menacées, plus la demande de la population pour ses fonctions non-alimentaires augmente. Conjointement à cette reconnaissance, le besoin de valoriser ces plus values non commerciales l'agriculture se marque de plus en plus. Dans ce cadre, le rôle des marchés et des pouvoirs publics doit être plus clairement défini pour répondre à sa demande croissante.

En Belgique le débat est ouvert et la réflexion en cours. Dans ce processus la FAO a un rôle à jouer. Son apport devrait être déterminant pour façonner des outils et un cadre analytique qui permettrait à tous les États Membres, et cela suivant leur spécificité, de valoriser au mieux les fonctions multiples de l'agriculture.

Voilà trois ans, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, Monsieur Kofi Annan, a lancé un important travail de réforme. Les institutions romaines spécialisées dans l'alimentation et l'agriculture ne peuvent ignorer l'évolution du Système des Nations Unies dont elles font partie. Dans ce cadre, une meilleure coordination des activités de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM, tant institutionnelles que sur le terrain, est indispensable. La Belgique soutient les efforts déployés par l'Union européenne pour mettre sur pied une *Alliance pour la Sécurité Alimentaire* et espère que ce projet rencontrera un large soutien. Enfin, je tiens à réitérer l'importance que mon pays accorde au maintien d'un équilibre adéquat entre les activités normatives et opérationnelles de la FAO.

Il est clair que la lutte contre la faim sera l'un des dangers majeurs du siècle prochain. La FAO, le PAM et le FIDA auront un rôle prépondérant à jouer dans ce domaine. De son côté, la Belgique poursuivra la mise en œuvre des engagements souscrits lors du Sommet mondial de

l'alimentation. Toutefois, diverses études ont démontrées que l'insécurité alimentaire n'était généralement pas dû à un manque réel de nourriture mais avant tout à une insuffisance d'accès financier et/ou physique à cette nourriture. La problématique relève donc autant de la politique économique que de la technique agricole.

Donc là je vois la résolution de la plupart des problèmes dans une libéralisation totale du secteur agricole. Il est certain qu'une plus grande fluidité des échanges peut participer à améliorer l'accès à la nourriture. Il est clair également que l'agriculture reste, plus que toute autre une activité de production et de services sous l'effet de facteurs exogènes incontrôlables. La libéralisation doit donc s'opérer de manière raisonnable et encadrée. Elle doit être équilibrée dans, tant son contenu qu'au niveau de la répartition des bénéfices qu'elle engendre. De nombreux pays moins avancés considèrent que l'ouverture de leur marché n'a pas eu pour effet d'améliorer de manière significative l'accès de leurs produits au marché des pays développés. L'accès à de nouveaux marchés passe par la mise en place de nouvelles structures et le respect de diverses règles et normes. Cette évolution implique des mutations coûteuses et parfois douloureuses. La Communauté internationale doit aider les pays moins avancés à réaliser cette transition dans les meilleures conditions.

Dans cet esprit, en plein accord avec l'Union européenne, la Belgique est prête, sans contrepartie, à donner libre accès à un large éventail de produits provenant de pays moins avancés. La FAO, tant au niveau appui institutionnel que normatif, a un rôle important à jouer. Il est souhaitable qu'elle poursuive ces activités dans ce domaine et les adapte pour permettre, en particulier aux pays moins avancés, d'occuper la place qui leur revient au sein de divers *fora* internationaux. Ces diverses réflexions indiquent que les pays en développement et les pays développés abordent une période cruciale tant dans le domaine de la lutte contre la faim que dans celui, plus global, du développement durable.

Je suis convaincu que seul un équilibre approprié entre le mode d'intervention, allié à une plus grande coopération et complémentarité entre les divers acteurs nationaux et internationaux, permettront de relever efficacement ce défi. La Belgique entend bien participer activement à ce processus au profit de tous. Nous soustraire à cette responsabilité serait impardonnable.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Marcos Vinicius PRATINI DE MORAES (Brazil)

I have been at the head of the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply of Brazil for the last four months, and it is thus a great pleasure for me to address, on behalf of the Brazilian Government, the Plenary of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. I would also like to express the Brazilian Government's satisfaction with the re-election of Dr Jacques Diouf as Director-General of this Organization and extend to Dr Diouf our most sincere wishes of success in his new mandate.

Agri-business in Brazil represents about 40 percent of its GDP. Thanks to the generation of significant surpluses in international transactions of agricultural products, agri-business is playing a very important role in our efforts to reduce our overall trade deficit. In 1998, Brazilian agriculture managed to produce an external trade surplus of over US$ 10 billion, while the overall trade balance of the country showed a deficit of US$ 6.4 billion. Until August of this year, agricultural trade had generated a surplus of US$ 7.2 billion. I would also like to point out that 27 million people in Brazil are employed in the agri-business sector.

The Brazilian Government is seeking to export a minimum of US$ 100 billion by the beginning of the next decade. In order to achieve such an ambitious goal, agri-business should generate about US$ 45 billion in export revenues. It is therefore absolutely crucial for Brazil to obtain better market access for its agricultural products. In this context, the widespread liberalization of

international trade in agriculture has become a strategic objective for Brazil, as I think for many other countries.

We cannot accept that some developed countries, under different and increasingly sophisticated rationalizations, such as the Multi-functional Character of Agriculture, endeavour to maintain unjustifiable and costly domestic support schemes, huge export subsidies and high levels of market protection.

I would like to also address some other specific issues that will be debated in the present Session of the Conference. I would like to start with some of the key issues raised in the current international debate on forests. Ever since international public opinion started to draw attention to the issue of forests, Governments have become increasingly conscious, both nationally and internationally, of the need to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of forest resources.

As far as Brazil is concerned, we have updated old laws and developed new legislation specifically designed to ensure the sustainable use and development of forest resources. The elaboration of a national policy for forestry activities and sustainable forest development is currently under way. We consider that forests are a strategic resource. Therefore, concern for their conservation and sustainable use clearly falls within the realm of our national sovereignty, insofar as concerns the need to combine the preservation and the rational use of a natural resource that holds perspectives for future sustainable development.

The maintenance of trade barriers by developed countries, especially in the agricultural area, leads to additional pressures on the environment of developing countries because it imposes on them the burden of increasing the quantities produced as an alternative to the loss of competitiveness of their products, which ultimately contributes to increasing rates of deforestation and environmental degradation. This situation illustrates the challenges that we face in that respect: that of promoting the generation of employment and income while simultaneously respecting the principles of sustainability which we subscribe to internationally.

The discussion of international instruments for promoting the sustainable development of forests cannot be dissociated from the economic - and trade-related aspects previously raised. The challenges that we face in Brazil for promoting the sustainable use of forests do not convince us that a legally-binding international agreement can automatically become a panacea for the difficulties encountered in implementing several of the existing international instruments on forests, both binding and non-binding. Brazil considers that we still lack conceptual certainty, experience and sufficient critical knowledge on the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in the implementation process of the existing legal instruments on forests for us to engage in an exercise of negotiating a Global Convention.

Brazil attributes great importance to the on-going negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which aims to guarantee world food security through the establishment of a multilateral mechanism of facilitated access to those resources. The Undertaking constitutes, in fact, an effective loophole in the Convention on Biological Diversity for a wide range of exceptions. The Convention on Biological Diversity enshrines the principle of the sovereignty of the states over the genetic resources that exist in their territory. Brazil understands that facilitated access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of the benefits accruing from their use are the two sides of the same coin. Brazil is thus endeavouring to ensure that the final text of the Undertaking reflects the necessary balance between those two aspects.

Brazil understands that the mechanism of facilitated access should contemplate exclusively those genera used for food production and should be restricted to a short list that would feature food-producing species and their wild varieties which are necessary for genetic improvement research. This will ensure the widest possible access of all the countries to the plant genetic resources

necessary for achieving World Food Security, and also the right of developing countries to benefit from the sustainable use of their own plant genetic resources.

For Brazil, it is of the highest importance that the revision of this International Undertaking result in a legally-binding instrument that is balanced and transparent. Thus we have defended the imperative need that all decisions for the adoption and future revisions of the list can only be by consensus. This is essential for my country, which has a food matrix composed almost entirely of non-native species, which justifies our interest in the mechanism of facilitated access. On the other hand, Brazil houses the world's largest natural biodiversity reserve, which is why we wish to preserve and sustain the application of the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, since Brazil constitutes the world's fourth largest market of seeds, we have no interest in approving instruments that can result in additional costs for our agriculture. Therefore, from our perspective, the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should not be that of antagonism but rather one of complementarity.

As far as bio-security is concerned, Brazil has been participating in the ongoing negotiations for the Protocol of Bio-security to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Both the Brazilian Government and civil society have been following the ongoing negotiations of the Protocol on Bio-security with increasing interest so as to better assess the eventual impact that genetically-modified organisms may have on the environment and on human health. This is important in view of the views held by different sectors, both for and against the liberalization of those products.

We defend a unique position in the debates on bio-security. On the one hand, it houses a large portion of the planet's biological diversity. On the other hand, it produces a substantial amount of the world's marketable agricultural output. The Brazilian Government has thus based its negotiation position, both in national and international fora, on Law No. 8 974, which is known in Brazil as "The Law on Bio-security".

The greatest challenge in the debates on biosecurity resides in the search for a balance between the need to address the concerns of the sectors interested in negotiating environmental issues that affect human health, and the consideration of the importance of the application of technical advances resulting from the use of biotechnology.

I would like to emphasize that the inclusion of fisheries and aquaculture as one of the priorities of my Ministry opens new prospects for the development of those sectors in my country.

And finally, in a few days, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of Brazil, will address this assembly to talk about his Government's actions in the implementation of the decisions of the World Food Summit, so I will not take this opportunity to expand on this important issue. Even though we have different responsibilities due to our differing stages of development, all of us who are present here share the responsibility for ensuring world food security and fighting the persisting hunger and malnutrition worldwide. In that context, I reiterate the Brazilian Government's perception that liberalization of agricultural trade, which allows improved market access for the products of countries that have natural comparative advantages, and the adherence to clear directives regarding both internal agricultural support mechanisms and food aid will contribute to our main objective of assuring access to food for all.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE

Quisiera rogar a los distinguidos delegados que se limiten a los cinco minutos, tenemos una agenda muy larga y queremos terminar con todo lo que está en el programa y si no hacemos esta

contribución vamos a tener dificultades. Hago esta solicitud ya que vamos a ser en este sentido muy estrictos.

Arvin BOOLELL (Mauritius)

Three years ago, political leaders from more than 180 countries gathered here to pledge their will and commitment to achieve food security and to eradicate hunger in the world, in an effort to reduce the number of undernourished people to half the present level by the year 2015. This Conference is an opportunity to assess whether our common efforts deployed to prevent hunger and ensure food security have succeeded and where more efforts need to be geared.

The *State of Food and Agriculture* for 1998 highlights certain positive developments that have taken place in certain parts of the world. However, it also confirms that, in a long-term perspective, the poorest nation's population is becoming increasingly poor and food insecure. As a matter of fact, the number of countries facing food emergencies has risen from 29 in 1997 to 36 in 1998, mainly as a result of the *El Niño* weather phenomenon. In sub-Saharan Africa, where the problem of hunger and malnutrition is rife, poor agricultural performance has been registered, and this has contributed to a slowdown of economic growth.

Over the next 30 years, world food production will have to increase significantly to provide food security for a growing world population, and it must be done in ways that are compatible with sustainable development. FAO is the focal point of the world community in its efforts to meet this challenge. We, therefore, need a strong and effective FAO to guide and support our efforts to achieve sustainable food security.

But the trend over the last few years has been to restrict FAO's role to normative activities, that is, data gathering and evaluation and dispensing advice on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food policies. The dramatic irony is that severe budgetary limitations have come to bear on the Organization while it has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the timely implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. Of course, FAO should not disperse its efforts in a broad set of activities. It should, as a leading agency for food and agriculture, continue to act where it observes gaps in service provision for agriculture. We acknowledge the importance of normative functions, but we also consider field activities as complementary, the two mutually reinforcing each other.

The FAO Conference is taking place while there are ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization as part of the preparatory process for the Seattle Ministerial Conference. I am given to understand that discussions at the World Trade Organization on the draft statement are arduous, particularly in the area of agriculture, where divergence persists. Whilst one is not surprised by the turn that discussions have taken in view of the far-reaching implications, I sincerely think that all Member Nations would like to see progress made in this crucial area so that a satisfactory conclusion between parties may be reached sooner rather than later. As I believe, there appears a certain measure of convergence on some of the principles that should underline future negotiations – the need for more concrete measures to give effect to special and differential treatment, working towards the common goal of sustainable development, improving market access, pursuing reform and addressing non-trade concerns. In this context, it would be appropriate to recall that special and differential treatment should remain an integral part of negotiations and that the particular needs and conditions of developing country Members should be addressed.

As you are aware, Mauritius is a small island state, and as is the case for many Small Island Developing States, it has developed an agricultural production adapted to its specificities. Territorial constraints and prevailing agro-climatic conditions limit the capacity for such islands to grow a variety of crops or to produce in as competitive a manner as those who can benefit from economies of scale. I need not elaborate on these problems for they are generally well-known and acknowledged. In the context of this particular forum, let me recall that, in June

of this year the FAO Council adopted a Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States which effectively takes into consideration the specificities, vulnerabilities and inherent constraints of these countries. The Action Plan which was tabled by Mauritius in the Analysis Information Exchange process at the World Trade Organization received extensive support. Because of the interest shown by Members, the document was brought by Trinidad and Tobago to the World Trade Organization General Council as an official document in the context of preparations for Seattle and future agriculture negotiations. This Plan of Action addresses in a very pointed manner several trade and World Trade Organization--specific issues as they relate to Small Island Developing States, and therefore provides a good basis for discussion and the elaboration of concrete measures to build the capacity of Small Island Developing States in the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations.

I believe that when addressing agricultural concerns we cannot overlook the Marrakech Decision in favour of the Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries. Several developing countries, including small island states, as well as least-developed countries, are net food importers and therefore have strong concerns about food security and about the impact of the reform programme in agriculture on our food bills and, by extension, our overall development. At this juncture, I cannot but commend the work and research undertaken by FAO on food security and on the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on the least-developed, Small Island Developing States and net food importing developing countries. It is to be deplored that, almost five years after the end of the Uruguay Round, the Marrakech Decision in favour of Least Developed Countries and Net-Food Importing Developing Countries has yet to be implemented. We believe that not only should this be concretised but, in addition, further measures must be agreed upon as the reform programme in agriculture progresses.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Jesús María POSADA MORENO (España)

Quisiera en primer lugar felicitar muy sinceramente al Señor Diouf por su merecida reelección como Director General de esta Organización. Debo manifestar ante esta asamblea mis más fervientes deseos para que los ambiciosos objetivos de la Cumbre se cumplan plenamente en beneficio de todas las personas malnutridas y que siguen padeciendo hambre.

Quiero, desde esta tribuna, sumarme al sentimiento de dolor ya expresado, por la muerte ayer del personal del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, entre los que se encontraban tres funcionarios españoles.

A veces, así es de alto el precio que hemos de pagar por la solidaridad y el progreso.

Decía Su Majestad el Rey de España ante la Declaración de Barcelona sobre los derechos alimentarios del hombre: "Si el derecho a la alimentación es un derecho humano, el deber de su cumplimento nos afecta a todos, naciones, gobiernos, entidades e individuos". En definitiva, a toda la humanidad.

Mi intervención comparte las ideas destacadas por el Señor Ministro finlandés de Agricultura y Bosques, mi amigo el Señor Hemila en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus Países Miembros.

A pesar del amplio compromiso internacional adquirido en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, tenemos que reconocer, como se indica en el informe de la FAO que nos presenta ahora, que el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo dista mucha de ser el deseable.

En mi opinión el verdadero problema en muchas zonas se debe a la deficiente atención a la agricultura en particular y al desarrollo rural en general.

Es un hecho que la agricultura, además de producir alimentos y materia primas, contribuye a la conservación y mejora del medio ambiente. La actividad agraria previene la erosión que tanto preocupa a muchos países, y contribuye a la conservación de la diversidad biológica. Además, tal como en la Unión Europea entendemos la agricultura, ésta debe seguir siendo la base de la economía del medio rural, y una actividad imprescindible en estos momentos de crecimiento de la población, para limitar la emigración masiva hacia las ciudades.

En definitiva, debemos prestar la máxima atención para aprovechar plenamente todos los beneficios que puede producir la actividad, lo que conocemos en la actualidad como la multi-funcionalidad de la agricultura. Considero además necesario que la multi-funcionalidad de la agricultura sea tenida en cuenta, tal como han dicho otros ministros de la Unión Europea, en los próximos acuerdos comerciales que comenzarán a negociarse de forma que el libre comercio permita que el sector agrario integre los aspectos productivos, sociales y medio-ambientales de forma coherente con las necesidades de todos.

Para determinados países conseguir este desarrollo económico y social, será más fácil si se cuenta con la adecuada cooperación internacional, en este sentido en España se ha llevado a cabo una reforma que considero sustancial en nuestra política de cooperación, expresada en la promulgación de la Ley de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, y la puesta en marcha de la misma.

Debo destacar que las orientaciones básicas de la Ley española y cooperación son coincidentes con los objetivos que la FAO tiene como propios y que se refieren a la ya mencionada y prioritaria lucha contra la pobreza, la promoción de la igualdad entre mujeres y hombres, y la sostenibilidad medio-ambiental.

España reconoce también que los Organismos Multilaterales en general, y la FAO en particular, constituyen un componente básico e insustituible del sistema de cooperación para el desarrollo. Reconocemos su relevante actividad normativa, su papel de impulsor y catalizador del diálogo internacional, su capacidad para la movilización de recursos, su importante cuerpo de expertos, y su utilísima labor de coordinación con los donantes. La FAO debe ser, en cierto sentido, la conciencia internacional para liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

Quisiera terminar subrayando que nuestra participación en FAO es ya muy activa y se ha incrementado notablemente en los últimos años.

Además, hemos incorporado recientemente profesionales asociados que adquirirán experiencia y preparación, beneficiosos para nuestro país y para esta Organización. Planeamos además ampliar esta colaboración en campos específicos dentro de la investigación agraria y pesquera en los que mi país tenemos experiencias que pueden ser útiles a otros.

En definitiva, espero que estemos sentando unos sólidos cimientos para que en el milenio que comienza se pueda construir una sociedad más justa y solidaria.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Gilberto Buta LUTUCUTA (Angola) (Original language Portuguese)

It is a great honour to take floor in the august assembly, and we would like to associate ourselves with the other delegates who have congratulated the President and other Members of the Bureau on their election.

We are sure that your rich experience in this domain will make it possible for our work to be a success. I would also like to take this opportunity to address our warm congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf, an eminent son of Africa, for his re-election as Director-General of FAO. I think this renewed confidence shows that he has done excellent work in the past. I would also

like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of FAO and his co-workers for the constant support that they have given to my country so as to improve the well-being of the rural population, which constitutes more than 80 percent of the population of Angola.

My Government is making efforts so as to put an end to the war that has been fought by the enemies of democracy and freedom. As we know, the war has endangered the socio-economic rehabilitation and stabilization of the food situation in the rural communities of our country. This situation led to an isolation of the population in different areas of the country, which led to a massive rural exodus towards the urban and peri-urban areas. This constant movement of rural populations obviously has negative consequences on food production.

At this time, our country is being affected by a very harsh food crisis, characterized by a food deficit of approximately 670 000 tonnes of cereal for some 3 million displaced families who require urgent humanitarian assistance, and I would like to take this opportunity to call upon the international community and ask it to continue its humanitarian assistance and the support that it has given to my country.

Despite the difficult situation my country is facing, our Government is involved in the implementation of a rehabilitation programme for the agricultural sector with projects that are implemented despite the war conditions so as to re-establish agricultural production once peace is achieved. This programme includes the rehabilitation of smallholder agriculture and rural infrastructure to stimulate a private investment, the recuperation of production systems, scientific research, as well as the establishment of commercial rural networks.

For the Government of Angola, the recognized value and rehabilitation of the agricultural sector must necessarily go through the development of the rural world. We are implementing an economic programme covering the period 1998 to the year 2000, and we are implementing specific agricultural policies covering 3.6 million displaced persons as well as others that we referred to earlier. This involves a distribution of land, agricultural input and other tools so as to ensure that they can take an active role in the agricultural development of our country.

Because of the great quantity and diversity of fisheries resources of our country, my Government gives great importance to the fisheries sector. Artisanal fishing is very important, both maritime as well as inland fisheries and this is an area that ensures employment for thousands of persons as well as contributing to the daily food intake.

We recognize the very important role that FAO has played in the preparation of documents on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and more recently on the Plans of Action on Fishing Capacity, as well as the Management of Shark Fisheries and the Accidental Capture of Seabirds. It is important that FAO implement these instruments, particularly in developing countries that are affected by difficulties in finding the necessary financial resources for the implementation of similar activities.

Regarding the Strategic Framework, we would like to congratulate the work that has been done by FAO. We are very concerned to see the difficult financial situation in which our Organization finds itself because of the difficulties many countries have in maintaining their regular contributions. Efforts must be made for them to respect their commitments. Because of the scope of the problems that are faced by FAO, we feel that the Real Growth scenario would be the best choice for the Programme of Work and Budget and would make it possible for this Organization to face its obligations, *vis-à-vis* the Member Nations.

We would also like to congratulate the new Members, the Republics of Niue, San Marino, Palau and the Marshall Islands and new Members of the Organization. We would also like to associate our voice to those of other delegations who have preceded us and extend our most sincere condolences on the part of my Government to the WFP and to those families who have lost their loved ones.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Issa KALANTARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I welcome the honourable on the Chairperson, and I would also like to express my heartiest congratulations to Mr Diouf on his re-election.

The World Food Summit that was held at the highest political level in 1996 still stands out as a reminder of the fact that food security is a transnational issue of prime significance at the international level. Since then, some progress has been made to realize the objectives and goals of the WFS, yet international society is still expecting that more effective measures be adopted by the state as well as the global organizations and institutions for the eradication of hunger and undernourishment.

Since time is very tight, instead of discussing the state of food and agriculture issue, allow me to present to the Conference a brief report on their four achievements and obstacles with regard to agriculture and security in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In compliance with the Rome Declaration, and to accept the seven Committees of the WFS Plan of Action, the Islamic Republic of Iran has put into practice the policies as follows: emphasizing the sustainability of agricultural production practices compared with the national and local resources availability and consistent with the principles of comparative advantages; introducing innovation to increase production per unit of water consumed rather than land; reducing the application of pesticides while using biological and mechanical control measures as substitution; bringing the farmgate price more and more in line with international prices and decreasing input subsidies.

Statistics show that the adoption of these strategies on policies have proved effective in having national production of agricultural commodity and animal products increased by 9.1 million tonnes in 1998 compared with 1996, when the WFS was held. This production increase has been achieved in circumstances when in three of the last four years the Islamic Republic of Iran had been facing throughout the last of which being the most severe during the last three decades. Nevertheless, our agriculture produce in the recent years has supplied about 85 percent of the domestic demand.

At the end, I would like to express my heartiest condolences to Madame Bertini for the sad events of the WFP plane crash. May God the Almighty shower his blessings the souls of the deceased passengers.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Kumbirai Manyika KANGAI (Zimbabwe)

I would like to congratulate you on your election to preside over the proceedings of this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. In the same spirit, I would like to warmly congratulate the Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, on his re-election as Director-General of FAO and wish him on my behalf and on behalf of the Government and the people of Zimbabwe a successful and fruitful second term in office.

For Zimbabwe, agriculture has continued to play a pivotal role in economic development, providing food for the growing rural and urban population, providing employment in both the formal and informal sector, supplying raw materials for industry and contributing to the bulk of the country's total foreign exchange earnings. The agricultural sector remains the engine for economic growth and the major contributor to economic development in Zimbabwe.

One of the major challenges we continue to face, particularly in the smallholder farming sector, is how to increase the yields of food crops as well as cash crops. Productivity increases will have to come from promotion of improved appropriate technologies in the smallholder sector, and here I must say we echo the sentiments expressed by the United States Secretary of Agriculture on appropriate technology.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC), despite differing successes at economic reform and growth, Member Nations face very similar rural development challenges. About 70 percent of the sub-region's population live in rural areas, and the economies of a majority of the Member Nations are dominated by the agricultural sector which provides a substantial share of the region's export and raw materials for an expanding agro-industrial base.

Given the importance of the rural sector in attaining food security and reducing poverty, there is a clear recognition by SADC policy-makers tht a vibrant agricultural and rural sector would provide the catalyst for improving living standards in Member Nations. The establishment of a Multi-donor Food Security and Rural Development Hub in Harare earlier this year provides an important new framework for SADC-donor partnership in agriculture and rural development. The key objective of the Multi-donor Hub is to provide timely technical support for the development, implementation and monitoring of jointly-determined SADC - and donor-supported programmes in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector of SADC Member Nations. Zimbabwe has the SADC sectoral responsibility of coordinating all matters of food, agriculture and natural resources through the Food Security Technical and Administrative Unit.

As we enter the next Millennium, agriculture will increasingly face challenges associated with changes in weather patterns, rapidly-changing consumer tastes and increasing diversity in consumer tastes and preferences. Thus, risks associated with variations in production, incomes and prices are expected to increase. Success and complete integration into the global market entails quick adjustment to the changing environment. Crop and market diversification will play a major role in hedging against the envisaged risk and uncertainty. In this respect, crop and market diversification as a strategy for coping with food security and viability is consistent with most SADC Member Nations' policy objectives.

Zimbabwe appreciates the work of the FAO and we urge it to continue assisting Member Nations to provide their agricultural performance and to assist in the follow-up to the World Food Summit. Improving agricultural performance is the key to increasing incomes, reducing the incidence of poverty and promoting food security and nutrition.

But for FAO to assist Member Nations, it is absolutely essential that it be provided with the resources necessary to sustain its activities and enable it to fulfil the leading role accorded to it in the implementation and follow-up of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

In this context, we call upon the international community to accord greater priority to food security and agricultural development and to support FAO as a primary agricultural organization by increasing its resources.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Warren TRUSS (Australia)

May I first add my delegation's congratulations on your election to the Chair of this Thirtieth Conference and wish you a successful event. May I also restate my congratulations to the Director-General on his reappointment. I can assure Mr Diouf that the close involvement Australia has had with FAO since its inception will continue through his term. Can I also congratulate and welcome the new Members, mostly from our Southwest Pacific Region.

Assuming the ascension of Kiribati next week, it will bring to thirteen the number of Nations in our Region.

FAO has a unique role and position in dealing with the full range of sustainable development, production and utilization issues in relation to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. As we stand at the beginning of a new century and its many challenges, the need for an efficient, dynamic and forward-looking FAO will be as important as ever.

No issue is more important to this Organization than the need to ensure that meaningful progress is achieved towards enhancing global food security for all our populations.

The World Food Summit confirmed that the solution to food insecurity lies, not just in producing more food, but also in distribution and access. As acknowledged in the World Food Summit Plan of Action, liberalized trade is a vital element in achieving world food security.

This Conference is very timely as we have before us a new and critical opportunity to further enhance world food security by addressing food trade during the new round of negotiations under the World Trade Organization shortly to begin in Seattle. If increased trade is to continue to play its vital role in contributing to economic development and enhanced global food security, we cannot allow subsidization and protectionism to continue to have a damaging impact on the development and competitiveness of agriculture in developing countries.

The challenge is to see that globalization delivers in an equitable way, higher living standards, more jobs and sustainable development. This requires more open trade and the full participation of all countries, including developing and least developed countries, in the trading system.

We must not miss this opportunity to put agriculture on a path to be treated on the same basis as trade in other goods. It is therefore crucial that this FAO Conference sends a strong message of support to the international community ahead of the Seattle Ministerial on the need for further substantial reform of agricultural trade through the World Trade Organization negotiations.

We also need to be alert to this Conference being used to promote ideas which would be detrimental to achieving the benefits of real reform. Concepts of multi-functionality being promoted by some developed countries are such examples.

Let me be clear. There are many pressing rural problems, social, cultural and environmental, including in my own country, that need to be addressed. However, allowing the rich countries to continue to subsidize agricultural production and trade under the guise of multi-functionality is neither efficient nor a fair and equitable way to meet such goals. Accepting this vexed and divisive concept will do nothing to assist developing countries advance their own agricultural development.

Australia, therefore, will not support FAO devoting further resources to the subject of multi-functionality. Nor is multi-functionality an appropriate theme to include in the FAO Strategic Framework. Our views on multi-functionality should not be confused with a lack of recognition of the importance of sustainable agricultural development. For the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices is crucial to us all, not least my own country, in the management of land, water and vegetation resources. The work of FAO in these areas is therefore strongly supported by Australia. We are also strongly supportive of, and actively involved in the important work associated with global harmonization of plant quarantine and food standards.

I would urge Members to recognize the importance and necessity of the valuable support that FAO provides to *Codex*, IPPC and EMPRES activities. We believe that increased FAO resources are justified for these activities.

I was pleased that the recent *Conference on Food Trade beyond 2000* in Melbourne recognized the importance of science-based decision making in all matters relating to food safety.

It also reinforced the importance of *Codex* adopting standards by consensus to facilitate harmonization. The outcome also stressed the importance of continuing technical assistance to developing nations.

I would like to commend FAO on the development of the Strategic Framework for 2000-2015. This document represents a major advance in the way FAO is approaching its strategic planning, and should provide a more effective basis for priority-setting and performance assessment in the Organization into the future.

Australia looks forward to this Conference adopting a framework which focuses on elements conducive to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and agricultural research, responsible management of fisheries and forestry resources, plant genetic resources, integrated pest management, and the facilitation of international trade in agricultural products through the standard setting work of *Codex* and IPPC.

I wish you a successful Conference, and I trust that progress on these important issues before us provides guidance for the future work of FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Abdallah AL MOAMMAR (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate, I am pleased to congratulate you, on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on your election as Chairman of this Conference and to your Vice-Chairmen. I hope that you will undertake the functions you have been elected to do and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will support you, in order to be able to achieve our objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on behalf of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines, King Fahad Ab-Naziz, and the Members of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia taking part in this Conference. I would like to congratulate him on his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a second term. I hope that he will lead FAO to success, in order to achieve the noble objectives of this Organization by helping the Member Nations implement their plans to provide food for their peoples.

As you know, the economic situation in the developing countries is characterized by heavy debts, budget deficits and lack of essential goods. This, of course, has led to negative impacts on the social and economic life in those countries and especially in the field of agricultural production. We are on the threshold of the Third Millennium, with the attendant economic changes in the framework of trade liberalization and globalization, and the beginning of negotiations to amend the agreements of the World Trade Organization, including the amendments to be made to the agricultural agreement. We therefore see a need for these countries to adopt realistic policies in order to develop further the agricultural sectors, provide agricultural inputs, improve infrastructure and marketing channels, while simultaneously preserving and developing their natural resources.

We hope that developed countries will further increase their assistance to the developing countries in order to help them achieve these objectives; give a clear signal that solidarity is alive and kicking so as to improve the world economy in general; and make free trade more open, thereby facilitating the transfer of technology and providing the flow of financial resources that would help developing countries achieve these objectives. This should be, of course, through the financial institutions' funds and organizations.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is aware that a common interest should help us increase our efforts. We have built some bridges by increasing our cooperation with some countries, providing soft loans and grants to developing countries. This has all increased with the increase of the financial resources of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thanks God and the

balanced policy by its Government. It is the first country inasfar as its assistance as percentage of GNP is concerned, and it is the second country regarding the financial support it gives to developing countries.

Between 1973 and 1998, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided assistance and grants through bilateral and multilateral channels, US$ 73 billion, that is 4 percent of the average GNP in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during those years. Seventy-two countries benefited from this assistance, seventy of which are developing countries in different continents.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the President of the Conference for the way he is conducting our business. I would also like to thank the Director-General of FAO and his staff for the efforts they are making, and have made, in preparing for this Conference. They have provided us with all the facilities so that this Conference will be a success. We hope that this Conference will make recommendations and reach positive conclusions that will further increase the role of FAO and will help it undertake its mission. I would like to thank you for your attention and for your participation in this important Conference.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Alhaji Sani Zango DAURA (Nigeria)

May I join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the three Vice-chairpersons on your election, and commend the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this year's Conference.

Let me also congratulate the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO for the second term. This is a testimony of the confidence we, the Member Nations, have in his abilities and the contributions he has so far made since his first appointment.

The World Food Summit, three years ago in Rome, acknowledged that "Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle."

The concept of Food Security and the position taken by the World Food Summit in 1996 is to bring to the fore the crucial importance of food in the achievement of national, regional and global peace. It is also intended to bring greater national, regional and global commitment to change the dangerous situation which lack of sufficient food could create against the attainment of stable, free and democratic societies around the globe.

In this regard, I wish to observe that the food situation of virtually all the developing countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, is still very, very, very unsatisfactory since the World Food Summit declaration in 1996. Available records have indicated that more than 800 million people in developing countries of the world are still chronically-undernourished and lacking sufficient food to lead healthy and active lives.

There are several reasons and causes for the slow agricultural growth in most developing countries which include general excruciating poverty, especially among the rural people whose only occupation is farming and whose capacity to generate savings for investments is virtually zero. This is unfortunately worsened by inappropriate national, regional and global policies and strategies which we hope this Conference should address very seriously as we enter the new Millennium.

It is hoped that while the affected nations should look inwards for more effective policies and strategies for greater agricultural productivity, the industrialized and developed nations should also reconsider their approach which should include greater commitment of resources through

FAO and other UN Agencies and NGOs, as well as a more liberal approach and understanding in international trade. Other policies and strategic options opened to the industrialized nations should include debt relief and debt forgiveness which could be made conditional to larger budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector by the beneficiary countries. It is also hoped that FAO and other UN Agencies would prioritize their activities, not only in the area of capacity-building, but also in terms of greater allocation of funds to projects and programmes which have been jointly conceived and designed with beneficiary countries. It is in this regard we support the Zero Real Growth proposed by FAO for the period 2000-2001 to reflect the greater concern, commitment and responsibility to the food crisis around the world.

On our part, we share the global goals, the values, mission and vision of FAO as enunciated in the Strategic Framework 2000-2015. Nigeria, under the new democratic government of President Olusegun Obasanjo, is firmly commited to the development of agriculture at home and will play an active part within relevant regional and global organizations, in order to bring about rapid positive changes in the food situation around the world.

One lesson that I have been able to learn from various country statements that have been made here, is that our national interest is a national interest and we stand ready to protect it, as well as promote it.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Viktor GABER (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In this moment today our best wishes go to the Director-General, Mr Diouf, for his election, and we are sure that he will succeed in leading the Organization toward the new challenges in front of us.

Dear representatives of the countries that lost your and our precious collaborators in that accident in Pristina, please convey to their families the deep sorrow and our condolences for their loss of their loved ones.

Allow me to express in this moment my pleasure and honour to present a short review of the state of food and agriculture in the The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in the name of the Macedonian delegation, and of course in the name of the huge part of our citizens working in the field of agriculture and the surrounding productive activities.

By becoming an integral part of the FAO family in 1993, my country succeeded in realizing some very important technical programmes of FAO for improvement of our agriculture, as well as the qualification of our experts on the highest level. It gave us a based hope for the development of the cooperation and the realization of new FAO programmes in the future. We see this concrete activity in the frame of the perspective that the international community, during the actual debate on the Fifty-fourth General Assembly of the United Nations, gives to the strengthening of the role of this Organization on the world scene.

We have to make very urgent and energetic moves to decrease the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world. The moral solidarity toward them is only a start, but this will be only pure demagogy without a concrete action. The globalization processes give us new opportunities for a common action in this field. That is to be the real goal and reason of our membership in FAO and, above all, an obligation for orienting our national economy to realize the FAO Action Plan, our action plan, to combat the problems of food in the contemporary world.

Agriculture in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with 40 percent of the national GDP, is strategic for the further development of my country. We are known as traditional producers of healthy food, with significant surpluses in agricultural produce. The orientation of

this production toward export in the past ten years was blocked by many political and socio-economic problems in our neighbourhood. The wars, blockades and embargoes in our Region made the achievements realized through structural reforms almost useless. Our traditional European Union, Southeastern Europe and Near East agromarkets became inaccessible, and the needed development of the agro-production sector towards the newest technical and technological achievements was blocked, especially during the last Kosovo crisis when agricultural families were the ones that were most affected.

Among the newest steps in the internal reconstruction of agriculture in our country is the adoption of the Law on Using Agricultural land. This law provides for 15 percent of agricultural farms to be given in a public competition to private and public, domestic and foreign persons for rent or concession for 40 years. It is a measure for renewal of the internal agricultural system.

Adding to all this is the positive outcome of the actual phase of negotiation for our membership in the World Trade Organization. We can be sure that we are approaching the strategic goal to raise the quality and the quantity level of our agro-production, to decrease unemployment and to keep our near-to-the-border population. These are all substantial factors in the collaboration with our neighbours, and provide the necessary condition for faster rapprochement towards European integration. Our actual efforts to stipulate our National Programme for Development of agriculture with FAO and to create the basis and practice for the effective functioning of an agricultural stock market in the The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are also focused in this direction.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Angel SARTORI ARELLANO (Chile)

En primer término quisiera saludar muy sinceramente al Director General quien ha sido reelegido para un nuevo mandato, habida cuenta del desempeño que ha tenido en su primer período y desearle éxito en este nuevo período que le corresponderá. Mi país tiene el firme propósito de colaborar muy sinceramente en su gestión con el objetivo de lograr los éxitos que todos anhelamos. De tal manera reiteramos nuestras felicitaciones.

En otro ámbito de cosas quisiera mencionar muy rápidamente y, en honor al tiempo, hacer un pequeño recuento de la situación agrícola de Chile. Por suerte a comienzos de este año, mi país ha superado un período inédito de sequía con niveles de pluviometría muy bajos, pero que eso ha significado también un renovado interés de mi Gobierno por hacer grandes inversiones tanto en grandes obras de riego como en la mejora del riego intrapredial de numerosas granjas y predios, con el propósito de hacer un uso más eficiente del agua. Esta sequía que afectó a mi país significó, también, un deterioro en la producción agrícola que por suerte se ha podido revertir durante el segundo semestre del año en curso. Esto ha significado que la producción de alimentos básicos ha recuperado sus niveles normales, situación que ha significado, también, que la intencionalidad de siembra de aquellos productos haya aumentado. La situación de los productos exportables como frutas y hortalizas ha tenido un buen desarrollo prácticamente sin ninguna dificultad, justamente porque son en aquellos sectores donde ha habido una inversión importante, como ya he mencionado anteriormente, en obras de riego. Fundamentalmente en la producción de estos bienes exportables no hemos tenido dificultades y más bien se ha producido un leve aumento no obstante la sequía que nos había afectado. Esto también ha significado que durante estos últimos años las inversiones en desarrollo rural, han mejorado el ámbito rural y la producción agrícola. Durante este Gobierno se ha invertido en áreas como la electrificación rural, telefonía, agua potable, caminos, calidad de la enseñanza rural y de la salud, entre otros hechos importantes que han significado, también, un aporte muy significativo al ámbito, al entorno rural y al escenario rural, con el propósito de arraigar a nuestros agricultores a la tierra. Aquí ha habido una decisión muy fundamental del Gobierno con el propósito de hacer énfasis importante en este

tema. De esa manera las inversiones han sido de importancia y, sin lugar a duda, han tenido como consecuencia una mejora en la calidad de vida de los campesinos y de los agricultores.

Otro ámbito del tema que yo quisiera mencionar en esta exposición, es lo que se refiere a la próxima reunión del milenio en Seattle de la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Nuestro país ha basado buena parte de su desarrollo en las exportaciones y, sobretodo las agrícolas han sido y son un pilar fundamental de este desarrollo, con tal motivo vemos con preocupación el desarrollo de esta próxima reunión. Le asignamos la mayor importancia a los acuerdos y a las negociaciones que en torno a ésta puedan concretarse. En este sentido y orientación, haremos lo posible para que se produzca una eliminación sostenida y paulatina de los subsidios a las exportaciones. De igual forma, que se produzca una disminución a las ayudas internas que determinan o producen anomalías en el comercio internacional y, sin lugar a dudas, perjudican a países en desarrollo como los nuestros. Creo que este es un sentido anhelo de muchos países en el poder concurrir a un comercio internacional de los productos agrícolas en que efectivamente los precios de los mismos, sean un fiel reflejo de los costos; en forma paulatina, sostenida creo que eso , en definitiva, ayuda a la eficiencia, mejora la competitividad y finalmente es un buen aliciente para los consumidores. Abogaremos para que esa situación pueda traducirse en hechos concretos. Estamos dispuestos a concurrir, como lo hemos hecho en diferentes oportunidades, a que se den pasos firmes y sinceros en esta orientación.

Nos preocupa, también, que con el propósito de dar nuevos argumentos o nuevos conceptos, éstos puedan servir para nuevamente ocultar o justificar la multi-funcionalidad del campo, del agro. Creo que son términos y conceptos de los que debemos tener plena consciencia, es bueno que vayamos dando pasos concretos y sinceros con el propósito de mejorar la situación del comercio agrícola en nuestros países.

Finalmente y dentro el Marco Estratégico 2000-2015, asignamos la mayor importancia a este marco de acción con el propósito que haya un decidido impulso al desarrollo agrícola y rural por parte de la FAO. Recogemos esta intencionalidad en el Marco Estratégico y tenemos en consideración la complejidad y diversidad de aspectos fundamentales que inciden en el desarrollo tanto rural como agrícola.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Amadou OUATTARA (Côte d'Ivoire)

Je suis honoré de prendre la parole au nom de la Côte d'Ivoire à l'occasion de cette trentième session de la FAO. Par ma voix, le Gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire vous adresse ses félicitations pour votre élection ainsi que tous les membres de votre Bureau. Quant à vous, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, même si tout a été dit, permettez-moi de vous adresser tout particulièrement les chaleureuses félicitations de ma délégation et de mon pays pour votre brillante réélection. Celle-ci est le résultat du travail oh ! combien efficace que vous avez accompli avec une détermination et un savoir-faire qui ont permis la crédibilité de la FAO parmi toutes les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies.

Oui, vous avez, en si peu de temps, posé des actes précieux pour notre Organisation: c'est le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, c'est l'avènement et l'élargissement du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, c'est l'initiation et la coopération sud-sud dans le cadre du PSSA, c'est l'organisation du *Telefood*. Ce bilan, loin d'être exhaustif, mais extrêmement positif, nous fait dire que vous êtes le combattant infatiguable de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Le Gouvernement, le peuple ivoirien et le Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, Son Excellence Monsieur Arico Nabédié, vous renouvellent leurs félicitations et leurs encouragements et souhaitent que le nouveau mandat qui vient de vous être confié connaisse encore plus de succès pour la grande joie de tous.

En Côte d'Ivoire, l'agriculture intervient à la hauteur de 30 pourcent dans le Produit Intérieur Brut, procure 66 pourcent des emplois et fournit 38 pourcent des recettes d'exportation. Il faut noter que l'agro-industrie est en expansion constante. Cependant, les bonnes performances de l'agriculture ivoirienne ne sauraient occulter certaines faiblesses que nous nous employons à corriger: insuffisante la production de riz, maîtrise insuffisante de l'eau, insuffisantes les productions animale et haliéutique.

Consciente de ses faiblesses, la Côte d'Ivoire a pris un certain nombre de dispositions au cours de ces dernières années: 1) mon pays s'est doté depuis décembre 1998 d'une loi foncière rurale qui entend par ailleurs consolider les droits fonciers coutumiers; 2) un an plus tôt, en décembre 1997, une nouvelle loi coopérative est venue offrir aux petits exploitants un cadre promotionnel favorisant l'organisation professionnelle des producteurs désormais en charge de leur destin dans le contexte général de libéralisation de l'économie; 3) la mise en oeuvre d'un plan de développement des cultures vivrières pour une période 1998-2002 avec un montant provisionnel de 330 millions de dollars; 4) le démarrage d'un projet de développement de l'horticulture urbaine et peri-urbaine avec le concours de la FAO ainsi que la formulation du PSSA. Depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, auquel il a personnellement participé, le Président de la République n'a cessé de réaffirmer l'importance qu'il confère à l'agriculture dans sa recherche de progrès pour tous et du bonheur pour chacun de ses concitoyens.

Avec les quelques actions que je viens de donner et qui sont loin d'être exhaustives, j'ai tenu à souligner la réalité concrète de la relation que la Côte d'Ivoire et la FAO entretiennent avec la volonté commune de contribuer à nourrir le monde et à promouvoir les exploitants agricoles modernes. C'est tout le sens de la politique agricole actuelle de mon pays.

C'est encore la raison d'être du salon de l'agriculture d'Abidjan qui se déroulera du 26 novembre au 3 décembre 1999. Il s'agit d'une manifestation à caractère régional, avec plus de 600 espaces d'expositions. L'Afrique y sera largement représentée, mais aussi l'Europe, l'Asie, l'Océanie et bien sûr la FAO. Notre Organisation a démontré à plusieurs reprises la capacité d'atteindre la plupart des objectifs même avec des moyens qui n'ont pas toujours été au niveau souhaité. Mais la situation actuelle requiert des moyens adéquats si nous voulons atteindre les objectifs fixés par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. C'est pour cela que nous soutenons le scénario de croissance réelle zéro qui peut nous permettre de mener à bien ce noble combat qui est la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

A l'aube 21ème siècle, nous savons comment développer l'agriculture, les techniques sont à portée de la main, malheureusement pour ceux qui peuvent y accéder financièrement. Le problème fondamental est là, à ce manque de moyens financiers s'ajoute l'obligation qui est la nôtre de produire les denrées alimentaires à un prix accessible pour une population dont les revenus sont en majorité très faibles.

Cette situation est aggravée aussi par la tendance, trop souvent "baissière" des prix de nos principaux produits d'exportation. C'est là la réalité à laquelle j'attire l'attention de tous ceux qui croient à la nécessité d'une action mondiale coordonnée pour nourrir le monde et la FAO peut nous aider.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

A. M. M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh attaches significant importance to this last Conference of the Millennium, which gives us ample scope to evaluate our joint efforts in the area of food and agricultural development made in this century, in general and after the 1996 World Food Summit, in particular, to alleviate poverty and hunger from the world and to design more pragmatic strategies to face the challenges of the next century, based on lessons learned in the past.

The co-existence of widespread food insecurity, and the capacity to end it, is one of the most critical paradoxes of our time. While the world has the ability to produce enough food to feed the hungry millions, the problem of food security has assumed critical dimensions as we approach the new century. This contradiction is not only ethically and morally reprehensible, but also politically and socially indefensible. The causes of food insecurity in the developing countries and the measures needed to rectify the situation are known, though opinions differ as to the options available.

Food insecurity is a complex, broad and multifaceted phenomenon. It is now widely agreed that sustainable food security cannot be automatically ensured through increased food production and production stability. Something more is required. It is the access to food and "entitlements" to food which actually determine food security of a population. The economic development required to attain food security differs from conventional economic development in that it must be broad-based and sustainable. This would imply that policies and programmes are taken to raise productivity and income of the entire population, with a special focus on the most vulnerable sections.

Due to an inability to increase present cultivable area and to create off-farm employment opportunities, intensification of production assumes phenomenal importance. Here comes the role of FAO. The developing countries have largely depended on FAO for assistance to their agriculture. We hope that in the new Millennium FAO will play a much broader role in supporting agricultural development in general and food security measures in particular. FAO's continued assistance is required to help us prepare for and participate in agricultural trade in post-Uruguay Round situations, and especially its support in capacity-building to implement the agreed phytosanitary measures. Although we are committed to implement the WTO Agreement, which is in force since January 1995, we are yet to see the impact of WTO in reducing poverty and in enhancing food security. We have to discuss in detail more about the second-generation problems and issues such as IPR, extension of green box to include food security, trade related environment and labour issues, food safety and investment, as also on competition policy. Most of the LDCs are not in a position to comply with the SPS requirements, as it necessitates huge investment.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly highlight some of the major policies and programmes which we have taken in our country to fight against hunger and food insecurity in general, and to implement the elements of the WFS Plan of Action in particular.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of the economy of Bangladesh. Although its contribution to the GDP is 32 percent, it employs about 63 percent of the labour force. Our agriculture is prone to the vagaries of nature. The small land mass and population increases are making less land available for agricultural production. As such, our main policy approach is to simultaneously increase both cropping intensity and yields in a way that preserves the natural resource base of the country. With this end in view, our government has recently adopted a National Agriculture Policy which gives guidelines on managing our agriculture in the next millennium efficiently and competitively to ensure food security for the teeming millions. Under the new policy, agriculture will be resilient to absorb the shocks of natural calamities, be eco-friendly, and women will play a more pro-active role.

My delegation would reiterate that in view of the dwindling resources, all efforts should be made to strike a balance and to increase the synergy between the normative and operational activities of FAO. We also agree that FAO should have defined criteria for priority-setting based on its comparative advantages. However, the comparative advantages to help priority-setting should not be interpreted in a static and straightjacket fashion. It has to be evolutionary in nature, taking into account the ever-changing needs of the Member Nations in general and the requirements of the least-developed ones among them in particular.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Peter CARBON (Dominica)

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your deputies on your election to this very important leadership position of the Conference. I would also like to congratulate Dr Diouf on his re-election to the post of Director-General of this Organization. Sir, the reward for hard work is more work. My country is very thankful for the support it has received from the FAO Sub-regional office in Barbados, and indeed to the experts here in Rome for the agricultural development in Dominica.

We are deeply appreciative for the Technical Assistance Programmes in the areas of irrigation, black fly control in citrus, research work in coconut water-bottling, the development of small livestock feed resources, support for fishermen and for the strengthening of extension service for the agricultural diversification programme.

A number of small-scale projects under the *Telefood* programmes have been approved, with our primary focus on rural women. Some of those are heads of their households who often find it hard to obtain food for the families. Agriculture represents 26 percent of the GDP. It is the main vehicle for the equitable distribution of income to vulnerable groups, such as women, landless farmers and the poor.

We appreciate all the support given since we intended to diversity our agriculture from the single crop, bananas. Bananas constituted over 70 percent of our total exports and grossed over EC$ 100 million in 1988. By 1995, production had dropped by 55 percent. This situation is worsening as we seek to trade in the unstable European market.

I hope that a reasonable settlement will be negotiated for the marketing of bananas in the European market, which would allow Small Island States, like my country Dominica, to participate fully. We are therefore hopeful that a Tariff Rate Quota System can be agreed upon which will be acceptable to all parties.

We are working toward the transformation of agriculture which up to now is based on the production of a single crop for the European markets, to one which will enable us to participate in free markets. We therefore plead strongly to our sister nations of FAO to support the special and differential treatment for our small economies at the upcoming WTO negotiations.

Our small island state is very vulnerable to natural disasters and to climate change. A large number of our small family farms still practice the traditional methods of farming on mountain slopes. These conditions make it very difficult to produce the necessary volumes that could have any impact on the international markets.

The average age of small farmers in Dominica is approaching 55 years, and we are making every effort to attract young farmers to this very important sector by intensifying agricultural education in schools and by implementing a young farmer recruitment and development programme. This could help the country in its efforts to attain some level of food security.

The modernization of this sector could be established through improved science and technology and proper training programmes in agri-business. FAO could play an important role by helping us to achieve these goals.

The transformation process will require the development of farmer organizations and implementation of contract farming systems. The repositioning of agriculture in Dominica is being supported by the European Union-funded STABEX Agricultural Diversification Programme. Presently, research work is being undertaken by the Republic of China and Taiwan, the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation of Agriculture, the Caribbean Agricultural Research

and Development Institute and the technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.

I would like to thank them for their efforts. I invite others to come to our assistance. As we expand the economic base of our island, we focus on job creation and income generation within the rural areas. This has been undertaken within a well-managed environment and the sustainable use of main resources.

Dominica is known to be the Nature Island of the Caribbean, and we have therefore committed ourselves to the process of sustainable development in agriculture, as well as the expansion of eco-tourism. My government would like to reiterate its commitment made at the World Food Summit and support the Strategic Plan submitted by FAO.

I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff, all the international institutions and foreign governments for their continuous support in this important period of economic transition and for endorsing the Plan of Action on Small Island Developing States.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Carlos Agostinho DO ROSÁRIO (Mozambique) (Original language Portuguese)

It is a great honour for the Republic of Mozambique to take part and to speak at this Council of FAO. On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I thank you for the opportunity to greet the Chairman of the Conference, and also congratulate Director-General of FAO Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election, and we look forward to his successful second term-of-office.

Even though Mozambique at present has a relatively good economic growth level, with a GDP increasing by about 8 percent per year, it still has a lot of poverty in the country. The economic growth which we have had over the last two years is the outcome of the climate of peace which we have had in the country as well as, as you know, the implementation of policies and strategies of a realistic nature to resolve problems which do affect the well-being of the population.

At present, Mozambique is preparing for second general multi-party elections, and we trust and hope that the programme of the Government, which has assured economic and social growth in the country will receive the most votes so that it can continue the development of its policies in all spheres of political, economic and social life. We do consider agricultural policy and the strategy proposed by the Government for its application in PRO-AGRI of extreme importance for the agricultural development of Mozambique, which foresees a volume of investments estimated at around US$ 200 million for the period 2000-2004, and making it also complete in one fell swoop investments in the public sector in order to consolidate and increase the level of success which Mozambique has already achieved. Once again, we call for the support of the donor community to back up the efforts of the Government of Mozambique in the application of our programme PRO-AGRI.

The Government of Mozambique considers the issue of food security to be one of the primordial parts of the global objectives development. The existence of a weak network of infrastructures of an economic and social nature means that the alternative sources of income are rather rare, and hence a good part of the population may suffer food insecurity. Nonetheless, thanks to the application of Government policies which are well planned, Mozambique has experienced growth in grain production. The deficit has gone from 12 million tonnes in 1992-93 to 7 million in 1999-2000, including grain and rice. Production of cereal for the year 1992 was 236 000 tonnes, and this year it is estimated that we will have a production of grains at 1.8 million tonnes, which represents an eight-fold increase in production. In this way, the challenge for Mozambique will be to maintain this growth rate in production and be able to ensure the supply to the population.

With a view to respecting the commitments undertaken during the World Food Summit to reduce malnutrition under the new regime by 50 percent between now and the year 2015, the Government of Mozambique has approved a food security nutrition strategy, and the application of this strategy is now being applied in the country, and this calls for a new plan of action for food, in reducing insecurity on all levels. A pilot phase includes the production of food in the country with a food deficit under the auspices of FAO and the application of a programme for livestock breeding, making it possible to replace a good part of the cattle population wasted during the war and the drought situation, and this is a very important in order to bring our livestock situation up to where it stood prior to the period of difficulties.

We hope that everyone will participate, and everyone will be a winner in this. The forecast for the year under way, conditions of rainfall will be rather favourable in the country, with even excessive rain in some areas, and this is where the Government is involved in creating conditions in order to cope with natural calamities. In this way we would just like to reiterate once again our appeal to FAO and other international companions to support our efforts so that the Government may respond to what the people need, programme implementation, with the inclusion of programmes of prevention, and the fighting against natural calamities.

In this context, we would like to manifest our full support to the Real Growth option in FAO's budget to make it possible for there to be a normal quantitative and qualitative growth in this Organization to respond to the global urgency caused by hunger, food insecurity and increased poverty. Without real growth, the hopes harboured by many poor people to see their poverty disappear and everyone to be able to enjoy the well-being to which they have a full right - it is important we have the proper resources to fight against hunger and to uproot poverty all over the world.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

El PRESIDENTE

Con esta intervención de la delegación de Mozambique terminamos la agenda de hoy. Como ustedes han podido apreciar ha sido una agenda apretada. Hoy sábado 13 de noviembre era una fecha también esperada porque era la elección para el nombramiento del Director General. Aunque nunca hemos querido recurrir a la síntesis porque es peligrosa, nos atrevemos a manifestar con el nombramiento del Director General de la FAO y la elección ocurrida en el día de hoy, en primer lugar que es un triunfo de la política multilateral en su amplio sentido democrático de universalidad y representatividad y, segundo que es un fortalecimiento de la FAO como la mayor Agencia del Sistema de Naciones Unidas. No se puede desconocer que nos enfrentamos a un gran desafío, el desafío de ser la última Conferencia de este siglo y empezar el nuevo Milenio con muchas asignaturas pendientes.

Como decíamos al principio, hoy sábado 13 de noviembre terminamos nuestra sesión. Como ustedes saben, mañana domingo no hay trabajo. Deseamos a los Representantes Permanentes que viven en Roma que aprovechen el día porque en Roma siempre hay algo que ver, a los que vienen de sus capitales tienen con Roma un anfitrión muy grande, porque hasta el buen tiempo se nos ha puesto a disposición, cosa que agradecemos mucho, y poder venir el lunes, día 15, con nuevo brío. Hoy hemos tenido 23 oradores, vamos a seguir la agenda que tenemos aprobada.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.
La séance est levée à 19h30.
Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

15 November 1999

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.35 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 35
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.35 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GÉNÉRAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Sweden, Laos, Austria, Cuba, France, Israel, India, Algeria, Hungary, Lebanon, Korea (Republic of), Cape Verde, Netherlands, Tunisia, Japan, Turkey, Panama, New Zealand, Burundi, Syria, Colombia, Bahrain, Kenya, Jordan, China.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la séance plénière et avant de passer au Point 5, je donne la parole au Secrétaire général pour quelques annonces. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur le Secrétaire général.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegations are kindly reminded that, as mentioned in the Journal of the Conference of today, there will be two special presentations in the Iran Room for those delegations who are interested. The first will be on the Special Programme on Food Security at 12.30 in the Iran Room. The second, also in the Iran Room, will be at 17.45 and it will be on the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES).

My second announcement is to draw to your attention that at the WFP office here at Headquarters, Room A-351, there is a Book of Condolences that delegates may wish to sign in front of the WFP office, Room A-351.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 5 de l'Ordre du jour: *Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture*, document C 99/2. Nous allons donc continuer notre débat, commencé samedi dernier, sur le Point 5 de notre agenda. Je rappelle à tous la limite de 5 minutes pour chaque intervention. Nous reprenons la liste des orateurs. Je donne la parole à Madame Margareta Winberg, Ministre de l'agriculture de Suede.

Ms Margareta WINBERG (Sweden)

First and foremost, I am delighted to express my heartfelt congratulations to my friend, Jacques Diouf, upon his re-election as Director-General. I am convinced that in his next six-year term, he will reform this Organization to an even more modern and transparent Organization. Three years ago, at the World Food Summit, we decided to reduce the number of malnourished by half. Progress has been made, but not sufficiently in order to establish food security. The role of women is essential. Women must be empowered. Real equality between women and men is a great challenge for the new Millennium. Poverty eradication is crucial.

Fifty percent of the world's populations are women and 80 percent of all farmers in the world are women. I regret to see that this is not reflected here among us present today, neither is it reflected in the elected presidium. This shows that we have not yet fully recognized the outcome of the Beijing Conference in 1995. I would thus like to encourage the Secretariat and the Director-General to pursue the goals of all UN Resolutions on equal participation of women and men at all levels.

Further, I would like to encourage the Member Nations and heads of delegations to actively recruit women to participate at the next FAO Conference and as Members of the FAO committees.

Sweden is strongly committed to:

1. Development cooperation and the UN System as a whole and in giving support to FAO specifically in methodology development projects to find innovative ways to support women farmers.

2. Equal opportunities for men and women, for which I am responsible also as Minister. In that capacity, I had the honour to lead the Panel at FAO on Women and Rural Areas earlier this year.

Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali brought up the involvement of private business and NGOs in decision-making in the international system. Sweden strongly supports that FAO continues to seek partnerships with them in the struggle against hunger. But, this approach must not overshadow the fact that the world needs an equal distribution of resources, that must be accomplished by political means. It is, as we all know, not due to lack of food that people starve in the world – it is because we lack a fair distribution of income and wealth.

It is imperative that FAO continues and strengthens its valuable work in partnership to support nations and peoples. To collect, analyse, disseminate and, where applicable, gender-segregate data, through fast and reliable means; develop norms, standards and conventions; develop policy recommendations and further international understandings and negotiations; applying innovative methods and learning from field experience; in short, to be a true Centre of Excellence, is FAO's unique contribution.

In order for FAO to further develop the ecosystem approach, it is particularly important to heed the will of the Ministerial Meetings earlier this year and really prioritize Fisheries and Forestry in this coming biennium. These sectors must be treated as sectors in their own right.

We live in an increasingly interconnected world. We cannot have one policy for cooperation assistance and another for trade. It is the economies of the developing countries which are still very much based on agriculture. They must have the possibility of accessing a liberalized world market where they can compete on quality and price, bringing back funds to invest in their country. These concerns are also being expressed as major priorities in the new WTO Round. At the same time, it is vital that the developing countries can avoid some of our mistakes on mismanagement and misuse not only of natural resources, but also when using pesticides, hormones, herbicides, antibiotics in feed, etc. FAO's policy advice, guidance and development of international standards is imperative. FAO's work to prepare and train developing countries for the coming WTO Negotiations is most welcome and is supported by Sweden.

It is equally important that agriculture in developing countries is not constrained by barriers to imports in industrialized countries or by subsidized exports from the industrial world.

We have seen several positive signs in recent years, but more needs to be done in order to transform the Organization from an old style UN bureaucracy to a modern, visionary Organization, with solid partnerships and a clear idea of the unique contribution it can make to the task of the world.

Along with all Member Governments, Sweden looks forward to working alongside FAO in pursuit of its noble goals. It is only people working together in solidarity, with commitment and knowledge, who will take this world into a better one.

Siene SAPHANGTHONG (Laos)

I wish to make some observations about the food security and the state of the agricultural sector in my country which is naturally linked with the Asian and Pacific Region.

First of all, I would like to join our distinguished delegates in congratulating Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb for being elected as Chairman of the Thirtieth FAO Conference, and Mr Jacques Diouf for being re-elected Director-General of FAO. I am convinced of your worldwide experience, with which FAO, with the collaboration of all its Member Nations,would have made a step forward in the field of food and agriculture and development efforts. This is particularly with regard to strengthening the food security, nutrition improvement and poverty alleviation as well as being the threshold for the international pledge to reduce by half the number of people undernourished by the year 2015.

After the World Food Summit in 1996, which adopted a Plan of Action to achieve food security for all, many initiatives to promote and increase food and agricultural production have been developed by state leaders both in individual countries and on a collective basis. In the course of collective efforts, ASEAN is emerging to be a strong sub-regional cooperative grouping with a solid commitment to, among others, eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition from each Member Nation in the sub-region. This pledge is well reflected in the ASEAN vision to the year 2020 on food, agriculture and forestry and fisheries, moving to be the world leading supplier in food and agricultural production, as well as application of soil practices for sustainable, natural resource management and conservation and in many other related intra-ASEAN cooperation agreements.

In the specific case of Lao PDR, poverty alleviation and food security remain our overriding objectives. We face a universal shortage of trained and capable personnel, so we strongly emphasize staff and community training and education. We are also very conscious of the fact that we must balance development with conservation, although this is not easy to achieve. Bearing in mind these constraints and opportunities offered by the country together with the emerging global excellence, we have committed ourselves to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action increasing agricultural production with the primary aim to achieve self-sufficiency in food.

On the whole, our country is now reaching a promising position to safely ensure adequate food supply to all members of our society. This satisfactory achievement is primarily due to the national concerted effort made by the Government and all the sectors of society. FAO has also been in the forefront in providing wherewithall in achieving sustained agricultural development. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to this institution.

In this short statement, I outlined a few of the ways in which the Laos PDR has being developing over the past decade. We have been facing many problems and we have overcome some of the problems, and we are trying within our limited resources to overcome the others.

Wilhelm MOLTERER (Austria)

First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of this Conference, on the election to these responsible functions. I wish the Conference much success. I may convey to the re-elected Director-General my best wishes for the six years to come, and at the same time express hope for an excellent cooperation between Austria and FAO.

In 1996, Austria had fully identified itself with the Declaration of Rome, adopted at the FAO World Food Summit, as well as with the objectives of the Plan of Action of the Summit, in particular with the sustainable world food security. In 1996, we have set the goal to halve the

number of malnourished by 2015. This required a reduction of nearly 20 million people per year. *Food for All* is the view of the provisional forecasts of worldwide agricultural production in 1998, which is rated to be the worst year of the nineties all over the world still very far. An essential improvement of the food situation is, however, not only achieved by environmentally-friendly utilization of natural resources adapted to the site and agricultural research, but also by training and extension for those working in agriculture and forestry.

Austria purposely supports FAO's activities within the bounds of its possibility both on a regional and a global level. The Thirty-first Session of the European Commission on Agriculture, just successfully concluded, has underlined FAO's importance and its decisive role in Europe as a forum for the exchange of experience and as a promoter of East-West and North-South cooperation. This is mainly based on the fact that Europe has undergone substantial changes in recent years. Austria intends to organize the Tenth Meeting on the Working Party of Women and Agricultural Family in Rural Development in October 2000, focusing on the concerns of rural youth. In this connection, I want to refer to Item 7 of the agenda concerning *Gender Mainstreaming in FAO*. I endorse FAO's activities to fill more leading positions with women than so far.

Food aid on global level is provided by Austria through its contributions to the World Food Programme, amounting to more than 31 million Austrian Shillings and to the International Food Emergency Reserve amounting to nearly 6 million Austrian Shillings. This year Austria provides this special contribution in the form of beef preserves to the population of Kosovo. Austria will certainly also make its contribution to the new Food Aid Convention concluded for three years and in force from July 1999.

Permit me now to say a few words on the *Strategic Framework* and on the *FAO Programme of Work and Budget*. This Strategic Framework discussed during the last two years shows the direction towards where the Organization is developing and is thus the most important basic document. I would wish that precise priorities will be set in this very document as to which topics will become key issues for FAO in the decades to come, including the cooperative advantages of FAO, the ways of implementing the set targets and those of the evaluation of FAO's work.

Within the three scenarios, Austria prefers the Zero Nominal Growth, the maintenance of budget of US 650 million. Concluding, I would like to refer to the multi-functional character of agriculture and land. Farmers not only produce food; they also provide services for society, without being remunerated. These are performances for the protection of the environment, social services, promotion of rural development and landscaping and others. It is therefore important that these performances are acknowledged by the society. Austria would therefore highly appreciate that among FAO's activities in the future, priority should be given to the multi-functionality of agriculture, forestry and water management. This was for the first time mentioned in the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit and *expressis verbis* is also stated in various OECD Minister Communiques. In this sense, it must be the concern of all of us to support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at present and in its future work and thus continue making a valuable contribution to the benefit of mankind.

Alejandro ROCA IGLESIAS (Cuba)

Quisiéramos, en primer lugar, felicitarlo Sr. Presidente por su elección. Igualmente nos congratulamos por la reelección del Sr. Jacques Diouf como Director General de la FAO, candidatura que apoyamos desde el primer momento.

Han pasado tres años desde la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación donde el Presidente de nuestro país, el Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, en medular intervención anunció las causas y las raíces de la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo. En la Declaración de Roma se fijó el objetivo de reducir el número de hambrientos de 800 millones a 400 millones.

¿Qué ha pasado desde entonces? La población mundial alcanzó 6 000 millones y hoy el número de hambrientos sigue siendo de unos 800 millones. Lamentablemente, persiste la pobreza y hoy es mayor aún la diferencia entre ricos y pobres.

Como dijera nuestro Presidente, las causas de tal situación, y cito: "el capitalismo, el neoliberalismo, las leyes del mercado salvaje, la deuda externa, el subdesarrollo y el intercambio desigual son los que matan a tantas personas en el mundo", fin de la cita. ¿Quién detendrá a las masas hambrientas, que en número cada vez mayor tratan de emigrar a los países ricos? ¿Hasta cuándo podrá mantenerse el injusto sistema existente? El futuro de la humanidad está en la búsqueda precisa de soluciones a este gran dilema.

Es cada vez más urgente que todos enfrentemos la tarea del desarrollo agrícola y la alimentación en general con la máxima seriedad, y el perfil a largo plazo que demandan las condiciones de la población mundial, en especial la de los países en desarrollo.

Mi país es un país bloqueado. Un país que vive una economía de guerra en tiempo de paz. Este bloqueo en vez de atenuarse se ha reforzado cada vez más. Por octavo año consecutivo la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas por una contundente mayoría representada por los países aquí presentes, y con sólo dos votos en contra, acaba de aprobar una nueva Resolución llamando a Estados Unidos a poner fin al bloqueo de mi país. En tales circunstancias y en medio de la crisis económica a la que nos vimos lanzados hemos encontrado, no sin grandes sacrificios del pueblo, la forma de resistir y marchar adelante. Hemos encontrado las vías para continuar con la aplicación de los acuerdos y los compromisos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, buscando alternativas que han permitido desarrollar la producción de alimentos con muchos menos recursos. Hemos mantenido renglones de distribución para sectores prioritarios de la población como son los niños, ancianos, mujeres embarazadas y enfermos, a través de productos alimenticios subsidiados y patrones de distribución diferenciados con el único objetivo de la seguridad alimentaria mínima de esos grupos más vulnerables.

Desde el año 1994 en Cuba se aprobó un Plan de Acción Nacional para la Nutrición, el cual tiene su aplicación principalmente a través de los ministerios de Salud, de Agricultura, de la Industria Pesquera y de la Industria Alimenticia. Este Plan de Acción Nacional en el que cada uno de los sectores productivos y de servicios que interviene ha establecido su propio mecanismo de seguimiento independiente, cuenta con el Ministerio de Economía y Planificación de la República de Cuba como su entidad evaluadora global, la cual coordina centralmente las evaluaciones a ejecutar y su cumplimiento.

El país cuenta además con decenas de programas nacionales dirigidos al mejoramiento de indicadores, como la salud y la desnutrición, la disminución de la carencia de micronutrientes, el perfeccionamiento del sistema de vigilancia nutricional, el incremento de las producciones agropecuarias destinadas a la satisfacción de las necesidades nutricionales, consolidando la base principal de la agricultura y del fomento, así como el desarrollo de la agricultura comunitaria familiar y urbana, como alternativa del modelo agrícola clásico. Baste señalar algunas cifras: en 1996 la producción de hortalizas era de 632 000 toneladas y este año en sólo 9 meses fue de 1,5 millones de toneladas, de las cuales 627 000 se producen en huertos y organopones; la búsqueda de suministro de proteínas basada en la producción acuícola, que pasó de 45 000 toneladas en 1996 a unas 80 000 en este año; la producción de leche de soja y sus derivados, inexistente al comienzo de la década, hoy alcanza más de 100 000 toneladas.

La producción de alimentos del país es un compromiso serio y de cumplimiento sistemático que demanda políticas en constante cambio destinadas a aumentar cada vez más la calidad de la alimentación y, por lo tanto, la calidad de vida del pueblo y donde el gobierno central ejerce un permanente control.

En estos mismo días se celebra en la ciudad de La Habana un taller nacional convocado por iniciativa de la FAO para evaluar la estrategia nacional de seguimiento de la Cumbre y su proyección hasta el horizonte del año 2010.

Mi país se apresta a organizar en La Habana del 10 al 14 de abril del año 2000 la Cumbre Sur, primera Conferencia a nivel de Jefes de Estado que convoca el Grupo de los 77 más China. Dicha Conferencia tendrá entre sus principales objetivos: analizar la posición a asumir por el Tercer Mundo de cara al nuevo Milenio, especialmente a través de la discusión sobre el fenómeno de la globalización de la economía mundial, el estado y las perspectivas de las relaciones Norte-Sur, el desarrollo alcanzado y las posibilidades de éxito a través de la cooperación Sur-Sur así como la importancia del conocimiento y la tecnología para encarar el desarrollo. Estas cuestiones constituirán los principales temas a analizar por los jefes de estado.

Esperamos contar con la asistencia y la activa participación de todos los países del Grupo de los 77 y China en esta importante Reunión Cumbre que a la vez persigue preparar, de común acuerdo, las posiciones de nuestros países con vista a la Asamblea y a la Cumbre del Milenio.

La República de Cuba agradece en este encuentro la cooperación que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación ha brindado a nuestro país durante décadas y pone a disposición de esta Organización la experiencia alcanzada, luego de años de cooperación prestada por miles de técnicos y expertos cubanos y ofrece el más valioso de los recursos con qué contamos, que son nuestros valores humanos.

Louis DOMINICI (France)

Je suis heureux et honoré de vous saluer aujourd'hui au nom du Gouvernement français et de vous dire tous nos sentiments d'amitié, ainsi que notre ardente solidarité dans la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Je tiens d'abord à féliciter très chaleureusement le Directeur Général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour sa réélection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, selon l'usage, je voudrais maintenant commencer par évoquer devant cette assemblée les tendances fortes de la politique agricole de mon pays. Alors que l'Union européenne a adopté l'agenda 2000 faisant du développement rural le deuxième pilier de la politique agricole commune, la France se dotait en cette année 1999 d'une nouvelle Loi d'orientation agricole. Cette Loi s'efforce de prendre en considération toute la réalité complexe de l'activité des agriculteurs qui dépasse comme chacun sait la seule fonction certes primordiale de production d'aliments et de fibres. La promotion d'un développement économique, social et territorial durable soucieux de l'environnement et des terroirs, est au centre de nos préoccupations. C'est ainsi que nous voyons l'agriculture, une agriculture que nous qualifions de multi-fonctionnelle parce qu'elle place l'activité agricole au coeur des relations entre l'homme et la terre.

Monsieur le Président, s'agissant de l'OAA, six ans ont passé depuis la prise de fonction de M. Jacques Diouf, six ans qui ont beaucoup compté pour notre Organisation contrainte de s'adapter à une austérité budgétaire sans précédent. Cette période a été particulièrement difficile puisqu'il fallait faire plus et encore mieux avec moins de crédits, mais l'OAA a sû négocier avec succès sa nécessaire adaptation pour sortir renforcée de cette épreuve. Il conviendra que notre Conférence décide du niveau budgétaire du prochain biennium en ayant à l'esprit les efforts passés, mais surtout les efforts qui restent à faire pour atteindre les objectifs qu'ont assignés à l'Organisation les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. De très nombreuses délégations ont indiqué au dernier Conseil que l'option d'un budget en Croissance Réelle Zéro pour le biennium 2000-2001 constituait le minimum au-dessous duquel il leur apparaîssait inconcevable de descendre. La France joint sa voix à la leur et exhorte la Conférence à doter l'Organisation d'un budget lui permettant d'assurer ses priorités.

A cet égard, je veux saluer le travail que l'Organisation a réalisé avec la collaboration de tous les Membres pour élaborer le projet de Cadre Statégique qui nous est soumis. Ce document qui fixe

clairement à l'Organisation les objectifs prioritaires, constitue une excellente base sur laquelle fonder les activités de l'OAA. Nous espérons que la Conférence l'adoptera en l'état. Ce projet de Cadre Stratégique illustre parfaitement le mandat de l'Organisation et ses fonctions principales. Il met très justement l'accent sur le partenariat que l'OAA développe dans toutes les directions; il traduit la nécessaire complémentarité qui doit exister entre les activités normatives et les activités de terrain.

Monsieur le Président, l'OAA traite de nombreux sujets également importants. Je me bornerai ici à en évoquer deux: en premier lieu, je citerai la question des ressources génétiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation. L'OAA constitue le forum des négociations pour la révision de l'engagement international qui nous l'espérons sera achevé pour le Conseil de l'an 2000. Voilà bien une question qui conditionne l'adaptabilité de l'agriculture aux besoins futurs de la population mondiale et qui mérite donc la place que le cadre stratégique lui réserve, mais aussi une dotation budgétaire appropriée. En deuxième lieu, je ferai référence aux travaux de la Commission du *Codex Alimentarius*: notre Organisation ne doit pas limiter son action à l'élaboration de normes dans le cadre d'un partenariat équilibré avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Elle doit aussi en utilisant tous les atouts que ses fonctions lui confèrent, promouvoir l'application de ces normes et aider les Pays Membres à en tirer le meilleur profit tant pour le bien-être de leurs populations, que pour la fluidité de leurs échanges commerciaux.

Monsieur le Président, je ne peux conclure sans reprendre à la lettre le thème de la démocratie culturelle internationale que mettait en avant M. Boutros Boutros Ghali lorsqu'il présidait vendredi la conférence Mc Dougall. C'est dans ce contexte que prend tout son sens le pluralisme linguistique des organisations des Nations Unies et c'est pourquoi je salue les efforts actuels de l'OAA pour établir l'équilibre effectif des langues statutaires de l'Organisation. Ces efforts doivent être poursuivis; il faut pour cela restaurer progressivement mais rapidement dans le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation les ressources appropriées. L'OAA est un lieu unique de connaissance en matière agricole et alimentaire; elle doit avoir les moyens de diffuser ses connaissances de manière égale dans toutes les langues statutaires de l'Organisation. L'OAA est un forum de dialogue et d'échanges. Il faut qu'elle le soit pleinement dans le plus large esprit de compréhension linguistique et culturel au-delà de sa dimension technique. Notre Organisation au service de tous assume une vocation de haute humanité.

LE PRESIDENT

Avant de partir je dois donner la parole au Secrétaire Général qui doit faire une annonce.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to appeal to delegations to send a member of their delegations down to Commission II in the Red Room, which up to now does not have a quorum. So, please, I would like to appeal to delegations to send one of the members of their delegations to Commission II in the Red Room so that we can have a quorum and continue with the business of the Conference. Thank you.

Chaim ORON (Israel) (Original language Hebrew)

On behalf of the Israeli delegation, I would like to congratulate the Chairman on his election and wish him every success, and also Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election.

I myself became Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Israel three months ago, when the new Government took office. This Government has given top priority to promoting the peace process between Israel and its neighbours. As Minister of Agriculture, I feel it a privilege to have been entrusted with an area capable of making a significant contribution to national development, as well as to the furthering of relations between us and our neighbours.

Israeli farmers, like their Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Lebanese and Syrian counterparts, devote their lives to working the land and supplying the most basic needs of their countrymen.

With so much in common, their mission can only benefit from any opportunity for cooperation. It is my hope, and I repeat it is my hope, that as Minister of Agriculture, I will be able to encourage and promote such relations between Israeli farmers and those in the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and Jordan. And it will be no less important to see the seeds of similar cooperation with farmers in other Arab countries as part of ongoing and further peace agreements.

The times demand such cooperation. We are all tackling the same problems: the war against desertification, the complexities of pest control, and most especially, the severe water shortage. There can be no solution to the problem of water without cooperation and mutual recognition of each other's needs. By working together, we will be able to create new possibilities for the benefit of all the farmers in the Region.

Israel calls on the developed countries to take an active part in the joint efforts deployed in the Region, this through their support, know-how and resources.

Since its beginnings, Israeli agriculture has had to deal with the problem of water; with the fact that we are largely a desert country; and with our geographical distance from the world's major markets. Our leaders have viewed this reality not as an obstacle, but as a challenge. As a result, research and development have made considerable strides. Great emphasis has been laid on the interaction between farmers, researchers, and extension officers, with the farmers at the top of this structure that forms the basis for agricultural development. Our farmers have become highly skilled professionals, experts in modern methods of farming and the use of virtually futuristic agricultural technologies.

In effect, this is hi-tech agriculture and it is the key to our ability to compete in world markets, with their increasingly strict standards of quality, demand for efficiency and free competition.

By virtue of this approach, we have achieved extremely impressive results. In the fifty years since Israel's independence, agricultural production has multiplied by a factor of twelve, and output per cubic metre of water has trebled. Yield has grown at an average of 2 percent per year, while at the same time water and land use have declined. Innovative water-saving irrigation systems have been developed that are now in use throughout the world. Thanks to these systems, 40 percent of the vegetables, a third of the flowers, half the field crops, and a quarter of the citrus trees in Israel are grown in desert areas.

As a member of the international community, Israel considers it its obigation to share these achievements with other nations. We are determined to be full partners in the war against the hunger and poverty that afflict too much of the world's population. We are making strenuous efforts to ensure that the technologies developed and implemented in Israel are available anywhere in the world where they can help to alleviate these problems and improve the standard of living in rural areas.

This commitment is carried out through a long line of training projects in which the know-how gained in Israel is conveyed to farmers and profesisonals from the world over, with particular emphasis on developing countries. In the past year, nearly 5,000 farmers from 130 countries have taken part in courses conducted by extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture both in Israel and abroad. Advisers have been sent on 60 consultancy missions, and we maintain over 20 model farms in Asia, Africa, the former Soviet Union and South America.

As we embark on the Third Millennium, we are facing new challenges. It will be necessary to supply the needs of over 6 billion people at a time when fewer and fewer of them are engaged in agriculture. We will have to pay increasing attention to environmental considerations. We will be called on to invest major efforts in shaping the future face of rural settlement, which will be much more diverse, with agriculture now only one of its elements. The issue of rural development will have to be given greater weight in our future design of the open spaces in our countries if we wish to ensure the existence of an attractive modern alternative to industrial urban development.

Israel has pledged to continue to play a central role in meeting these challenges. We will do so through the maximum possible cooperation with our neighbours, and we will continue to undertake international projects in the war on hunger and poverty in developing countries. We regard FAO as a major agent for mobilizing a large part of the resources for the success of these efforts, and hope to expand our collaboration with this organization in the years to come.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons la parole à Monsieur Satyanarayana Rao, Ministre d'État pour l'agriculture et, avec votre permission, je confère la présidence au Vice-Président M. Mohammad Saeed Nouri-Naeeni, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la République islamique d'Iran auprès de la FAO, à Rome.

Mohammed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair.
Mohammed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence.
Ocupa la presidencia Mohammed Saeed Nouri-Naeeni, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia.

SATYANARAYANA RAO (India)

On behalf of the Government of India, I extend to you my warmest greetings. I feel confident that under your able chairmanship, the deliberations of the Conference will be fruitful and rewarding.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Diouf on his re-election as Director- General. I hope he will continue the commendable efforts made by the Organization in addressing the problem of hunger and low productivity in the Member Nations. I would like to assure you of the unstinted support of the Government of India for these endeavours.

May I note that in the last two years despite the adverse climatic changes and the challenges drawn by the new world economic order, the farmers in the world have strived to increase food production. However the situation of food production in certain Regions of the world continues to cause concern . We would also like to underscore the food security issues raised by the recent crisis in our Region. The task ahead of relegating hunger in the next Millenium needs commitment and action.

Is it not ironical that while concerns are being expressed over increasing number of hungry people in the world, we in this Organization are debating whether there should be a Real Zero Growth, or a Nominal Zero Growth in the budget of this Organization?

It is our earnest apppeal to all Member Nations that we must have Real Growth in the budget and activities of FAO, and I plead that we, the Members, should contribute our shares promptly to enable the Organization to meaningfully engage in this noble task.

India is more than willing to do what it can to assist the cause of food security in less developed countries. It has an abundance of human capital, talent, expertise and experience which we are willing to pool and share with all countries in need.

I am pleased to inform this forum that a core team from India has already started working in Eritrea under FAO's Special Programme for Food Security. Similar projects in Mozambique and Mongolia are likely to be finalized soon.

We in India view self-sufficiency in food grains as the most viable solution to achieve food security of the people. Food security is an inalienable right of the people and every nation is entitled to determine the production, distribution and consumption of food according to their preferences and cultural traditions. Moreover, agriculture is the main source of employment for large proportion of poor people in developing countries. Given the limitations of shifting people on a large scale to other sectors in such economies, development of agriculture is the only feasible proposition to alleviate poverty. In other words, where the root cause of food insecurity is poverty, local production is the best method for eliminating hunger.

Realizing the potential that already exists within the available technological bounds is of foremost importance in developing countries. But it is a fact that a paradigm shift in productivity of crops can only be realized through frontier technologies like biotechnology. We expect FAO to play an active role in information dissemination and technology transfer and institution building in this area. We are also conscious of the bio-safety concerns raised by widespread use of the new technologies. As a major international organization, FAO must provide a forum for science-based solutions to bio-safety concerns.

In a few days from now, the Seattle Ministerial Meeting will herald new negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture in WTO. I appreciate the initiative taken by FAO in underscoring the importance of food security of the people in developing countries and the distortions prevalent in the agricultural sectors in many countries which adversely affect the developing countries.

I am confident, FAO will continue to take steps to prepare the developing countries to effectively participate in the upcoming negotiations through proper analysis of proposals and enhancing the capacity of negotiators from developing countries.

I once again commend the role of FAO which has worked in close collaboration with developing countries to bring about a breakthrough in agriculture all these years. I feel confident that the same relationship will continue while ushering us into a new phase of agricultural development.

CHAIRPERSON

This is the first time that I am taking this chair, I seize this opportunity to thank you all for the confidence you are putting in me and through me, in my country, by electing me as Vice-Chairman of the Conference . By saying that, without any delay, I would like the Honourable Minister of Algeria to take the floor and deliver his speech.

Benalia BELHOUADJEB (Algérie) (Original language Arabic)

M. Le Président, M. le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, C'est pour moi une source de bonheur de nous retrouver de nouveau à l'occasion de cette Conférence de la FAO qui est la dernière de ce Millénaire.

Au nom de mon pays, je présente mes sincères félicitations à M. Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de notre Organisation tout en lui souhaitant plein succès dans sa tâche et lui réaffirmant l'appui de l'Algérie. Je ne manquerai pas de souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux Membres qui se sont joints à notre Organisation.

M. le Président, il est désirable que notre Organisation continue à faire face à un grand défi à l'origine de la tenue du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996 et qui consiste à garantir la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Depuis la tenue de ce Sommet, un développement continu s'est produit dans la recherche des raisons de la sous alimentation ainsi que celle de solutions appropriées à ces fléaux. Toutefois, les mesures préconisées ne peuvent en aucun cas aboutir si elles ne s'insèrent pas dans le cadre d'une vision globale; ce qui placerait l'intérêt de l'être humain et la promotion de ce dernier au cœur même des préoccupations. En effet, n'y a-t-il droit plus fondamental que celui à l'alimentation pour tous? Parmi les tâches de cette session, qui consistent à mesurer l'étendue de la réalisation des engagements pris par le Sommet mondial, nous constatons à travers les données disponibles que la situation de l'alimentation dans le monde continue à être source de préoccupation. Le niveau ou le rythme de lutte contre la pauvreté est demeuré en-deça du seuil fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En outre, le nombre de pays souffrant de problèmes alimentaires continue à être élevé, particulièrement en Afrique.

M. Le Président, les raisons qui résident d'ailleurs dans cette situation préoccupante sont nombreuses et elles sont dues en grande partie à un environnement économique mondial inapproprié. Le fardeau de la dette extérieure ainsi que les difficultés d'accès aux marchés des

pays développés, outre les catastrophes naturelles telles que: sécheresse, désertification, divers cyclones et inondations, sont autant d'obstacles aux efforts et stratégies de développement préconisées par grand nombre de nos pays. Cette situation s'applique de façon particulière à beaucoup de pays africains. Pour faire face à cette situation, l'une des solutions serait l'allégement du fardeau de la dette et la détermination de termes plus équitables d'échanges en matière commerciale, conduisant au renforcement de la coopération internationale à travers l'augmentation de l'assistance au développement.

M. Le Président, depuis un certain nombre d'années l'Algérie a entrepris l'exécution de nombreux projets de développement durables au profit de ses paysans et particulièrement du monde rural, visant les objectifs suivants:

- améliorer le revenu des paysans et des habitants du monde rural,
- garantir leur sécurité alimentaire,
- développer une exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles,
- dynamiser des systèmes de contrôle techniques de la santé animale et de prévention phytosanitaire,
- lutter contre la désertification et l'érosion des sols, et
- renforcer la réhabilitation des services de recherche et l'orientation agricole.

M. le Président, le défi d'interrompre cette poursuite du phénomène de pauvreté dans le monde rural nécessitant donc l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans les pays les plus pauvres ne pourrait être pris à la légère. On ne peut aboutir à ces résultats que grâce à une solidarité réelle de la part de la Communauté internationale, ainsi qu'un partenariat efficace avec les gouvernements et la société civile et une coopération étroite avec les organisations internationales et agences spécialisées, afin de permettre la conjonction des efforts dans leur ensemble. De son côté, l'Algérie réaffirme son engagement à contribuer et à fournir sa pleine contribution pour cette œuvre collective qui vise à garantir la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Telle est la bataille que nous engageons et le message qu'il nous plaît de partager avec la Communauté internationale.

Karóly TAMÁS (Hungary) (Original language Hungarian)

It is my privilege to address the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Hungarian Government. I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and also the Vice-Chairmen on your election. It is a special honour to greet the new FAO Member Nations. I trust the global character of FAO will further develop with the admission of these new nations. Last but not least, it is an honour for me to convey my Government's welcome to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Organization for his re-election. I wish him good health and every success to continue his activities.

A number of excellent documents have been prepared for the Conference and we feel the Secretariat should be commended for their quality and the concise presentation of the problems. My delegation appreciates among others the publication of the *Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*, since this document gives an excellent picture of global trends in food economy.

Trying to keep to the time available for the Heads of Delegation to make their contribution, allow me to give a brief account of the present situation of Hungarian agriculture.

Hungarian agriculture has also been adversely affected by the global agricultural crisis mentioned in the document. During the last few years Hungarian agriculture and in 1998 as well lagged behind both our expectations and its own the climatic and other potential. The gross agricultural production in 1998 remained also at the level of the previous period. As a matter of course, there were significant differences in the output of major agricultural sectors including in particular plant production and livestock production. The output of livestock production increased by 2.2 percent, whereas the aggregate performance of field crops and horticultural production declined by 3.4 percent in comparison to 1997. Following a recession in the food

industry in 1997, production increased by about 3 percent in 1998. Although the export value of agricultural and food products in US dollars decreased by 3 percent and imports increased by 10 percent, the foreign trade balance remained favourable in spite of the decline. The agricultural sector is able to produce a favourable foreign trade balance in the long term, thus contributing to a positive shift in Hungary's overall foreign trade balance. The importance of the Russian market has considerably decreased, making it essential to seek new market opportunities or extend existing ones in the Near and Far East, in North Africa and in South and Central America.

Here I would like to mention that agricultural output this year has been adversely affected by the most severe flood of the past 50 years, as well as by the following unusually heavy rains. The high water level of our rivers and the inland waters have caused immense damage to many thousands of farms and thus obviously to the Hungarian economy as a whole, putting a major burden on the central budget.

The importance of Hungarian agriculture in sustaining and developing world food security is not significant. Even so, the Hungarian agriculture uniquely in our region has been able to maintain its exporting capacity and keep its position as net exporter after the political and economic changes that we consider a major achievement and a promising basis for the future.

I would like to note that owing to the favourable natural endowments, well-prepared experts, production and breeding cultures – within average climatic conditions - our country is able to contribute to the world food security on a much higher level than previously.

The Hungarian Government is now facing one of the greatest challenges of the last year in this Millennium and in the first years of the Third. Hungarian agriculture has to achieve an improvement in its output, value added, its competitiveness, foreign trade, and every other aspect needed to be developed in order to ensure the high level food supply for the population. At the same time, we have to proceed with the transformation of the agricultural land and production structure, improve the living conditions of the rural population and the population-retaining capacity of villages, and to ensure compliance with agricultural law harmonization, quality, standardization, sanitary and environmental control requirements, that are prerequisites for our accession to the European Union.

One of the most important tasks to be coped with in the years to come is to prepare Hungary for accession to the European Union. Preliminary calculations show that Hungarian agriculture and food industry will be able to meet the challenges within the Union, including integration into a single market counting more than 450 million consumers. We trust in the demand and purchasing power of this market, and we are confident that we will be able to maintain our competitiveness.

Hungarian agriculture has recovered for years from its rock bottom state following the change of regime, but it also has to make major efforts to stabilize its position through increasing its output and improving the quality of management and other activities.

Last but not least, I would like to say some words about the cooperation between FAO and Hungary. I would like to express my sincere thanks to FAO Headquarters for the technical support FAO has given to Hungary during the past period through Technical Cooperation Programmes. This assistance, modest in US dollars terms, has been very significant. These projects have all concluded. We have one supplied to FAO in the subject of forestry and integrated rural development and one under preparation in the area of information technology. In 1998 we signed with FAO the Cooperation Agreement on Hungary's Contribution to FAO Trust Funds and Agreement on Cooperation with Universities and National Academic and Research Institutes. The possibilities gained by these agreements are utilized gradually.

As is known, the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe has been working in Budapest since 1996. The Office carries out its task with great efficiency. The office space enlargement of the Bureau is supported by the Hungarian Government, and hopefully the reconstruction work will be executed during 2000.

Here I also would like to stress our appreciation for the work of Mr Zbignev Karnicki, former Sub-Regional Representative. I welcome the initiative of Mr Jaroslav Suchman, the new Sub-Regional Representative since summer 1999. He is preparing a project that would give assistance to our country and to the other Central and Eastern European countries in accessing to the European Union. The necessary financial sources would be provided by the relevant commission of the European Union relying on the wide-ranging international knowledge and experience of FAO.

Hungary and FAO have always had excellent relations, and we have every reason to believe that our cooperation will persist and lead to mutual advantages.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Honourable Minister of Hungary. Before inviting the next speaker I would like, on behalf of all of us, to remind all the speakers that we have a time limit and please pay attention to the light on the left of the podium. We would appreciate if you observed the five-minute limit. And now, I would like to invite His Excellency Mr. Suleiman Frangie, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon to take the floor.

Suleiman FRANGIE (Liban) (Original language Arabic)

M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai le plaisir au nom du Liban de vous exprimer mes sincères félicitations à le Docteur M. Jacques Diouf l'occasion de sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation. Je veux également exprimer mon appréciation à son Excellence le Président de la Conférence qui a été élu à la présidence de la session actuelle.

Je tiens tout d'abord à rendre hommage aux réalisations de la FAO qui apporte son assistance aux peuples qui en ont besoin, qui partage les préoccupations des états et des communautés en développement et qui œuvrent en vue de protéger l'agriculture contre la disparition. Depuis la tenue du Sommet alimentaire mondiale, les états du monde se sont engagés à appliquer les Résolutions de ce sommet ainsi que son Plan d'action et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire et de lutter contre la pauvreté et la faim en apportant son assistance aux citoyens afin d'accroître la qualité de leur production agricole durable.

L'Organisation a élaboré un document concernant le Cadre stratégique pour la période 2000-2015, afin d'aider les Pays Membres appliquer ce Plan en mettant l'accent sur l'importance de ce Plan et la nécessité d'assurer les ressources suffisantes afin de le mettre en œuvre.

Nous suivons de très près les réformes qui ont été réalisées par l'Organisation, les plus saillantes sont les suivantes: la centralisation dans les activités de l'Organisation, évaluation des programmes dans le Cadre stratégique et le modèle de programmes, réalisation des économies nécessaires ainsi que l'amélioration de la performance; l'intégration des questions de parité homme et femme au niveau de l'Organisation. Nous souhaitons que soit accélérée la restructuration institutionnelle dans le domaine administratif et exécutif et que les réformes économiques soient découlées.

Mesdames et messieurs, nous suivons de près la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Nous apprécions les réalisations positives des Organisations internationales telles que la FAO. Nous partageons également les préoccupations des états et des communautés en développement. Au Liban nous vivons les difficultés quotidiennes qui entravent notre capacité à promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire en raison des agressions quotidiennes. L'occupation continue de la part d'Israël d'une partie de notre territoire alors que le Liban s'engage à respecter le conventions et Résolutions internationales et les mettre en application. Nous constatons qu'il y a un État Membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unis qui fait fis des Résolutions et des Conventions Internationales, et ne les respectes pas et refuse de mettre en application la Résolution 425 dans le cadre des démarches exécutives que nous avons réalisées. Les plus

saillantes sont les suivantes: l'élaboration d'un plan agricole adapté aux possibilités matérielles visant à accroître la production et la capacité compétitive et la participation de la femme dans les zones rurales dans le cadre du développement intégré.

Monsieur le Président, au nom du Liban je vous salue à vous tous et je souhaite que les travaux de cette Conférence soient couronnés de succès au niveau de nos attentes. Merci.

Kim SUNG-HOON (Korea, Republic of)

Mr Director-General and distinguished delegates; first of all, I would like to also join my colleagues in congratulating Mr Jacques Diouf on his reappointment as Director-General of FAO.

I believe that each country needs to reflect its own conditions for food and agriculture in the formulation of food security strategies. Food-importing countries should take duly into account their vulnerability to the inherent risks in food supplies to keep up with their national minimum requirements.

In this context, I cannot overemphasize the importance of precautionary measures in preparing for food security to ensure the availability and accessibility of the main stable food, reflecting the needs of each country.

Korean Agriculture, apart from the continued contradictions following the Uruguay Round Agreement, faced unprecedented hardships that include the bankruptcy of family farms caused by soaring prices of imported feed grain due to the impact of the financial crisis in late 1997. Had it not been for enough rice stock available at that time, serious social unrest would have been brought about in Korea, as was the case in other Asian countries.

In view of these perspectives, it is barely agreeable that food security can be ensured through free trade and agricultural liberalization.

Moreover, the argument that trade liberalization in agriculture should be considered as in the industrial sector seems hardly acceptable because it totally ignores the unique characteristics of agriculture, and it will obviously have significant detrimental effects on the food security of importing countries.

Beyond its primary function of providing food and fibre, agriculture generally generates multi-funtionality including environmental preservation, flood control, economic viability of rural communities, maintenance of landscape and culture and, particularly, food security and safety.

Despite its invaluable contribution to society, the market system does not internalize the true value of agriculture should there be the so-called market failure. Without proper policy measures to correct market failures, the true value would be faded out.

In this context, I would like once again to emphasize that more specific and appropriate provisions for multi-functional role of agriculture should be set up in the next WTO negotiations.

And, furthermore, I cannot but say that the Uruguay Round Agreement has failed to achieve a balance of interests in food-exporting and importing countries by imposing heavy obligations on the part of importing countries.

In order to ensure the smooth continuation of the reform process, the next negotiation should take a flexible and gradual approach that can accommodate the diverse agricultural situations of each country.

On this occasion, I wish to stress the need for FAO to play a more active role than ever in the next negotiation, particularly in the context of food security of the less-developed and food-importing countries. FAO activities should be directed towards achieving the food security of individual Member Nations.

Given the increasing need to sustain natural resources and preserve biological diversity, it is important that we further promote environmentally-friendly agriculture within the context of sustainable agricultural development. I believe that environmentally-friendly farming practices will certainly be one of the solutions to tackle environmental degradation and protect eco-systems at risk in the twenty first century.

Turning to the ongoing domestic implementation, I would like to take this occasion to inform you that the Republic of Korea is placing higher emphasis on agricultural marketing reform and knowledge-based farming with a view to assisting farmers in their efforts to enhance agricultural income by raising value-added agricultural production.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, I would like to close my statement by expressing my hope that this Conference will meet with fruitful outcomes for the benefit of all the participating Member Nations.

Thank you very much for your attention.

José António PINTO MONTEIRO (Cap Vert) (Original language Portuguese)

Sous votre direction, notre Conférence connaîtra la réussite. Je tiens également à féliciter les membres du Secrétariat et les nouveaux Membres de la FAO, qui contribueront certainement à l'amélioration des résultats de notre Organisation et à l'atteinte des objectifs fondamentaux que nous recherchons. Je félicite ágelement M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, qui a réalisé un travail excellent pour la FAO.

La Conférence de la FAO est un forum privilégié pour débattre de la situation agricole, et cette réunion se tient en un lieu et à un moment de transition à un siècle nouveau de démarrage d'un nouveau millénaire, importants pour l'humanité toute entière. Il nous faut donc réfléchir car il y a ici des facteurs très importants pour l'humanité. Je tiens à faire référence notamment aux 8 millions de personnes qui souffrent de sous-alimentation. Même si nous avons réussi à réduire ce nombre, le rythme de décroissance est encore insuffisant, car nous prévoyons en effet une diminution de moitié d'ici 2015 et nous n'y parvenons pas.

Malgré les efforts de tous, nous sommes confrontés à des déséquilibres énormes d'un pays à l'autre et au sein de ces pays, se traduisant par une augmentation de la pauvreté, du chômage, des maladies et des complications, notamment avec dégradation des écho-systèmes et du bien-être des populations. On ne peut pas accepter cela, il faut lutter contre la pauvreté. La pauvreté est un fléau qui représente en fait un déni de durabilité qui nuit au développement qualitatif. La réduction de la pauvreté est un impératif et un outil puissant au service de la sécurité alimentaire. Pour la plupart des sociétés, la lutte quotidienne pour l'accès à l'alimentation pour une grande partie de la population absorbe l'essentiel des énergies disponibles.

La capacité de réduction progressive de la pauvreté est en tous cas très largement compromise dans le contexte actuel de la diminution de l'assistance au développement officiel, notamment dans le cas des pays les moins développés ou habituellement l'investissement étranger prend un certain temps à se réaliser. Ces facteurs de préoccupation sont réels pour nous et exigent aussi une solidarité internationale.

La FAO a fait un travail méritoire pendant le mandat du Président sortant; maintenant il s'agit de concrétiser et de continuer. Etant donné les nouveaux défis, il nous faudra bien sûr l'intervention plus large que celle fixée dans le cadre du travail stratégique pour 2000-2015. Il est clair que la FAO aura besoin de ressources substantielles pour rejoindre ses objectifs à long terme. Il faudra également que l'on puisse continuer a travailler sur des élements comme le Programme de coopération technique.

Il n'est pas possible d'accroître et d'étendre la production alimentaire, de réduire la pauvreté et de faire un transfert de technologies, de faire connaître les résultats de la recherche, de réduire les déséquilibres marquants entre les différentes régions du monde, qui causent des conflits et de

l'insécurité, sans avoir une coopération effective et efficace entre les pays industrialisés et les pays en développement. Nous nous félicitons donc de l'initiative du Gouvernement des Pays- Bas qui a préparé et accueilli la Conférence sur les caractères multi-fonctionnels de l'agriculture et des terres qui s'est tenue à Maastricht en septembre1999. Grâce à cette importante Conférence, nous pensons que le soutien sera continu pour tous nos pays. Le Cap Vert est un petit pays de la région du Sahel qui a un taux d'auto-suffisance alimentaire faible et dépend d'autres importations pour nourrir ses populations. Ce qui est donc essentiel pour nous.

Le Cap Vert a mis en oeuvre un ensemble de programmes dans le secteur de l'agriculture, de la pêche et des micro-entreprises, afin d accroître la production alimentaire. Le Gouvernement a récemment créé un système d'information intégré pour la sécurité alimentaire, a mis en oeuvre des programmes de formation de lutte contre la pauvreté et, a également prévu la formation professionnelle, un programme d'assistance rurale, un programme de cantines scolaires permettant de fournir chaque jour des repas chauds à plus de 80 000 étudiants dans nos écoles.

Ces initiatives ne suffisent pas pour obtenir un niveau de sécurité souhaitable pour notre pays, car il faut tenir compte aussi des contraintes imposées par les conditions géo-climatiques et notre insularité. Le Cap Vert suggère donc pour le siècle prochain que la FAO, en partenaria avec les Pays Membres les plus développés, continue d'avoir où d'accorder une attention particulière à l'agriculture des petites îles en développement. Dans cet égard, je tiens notamment à féliciter la FAO pour l'initiative de la Conférence ministérielle sur l'agriculture des petites îles qui s'est tenue à Rome en mars 1999.

Pour terminer, j'aimerai également adresser tous mes voeux à la FAO et à ses Etats Membres face au millénaire qui nous attend, j'espère que nous pourrons construire un monde sans famine, sans sous-nutrition, plein de paix et de bonheur.

L.J. BRINKHORST (Netherlands)

It gives me of course great pleasure, first of all, to extend my warm congratulations to Mr Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of FAO last Saturday.

Since the World Food Summit three years ago, FAO as well as national Governments have shown a strong commitment to the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the Summit. I believe that it is very necessary to have a clear picture of where and how to focus our joint efforts.

There is very little progress in reaching the overall goal of the Summit to halve the number of undernourished people to 420 million by 2015. Reducing by 8 million is simply not good enough, I think, as the Director-General has recalled. There is, thus, a need to know why we are making not enough progress.

FAO 's recent publication *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* is quite useful in this respect. It shows that progress has been very uneven in the world. Food insecurity is a problem of poverty, low productivity, lack of purchasing power and isolation of rural areas. If we seriously try to solve these problems, we have to focus on these areas in the countries indicated in the surveys.

One topic which could help and should be high on the agenda is biotechnology. In my view it can play an important role in furthering food security for all.

Discussions about biotechnology have been taking place in society for some years now and an increasing number of citizens think about it, and emotions sometimes run high. It is typically a fear where black-and-white thinking threatens to prevail. In my opinion, the application of biotechnology can provide higher added value in the agricultural production as a whole. It can strengthen market positions. And I believe that the advantages of public health and curbing environmental pollution are concerned. These advantages are far greater than the disadvantages

which are often described in detail. And we may not close our eyes to the international development either.

A crucial element is the equal sharing of the advantages of biotechnology in industrialized and developing countries. We should work together to close the existing gaps between those countries. A very useful instrument in this respect is the development of partnerships between developed and developing countries on a public or private basis. Elements of such a partnership are the transfer and exchange of knowledge and financial means directed towards a development of knowledge, policy-making and institution building.

Research centres and universities have an important role to play in the development and implementation of biotechnology. And in my view, therefore, the central challenge for Governments all over the world is to stimulate utilization of opportunities while at the same time guarding against risks. And civil society organizations should play an important role in this process as well.

One other topic I would like to put forward in this respect is the need to make progress in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Eighth session of CSD in April next year will focus on this subject. That is why the Netherlands and FAO took the initiative to organize the Conference entitled *Cultivating Our Futures* - the conference on the multi-functional character of agriculture and land in Maastricht this year.

The main objective of this Conference was to identify concrete policy options and practical methods in order to make progress in reaching the goals and targets of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Action for the World Food Summit.

I am satisfied with the report of the Chairman of the Conference and consider it a valuable contribution to the whole CSD process. Recommendations in the report of the Chairman could easily be used as building blocks for an action-oriented decision of CSD-8 to further sustainable agriculture, rural development and food security initiatives. For the implementation of goals and targets, action-oriented decisions of the CSD are necessary. If that is the case, I think we really had a successful conference.

My final point is the Strategic Framework. This Conference is to adopt the FAO Strategic Framework for the next 15 years. I believe this is an important document because it is necessary to have a strategic vision concentrating on the comparative advantage of FAO. Priority-setting has so far not been a specific virtue of this organization. But nevertheless, in view of the improvements made, the present version is acceptable to my country.

The new programming model called the Medium-Term Plan here offers a new opportunity for priority-setting. And synergy with Rome-based international institutions is an essential component for successful implementation.

To conclude, the next Millennium is not something very special for Rome. After all it has survived already two Millennium. But only monuments remain the same. The Centre of Excellence that is FAO deserves a dynamic future. I wish the Director-General and the whole organization at the beginning of his new term office. *Bon courage* and success in leading the organization into the new century.

Support from the Netherlands will, as always, be constructive.

Azouz ENNIFAR (Tunisie)

Je voudrais présenter très brièvement les grandes lignes du discours que le Ministre de l'agriculture tunisien aurait souhaité prononcer à cette réunion.

Je souhaiterai que le texte qui sera distribué en langue arabe puisse être publié dans le cadre des documents de notre Organisation. Je vous présente à vous même ainsi que nos très vives félicitations pour votre nomination à la Présidence et à la Vice-Présidence . Je voudrais

également dire toute la satisfaction que nous éprouvons à la suite de la brillante réélection de notre Directeur général, M. Diouf, auquel je transmets les très vives félicitations de mon Gouvernement et nos voeux de succès. A cet égard, nous lui adressons nos remerciements et notre considération pour l'action que la FAO ne cesse de déployer sous sa direction dans la réalisation des programmes visant la réduction de la nutrition dans le monde.

Nous nous félicitons à cette occasion de l'avanguardisme de la FAO et lui exprimons notre soutien dans la mise en oeuvre de ses programmes. La délégation tunisienne lance un appel pour stimuler et renforcer ses efforts en vue de garantir aux Pays Membres un développement durable et instaurer une paix juste et globale dans le monde.

Tout en souhaitant la bienvenue aux nouveux Membres qui ont été acceptés au sein de notre Organisation il y a quelques jours, je salue les efforts déployés par l'Organisation en vue de la préparation de documents du Cadre stratégique pour la période 2000-2015 qui constitue une réalisation de la plus haute importance en raison de la richesse des programmes qu'elle comporte. Nous nous devons, en tant qu'État Membre d'apporter notre soutien à l'action de l'Organisation et de fournir le maximum d'efforts pour la mise en place des fondements de la sécurité alimentaire dans nos pays, valorisant les ressources financières et techniques allouées aux activités ayant trait à la sécurité alimentaire. Nous déclarons notre adhésion au Plan d'action présenté par M. le Directeur général, ainsi qu'au projet de budget 2000-2001 sur la base minimum d'une Croissance Réelle Zéro.

La sécurité alimentaire en Tunisie durant les années 1997-98 a connu une évolution importante tant au niveau de la production des principaux produits alimentaires en terme de productivité. Ces indicateurs ne sont pas le fruit du hasard mais le résultat logique des réformes économiques et politques agricoles mises en place par mon pays. Le changement du 7 novembre 1987 intervenu sous la conduite du Président Ben Ali a joué un rôle de cataliseur dans la consolidation des acquits en matière de sécurité alimentaire à travers l'implantation de projets de développement et d'actions de solidarité financés par les instruments traditionnels mais aussi par le fonds de solidarité national 26/26 ainsi que par la Banque nationale de solidarité qui a été créé spécialement pour apporter son concours financier aux petits producteurs agricoles et aux petits métiers.

Au mois de septembre 1999 un autre fond dénomé 21/21 consacré à l'emploi des jeunes était mis en place. Ses programmes constituent une expérience unique visant à cerner les poches de pauvreté et à améliorer les conditions de vie des populations rurales et leur niveau d'alimentation dans l'ensemble du pays.

Depuis le sommet alimentaire mondial et en éxécution de ces recommandations, la Tunisie a mis en oeuvre un certain nombre de programmes et de stratégies dont notamment , je citerais très rapidement: l'élaboration de politiques publiques à même de favoriser le développement économique et social, la création d'opportunités de formation et de perfectionnement en matière de production alimentaire de transformation et de distribution, la programmation et la constitution de stocks provisionnels de produits alimentaires et l'utilisation de technologies de pointe, la lutte contre les catastrophes et les phénomènes naturels, l'élaboration de plans et de programmes pour la modernisation et la gestion de l'eau, avec l'application de techniques d'irrigations modernes, la mise en place des infrastructures de base, telles que l'eau potable, et en accordant dans le cadre de ces programmes une place fondamentale à la femme rurale. La recherche a tiré profit de l'élaboration de plans sectoriels pour stimuler la production et la promotion des produits stratégiques de base.

La délégation tunisienne est persuadée que de par les moyens dont elle dispose et sur la base de la riche expérience acquise dans les domaines de la planification de la programmation, de l'éxécution et du suivi, l'organisation alimentaire mondiale est en mesure d'accomplir des objectifs qui lui sont assignés. Collaborons donc pour franchir concrètement les étapes nécessaires à la consolidation de notre Organisation afin de lui permettre de contribuer

d'avantage à la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire pour tous les peuples. Au vu des succès de l'expérience tunisienne du fonds national de solidarité 26/26 , je renouvelle l'appel lancé par le Président Ben Ali pour l'institution au niveau mondial d'un fonds de solidarité qui serait appelé à intervenir pour régler les problèmes de la sous-nutrition et du manque de produits alimentaires et à mettre en place les infrastructures de base nécessaires à une vie décente dans les régions pauvres du monde.

Tokuichiro TAMAZAWA (Japan) (Original language Japanese)

I am immensely honoured to have this opportunity to represent the Japanese Government at this FAO Conference.

May I first express our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and friends of victims in the plane crash in Kosovo.

I would like to sincerely congratulate you, Mr Chairman, Your Excellency Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb, for your election as the Chairman of this Conference.

I would also like to express my wholehearted congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the FAO Director-General and I do hope that he will continue to exercise his strong leadership.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the four new FAO Members.

This Conference is held at a crucial time with the launching of the forthcoming WTO negotiations, in which agricultural trade rules in the Twenty-first Century will be decided. In order to resolve problems relating to food and agriculture in the Twenty-first Century, I believe that we need to properly handle, not only hunger and trade issues, but also concerns of civil society and consumers, such as multi-functionality of agriculture, food security and quality of food. In handling these concerns, we need to establish food, agriculture and trade policies in which the agriculture of each country may be able to coexist.

Taking this into account, our Government formulated the basic law on food, agriculture and rural areas, which took effect last July, and under this law we are currently making significant efforts in reforming agricultural policies.

It is our grave concern that around 800 million people are still chronically undernourished. Also, we can not be optimistic about the mid-term and long-term outlook of food supply and demand situation.

Achieving food security is the issue of the priorities not only to developing countries but to the whole world, including the developed countries. Therefore, taking into account the agreement achieved at the World Food Summit, each country should further recognize the importance of ensuring food security. I strongly urge FAO to keep this issue as one of the most important areas.

Especially in the areas of hunger and malnutrition, in the short-term we have been extending assistance to developing countries to ensure food supply through bilateral and multilateral food aid, such as WFP, while in the long-term we have been extending assistance to improve their sustainable food production capability through the rice production increase programme in sub-Saharan Africa, carrying out aid for increased food production and so on.

Agriculture stems from the history and culture of each country, so that agriculture has multiple roles in the national conditions of each country. These roles' so-called multi-functionality include environmental conservation such as land conservation, fostering of water resource and formation of scenic landscape, as well as maintenance and revitalization of the rural community, which are very important in both developed and developing countries. We place great importance on the roles and the functions that agriculture displays. Therefore, we insist that the multi-functionality of agriculture should be given due consideration as one of the non-trade concerns in the forthcoming WTO negotiations.

I ask FAO to carry out further study on multi-functionality in the context of agricultural policy by mobilizing its wealthy experience and knowledge.

The *Codex Alimentarius Commission's* activities have been gaining importance in food quality, labelling and safety. I would like to assure you that my Government, in charing the Biotechnology Task Force, will continue to contribute to the activities of this Commission.

In the forest and forestry sector, in view of the continuing worldwide forest loss and degradation, we need to give due consideration to the relationship between trade and environment so that forest-product trade will not encourage unsustainable forest management. I sincerely hope that FAO, in collaboration with other international organizations, will continue its efforts to achieve forest management on a global scale.

In the fisheries sector, sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, which is the fundamental of fisheries, is in a critical situation because of overfishing capacity and illegal fisheries. We believe that the following measures are important: i) world-wide reduction of excessive fishing capacity; ii) comprehensive management of the marine ecosystem; and iii) establishment of trade rules which contribute to conservation and management of the fisheries resources.

I strongly expect FAO's contribution to the implementation of these measures, because FAO is the only UN organization with expertise.

Now, from the viewpoint of effective management, I would like to support FAO's prioritization on normative activities and broadening partnership and alliance with the other international organizations and NGOs.

I strongly request FAO to actively facilitate the utilization of important results of FAO's activities and its expertise in the forthcoming WTO negotiations.

My country is scheduled to host the next Asia Pacific Regional Conference. You will be assured that, through such an opportunity, we will continue to contribute to further resolving the problems of world food and agriculture and the enhancement of FAO's functions.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and, as you all know, Turkey again has been hit by a devastating earthquake. On behalf of the Conference and on my behalf I express my deep condolences and sympathy to the Government and people of Turkey. I pray to Almighty God to bring relief and comfort to all those who have lost their loved ones. Because of this sad event, the Minister of Agriculture of Turkey was not able to attend this Session of the Conference and now I invite His Excellency, Mr Necati Utkan, the Ambassador of Turkey, to take the floor.

Necati UTKAN (Turquie)

Permettez-moi de commencer par vous informer des circonstances dans laquelle se déroule ma présente intervention. En fait c'est le Ministre de l'agriculture et des affaires d'usage de Turquie S.E. le Professeur Hüsnü Yusuf Gökalp qui devait s'adresser aujourd'hui au nom de la Turquie à votre auguste assemblée. Néanmoins, bien qu'il eut désiré remplir cette tâche personnelle, le Ministre après avoir participé au vote qui a eu lieu le 13 novembre pour la nomination du Directeur général de notre Organisation et lui ayant présenté le soir même ses félicitations et ses meilleurs voeux de succès, est rentré d'urgence en Turquie hier matin. Ce départ anticipé est dû à un nouveau séisme qui a frappé notre pays le vendredi 12 novembre, et qui n'a certainement pas échappé à l'attention de la Conférence. Malheureusement ce séisme était d'une ampleur presque équivalente à celui dont mon pays a déjà souffert en août dernier.

Comme j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole pour la première fois au sein de l'OAA, auprès de laquelle je viens d'assumer mes fonctions en tant que Représentant permanent, je voudrais

présenter mes félicitations à vous, M. le Pésident, pour votre élection à la Présidence de la présente Conférence, ainsi qu'aux autres membres du bureau.

Par ailleurs, je tiens tout particulièrement à féliciter M. Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de cette Organisation pour un nouveau terme au cours duquel je lui souhaite la continuation de ses succès. Je voudrais vous assurer M. le Président et M. le Directeur général de l'appui total de la Turquie dans vos travaux. Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue aux Membres qui viennent d'adhérer à notre Organisation.

(continues in English)

The original text of the statement due to be delivered by my Minister will be distributed.

The devastating earthquake which struck Turkey on 17 August led to substantial production losses both in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Nevertheless, in spite of this negative factor, the measures taken by the Turkish Government help overcome any negative repercussions concerning the supply of agricultural products and food commodities and, thus, avoided nutritional deficiency in the region hit by the earthquake and/or in other parts of the country.

I would like to state in this context, our gratitude and esteem to all the countries and international organizations for having promptly extended their assistance.

Turkey gives importance to the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, and is deploying efforts to put them into effect in her national programmes and projects. Thus, my Government has accelerated the work for the completion of the South-eastern Anatolya project, which is fully financed through our national resources. As a result of these efforts, irrigated agriculture has started in the region. Once this comprehensive project will be completed, 1.7 millions hectares of land will be open to irrigation, leading to a vast increase in the agricultural output of my country. The project will not merely contribute to the health and nutrition and welfare of our people, but it will also contribute substantially to the health, nutrition and welfare of our neighbours.

A project entitled *Capacity-Building in Policy Aspects of Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus* has been elaborated in cooperation with FAO and UNDP.

Within the framework of the South-South Cooperation, Turkey has indicated her wish to cooperate with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in agricultural and rural development. Joint Turkish Government and FAO project formulation missions have already visited these countries, and the relevant projects should be finalized for implementation by the year 2000.

Activities in fisheries resources are very substantial for food supply and employment. With the expected future increase in world population, the importance of fisheries in achieving food security will increase further. We expected that FAO will lead activities to this effect. In this context, we would like to carry out studies with the countries of the Region for the assessment and rational utilization of fish stocks in the eastern Mediterranean within the framework of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. An adequate infrastructure exists in Turkey, and we expect FAO's efforts for initiating this cooperation. To achieve an effective cooperation comprising effective control of foot-and-mouth disease in the Middle East and the Near East, the establishment of a Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Commission in the Middle East will be very useful, not only for the Member Nations of the Region, but also for Member Nations of Europe.

We support the overall strategy which will be implemented by FAO between 2000 and 2015. Nevertheless, duplication of work with other UN Agencies should be avoided. Therefore, we believe that Part A of the *Strategy* needs further refining. With a view to avoiding any crisis which might erupt in any country in food or agricultural products, the responsibility of coordinating activities should rest with the country implementing these activities.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my very best wishes for the success of this Conference.

Rafael FLORES CARVAJAL (Panamá)

La delegación de Panamá se complace que los representantes de Argelia, Cuba, la República Islamica de Irán y Países Bajos hayan sido escogidos para presidir las reuniones de este 30° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

De igual manera, deseamos presentar una cordial bienvenida a los pueblos y Gobiernos que ingresan a nuestra Organización en el presente período de sesiones.

Deseamos resaltar que el nuevo Gobierno de Panamá, por primera vez en su historia, está presidido por una mujer campesina que por sus vivencias comprende plenamente al sector y a la familia rural que, en nuestro caso, representa el 70 por ciento de la población comprendidos entre la pobreza y la extrema pobreza.

Ante esta realidad nuestra Presidenta ha establecido como objetivo prioritario del Gobierno: la lucha contra la pobreza y, en particular, contra la pobreza rural. Estamos firmemente convencidos de que el concepto de seguridad alimentaria, en este mundo globalizado, se refiere a la vida misma de las personas. En nuestra opinión, el importante objetivo de aumentar la producción, la productividad y la competitividad agrícola constituyen sólo una parte de la solución a la seguridad alimentaria.

Para nosotros este concepto significa garantizar el acceso a los alimentos y que éstos sean nutritivos e inocuos a fin de asegurar el derecho de todas las personas, en cualquier lugar y circunstancia, de llevar una vida sana y productiva, libre de los riesgos de la malnutrición y de la inanición, que les impide participar en el proceso global del desarrollo económico.

Se deduce entonces que, para lograr el desarrollo socio-económico de nuestras naciones manteniendo ritmos de crecimiento coherentes con los de la economía global, es ineludible la necesidad de una integración plena y sostenible del sector rural a la economía de mercado y, para alcanzar estos objetivos, es necesario eliminar radicalmente las causas de la pobreza.

En este orden de ideas, cabe destacar que el tema de la pobreza es multifactorial y que involucra al Estado, a la sociedad civil y a la empresa privada, por lo tanto, exige la participación ponderada de la acción de todas las organizaciones cuya perspectiva sea el bienestar socioeconómico. Visto desde esta óptica, un desafío consiste en formular políticas que nos permitan lograr la competitividad, y la fórmula económica nos indica que esto sólo se logra a través de la inversión en función de la productividad con estructuras adecuadas hacia el proceso de comercialización, en donde la participación del productor rural sea proactiva.

A nuestro juicio, la FAO representa el más destacado foro para la recopilación y la difusión de la información agroalimentaria mundial. Tenemos, asimismo, la certeza de su función como escenario para la formulación de las políticas agrícolas globales y que éstas puedan servir de base para la modulación y el establecimiento de políticas nacionales. Sin menoscabar la importante función de la cooperación y la asistencia técnica internacional, como lo son el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria y el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Al respecto, la República de Panamá cuenta con capacidad instalada y fácilmente accesible al mundo en el complejo educativo de la Ciudad del Saber, ubicado en el área revertida, adyacente al canal de Panamá dónde podría acoger la iniciativa para el establecimiento de un Centro de Excelencia de la FAO para la capacitación y extensión agrícola hacia los países en desarrollo.

Queremos participarles que el próximo 31 de diciembre, coincidiendo con el fin del siglo y el inicio del nuevo milenio, celebraremos la transferencia de nuestro Canal a la plena soberanía nacional. Este hecho histórico conlleva una responsabilidad nacional y mundial; mantener el funcionamiento y la operación eficiente de la vía inter-oceánica para beneficio de la comunidad

internacional. Queremos resaltar, que por el Canal de Panamá transitan un promedio de 14 000 barcos al año. Esto quiere decir que unos 40 barcos utilizan diariamente esta escalera acuática; si tomamos en cuenta que cada barco necesita 52 millones de galones de agua dulce en su tránsito trans-oceánico, que se vierten al mar, se han utilizado 10 veces el consumo humano diario de agua de toda el área metropolitana, donde se concentra más del 50 por ciento de la población de nuestro país.

En el marco del Programa Permanente de Cooperación FAO/Banco Mundial, Panamá desarrolla un estudio para el manejo sostenible del sector rural dentro de la cuenca del Canal. Consideramos que la FAO, dada la importancia de este tema, pudiese concertar y ampliar los esfuerzos dentro del marco del Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial cuyos objetivos coinciden plenamente con el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales de la cuenca hidrográfica del Canal de Panamá.

Nuestra delegación consideró que el nivel del programa de labores y presupuesto para el período 2000-2001, no puede en ningún caso ser decreciente; además, estamos seguros que el Marco Estratégico representa una necesidad ineludible para el futuro de la FAO. Dentro del mismo, opinamos que es imprescindible promover la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, en concordancia con la Agenda 21, especialmente los programas 10 y 14, que promueven la seguridad alimentaria. En este caso reconocemos la excelente gestión ejecutada, donde los Órganos Rectores de la FAO han demostrado eficiencia y eficacia, lo mismo que una alta capacidad técnica que se ha hecho sentir en todas las regiones. Al respecto, expresamos nuestra especial satisfacción por el fortalecimiento de los programas de género.

Para terminar, quisiera expresar al Dr. Jacques Diouf nuestras felicitaciones por su reelección como Director General de esta Organización y reiterarle, además, nuestra disponibilidad y apoyo para el éxito de sus funciones.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you, the Honourable Vice Minister of Panama and I appeal again to all honourable speakers to observe the five-minute limit on the delivery of their speeches. And now for the second time, and this time hopefully correctly, I invite Mr Bruce Ross, Director-General and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand, to deliver his speech.

Bruce ROSS (New Zealand)

May I first join others in congratulating Dr Diouf on his re-election and wish him every success in guiding the work of the Organization during the next six years. The persistence of hunger and malnutrition in the world shows that the challenges and opportunities in agriculture and in tackling poverty and hunger are as great today as at any time in FAO's history. But we are making progress. We now have the blueprint of the World Food Summit Plan of Action to guide our national and collective efforts, and FAO has a central role to play in monitoring national progress and coordination of international efforts.

In this regard, New Zealand strongly supports this Strategic Framework document, developed by the Organization, and the valuable contribution it can make. While this key document provides the vision, and identifies the strategies, we see the Medium-Term Plan as critical to implementing this. We will be looking for a results-oriented plan with clearly defined outcomes and verifiable performance indicators incorporated into a well-defined evaluation process.

We welcome all new Members to this Organization. New Zealand is especially delighted that in the South Pacific where FAO is so ably represented by the Sub-Regional Office in Apia, the Organization has been joined at this Conference by several new Members: Niue, Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and, we trust, Kiribati, later today. We warmly welcome them to the Southwest Pacific regional group within FAO. We are sure they will benefit in their agricultural development from FAO's technical expertise.

New Zealand gives high priority to FAO's normative work on *Codex* and plant protection, for example. We also support the work of the Forestry and Fisheries programmes. Useful work is under way on fishing capacity management including analysis of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and of fisheries subsidies. Overall, this normative work contributes in a substantial way to developing and upholding FAO's reputation as a Centre of Excellence. We welcome the valuable start to the work of the *Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures*, chaired by a New Zealander. This body is developing and adopting international standards on phytosanitary measures and undertaking an assessment of the phytosanitary capabilities of the developing countries. We urge contracting parties to accept the revised text of the *International Plant Protection Convention* so that it can come into force.

The World Food Summit Plan of Action recognized that more open trade in agriculture is a key element in building food security and promoting economic development. The Organization has played a positive and valuable role in helping many Members adjust to changes resulting from the Uruguay Round. FAO is well placed to extend its capacity-building activities for the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations in conjunction with the WTO and other partners. New Zealand has been particularly pleased to contribute to a number of trade policy seminars organized for Pacific island countries by the Southwest Pacific Sub-Regional Office in Samoa. A further meeting in this series of training activities is to be held in Auckland next year.

We look to the new round of multilateral trade negotiations to reduce international trade distortions and provide greater opportunities for developing countries and efficient agricultural producers. To maximize the benefits of better access to markets and a fairer agricultural training system, there will need to be further production and infrastructural improvements to agriculture in developing countries. Resources must be found for this. We have the technical and biological resources to feed everyone on this planet. And the financial resources are not lacking. This is borne out by a rather uncomfortable fact. In recent years the ODA flow to agriculture in developing countries has been less than US$ 10 billion per year, and it has been declining. This is the sum that the developed countries give to agriculture, which in this definition includes foresty, fisheries, water and the environment. US$ 10 billion sounds like a lot of money, but compare that US$ 10 billion with the support that the OECD countries are giving to their own farmers every year: not US$ 10 billion, not US$ 100 billion, but US$ 360 billion. It seems unbelievable, but it is true. The agricultural and trade policies of OECD countries result in their giving more than 30 times as much to their own farmers as they are giving in aid to agriculture in developing countries. What makes this even more outrageous is that this support to OECD agriculture contributes to depressing international prices and, therefore, the incomes of efficient producers; many of them developing countries. If rich countries want to subsidize their farmers for whatever reason, including the achievement of multi-functional objectives, they should do it in ways that are transparent, targetted, decoupled from production, and which do not distort production and trade.

I have mentioned some of the challenges and opportunities facing world agriculture and FAO. Meeting these challenges will require a range of responses. FAO as an organization will need to continue to adapt in a flexible and responsive way with a commitment from all levels of the Secretariat to capitalizing on its comparative advantages and coordinating closely with its partners and stakeholders. We recognize and applaud reforms made within FAO over recent years to reduce costs. However, international organizations face the same physical constraints as Governments and must make the best use of available resources. Further improvements are possible in FAO through priority-setting and a clear focus on core activities. We have taken this approach in New Zealand where we have undergone considerable public-sector reform and fiscal discipline. A challenging work programme for the next biennium can be achieved within a Zero Nominal Growth budget, which should allow the Organization to undertake its priority activities and achieve our shared goals.

Salvator NTHIABOSE (Burundi)

Je voudrais esquisser au nom du gouvernement de la République du Burundi et à mon nom propre la situation de l'alimentation de mon pays. Le secteur agricole du Burundi est la clef de voûte de l'économie contribuant pour environ à 50 pour cent du produit intérieur brut, occupant plus de 90 pour cent de la population active et participe pour plus de 90 pour cent aux recettes d'exportation du pays. Les cultures vivrières largement auto-consommées constituent l'essentiel de la production agricole et occupent 80 pour cent de superficie emblavée. Malgré cette importance, l'évolution du secteur agricole a été globalement marquée ces dernières années par une faible performance liée à des facteurs aussi bien endogènes qu'exogènes, la perte de la fertilité des terres dûe à la surexploitation, la faible utilisation des intrants agricoles performants, l'accès réduit au crédit agricole, la faible maîtrise de l'eau, les aléa climatiques et parfois l'invasion des ravageurs ont provoqué des impacts négatifs sur le secteur. A côté des contraintes structurelles et naturelles citées ci-dessus, le climat d'insécurité qui dure depuis six ans a provoqué des mouvements intérieurs et extérieurs de la population réduisant fortement les capacités de travail et la production agricole et menaçant la sécurité alimentaire des populations. Dans ce contexte de contraintes, la production agricole de l'année 1999 a connu un déficit alimentaire atteignant plus de 90 000 tonnes de céréales ramenant ainsi les besoins alimentaires à 400 000 tonnes de céréales nécessaires à l'assistance de 700 000 personnes déplacées à cause de la guerre.

Malgré ce sombre tableau, le Gouvernement de la République du Burundi s'efforce d'améliorer l'état de sécurité et développe une politique d'augmentation de production agricole et de sécurité alimentaire. En ce qui concerne l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire, un vaste programme de processus de paix a commencé voici plus d'un an; il intègre tous les Burundais résident à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur du pays, même les rebelles qui ont choisi la voie des armes comme moyen de revendication. Le gouvernement de la République du Burundi souhaite arriver à un accord entre Burundais le plus rapidement possible et remercie toutes personnes physiques et morales qui l'appuie dans cette oeuvre.

Pour ce aui est de l'augmentation de la production agricole et de la sécurité alimentaire, le gouvernement de la République du Burundi a adhéré à la Déclaration du Sommet mondial pour l'alimentation assurant l'accès à la terre à tous les citoyens, il applique la politique d'approvisionnement du monde rural en intrants agricoles, finance un programme de crédit agricole, organise des productions agricoles en filières soutenues par la recherche, la conservation et la commercialisation. Le gouvernement libéralise et privatise ces sociétés en appelant des capitaux des opérateurs économiques et privés et adopte de nouveaux textes réglementaires. Les politiques et les stragégies développées ces dernières années par le gouvernement dans le monde rural apportent une amélioration de la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire. Ces stratégies rencontrent celles de la FAO pour les quinze années à venir que le Gouvernement du Burundi fait siennes.

Je rends hommage à la Direction générale de la FAO pour les efforts importants qu'elle déploie pour améliorer la situation alimentaire, notamment en mettant à disposition des États en voie de développement des compétences techniques confirmées et divers projets de développement et d'urgence alimentaire. J'insiste encore pour lui demander qu'elle continue à sensibliser et à mobiliser dans un cadre de solidarité entre les peuples, des fonds aidant à épauler des États momentanément déficitaires afin d'assurer une aide alimentaire adéquate et surtout développer au niveau régional un système de suivi et d'alerte rapide.

Assa'd MUSTAFA (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr President of the Conference, for your election. This shows the trust that we all here have in you and your capabilities, and we are sure that with

your wisdom and experience, and with the cooperation of all delegations, we will be able to achieve excellent results in this Conference.

We would also like to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf, who has been, as you all know, re-elected as Director-General of this Organization. This re-election shows our appreciation for the efforts he has made during his previous term of office and all the achievements he has been able to attain in spite of the objective difficulties he had to encounter. Mr Director-General, we have had proof that you have been able to steer this Organization through difficult times, and it is for this reason that the majority of us have voted for your re-election.

I would also like to express our condolences to Mrs Bertini, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme on the loss of the staff members who put their lives at risk to help people who are suffering and who are hungry in other parts of the world. This is part of the glorious tradition of the World Food Programme, and a lot of achievements have been made there.

FAO has done a lot of good work in the past, in particular the convening of the World Food Summit which was attended by very many Heads of State and Government and where a special Plan of Action which was adopted then, the Special Programme for Food Security and the *Telefood* initiative that has been carried out and the strengthening of the technical assistance activities of the Organization. I would also like to say that we have noted carefully the strategy being proposed in the Strategic Framework for the years 2000 to 2015 which we think is very good. We have also looked carefully at the draft Programme of Work and Budget. We plead for the preservation of Zero Real Growth because, if we want to have this Strategic Framework and we want to follow up on the World Food Summit to struggle against the hunger from which 800 million people suffer, we cannot do that if the real resources of the Organization are reduced. The Special Programme for Food Security in particular needs to be strengthened. Thirdly, I think we can say that in the new budget, we must surely struggle to maintain the levels of competence and capability that are needed to help developing countries. Fourthly, we need to support technical assistance programmes and provide more resources, and the Organization should play a more important role in its dealings with donor countries to generate greater and more assistance for the developing countries.

In accordance with the decisions of the World Food Summit, Syria has invented a number of projects to improve the position of our poorer populations, in particular rural populations. We have put into practice integrated development projects and we are amongst the first countries that have adopted a Special Programme for Food Security in the country, which has been notably successful. In this last year, our country has suffered a lot from a great drought which has had a very negative impact on food production and also on livestock production because, of course, pastoral lands have suffered from the drought. We would like to thank FAO as well as the World Food Programme, because they sent us a mission to assess the situation and help us adopt the necessary measures to help all those who were suffering from the consequences of this drought.

In spite of this development, we are still having to use a lot of resources to improve our situation and to recover the lands occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel is dragging its feet about the peace process and is not implementing international decisions and resolutions, and yet we must have peace. Syria is committed to peace. But it must be a just and global peace. That is to say, it must be in accordance with international agreements taken and we must go back to the situations involved before 1967 and we demand an unconditional withdrawal from certain parts of Lebanon by Israel, in accordance with the Resolution adopted to this effect by the United Nations. Peace must mean the end of colonization, and we cannot have peace unless this is achieved.

Syria, which enjoys stability and security as a country, has been led by our President, Mr Assad, towards ever-greater achievement of food security. We are all working for a just and global peace within the framework of international resolutions and decisions, in particular, the Madrid Resolution.

And in closing, I would like to thank the past Chairman of the Council for everything he has done to conduct the proceedings of the Council, and also IFAD and its leaders for all the work they are doing. We would also like to thank the Italian Government for the support they are giving to the international organizations dealing with food, agriculture, hunger and malnutrition. I wish this Conference the greatest possible success.

Carlos Eduardo MARTÍNEZ SIMAHAN (Colombia)

Registramos con satisfacción la reelección del Sr. Diouf, con tan amplio apoyo, entre ellos el de mi país, lo que nos llena de expectativas positivas. Damos, asimismo, la bienvenida a los nuevos Estados Miembros de esta Organización y presento las excusas del señor Ministro de Agricultura, quien por un problema personal de última hora no pudo estar hoy con nosotros.

Los cambios en la agricultura se refieren a tres factores: la apertura de las economías y la globalización de los mercados; la emergencia de nuevos paradigmas en el campo tecnológico agropecuario; y, a las relaciones entre el sector público y el sector privado, en lo que se refiere a la política sectorial agrícola y, en particular, a la política de investigación y desarrollo tecnológico agrícola.

En Colombia la política sectorial introdujo cambios substanciales como la eliminación de restricciones cuantitativas al comercio, la reducción de los aranceles y la disminución de los gravámenes a las exportaciones. Sin embargo, en la medida en que estos cambios se introdujeron en una coyuntura adversa de bajos precios internacionales y de muy escasa preparación de la producción nacional para enfrentar la competencia, el sector ha tenido que sufrir, tal vez, la más profunda crisis de los últimos 50 años. Esta crisis se refleja en la caída del PIB sectorial, la disminución del ingreso de los productores, la caída del empleo, y un importante incremento de las importaciones.

A su vez, la emergencia de nuevos modelos científicos y tecnológicos está transformando la dinámica de la producción agrícola, los cuales pueden agruparse esencialmente en dos grandes áreas: las técnicas de la biotecnología moderna y los modelos de desarrollo sostenible. La aplicación de estos nuevos modelos se está convirtiendo rápidamente en condición *sine qua non* para la seguridad alimentaria, el desarrollo sostenible, y para lograr una producción agrícola competitiva en los mercados internacionales que pueda generar empleo y, por lo tanto, combatir la pobreza en la áreas rurales. Se está inaugurando todo un nuevo ciclo de cambio tecnológico agrícola de largo plazo, cuyos resultados e impactos se expresarán, cada vez con mayor contundencia, en las próximas dos o tres décadas.

Tradicionalmente el desarrollo tecnológico agrícola se ha basado en la producción de bienes públicos de conocimiento a cargo del Estado. Sin embargo, los avances tecnológicos recientes, por su complejidad, requisitos de multiplicación y alto costo relativo, han creado condiciones favorables para la apropiación privada del conocimiento. Esto ha llevado a que en muchas de las actividades asociadas con la conservación, mejoramiento y producción industrial de los recursos biológicos y de la tecnología agrícola, se presenten inversiones masivas, especialmente, por parte de compañías transnacionales involucradas en la producción de insumos agrícolas.

Debe destacarse asimismo que los programas de desarrollo sostenible y la aplicación de políticas con este propósito están planteando nuevas demandas a la agricultura.

Los desafíos de ese nuevo mundo, basado en el conocimiento, obligan a un esfuerzo serio de repensar nuestras instituciones, que dé lugar a sistemas nacionales de investigación agropecuaria dinámicos, que reemplacen los enfoques tradicionales y que integren a los nuevos actores en alianzas estratégicas innovadoras, tanto a nivel nacional como regional y global.

Para ayudar a responder a esos desafíos se necesita una FAO basada en la excelencia y con capacidad para darle apoyo a los países en aquellas áreas estratégicas donde tenga una ventaja comparativa. Una FAO que se concentre en áreas críticas como las que he mencionado

anteriormente, afianzada en la capacidad de sus recursos humanos, en la flexibilidad necesaria para responder a las necesidades específicas de cada país en desarrollo. Así podremos lograr una FAO con capacidad de proyectarse al tercer milenio y de jugar un papel catalítico y dinamizador del desarrollo equitativo de nuestras naciones.

Por eso, conviene preguntarse: ¿Qué cosas sabe hacer la FAO mejor que ninguna otra agencia? Responderíamos inicialmente: producción agrícola, pesquera, forestal, servicios de apoyo, genética, mercadeo, crédito rural. Y en tales áreas se debe, por lo tanto, precisar las prioridades ya que así se garantizaría la eficacia y se mantendría la mística que ha hecho de la FAO una Organización merecidamente admirada.

Un gran desafío que también deberá afrontar el sector agropecuario será el de compatibilizar los intereses económicos con los ambientales. Una forma de lograrlo estará dada por la importancia que el tema de los incentivos económicos brinde a la promoción de proyectos de reconversión tecnológica y de aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales y de la biodiversidad. Otro tema en dicha agenda lo deberá constituir la valoración económica de los beneficios generados por la biodiversidad utilizada en el sector agropecuario. Por ello, la definición de indicadores de sensibilidad serán las herramientas que permitan la evaluación y el seguimiento de las políticas agropecuarias y sus instrumentos asociados. Aquí es procedente citar al Sr. Director General de la FAO: "no existen definiciones internacionalmente acordadas del carácter multi-funcional de la agricultura".

Por último, insistimos, se necesita una FAO que reafirme la prioridad de la asistencia multilateral al desarrollo, a través de una coordinación cada vez más eficaz entre las distintas organizaciones del sistema, una FAO que garantice un multilateralismo con contenido social, que preserve el sistema de Naciones Unidas como timón colectivo de la solidaridad internacional, como lo dijo el Presidente Pastrana ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, al presentar el Plan Colombia, que es nuestra ruta hacia la paz y para el cual solicitamos el apoyo de esta Organización.

Tenemos derecho a soñar, es más, tenemos la obligación de soñar y vislumbrar que en este escenario internacional, derrotando las estadísticas y los conflictos, se escuche pronto el hermoso y conmovedor mensaje: "ya no hay más hambre en el mundo".

Ali Ibrahim AL-MAHROOS (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic)

It is a source of pride for me to had the delegation of my country to the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. I am pleased to start my speech by extending heartfelt congratulations to the President of the Conference for the confidence put in his person. It was in fact a good choice, and I am sure that will ensure the success of our deliberations.

I would also like to extend heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf for the great confidence laid in his person on his re-election as Director-General of the Organization. We are hoping that his re-election will enhance the progress of the Organization. I would like also to avail myself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the consistent efforts made by him which have had a profound impact on the performance of the Organization and which have helped enhance relations with Member Nations.

This Session is held on the eve of a new Millennium which, in fact, makes it our responsibility to take the resolutions which rise to this great event and comply with the desires of the international community in adopting a new strategy to face poverty and hunger in the world, and to reduce the number of those who suffer hunger and malnutrition in a world which is developing rapidly at the scientific and technological levels. This situation makes it imperative on us to make great efforts to make a breakthrough in food production, not only to meet the needs of millions of people but also to meet the needs of the rising population in the world, which has reached about 6 billion people. This requires consistent efforts and collective action, especially as the data on the food situation in the world, in fact, are a matter of concern, the fact that cereal production has

increased and also it is expected that cereal supplies will recede - will decline - in the coming season. Without citing the production figures, I would like to say that the world production of cereals may not be adequate, and so perhaps we will have to take from emergency reserves, which threatens world food security. These considerations affect food supplies in the world as a result of disputes and natural disasters, drought and so on, so we have to make greater efforts to bridge the gap between consumption, increasing consumption and real production levels. This call, in fact, is in keeping with the resolutions of the World Food Summit, held in 1996 and which called, among other things, to work for reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and hoping that this will be effected by 50 percent by the end of the coming decade.

I would like to say that the Government of my country has taken action to carry out the strategy referred to above. The shortage of water is one of the main problems facing our country, and we are taking measures to rationalize the use of water, and to make use of additional sources, such as treated sewage water and new irrigation techniques, and so on. The implementation of this plan requires technical support, so as to carry out projects and implement them effectively. I hope that the Organization will give us assistance by drawing upon its technical resources, in order to attain common objectives and to support our efforts in this area.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to His Excellency the Director-General of FAO and his aides for the distinguished effort made by them to strike a balance between an ambitious workplan and a realistic budget for the coming two years. I would like also to pay tribute to the efforts in preparing for this Conference especially with regard to the excellent preparation of documents, and so on. I hope that your Session will result in adopting adequate resolutions to fight poverty and hunger in the world, and to help humanity overcome all these problems and ensure prosperity for all mankind without any distinction.

Chris Mogere OBURE (Kenya)

On behalf of the Kenya Delegation I join my colleagues in congratulating you, Mr Chairman on your election to chair this important forum. It is my sincere hope that you will chair the deliberations of this Conference and bring them to a successful conclusion.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of FAO on his election to steer the affairs of this Organization into the next Millennium. I assure you that my country will do its best to support the Director-General, and look forward to working closely with FAO under his guidance.

I now turn to the state of food and agriculture in my country. During the last Conference we reported to this forum that our country had experienced a good harvest due to the *El Nino* rains. Virtually all crops registered improved yields. The *El Nino* rains also gave rise to improved pastures and fodder for livestock, leading to increased milk and meat production.However, from mid-1998, the situation has changed with the onset of the *La Nina* phenomena.The *La Nina* phenomena has manifested itself in a contrasting manner: in the arid and semi-arid zones, crop failures have been reported, while in the agriculturally high potential zones, near average crop yields have been realized.The cumulative effect of this scenario is that the food supply situation in the country is unbalanced.

The Government, together with the private sector, has put appropriate machinery in place to ensure that food moves from the surplus-producing regions to the deficit regions.In addition, owing to the increased regional trade with neighbouring countries, there is a substantial cross-border food trade, thereby improving food availability in the country.However, recent seasonal forecasts from our Meteorological Department indicate that the current short rains will perform poorly.The poor performance will occur mainly in the regions which have so far registered partial to total crop failure.

Since the country is likely to produce less than 75 percent of the normal annual grain requirements, there will be need for importation of additional grain to supplement the domestic

requirements. The magnitude of the requirements will be assessed by mid-December this year, during which time the performance of the current short rains will have been more accurately quantified in terms of production.

The intended importation will most likely take place any time after February next year.In order to facilitate the importation of grain into the country, the Government will consider adjustment of the current duty levels to facilitate grain imports by the private sector.Current field reports indicate that the areas critically affected by drought are the eastern and northern parts of our country. These are mainly the arid and semi-arid zones, predominantly occupied by pastoral communities.

In this regard, the Kenya Government is requesting support from World Food Programme (WFP) and our other development partners to assist the needs of already affected communities in the areas mentioned, where famine situation is already a reality.

Kenyan agriculture is faced by a number of challenges, namely:

a) unfavourable weather conditions, A situation which has persisted in the last ten years compared with previous periods;

b) high dependence on rainfed agriculture while only 20 percent of the land is of high to medium agricultural potential, and

c) a fast-growing population which is exerting pressure on food availability. In addition,

d) the transition from a government-controlled economy to a liberalized environment has not been smooth as the private sector was not fully prepared to take up the new challenges and

e) on the AIDS/HIV scourge, the Government has mounted education campaigns to ensure that it does not impact negatively on agriculture.

The Government of Kenya has recognized that challenges exist and are real, and has therefore put a number of strategies in place to meet the challenges.

Owing to frequency of drought in the region, the country has strengthened its early warning and food information system. This enables the country to predict accurately food surpluses or shortfalls for purposes of making sure that adequate food is available for all people at all times.

Our Government has recognized that poverty has a direct bearing on food security. In this regard, the Government has inaugurated a poverty eradication plan targeted to the year 2015. This is another measure for ensuring food security and is in line with Commitment Number 2 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action 1996.

Pests such as locusts, quelea birds and armyworms have a colossal capacity to create disaster.In our region we are strengthening the national plant protection capacity to deal with the menace of pests.In addition, we are revitalizing the regional organizations such as the Desert Locust Control Organization of Eastern Africa (DLCO (EA)) and the International Red Locust Control Organization (IRLCO) of Eastern and Southern Africa to combat the pests which are a threat to food security.

At this point I would like to report to this Conference that early this year Kenya experienced a major armyworm outbreak, which covered the entire country. We appealed for assistance through FAO.I am glad to announce that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) urgently came to our assistance, and the problem was quickly brought under control.On behalf of my country, I express our appreciation to both FAO and IFAD for their timely action.

Following the *El Nino* rains of 1997-1998, a lot of damage occurred to infrastructure and agriculture in general. Based on this experience, the country has established a Disaster Preparedness Unit to mitigate against similar eventualities in the future. This is also in line with the Commitment Number 5 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Finally, I would like to make special reference to the World Food Summit Plan of Action. As mentioned in the last Conference, our major thrust in our action plan was the revision of our National Food Policy. Prior to the Summit in 1996, Kenya had already reviewed the National Food Policy in 1994. However, given that the country entered the era of economic liberalization in 1992, a lot of development has taken place, rendering the revised National Food Policy unattainable.

The National Food Policy review exercise, which involves farmers and other stakeholders, has been going on, on a regional basis, for the last six months and is expected to be concluded early next year. The new version of the National Food Policy is expected to take into account the domestic and global environment, and should be able to stand the test of time of the coming decades of the new Millennium.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to address the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

Hashem SHBUL (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. At the very beginning I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election, and I would also like to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a next term in office. I would also like to convey my condolences to Mrs Bertini for the crash that took place in Kosovo.

The Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO is being held at a time when we need an increase in production because we know that there are 800 million hungry people; most of them are in the developing countries. This of course calls for more efforts and more solidarity in order to put in place and to implement projects and programmes in different regions in order to cope with the size of this problem, and the developed countries should help the developing countries in that.

Need for food is increasing by the day, and many developing countries are facing severe problems. This, of course, is accompanied by instability and conflicts in some parts of the world. A lot of money is being spent on arms in the developing countries. We hope that part of this could be devoted to fighting poverty and hunger and to promoting development.

The Jordanian Government, during the last years, has given to the increasing production a priority in spite of the limited resources that we have. But Jordan has managed to make some achievements by increasing local food production. We now have surplus in vegetables, fruits and poultry, thanks to the agricultural policy adopted by the Government. We also thank FAO for the assistance given to us. This helped us achieve these purposes and we thank FAO for all the assistance given in order to implement the agricultural development policies, like the one in Pashla which is being financed by FAO and the Italian Government.

Jordan has faced a drought during this year and this, of course, has had a negative impact on our food production. The rainfall has not gone beyond the 30 percent of the average we always have. The Italian Government and WFP have sent a mission in order to study the situation in Jordan and, after that, we will be receiving assistance from sister countries.

I would like to thank all those countries, and I would say that this assistance is less than we need in order to overcome the difficulties of the effects of drought.

The continuation of malnutrition requires more efforts in this changing world, and free trade could help in that. I think the developing countries will see some responsibility on their shoulders after the implementation of this free trade. So we have to help these countries in order to increase their production, and we should put at their disposal all the means that would help them do so.

In conclusion, I would like to thank FAO, its Director-General and his staff for organizing this Conference, and I hope that we will see more solidarity on the national level in order to combat the poverty and hunger and to reduce the number of the hungry people as we stated during the

World Food Summit. I would also like to say that food should not be used as a means of exerting pressure on some countries, because this would lead to further hunger and also to diseases and mortality. I hope that there will be more coordination between FAO and the Member Nations by opening Regional Offices that will help the organization carry out its activities.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the distinguished Minister of Agriculture of Jordan.

This brings us to the end of the List of Speakers for this morning, but before adjourning I have two points to make.

First, I would like to sincerely thank all delegations who observed the time limitation, so they made it possible to finish on time.

Second, this afternoon we will start at 2:30 p.m., because we do have an unfinished business, which is *Application for Membership of our Organization*; for Kiribati. We will start with that and then continue with the statements by Heads of Delegations. But before closure, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General to make some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In the exercise of its *RIGHT OF REPLY*, the delegation of the People's Republic of China has provided a brief statement to the Secretariat in response to the statement made by the delegate of Dominica. The statement of China will be included in the Verbatim Records of the Conference.

RIGHT OF REPLY
DROIT DE RÉPONSE
DERECHO DE REPLICA

CHEN YAOBANG (China)

The delegation of the People's Republic of China wishes to make this statement with respect to the erroneous reference to Taiwan by the Dominican delegate. In accordance with UN Resolution 2758, the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate Government to represent China. Thus, Taiwan Province is part of China[1].

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours.
La séance est levée à 12 h 25.
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas.

[1] Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

15 November 1999

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV: NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUSPENSION OF RULE XIX.2 (C 99/LIM/14, para 20)
VOTE PAR APPEL NOMINAL SUR LA SUSPENSION DE L'ARTICLE XIX.2 (C 99/LIM/14, par. 20)
VOTACIÓN NOMINAL SOBRE LA SUSPENSIÓN DEL ARTÍCULO XIX.2 (C 99/LIM/14, párr. 20)

23. Applications for Membership in the Organization (Kiribati) (continued) (C 99/10-Sup.2)
23. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (Kiribati) (suite) (C 99/10-Sup.2)
23. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (Kiribati) (continuación) (C 99/10-Sup.2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons reprendre le Point 23. Il s'agit de la *Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation*. Afin de permettre à la Conférence de statuer sur la demande d'admission du Kilibati à la qualité de Membre, je voudrais vous rappeler que le Bureau avait recommandé que la Conférence organise un scrutin sur la suspension de l'Article XIX.2 à cette séance plénière. Si cet Article était suspendu, la Conférence procèderait alors à un vote sur l'admission du Kilibati à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation.

La suspension et l'amendement des Articles du Règlement général stipulent que ce qui suit:

Sous réserve des dispositions de l'Acte constitutif, l'application de tout Article du présent Règlement peut être suspendue par la Conférence à la majorité des deux-tiers des suffrages exprimés au cours d'une séance plénière, à condition que la proposition de suspension ait été notifiée aux délégués au moins 24 heures avant la séance au cours de laquelle celle-ci doit être faite. Le Secrétaire général doit préparer des dispositions pour connaître le nom des pays représentés dans la salle.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite de façon que la machine électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes. Nous allons maintenant fermer la liste des votants. Comme vous pouvez constater, il y a 102 délégations présentes. Donc je vous remercie, nous pouvons procéder au scrutin. Alors si vous permettez, M. le Président, je vais rappeler aux délégués quel est le sujet du vote.

(continues in English)

I will now tell you what we are about to vote on. It regards the suspension of Rule XIX.2. The document in question is C 99LIM/14, para. 20. If I may be permitted to read the Rule in question, "Any such application shall be transmitted immediately by the Director-General to Member Nations and shall be placed on the agenda of the next Conference session which is not less than 30 days from the receipt of the application".

We are therefore voting on the suspension of this Rule that requires 30 days notification and you are called upon to vote on this.

(continue en français)

Nous allons de nouveau vous demander d'utiliser cette fois-ci les trois boutons en question. Ceux qui sont pour la suspension du règlement appuieront sur le bouton vert, ceux qui sont contre la

suspension appuieront sur le bouton rouge. Ceux qui veulent s'abstenir appuieront sur le bouton jaune. Je répète, le vert pour l'approbation de la suspension du règlement, le rouge pour ceux qui veulent voter contre la suspension et le jaune pour ceux qui veulent s'abstenir.

Avec votre permission, M. le Président, j'invite donc les délégués à voter. Je répète: vous êtes invités à voter maintenant. Le bouton vert pour ceux qui sont d'accord pour suspendre l'article qui exige, après avis de trois jours, le rouge pour ceux qui sont contre la suspension et le jaune pour ceux qui veulent s'abstenir. La suspension du règlement permettra à l' État du Kiribati d'être admis par un vote successif comme État membre de l'Organisation. Je vais maintenant fermer la liste des votants.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Avec votre permission, M. le Président, j'ai maintenant les résultats, permettez que je les lise.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

15/11/99
15.17.45

Vote on: SUSPENSION OF RULE XIX.2
Vote sur: SUSPENSION DE L'ARTICLE XIX.2
Votaction para: SUSPENSION DEL ARTICULO XIX.2

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	95
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	63
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	94
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	10
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	74

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BELIZE, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, COTE D' IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HAITI, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, ITALY, LAOS, LESOTHO, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIUE, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVENIA, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOUTH AFRICA, SUDAN, SURINAME, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, TOGO, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:
THAILAND

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
BAHAMAS, CHINA, CONGO, REP. OF, ERITREA, ESTONIA, GERMANY, GUINEA, KUWAIT, MALI, MAURITIANA

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AFGHANISTAN, ANGOLA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHRAIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM.REP.OF, COOK ISLANDS, COSTA RICA, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GHANA, GRENADA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KOREA, REP.OF, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIUS, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NIGERIA, OMAN, PANAMA, PORTUGAL, QATAR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SOMALIA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, TAJIKISTAN, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TURKMENISTAN, UNITED KINGDOM, YEMEN, YUGOSLAVIA, ZIMBABWE

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

M. Pirby

Therefore the vote is carried for the suspension of the Rule, Mr Chairman.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Nous prenons donc note que la Conférence a décidé de suspendre l'Article XIX.2.

Maintenant la Conférence va donc procéder au vote secret sur l'admission du Kiribati en qualité de Pays Membre. Je vais maintenant demander au Secrétaire général de vous expliquer la procédure de vote.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Dans une des trois cases où sont indiquées les mentions pour, contre, et abstention, le Représentant devra cocher la case correspondant à son choix. Il est noté que conformément à l'Article XII.4c du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme portant la mention " abstention". Veuillez noter également que conformément au paragraphe 4(d) du même article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent comporter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puis-je vous rappeler que conformément au paragraphe 14 de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, lorsqu' un scrutin a été ouvert, aucun représentant, ni aucun délégué, ne peut interrompre, sauf pour présenter une motion d'ordre touchant le vote. Conformément au paragraphe 9(c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Président de la Conférence nomme deux scrutateurs choisis parmi les délégués ou les représentants ou leur suppléants. J'invite donc les délégués du Malawi et du Vietnam à se diriger vers la zone réservée au vote.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le vote est presque terminé et j'invite les pays qui n'ont pas voté à le faire maintenant.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le Kiribati a donc obtenu la majorité requise et est donc admis en tant qu'État Membre.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, comme nous avons eu le résultat du vote annoncé par le Secrétaire général, le Kiribati est désormais Membre de la FAO et sa délégation va prendre place parmi nous. Nous allons revenir par la suite aux cérémonies d'admission pour la délegation du Kiribati.

Je saisis cette occasion pour souhaiter, en mon nom personnel et en votre nom, la bienvenue au nouvel État Membre de la FAO, et je donne maintenant la parole au Directeur-adjoint de la FAO, M. David Harcharik.

D. HARCHARIK (Deputy Director-General)

On behalf of the Director General, I would like to extend a very very warm welcome to Kiribati. We are very confident that Kiribati's entry into the FAO family will not only be of great benefit to its people, but that it will also enrich this Organization.

Kiribati, welcome.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie et je donne maintenant la parole au Représentant du Kiribati.

Tukabu TEROROKO (Kiribati)

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Kirabati, I would like to thank Members of the Organization for accepting our membership to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Since this is the first time for Kirabati to be admitted and take part in this important Conference, allow me to give a brief background of my country and some of its development needs.

Kirabati is a Small Island State, lying astride on the equator with a total land area of 810 square kilometres. It has 33 coral atols widely spread, dispersed over a vast area of ocean, and has an exclusive economic zone covering 3.5 million square kilometres.

For adminstrative and demographic purposes, Kiribati is divided into three main groups of islands, namely Gilbert, Phoenix and Line group of islands. In the Gilbert Group, there are 17 islands, which include Tarawa, the capital island, Christmas Island, Ellis Atol which accounts for 48 percent of the country's planned area, is the administrative centre of the Line and Phoenix Group. Planning Island, in the Line group, has been renamed as the Millennium Island because people believe that this is where they will observe the first rise of the sun in the beginning of the year 2000. The total population of Kiribati, as of 1995 population census, is over 77 000, with a *de facto* growth rate of 1.42 percent between 1990 and 1995. By distribution, 37 percent are on the captial island, which is classified as urban, and 56 in the area in the rest of the Gilbert group. The Line and Phoenix group together listed only 7 percent of the total population. The influx of Kiribati from the outer islands indicated an urban manoeuvre which, if left unchecked, could have serious implications for the social-economic situation in Kiribati.

As regards the development on the small islands, the agriculture and fisheries sectors are among the priority areas in the country's development plans. For many years people on the island have, and will continue to, depend on agriculture and fisheries resources for their daily food, employment, as well as foreign exchange. Investing in these productive sectors would no doubt make the Government realize its long-term goal to improve the standard of living in the country.

The developments in the agriculture sector are constrained by the harsh natural environment of the country. The main thrust, therefore, of the sector's programme is on the cultivation of the coconut which provides the main bulk of the outer islands' economy and is the main source of income for many families. In order to increase production, the Agriculture Department is carrying out the coconut rehabilitation and improvement programmes on all the Islands. However, the major drawback here is the presence of rats which usually affects coconuts. The damaging effects on some Islands is so severe, in such a way that farmers were discouraged to adopt new farming techniques introduced by the agricultural extension officers.

Technical assistance in the control and eradication of rats is therefore required in order to restore coconut production. Apart from coconuts, a number of fruit trees and vegetables have been introduced to the country to help solve problems associated with poor nutrition, especially vitamin deficiencies.

The root crop, taro, which is usually found in swampy parts, is another important food crop of the island. However, with the outbreak of the taro beetle in growing parts on some islands, production has dropped and the control of the pest is urgently required.

In the fisheries sector, the development of the offshore fisheries resources, particularly tuna, is very important because of the country's vast exclusive economic zone. However, being constrained by the lack of capital technology and expertise and absence of suitable markets, Kiribati has to allow distant-water fishing nations to have access to resources in return for a fee. Policing to ensure compliance with the licence for foreign fishing vessels and to prevent illegal fishing is very difficult because of the vast area to control. Therefore, this is one of the areas which needs to be strengthened. In order to maximize the returns from the tuna resouces, it is the

long-term policy objective of the Government to take part in the acutal harvesting, processing and marketing of these resources. In this regard, the Government has already taken steps in developing its domestic longline fisheries, which is managed by the national fishing company. However, for full commercial operations, the company's technical cooperation in this specialized area of fishing and in the post-harvest is needed.

To ensure that the tuna resouces are harvested in a sustainable manner, Kirabati is very active in supporting regional initiatives, particularly arrangements that aim to conserve and manage the tuna resouces. At the international level, Kirabati has been actively involved, and will continue to participate, in the MHLC process which is working towards establishing the Central Western Pacific Tuna Commission.

On the issue of fisheries, the farming of seaweed has now become very popular on the islands, and it is worth mentioning that women and children are involved in this activity.

With our admission to the Organization and assistance from the responsible specialized sections of FAO, we believe that our current efforts to improve the agriculture and fisheries food production on the islands would be greatly enchanced.

Once again, and lastly, on behalf of the Kirabati Government, I would like to thank Members of the Organization for accepting Kirabati to join. The Republic of Kirabati accepts, and will undertake fully and faithfully the obligations set out in the Constitution of the Organization.

C 99/RS/6

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	122	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	119
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	119

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	80

K I R I B A T I

having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma L Tambala
Ms L.L. TAMBALA
Malawi

Signature
Firma VU VUAN TRIEU
Viet Nam

15.11.99
Date
Fecha

D. Debilde
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALM

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GENERAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)
MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Vietnam, Croatia, Maroc, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Uruguay, Slovak Republic, Tanzania (United Republic of), Libya, Samoa, South Africa, Romania, Egypt, Slovenia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Mauritania, Malta, Bolivia, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

TA QUANG NGOC (Viet Nam)

First of all, I would take the pleasure of congratulating his Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf for his successful re-election in the position as Director-General of FAO. We also highly appreciate his contribution to the food and agriculture of the Member Nations of FAO for the six years duration of the first term. I would like also to congratulate Mr Chairman for having been elected to chair our Conference of assembly importance before stepping to the next Millennium. I strongly believe that under your experienced guidance our Conference will be successful.

It is well known that poverty connected to natural disasters is always threatening poor people, poor areas and poor countries. In the South, natural disasters connected with environmental degradation are common problems in the world and have been threatening firstly low-income countries. Natural disasters such as drought, lack of rain and typhoons of high frequency are a big danger first for crops, property and human life. Flooding catastrophe in the central parts of Viet Nam two years ago is an example of all the above-mentioned losses. In this situation, besides the greatest needs that are first met by the Governments, the assistance given by the international community is extremely important. We are of the view that FAO should take these factors into consideration in programming for timely and effective responding. It is sure nowadays that food security and the minimization of poverty are very urgent matters, and the common concern of the countries as well. It is strongly hoped that the Strategic Framework will be a help, from the year 2000 to 2015, in achieving its significant target for the World Food Summit.

In the last period, the Vietnamese Government has paid attention to the agriculture and rural development that we consider to be the strategic objectives in progress of the social economic development in Viet Nam, a country with 80 percent of its population living in the rural areas. Therefore, over the last decade, cultivation in Viet Nam has accelerated, especially in food production and fishery development. Viet Nam has not only emerged from the situation of food shortage, but become one of the major rice exporting countries in the world.

The people's lives in general have been considerably improved. Poverty has been much reduced, making a very important contribution to stability after the country's socio-economic life recovers as it emerges from the financial economic crisis in the Region. Viet Nam, however, is facing

great challenges in particularly maintaining the high and stable growth rate of agriculture, and the rural economy, taking into consideration socio-cultural development, natural resources and environmental protection.

The infrastructure has been underdeveloped, people's living standards have been low in the rural areas and, especially in remote and moutainous areas, they still are. Natural resources such as land water and forests have in the last few years been degraded; some of them are seriously depleted, while the quality of technical facilities, science and technology are not high, leading to low productivity. No matter how much poverty has been alleviated, it is still quite high at 20 percent of the population. Financial resources for agriculture investment are also limited in some regions, resulting in slow development, despite the fact that it is a big concern of the Government.

In order to overcome the difficulties and fight the above-mentioned problems, the Government is planning the strategy for rural and agricultural development, strengthening and innovating the policy and management mechanism with a view to bring valuable potentials of the country into play, as well as making the best use of assistance from the international community, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The Government of Viet Nam is striving for sustainable agriculture.

The Government of Viet Nam also highly values the FAO incentive and its South-South Cooperation Programme. Under this cooperation framework programme, Viet Nam has been actively contributing, such as providing agricultural experts and technicians to Senegal and, soon, to Madagascar. In the near future Viet Nam is ready to share our experience with other developing countries of FAO to improve world food security.

Ivan DURKIĆ (Croatia)

I have the great honour and particular pleasure to address my greetings to the participants of this FAO Conference in my capacity of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Croatia. First of all, allow me to express my gratitude and congratulations to our host on the excellent organization of this Conference, as well as the hospitality and overall ambience of this important event.

The Republic of Croatia was in a previous period confronted with a series of problems, that were partly a direct consequence of inadequate agrarian reform measures applied in previous system, and partly a consequence of enormous damages caused by war aggression on Republic of Croatia, they are due also to processes that are characteristic for the countries in transition.

The most important activities taken by the Croatian Government with the aim of improving the situation of agriculture can be ranged in following fields:

- financial support in agriculture;
- price policy and establishment of the market information system;
- inspection monitoring in agriculture, forestry and fishery;
- transformation of ownership and land policy; and
- consolidation of agriculture and food companies.

The most important of all measures is financial support to agriculture which main issues are as follows:

- direct subsidies in agriculture;
- providing credits for development programmes in agriculture;
- organizing and crediting spring and autumn sowing campaign;
- providing credits for renewal of agricultural mechanization; and
- implementation of international loans allocated to the Croatian Agriculture.

With constant improvement of the law on financial institutes and subsidies in agriculture and fisheries the number of producers, and by that also the number of utmost susbsidy beneficiaries

was increased. Special emphasis was given to agricultural production in high and mountainous regions and the islands.

The Republic of Croatia, with its open market system, has already shown this great desire to participate to the globalization of the European and world trade, related also to the market of agricultural and food products. Therefore special attention is given to agriculture and food products in the framework of initiated negotiations aimed to accept Croatia as a full Member of the World Trade Organization and of the group of middle European countries. In this regard, all mechanisms that provide a special status of agricultural products in international exchange with specific and transitional solutions for Croatian agriculture products are being explored. In spite of the above-mentioned difficulties in agricultural production, Croatia has sufficient capacities for production and processing of strategic agricultural products, and belongs to the group of countries governing its food needs. Although the import of cheap food from the countries with highly-subsidized agricultures is increasing at the moment, in the long-term view Croatia will import only products for which production conditions do not exist, while exporting significant surpluses of its own products.

All of us are aware of World Food Summit, when the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action were accepted for implementation. The Republic of Croatia, within its possibilities, applies the measures recommended in Plan of Action, to support the policy and the strategies of sustainable food, agriculture, fishery, forestry and village development in areas of big and small production possibilities, key issues for adequate reliable supply at national, regional and global levels in fighting pests, drought and desert extension, while taking into account the complexity of agriculture.

Bearing in mind existing world needs, and using natural resources of our country, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry initiated the procedure of adopting the Law on Organic Production. Ecological production in Croatia is much bigger than registered by existing commercial associations. As regard international rules recognized for that kind of agriculture, a large number of these producers and their products could immediately get approval for the so-called transitive period, or even acquire the label "ecologically", since our country has at its disposal preserved quantities of soil and water, and is wealthy in protected areas.

Soon Croatian agriculture will be divided into districts, to ensure diversified and sustainable production, and increased productivity and efficiency by improving pest control safety. reducing wastes and losses and safeguarding natural sources.

Croatian agriculture follows world trends in sustainable development, and is ready to cooperate with other countries in better natural resources management.

We believe that the century-long experience of Croatia's agriculture, its European environment, major potentials, hard-working farmers and well-trained specialists can contribute to the work and activities of such an eminent Specialized Agency as FAO. We therefore look forward to mutually beneficial future cooperation endeavours.

Said CHBAATOU (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe)

Je saisis cette occasion pour rendre hommage à la FAO en matière de sécurité alimentaire pour réduire la pauvreté dans le monde. Le gouvernement du Maroc s'efforce de donner un nouvel élan au monde rural par l'intégration et l'interaction entre toutes les catégories de la vie économique. Nous avons ainsi créé un Comité du développement rural, présidé par le Premier ministre, et le Fonds Hassan II pour l'équipement et le développement pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire qui est l'un des piliers de la souveraineté nationale. Dans ce cadre, au cours de ce mois et sous la haute bienveillance de Sa Majesté Mohamed VI nous allons mener la deuxième campagne de solidarité pour lutter contre la pauvreté après la fin de la première campagne qui s'est écoulée entre le 14 et le 26 octobre 1998 et ce, pour donner un nouvel élan à la solidarité avec les démunis dans le but de sensibiliser toutes les catégories sociales à la pauvreté.

Le quart des ressources mobilisées pour cette campagne sera consacré à la femme. Au début de cette campagne, le Gouvernement a lancé une stratégie concernant la production de céréales dans le but d'obtenir une production minimale de 60 millions de quintaux pour satisfaire les besoins alimentaires en matière de céréales et pour améliorer le revenu des paysans et mettre un terme à l'exode rural. Je rappelle le grand événement qui a eu lieu il y a moins d'un an lorsque la FAO a offert à Sa Majesté feu le Roi Hassan II la grande Médaille Agricola, qui est la plus haute distinction offerte à ceux qui ont œuvré pour le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous voulons affirmer devant la Communauté internationale l'importance des défis auxquels nous sommes, nous, pays en voie de développement et pays pauvres, confrontés pour réduire la pauvreté et ceci ne peut se faire que grâce à une amélioration essentielle de la production, l'accès aux marchés internationaux et la création d'un nouveau système commercial mondial qui permettra un développement durable et des moyens de croissance économique.

Le Royaume du Maroc s'honore de l'excellence des rapports qu'elle entretient avec la FAO et des efforts constants qui sont consentis par la FAO pour le développement global et intégré de l'agriculture. Le Royaume du Maroc a envoyé un certain nombre d'experts pour participer, au sein des équipes de la FAO, à la réalisation de projets agricoles et de développement pour la réalisation des objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire dans des pays africains frères et amis.

En conclusion, je voudrais rappeler ma conviction que les résolutions, les décisions et les recommandations qui viendront couronner cette Conférence réduiront la pauvreté et assureront la sécurité alimentaire pour l'ensemble des peuples.

Que Dieu nous aide à assumer cette lourde tâche.

Andrés CASCO FLORES (México)

Mi delegación concurre a este período de sesiones de la Conferencia convencido de la vigencia de los propósitos fundamentales de esta Organización, creada en 1945, y de la que México es Miembro fundador. La reelección del Dr. Diouf demuestra la importancia de mantener estos principios. A nombre de México felicitamos al Dr. Diouf así como al Presidente de esta Conferencia.

A lo largo de estos años el sector agropecuario de todo el mundo y las instituciones vinculadas a su desarrollo han visto modificado su entorno de manera radical. La globalización, los nuevos arreglos geopolíticos y de intercambio comercial entre países, la necesidad de adoptar enfoques de sustentabilidad en el uso de los recursos y en la mayor vinculación de las actividades agrícolas con el desempeño del entorno macroeconómico, entre otros factores, imponen un nuevo paradigma de organización comercial a las empresas y obligan a los Gobiernos y a los organismos internacionales a replantear sus agendas de política y a definir líneas de acción para enfrentar los nuevos retos del orden económico mundial.

El desempeño del sector agropecuario no ha sido ajeno a este proceso. De hecho, su desarrollo está estrechamente relacionado con la vinculación y la evolución de los principales variables macroeconómicos, en especial el dinamismo del consumo privado, el acceso al financiamiento, el nivel de las tasas de interés, así como el grado de sobre o subevaluación del tipo de cambio. Aunado a lo anterior, el ajuste en el marco legal y regulatorio del sector y su creciente vinculación con el exterior han hecho mucho más complejo el marco de toma de decisiones de nuestro sector.

En un ambiente orientado hacia la globalización existen nuevas y diversas fuerzas que implican áreas de oportunidad que deben enfrentarse mediante estrategias comerciales novedosas. Es por ello que el Gobierno de México replanteó su participación dentro del proceso de desarrollo en el campo mexicano. Un elemento fundamental para promover el desarrollo en el campo es propiciar a todos los participantes con un marco de política clara de largo plazo que les permita tomar las decisiones de inversión y producción correctas. En este sentido, México realiza un importante

esfuerzo de definición del marco de política de largo plazo para el sector agroalimentario, el cual se refleja en las siguientes variables: una política de apertura comercial y de regulación del comercio exterior de México; el redimensionamiento del sector público y la apertura de nuevos espacios para la participación del sector privado en actividades que anteriormente eran responsabilidad exclusiva del estado; el planteamiento de una estrategia de desarrollo rural integral donde la política de desarrollo rural integral impulsada por la presente administración parte del reconocimiento de la heterogeneidad de los habitantes de este sector en términos de su posesión de tierras y otros activos, su capacidad productiva así como su acceso al financiamiento y a la tecnología. Las acciones encaminadas a promover el desarrollo rural deberán estar dirigidas no sólo al sector productivo agropecuario, sino que deberán tomar en cuenta la importancia creciente de las actividades no agropecuarias en la generación de empleos e ingresos en el sector rural. Asimismo, reconoce que alrededor de dos terceras partes de la población pobre del país viven en este medio. Las acciones de vertiente productiva se centran en la previsión de activos públicos, tanto en la infraestructura como en la investigación. En materia de política de apoyo a los productores, los apoyos vía precio se han ido sustituyendo gradualmente por pagos directos, impulso al desarrollo de la infraestructura frutoproductiva y del esquema de ayuda que propicien un salto tecnológico en el campo; los esfuerzos del estado en el sector rural se orientan a elevar el ingreso y el bienestar de las familias rurales, a elevar la producción de alimentos y a generar mejores oportunidades de empleo.

Afortunadamente durante este proceso de transición hacia largo plazo no hemos caminado solos. La FAO ha estado presente en este cambio estructural de nuestra agricultura mediante su papel activo en la reflexión y en el debate sobre la reforma en las políticas del sector agropecuario.

Mi delegación expresa su júbilo porque en abril del año 2000 México será la sede de la 26ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, a la que concurrirán 33 Países de la Región. Con la buena voluntad y el espíritu de innovación de todos los países participantes, esperamos que rinda los frutos necesarios a los fines más nobles de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Kåre GJØNNES (Norway) (Original language Norwegian)

I would like to congratulate you and your Vice-Chairmen on your elections. It is also with pleasure that I welcome the new Member Nations of FAO. Their entry marks an important step towards making FAO a fully universal organization.

The World Food Summit made us focus on food security issues from a new angle. The importance of the rights-based approach to food was underlined and a Plan of Action was agreed upon.

Unfortunately, the documentation provided for this Conference shows very clearly that we are not on track to reach our ambition of halving the number of undernourished no later than 2015. Figures at the global level, although alarming, hide the fact that the situation is even more appalling within certain Regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, where we find the highest percentage of the world's undernourished people, there has been a steady increase in the number of undernourished people during the nineties. FAO characterizes the situation as being of utmost concern. I find the situation intolerable, not least in the light of the ongoing efforts to establish a rights-based approach to food. I do not pretend to be giving this knowledgeable assembly a recipe for how to tackle the problem. I do not even believe there is a single cure. However, my Government believes that the broad approach to food security is needed, an approach that takes both social and political aspects into account. The responsibility for providing access to land and other productive resources, irrespective of gender and ethnicity, rests primarily with the national Governments. However, contributions from other actors are necessary.

FAO therefore needs to actively take part in ongoing coordination efforts like UNDAF or CDF. FAO has a particular responsibility to assist National governments in reaching the goal of food

security for all. In doing this, FAO should give increasing priority to the normative work such as policy formulation, and the realization of access to food as a human right. The international community is instrumental in creating enabling conditions for all countries and in securing stable levels of ODA, including investments in the agricultural sector. During the 1990s however, we have seen a decline in the level of ODA. Furthermore, the documentation for this Conference shows a decline of the share of ODA directed towards the agricultural sector. This trend will not bring us closer to the objective established by the World Food Summit. I therefore urge the donor community to increase ODA to reach the agreed target of 0.7 percentage of GNP.

At the World Food Summit in 1996, it was stated that food production both in high and low potential areas is essential in order to secure adequate and suitable food supplies at household, national, regional and global levels. In order to reach the goal from the World Food Summit of halving the number of starving people no later than 2015, economic development in the poorest countries is crucial. It is also necessary that national and international efforts give preference to the possibility of increasing the food production to a sufficient level especially within the developing countries. At the same, time food productive resources such as water and soil will become more scarce. Analyses presented by FAO in 1996 showed that during a few decades they moved from a situation with excessive food at the world market towards a situation of scarcity.

As we start on the new WTO negotiations, which are to include trade in agricultural products, it is essential that these long-term developing trends are given sufficient weight. In the coming negotiations, the Norwegian Government will work actively to ensure a national room for manoeuvre making agricultural production in the whole country possible.

Within the framework of the WTO reform process, the non-trade concern of multi-functional agriculture must be given sufficient weight. In our view, non-trade issues such as food security and viable rural areas, are closely linked to an ongoing agricultural production. For this reason, most non-trade concerns in Norwegian agriculture can only be properly safeguarded through a combination of policy measures, including extensive use of production-related policy measures.

Furthermore, I would like to underline that specially and differential treatment, as well as technical and financial assistance, to the poorest developing countries are required in order to enable these countries to take advantage of opportunities offered by more open markets, and to mitigate possible, negative effects resulting from the reform process. Norway would in the forth-coming WTO negotiations be ready to consider proposals for improved market access for developing countries, particularly for the least developed countries.

A successful conclusion of the negotiations on plant genetic resources is of principal importance for the optimal utilization of such resources and, consequently, a key to future food security. It is, therefore crucial that FAO and the Member Nations step up their efforts to reach an agreement before the Council meeting in November 2000, otherwise FAO's prestige as a global normative agency may be jeopardised.

Free access to genetic resources is imperative, not least for the poorest countries. At the same time, it is important that such open access is balanced by the benefit-sharing provisions in line with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Transparent, reliable, and predictable funding is needed to implement the global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources.

Later this autumn, I will be submitting a white paper on Norwegian Food and Agricultural Policy to the Norwegian Parliament. This paper will emphasize the importance of multi-functional agriculture for, long-term food security, certain environmental public goods and viable rural areas. The agricultural sector has a mandate to produce safe food of high quality in conformity with consumers' preferences. The white paper will therefore emphasize the production chain as a whole, consumer concerns in general and the importance of farmers' expertise.

Ronaldo DIETZE (Paraguay)

En primer lugar, deseo felicitar a la República de Kiribati por su incorporación a la gran familia de la FAO. Quisiera además expresar la satisfacción de la delegación de Paraguay por poder compartir puntos de vista e intercambios constructivos sobre nuestra agricultura, alimentación, desarrollo y la sostenibilidad de nuestros pueblos en el marco del 30° Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Quiero expresar también las felicitaciones al Dr. Jacques Diouf por su reelección como Director General, resultado obtenido por su buena gestión en el período anterior, y dejar constancia de nuestro apoyo durante el nuevo período que se inicia.

El Gobierno de la Unidad Nacional de Paraguay ha establecido su programa de Gobierno, basado fuertemente en el desarrollo del sector agropecuario forestal y, dentro de él, da énfasis a la producción de alimentos. De hecho, el sector hoy representa el 90 por ciento del valor de las exportaciones, el 37 por ciento del empleo directo y el 25 por ciento del Producto Interno Bruto global.

Paraguay, a pesar de su alto crecimiento demográfico (3 por ciento), cuenta con poco más de cinco millones de habitantes, (la mitad viviendo en el área rural y con bajo poder adquisitivo) y se ve en la necesidad de implementar una política de "crecimiento hacia afuera" a través de la exportación de productos agropecuarios. Esta tarea no es fácil, ante escenarios globalizados de alta competencia internacional, precios de productos con tendencias bajistas en los principales mercados, y una agricultura altamente protegida con fondos provenientes del sector industrial en la mayoría de los países desarrollados. A esto, es necesario sumar los pocos avances logrados en materia de armonización de la política macroeconómica entre los países integrantes del MERCOSUR y la total ausencia de compensaciones por pérdidas económicas, en función de la aplicación de medidas monetarias que favorecen agresivamente la exportación agrícola de los países económicamente más fuertes.

Paraguay apoya toda medida que permita el incremento de la oferta agregada de productos agrícolas (fundamentalmente alimentos inocuos a la salud humana), el fortalecimiento de acceso de alimentos a la población, la lucha contra la pobreza, la promoción de la mujer (especialmente la mujer rural), la sostenibilidad y los renovados conceptos de la multi-dimensionalidad y multi-funcionalidad de la agricultura, siempre que estos no impliquen subsidios encubiertos.

Todas estas medidas requieren muchos esfuerzos por parte de la comunidad internacional en un marco claro de las reglas de juego y en base a oportunidades igualitarias para todos los países.

Paraguay continuará esforzándose para lograr mayores tasas de crecimiento económico, generación de mayores posibilidades de empleo e ingresos, creando una situación propicia para las inversiones nacionales e internacionales, y para la diversificación productiva que logre la sostenibilidad de nuestro ecosistema.

Finalmente, quisiéramos reiterar nuestro sincero interés en contar con una Oficina Permanente de la FAO en nuestro país, ya que Paraguay es un país eminentemente agrícola y con un nivel de desarrollo relativo menor en la Sub-región, por lo tanto estamos seguros de que esta solicitud es plenamente justificada.

Lyonpo KINZANG DORJI (Bhutan)

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the post of the Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. My delegation is confident that, under your wise and able leadership, our deliberations will proceed smoothly and successfully.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. I am confident that, with his vast experience, he will provide the leadership

required to steer FAO through the daunting array of issues before it in the new Millennium. On our part, I assure him of the full cooperation and support of my Government.

My delegation takes great pleasure in welcoming the Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Niue, San Marino and Kiribati as they assume rightful places in the comity of nations. We look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to our Organization.

Enormous strides in science and technology and advances in economic development have made the world, generally, more secure, but there still is a sizeable population that suffer from grave economic insecurity and social uncertainty. Poverty is one of the root causes of our social problems. Today, 1.3 billion people live in abject poverty, and an estimated one-sixth of the world's population go hungry every day. Jobless, and often homeless, these people live without the most basic necessities of life.

Around 800 million people throughout the globe are still suffering from acute malnutrition and lack access to food due to inadequate income. The condition is further aggravated by lack of peace, increase in population, climatic changes, environmental degradation, social, political and economic instability. This situation is likely to worsen the living conditions of this huge mass further if proper and adequate measures are not initiated on time.

On the other hand, as we are all aware, agricultural production is stagnating in both developed and developing countries. Official development assistance to agriculture indicate a continued decline both in real terms and as a share of total ODA. The goal of achieving sustainable food security in the decades ahead therefore emerges as one of the greatest challenges humanity ever faced. Food security issues must be re-examined with different scenarios of population growth, agricultural productivity, market and trade, climate change, loss of soil and biodiversity and, last but not least, political stability in order to devise options of rational choices. International support, in terms of adequate and reliable flow of capital and technology, are necessary to reverse the present gloomy trends. FAO, as the Specialized Agency of the United Nations responsible for food and agriculture. must play its rightful role in addressing the above issues.

We in Bhutan have, so far, been fortunate in that many of these issues do not yet pose problems in the kingdom. Abject poverty is not prevalent, and all Bhutanese are reasonably fed, clothed and sheltered. There are very few landless people in the country, and most people are self-employed in farming and livestock activities. To attain food security, enhance rural income and improve the living standard of the population, 85 percent of who are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, my Government has accorded high priority for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. The development objectives of the current Five-Year Plan are to increase food self-sufficiency and food security, to increase rural income through cash crop and livestock development and to improve forest productivity through scientific management and conservation principles.

Recognizing the importance of food security at the national, district, block and household levels in Bhutan, my Government has formulated a comprehensive food security programme with the assistance of FAO. The comprehensive multisectoral programme covers all aspects impacting on the food chain, from production to consumption, including marketing, transport, support services to production, storage, processing and household incomes on the demand side.

Like most other countries, Bhutan's earnest efforts and commitment to sustainable development is severely constrained by the shortage of investment capital and high cost of infrastructure development. We have, however, initiated several steps and have sought the assistance of the international communities towards achieving the global objective of sustainable food security. We are confident that our development partners will not fail us, and that we will be able to achieve the food security targets we have set for ourselves in the not so distant future.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avec votre permission je vais confier la continuité de la présidence de cette session à M. Berteling, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent des Pays-Bas auprès de la FAO et Vice-président de cette Conférence.

Jan Berteling, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair
Jan Berteling, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Jan Bertelingi, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you very much, also for the trust that you have given me. I hope you have not made a mistake. I will just proceed by giving the floor now to Mr Gueorgui Karkamov, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Agrarian Reform of Bulgaria.

Gueorgui KARKAMOV (Bulgarie) (Original language Bulgarian)

It is a great honor to address this outstanding assembly convened to determine the future of our common efforts to combat famine and to achieve modern and efficient agriculture in the next Millennium. This objective is fully shared by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

But allow me, first of all to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Jacques Diouf upon his re-election as Director-General of FAO and to wish him success in all his endeavors in leading the Organization to achieving the goals that we are to set forth now.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our admiration for the brilliant way in which you conduct this session.

The agriculture sector of Bulgaria has a special significance for the success of the overall economic reform carried out by the Government. The main objectives of this policy are strengthening pluralistic democracy and the rule of law, as well as the efficient functioning of a competitive market economy.

One of the major achievements of this policy in 1999 has been the successful completion of land reform. It provided the basis for clear and sustainable relations of ownership in agriculture. It also helped us launch grounds for building effective production structures and an appropriate environment for attracting investment, both national and foreign, and promoting the economic activity of the sector.

In addition, the privatization of agriculture enterprises and the much needed influx of new investment to the sector are the two major factors for achieving competitive export-orientated and environment-friendly agriculture.

Under the conditions of functioning market economy, the role of the State is restricted to setting up simple and clear rules of conduct for the individual economic players, as well as to the establishment of the proper business environment through effective legislation. To this purpose the Bulgarian Government prepared and now implements a National Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development. Its main objective is to develop a model based on the concept of the multi-functional character of agriculture and land. The main priorities of this programme concern:

- the improvement of the conditions for production, processing and marketing of agricultural and food industry products, according to established European standards;
- the promotion of environment-friendly agriculture;
- the integrated rural development aimed at strengthening the local economies, as well as the reversal of the process of depopulation of rural areas;
- the human resources development through targeted education and vocational training of those employed in agriculture.

This program is prepared to implement the strategic objective and national interest of Bulgaria to become a full member of the European Union. This is an ambitious and demanding task which already engages the efforts of both, the Government and the whole Bulgarian society. We have so far begun the process of legal harmonization, namely in the agriculture and food industry sectors. We highly appreciate the assistance and cooperation provided by the European Commission, the European Union and its Member States to achieve the goals of the pre-accession period, and in particular, the valuable support for institutional capacity-building.

We are glad to note that our overall cooperation with FAO fully corresponds to the strategic objectives and policies of the Bulgarian Government. In partnership with FAO, a number of national and regional projects in the field of agriculture strategy development, forestry, fisheries, animal breeding have been successfully implemented or are under execution.

This is the right place to state the interest of Bulgaria in a vibrant and effective FAO. That is why we would like to see at this Conference the necessary consensus of the Member Nations that would strengthen our organization.

As a country in transition we would like to see enhanced FAO technical assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe aimed at further developing the agriculture reform under way. Taking into account the large scope of activities and the complex character of the transition processes, we are of the view that this FAO support could be strengthened by the adoption and implementation of individual, regional and sub-regional programs, namely for the South-Eastern European Region that serves as a link between Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. In this context, we appreciate FAO's efforts to engage other organizations and financial institutions in project formulation and implementation. This has brought good results up to now, and we deem it worth continuing and broadening.

At the same time, Bulgaria is ready to participate in the new type of technical cooperation schemes initiated by FAO that would make Bulgarian agriculture, biotechnology and agricultural education expertise available to interested partner countries.

In conclusion, I would like to express confidence that the proceedings and the decisions of this Conference will contribute to the strengthening of FAO and its crucial role in developing modern agriculture, guaranteeing food security for all, and eradicating hunger and poverty in the world.

Zacharie PEREVET (Cameroun)

M. le Président, la délégation camerounaise tient tout d'abord à remercier le Gouvernement et le peuple italien pour toutes les facilités mises à sa disposition depuis son arrivée ici, dans ce beau pays.

Je voudrais m'associer pleinement aux propos des orateurs qui m'ont précédé, pour vous adresser mes sincères félicitations ainsi qu'aux membres de votre Bureau pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette 30ème Conférence et à M. Jacques Diouf pour son éclatante réélection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Pour compléter votre information, le Cameroun est un des pays les plus diversifiés du continent africain tant par la variété de ses ressources naturelles, des zones climatiques, de sa végétation, que celle de sa population, des cultures et des langues; un taux de croissance économique de l'ordre de 4,5 pourcentage et un taux d'inflation réduit à 3 pourcentage; une réserve importante de terres consacrées à l'agriculture et couvrant environ 70000 km^2. L'agriculture occupe 70 pourcentage de la population active produisant le tiers des recettes en devises et 15 pourcentage des ressources budgétaires qui contribuent pour près de 32 pourcentage au PIB.

Au Cameroun, l'alimentation est principalement à base de racines et tubercules (22 pourcentage), de bananes (19 pourcentage), de céréales (16 pourcentage), et de fruits et légumes (39 pourcentage). Les zones rurales à haut risque et à déficit alimentaire chronique se trouvent dans la partie septentrionale du pays. Des contraintes et des opportunités sont liées aux

organisations paysannes et à la gestion des ressources naturelles au sein des systèmes de production, à la disponibilité et à l'accès aux intrants et systèmes de crédit, ainsi qu'aux infrastructures. Cependant, grâce aux réformes engagées depuis 1990 les progrès réalisés ont pu permettre au secteur agricole de porter sa contribution de moins de 20 pourcentage en 1992-1993 à 32 pourcentage au pays, mais ces dernières années on constate une réduction au niveau des exportations agricoles aussi, l'État entend donc poursuivre et renforcer les réformes afin que le secteur agricole contribue plus que par le passé à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la relance durable de la production agricole, en vue de soutenir la croissance économique du pays. Plusieurs orientations stratégiques ont été ainsi retenues, entre autres:

- l'augmentation de la production et des revenus des exploitations agricoles basée sur le renforcement des services d'appui technique, le développement et l'organisation de filières de production et des mesures spécifiques visant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire dans les zones à risque;
- l'amélioration des facteurs environnementaux et du cadre législatif portant sur la réglementation des financements du secteur et de la gestion des ressources foncières des infrastructures rurales;
- la modernisation du cadre institutionnel impliquant la réorganisation des services publics la promotion et la spécialisation des organisations paysannes, l'association des différents partenaires privés et la coordination de l'ensemble des intervenants dans le secteur.

Dans le secteur de la recherche pour lequel un plan à long terme est disponible, les efforts tendront vers le développement d'un pôle régional de conservation des ressources génétiques forestières ainsi que l'organisation d'un centre d'information scientifique et technique.

La gestion durable des ressources forestières et la protection de l'environnement constituent des préoccupations majeures exprimées de manière concrète dans un Programme d'action forestière tropicale et un Plan national de gestion de l'environnement déjà élaborés et adoptés par tous les partenaires. Il s'agit ici de rechercher des financements pour leur mise en œuvre. En appui à ces options et stratégies volontaires de l'État, on peut souligner une réelle détermination des pouvoirs publics à créer un environnement juridique et institutionnel des éléments démocratiques au Cameroun. Un tel programme, vous vous en doutez, nécessite d'importants moyens de financement aussi bien au niveau des ménages que de l'État, mais la maîtrise de l'eau reste pour mon pays un facteur déterminant pour la sécurité alimentaire. J'apprécie hautement à ce sujet le PSSA initié par le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf.

La sécurité alimentaire demeure un grand défi pour l'humanité entière. Je souhaite par conséquent, au nom de ma délégation, qu'une plus grande priorité soit accordée au traitement des questions liées au développement des racines et tubercules qui constituent à l'heure actuelle la base principale de l'alimentation de plusieurs pays en voie de développement; une volonté soutenue et plus engagée dans la poursuite des objectifs primordiaux que nous nous sommes librement fixés; et la réduction de moitié d'ici 2015 de 800 millions de mal-nourris qui constitue la priorité des priorités.

Les autres préoccupations, à l'instar du problème de la multi-fonctionnalité de l'agriculture, qui ne sont certes pas des moindres, ne doivent pas nous distraire de cet objectif majeur. Il y a un temps pour tout et le temps actuel semble nous interpeler pour l'éradication du problème de cette honte que représente ces 800 millions de mal nourris. Une plus grande décentralisation à l'échelle régionale de représentation de la FAO pourra assurer une meilleure coordination de ces activités.

M. le Président, honorables délégués, je ne saurais terminer sans avoir exprimé l'expression de profonde gratitude du peuple et du Gouvernement camerounais à l'égard de la FAO, ainsi qu'aux autres agences des Nations Unies, du PAM, à qui nous adressons nos sincères condoléances, du FIDA, du PNUD pour le soutien appréciable que ces organisations n'ont cessé d'accorder au développement agricole et rural du Cameroun. Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention.

Juan E. NOTARO (Uruguay)

Deseamos felicitar al Sr. Jacques Diouf por su reelección como Director General de esta Organización y augurarle la continuación de su reconocida gestión. Asimismo, damos la bienvenida a Kiribati a esta Organización.

Estamos satisfechos por la interesante propuesta de la FAO sobre el Marco Estratégico para los próximos 15 años, con los ajustes que aseguren el equilibrio de los distintos intereses y contemplando debidamente las diferencias entre Estados, éste será el marco adecuado para una eficiente utilización de los recursos.

La producción agropecuaria en Uruguay creció un 4 por ciento acumulativo anual entre 1986 y 1996 y en 1998 mostró un crecimiento del 5,8 por ciento. Este crecimiento es consecuencia de la implementación de políticas macro-económicas adecuadas en los últimos 13 años. Vale la pena destacar que nuestra tasa de inflación en 1999 será del 3,7 por ciento, la más baja en 49 años. Esto también se debe a la apertura de nuestra economía a la competencia externa y a la desregulación progresiva de las actividades productivas que permitieron el mejoramiento de la competitividad del sector agropecuario, (básicamente orientado a la exportación) a través del aumento de las inversiones, de la incorporación de tecnología y de la productividad.

Uruguay tiene un alto potencial para seguir expandiendo su producción y sus exportaciones de alimentos y fibras para así continuar contribuyendo a la seguridad alimentaria del planeta. Sin embargo, este crecimiento de la producción se reducirá substancialmente en corto plazo, como consecuencia de la ruinosa caída de los precios internacionales que se ha registrado recientemente; esta situación está fuertemente ligada a las políticas de subsidios, a la producción y a las exportaciones de productos agropecuarios que practican los principales países industrializados que, según la OECD, en 1998 alcanzó la suma de 340 000 millones de dólares EE.UU.

Todos se beneficiarían si esta impresionante suma fuera destinada a ayudar en forma directa el desarrollo en los países pobres, para promover el desarrollo sustentable y la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Sin embargo, se prefiere continuar con políticas comerciales y agrícolas que distorsionan los mercados internacionales de alimentos y conspiran contra las posibilidades de producción de los países en desarrollo (en los cuales la agricultura es la más importante actividad económica) generando, además, enorme ineficiencia en la asignación de los recursos productivos globales, mayores costos a los consumidores de los países desarrollados, atentando contra la sustentabilidad productiva y presionando sobre los ecosistemas. Cada día se crean nuevas barreras técnicas a las exportaciones de alimentos de los países en desarrollo que son injustificadas. Bajo el rótulo de "carácter multi-funcional de la agricultura" se pretende continuar justificando políticas proteccionistas en la agricultura.

Cualquier analista de proyectos sabe que toda empresa humana genera productos positivos y negativos. Esto es válido para la agricultura, pero no es exclusivo. Las externalidades positivas pueden ser más eficientemente promovidas a través de políticas transparentes en lugar de hacerlo a través de mecanismos que distorsionen los precios o la oferta y la demanda. Para nosotros resulta inaceptable utilizar este concepto de multi-funcionalidad como justificación para continuar subsidiando la producción y distorsionando el comercio agrícola.

Como órgano de expresión de la comunidad internacional, la FAO tiene mucho para hacer en materia de barreras técnicas injustificadas al comercio, a través de la cada vez más trascendente labor de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y de la recientemente creada Comisión Interina de Medidas Fitosanitarias de la Nueva Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria. También entendemos que la FAO no debería participar en iniciativas destinadas a entorpecer el comercio internacional de alimentos. Por lo tanto, creemos que el carácter multi-funcional de la agricultura no deba ser incluido como tema dentro del Marco Estratégico.

No existe consenso para que la FAO continúe ocupándose de este tema, pero sí lo hay para que prosiga su trabajo de promoción del desarrollo rural sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Para esto es imprescindible, aunque no suficiente, la eliminación de este tipo de políticas de subsidios a la producción y a la exportación.

Ello no significa dejar de lado o restarle importancia al concepto de desarrollo agrícola sostenible; por el contrario, le asignamos una importancia fundamental porque a través de él se puede asegurar, entre otras cosas, la sabia y provechosa administración de los recursos naturales y se contemplan los aspectos ambientales, sociales y económicos de los Estados Miembros.

Quisiéramos destacar dos temas que, para Uruguay, revisten particular trascendencia. Uno de ellos es el del *Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable*. Nuestro país, que por años dio la espalda al mar, ha empezado a desarrollar una incipiente industria pesquera que confiamos contribuya al logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

El segundo tema es el de la revisión del Compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos al que Uruguay está contribuyendo activamente como miembro del Grupo de Contacto.

Todos los Miembros de la FAO nos comprometimos a llevar adelante el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. En particular, nos esforzaremos por asegurar que las políticas de comercio, en general, contribuyan a fomentar la seguridad alimentaria para todos a través de un sistema de comercio mundial leal y orientado al mercado. Las próximas negociaciones multilaterales de comercio de la OMC que se lanzarán en Seattle, constituyen la oportunidad para que este compromiso se haga efectivo. Ha llegado la hora de actuar. El Uruguay espera que así sea y que de esta forma contribuyamos a eliminar el hambre en el mundo, a disminuir la presión sobre los recursos naturales y el medio ambiente, a promover el desarrollo sostenible y la prosperidad para todos los habitantes del planeta.

Pavel KONCOS (Slovakia) (Original language Slovak)

Allow me please, to address you on behalf of the Slovak Republic, the country situated in the heart of our old continent, and at the same time to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your appointment as the Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

I would like to sincerely congratulate also His Excellency Jacques Diouf on his re-election to such a prominent post as FAO Director-General.

This Jubilee Conference I consider to be very important in the history of the Organization, because of the decisions it will have to take on global problems, and because of the role of the strategy of FAO up until 2015. At the same time, I would like to thank His Excellency the Director-General and his colleagues for the preparation of the Strategy Framework document for 2000-2015.

I greatly appreciate that FAO and Member Nations intend to pay more attention to the implementation of the conclusions of the World Food Summit held in November 1996.

The fight against hunger and malnutrition I see as an important effort to be made by mankind against what is a serious threat in the Third Millennium when despite a global society, we are discovering that even more countries emerge with a food deficit, even in Europe.

Looking at the FAO activities, I would like briefly to inform you on the present state of agriculture and nutrition in the Slovak Republic. Let us look at the facts and figures about the Slovak agricultural economy. It is comparable to the European Union average, its share of GDP is 4.4 percent and its share of total employment is 5.4 percent. Our agriculture is on course in achieving the European regional model globally expressed as a multidisciplinary relation of environment protection, and in determining social and rural elements of the countryside. Present problems of Slovak agriculture have to do with the stagnation of agricultural production and decline of employment in the countryside. They have been caused by mistakes made in the

course of the transformation process of agriculture. Despite the endurance of these unfavourable facts, there are also some positive moments in the direction of our policy. For instance, the privatization process was completed, ongoing restructuring of the agriculture and food processing industry and the maintenance of a self-sufficiency rate of 90 percent of domestic consumption in essential foodstuffs. A relatively high labour productivity and the degree of price competitiveness of agricultural products are also positive elements in this transition process.

The new Slovak Government has declared in its Government Policy Statement dated 1998 to halt agricultural decline and to promote more realistic conditions for developing enterprises in the agro-business sector. These measurements have resulted in an improvement in the environment and they should lead to the interventional European agency and an agency of agro-food market support they established. The accepted Integrated Plan of Regional and Social Development in the Slovak Republic, consisting of the Plan of Rural Development defines priorities for Slovakia becoming part of regional and global programmes on structural policy and rural development. The basic steps on adjustment to the administrative and institutional framework of acceptance of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU is something else which we consider to be very positive, too.

The present situation in Slovak agriculture and food processing, and the aims of the Government to ensure the food security for the population by sustainable development of domestic agriculture and food production, draws not only on our own national sources and knowledge, but on a whole range of international cooperation possibilities including the future Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. These strategic intentions are in the interests of the Slovak Republic, and we believe that we must be active and effective in multilateral cooperation within the framework of FAO.

FAO technical assistance in the form of TCPs, Technical and Economic Programmes and Programmes of Support Services will also be important in future to assist us in solving the problems of agriculture, food industry and forestry, not only in Slovakia, but in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, too. In order to meet the problems of countries in this transition process, appropriate financial conditions should be created in the Organization's budget.

I also appreciate very much FAO's stepping up the further Biennial Programme to develop an optimum partnership with multilateral and bilateral agencies. I see as positive the so-called Umbrella Programme to prepare Member Nations in the forthcoming Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture. I would like to declare that my country, the Slovak Republic, is interested in solving topical problems in agriculture, nutrition, forestry, fisheries and in the implementation of the Plan of Action regarding national problems but also regarding sub-regional, regional and even global problems.

It is in our interest, according to the official proposal of the Slovak Government and an offer of the President of the Slovak Republic recently declared at this year's World Food Day in Rome, to improve the level of education, science and research in Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries by using our educational capacities and research institutions. We are prepared to host such a meeting in this connection.

According to the new biennial Programme of Work and Budget and FAO Strategic Framework document, we see as important areas development of national agricultural policy according to legislative and other measures.

Adam C. MWAKANJULI (Tanzania, United Republic of)

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, my delegation and on my own behalf, I have great honour and pleasure to address this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference and the last one in this Century. Mr Chairman, let me first and foremost take this opportunity to congratulate you for your election to the Chairmanship of this Conference.

May I also congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as Director-General of this Organization for the second term. This signifies the confidence that Member Nations have in his unmatched ability, skills, commitment and cooperation with the international, regional and national institutions, in efforts to increase food production and productivity in order to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty. I also would like to congratulate the new Member Nations who have just joined this noble Organization.

Let me reiterate my country's commitment to being a Member of FAO. This commitment is based on our realization of the full significant role of FAO in increasing food production, enhancing food security and abolition of poverty. My country's economy depends on the agricultural sector for its growth and economic development. The sector employs about 80 percent of the active labour force, and accounts for more than 50 percent of the national GDP and over 55 percent of the foreign exchange earnings. Agriculture is mainly carried out on small farm holdings with farmers cultivating an average of less than one hectare per household. During the 1998-99 crop season, the total food production of the national level has been estimated at 7.2 million tonnes, of which 3.9 million tonnes were cereals and 3.3 million tonnes were non-cereals. During 1999-2000, the food supply situation in many parts of my country will remain below self-sufficiency and shortfalls of 396 million tonnes are forecasted. About 1.6 million people will, therefore, face acute food shortages.

The agricultural sector has great potential for the growth since only 6.4 million hectares are currently under production, out of 43 million hectares of arable land suitable for agricultural production and only 175 000 hectares are under irrigation, despite this better potential of 1 million hectares. Tanzania has 33.5 million hectares of forests and woodlands. Out of this total area, 13 million hectares have been designated as forest reserve, and over 80 000 hectares under forest plantation and 1.6 million are protection forest for soil and water conservation. These forests form part of ecosystems which provide habitats and support many forms of life and act as a pool of important genetic resources. In my country, the forest sector offers employment to many rural communities and contributes between 2 and 3 percent of national GDP and 10 percent of the country's registered exports.

My country is endowed with large water bodies and has 800 kilometres of coastline with high potential of fish production. Fish forms one of the third protein foods eaten by Tanzanians. Fish contributes to food security and provides income to many rural communities. The value of annual fish exports has dramatically increased, and now forms about 12 percent of the total export earnings of the country.

My country has undertaken macro-economic and structural reform since the 1980s and a decrease in food production with greater involvement of the private sector and the local communities in planning and implementation of agricultural activities. The Special Programme for Food Production in support of food security which is being implemented by my Government with the assistance of FAO, is one of the efforts that address the problem of food insecurity. Through provision of credit and timely access to inputs, the participatory farmer groups have been able to double their yields and increase production and income. As we enter the Millennium, Tanzania has a big success in IPM and sounds as exemplary in the African continent. My country, in collaboration with FAO, in places has been able to implement a major series of reforms with regard to animal and plant pests and diseases through the Technical Cooperation Programme, the TCP. The above notwithstanding, animal and plant pests and diseases still pose a threat to food security, hence the need to strengthen the early warning and emergency reform systems.

For some time to come, the Tanzanian economy will still depend on agriculture and agricultural exports will continue to play an important role in foreign exchange earnings. However, in order to provide fair and free access to export markets, it is essential to eliminate unnecessary trade barriers. It is our strong view that any trade restriction should be based on scientific principles.

We, therefore, look upon FAO to assist developing countries in assuring the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and WTO.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General of FAO and WFP and others for their continued support in efforts to attain food sufficiency. The current joint mission on assessment on the crop and food supply situation in Tanzania for 1998-99 has provided a base for future food security intervention and strategies. We, therefore, strongly need FAO support for the smooth implementation.

This Conference has just re-elected Mr Diouf for the second term of office which will enable him to implement programmes and projects as reflected in the Strategic Framework for FAO 2000-2015. We urge all Member Nations to give full support to him and his staff.

May I once again, on behalf of the Government and my delegation, commend FAO for continued support to its Member Nations, especially in the areas of food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and the environment.

Ali Yousef JUMMA (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation is pleased to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, as well as your Vice-Chairmen, on your election to lead the deliberations of the Thirtieth Session of the General Conference. We wish you every success in leading our deliberations to fruition, and to enable us to achieve the objectives.

I would also like to welcome the countries that have just joined FAO. I am quite sure that this will make this Organization universal in character, and it will also give an impetus to international cooperation between its Members.

I would also like to congratulate, on behalf of my country, Libya, Dr Jacques Diouf who has just been re-elected as Director-General for a second term of office. My country is sure that he will shoulder the responsibility very ably as he is the best man to lead this Organization, which is one of the biggest and more important organizations within the United Nations. We will always support him in order to achieve the noble objectives of this Organization that is, combat poverty and preserve natural resources for the future generations.

We share the concern regarding the food security situation in the world and especially in the developing countries which are prone to natural catastrophes like floods, earthquakes, civil conflicts, which lead to an increase in the number of refugees and a decrease in official aid and a decrease in the strategic reserves of cereals. This, of course, calls for more help to be given to the food deficit countries so that they can increase their productivity and they can have some surplus to be used as reserves. We also should make it possible to transfer technology and affordable prices for these countries.

Seeds play an important role in achieving food security in developing countries. The monopoly of making seeds makes the biggest part of the world suffer from pressures because they cannot afford to have these seeds, and the monopoly of these seeds should be broken because it is the monopoly of food. And as we know, food is a human right for everyone. All countries should establish a cooperation mechanism in order not to have any countries or companies monopolizing seeds. This should be done within international cooperation endeavours, because this will be a great service to food security and will lead to alleviating the poverty and hunger in the world. My country now is trying to convene an International Conference on Seeds in March next year, and we are inviting all organizations, institutes and centres in this respect. We are also inviting the developing countries. This is, of course, an effort in order to exchange views in this important matter so that the developing countries can benefit from this and this will help them, of course, to achieve sustainable development and fight hunger. My country knows exactly the importance of agricultural development and food security for each and every person. Therefore, we have given priority in our development plans to human development, and we tried to build our infrastructure,

preserve our natural resources and combat desertification. We are implementing a number of important projects like the great man-made river; we are trying to achieve food security by transporting millions of cubic metres from the desert in the south to the north where we find arable land, so that water should be used in agriculture in more than 200 000 hectares. This is a very important project and it should be given support by FAO.

My delegation is also trying to upgrade fisheries because it is important to Libya, and FAO has played an important role because it carried out some studies in order to assist and evaluate our fish resources. Animal husbandry is an important sector for us, and we have given priority to it since the beginning of our evaluation in 1969. We have now achieved self-sufficiency in a number of areas, like eggs and dairy products. According to the recommendations of FAO, we have established our strategy until 2010 and we have submitted some reports according to what has been decided in the World Food Summit. We established a committee in order to achieve food security, to plan ahead for future activities and establish the plans that would be implemented in the near future.

I would like to touch briefly on some matters that are before us because I think that my delegation will have another opportunity to put its opinion in details when the different committees take up these matters. The evaluation is an important matter and this is an effective tool in order to improve further the work of this Organization. The Programme of Work and Budget 2000-2001 is an ambitious one, and it looks forward to the next century in spite of the limited resources. We think, however, that the technical areas should be protected and given priority in order to help the developing countries which are looking forward to to benefitting from the Technical Cooperation Programmes. The Strategic Framework 2000-2015 should confirm the Commitments in their own declaration regarding food security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit in order to reduce the number of those who suffer from malnutrition by half in 2015.

My country believes in the principle of equality between the two sexes, gender equality, and we are trying to involve women in development and in every aspect of life because the women constitute half of our society. We are also trying to achieve food security. The problem of drought and the scarcity of waters in Africa and some countries of the Middle East is a serious matter for these countries. Droughts and lack of water will have a negative impact on agriculture. Of course, we appreciate the work undertaken by FAO but we hope that its future projects will deal with this matter of drought and lack of water because in the next century, this will have a negative impact on providing food for the increasing population of the world.

My country was one of the first that supported the idea of establishing Country Offices, because we think that these Offices will be able to help solve the problems in the countries based on the awareness of the problems. We think that the countries of each region should be represented in the country representing them, and that these Offices should be established in a balanced manner so that they will help solve the problems faced by the different Regions.

If we talk about the Regions to which I belong, the Near East and North Africa, we find that we are largely deteriorating and the arable land is decreasing because there is an increased demand on food by the ever-increasing population. Now people are therefore trying to farm the marginal land, and this, of course, leads to desertification, so we call for solidarity and international help so that we can help preserve the natural resources. This of course should be done for the future generations.

We know the responsibility on our shoulders in order to put an end to hunger and poverty. We have to be up to this task and we hope that the decisions reached by this Conference will find the solutions for the problems faced by food and agriculture. We hope that we will have a better future in which food is abundant for everybody and people will live in peace because of that.

CHAIRMAN

I thank Mr Ali Yousef Jumma, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I would like nevertheless to recall that speeches in principle are limited to five minutes, and I would hope that there is cooperation from all sides as well. I now give the floor to Mr Nafasolia Papu Vai, the Minister for Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meterology of Samoa.

My second announcement is to draw to your attention that at the WFP office here at Headquarters, Room A-351. There is a Book of Condolences with delegates may wish to sign, which is in front of the WFP office, room A-351.

Mafasolia PAPU VAI (Samoa)

It is again an honour for me to be able to accept on behalf of the Samoa Delegation, the Director-General Jacques Diouf's invitation to the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. Samoa again congratulates Mr Diouf on his re-election as Director-General, and continues to offer our support throughout your new term of office into the new Millennium.

We are delighted to have welcomed last Friday to FAO Small Island Developing States from the North Pacific, as well as our South Pacific neighbour, Niue, and the European State of San Marino, and again this afternoon Kiribati from the Southwest Pacific. With Niue and Kiribati from the Southwest Pacific joining with other Small Island Developing States from the North Pacific under FAO's Sub-Regional Office in Samoa, Samoa would propose to simplify the Southwest Pacific designation to just Pacific. A similar change has already taken place from South Pacific Commission to just Pacific Community, as Pacific rim partners appreciate.

Firstly, Samoa would make reference to the Report of the Council on the world food agriculture situation in June. Samoa also generally concurs with the Council's analysis of the Current World Food Situation. We particularly note in paragraph 8, amongst others, the concerns that firstly, food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure by United Nations Organizations, secondly, support of FAO's analysis of impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade Liberalization and its assistance in preparing for the forthcoming World Trade Organization negotiations, thirdly, the need for technical and financial assistance to facilitate our efforts to meet food security objectives and achieve sustainable rural development, as well as helping other least developed countries to cope.

In the Report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security in May-June, Samoa concurs with the Council's note of concern at the decline of Overseas Development Assistance to agriculture, especially to Least Developed Countries where capital resources were a severe constraint, and I would add especially, Small Island Developing States such as Samoa. I refer to two major issues for Samoa's State of Food and Agriculture. These are Small Island Development States and Taro Leaf Blight. You will be aware of a special Ministerial Conference on Agriculture of Small Island Developing States in March, in which the contribution of agriculture to GDP in Samoa was credited at about 50 percent. An important section in that Report refers to integrated coastal area management, which Samoa notes was the focus of the technical consultations of South Pacific Small Island Developing States on Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 1996, immediately preceding the Asia Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting at the opening of the Sub-Regional office in Samoa. For the latter, Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture Forests Fisheries is tasked with the drafting of a national report on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and sea level. The June Council's draft Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States references this, and Samoa notes it as being an important part of the World Food Programme, to be discussed in Commission I Substantive and Policy Matters.

Samoa further notes that our request for an internal report on genetically-modified organisms and foods, the draft of which notes Australia and New Zealand's requirement for labelling of the latter as earlier noted for Europe. In September, Samoa's Prime Minister addressed the Twenty-second Special Session of the UN General Assembly on behalf of the 43 Member Nations of the Alliance of Small Island States. FAO is asked to continue with efforts to respond to the specific needs of the Small Island States.

You will appreciate that AOSIS/SIDS seek the "special case" due to their ecological fragility and economic vulnerability. Both of these were proved for Samoa in the two most devastating cyclones of the century, within two years of each other at the beginning of the 1990s. Compared to developed countries where disasters may damage about five percent of GDP, those disasters devastated Samoa with about three times, or 300 percent, damage compared to GDP. In spite of that, thanks to development assistance from both donors and Samoans and others living overseas, good recovery has been made, including most infrastructure. FAO contributed to this rehabilitative initiative in agricultural food production. This also in spite of Taro Leaf Blight forcing diversification to giant taro, other root crops and bananas. The latter is also under threat with less acceptable bananas with tolerance to Black Leaf Streak. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute International Network Bananas and Plantains' provisions of tissue culture materials is appreciated in this work.

Cocoa exports have not yet recovered. However, we note with concern recent decisions to allow substitutes as cocoa. Fortunately, exports of coconut products have gradually recovered. The traditional beverage, kava's export for pharmaceuticals, has also been improved. It is the export of fisheries, however, that has picked up much of the loss of Taro markets to farmers. Price, however, has recently decreased by 13 percent. The recent Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) "Food Outlook" noted this decline on the European market. Samoa fishermen's concern is compounded with local fuel costs, increasing about 33 percent since March 1999, with minimal inflation, which also impacts on all sectors.

Following the significant World Food Day focusing on *Youth Against Hunger*, there has been a special day of prayer and fasting each year since the devastating cyclones to seek God's protection from further disasters.

During the World Food Summit, Samoa expressed interest in the Special Programme for Food Security. This is currently under development, but relevant technological packages were selected to demonstrate the viability of adopting the different technology in economic practices, livestock management and production, fish farming and watershed management, taking into consideration the socio-economic conditions, the accessibility to land and resources and environmental impact.

We wish you the very best in chairing this important Conference Session, and to all other delegations in their deliberations. I thank you specifically for the opportunity to make Samoa's statement at this time.

Mrs Thoko Angela DIDIZA (South Africa)

Chairperson, we would like to congratulate you and the members of your presidium for having been elected at the beginning of this Conference to actually chair this Session. In my view, and as other people have indicated, we feel you are doing very well.

On behalf of my delegation, my country and myself specifically, I wish to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election to the post. This re-election reflects our confidence and our appreciation of the work that he has done for all of us as Members of the Organization, but especially for those of us from the developing countries. We trust, therefore, that as he resumes his duty for this second term of office, he will continue to work tirelessly, as he has done with his staff members with increased vigour, to achieve the goals as set out in the Strategic Framework before us, which we support as a country.

As we come to the end of the Twentieth Century, we would like to reflect on the things we have done to change the situation of hunger in the world as nations, individually and collectively. Poverty remains a world problem, which manifests itself in visible geopolitical dimensions. As we move into the new Millennium, we need to confront the underlying causes of poverty, from the range of platforms and institutions in which we participate in a manner that will bring hope and usher in a better life for the poor. For this to happen, we need to refocus on the food security and economic development challenges that face all of us at this time, and work together for real results.

As young democracy and having been in government for five years, we in South Africa are proud of the foundations we have laid. Not only in setting democratic structures but also in ensuring that we begin to change the household food security situation for the better, not only within our own national boundaries, but also working with the SADC Region. And that has also been proved by our commitment to regularize free trade within that community and we are committed, together with the Members of the Region, to make that free trade effective, not only on other industrial goods but also with regard to agriculture.

While a lot remains to be done, we have advanced in the process of restructuring the agricultural sector in order that it increases its contribution to national and regional development. In the past five years, we have implemented policy reforms in the area of marketing deregulation, sustainable resource management and institutional reform. Key outcomes of this period are the decentralized system of agricultural governance and the transformation in our service delivery orientation to ensure a people-centred process which takes into account the needs of our diverse groups of farmers.

Within the focus areas that FAO itself has supported, such as the integration of women and youth in the fight against poverty, we in South Africa had to deal with these challenges from a somehow different perspective, given our own history which is known by Members present here.

Our experience of implementing interventions to mainstream gender issues into agriculture has helped to improve our understanding of how we need to give targeted support to women as producers and entrepreneurs, given their special needs. The mobilisation of women has culminated in the establishment of an institute known as Kgora - a state agency focusing on household food security, which has become a regional resource. Through this institution, we are able to implement programmes which affirm and support women to increase incomes and household food security.

Our national policy for the future has also taken into cognizance the role that our youth have and will continue to play in the fight against hunger. We have started programmes to look at issues of human resource development, the settlement of young farmers as future farmers of our country, awareness-raising at the junior school level of the importance of agriculture. We are, therefore, happy and pleased that this World Food Day theme - *Youth against Hunger* - was chosen by this Organization.

Rural development, food security and poverty eradication have been and will remain priority areas for my Government. In this context, we are therefore happy to be part of the process, an educative process that was started by FAO in partnership with the Netherlands in particular, and other countries, to look at issues of multi-functionality of agriculture.

While we recognize the multi-faceted nature of agriculture, we also are concerned that somehow such a concept can be used as an excuse to close off income-ending opportunities for developing countries. To that effect, we are saying to Member Nations present here, as we go to the next round of the negotiations of the WTO, that we need to look seriously at what are the challenges that are facing us in regularizing agricultural trade and how we open up opportunities for those developing countries who largely depend on agricultural production to come out of poverty. And

therefore we would need to be mindful as to how we do that in a manner that opens up those opportunities instead of closing them.

In South Africa, we are of the view that the educative process has been worthwhile. And somehow, we think such resources can now be diverted to look at how FAO as an organization can support the negotiation process on WTO, particularly as regard to developing countries.

The institutional reforms already undertaken by FAO, in our view need to be continued. And we want to ensure that they are consolidated, particularly the decentralization process and some of the strategic interventions such as the Special Programme on Food Security, for which a number of countries indicated their approval. Resource availability, however, will continue to be a challenge if we want to support such programmes. In my view, it is a challenge for all of us - both developed and developing countries. While it has sometimes been difficult for poor countries to meet pressing financial commitments, we must as members of this important multilateral institution also recognized the perspectives they bring to the development effort, as being of critical value in enriching our strategies to poverty eradication.

In conclusion, I would like to say that South Africa will continue to be an effective Member of FAO. It will participate in its activities in a number of committees that are said, but will also will continue to work with FAO and its Member Nations in the Regions and in the world.

Petu DUMITRIU (Romania)

First of all, allow me to welcome the new members of FAO - Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau and San Marino, as we are convinced that they will bring an important contribution to the whole Organization. The achievement of world food security, a major objective of the Third Millennium, depends on the measures we will decide and act upon.

That would imply the eradication of hunger and poverty, and bringing closer the levels of development among countries. Romania supports the adoption of concrete and urgent steps to achieve those objectives. While many countries, even the developed ones, are coping with problems generated by unemployment and inflation, others are striving for their very survival as a result of protectionism in international trade with agricultural products, the ever-increasing foreign debt and the decline in multilateral aid. A challenge of major significance, both for the developed countries and the developing ones, is the degradation of the environment, which negatively affects the quality of life and impedes economic development.

Since the environment belongs to everybody, its protection requires greater concerted actions from both governmental agencies and economic operators. Their actions should be based on facts, updated data and results of scientific research.

I would refer briefly now to some developments in Romanian agriculture, which is undergoing a process of consolidation of the market economy. Agriculture comprises 15.6 percent of Romania's GDP, and the population occupied in the agricultural sector has a tendency to increase, following a decline in industrial activities. The share of the private sector is increasing continuously. It accounts for 83.7 percent in the agricultural area and 82.5 percent in the cultivated one. We also anticipate changes in agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas, mainly in the sphere of economic and social services, processing and others, due to the trend of migration towards the rural areas. The average area of a peasant household has increased to 2.34 hectares as a result of the restitution of agricultural lands. The value of agricultural production over the period 1989 -1999 followed an ascending line in general. Vegetable output increased more, as compared with animal production. Nevertheless, the farmers have not been able to capitalize their gainsbecause of the price ratio – industry / agriculture - that has always been detrimental to the latter. There is a need to establish a better balance between agriculture and industry in terms of prices. That is a prerequisite for a more balanced development of these important branches of the economy. The farmers are currently facing financial difficulties, under the reduced capability to invest in equipment. That required further government intervention in

agriculture. The trade with agricultural products and food has become fully private. The liberalization of trade has followed the facilitation of better integration of import/export flows within world markets. Internal prices are able to form freely and move in connection with the variation of their external equivalents. The custom tariffs for food and agricultural goods have been significantly diminished starting as of 1st June 1997. Their level fell to 27 percent from 80 percent. In general, Romania's agricultural policy consists of institutionalizing market mechanisms, while harmonizing with the European Union; creating new structures, modernizing the food and agricultural sector, promoting rural development and protecting the environment.

The main objectives of short - to medium-term strategy is to increase the competitiveness of Romanian products on the domestic and foreign markets by means of policies that aim at consolidation of private property, better incentives for food and agricultural products, better regulation and functioning of agri-food markets, support for rural development, reform of public administration and agriculture.

Over the last years, Romania has benefited from a series of technical assistance projects, with the support of FAO in various fields like privatization of enterprises that supply means of mechanization, development of forestry, quality of food products, combating of pests, and alleviation of natural disaster effects. We believe that our Organization should focus in future on those activities that can enhance efficiency, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition towards a market economy. Romania is interested in further cooperating with FAO as regard technical assistance projects.

Finally, let me once again emphasize that the solution of complex food problems that man can face requires active and direct participation of all countries.

CHAIRMAN

I thank Mr Dimitriu from Romania. Before giving the podium to the next speaker, I would like to try to convince all of you that everything that is said is much better understood if you limit yourselves at this time of the day to five minute speeches.

I now call Mr Nehad Ibrahim Abdel Latif, Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO.

Nehad Ibrahim ABDEL-LATIF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I wish to first extend to you, Mr Chairperson, congratulations on your election for this session and to your Vice-Chairmen, wishing all of you success in chairing this session and attaining its objectives.

It is my pleasure to convey to you greetings from Dr Yusuf Wahli, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, as well as thanks and appreciation to the Director-General for inviting him to attend this important Conference, and to all FAO staff members for their good preparation of this Conference. I would also like to extend the congratulations of my country to Dr. Jacques Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of this Organization, and convey to him our best wishes for continued efforts to attain the objectives of the Organization and shall support him by all means.

This Session is held at a historical turning point, at a the threshold of a New Century and the eve of a new Millennium, which gives importance to this session and increases our responsibility. The challenges are serious and the problems are enormous, which require consistent and sustained efforts.

The world dimensions of poverty and hunger are terrible indeed. As you know, the world population has reached about 6 billion people; 3 billion of them live on less than US$ 2 per day; this number is expected to reach 4 billion in 15 years. And that 1.3 billion persons live on less than one US dollar per day and this number is expected to reach about 2 billion by the year 2015. If we look at this regional statement we find that FAO should in fact increase its financial

resources so as to carry out its objectives and projects to fight poverty and hunger. That is why the minimum that our country could expect for the new millennium is the zero real growth. At the same time, we are convinced that FAO should streamline its management and rationalize its resources. In this context, we would like to emphasize the importance of allocating the necessary financial resources to ensure equality in the use of official languages of the Organization in all its agencies, since this would enhance participation of different states in the activities of the Organization so as to achieve its objectives.

Egypt welcomes the effective participation in this important Conference, which is held three years after the Rome Declaration, which Egypt supports. In this context and in the context of the programmes of economic reform, has pursued at the level of agriculture a number of policies which have played an important role in increasing production at vertical and horizontal levels. Great achievements have been attained in the field of agricultural development and food security. In fact the economic reform and liberalization programme has achieved many important results as regards agricultural development and farmers have responded favourably to new agricultural techniques and so on.

Allow me to give you some examples, which reflect the progress in the Egyptian agricultural sector, which is a cornerstone of our national economy. It represents about 50 percent of the population as the source of income and absorbs 35 percent of the workforce and contributes about 20 percent in the domestic production and overall exports. In fact, number one, there has been an increase in the cultivated land, crop areas and the volume of credit for agriculture, which led to a real improvement in the income of farmers, reaching about 25 percent. Many achievements have been done in the fields of human development, including attention to women, which have been participating in sustainable economic agricultural development. On the other hand, the average per capita calorie intake, which is about 3 228, was beyond the world average and the average recommended by FAO, which is about 2 504. Fourthly, Egypt has reached a first position regarding the average hectare production in rice and sugarcane. Furthermore, Egypt is self-sufficient in the production of rice, vegetables and dairy products. Some of these products have also been exported. The self-sufficiency rate in wheat is expected to be 75 percent next year.

On the other hand, Egypt has formulated strategies for the twenty first century so as to ensure food security for every citizen. I would refer to certain factors in this strategy: human development, increase in annual growth rates, horizontal development of agriculture for exports, encouraging investments, consolidation of credit and extension activities and consolidation of regional and international cooperation.

Egypt's participation in the implementation of Rome Declaration is not limited to what is done at the local level. We have gone beyond the local level and the Telefood programme ceremony in Egypt was very successful. It was really possible to collect about $10 million, though only $4 million have been collected throughout the world. This shows that the idea of the programme has been successful by all standards. Secondly, the Egyptian people believe that poverty and hunger should be fought and combated through different projects such as the Telefood programme.

I would also like to refer to Egypt's participation in the Special Programme for Food Security which has been initiated by the Organization. It is a programme that ensures the cooperation between south and south. In this context, our country has signed a tripartite agreement with Tanzania and FAO for participation in the Tanzanian Government's programme to ensure food security.

I have visited a number of sites in Tanzania and I saw the efforts made there and how this tripartite cooperation could be a source of hope for small farmers without any need for huge financial resources. This is in keeping with Egypt's belief in such form of cooperation to ensure food security. We shall cooperate with FAO in the implementation of similar projects in and outside Africa.

This was a brief exposé of the Egyptian agriculture in the past, present and the future and the level of international cooperation. We take pride in the achievements of our national programmes regarding agricultural reform and the encouragement of the private sector. We take pride in the achievements of experience and this success has been affirmed by many states and many international institutions. I hope that this session will lead to positive outcomes so as to ensure food security and fight poverty and hunger on a sustainable basis.

Ciril SMRKOLJ (Slovenia) (Original language Slovene)

First of all, allow me to express my deep sympathy to WFP and to all those that lost their relatives and friends in the recent air crash near Pristina in Kosovo.

It is a great honour and privilege to congratulate, as a representative of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and as the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Jacques Diouf, for his re-election, and the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference for the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

It is a great pleasure to be able to extend greetings to all new Members of FAO who have joined us in this magnificent eternal city of Rome at the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to express my gratitude to the organizers of this Conference, and my appreciation for the excellently-prepared materials.

I thank you for offering this venue for the presentation of our efforts concerning the agricultural policy towards rural development which, in my opinion, deserves particular attention. I believe that all those aware of the importance of this segment of man's coexistence with nature, of the preservation of population density and natural heritage, also strive to achieve these goals.

Slovenia is a transit country, situated at an important crossroads between Central Europe, the Near East and the Mediterranean. This strategically-important location has had a significant impact on the development of Slovenian culture, economy and politics.

Slovenia gained independence in 1991, and thus it belongs among the younger countries of the world. Thanks to its familiarity with the political situation in the Region, and due to its proximity to the former Yugoslav Republics, Slovenia is actively contributing to the establishment of a peaceful coexistence in Southeast Europe.

There is ongoing macro-economic stabilization, restructuring and reform of all sectors of economy, including agriculture. Stability of the economy is displayed by a 3.9 percent growth of GDP and a significant decrease in the inflation rate, from 117 percent, in 1991, to 7.9 percent, in 1998. GDP *per capita* amounted, in 1998, to US$9 899.

In Slovenia, there are great differences among individual regions. Although the territory of Slovenia covers only 20 273 square kilometres, it is influenced by the Alpine, the Mediterranean, and the Subpannonian continental climate. It also includes the Dinaric features. These varied natural conditions are reflected in the structure of land use, where almost 60 percent of the area is covered by forests. The share of agriculture and fisheries accounts for approximately 5 percent of total GDP, and the share of rural population accounts for approximately 7 percent of the total population. According to the latest data, there are about 65 000 active agricultural holdings. These are, as a rule, very small and fragmented. The average farm size is 5.6 hectares, with a typical dispersed and small-scale parcel structure: almost 4 million plots of land in Slovenia.

After Slovenia gained its independence, the development of agricultural policy followed the principles set out in the Common Agricultural Policy by setting objectives, introducing foreign trade protection and changing structual policy.

Two-thirds of Slovenia's territory lie in the hilly and mountainous regions. Due to the particular climate and configuration, most of Slovenia's territory is classified as less-favoured areas. Agricultural holdings lie on steep slopes, where vegetation is subjected to significant temperature

variations and inconsistent water supply during the vegetation period. Farming in such conditions is inevitably difficult in comparison to farming on the vast plains in certain other countries.

For the purposes of survival, farmers thus have to look for additional income elsewhere since such small agricultural holdings could not provide a living for a family. The need to orient farms towards adopting additional activities became evident. These activities are traditionally linked to agricultural production, such as wooden goods, smoked meat, dairy and pottery products, but also non-agricultural activities, such as tourism, marketing and consulting, *etcetera*. Even though a considerable part of the population no longer generates income from food production, agriculture still has an important role in nature preservation and maintenance of the cultivated landscape for the rural population and for visitors.

Approximately one-quarter of the whole territory of Slovenia lies within the areas where the overcropping of agricultural land has been so significant that the adverse effect on natural biodiversity has become manifest, and the habitats for many plant and animal species have been reduced. At the same time, conflicts between wildlife and local population have multiplied, as wildlife penetrates the densely-populated areas, damages crops and represents a threat to the local population, as in the case of bears.

Compared to other countries, a significant advantage for Slovenia is a comparatively high level of preservation of natural resources, especially soil and water. Two types of environmental conditions are encountered in agriculture: abandonment of farming and overcropping, with the resulting depopulation of the countryside, degradation of cultural landscape and further marginalization of economic, cultural and social life in these areas, as well as decreased number of plant varieties and animal species in a certain area; farming in the lowlands of Slovenia can cause drinking water and soil pollution due to intensive crop farming, fruit and wine growing and the concentration of livestock breeding, especially pig and poultry breeding.

The population of the rural areas, situated in the less-favoured areas, mountainous and karst regions continues to decline. Due to the migration of mostly younger population, the working and intellectual potential has diminished, while innovation has decreased due to the age structure of the remaining population. There are significant consequences for the economy because of this. In agriculture, this is evidenced by: abandonment of the cropping of marginal land, steep slopes and land of lower quality; overgrowing with forest; abandonment of farming; increased areas under grass suitable for ploughing also on flat land; abandonment of mountain pastures; and deterioration of production infrastructure - roads and buildings.

Rural population is entitled to all the commodities available to the urban population. Thus, it is necessary to ensure that the rural population has access to adequate schooling and education, health service, social security and can also take part in various activities. On the basis of an active policy of rural development involving different ministries, the Slovenian Government is introducing such programmes in the areas of employment, health service, school systems and other areas. The Ministry of Agriculture is also involved in the programmes of continuing education of farmers, carried out by its extension service.

Knowledge, gained through the centuries and handed down from one generation of farmers to another is invaluable. Their connection with nature, the microclimatic conditions and the acquired know-how of specific technologies known only to them have been preserved also by increasing the variety of production on the farm, thus providing additional employment for family members. Many Slovenian primary schools have special programmes for encouraging the preservation of this tradition.

All agricultural programmes are planned and carried out in compliance with the principles of sustainability, taking into account environmental protection. The most important development objectives of the Slovenian countryside are: improvement of the standard of living in the countryside; preservation of population density by use of environment-friendly methods of

farming; protection of the traditional rural landscape; preservation of soil fertility and water quality by using environment-friendly cultivation and processing methods; environmental protection; and preservation of biodiversity.

Two programmes are thus introduced: support for less-favoured areas - the objective is to compensate costs arising from the less favourable production conditions and, thus, support the preservation of population and cultural landscape. The basic purpose of the agro-environmental programme is to preserve farming in the Slovenian countryside in such a way as to ensure a healthy and reasonable standard of living for its population, protect nature against the negative impacts of farming, preserve the variety of animal and plant species in the countryside, and preserve the unique cultural landscape.

The modern concept of agricultural support is based on sustainable rural development, where, in addition to its production function, agriculture includes other, socially-relevant and evaluated functions. For this, a consensus of society in general and political will on the part of the competent authorities is required. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for preparation and implementation of rural development programmes. Integrated rural development planning is required, necessitating obligatory harmonization between different line Ministries. The concept of total globalization and liberalization is particularly threatening for those countries that do not rank among the most developed countries, and it is unacceptable for small countries. In view of the liberalization of trade routes and the important role of capital movements, special attention should be paid to the consistent development of economy in compliance with the objectives of the protection of the enviroment and the preservation of the countryside. Countries whose strategic target is sustainable agriculture cannot allow the loss of such important goods as clean water and unpolluted soil, while the raising of awareness helps to change attitudes towards the cultural heritage of the countryside.

Allow me to reiterate my appreciation to the entire FAO team for their enthusiastic preparation of this Conference. Many issues remain open, and I am certain that we will return to them in the future.

I believe that our cooperation will remain fruitful and that we will be able to contribute to environment-friendly agriculture, the production of healthy quality food, and to a cleaner nature which we owe to future generations. Thus, we will also indirectly contribute to food safety and to a decrease in the number of the hungry and the undernourished in different crisis points all over the world.

I am certain that, together, we can achieve this goal. Mr President, Excellencies, Ministers and representatives of participating countries, thank you for your attention and I wish you successful work at the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

KISAMBA-MUGERWA (Uganda)

Permit me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairpersons for having been charged with the responsibility of guiding our deliberations. I also wish to join previous speakers in extending, on behalf of the Government and people of Uganda, our congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf on his reappointment to the office of the Director-General. I also warmly welcome all the new Member Nations to FAO. We pledge our support to ensure that our Organization begins the new Millennium better prepared to face the many challenges before it, and also better able to take advantage of the many opportunities for increased cooperation and partnership.

I would like to start by placing on record the appreciation by my delegation and the Government of Uganda for FAO's assistance to Uganda in crucial areas of ensuring food security, as well as other forms of technical cooperation. Agriculture is the mainstay of Uganda's economy and this trend will continue for some time to come. Agriculture accounts for 42.2 percent of the total gross domestic product. It generates more than 80 percent of the export earnings and employs 90 percent of the labour force.

Food production has been increasing steadily and the sector, as a whole, has been growing at an average rate of 4.5 percent annually for the last six years. For the year 1997-98, the sector grew by 8.1 percent. Production of cash crops rose by 14 percent while that of food crops rose by 10 percent. That is, production of food crops went up from 16 million metric tonnes in 1997 to 17.9 million metric tonnes in 1998. Production is projected to rise to over 20 million metric tonnes in 1999 despite the vagaries of the weather.

In order to arrest hunger as well, as the eradication of poverty, we are developing a strategic framework for a medium-term modernization of agriculture. We are aiming at ensuring that the economy grows by at least 5 percent per year. The primary source of this growth can only be through increased production. Essentially, therefore, the main objective is to raise unit productivity in farming and enhance agro-processing.

Agriculture in Uganda is largely smallholder-based with each family cultivating on average 2 to3 hectares of land. We are aiming at transforming agriculture from a predominantly peasantry system into a market-oriented one, which will lead to food security and rapid economic growth, thus drastically cutting down on poverty. This will be achieved through the following: shifting from low to high-yielding technologies; shifting from low to high income-generating enterprises; shifting the focus from concentrating on subsistence to market-oriented production; specializing in production of those goods with a greater comparative advantage; utilizing the available natural resources sparingly and rationally without degrading the environment.

In this respect, emphasis will be on the research sector to generate and disseminate new technologies. We hope to enhance the dissemination of these technologies so that high-yielding stock and planting materials are available and accessible to the farmers through an efficient delivery system. Control of soil erosion will be one of the priority areas of extension. This will include training the farmers on soil fertility, management and improvement. This is being supported by the Soil Fertility Initiative Programme implemented by the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARC). We are equally emphasizing water harvesting from catchment areas for crop production and livestock. The small-scale irrigation projects under the FAO Food Security Programme will strengthen this activity. The fisheries sector is similarly receiving concentrated attention. Uganda is making a concerted effort to integrate tree growing with crops to maximize land utilization and also provide cover to protect soil. Efforts to curb deforestation are being intensified. We hope with research development there will be enhanced dissemination of the new technologies, so that high-yielding stock and planting materials are available and accessible by the farmer through an efficient distribution system. Emphasis will then be put on control of soil fertility, proper crop and animal husbandry. Uganda also has a problem of distribution of food and income within the different regions. This has created differences in nutritional needs with some areas experiencing periodic malnutrition. Government is addressing this problem through an aggressive poverty-alleviation Plan of Action, which emphasizes improvement of infrastructure and accessibility to credit through micro-finance institutions. Government is also increasing agro-processing by the removal of tax on importation of machinery for this activity. Investors are encouraged to invest in the country and Government is prepared to facilitate the activities and it is open to dialogue. The poverty level has decreased from 56 percent in the year 1992 to 44 percent in 1996.

Finally, we still have the challenge of changing the attitude of the people in Uganda to take farming as business and not just a way of life, simply because they are born in homes of either cultivators or livestock keepers or fisher folk. This requires not only sensitization, but also adoption of new technologies. Uganda is progressing towards ensuring food security in terms of quantity and quality. This will be attained through production, market availability and good infrastructure, which Government is addressing as the priority number one through the modernization of our agriculture Plan of Action.

George FOULKES, MP (United Kingdom)

Chair, fellow delegates, can I first join the Slovenian delegation in expressing our Government's sympathy to the relatives of all those who lost their lives in the World Food Programme plane which crashed near Pistina on Friday. All loss of life is, of course, tragic, but I am sure Conference would agree that it is a double disaster when those who lose their lives were themselves on a mission of mercy.

Can I say it is a great privilege and a great pleasure to be addressing this FAO Conference on behalf of the British Labour Government. As we face up at home and here to the challenges of the Twenty-First Century, now is the right time for us to take stock. Can I say that our Government's overarching objective is very clear and simple. We speak in London of the importance of what we call "joined-up government". We also want to see a "joined-up United Nations" with all the Specialized Agencies, the Funds and the Programmes focusing on the achievement of the international development targets, and particularly the target of the eradication of poverty. I want, today, to say what I think this means for us here at FAO.

Last month FAO announced that we are simply not on track to meet the target set by the World Food Summit in 1996, that target of halving the number of people in hunger and malnourished in the world by the year 2015. The present rate of reduction is only 8 million a year, compared to the 20 million a year that is needed. So against this sobering background, we have just three key messages for this Conference.

First, the need for a much clearer focus in FAO's activities on areas where here we have a comparative advantage. Second, is the importance of the Strategic Framework, and third is the need for management reforms to improve the effectiveness of the Organization.

So let me start with focus. The key challenge for FAO is to sharpen its focus on two areas, two areas in which we think it has comparative advantage and can do better than any other organization. The first is its nominative role. FAO is uniquely placed to establish international standards and global indicators on food and on agriculture. And this is vital-vital in a globalizing world with its implication for trade, for technical standards and on how countries can manage their natural resources.

The second is in carefully-targeted programmes at a country level. The programme, for example, to support the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in West Africa. That is an excellent example of how FAO's normative expertise can be applied to the development of sustainable livelihoods for poor people at a local and regional level. So sharpening the focus, first.

Second, the Strategic Framework. We believe that this is the essential "route map" for FAO over the next 15 years. It has, thankfully, the same horizon as the key international development targets, 2015, and together with the medium-term development plan, it is going to be crucial to keep the Organization relevant and focused over this period. But if these two documents are to be truly effective as a basis for allocating resources, we need a clearer, sharper approach to the setting of priorities in a world where resources are scarce.

Third is improving effectiveness. This can be achieved only through a determined commitment to implement in FAO the sort of reform agenda which is now starting to work so well in other Specialized Agencies, particularly WHO. As the Strategic Framework recognizes, FAO needs to change the way it manages its programmes. We want to be able to measure the impact of the Organization's work. And we attach importance to independent evaluation.

As a knowledge organization, FAO must improve the way it manages its key institutional asset – its staff. Recruitment, motivation and morale must be top priorities.

And FAO's Governance needs to be reformed and simplified. FAO should come into line with almost all the other UN Agencies by reintroducing term limits for the post of Director-General.

We should also look hard for efficiencies at the centre and in the governing processes themselves. Every pound spent in bureaucracy, unnecessarily, is a pound less spent feeding those in abject poverty.

So to conclude, we need to do much better in bringing down the numbers of hungry people in the world. And we need a more focused and effective FAO to play a key role in this. We are committed to positive engagement with FAO. We are providing 21 million pounds for the *Programme on Responsible Fisheries* I mentioned earlier. We will watch for other opportunities, in agriculture, fisheries and forestry to support FAO's activities.

We look forward to working wholeheartedly with other Member Nations in the three areas I have identified – sharpening focus, putting the Strategic Framework into practice and improving effectiveness. We will monitor them all very closely. We will not hesitate to warn and criticize, where necessary, but equally to encourage and to support where it is right to do so.

We stand poised on the eve of this new Millennium. Let us enter into that new Millennium, determined to make the changes that are needed to help this Organization to play its part, along with the rest of the UN family, in meeting those development targets, eliminating hunger, eliminating poverty. Poverty which is disfiguring the face of the world today. By bringing prosperity, by bringing dignity to the poor of the world, we in the developed countries, the rich nations of the world, bring just that extra little bit of dignity to ourselves.

Mohamed OULD SID'AHMED LEKHAL (Mauritanie)

Je suis extrêmement heureux d'adresser au nom de mon Gouvernement et en mon nom personnel, ainsi qu'au nom des membres de ma délégation, les félicitations les plus chaleureuses à M. le Directeur général pour sa réélection éclatante. Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour féliciter le Président de la conférence et les Vice-Présidents pour leur élection.

La réélection de M. Jacques Diouf pour un deuxième mandat consolidera sans nul doute les grandes réalisations effectuées par l'Organisation au cours des dernières années et ce, dans plusieurs domaines, notamment concernant le programme sur la sécurité alimentaire qui a été mis en œuvre dans notre pays en 1995. Nous attendons davantage de résultats de ce programme tant dans le domaine de l'intensification agricole que dans le domaine de la diversification. En signant l'accord tripartite entre la Mauritanie, la Chine et la FAO et ce, dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud, ce programme en effet acquiert une nouvelle impulsion. Je voudrais citer en ce sens le programme EMPRES, programme qui va être démarré, nous l'espérons, dans la région Nord-Ouest de l'Afrique au début de l'an 2000.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le Gouvernement de la République islamique de Mauritanie, depuis les années 80 et ce, conformément aux directives de S.E. le Président de la République de Mauritanie, notre gouvernement a procédé à une révision globale de sa politique économique et a accordé une place privilégiée à la sécurité alimentaire qui s'appuie sur le développement agricole et le développement de l'élevage ; en effet nous œuvrons pour augmenter l'autosuffisance en milieu rural et aussi améliorer les conditions de vie des habitants du milieu rural en augmentant leurs revenus. L'État essaie d'améliorer et de développer l'agriculture et l'élevage à travers des campagnes annuelles de vaccination du bétail, en assurant l'infrastructure dans le domaine des parcours, en creusant des puits et en mettant en place des dispensaires. Notre Gouvernement d'un autre côté, a adopté une stratégie nationale relative au milieu rural. Cette stratégie a été d'ailleurs adoptée aussi par nos partenaires. Cette stratégie vise à assurer la sécurité alimentaire tout en préservant l'environnement. Pour lutter contre la pauvreté, l'État a mis en place une délégation et un bureau spécialisés qui appliquent une politique sociale de généralisation des soins primaires de santé et qui visent essentiellement à améliorer la situation de la femme, notamment de la femme rurale. Une autre dimension de cette stratégie sert à créer davantage d'opportunités de travail et d'augmenter les revenus des plus démunis tant dans les villes que dans les campagnes et aussi à promouvoir le secteur informel.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Conférenciers, avant de terminer cette brève allocution, je voudrais informer votre aimable Conférence que notre pays a connue récemment des inondations dévastatrices qui ont endommagé gravement le périmètre irrigué, provocant de grands dégâts et laissant un grand nombre de personnes sans toit et sans sources de subsistance, ce qui aura un impact sans doute sur le rendement agricole de cette année, malgré les énormes investissements qui ont été faits tant par le privé que par le public. Les pouvoirs nationaux ont pris les dispositions urgentes nécessaires, mais les dispositions sont en deçà du niveau requis.

C'est pour cette raison Mesdames et Messieurs que j'appelle votre aimable assemblée à prendre les mesures nécessaires qui devraient correspondre à la dimension de cette catastrophe afin que nous puissions, grâce à votre solidarité, sortir de cet état d'urgence et je suis sûr que vous allez répondre positivement et spontanément à notre requête.

CHAIRMAN

The next speaker according to the order of the day was Malta. The Minister of Agriculture of Malta, Mr Ninu Zammit, has delivered his speech in writing to us with the request for it to be inserted in the records of this afternoon's meeting. We will happily do so.

Oswaldo ANTEZANA VACA DIEZ (Bolivia)

Estimo que una Conferencia de esta naturaleza, que nos permite una apreciación objetiva del *Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación*, nos debe servir también para tener una intercomunicación franca y sincera entre nuestros países. Ello nos permitirá conocernos mejor, tener la posibilidad de intercambiar y hacer conocer nuestras ricas y diversas culturas, establecer relaciones comerciales más justas y equitativas; en síntesis, promover una verdadera hermandad entre los países del mundo, ser cada día más solidarios los unos con los otros, particularmente cuando tenemos la desgracia de ser azotados por los desastres naturales, los que nos causan momentos de angustia y desesperación.

Nos encontramos atravesando una época de dificultades, lo que se refleja en los bajos rendimientos de nuestras cosechas, en un deterioro de nuestros recursos básicos, en la pérdida de considerables superficies aptas para las siembras y en un gran daño para nuestra infraestructura productiva. Todo ello atenta contra los ímprobos esfuerzos que venimos haciendo para combatir la pobreza y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria a nuestros pueblos, agregando un nuevo ingrediente al preocupante marco agro-alimentario.

La población mundial demoró un millón de años para alcanzar los 1 000 millones de habitantes; en solamente 123 años llegó a los 2 000 millones de habitantes, alcanzando los 5 000 millones en un lapso de apenas 13 años. La población mundial aumenta aproximadamente a razón de 86 millones por año y, con dicho ritmo de crecimiento, en los próximos 30 años existirán alrededor de 8 000 millones de seres humanos, quienes tendrán el doble de las necesidades alimentarias actuales.

Debemos enfrentar un desafío que incidirá principalmente en el orden tecnológico, orientado a alcanzar sistemas de alta productividad ambientalmente compatibles, y con un permanente y sostenido apoyo del más alto nivel político hacia el desarrollo rural en su conjunto.

En este contexto, Bolivia, al igual que otros países, está empeñada en movilizar recursos humanos y financieros tendientes a transformar el agro, a adquirir autosuficiencia productiva en cuanto a alimentos básicos se refiere y a lograr excedentes en los cultivos industriales, generando así empleos, valor agregado y divisas provenientes de la exportación de nuestras materias primas y productos manufacturados. En términos de seguridad alimentaria, la disponibilidad, el acceso y el uso de los alimentos constituyen tres factores determinantes para manejar adecuada y pertinentemente dicho concepto.

Los altos índices de pobreza, particularmente en las áreas rurales de mi país, se manifiestan en el bajo nivel de vida y en la desnutrición, que afectan a segmentos importantes y grupos vulnerables de la sociedad, definiendo una crónica situación de inseguridad alimentaria.

Es por esto que el Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural de Bolivia basa el desarrollo agropecuario y rural en los principios de: integralidad, sostenibilidad, equidad, concertación y participación, con proyección hacia la consecución de un incremento de la producción y la productividad sectorial, garantizando así la seguridad alimentaria, la expansión y diversificación de las exportaciones sectoriales.

Para este propósito hemos identificado programas, enmarcados en el nuevo ordenamiento jurídico del país, en la potencialidad de nuestros recursos naturales renovables y en la demanda sectorial siempre insatisfecha. En este contexto se inscribe el Programa de Servicios Agropecuarios, sustentado por dos componentes fundamentales: el Sistema Boliviano de Tecnología Agropecuaria y el Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, dirigidos ambos a elevar la producción y productividad sectorial, contemplando además los nuevos moldes de inocuidad alimentaria, bajo el concepto del sistema de análisis de peligro y puntos críticos de control. Nos encontramos en plena negociación con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo para conseguir los recursos financieros que nos permitan encarar esta importante iniciativa nacional.

Actualmente, estamos realizando esfuerzos con la FAO en la sistematización de la oferta tecnológica agropecuaria y agroforestal disponible, y en la búsqueda de un encadenamiento adecuado y efectivo entre los proyectos de postcosecha y el PESA, como el exitoso Proyecto de Fertisuelos que acaba de concluir el último mes de julio.

Este proyecto nos ha dejado una gran experiencia en los componentes de innovación tecnológica y crédito en especie, elementos básicos para alcanzar la tan anhelada seguridad alimentaria y que necesita de una difusión a lo largo y ancho del territorio nacional. Para ello estamos gestionando un financiamiento a través del Programa de Apoyo a la Seguridad Alimentaria (PASA) con la cooperación de la Unión Europea.

En otro ámbito de acción, y frente al lacerante problema del narcotráfico, con la FAO y con financiamiento de diferentes países a través del PNUFID, estamos ejecutando un agresivo proyecto agro-forestal en las áreas de producción de hojas de coca. Este proyecto responde a las necesidades del Gobierno Boliviano para encarar con éxito el Plan Dignidad, cuyo principal objetivo consiste en sacar a Bolivia del circuito coca – cocaína a partir del año 2002.

Hace 48 horas que hemos elegido a las autoridades ejecutivas de nuestra institución; quienes han resultado favorecidos por el voto mayoritario tienen por delante un arduo trabajo para llevar a cabo; al felicitarlos por su elección y al formularles los mejores deseos de éxito en el cometido de sus funciones, me permito sugerirles, con el mayor respeto, que consoliden a la brevedad posible el proceso de descentralización ya iniciado y que debe concretizarse en realidades que beneficien a las Regiones.

Ellas deben generar su propias iniciativas, hacer conocer sus necesidades, desarrollando un orden de prioridades, pero exigiendo de la FAO un respeto inequívoco para atender la demanda de los países, premisa básica para la obtención de logros.

De nada sirve encarar proyectos desde arriba, cuando no se ha obtenido el consentimiento de los verdaderos beneficiarios. Estimado Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, haga de esta reflexión un permanente recordatorio, y le puedo garantizar que los éxitos que se obtendrán también serán permanentes.

Ninu ZAMMIT (Malta)

In the first instance, I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Conference which has coincided with the preparations for the forthcoming global trade negotiations and, therefore, has assumed a much greater importance. The impact on agriculture of the outcome of these

negotiations increases the responsibility laid on you to guide us in the evaluation of such impact and in the formulation of our negotiating position. In my view, FAO has a key role to play in acting as an honest broker in bringing together apparently divergent views on the matter.

I am sure that our re-elected Director-General will take up this challenge on behalf of our Organization in earnest. I must, therefore, congratulate him on his re-election, and wish him all the wisdom he requires in this difficult, but hopefully rewarding, exercise for the fruitful conclusion of the trade negotiations in the agricultural field so that the net result would be the alleviation of hunger and poverty in the world.

In this respect, the maintenance of a special and differential treatment for developing countries assumes paramount importance. This issue is much wider than agriculture, but the provision of food is not just an economic activity. is life itself. The impact on world food prices, on food production and food reserves of the outcome of any agreement during the trade negotiations must be properly assessed in this light as well. is not only a matter of market access, which is important for the well-being of developing countries in view of the very high importance of agriculture in their economies, but also a matter of investment in food production. The level of global food prices is critical for net food-importing countries.

The value of agriculture cannot be measured in monetary terms alone. The multi-functionality of agriculture cannot be overemphasized. In this respect, Malta supports the European Union's view that "it is essential to ensure that progress on trade issues does not damage the ability of those employed in agriculture to supply the food required as well as to supply public goods, in particular as regards the environment (including combating desertification) and the sustained viability of rural areas." This issue is of particular relevance to Malta, being a small, densely populated island state, whose environment is very fragile and whose agriculture is particularly vulnerable. Direct aid measures with no or minimal trade impact have an important role to play in this context. Food safety and quality issues, as well as animal welfare issues, need to be considered and addressed, as well, on a multilateral basis. This is specially true in those countries where tourism has assumed a greater importance in economic output, land and water use and employment.

The principle established by the Agriculture Agreement of the Uruguay Round, by means of the blue and green boxes is still valid today. The application of such instruments mitigates the ill effects of trade liberalization and price support reductions on the livelihood of agricultural producers. Malta supports this view.

The avoidance of irreparable damage and trade disruption, caused by unwarranted trade wars, is of great importance. For this purpose, the maintenance of the peace clause would give a legally- binding security for WTO members. Similarly, the special safeguard clause would enable Member Nations to deal with issues related to damaging low-priced imports and with as normal increases in imports, without resorting to more disruptive action.

Improvement in access to various markets, through the management of tariff quotas or reference quantities, is of particular importance to countries who seek niche markets abroad, which offer an opportunity to improve the income of small farmers whose produce has a reputation for quality linked to their geographical origin or production techniques.

I chose to speak on the forthcoming global trade negotiations at this Conference because, in my view, the outcome of these negotiations would chart the way forward for an overall agricultural policy review in all the Member Nations of our Organization. Being a centre of excellence on agricultural technical matters, FAO would be requested to take a substantive role in trade issues directly related to technical matters including veterinary, phytosanitary, food safety and marketing standards

May I conclude by welcoming the new Member Nations to this family of nations, whose aim is to combat hunger and malnutrition on a global basis.[2]

Gerard DOORNBOS (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers [IFAP])

It is an honour for me to address this Conference in my capacity as President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the worldwide farm organization. The two organizations, IFAP and FAO, have a longstanding relationship and cooperation which dates back to their creation in the 1940s. And today, just as the founding fathers of our federation, we would like to convey our best wishes of success and support to FAO, and we congratulate the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, on his re-election.

As world farmers, it is our desire to see FAO stronger and even more effective in servicing Governments and farming communities worldwide.

In the short time that I have at my disposal, I would like to raise one single issue: the central role that farmers' organizations should have in the work of FAO and that it should have in its Strategic Framework for 2000 to 2015. I think we all know that, during the last decade, Governments around the world have redefined their roles in agriculture. In the context of developing countries, Governments are no longer the managers of the agricultural sector, providing direction, inputs and marketing services as they maybe sometimes used to do in the past. And the shift in Government policy means a more important role for genuine Farmers' Organizations and a greater scope in their cooperation and in their operations. Indeed, no agriculture policy or programme can be drawn up in an effective manner, in my view, without the involvement of farmers through their representative organizations.

In IFAP, we welcome the efforts of Governments in this direction. There is indeed a growing recognition of the importance of Farmers' Organizations and the necessity to increase their active involvement in agricultural policies and programmes. This needs a follow-up, in my view, at the FAO level. It is also our impression that Governments may require assistance in this relatively new and often not so easy domain. There is sometimes a lack of sufficient knowledge among Governments and Government officials on Farmers' Organizations. Sometimes these Organizations are still too weak to establish effective cooperation. For this purpose, FAO, if they so wish in cooperation with IFAP, should consider specific projects, training and educational programmes, as well as publications to assist Governments in this endeavour. In IFAP we also believe that FAO can contribute significantly in this field also by assisting Farmers' Organizations in the following manner. First, agriculture projects or programmes must have a built-in budget line for the active participation of Farmers' Organizations. And without such a budget line the project cycles are too often in a hurry to complete the preset schedules and can easily overlook farmers' involvement. It is also our view that such a budget line should be handled by Farmers' Organizations themselves. Second, specific projects need to be put in place for strengthening Farmers' Organizations. And these should be institutional strengthening or redefining the legal, economic or procedural framework within which they operate. And third, I believe that FAO Field Offices can also be proactive in seeking and establishing contacts with their Farmers' Organizations in the Regions. In-house staff training on this subject, perhaps, needs to be reconsidered.

Farmers' Organizations are not the miracle solution for resolving all of the agricultural and rural problems which confront us. But they are, however, the essential ingredient without which, solutions, in my view, cannot be found. We, from the Farmers' Organizations, look forward to building a yet stronger partnership in cooperation among farmers, Farmers' Organizations and governments at local, at national and at global levels.

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[2] Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

CHAIRMAN

Before adjourning, I would like to give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General. You have the floor.

Javier PÉREZ DE VEGA (Secretario General Adjunto de la Conferencia y del Consejo)

Los Miembros del Comité General se reunirán ahora, después de la Plenaria, en la Sala de México. El Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe GRULAC, se reunirá mañana a las 9.00 horas en la Sala del Grupo de los 77.

The meeting rose at 18.25 hours.
La séance est levée à 18 h 25.
Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA

16 November 1999

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la septima sesión plenaria a las 9.40 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GÉNÉRAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Sierra Leone, Bahamas, Albania, Gambia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Iceland, Afghanistan, Niue, Madagascar, Kuwait, Iraq, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Poland, Malaysia, Cyprus, Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Swaziland, International Cooperative Alliance

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la septième séance plénière. A l' Ordre du jour de cette séance nous avons l'examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et nous allons donner la parole au délégué de la Sierra Léone, Umaru B. Wurie, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la République de Sierra Léone auprès de la FAO.

Umaru B. WURIE (Sierra Leone)

Please allow me to congratulate you and the other Members elected to lead the Thirtieth Session of the FAO General Conference. I would like to assure you of my delegation's fullest cooperation. Allow me also to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on behalf of the President, the Government and people of Sierra Leone, and on my own behalf, on his re-election as Director-General of the Organization. I also want to take this opportunity to thank him and his entire staff for the good work they have done, despite the constraints they have been facing.

We have come here towards the end of the Twentieth Century to shape the agricultural policies for the new Millennium. I would hope that the decisions we will make during this Session will be the starting point for further deliberations that will lead FAO to continue its operations at a level and pace needed to ensure that its good work continues well beyond our imagination.

It is clear that this is the last FAO Conference in this Millennium, and it is noteworthy that we have seen the willingness of countries to collaborate in a global way to help those that are less fortunate. We do appreciate this collaboration because food insecurity has become a global problem affecting many millions of people. However, my delegation is at a loss. It is at a loss because at this time when we expect greater support to FAO, we are instead witnessing the reduction of funds and resources that are needed to keep FAO strong. This situation is worrying for countries like ours in the developing world, that are struggling to ensure that a good harvest and food security are attained.

Mr Chairman, the current situation in Sierra Leone is very difficult and serious, despite the signing of the Peace Accord this year. Rebel activities are still prevalent in several parts of the

regions of my country. This has led to a slowdown in rehabilitation efforts as rebels continue to destroy life and property, displacing whole farming communities as well as rendering them unproductive. This situation has prevented many of the people from working on their farms to produce food needed to feed themselves and their families. A large portion of the people has been, and are still uprooted from their homes and are presently living in extremely difficult conditions, both at home and in neighbouring countries. The conflict has seriously disrupted the food security and it continues to have a negative impact on the nutritional situation of both young and old. Also, insecurity and conflict during the key agricultural cycle have meant a complete loss of harvest for the population lacking access to seeds and crops for planting . Even as I am speaking to you, some parts of the country are still inaccessible, due to rebel activities. This has greatly affected the movement of goods and people, as well as of humanitarian assistance.

The conflict in Sierra Leone, ranked one of the worst in this Millennium, continues to present an imposing negative humanitarian situation, which if not immediately checked will have a long-term catastrophic and unpredictable impact that might have implications on the whole Sub-region. We Sierra Leoneans have noted the speed with which the international community has responded to other crises but, for Sierra Leone, the responses have been very slow.

The conflict has not only affected the agricultural sector, but it has also disrupted the mining industry, as well as commercial activities. It is a well-known fact that the Government has not benefited from its export of key agricultural commodities and minerals, including diamonds, for the last eight years. This total loss of revenue has made it impossible for the Government to meet its obligations, both locally and internationally, and implement vital development programmes.

Mr Chairman, in every forum that I have had the opportunity to speak, I have raised the concerns we have regarding the proliferation of weapons in our continent. We are all aware that, without peace, there is no meaningful development. As it is said, peace in itself is not everything, but without it also there is nothing. These destructive weapons have posed a threat not only to the local populace but also to FAO, IFAD and WFP, as well as other organizations that are relevant in the pursuit of food security. These weapons have prevented these organizations from fulfilling their mandates in much of Africa. While natural causes are responsible for food insecurity in other parts of the world, our continent's food insecurity has been a direct result of these imported weapons used to control mineral riches in areas of our fragile economies.

These instruments of war have become even more dangerous and worrying, because today no UN staff or for that matter any other staff, is safe in the hands of these war-mongers. I wish to appeal again to countries that are manufacturing these weapons, as well as dealers who are selling these weapons in exchange for our mineral resources, to appeal to their conscience and stop this practice that is robbing us of not only our minerals resources, but also our agricultural and human ones. The clandestine arms trade in our continent should be treated in the way as the collective efforts in dealing with international drug cartel, which are sometimes also involved in this arms trade. I would therefore propose the establishment of an agency, similar to the Drug Control Agency in Vienna that will devote its time, resources and energy in monitoring activities of these arms dealers. I therefore invite FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR to lead the crusade towards establishing such an agency.

Mr Chairman, food availability and nutrition are still the biggest problems in my country, even though they have received the highest priority from my Government. Alleviating poverty and raising farm income on a long-term basis are goals set by my Government. However, these goals may remain unattainable for my country and many others in years to come, if the current trend of civil strife continues, with weapons made ready available to warlords and their surrogates.

Finally, my delegation would like to commend FAO on the work it has been doing in projects, research and training programmes that have improved life of millions worldwide. Having said this, I would hasten to add that millions more are yet to enjoy life that is free from hunger and malnutrition, as for each passing day, you see the faces and hear the voices of people the world

over, crying for help. In order for these people to be part of the world that is free from hunger and malnutrition, it is necessary that more resources are provided to FAO to enable it to accomplish its mandate. In this regard, my delegation calls for an increase and not a decrease in nominal, real or absolute terms, for the FAO budget. It is my belief that providing FAO with the needed resources, which we all know are essential to this Organization, is highly desirable, if FAO is to continue assisting the many millions, the poorest of the poor that are still living in abject poverty.

Earl DEVEAUX (Bahamas)

We welcome the five newly-admitted countries to the family of FAO and their contributions toward achieving the noble goals of winning the fight against hunger and malnutrition in the world.

Since November 1975, when the Bahamas joined FAO, we have benefited from its work and we are assured that the new Members will be treated with the same felicity.

In November 1993, the Bahamian Delegation advised of the devastation to one of our most productive farming communities as a consequence of Hurricane Andrew. FAO responded expeditiously to our request for assistance.

In November 1998, the passage of Tropical Storm Mitch affected the northern Bahama Islands. In early 1999, the extended drought conditions affected the central Bahama Islands. The exceptionally dry conditions caused fires, resulting in the loss of mature trees and severely reducing the traditional supplies of fruit.

On September 13 and 14, Hurricane Floyd swept throughout our archipelago, packing winds of up to 150 miles per hour. Virtually all of the 700 islands that are spread over 100 000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean were affected by this calamity. The Bahamas is by no means unique in this respect. I have pointed out these adverse weather conditions, which have profound effect on the agricultural sector, to draw attention to the urgent need for disaster preparedness programmes as a matter of priority.

Hurricane Floyd destroyed much of our agriculture, the national fishing fleet and laid bare a large portion of the forest estate. We have determined to use the opportunity presented by Hurricane Floyd to accelerate the implementation of our programmes to create a more diversified and sustained food production base, and to ensure that in the event of future disasters our food production will not be as vulnerable to flooding and catastrophic losses. Hurricane Floyd destroyed much of the pine forest in Abaco. The Bahamas Government, as a result, approved a project to salvage damaged pine trees. This project is intended to provide employment, and improve the health and condition of the pine forests and reverse a long trend in the deterioration of Bahamian forests. Additionally, the Government has established a national tree-planting programme to restore the landscape damaged during the Hurricane. These programmes are consistent with FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, which calls for the sustainable management of natural forests, and for the development of national programmes on trees outside forests.

The Bahamas is currently seeking observer status at the WTO. I wish to re-emphasize at this forum that small economies such as the Bahamas face constraints of capital, human and technical resources. The size of small island economies requires a special and unique focus to secure our survival in the globalized economy of trade liberalization. There must be within the WTO special and different special and different regimes for Small Island Developing States, given their fragility and vulnerability to climatic and economic disruptions. We look forward to the assistance of FAO in providing training on trade-related issues so that Member Nations are better prepared to develop and negotiate positions for competitive and sustainable agricultural systems.

The Bahamas hosted the 25th Session of the Food and Agricultural Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in June of 1998. We note that several of the recommendations from that Conference are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for this period.

The Bahamas applaud FAO's mission and work to help the poor and hungry. It is our view that we can better assist this work by ensuring sustainable development in our own agricultural and fishing sectors. And we congratulate the National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka for their work in promoting the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* among poor, small-scale fishing communities. I wish to point out in this context some of the steps the Bahamas has taken to address the issue of responsible fisheries and the protection of its marine environment.

Last year, the Bahamas became the first country to prohibit fishing for the Nassau grouper during the spawning aggregations. Public support among the fishing community and the general populace, as a result of strong community involvement, has given confidence to the decision to extend the prohibition further during this calendar year, as well we intend to expand the prohibitions to other spawning aggregations.

The queen conch fishery is the most fragile of our marine resources. In collaboration with the University of Miami, the Bahamas undertook a three-year study to evaluate the status of queen conch stocks and to develop a resource assessment model and prescriptive management tool. The Bahamas is blessed with an abundance of creeks and wetlands scattered throughout our archipelago. Many of these creeks and wetlands have been adversely affected by urbanization. To enhance the habitat and to contribute to sustainable fisheries, the Government launched a National Creek and Wetland Restoration Programme in collaboration with a number of national and international NGOs. This programme is consistent with and compliments the Ramsar Convention. The intent of the programme is to ensure that creeks and wetlands are restored and maintained to make the critically-vital contribution to replenishing the oceans and the reefs.

The Bahamas established the world's first land and marine park in 1959 in the Exuma Cays. Work in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park has demonstrated the success of no take areas in increasing populations of fish. Work throughout our region and elsewhere in the world has shown the success of marine reserves in building depleted populations of commercial fish species.

The Government of the Bahamas has decided to establish a network of marine-protected areas. This year we will establish the first five protected areas of this network. We have approved at the executive level new fisheries legislation intended to make our laws consistent with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, and to better define our Government's policy with respect to the utilization and management of the marine environment.

Our extensive coral reef system is of vital cultural, economic and environmental importance. Coral reefs, described as the rain forests of the ocean, are among the most productive of marine ecosystems. They are, however, subject to significant threats of degradation.

The Bahamas, along with Jamaica and Belize have been selected to participate in the coral reef monitoring component of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change project. The objective of this exercise is to monitor the potential impact of climate change on the coral reef systems of the wider Caribbean Sea.

The Bahamas has already implemented programmes in the Family Islands to develop its wilderness areas for sustainable eco-tourism activities and the protection of plant genetic resources. Additionally, the restoration of creeks and wetlands plays a critically-vital role in managing forests, wetlands and inter-related coastal zones. We applaud the work of FAO and commend for the consideration of other delegates, this harmonious management of fragile natural resources.

The Bahamas commends the Director-General for his willingness to establish a *Panel of Eminent Experts on Ethics in Food and Agriculture*. Surely the use of biotechnology to address world hunger could benefit from the work of this panel.

I congratulate the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, our brother, on his re-election. We wish him well. He is assured of our support and given his overwhelming mandate, we are confident that the work of FAO will be greatly enhanced under his able stewardship.

Lufter XHUVELI (Albania)

Please allow me to express my best wishes on behalf of the Albanian Delegation for your election as the Chairman of the present Conference which will consider the present state and the future of agriculture and food in the world.

It is my special pleasure of hailing also the Director-General, His Excellency Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election in this function of our Organization, wishing him success with the implementation of the objectives and the commitments of our Organization and in overcoming a series of challenges in the new Millennium, where food security, protection of genetic resources, sustainable development of forests, protection of the rural environment, etc., are among the most eminent issues.

The successful outcome of the situation created in Albania as a result of the tragic events in Kosovo, compliance with the food necessities for about one half million refugees, with the support of the international community, was idicative of the appropriateness of Albania's agriculture and food policy in securing food and food security. In this context, I would like to particularly thank the Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Jacques Diouf, for the appreciated and prompt assistance given to Albania during the Kosovo crisis in the spring of this year. During this period, there was no rise in prices and there was no lack of food products on the market.

In the strategy of our national economc development, agriculture is one of the priorities of the Albanian Government. Presently, this sector contributes 50 percent to the GDP. Development and progress of this sector cannot be achieved separately, without prosperity of the countryside, without the sustainable and modern development of agriculture.

In this context, our objectives are the compilation and implementation of policies promoting the establishment of relatively sustainable structures, as well as the effective increase of human and natural resources in our country, in local market stabilization of agriculture products, in development of their marketing infrastructure, in the reduction of the food imports and in the increasing of agricultural exports, in the increase of the investments in irrigation and mechanization, and in the improvement of the well-being of the farmers.

We have had the support of the different donors and international organizations in implementing these objectives especially in the irrigation sector and its infrastructure, seed production, intervention in the rural regions, rational exploitation of the natural resources, food security, support of the Albanian farmers for the increase of their products and income.

Our action plans are derived from the middle term Green Strategy of the Government, as well as from the long-term development framework of the national economy to be integrated in European agriculture.

Adherence to the legal framework and agrarian policies designed to consolidate land ownership, has started to produce their positive results by creating a functional the land market and by increasing investments in agriculture.

The Albanian Government appreciates FAO's contribution and its role in the assistance and the implementation of the projects in support to the Albanian agriculture, especially as regards the Special Programme for Food Security. Resources. We possess natural resources - forestry,

fishery, aquaculture as well as human ones, and we are optimistic about this. To achieve our serious engagements in this vital sector of our country's economy, we feel it is necessary to receive soft loans for our farmers to develop their agricultural and livestock productivity activity, establish the agro-processing industry and agriculture mechanization, receive technical assistance in conforming Albanian legislation to the European one, and to strengthen of the plant and animal health service, standards and quality of food, extension service, training of specialists, etc.

I take the opportunity on behalf of the Albanian Delegation to assure you of our support in the activities of the organs of FAO, within the framework of the two coming years.

I am sure that in the new Millennium, FAO will be active and dynamic for the implementation of the engagements and the activities which will be approved in this Conference and will offer its Member Nations new solutions for agricultural production within the parameters of the globalization of the world economy.

Fasainey DUMBUYA (Gambia)

It is with great pleasure and honour that I address you on this Thirtieth Conference of FAO on behalf of the Government and people of the Gambia, and on my own behalf and that of my delegation. May I first of all congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and other officers of the Conference on your election and thank you for the excellent manner in which you have directed our deliberations. I wish to take this opportunity to also congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to a second six-year term. This is indeed a manifestation and ample testimony of the confidence that the community of nations have in his commitment and direction of the Organization. We wish to assure you of our unflinching support as you steer the Organization into the new Millennium. We also wish to welcome new Members to the Organization.

The Gambia has 70 percent of her population involved in the agricultural sector, predominantly employing traditional farming systems with low productivity and output. Production is largely dependent on rainfed agriculture, which experiences climatic variations culminating in droughts and floods. The last season, however, witnessed heavy rainfall resulting in floods and the destruction of crops and livestock, particularly in the eastern part of the country. Despite these damages, assessment missions fielded, including those of FAO, reported an overall increase in yield and production of major crops. Food production will still have to be largely supported by food imports to fill the production/consumption gap, currently estimated at 50 percent.

We are, however, undaunted in our quest to provide food for all Gambians in view of the agricultural potentials given that only one-third of the 550 000 hectares of arable land is annually cultivated; livestock offtake of less than 10 percent and in fisheries only 26 000 metric tonnes out of a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of 75 000 metric tonnes is annually exploited.

As a small agrarian country where poverty and food insecurity are an everyday reality, we are resolutely committed to the realization of the objectives of the World Food Summit of reducing by half the 800 million hungry and malnourished people all over the globe. In line with the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, a number of interventions are being undertaken in the Gambia. These include:

- the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), which recently commenced implementation with support from FAO and South-South Cooperation with the Republic of Bangladesh;

- eight Telefood microprojects are being implemented in horticulture, livestock and fisheries;

- Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in the area of policy support, land use planning and in strengthening capacities in plant quarantine and crop production.

- We have also embarked upon a number of interventions aimed at increasing agricultural production and productivity with multilateral and bilateral agencies.

- Recently we have embarked upon the process of reviewing the agriculture and natural resource sector policies involving all stakeholders, formulating a sector investment programme for a Donors' Conference, planned for the early part of the year 2000.

Despite the global efforts, we are concerned, as has been re-echoed by the Director-General, that much more needs to be done if we are to attain even the modest objectives we set ourselves in this very room exactly three years ago. In this connection, we would urge the Conference to approve the budget to enable FAO fulfil its mandate of reducing hunger. We also commend FAO for the draft *Strategic Framework 2000-2015* which is an excellent document. We, therefore, call on all Member Nations of FAO, especially those well-endowed with resources, to support FAO in implementing this *Strategic Framework* for a better world with enough food for all mankind.

In concluding, we wish to send our deepest condolences to WFP for the loss of their staff while on active service to the needy. May the Almighty Allah bless their souls.

Esteban R. BRENES (Costa Rica)

En nombre del Gobierno de Costa Rica y en el mío felicito al Sr. Diouf por su reelección y a los Países de reciente ingreso a esta importante Organización.

La naturaleza de la agricultura y de los agronegocios está cambiando rápidamente. La globalización de las economías, que se manifiesta a través de la acelerada reforma y liberalización del sistema multilateral de comercio; la consolidación de bloques económicos; la internacionalización de los mercados financieros; los vertiginosos avances e innovaciones en la tecnología, el transporte y las telecomunicaciones; y los cambios en el orden político mundial traen, como consecuencia, una disminución de las distancias económicas relativas y culturales entre los países, generando así nuevas formas de organización y competencia global.

Es un hecho que América Latina es una de las Regiones del mundo en desarrollo que más rápida y dinámicamente se ha integrado a la economía mundial, ya que registra un mayor grado de apertura de sus economías y uno de los mayores dinamismos en los flujos de comercio. En particular, las economías de la Región centroamericana, según estándares internacionales, presentan un alto grado de apertura, siendo Costa Rica una de las economías más abiertas de la Región.

Quisiera enfatizar dos asuntos fundamentales: el comercio mundial agropecuario y la confusión existente entre el desarrollo agropecuario y el desarrollo del medio rural y su relación con el comercio internacional.

Costa Rica, al igual que muchos otros países, cree en las oportunidades que ofrecen la integración y apertura de la economía y los mercados mundiales. En este sentido, debemos trabajar arduamente en el logro de condiciones idóneas para que estas oportunidades puedan ser aprovechadas de forma justa y equitativa. Confiamos que la nueva ronda de negociaciones multilaterales que iniciará a finales de este mes en Seattle, Washington, incluirá al sector agropecuario para así solventar el alto nivel de protección y las serias distorsiones que existen actualmente a nivel mundial. Esperamos que, mediante dicho proceso, se logre concretar la eliminación o reducción sustancial, con fechas claramente establecidas, de los subsidios a las exportaciones y los apoyos a la producción que distorsionan los mercados mundiales.

Muchos son los esfuerzos que se hacen para reducir la pobreza y aumentar los niveles de seguridad alimentaria en nuestro mundo; sin embargo, existe un sistema mucho más barato y sencillo: mejorando los precios que reciben nuestros agricultores de todo el mundo en desarrollo, reduciendo los subsidios a las exportaciones y los apoyos a la producción en los países desarrollados que distorsionan el comercio mundial. Recordemos que los más pobres, los agricultores y los habitantes de las zonas rurales de los países en desarrollo, se verán beneficiados al mejorar sus ingresos y la calidad de vida en sus comunidades rurales. Por otra parte, también los países desarrollados se verán beneficiados a través de consumidores más

satisfechos con mayor acceso a productos más baratos. Todos ganamos haciendo un uso racional de los escasos recursos de la economía mundial. Se requiere un mundo más justo en el cual todos tengamos más y mejores oportunidades para avanzar.

Entonces, ¿porqué utilizar los subsidios a la exportación y los apoyos directos a la producción agropecuaria en los países desarrollados? Por mucho tiempo se ha confundido el concepto de desarrollo agropecuario con el desarrollo del medio rural; comprender sus diferencias es un aspecto que consideramos fundamental. Aunque las actividades agropecuarias por su misma naturaleza estén asentadas en el medio rural y éstas, a su vez, hayan sido por muchos años el principal motor económico del medio rural, el desarrollo agropecuario y el desarrollo del medio rural no pueden resolverse utilizando los mismos mecanismos.

Deberíamos recordar que un sector agropecuario exitoso requiere de constantes mejoras en la productividad y eficiencia con el fin de garantizar su competitividad y sostenerla en el tiempo. Por otra parte, el desarrollo del medio rural debe considerar, no solamente la producción agropecuaria, sino muchas otras actividades productivas que, en muchos casos, son incluso más importantes que la misma agricultura. Además, el desarrollo rural incluye otros temas fundamentales para su crecimiento y sostenibilidad, como: la educación, la salud, la vivienda, el esparcimiento, el desarrollo de infraestructura, la organización y participación ciudadana, etc. No podemos por lo tanto, detener la migración de la zona rural a la zona urbana subsidiando la agricultura; se requiere un enfoque más completo e integral y, sobre todo, que no grave sobre los productores agropecuarios y los habitantes del medio rural de los países más pobres del mundo. Nuestros países no pueden ni deben competir con las tesorerías de los más ricos, pero sí contra sus productos.

La necesidad de propiciar la competitividad del sector agropecuario no surge como una finalidad en sí misma, sino como medio para lograr un desarrollo económico sostenible, que persigue, como objetivo fundamental el bienestar del ser humano creando nuevas y mejores oportunidades para los habitantes del medio rural.

El sector agropecuario costarricense tradicionalmente ha desempeñado un papel protagónico dentro del desarrollo económico y social del país. Su aporte a la economía nacional medido en términos de Producto Interno Bruto, valor de las exportaciones, y generación de empleos directos e indirectos, es incuestionable y pone en evidencia su potencial como motor del desarrollo económico en los años venideros. No obstante, el sector agropecuario costarricense enfrenta grandes cambios y desafíos, producto del entorno en el cual se desarrolla.

Los esfuerzos de este sector por construir su futuro tienen un extraordinario contexto en los grandes cambios que ocurren en el mundo. El país está profundamente influenciado por estas corrientes hacia la apertura comercial lo que nos obliga a emprender crecientes esfuerzos para transformar las estructuras empresariales e institucionales adaptándolas a las nuevas exigencias internacionales. La confluencia de estas tendencias internas y externas ubica al sector agropecuario costarricense en uno de sus momentos más propicios para dar un salto cualitativo hacia niveles superiores de crecimiento económico y bienestar social. No distorsionemos los mercados para que el esfuerzo de todos los agroempresarios del mundo en desarrollo y su competitividad sea compensada adecuadamente, es un sistema sencillo y sobre todo justo.

Costa Rica apoya el lanzamiento de la nueva ronda de negociaciones multilaterales, la "Ronda del Milenio". Queremos colaborar y apoyar los esfuerzos realizados en este sentido para lograr la máxima liberalización de todos los sectores del comercio y su incorporación, bajo condiciones de igualdad y no-discriminación, al sistema de reglas de la OMC.

Mengistu HULUKA (Ethiopia)

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and that of my own, it gives me a great pleasure to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of FAO Conference and to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as

Director-General of FAO. I now feel honoured to brief this Plenary Session on Ethiopia's current food and agricultural situation, as well as on their commitments undertaken to support and implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

As in most developing countries, and particularly in Africa South of the Sahara, agriculture is the most important economic activity. In Ethiopia, agriculture roughly contributes 60 percent of Gross Domestic Product, 90 percent of foreign export earnings and 85 percent of employment. Though there exists considerable potential to increase crops and livestock production and productivity, the sector remained untapped until recently.

Large arable landmass, diverse climate, huge livestock resources, diversified crop species, substantial manpower, abundant water and fishery resources provide Ethiopia a comparative advantage to focus on agricultural production.

Of the total land size of 112 million hectares, 60 percent is suitable for agriculture. In spite of this potential, agricultural production remained much below the national requirement.

In the absence of appropriate policy, coupled with socio-economic, environmental, technological and institutional factors, sustainable rural and agricultural development was unthinkable in the past and food insecurity had been rampant. The overall performance of the country's economy is highly influenced by the performance of the agriculture sector, which itself is subject to various natural and manmade factors. As a matter of fact, economic development in Ethiopia cannot be envisaged without the development of agriculture and, hence, poverty eradication is very closely linked to the development of this sector.

In addition to the short- and medium-term policy measures taken to bring economic stability and create a conducive environment for growth, Ethiopia has designed a long-term strategy called Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization. The strategy aims at structural transformation of the economy in which a high growth of agriculture is envisaged to raise the share of industry and social services in terms of output and employment. The strategy visualizes export-led growth which feeds into an interdependent agricultural and industrial development.

By and large, the strategy in Ethiopia focuses primarily on agricultural development. This is to be attained through improvement of productivity in smallholdings and expansion of large-scale commercial farms, particularly in the lowlands.

According to the strategy, the main thrust of attaining satisfactory growth in agriculture lies in:

- improvement of traditional agricultural practices;
- development of agricultural infrastructures; and
- employing the expanding rural labour-force in non-agricultural activities, thereby reducing pressure on the land for rural families.

The successful implementation of the above-mentioned policy reform measures are expected to substantially narrow the gap between the prevailing level of agricultural production and the considerable agricultural potential the country is believed to have.

At the outset, my delegation considers the *Strategic Framework* document important and endorses its approval. As regards the Multi-functional Characters of Agriculture, it has been inspiring and thought-provoking. The whole exercise implies that agriculture production should take into account the socio-economic and environmental costs, to be viable and sustainable. With the present set up, food security at the household level and international trade will be very much compromised in developing countries.

We, therefore, recommend that further study to the subject under consideration is needed before it is taken seriously.

In respect to the Programme of Work and Budget 2000-2001, we are happy that it had been under the scrutiny of the Council Committees. I hope we all share the view that FAO, after the World

Food Summit, is entrusted with an additional task. My delegation is fully convinced of that. Given the rising demand for FAO services by Member Nations, FAO should be given the necessary resources. In this context, the delegation of Ethiopia, after duly considering this level of hunger and the increasing natural environment calamities and financial crisis observed recently, fully supports the budget level of Zero Real Growth and plus, to be a compromise.

The negotiation of the *International Undertaking for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in spite of the difficulties, has achieved good progress in terms of creating a multilateral system for sharing germplasm, benefit-sharing and Farmers' Rights. We wish the negotiation to be finalized shortly.

In respect to *Prior Informed Consent*, we are appreciative of the initiative FAO is taking for the removal of a huge accumulation of chemicals hazardous to humans. We encourage FAO to strengthen that task and we extend our appreciation to donors and those who have shown their concern and have extended their assistance to dispose of the obsolete ones.

In conclusion, we are pleased to note with satisfaction that the technical and financial supports provided to us by FAO have been very helpful, and Ethiopia renews its readiness to work with FAO to contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition to ultimately achieve food security at the household level.

Guðni ÁGÚSTSSON (Iceland) (Original language Islandic)

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr Chairman and the Vice-Chairs, on your appointment. I would also like to congratulate Dr Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of FAO, and wish him continued success in his very important post.

It is, indeed, an honour for me to address this distinguished assembly as it prepares the Organization to face the many daunting challenges of the new Millennium. So near to an era that promises to hold unprecedented advances over the spectrum of human activity, we remain far from ensuring that the basic right to food is enjoyed by all. As we prepare to celebrate our entry into the Third Millennium, we should pledge to make the bright future we so easily envisage, truly universal. Global food security must surely be a priority concern.

Three years ago, the World Food Summit set ambitious objectives in our fight against hunger. It is all too clear that we have to intensify our efforts if these goals are to be met and the number of undernourished significantly reduced, on a sustainable basis, taking into account the need to conserve our precious natural resources. In this endeavour, we must guarantee FAO sufficient resources of its own to carry out mandated activities and, more broadly, pursue a coherent strategy over the entire range of international cooperation. Only by doing so can we successfully address the development failures underlying the world's food security problem. We welcome development of the *Strategic Framework* that should chart the appropriate course.

The timing of this Conference is significant in light of the upcoming launch of a new round of global trade negotiations, *inter alia,* on agriculture. In this context, the multi-functional role of agriculture in our societies must be kept in the foreground. Agriculture forms the basis of domestic food security, preserves the environment and perhaps most fundamentally, safeguards the very viability of rural areas.

This is not least of importance to my own country. Many people may be surprised to discover that there exists such a thing as agriculture in Iceland, an island situated in the far north corner of the North Atlantic Ocean, where the mean summer temperature is all of 10º C and wheat hardly reaches maturity. The fact is, however, that in Iceland there is thriving agricultural activity with such livestock products as milk and meat, as well as garden and greenhouse vegetables. These are all products of the highest quality, produced in clean air, with pure water and almost without the use of chemical inputs. The greenhouses and, in fact, most of our homes are heated with geothermal water.

While there is no need to dwell on the constraints imposed by the vicinity of the Arctic Circle, it is not without its benefits. Our summers have no nights and the continuous light, together with ample rain, compensates for the moderate summer temperatures and gives farmers abundant high-quality fodder for their livestock. Agriculture has kept our nation alive from the time Iceland was first settled 1 100 years ago until the present dawn of the new Millennium. We are fully committed to its preservation.

There were times during the Middle Ages when our nation suffered gravely from volcanic eruptions, much colder climate and severe pest epidemics. The catastrophic volcanic eruptions which took place in Iceland over 200 years ago not only shaded the sun over most of Europe, causing famine, but left Iceland with only some 40 000 survivors.

With new tools and technology, Icelanders started to exploit the rich fishing grounds around the country. But the first half of this century saw the Icelandic fishing grounds overcrowded with foreign vessels. They came so close to our shores that it was said that they almost harvested our potatoes in their trawling nets! Since then we have gained control over our fisheries and learned how to manage this precious resource. The result is that our fishing industry is now truly sustainable and our fish catch is steadily increasing.

On the basis of personal income, standards of living and quality of life, Iceland now ranks among the top ten nations of the world. As fisheries are the mainstay of our high living standards, it has been suggested that other nations could learn from us how to successfully manage their fisheries.

We would like, in cooperation with FAO, to share our fisheries experience with others, and learn from them in turn. Hopefully, we can achieve international consensus on how to tackle our common challenges. In this connection, it is my honour and privilege to inform you on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries and the Government of Iceland that we have decided to offer FAO to hold, in the year 2001, an international conference in Iceland, tentatively titled Sustainable Fisheries in the Ecosystem. We see this as both a timely and relevant initiative that should further the goal of sustainable utilization of marine resources and, in broader terms, sound management of the ocean ecosystem.

As you are no doubt aware, Iceland is now for the first time pursuing a seat on the FAO Council and has, in this connection, appointed a resident Representative to the FAO in Rome. This is certain to lead to more active participation on the part of Iceland in the activities of FAO, and we pledge to contribute constructively to their success.

Naik Mohammad GARDIZI (Afghanistan)

First, I wish to offer my deep condolence to the families of the 24 dedicated WFP members staff who, while on humanitarian mission to Kosovo, lost their lives in the plane crash. We regret this loss of life. Secondly, I want to congratulate the Director-General of FAO in his election for the second term and wish him all the success. I am confident that FAO will remain a strong and effective organization under his wise leadership.

On behalf of the 22 million suffering citizens of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I extend my sincere greetings to your excellencies and consider it an honour to participate in this august session, in the beautiful city of Rome, which is indicated to review the problems of world food security, agricultural and rural development and assess the progress of follow-up to the World Food Summit.

Since its creation, FAO has played two critical roles within the framework of the United Nations System. First, it has provided key assistance in the sectors of agriculture and rural development to the developing countries and is eager to extend such assistance in the future. Second, FAO has been a catalyst in bringing closer understanding and promoting mutual cooperation between the people of the developed and developing countries, a role that has been enshrined in its Charter.

On behalf of my country, I express my sincere thanks to FAO for its past assistance and hope to benefit from its future assistance, especially in the area of food security.

I wish to mention very briefly, the destruction inflicted on the agriculture of Afghanistan. The courageous people of Afghanistan not only fought for 11 years the invading army of the former Soviet Union, and subsequently brought down its hand-picked communist Government, but they made their respective contribution to the downfall of world communism.

But for this national victory, the Afghan people paid a very, very heavy price. Hundreds of thousands became martyrs, hundreds of thousands were injured or made disabled, hundreds of thousands became orphans and widows and millions were forced to take refuge abroad under appalling conditions. Almost the entire physical infrastructure of the country is either totally destroyed or severely damaged, and there has been an incalculable loss of human capital.

Eighty percent of the population of landlocked Afghanistan is engaged in agriculture, including animal husbandry. The agricultural sector is the mainstay of national economy. It provides food for people, raw materials for our industries and contributes significantly to the country's export earnings.

The total land area of Afghanistan is 650 000 square kilometres. However, only 13 percent of this area, or 8 million hectares, is suitable for cultivation. The area annually harvested is about 5.3 million hectares, of which 2.66 million hectares are irrigated and the remaining 2.64 million hectares are used for rainfed agriculture. Annual precipitation is not only low, but also erratic and unevenly distributed. The sources of water for irrigation are rivers, streams, wells, kareezes, springs and manmade modern and traditional dams and dykes. Water for irrigation is inadequate in all parts of the country, especially in the summer months.

The climate of Afghanistan is ideal for the production of temperate fruits. Fresh and dried fruits account for 30 percent of the country's export earnings. About 140 000 hectares are covered with fruit trees and yearly production is 840 000 tonnes. However, a large number of the fruit orchards have been destroyed during the war years, so much so that home production falls short of meeting domestic consumption needs.

Before 1978, Afghanistan used to import about 250 000 tonnes of wheat. In the 21 years of protracted war, apart from the destruction of the irrigation networks and damage to other rural infrastructure, there has been a loss of access to improved seeds of wheat, other cereals, cotton, sugarbeet and oilseed crops, as well as chemical fertilizers and farm machinery. In addition, the best irrigated lands in the vicinity of major cities remain heavily mined and cannot be used for cultivation. In the light of these obstacles, the country is in desperate need of 1 million tonnes or more of wheat per annum to be able to sustain the minimum nutritional requirements of its population.

In Afghanistan, more than 1 million hectares of land are covered with fruit-bearing forests, as well as trees which provide industrial wood. This natural wealth was first subjected to heavy aerial bombardment and subsequently cut illegally and sold abroad by warlords and dubious profiteers. Now the country is facing an ecological disaster.

Afghan farmers raise normal and karakul sheep, cattle and goats to supplement their family income. Animal husbandry is well integrated with crop production and plays a significant role in our national economy. Before the war, Afghanistan had 20 million sheep, 3.7 million head of cattle and 3.2 million goats. Our spring, summer and winter grazing pastureland was 52 million hectares. In the 21 years of war, the country lost 70 percent of its animal population and what we observe now is lush pasture with few or no animals.

The economic breakdown of the country has affected 85 percent of the population in all parts of the country, regardless of their ethnic background or political ideology. The population lives in severe poverty and faces unprecedented social misery. During the recent attacks by the Taliban,

thousands of families in the Shamali plains, north of Kabul, and from the provinces of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan, have abandoned their homes and live under tents in valleys and mountain slopes with severe cold temperatures. We are at a loss as how to overcome this calamity.

The use and cultivation of narcotic plants is a threat to the entire international community and collective action is needed to eradicate this social world disease. Farmers in many developing countries illegally grow narcotic plants for high cash returns offered by the drug dealers. In my country, poppy cultivation is widely spread in the territories controlled by the Taliban. The Islamic State of Afghanistan strongly condemns such cultivation, and is ready to work closely with the United Nations in its eradication.

The tormented people of Afghanistan have high expectations from the world community, and particularly from the United Nations System, for urgent humanitarian assistance to save them from death and destruction. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is continuously exploring ways and means of putting an end to the political crisis facing the country and to establish peace, law and order in all parts of Afghanistan under one central government acceptable to all ethnic and political groups of the country. Peace and tranquillity is the only road to our survival.

Finally, I wish to express my solidarity and full support to any measures that may be endorsed by this respectful assembly or by any other international, regional or national organization for humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Such humanitarian assistance will facilitate in rescuing my people who are undergoing a very, very painful and troublesome period in their long history. Your actions will save the lives of innocent people who have been deprived from the basic necessities embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention and I wish this Conference a great success. May God bless you.

LE PRESIDENT

Je tiens à rappeler aux délégués que la Conférence a décidé de limiter la durée des déclarations à cinq minutes et souhaiterais que ce temps soit respecté.

Nous passons la parole au Représentant du Nioué, M. Dion Taufitu, Ministre de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches.

Dion TAUFITU (Niue)

Mr Chairman, firstly, I congratulate you on having been elected to the chair of Chairmanship for this Conference and also the Vice-Chairman for the Vice-Chairmanship. Secondly, on behalf of my delegation, my Government and the people of Niue, I extend my heartiest congratulations to Your Excellency Jacques Diouf for your election to the position of Director-General for the next six years for this very very important United Nations Organization, FAO. May God bless and guide you all along.

It is an honour and privilege to speak as a new Member of FAO, and I am most grateful to you all again for making it possible. Niue is one of the smaller nations in the Pacific Region, which govern its own affairs in free association with New Zealand. It consists of one island and is separated by the Pacific Ocean from Tonga to its west, Cook Islands to its east and American Samoa to its north. It is branded by the tourism industry as the Rock of Polenisia. Its population density of eight persons per square kilometre allows it to have an agricultural-based economy and is developing a potential eco-tourism industry.

Like all Small Island States, it is extremely vulnerable to external economic and environmental forces. A small jolt in developed economies can be absorbed whereas the same jolt in smaller developing economies can exert huge and rippling impacts. Water is an essential component of successful agricultural production. Niue does not have surface waters and any prolonged dry weather spell is an indicator of disaster. However, the extent of integrated agricultural practice

for subsistence and cash production has to take this into the planning phase. It is very very important to understand the good quality of the underground water resources.

At this point in time food security in Niue is not a problem, but changing lifestyles, as in many countries, and increasing preference for economic well-being could challenge the status of food security. It would be good to see food security as one of the entices which could make up the vulnerability index of small developing countries. We believe that FAO has the expertise to work on this input.

Over-nutrition is a growing concern in my country and the Pacific Region. The mixing of traditional diet and imported foods has contributed towards the increase in communicable diseases amongst our people. We are aware of the quantity of food surplus in our country when we view on television extreme hunger and poverty of some sectors in some of the countries. Niue is willing to offer assistance in terms of information sharing to improve the food availability in countries which need it. Having survived the worst droughts and most devastating hurricanes, the resultant challenges have forced us to improve our agricultural practice and not to rely on relief aid. Niue's geographical isolation helps minimize the movement of pests and diseases, which could affect food crops, but it is vulnerable.

Niue is most skeptical towards the full implementation of free trade principles. Niue's agricultural development has received cooperation from the international community in the past and this should be encouraged and if it is to gain some economic benefits - it has received alpacas from Peru, forestry seeds from Panama and Mexico, new vegetable seeds from Asian nations and technical assistance from the Pacific countries. Nuie's relative isolation also enables it to retain endemic genetic material within its root-crop resources. These can be shared, if it can help alleviate some of the hunger in the world and contribute to the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

In the new Millennium, FAO should move in a direction to take advantage of the benefits of the rapid advancement of information technology. Particularly to market agricultural products, share technical knowledge and conduct consultations.

FAO should be pro-active to help Members resolve trade challenges with WTO. The fisheries resources in all the Regions must be managed well. But this can only be done if reliable information is available. Perhaps the field officers should be given more autonomy and resources to collaborate with the agriculture, forestry and fisheries programmes of regional organizations. At present there are a lot of duplicated efforts to no one's benefit, but a waste of available resources.

Niue's road to Rome has been far. But the milestone in joining the membership of FAO sets our direction for the new Millennium. We look forward to continuing support from the FAO Sub-Regional office in Samoa.

Niue is small, but has a big heart to help you improve food security in the next Millennium.

Georges RUPHIN (Madagascar)

Permettez-moi, au nom de la délégation de Madagascar, de vous présenter mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection ainsi qu'aux membres du Bureau. Je suis persuadé que sous votre direction, les travaux de notre Conférence seront couronnés de succès.

Nos chaleureuses félicitations s'adressent aussi et surtout au Directeur général Jacques Diouf, dont le mandat vient d'être renouvelé par la quasi totalité des Membres de notre Organisation, témoignage de confiance certaine et de reconnaissance méritée du bilan positif de la FAO, réalisé sous sa haute direction par une équipe solidaire et efficace, pendant le premier mandat.

L'ordre du jour de nos travaux soumet à notre examen, la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, sujet qui interpelle tous les pays dès lors que 790 millions de personnes sont

aujourd'hui victimes de la faim et de la malnutrition, et dont la plupart se trouvent dans les pays en voie de développement.

Depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de Rome, il y a trois ans, qui a réaffirmé à la FAO son rôle de locomotive dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour la sécurité alimentaire avec la coopération des Pays Membres, Madagascar s'est engagé résolument à restructurer son économie dont le contenu a été publié dans le"Document cadre de politique économique 1999-2001", et qui accorde parmi ses priorités le développement de l'agriculture qui occupe plus de 70 pour cent de sa population.

A ce titre, un Plan d'action pour le développement rural (PADR) retrace les différentes orientations et accorde aux principaux acteurs-publics-sociétés civiles, organisations non gouvernementales, la place qui leur revient pour la production vivrière.

Les efforts menés ces dernières années, concernent la réhabilitation des infrastructures rurales, entre autres des réseaux hydrauliques et des routes de desserte, pour donner une réponse à l'attente du monde rural, véritable grenier du pays.

L'intervention conjointe des institutions soeurs de la FAO à Rome a permis de renforcer les actions entreprises pour la mise en valeur des nouvelles superficies importantes dans des zones à déficit alimentaire chronique.

Madagascar figure parmi les pays bénéficiaires du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire. Dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de ce programme, un accord de coopération Sud-Sud/FAO entrera en vigueur dans les prochaines semaines. Ces quelques exemples illustrent les efforts menés pour la mise en application du *Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation*.

Malgré les efforts accomplis et les résultats promoteurs, la couverture du déficit alimentaire est loin d'être atteinte. Si le Sommet mondial de l'"alimentation a fixé comme objectif en 2015, moins de 200 millions de personnes sous-alimentées, à l'échéance prévue, les projections de la FAO suivant les premiers résultats obtenus resteront au niveau de plus de 400 millions de personnes. Une telle situation, et compte tenu de l'accroissement de la population, nécessite une mobilisation plus conséquente des ressources pour la mise en application des stratégies.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le processus du développement aura pour sa part peu de chance de se concrétiser ou de se réaliser dans le cas où une révision à la hausse du Budget ne sera pas envisagée au cours du prochain biennum, pour renforcer les moyens dont disposent les femmes sur un pied d'égalité avec les hommes. C'est ainsi qu'à l'instar de nombreuses délégations, nous nous prononçons parmi les trois scénarios, à défaut d'une Croissance Réelle, pour la Croissance Réelle Zéro qui ramènerait le Programme de travail 2000-2001 à 7 260 millions de dollars E.-U., au lieu de 7 077 millions de dollars E.-U., ce qui est déjà en nette regression par rapport au Programme de travail 1998-1999 qui atteint 7 564 millions de dollars E.-U.

La même constatation du Budget 2000-2001 nous amène à prendre en compte également l'option Croissance Réelle Zéro pour la protection des programmes techniques et économiques qui constituent des éléments moteurs permettant à la FAO de mettre en application le Programme défini par le cadre stratégique.

Enfin, je reste confiant en la compréhension de l'enjeu et du défi de notre Organisation pour le troisième millénaire, de mettre un terme à la faim dans le monde.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avec votre permission, je cède la direction des travaux de cette séance au Vice-Président, M. Juan Nuiry Sánchez.

Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the chair
Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

EL PRESIDENTE

Seguimos en el Tema 5: *Examen del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación*, con las declaraciones de los Jefes de las Delegaciones. Me es grato darle la palabra al Director General de la Oficina de Agricultura de Kuwait.

Mohamed Al Said Abdul Mohssen AL-RIFAI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the State of Kuwait, I wish to thank the Italian Republic for organizing our stay in this country and for inviting us. I also thank you, Mr Chairman, for guiding us in our work. On behalf of my country, I wish to extend thanks to Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General and congratulate him on his second term of office. This is a sign of the major achievements of his first term as Director-General of this Organization. We also wish to thank FAO for the efforts made to attain international food security and for excellently preparing this Conference and also for the documents and information provided on many different items and issues pertaining to food and agriculture. On my own behalf and that of my delegation, I wish to express my condolences to the families of the victims of the plane crash of WFP.

This session of the Conference is very important in that it is the last Conference held this Century. We know that there are many political, economic and environmental difficulties and natural disasters that have struck the world, especially drought, desertification, lack of water resources, lack of food. Many million inhabitants of the poor and developing world have been affected by these many difficulties. We trust that the new Millennium, the new Century, despite the many challenges, will be more successful and that it will be possible to overcome the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

This makes this session of our Conference all the more important. Three years have elapsed since the World Food Summit was held. During that Summit, a large majority of Heads of State and Government committed themselves to halve the number of people affected by hunger and malnutrition in the world before the year 2015. We hope that all these commitments may be fulfilled and these recommendations implemented so that the problems of malnutrition may be solved and solutions found for the challenges of the future, especially for the poorest and developing countries.

You will recall that during the Twenty-ninth Session of this Conference, the commitment was reaffirmed to implement the Plan of Action and the declaration of the World Food Summit, to reduce as I said earlier, by half the number of people affected by hunger and malnutrition. However, the document provided by the Organization on the world food situation shows that this target is far from being attained, especially in developing and poor countries. This is why we should underscore the importance of this Conference and its results. I also wish to speak about the agenda of our Conference. These are technical administrative and financial items. I would like to thank the Organization for preparing excellent documents and would like to make a comment about the document on the *Strategic Framework*.

The *Strategic Framework* contains guidelines and establishes priorities that take account of the needs of Member Nations for the fifteen years to come. This to allow the Organization to adjust to new changes on the international scene. I believe that we should provide this Organization with all the assistance it requires to attain the objectives and targets contained in the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015*.

The Government of Kuwait recognizes the importance and the gravity of the food security situation. This is why we have accorded special priority to the agricultural sector in the country. Despite the many difficulties we have had to overcome and despite the many challenges owing to

the lack of suitable soil for agriculture. Nonetheless, we have reached self-sufficiency for some agricultural commodities and certain vegetables. We have also dealt with environmental issues, because development and the environment are two faces of the very same metal.

Kuwait has suffered a great deal because of the Iraqi invasion in 1990. We have had to take steps to rebuild our productive sector. Nonetheless, we have continued providing aid to countries in need, and poor countries in general.

EL PRESIDENTE

Cuando estaba haciendo uso de la palabra el delegado de Kuwait, la delegación de Iraq pidió una Moción de Orden. Por esa razón le daremos la palabra.

Point of Order
Point d'ordre
Punto de Orden

Koutaiba M. HASSAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to say that my delegation firmly rejects what was just said by the delegate of Kuwait. Kuwait referred to the Government of my country using terms that do not correspond to what is required for the appropriate running of our work. I demand that he withdraw the statement relevant to my country, otherwise my country will ask to use its Right of Reply when we finish with our List of Speakers at the end of this morning's session.

Etienne KITANGA ESHIMA MUSEBO (Congo, République démocratique)

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier, au nom du Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo, le Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, pour l'invitation adressée à notre pays à participer à la 30e session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je tiens à féliciter très sincèrement le Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour sa réélection à la direction de la FAO. Monsieur le Directeur général, la population de la République démocratique du Congo comprenant ses enfants qui souffrent, ses personnes âgées sans ressources, ses jeunes sans emploi qui veulent tous accéder à la sécurité alimentaire et qui y ont droit, attend beaucoup de votre mandat qui commence.

Les enquêtes sur le terrain menées ça et là dans notre pays par les ONG et les services de l'État, notamment le Ministère de la santé publique et le Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage révèlent que le niveau de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle peut être considéré comme non satisfaisant tant sur le plan des disponibilités, de la stabilité que de l'accessibilité aux aliments.

La situation s'est particulièrement aggravée au cours de ces deux dernières années avec la guerre imposée à notre pays depuis plus d'un an. Obligées de se déplacer, les populations rurales ont abandonné leurs exploitations agricoles. De paysans producteurs qu'ils étaient, ils sont devenus de simples consommateurs. De plus, l'affluence des réfugiés fuyant la guerre en Angola et au Congo-Brazzaville est venue contribuer à l'aggravation de la pénurie alimentaire.

Vous me permettrez de relever que la situation préoccupante au niveau de la disponibilité des vivres, de la stabilité des approvisionnements et de l'accès aux aliments, qui vient d'être évoquée, contraste avec les potentialités agricoles de la République démocratique du Congo, ce pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne aux potentialités agricoles fabuleuses que d'aucuns n'hésitent à considérer comme un véritable "scandale" agricole.

Comment comprendre alors que l'agriculture d'un pays avec autant de potentialités se trouve aujourd'hui en difficulté ? La réponse est simple. En effet, outre le préalable que constitue l'instauration d'un climat de paix sur toute l'étendue du pays, la valorisation de ces potentialités exige tout naturellement la mobilisation d'énormes ressources financières dans un environnement

social, politique et économique assaini. Le Gouvernement de mon pays ne saurait à lui seul couvrir les besoins en financement du secteur agricole lesquels se chiffrent à plusieurs milliards de dollars E.-U. Une intervention extérieure est donc nécessaire, dans le cadre privé ou dans celui de la coopération bilatérale et/ou multilatérale, cadres auxquels notre pays reste très ouvert.

Je ne saurais finir mon discours sans faire appel à votre conscience de citoyens du monde au sujet de la mise en valeur des 80 millions d'hectares susceptibles d'être exploités au plan agricole dans mon pays. Ces terres de la République démocratique du Congo constituent un patrimoine de l'humanité, disposé naturellement au cœur d'un continent qui a faim, pour servir de réservoir et de pourvoyeur d'aliments pour tous ceux qui en ont besoin.

Sous cet angle, ce n'est pas uniquement au Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo qu'il incombe de valoriser ces potentialités, mais c'est aussi à la Communauté internationale de mettre en valeur, au coût le plus intéressant qui soit, ce "scandale" agricole afin d'en faire bénéficier le plus grand nombre possible d'hommes et de femmes d'Afrique et d'autres continents.

Nous félicitons la FAO ainsi que les autres partenaires qui ont compris le devoir du citoyen du Monde du XXIe Siècle qui est avant tout un devoir de solidarité, solidarité entre les pays du Nord et ceux du Sud. Dans tous les cas, la mise en œuvre de la multi-fonctionnalité de l'agriculture et de la terre nécessite la mobilisation de ressources financières colossales dont la majorité des pays en développement ne dispose pas à l'heure actuelle.

Pour terminer, je tiens, au nom du Gouvernement de mon pays, à réitérer mes sentiments de vive reconnaissance pour l'assistance inconditionnelle que la FAO apporte à la République démocratique du Congo. Pour la seule année 1999, les actions FAO au Congo ont porté sur des projets d'un coût global de 5 millions de dollars E.-U.

Pour cette même année, la FAO a accepté d'assister mon pays dans l'élaboration d'un schéma directeur du développement du secteur agricole assorti d'un plan d'investissement. Ce programme fort attendu par le Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo a bénéficié en juin dernier d'une mission restreinte conduite par la FAO avec la participation de la Banque mondiale, du Centre d'investissement de la FAO, du PAM, du FIDA et du PNUD.

Dès janvier 2000, à la demande du Gouvernement de mon pays, la FAO sera l'agence d'exécution du PNUD dans le secteur agricole pour un budget de plus de 4 millions de dollars E.-U. Tout en demandant la poursuite des efforts d'assistance, je sollicite de la FAO l'intervention auprès des bailleurs de fonds pour la mobilisation des ressources en faveur du Congo en vue du financement du secteur agricole dans notre pays.

De même, les immenses ressources forestières et en eaux du pays nécessitent davantage l'attention de la Communauté internationale pour une mise en valeur durable. Des résultats sont déjà enregistrés. C'est le cas notamment du Royaume de Belgique qui vient d'accorder un financement de 1 300 000 dollars E.-U. pour la réorganisation du maraîchage à Kinshasa et à Lubumbashi, deux principaux centres de consommation de produits vivriers.

A cela s'ajoutent les importantes aides d'urgence mises en œuvre par la FAO dans le pays, sur financement notamment de la Belgique, de la France, de la Suède, de la Suisse, de l'Union européenne, du PNUD et de la FAO elle-même, pour assister les ménages agricoles urbains et ruraux, sinistrés par la guerre, en vue de reprendre la production agricole. Les terres cultivables congolaises sont un patrimoine de l'humanité. Regroupons-nous pour leur mise en valeur car c'est ensemble que nous atteindrons plus rapidement la sécurité alimentaire pour le peuple congolais et, que nous contribuerons à réduire la pauvreté des populations d'Afrique. Que vivent la coopération et la solidarité internationale.

Chakra Prasad BASTOLA (Nepal)

I would like to welcome, at the outset, the new Member Nations to this community of nations. May I extend, on behalf of my country and my own, our heartfelt congratulations to Jacques Diouf on his re-election as Director-General. I would also like to take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you and express the assurance of our full cooperation to you in conducting the Thirtieth Session.

During our journey from Quebec City in 1945 to Rome today, we have been persistently committing ourselves to the cause of setting humanity free from hunger, malnutrition and poverty. And yet, the fundamental challenges to humanity are even more real and relevant today than half a century ago when FAO was created. New dimensions have been unfolding with more compelling urgencies, while the old ones are yet to be overcome.

Although the ability of the world agriculture to produce adequate food supplies at the global level is an achievement, the spatial and the societal mismatch between the distribution of population and production remains to be a matter of great concern – especially for Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, natural calamities are becoming more recurrent and mostly hit harder the relatively weaker economies. It is, therefore, high time that appropriate policy measures be directed towards rectifying the mismatch between production and requirement, as well as towards enhancing our preparedness for combating the calamity-induced famines. Similarly, there is an utmost need for enhancing the productivity and equitable participation of women in production and the distribution system.

At the national level, I would like to share our experiences briefly on some of the critical issues facing less developed mountainous countries like Nepal. Please allow me to concentrate particularly on the issue related to agricultural growth strategy and its resource implication *vis-à-vis* human and environmental dimensions of development.

Under the framework of our twenty-year Agriculture Perspective Plan, we have been trying to boost agricultural production through new technology and market orientation. This requires us to rely largely on imported capital, which is a scarce resource. We face the challenge of smooth acquisition and judicious utilization of such resources while fairly retaining the benefits resulting from its use. Besides, in the process of agricultural commercialization, the weaker sections of the farming community are likely to be marginalized, which calls for specific safety-net programmes.

Thus, we realize that the growth strategy needs to be supplemented with more human-centred development strategy that improves the food security situation for the deprived members of society. In this direction, the Government has recently initiated a number of programmes designed to directly attack poverty and hunger. While the Government is committed to implementing these initiatives, we look forward to work together with FAO in packaging them into a coherent strategy of poverty alleviation and food security, supplementing our growth strategy.

The population-carrying capacity of mountains and hills has been dwindling, and the population pressure has been shifting rapidly to the fertile lands of the southern plains, the size of which is itself very small. This process has been tremendously changing the land use patterns, converting pristine forests into agricultural uses and the pristine agricultural land into settlements, and urban sprawls, infrastructures and other uses. We need support for sensible rendering of this phenomenon tractable through comprehensive land-use planning.

Nepal's diverse topography and ecology bestows her with one of the densest homelands of bio-diversity. We are fully cognizant of our obligations to conserve it for the world today and for the generations tomorrow. But, at the same time, we are equally concerned by the fact that it imposes severe constraints on our production and development opportunities. We would like to draw the

kind attention of the international community to this predicament facing us. It is only through shared responsibilities that we can conserve environment without compromising the right of our people to be free from hunger and malnutrition.

May I take this opportunity also to underline the critical role of FAO in supporting least developed landlocked countries, like Nepal, in preparing them to join WTO. We need to enhance our abilities to benefit fairly from the WTO regime, while complying fully with its requirements. One of the critical areas of immediate cooperation includes cataloguing and conserving genetic resources.

Finally, we have identified poverty as the greatest evil to be destroyed forever and from everywhere, and environment as the most precious thing to be conserved for all and for the future. At the doorstep of the new Millennium, we have past promises to meet and new promises to make. I would like to assure Nepal's full commitment to collaborate with FAO in its own capacity and potentials.

May I conclude with the best wishes for the grand success of this session and the best hope for the new Millennium.

Ryszard BRZEZIK (Poland)

Within several weeks the year 2000 will begin. The turn of the Millennium coincides with major changes in the world. They are defined by globalization and rapid technological progress, as well as by democratic transformation all over the world.

The outcome of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference will be of great importance for FAO's future. The adoption of Strategic Framework 200-2015 will create a new perspective for FAO activities in the area of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Poland agrees with the EU position on the most important FAO priorities. This is the case especially as regards to normative undertakings, such as *Codex Alimentarius* or *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, as well as in emerging areas such as relating to environmental and health threats; the collection and dissemination of information; the assistance to the development of sectoral policies for the developing countries and those undergoing transformation.

Poland welcomes the growing significance of forestry and fisheries in FAO's activities, as well as the role FAO plays in the ongoing preparations for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture.

I would like to confirm Poland's support for the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*. In this context let me inform you that, for the very first time, Poland has joined a group of donor countries under the World Food Programme this year.

Solving the problem of malnutrition requires enhanced cooperation between FAO and other relevant international organizations. Poland supports the initiative of an *Alliance for Food Security*.

Polish agriculture, without question, has benefited from the systemic socio-economic transformation of my country. It brought modernization of rural areas and encouraged new forms of economic activities among rural populations.

However, Polish agriculture is facing a number of challenges:

As the Polish economy opened up, it became exposed to international competition. Our producers face serious problems because of the continually low price levels persistent in the global agricultural markets.

Another challenge relates to the establishment of the basis for sustainable agricultural and rural development. In particular that concerns creation of new forms of economic activity and alternative sources of income for more than 1 million rural families.

We wish to express our appreciation to FAO and the Government of the Netherlands for organizing the *Conference on Multi-functional Character of Agriculture and Land*. The Polish Government is highly interested in the follow-up to the Maastricht Conference. Like many countries present here, Poland appeals to FAO to continue to develop the analytical framework for the analysis of the multiple functions of agriculture, as well as to offer technical assistance in this area.

FAO still has a major role to play in solving the world's problems in agriculture and nutrition. We trust that the re-election of Mr Jacques Diouf will enable continuation of FAO's role as the Centre of Excellence and its better and faster adaptation to the needs of the changing world. In these efforts, the Organization may count on Poland's support.

EL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

Quisiera informar a los señores delegados que la ceremonia del hizamiento de la bandera de Kiribati que estaba prevista en la Orden del Día de hoy para las 12:45, no tendrá lugar debido a las condiciones meteorológicas. Hemos recibido además una información del delegado de la República de Filipinas donde nos ruega aclarar que su intervención está prevista para mañana, miércoles, por la mañana.

Datuk Amar Dr SULAIMAN HAJI DAUD (Malaysia)

Mr Chairman, Malaysia congratulates you on your election as Chairman of this important Conference. Congratulations also to Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a second term.

As we move into the new Millennium, it is appropriate that we assess the continued relevance of FAO's programmes and chart FAO's path forward. In this regard, the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* of 1996, the monitoring of its implementation by the *Committee on World Food Security*, as well as the endorsement of the *FAO Strategic Framework* at this Conference, are important milestones for FAO.

The aspirations of the FAO Founding Members as enshrined 54 years ago in the FAO Constitution are still relevant today and for the future. However, the problems and challenges of world agriculture have since taken many forms that are new and complex and require contemporary, innovative, as well as proven traditional, ways of address.

In particular, facilitating market access and accelerating technology transfer to developing countries in a competitive and globalized economy require commitment, solidarity and collaboration of the international community.

In this connection, the outcome of the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle will have wide implications on world agricultural development and trade. It is, therefore, imperative for Member Nations to highlight at the WTO Conference issues concerning food security and the export of agricultural products from developing to developed countries.

We take note that FAO and other international organizations have forecasted that, up to the year 2010, developed countries will continue to remain net food exporters and developing countries net food importers. Malaysia is concerned that this may lead to a food dependency syndrome in the North-South relationship.

The recent economic downturn has proven how the openness of financial markets could affect the domestic prices of food items. Unless adequate mechanisms are put in place at the international level, capital openness and volatility will continue to adversely affect agriculture and food security. Furthermore, the growing integration of trade and financial markets will restrict domestic policy options for agriculture. Malaysia, therefore, believes it is important for developing countries to maintain a certain level of food safety net in the supply of calories,

protein, vitamins and minerals through local production of strategic food items and affordable access to these items on a sustainable basis.

A new global order is emerging to exert control over the life science industry, this is further facilitated by the strengthening of intellectual property rights over biological innovations as well as over new technologies embedded in planting materials. In this connection, a review of the TRIPS Agreement is highly necessary. The review must take into consideration the relevant articles of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, such as access to genetic resources, fair and equitable sharing of commercial benefits arising from the use of these resources, protection of indigenous and traditional knowledge of biological resources and transfer of technology to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms. In this regard, as we have so often highlighted in our previous interventions, Malaysia would like to urge all parties concerned to reach consensus and ensure the successful conclusion of the *International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* by the end of the year 2000, that is next year.

FAO, with its wealth of expertise, data base and networking, should be well positioned in the next Century to make a difference in enhancing global food security, increasing household income and modernizing the agriculture sector. Malaysia, therefore, urges FAO to accelerate the implementation of the South-South Cooperation Programme and intensify efforts to tap the wide range of expertise available in developing countries, as well as to create synergies with regional economic organizations such as ASEAN. This is consistent with the objective of FAO's *Strategic Framework* - to broaden partnerships and strengthen alliances.

FAO, as the partner and task manager of important conventions, should redouble its efforts in the new Millennium, not only to protect and prevent the degradation of natural resources such as water, forest, land, biodiversity and eco-systems, but also to restore, improve and develop these vital resources sustainably.

Malaysia is both an importer and exporter of food and agricultural products and services. Through the Third National Agricultural Policy (1998-2010), Malaysia envisions a productive, competitive and sustainable agricultural sector with active participation of all stakeholders. In this regard, we would like to invite FAO Members, international organizations and the private sector to participate and be our partners in the commercial development of our agriculture as much as Malaysia will be willing to invest in other regions of the world.

Malaysia would also like to invite FAO Members, international organizations and other bodies to participate in the International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet), a self-funding global network under the auspices of FAO. Malaysia took up the challenge of hosting TFNet because we believe tropical fruits will be an important commodity in the next century - vital to food security, nutrition, income and employment, as well as to international trade since they benefit both producing and consuming countries.

To conclude, the Malaysian delegation wishes to reiterate our commitment to FAO's vision and goals. FAO must continue to provide leadership and play a proactive role to facilitate technology transfer to, and capacity-building in, developing countries so as to ensure the benefits of development in the next Century are equitably shared.

Malaysia is a relatively small nation. Nevertheless, and despite having only recently recovered from the regional financial crisis, Malaysia has always committed itself to the fullest in combatting poverty and hunger both at home and abroad and, God willing, will continue to do so in the future as a responsible member of the international community.

Costas THEMISTOCLEOUS (Cyprus)

One of the basic commitments undertaken while establishing the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, fifty years ago, was to free the world from hunger. This objective has been reconfirmed on many occasions, the latest being the World Food Summit

which was held three years ago here in Rome. The present state of the world food and agriculture, however, underscores contradiction between commitments and actions.

The decline of Official Development Assistance to agriculture, the reduction of the world cereal production in 1999, for the second consecutive year, and the fall in the level of food aid for development purposes are only a few examples indicating that we have not proceeded quickly enough to solve the problem. Considering that we have the technical and biological resources to feed everyone, a tremendous joint effort is required to eradicate hunger and poverty which, I believe, is the common desire of the people all over the world.

FAO has managed to bring the issue of hunger and malnutrition back into focus, especially after the World Food Summit. We, the Member Nations, are called to give our Organization the means it requires to keep the issue high on the international agenda. I would now, very briefly, refer to the agricultural sector and the economy of Cyprus, whose basic characteristics are the small size of the domestic market, labour force and business units.

The tertiary sector of services is considered as the backbone of the economy of the island. This reflects the gradual evolution of the Cyprus economy: from an exporter of minerals in the 1950s and early 1960s; to an exporter of agricultural products during the period late 1960s and early 1970s as a result of rapid expansion of irrigated agriculture; to an exporter of manufacturing products at the end of the 1970s and early 1980s; to what it is today, an international tourism and regional service centre since the early 1990s.

The agricultural sector has exhibited a downward trend in its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 10 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 1990 and to only 4.6 percent in 1998. Despite its gradually reduced contribution to GDP, the agricultural sector continues to be important - providing employment to about 10 percent of the gainfully employed population, a significant part to domestic exports, and a considerable amount of raw materials to industry for production of processed food products and food items for the tourist area.

We continue to ascribe a great deal of importance to agriculture, not only because it continues to be an important sector of our economy but also because we believe in its major role in other aspects of our life, such as the social development of our people, the preservation of our cultural identity and civilization and the conservation and improvement of our natural environment.

As in many other countries, the agricultural sector in Cyprus has been confronted in recent years by demand for greater efficiency, by adapting to new trade rules and by globalization following the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

Another challenge faced by the agricultural sector in Cyprus is the need to harmonize our agricultural system with that of the European Union, following the candidature of Cyprus to become a Member of the Union. It must be noted that Cyprus has already liberalized its trade regulations in line with the provisions of the Customs Union Agreement with the European Union, as well as the requirements of the WTO Agreement.

In pursuing these changes, Cyprus has initiated a reform process in agriculture, based on two major policy guidelines. The first is to improve productivity and competitiveness by gradually reducing trade-distorting support measures. The second is to secure the long-term viability of the farming community.

The Twenty-first Century is only a few days away. As economic progress and the pace of globalization accelerate, there is a growing need for us to work together with FAO to ensure sustainable development practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. My country will continue working closely with FAO and contributing its share to enable the Organization to fulfil its mandate to free the world from hunger and malnutrition.

Before concluding my statement, I wish to express my congratulations to Dr Diouf for his re-election and to express my deep condolences to the families of those staff members of the World Food Programme who lost their lives in the airplane crash in Kosovo last week.

J.H. OWUSU ACHEAMPONG (Ghana)

It is my pleasure and honour to convey to this august Conference, the greetings and best wishes of my Government and the people of Ghana, who are looking forward to its outcome with high expectations and hope for the future.

May I also seize this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Conference. I wish to assure you of the full support of my delegation in the spirit of the brotherly relations that exist between the people of Algeria and Ghana.

May I also add my sincere words of congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to steer the affairs of this important Organization for a further six years. I say to Mr Diouf that his re-election is a testimony to the wise and dynamic leadership that he has given to this important Organization. The re-election is also a great challenge to him and to all Members of FAO to redouble their efforts towards the reduction of the number of hungry people in the world, even faster than the modest targets set by the World Food Summit in November 1996. I would also like to urge all of you to give him both budgetary and moral support to tackle this difficult but very important assignment ahead of him.

Recent developments in the World Food Security situation, especially in Africa, are a major cause of worry to most of us here representing our peoples. As food production worldwide is increasing, production in Africa is declining with about 40 percent of its people still undernourished. It is regrettable that this gloomy state of affairs is now synonymous with Africa. As if these problems are not enough, we in many parts of Africa by our own act of omission or commission, have compounded our plight by fratricidal conflicts, wars and strikes which lead to disastrous consequences in agricultural production, marketing and food distribution.

Issues like these have been discussed at several fora worldwide, while FAO and other related organizations have assembled large amounts of information on policy and improved technology and conflict resolution strategies that would enhance or enable farmers in food-deficit countries to obtain higher production levels and thus reduce malnutrition. Notwithstanding this prospect, increasing numbers of people, especially children, go to bed hungry in many countries and even more so in the several refugee camps around the world.

We need to give practical demonstration to what FAO stands for. In this regard, my delegation applauds the Director-General's wisdom in implementing the *Special Programme for Food Security in Low-Income, Food Deficit Countries* to provide a practical demonstration for FAO's mandate. I therefore wish to call on all developed countries here assembled and the international financial institutions to make more funds available to support this important *Programme*.

We in the developing countries have noted with concern that, while efforts at economic recovery are being pursued vigorously, the majority of our countries which are highly dependent on primary commodities continue to be confronted with increasing marginalization in world trade. Policies of trade liberalization and so-called globalization have worked to the disadvantage of developing countries such as Ghana, which has been severely hit by a sharp fall in export prices of primary commodities, particularly cocoa, in the past few years.

I therefore wish to call for a total review of the current international development paradigm to remedy this situation. Future trade negotiations should be broad-based and should ensure balanced results from which all countries could benefit. I therefore call on FAO to assist developing countries to develop and negotiate strategies that will enhance their competitiveness and earnings in international trade, and to protect their local production within the context of the Uruguay Round Agreement.

I wish to reiterate my country's support for *FAO Strategic Framework*, which is to provide guidance for the implementation of FAO's programmes in the medium-and long-term. The elements of the *Strategic Framework* are well focused towards the achievement of the *World Food Summit Declaration and Plan of Action*.

I wish to end with a prayer that the Almighty God blesses all our efforts in our respective countries, and I hope that our pledges at this Conference will take us into the next Millennium with greater determination to ensure total food security for all mankind.

Saeed bin Mohammed AL RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

At the beginning of this address on behalf of my country and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you on the election as Chairman of this Conference, which with your wise guidance will certainly be successful. We would also like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to Director-General. This election is almost unanimous support for what he accomplished in the course of his first term, and also confirmation of the programmes he executed in order to overcome malnutrition and famine in the world. We are also sure that these programmes will be executed for the benefit of the poor and hungry in the world. We support the Organization's goal of eradicating poverty and hunger in the world, as the fear of dying of hunger still exists in the world while at the same time other countries, live in a perfect state of well-being. We trust the Organization, we thank the Director-General for the programmes that have been carried out in order to reduce the number of persons who die of hunger and poverty in the world. We also adhere to the *Telefood* initiative which supports the agricultural processes and helps our farmers in all the developing countries.

In my country, the United Arab Emirates, we have reached a considerable level of agricultural development through projects that promote food security. Thanks to the investment in agricultural resources, we have been also able to conquer arable land and increase it by 145 percent over the past years. The increase in arable land is one area where we have achieved the greatest success. Forestry development and the fight against desertification has also been considerable. We have been successful in arriving at self-sufficiency in fisheries, over 96 percent, and 87 percent for milk, 67 percent of self-sufficiency in eggs, and for other agricultural products we have also a great degree of self-sufficiency. Investments in my country have taken into account the comparative advantages and give priority to the agricultural area. As a consequence of these agricultural programmes, we have been able to complete important projects in order to preserve natural resources. We have undertaken a number of projects to be able to overcome the problems of dryness with the help of irrigation. Under the leadership of His Excellency the Head of State, we are continuing to work in order to improve the situation in our country, in order to help needy countries through agricultural programmes in cooperation with the Organization, and in order to eradicate malnutrition and hunger in countries.

We are aspiring for a world living in peace and security, and we hope that this will be a permanent situation the world over. We will be in solidarity with those who are in poor countries, so that one day we can benefit from a world free from hunger. We hope God will help us to reach this goal.

Mrs Kin YONG SUK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (Original language Korean)

First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb on your election to the chair of this Conference which will benefit thanks to your skillful chairmanship. I wish, in the name of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to extend warm congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO.

Global population gained 1.7 percent increase on an annual average, thus already exceeding 6 billion, but food production did not catch up with the swelling population. The FAO has exerted tremendous efforts to take joint actions worldwide in timely reflection of and rapid response to such a reality.

The World Food Summit held on the initiative of FAO marked a milestone event for solving the world food and agricultural problem, and the *Rome Declaration and Plan of Action* are our common achievements.

In terms of the practice, FAO has taken effective actions by embarking on the Special Programme for Food Security and Technical Cooperation Programme intended to help food-deficit countries accelerate their sustained food production and increase their productivity.

The DPRK Government has all along set it forth as a cardinal task to solve food problems through development of agriculture and has channelled all strength and efforts into its achievement. The great leader of our people, Comrade Kim Jong Il defined agriculture as a mainstay as well as a key front in building a powerful socialist state, and illuminated comprehensively concrete orientation and ways and means for rounding off agricultural structure to raise agricultural production suitable to the specific reality of our country. Our country suffered in 1995 from devastating damages, catastrophic floods, the first of their kind in 100 years, followed by several years of heavy rains, droughts and tidal waves which inflicted serious damage upon the agricultural sector resulting in temporary food crises. But our people neither yield to, nor feel disheartened by natural disasters. They have pressed ahead with the undertaking of recovering damaged arable land and agricultural establishments, increasing agricultural production on a sound basis by propelling vigorous land reconstruction, streamlining agricultural structures and further updating agricultural techniques.

Thanks to the correct agricultural policy and strenuous efforts of our Republic, this year's grain output is envisaged to reach about 4.28 million tonnes of unhulled grain, approximately 1.4 times over the level of last year. Nevertheless, it is yet far beyond the amount necessary to meet the nation's demand for grain, in view of next year's food deficiency which is estimated at over 1.2 million tonnes.

The key to overcome temporary difficulties caused by natural disasters and enhance agricultural production depends upon how we, the masters, strive. In this respect, humanitarian assistance offered by international community has been a great encouragement to us.

I take this opportunity to express, in the name of the DPRK and its Government, profound gratitude to its counterparts of various countries around the world, international organizations including FAO and WFP and individual people for their humanitarian assistance in all sincerity in the aftermath of natural disasters.

On the threshold of a new Millennium, the sustainable development of agriculture and food security are honourable yet responsible undertakings for the sake of global peace and tranquillity, and common prosperity of humankind.

My delegation considers that the importance in achieving global food security is for each country to formulate agricultural policies based on their circumstances and develop agriculture to attain self-sufficiency in food by harnessing effectively their own manpower and material resources.

We are of the opinion that FAO should play a more important role in improving the present world food and agricultural situation. It is the view of my delegation that the *Strategic Framework 2000-2015* should be formulated and executed in such a way as to suit regional characters and the national agricultural conditions, and respect policy, raise productivity and ensure sustainable food security.

My delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 2000-2001 submitted by the Director-General to the Conference in full consideration of the world food and agricultural situation and requirement of Member Nations, as this is relatively a well-balanced and practical one.

In conclusion, I express my expectation that this Conference will be an epochal landmark in providing world food security, after successfully discussion of all the agenda items. This will be thanks to sincere and earnest efforts of you, all delegates, and of the Conference.

Roy FANOURAKIS (Swaziland)

May I, on behalf of my delegation and myself, convey the greetings and goodwill of the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland to this august house. As a new Minister responsible for agriculture in my country, I consider myself privileged to participate in this meeting, which is the last Conference before beginning the new Millennium. I also wish to convey my delegation's appreciation to the FAO Secretariat and the Italian authorities for facilitating our participation in this meeting.

Three years ago, during the World Food Summit held here, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to the reduction by half of the world's hungry people within the shortest possible time. The Kingdom of Swaziland took this as a serious challenge, since poverty and hunger continue to threaten the livelihood of the majority of the world's population. We therefore targeted food security as one of our major goals in the recently launched 25-year national development strategy. Our approach to achieve this goal will be broad-based as it will encompass, among other strategies, diversification and intensification of our agricultural production, particularly for the smallholder sector, which currently lags behind other sectors of the economy. Traditionally, agriculture in Swaziland has been dominated by maize, which is the main staple food for the population, as well as cattle raising, cotton and tobacco production constitute a very small portion of our cash crop farming among smallholder farmers. Most of such achieved activities largely depend on rainfall, which is very erratic in our part of the world. Such a scenario obviously means low productivity for the majority of our farmers. In recent years, we have begun the process of encouraging our smallholder farmers to diversify into more rewarding economic activities, such as cane production and high-value baby vegetables, which are in high demand in the export market.

In the livestock sector, we are intensifying milk production and processing, pig and poultry production and processing, as well as raising other small stock, such as goats and sheep.

We in Swaziland have realized, after a very long time, that smallholder agriculture cannot readily be transformed into a more productive sector of our economy without the coherent and conducive policy environment. It is therefore within this context that many of our agricultural policies that previously favoured large commercial estates are being reviewed to better encompass all types of farming, farmers and farming systems in Swaziland.

Prices of our major agricultural commodities, such as maize and milk, are gradually being deregulated. Some of the parastatals, which previously acted as monopolies in the market of our products, are being gradually privatized in order to allow more economic efficiency in the sector. It has to be noted, however, that such measures need to be carefully managed so that potential negative effects on smallholder farmers are avoided or minimized.

As previously indicated, agriculture in southern Africa, including Swaziland, depends on the rainfall which has become very erratic in recent years. Consequently, it is imperative for the countries in our Region to optimize the utilization of available water resources in order to increase productivity. It is precisely for that reason that my country places highest priority on irrigation development, particularly on smallholder farmers. We therefore wish to record our sincere appreciation to those friendly Governments and other Agencies that are assisting us in developing our irrigation sector. In particular, we wish to thank FAO for its assistance in the endeavour through the *Special Programme for Food Security*. The programme only started a few months ago, but the enthusiasm that it has generated among smallholder farmers, particularly women, is tremendous. We therefore appeal for more financial and technical support from the

other potential donor countries and agencies in the development of our irrigation infrastructure, particularly for the underdeveloped smallholder sector.

We are, or course, aware that the investment in agriculture does not often yield immediate results. It is, however, our considered view that, unless more development assistance is targeted at agriculture and marketing by both our national Government and donors, the economics of developing countries will continue to stagnate.

My delegation wishes to register its support for the various initiatives that FAO has taken after the World Food Summit. May I in particular refer to the *Strategic Framework* for FAO 2000-2015 that resulted from Conference Resolution 6/97. This *Framework* provides valuable guidelines for us within the FAO family and the world in implementing specific strategic objectives mandated by the World Food Summit.

It outlines a very conclusive process, which will assist us in articulating more clearly our immediate-term goal as well as the programme of the world food budget. We also recognize with appreciation the strategic role that is played by the Committee on World Food Security in developing the framework of monitoring and implementing of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Resources permitting, my Government will undertake to provide periodic reports on the implementation of the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* along the lines put forward by the *Committee on World Food Security.*

It is, however, disheartening to note that all the objectives that we ourselves have set will not be realized unless we place enough financial resources at the disposal of FAO. My delegation, therefore, appeals most earnestly to this Conference to approve the realistic budget of the coming biennium, so that we may once and for all break the circle of poverty and hunger in the new Millennium.

The tendency of this Conference is to stick to unrealistic principles of Zero Normal Growth, as if this were a ritual. We should give way to a more meaningful budget with consideration that truly reflects the magnitude of the problem facing us and the extraordinary responsibility placed on FAO by virtue of its mandate. By the same token, my delegation wishes to encourage all of us to honour our financial obligations on time so that this Organization can discharge its responsibilities for the betterment of the suffering majority in the developing countries.

May I also recognize with appreciation the efforts of the Executive arm of the Major Contributor in trying to break the impasse of the huge arrears. May I also express my Government's support to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which has played a strategic role in the transformation of agriculture in my country. Recent projects, such as institutional and legal support to the resettlement programme, strengthening of national food control systems and a non-water component of the *Special Programme for Food Security*, are playing a critical role in the development of our agricultural and institutional systems.

Before I conclude, I wish to draw the attention of this august assembly to the potential devastating effects of AIDS epidemic on the agricultural sector in developing countries, especially in Africa. We are all aware of the fact that this scourge is threatening the very base on which our livelihood is anchored. Agriculture depends on the existence of health, healthy human beings who provide the critical input of management and labour. Without these, there cannot be any meaningful agriculture. So AIDS is both a threat to support systems of research and extension, as well as a threat to the farmer.

We in agriculture should, therefore, develop effective strategies, in collaboration with other agencies, to combat or minimize the effects of such as disease. We request FAO for assistance in combatting this disease.

In Swaziland, for instance, my Ministry intends to forge a partnership with the Catholic Church in developing and implementing a programme to support orphans directly or through guardians.

The programme intends to embark on agriculture-related income-generating activities and it is expected to start early in the new year. Financial and technical support is very limited and, therefore, we would welcome assistance towards funding of this project.

Mr Chairman, permit me on behalf of my delegation and, indeed, my own behalf, to congratulate you and others of your Bureau on your election. We believe that, with all of our ability and brilliance, our deliberations during this Conference will yield very fruitful results. I also convey my delegation's pleasure and satisfaction at the overwhelming re-election of Dr Jacques Diouf in the position of Director-General. We strongly believe that the reform he has initiated in his first term of office will now be consolidated and strengthened for the betterment of our peoples.

Roberto RODRIGUES (Observador de la Alianza Cooperativa Internacional)

Las cooperativas son, en todo el mundo, una respuesta concreta a los principales problemas ligados a la liberación de la economía y a su globalización, especialmente, con respecto a los temas de concentración y de exclusión social. La Alianza Cooperativa Internacional representa a 250 organizaciones nacionales de cooperativas de todos los sectores que comprende alrededor de cien países y 800 millones de individuos.

La concentración y exclusión social son problemas muy serios en relación con la industria de insumos agrícolas así como en la agroindustria de transformación. La concentración representa una pérdida del poder de negociación para los agricultores, que son millones mientras cada vez hay menos industria de insumos y de transformación. Su poder de negociación y sus márgenes de ganancia se reducen y para esto las cooperativas son una respuesta perfecta, ya que agrupándolos les permite la posibilidad de aumentar su poder contractual, agregar valor a la producción primaria y tener acceso a una tecnología más moderna.

En el sector productivo agrícola la concentración representa exclusión social, porque es la eliminación de mano de obra no calificada y de pequeños agricultores que pierden todo lo que tienen, se ven obligados a dejar su actividad y emigran a las ciudades presionando los Gobiernos por la obtención de servicios sociales urbanos. También en este caso, las cooperativas pueden ser una solución viable, pues representan una modalidad de adaptar e incluir en la sociedad estas personas asi como preparar recursos humanos para otras actividades. No solamente las cooperativas agrícolas sino también las de consumo son una esperanza de seguridad alimentaria para los consumidores urbanos del mundo.

Estamos firmemente convencidos de que las cooperativas son una respuesta a los anteriormente mencionados problemas de concentración y de exclusión social, que representan una grave amenaza a la democracia. Organizando agricultores y consumidores para defender sus carencias sociales y económicas se constituyen, con autonomía, que es uno de los principios de la cooperación, aliadas de la FAO y de los Gobiernos que buscan la defensa de la democracia y de la paz.

El PRESIDENTE

Antes de finalizar esta sesión de la mañana de hoy, día 16 de noviembre, le vamos a dar la palabra a la Secretaría para una información. Tiene la palabra.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

Desearía informar a los señores delegados que en el ejercicio de su Derecho de Réplica, la delegación de Iraq ha transmitido a la Secretaría una declaración escrita, en respuesta a la realizada esta mañana por la delegación de Kuwait, la cual quedará incluida en las actas de la Conferencia.

También desearía recordar a los señores delegados que forman parte del Comité General, que hoy habrá una reunión a las 14 horas, en la Sala de México.

RIGHT OF REPLY
DROIT DE RÉPONSE
DERECHO DE REPLICA

Basil K. DALALI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

The Iraqi Delegation wishes to register once again its objection at what was mentioned in the Kuwaiti delegate's statement in this morning's session.

It also wishes to point out that this global technical Conference, which is addressing the *State of Food and Agriculture* in the world and ways to provide food to 800 million people suffering from hunger worldwide, as well as follow up to World Food Summit resolutions, is not a forum to raise political issues in an indecent way, incompatible with the Conference goals.

It puts on record its complete refusal of what was stated in the Kuwaiti delegate's statement and reminds him that Kuwait is one of three countries that contribute in maintaining the unfair and unjust economic embargo imposed on my country for more than a decade. This embargo has been causing the suffering of Iraqi people and the deterioration of the State of Food and Agriculture in Iraq.[3]

EL PRESIDENTE

Tras la declaración e información de la Secretaría, damos por terminada la sesión de hoy.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.
La séance est levée à 12 h 30.
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA

16 November 1999

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.35 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 35
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 15.35 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GÉNÉRAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Pakistan, Rwanda, Haiti, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Suisse, Guinée, Communauté Européenne, Gabon, Suriname, Lesotho, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Niger, Solomon Islands, Togo, Iraq, Czech Republic, République du Congo, Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS

LE PRESIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la Huitième séance plénière et je donnerai la parole au Pakistan dont la demande de ce matin a été reportée à cet après-midi. La parole est donc à M. Arif Ayub, Secrétaire permanent, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche.

Arif AYUB (Pakistan)

It is a matter of great pleasure and honour for me to address this distinguished gathering at the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. Allow me to convey my Government's congratulations first to you on your election to this position and to the three Vice-Chairmen, as well as to the Governments of Niue, Marshall Islands, Pallau and San Marino for entry into this great organization of the UN System. And, last but not least, I wish to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on re-election as Director-General of FAO.

Events, both on the domestic front and the international horizon, pose daunting challenges for developing countries. The rapid population growth, growing indebtedness, the yawning gaps in balance of payments, high volatility of international commodities markets, price distortions, structural adjustment, fragile environment, natural disasters and civil strife, are posing serious challenges to the development process of these countries. In the wake of these challenges, the role of agriculture has assumed unprecedented importance. It is unfortunate that the declining trend in ODA, in general, and ODA to agriculture in particular, does not exhibit a commensurate collective international resolve. The decrease of 10 to 15 percent in real value of FAO's budget, over the last four years, is just one manifestation which requires reconsideration. It requires reconsideration also when we are in the process of formulating a *Strategic Framework* for FAO for the next fifteen years which is not adequately backed by a commitment to resources.

I need not re-emphasize that agriculture is the leading sector of Pakistan's economy, contributing about 25 percent of its GDP, employing about 50 percent of its labour force, and providing the base for 58 percent of its industrial establishment and 82 percent of export earnings.

In the last two decades we have been able to maintain a four percent growth in the agriculture sector. Over the last decade, the *per capita* availability of daily calories has increased on average by 14 percent and of total cereals from 150 kg per annum to 159 kg per annum.

Yet, Pakistan continues to import 2 to 2.5 million tonnes of wheat annually. The food demand and domestic production projections indicate that, on an overall basis, Pakistan would remain a food-deficit country. Food demand would continue to be exacerbated by demand pressures from neighbouring countries on account of porous borders and price gradients.

Major constraints impeding agricultural productivity include resource degradation, failure to adopt improved technologies, poor incentives, defective marketing systems, ineffective dissemination of research results and policy distortions. Increase in crop productivity has remained nominal with yield gaps between actual and potential remaining over 50 percent for the major crops. These are all areas in which we hope to cooperate with FAO in improving the situation.

As you are aware, international economic environment is changing at a rapid pace. Soon we shall be entering the Twenty-first Century - a Century of technology-based production, competition and efficiency. In this regard, the Government of Pakistan has launched its own Agenda for growth and stabilization through the *Pakistan 2010 Programme*.

We see increased relevance of FAO entering into the Twenty-first Century, both at the international, as well as at the domestic level. It assumes increased importance in forwarding the international goals of the Member Nations, through normative work and their national goals, through field operations with synergistic inputs from one to the other. We believe that for FAO to remain relevant and credible, a balance between these two functions is essential.

Finally, we assure you of our firm belief in FAO as a premier agriculture organization of the world. We also appeal to other Member Nations to reaffirm their belief in FAO through adoption of the Millennium budget at a size which signals promise and hope.

Laurien NGIRABANZI (Rwanda)

Permettez-moi d'abord de joindre ma voix à celles des Délégations qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter le Président de la Conférence et tous les membres du Bureau pour leur élection, et souhaiter plein succès à nos assises.

Mes remerciements s'adressent également à M. Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO pour les six prochaines années. Je saisis cette occasion pour lui souhaiter, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple rwandais, plein succès dans cette lourde tâche et lui assurer le soutien total de mon pays.

Je remercie également les autorités et le peuple italien pour l'accueil dont ma délégation a bénéficié depuis notre arrivée dans cette ville de Rome.

Je ne pourrais oublier de remercier la FAO pour tous les efforts qu'elle déploie afin que la sécurité alimentaire de chacun soit assurée.

Au cours de la 29ème Conférence tenue ici à Rome en Novembre 1997, mon Gouvernement avait déclaré sa décision ferme de relancer et mener à terme les actions d'augmentation de la production agricole et des revenus des paysans, dans un contexte difficile d'après-guerre et d'un retour massif des réfugiés, alors que les structures de production et d'encadrement étaient quasiment absentes.

Le Gouvernement venait de publier un document de *Stratégie de Développement Agricole* qui constitue l'outil de référence de notre agriculture.

Au cours de cette année, le Gouvernement vient de publier un autre document: *Programme Prioritaire de Production Alimentaire* qui vise principalement à assurer la sécurité alimentaire du peuple rwandais par l'augmentation de la production céréalière et animale.

La poursuite de ces programmes aurait permis, avec l'appui de nos partenaires de coopération, d'atteindre en 1999 une production agricole suffisante. Mais, hélas, des aléas climatiques n'ont pas permis d'atteindre cet objectif.

Malgré les efforts fournis par le peuple rwandais pour assurer sa sécurité alimentaire, les problèmes conjoncturels limitent encore cette sécurité. Une sécheresse précoce survenue durant la saison précédente, ainsi qu'une insécurité qui régnait dans la région nord-ouest du pays, résultent actuellement en des pénuries alimentaires dans certaines régions du pays. L'insécurité a été jugulée, mais la sécheresse se poursuit et compromet les récoltes attendues.

En effet, une évaluation des récoltes de la dernière saison culturale (février-juillet 1999) conduite par le Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et des forêts, en collaboration avec la FAO, le PAM, la Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) de l'USAID, ainsi que l'Union Européenne, avait conclu à un déficit global de production de 123 000 tonnes équivalent-céréales, principalement suite à un arrêt précoce des pluies (mi-mai au lieu de mi-juin) et par des déplacements de populations dans le nord-ouest du pays suite à une insécurité qui y règnait. Ce déficit devait être comblé par des importations commerciales de 50 000 tonnes et une aide alimentaire de 73 000 tonnes, soit en moyenne 12 000 tonnes par mois jusqu'en décembre 1999. Les aides alimentaires apportées par le PAM se sont élevées en moyenne à 4 700 tonnes par mois.

Cette saison (septembre 1999-janvier 2000), les superficies emblavées en cultures vivrières avaient sensiblement augmentées, surtout dans le nord-ouest du pays où l'insécurité qui y règnait avait été jugulée, mais la saison est marquée par des pluies erratiques. Les pluies qui tombaient normalement de septembre à décembre se sont arrêtées tout le mois d'octobre, ce qui a compromis les semis effectués au mois de septembre dans la plupart des régions du pays, notamment le haricot et le petit pois, légumineuses qui constituent des productions vivrières de base.

Une évaluation rapide effectuée par les institutions sus-mentionnées du 2 au 9 novembre a provisoirement avancé un chiffre indicatif pour l'aide alimentaire de 7 000 tonnes équivalent-céréales par mois pour les 4 premiers mois de l'an 2000.

Outre cette aide alimentaire, environ 100 000 ménages plus vulnérables des 179 000 affectés par la sécheresse requéreront, pour la saison suivante, des intrants agricoles: semences vivrières et maraîchères, petits animaux et outils, d'une valeur estimée à 1 890 000 dollars E.-U..

C'est ainsi que mon Gouvernement, par la voix de son Premier Ministre, vient de lancer un appel à la Communauté internationale afin qu'une assistance alimentaire et agricole soit apportée aux populations affectées. Je saisis cette opportunité pour réitérer cet appel.

La difficulté et fragile situation du secteur agricole rwandais confronté aux aléas climatiques nous montre l'importance de relancer ou de renforcer sans plus attendre les programmes de réhabilitation de l'élevage, de la foresterie, d'aménagement des marais, de gestion de l'eau, d'amélioration de la fertilité des sols et de lutte contre l'érosion.

D'autre part, la mise en place d'un système d'information et d'alerte rapide pour la sécurité alimentaire s'avère du plus grand intérêt.

Je saisis encore cette occasion pour demander à nos partenaires de coopération leur appui dans l'exécution de ces programmes et la mise en place de cet outil de travail.

Je ne saurais terminer sans réitérer le soutien de mon Gouvernement sur la *Déclaration de Rome sur la Sécurité Alimentaire mondiale* et sur le *Plan d'Action*. Le Gouvernement rwandais reconnaît que la responsabilité première est sienne. Des efforts sont consentis en ce sens, mais les

moyens sont limités. C'est pourquoi je demande à tous nos partenaires de continuer à manifester leur solidarité dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, la malnutrition et la faim.

François SEVERIN (Haïti)

La délégation haïtienne s'associe aux autres délégations participant à cette 30ème session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, pour présenter ses condoléances à Madame Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, suite à l'accident d'avion survenu récemment au Kosovo. Nos condoléances s'étendent également aux gouvernements et aux familles que cet accident a plongés dans le deuil. Que tous ici présents soient conscients du prix payé par ces artisans de paix et de solidarité!

Au nom du Gouvernement haïtien et au mien, je tiens à vous présenter, M. le Président, mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette Conférence. Ces félicitations s'adressent aussi aux Vice-présidents ainsi qu'aux Membres du Secrétariat qui ont accompli un travail remarquable pour l'organisation de cette Conférence, la dernière de ce type avant la fin du Millénaire.

Permettez-moi également, M. le Président, de réitérer au Dr Jacques Diouf mes plus vives félicitations pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Je suis convaincu qu'une fois de plus, le Dr Diouf saura mériter la haute confiance que notre Assemblée vient de lui renouveler, pour son combat incessant en faveur d'un avenir plus prometteur pour des millions d'hommes et de femmes du monde rural

Je salue également l'admission des Membres qui, au cours de cette session, ont rejoint la grande famille de la FAO.

Trois ans après la tenue du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, l'occasion nous est offerte d'examiner de plus près la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et de fixer l'attention sur les défis que seule une solidarité agissante dans le cadre d'une coopération efficace peut nous aider à relever. Permettez-moi, en cette occasion, de vous informer rapidement de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans mon pays.

Ayiti, dans le langage des premiers habitants de l'île, les indiens, signifie "Terres hautes, Terres montagneuses". En effet, 80 pour cent du territoire de la République d'Haïti, d'une superficie de 27 750 km2, sont constitués de montagnes dont 52 pour cent accusent des pentes de plus de 40 pour cent. Cela démontre clairement l'étroitesse et la fragilité de nos ressources pour la production agricole. De plus, les conditions historiques dans lesquelles ont évolué les populations rurales en Haïti ont provoqué une dégradation accélérée des ressources naturelles de base, principalement les forêts, de sorte qu'il ne reste aujourd'hui que 2 pour cent de couverture forestière dans un pays où il en faudrait 52 pour cent. Tel est donc le cadre physique dans lequel notre Gouvernement s'applique à développer l'agriculture et à garantir la sécurité alimentaire à une population de huit millions d'habitants, dont 63 pour cent de paysans vivant en milieu rural et tirant leurs revenus principalement de l'agriculture.

Les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement à travers une politique macro-économique tendant à assainir les finances publiques, à dégager des ressources et les orienter vers la production nationale, notamment dans le secteur agricole, ont permis une amélioration sensible du secteur.

Ces progrès sont dus à un vaste programme de recapitalisation des exploitations agricoles avec la participation des différents partenaires. Parmi les actions menées jusque-là, je citerai:

-la redistribution des terres dans les zones traditionnellement déchirées par des conflits terriens et la distribution des terres du domaine privé de l'État à des familles paysannes, grâce à la réforme agraire engagée par le gouvernement depuis 1996, conformément aux prescriptions de la Constitution de la République. Cette réforme vise, entre autres, à sécuriser les producteurs et à attirer les investissements dans le secteur rural, en vue de garantir la sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre d'un développement durable;

- la réhabilitation des systèmes d'irrigation et le transfert de la gestion, selon une approche participative aux groupements d'usagers;
- la construction de lacs artificiels pour la gestion des eaux des pluies dans des zones faiblement pourvues en eaux de surface pour garantir la disponibilité en eau pour l'agriculture, principalement le maraîchage, l'élevage et l'aquaculture;
- l' extension du crédit rural, avec une attention particulière aux associations de femmes;
- la constitution de boutiques d'intrants agricoles (fertilisants, petits équipements, pesticides, etc.) gérées par des associations paysannes;
- la mise à disposition aux associations de producteurs, sous forme de location-vente, de tracteurs et de motoculteurs;
- la construction de pistes rurales pour le désenclavement des principales zones de production alimentaire, en vue de faciliter le transport et la commercialisation des produits;
- la valorisation de certaines productions comme les mangues, le café, la canne à sucre, pour la recherche de nouveaux marchés plus rémunérateurs;
- l'amélioration de la production animale, particulièrement le repeuplement porcin: et la lutte contre les différentes zoonoses;
- un programme régional – Haïti, Jamaïque et République Dominicaine – de contrôle de la Lucilie bouchère du nouveau monde, mené avec l'appui de la FAO; et
- un programme de cantine scolaire desservant quotidiennement plus de 100 000 enfants.

En dépit de tous ces efforts, il reste cependant beaucoup à faire puisque l'agriculture haïtienne ne permet encore de satisfaire que 50 pour cent des besoins de la population nationale. Le reste est couvert par les importations commerciales et l'octroi d'aide alimentaire.

Les difficultés que connaît le pays depuis plus de deux ans ont quelque peu ralenti certaines initiatives du Gouvernement dans la mise en place des institutions liées à la production agricole et à la sécurité alimentaire. Cette situation est en passe d'être jugulée avec les élections législatives et municipales prévues pour le mois de mars 2000.

Il serait regrettable de ne pas féliciter le Secrétariat de l'Organisation dont les efforts incessants ont permis d'arriver à la Version 4.0 du *Cadre Stratégique 2000-2015*. Je souhaite vivement que le débat en cours puisse compléter ce document. Il est aussi important que les décisions adoptées par les Ministres à l'occasion des Conférences régionales de la FAO, soient prises en considération dans l'élaboration du Programme de travail et de budget. Compte tenu des besoins exprimés et des attentes de nos populations, la Croissance Réelle Zéro nous paraît être un compromis acceptable.

C'est en assurant à l'Organisation les ressources nécessaires qu'elle pourra mettre en œuvre pleinement, avec l'appui de tous, les programmes définis dans le *Cadre Stratégique* et respecter les engagements pris par nos Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement lors du *Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.*

Modibo TRAORE (Mali)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord M. le Président, au nom de ma délégation et en mon propre nom de vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence des travaux de la 30ème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation, ainsi qu'à tous les Membres du Bureau.

Je voudrais également transmettre à Monsieur Jacques Diouf les chaleureuses félicitations du Président Alpha Omar Konaré et celles du Gouvernement du Mali pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général.

J'aimerais aussi vous assurer, Monsieur le Directeur général, de la disponibilité du Gouvernement du Mali à coopérer étroitement avec la FAO pour une réduction rapide de la faim dans le monde; l'ouverture récente d'une Représentation malienne à Rome s'inscrit d'ailleurs dans ce cadre.

Mes félicitations vont également aux nouveaux Membres admis au sein de notre Organisation.

Au Mali, le secteur rural constitue le moteur du développement économique et social et occupe plus de 80 pour cent de la population active, fournit près de 50 pour cent du Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB) et procure près des trois-quarts des recettes d'exportation.

Le secteur rural est également à la base du développement de l'agro-industrie et offre par ailleurs des perspectives prometteuses d'investissement eu égard à l'importance des potentialités en terre, en eau, en cheptel et en main-d'œuvre. Les produits agricoles tels que le riz, le coton, ainsi que le bétail bénéficient d'avantages comparatifs tant au niveau national que sur les marchés extérieurs. Si en une année de pluviométrie normale la production céréalière nationale assure la couverture de 95 pour cent des besoins du pays, de nombreuses contraintes entravent cependant le développement du secteur agricole à savoir:

- forte dépendance de la production vis à vis des aléas climatiques,
- sous équipement des zones rurales,
- difficultés d'accès aux crédits,
- faible accès à l'eau potable,
- enclavement des zones de production.

Pour relever ces défis, le Gouvernement a élaboré des stratégies appropriées, dont la mise en œuvre devrait améliorer la sécurité alimentaire du pays à travers l'émergence d'un secteur moderne plus productif à côté de l'agriculture traditionnelle pratiquée dans les exploitations familiales, le développement d'un secteur privé dynamique, l'amélioration de l'emploi en milieu rural, le développement des infrastructures et de l'équipement rural, ainsi qu'une plus grande participation du Mali à l'économie régionale. Pour ce faire, d'importants efforts seront déployés pour assurer l'aménagement en 5 ans et en maîtrise totale de 30 000 hectares de terres, l'équipement en matériel de culture attelée d'au moins 50 pour cent des exploitants, l'approvisionnement en intrants et équipements agricoles et le développement de systèmes décentralisés de micro-financement. Dans l'ensemble de ces programmes une attention particulière sera accordée à l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de travail de la femme rurale.

La multi-fonctionnalité est une caractéristique commune de l'agriculture dans tous les pays du monde.

La mise en exergue de cette dimension doit selon nous contribuer à la mobilisation de ressources additionnelles en faveur du développement des systèmes de production durables à travers le monde pour la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire pour l'ensemble des populations de notre planète.

Ce concept ne saurait être un nouveau prétexte pour encourager dans les pays développés des systèmes de production les plus polluants et encore moins pour justifier des politiques commerciales qui ruinent l'agriculture des pays pauvres. Il doit être reconnu à chaque État le droit de protéger et de développer son secteur agricole.

Le Mali salue les récentes initiatives de la Communauté internationale en faveur de l'allégement du fardeau de la dette pour les pays en voie de développement. Leur mise en œuvre devrait permettre aux États bénéficiaires de disposer de ressources complémentaires pour accroître l'investissement dans le secteur agricole de ces pays en vue d'une réduction significative de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde.

Ted SITAPAI (Papua New Guinea)

It is indeed an honour for me to convey on behalf of my delegation, the Government and people of Papua New Guinea, hearty congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf for his landslide election and reappointment as Director-General of FAO for the next six years. We have witnessed the development initiatives of FAO under his astute stewardship over the last six years, and we

remain assured that his vision for the future of this noble Organization, as expounded in its new *Strategic Framework*, shall bear many fruits.

My delegation also warmly welcomes the new Membership of FAO, as approved by the Conference this week. Four of these countries are from the South-west Pacific Region and this gives us much joy and gratitude to see our sister countries Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue and Palau take their place in this global family of nations to benefit from the services and programmes of the largest of all the United Nations Agencies.

The challenge of eliminating poverty and hunger throughout the world has continued to be the prime mandate of FAO since its inception nearly six decades ago. At the World Food Summit in 1996, with the Members of this Organization, we made a collective pledge that we would join FAO in this worthy pursuit, and our leaders made an undertaking that they would do everything in their power to eliminate malnutrition and hunger at national level and to achieve food for all by 2015. As a signatory to the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*, Papua New Guinea is therefore committed to the goals and objectives set by the Summit and our effort so far, although modest, is a start in that direction.

The current national development framework, the medium-term development strategy adopted by our Government in 1996, is framed along the principles of the national constitution. It strives for total integral human development to achieve equality in participation, to safeguard national sovereignty and economic self-reliance, to conserve natural resources and the environment for the collective benefit of all and to promote national pride and empower the citizenry.

It is obvious that while Papua New Guinea attempts to consolidate its efforts to achieve real and long-term development, it must also address certain key development issues, which would continue to prevail in the medium term. Like most economies in transition, Papua New Guinea must achieve macro-economic stability. This can only be realized through improvement in performance of key economic sub-sectors and for us, it is agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The uplifting of agriculture productivity in terms of written to learner level, would subsequently boost the levels of export and thus pave way for increased incomes and real and sustained growth.

It is recognized that the strengthening of the private sector participation in the economy would also contribute to sustainable economic development. Another important prerequisite for economic advancement is the need to provide adequate physical and social infrastructure in the rural communities in particular. This would improve delivery and equitable access to basic services such as markets for primary produce and health care and literacy programmes for the rural populous. In short, the economic challenge of any developing state is to enhance productivity and output while maintaining the natural resource base, safeguarding and increasing rural incomes, generating employment and promoting the nutritional and food security status of households and individuals. More importantly, we must empower people to become effective and productive economic agents. This calls for a gender balance in our planning for development, as the effects of economic chains affect women and men differently in our rural communities. Because of the central role that women play in agriculture and in particular, the effort in ensuring food security at the household level, they must be recognized as equal partners in rural development.

Papua New Guinea is a country blessed with beautiful climate and land and sea resources of outstanding natural values. It is estimated that apart from its rich mineral resource, its extensive tracks of tropical forests, freshwater and estaurine wetlands and coral reefs harbour about seven percent of the world's biological diversity. Its rich biodiversity gives Papua New Guinea tremendous development potential, but this can only be realized if these rich resources are managed in an environmentally-and culturally-sustainable way. Our agriculture is exclusively rainfed and it is predominantly based on the production of root and tuber crops, involving 80 percent of the population who are largely subsistence farmers. The fragility of such a farming

system was exposed by the 1997 El *Niño* drought and this natural disaster has helped us to become more aware of the vulnerability of our own environment and the food system.

Papua New Guinea has now become a net importer of some of its basic food needs. It is now categorized as a Low-Income, Food-Deficit country by FAO because of our dependence on grains and cereal imports for our *per capita* dietary energy supply. In this connection, we are most grateful for FAO in including Papua New Guinea in its earlier activities of the Special Programme for Food Security. The project, which commenced in 1996 on a single site, is near completion of its pilot phase. We are now in the process of expanding this Programme to at least six other provincial sites per annum over the next three years. We are grateful for the continuing support of FAO and remain confident that through its South-South cooperation programme, the expansion phase of our project will be realized.

The support of the donor community for developing countries to fully implement the Special Programme for Food Security would remain an important priority for FAO. I wish to make a special plea for Small Island Developing States, which have particular problems and needs that must be given special attention by FAO. For us in the Pacific, the *SIDS Plan of Action* provides a sound basis for planning and implementation of our national food security programmes, and I pray that our key development partners will favourably consider and take heed to this plea of support.

Finally, my delegation salutes FAO and its Membership as its moves into a new dawn. The challenges that lie ahead are no less daunting, but we are confident that with the medium-term strategies and programmes and hopefully with resources, requested now before this Conference for its consideration and ratification will put the Organization in good stead to sail smoothly into the new Millennium.

Y.J. NGULUBE (Zambia)

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Bureau for chairing this very important Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I can assure you of the support and commitment to this Conference. I further wish to express our profound happiness and congratulations to the Director-General, Dr Diouf for winning the election. I am confident that with your able leadership you will propel FAO to greater heights in the next Millennium.

The agricultural sector is one of the largest contributors to the GDP in Zambia, with its contribution ranging from 15 percent to 20 percent over the years, depending on the weather patterns. The sector's duality is characterized by a small but highly commercialized sub-sector consisting of large-scale producers and a subsistence and semi-commercial sub-sector which consists of about one million small and medium-scale farmers who grow a range of crops for both food and cash value.

Zambia recorded an increase in agricultural production during the 1998-99 season due to sufficient rains in most parts of the country and the good supply of inputs which contributed to improve production. The country's food security situation is therefore quite favourable. Much of Government policy efforts have been directed at addressing the complex problems that have afflicted subsistence and semi-commercial farmers in recent years. The duality of the farming industry has entailed the necessity of Government intervention to help this group. This has included the passing of a new forestry act. Smallholder agriculture is key to rural development in Zambia. But the problems faced by Zambian rural farmers are numerous, multi-faceted and complex. Furthermore, Zambia has been heavily affected by the recurrent droughts, as experienced during the first part of this decade.

The second problem has been the outbreak of livestock and crop diseases. The most serious of these was the east-coast fever or corridor disease, which reduced cattle herds to less than half and seriously reduced drought power supply in rural areas. My Government has been putting in place

a conducive policy framework and an enabling environment to facilitate expansion of private-sector-driven services to the farming community. The cooperating partners and Non-Governmental Organizations, on the other hand, have provided full back-up by responding to the challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition at community level. In this respect, I thank FAO for its untiring efforts in helping the development of agriculture in Zambia.

Currently, FAO is involved in 26 projects in Zambia. I am also aware that eight other new projects with an estimated value of US$2.2 million are in the pipeline. Zambia is making efforts to clear all its contribution arrears to FAO. This is despite the economic hardships the country is going through at the moment. The Organization is dear to us and we will endeavour to fulfil our obligations to it.

Finally, on behalf of the government and the people of Zambia and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to thank all our cooperating partners, both bilateral and matlateral, who are assisting us in the development of agriculture in Zambia. We look forward to further collaboration with all our friends as we enter the new millennium.

Michel PELLAUX (Suisse)

J'ai le plaisir de vous transmettre les voeux du Gouvernement suisse, ses félicitations à M. Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection et son plein soutien à la FAO.

Trois ans après le Sommet, on ne peut être satisfait. La situation alimentaire ne correspond pas aux objectifs du *Plan d'action*. La pauvreté a progressé et atteint un niveau encore jamais vu. Environ 1.5 milliard de personnes doivent vivre aujourd'hui avec moins d'un dollar par jour. C'est inaccepable. Pourquoi ce bilan décevant?

- Parce que les efforts entrepris par les pays concernés et par les bailleurs de fonds sont encore insuffisants pour lutter contre la faim et ses causes. On néglige trop souvent l'agriculture et le développement rural dans les pays en développement.
- Parce que nombre de catastrophes, causées notamment par l'homme, continue d'augmenter.
- Parce que les crises économiques et financières qui ont secoué en particulier plusieurs pays d'Asie ont anéanti les progrès qui avaient déjà été réalisés.

L'action reste donc plus que jamais nécessaire. Cela exige un effort de tous, non seulement des organisations nationales et internationales, du public et des privés, mais aussi une solidarité entre toutes les couches des populations. C'est pourquoi nous avons spécialement développé cette année en Suisse une large politique d'information sur les objectifs du Sommet.

La coopération suisse au développement dans le secteur agricole a de tout temps accordé une importance primordiale à la lutte contre la faim et ses causes. Ce principe figure déjà dans notre législation depuis plus de vingt ans. Un cinquième de notre budget de la coopération au développement est consacré au financement de programmes agricoles et alimentaires. A ceux-ci s'ajoutent les programmes visant à atténuer la pauvreté, qui contribuent directement à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Au niveau multilatéral (système de l'ONU, Banques multilatérales de développement), la Suisse demande instamment que l'on consacre le maximum de moyens pour lutter contre la pauvreté et donc contre la faim.

Aujourd'hui déjà, notre contribution à la lutte contre la faim et contre ses causes est largement compatible avec le *Plan d'action* de Rome. Ceci ne nous empêche pas de réévaluer sans cesse toutes nos activités pour qu'elles contribuent toujours mieux à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Un effort particulier est fait pour lutter contre la discrimination des femmes, une des principales causes de la pauvreté. Pauvreté et faim se déclinent d'ailleurs au féminin!

Pour que tout le monde puisse manger à sa faim, non seulement la pauvreté doit être réduite de manière drastique, mais la production de denrées alimentaires devra aussi doubler au cours de la prochaine génération. Ce n'est que par un développement durable dans les régions rurales et par

une agriculture multi-fonctionnelle, que cet objectif pourra être atteint en n'épuisant pas les ressources naturelles et en maintenant les emplois dans les zones rurales.

En fait, qu'attendons-nous d'une telle agriculture?

- Qu'elle produise des denrées alimentaires permettant d'assurer un degré approprié d'auto-approvisionnement dans chaque pays.
- Qu'elle fournisse des prestations écologiques de façon à sauvegarder la bio-diversité et la fertilité des sols. A ce sujet, je cite spécialement un proverbe africain qui résume particulièrement bien la situation: "Nous n'héritons pas la terre de nos pères, mais nous l'empruntons à nos enfants".
- Qu'elle contribue à l'habitat décentralisé et au développement économique des zones rurales pour éviter une concentration de la population dans les grands centres urbains.

C'est ainsi que l'on pourra vraiment contribuer au développement durable, avec ses composantes économique, sociale et écologique et par là à la sécurité alimentaire. Il est évident que pour les pays en développement, de tels concepts doivent être adaptés à leurs conditions. C'est dans ce sens que la Suisse soutiendra ces pays à promouvoir une agriculture multi-fonctionnelle en favorisant le transfert de connaissances.

En conclusion, permettez-moi six remarques:

Premièrement, que la Suisse se joint à l'Union européenne et à d'autres pays pour que le concept de la multi-fonctionnalité de l'agriculture soit partie intégrante du cadre stratégique.

Concernant le programme de travail 2000-2001, nous apprécions tout particulièrement l'effort qui est fait pour formuler des projets avec des objectifs clairs. Nous insistons toutefois pour que des ressources ne soient pas déviées des programmes spéciaux vers le *Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire*.

Pour ce qui est du budget, la Suisse se rallie à la troisième option Croissance Nominale Zéro proposée par le Directeur général dans sa déclaration et accepte les domaines prioritaires qui doivent être protégés.

Quant à la révision de l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour harmoniser le texte avec la Convention sur la diversité biologique, la Suisse la soutient tout particulièrement. Elle a organisé une rencontre d'experts à Montreux, en janvier de cette année, dont les résultats sont utilisés comme base pour la poursuite des négociations.

Pour ce qui et de la Conférence des plénipotentiaires sur la Convention de Rotterdam, mon pays serait heureux de continuer d'offrir au Secrétariat PIC les excellentes conditions d'accueil aux sièges actuels, à Genève et à Rome.

Enfin, la Suisse continuera de tout mettre en oeuvre pour éradiquer la faim dans le monde, qui est la conséquence la plus intolérable de la pauvreté.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avec votre permission je confie la continuité des travaux de cette séance au Vice-Président M. Jan Berteling. Merci.

Jan Berteling, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair
Jan Berteling, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Jan Berteling, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

M. Jean Paul SARR (Guinée)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord au nom de la délégation guinéenne que j'ai l'honneur de diriger, de saluer chaleureusement toute les délégations ici présentes et de féliciter Dr Jacques Diouf pour sa brillante réélection au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Ma délégation se joint au Directeur Général pour présenter ses condoléances à Madame Bertini et à tous les familles éplorées suite à l'accident tragique de l'avion du PAM survenu à Pristina, au Kosovo, le 11 Novembre 1999.

Je tiens également à vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, pour la parfaite organisation de la présente session de notre Conférence et de saluer la République de Saint-Marin, les États insulaires du Pacifique, la République des Iles Marshall, Nioué et la République des Palaos, nouveaux Membres de notre Organisation.

Comme par le passé, la contribution de la délégation guinéenne est acquise pour participer activement aux travaux tant en plénière qu'au sein des commissions.

Avec votre permission, je voudrais maintenant vous présenter la déclaration de la République de Guinée sur la situation alimentaire et agricole dans mon pays. Comme dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement, plus de 70 pour cent de la population guinéenne vit en zone rurale, 52 pour cent d'entre eux, soit plus de 2 millions d'individus, sont dans la situation de pauvreté absolue et disposent d'un revenu annuel égal ou inférieur à l'équivalent de 300 dollars E.-U. Les plus démunis connaissent au moins de façon saisonnière les problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition.

L'agriculture reste la principale source de revenu des populations rurales guinéennes qui pratiquent une agriculture généralement intensive, avec une faible utilisation des facteurs modernes de production.

La nouvelle politique agricole du Gouvernement guinéen adoptée en 1991 et actualisée en 1998, met un accent particulier sur l'intensification da la production agricole, particulièrement par l'accroissement de l'utilisation:

- des outils et machines agricoles adaptés;
- des semences, plants et animaux d'élevage améliorés à haut potentiel de production;
- des fertilisants et produits de traitement.

L'objectif visé est d'accroître les rendements et les productions agricoles nationaux et, corrélativement, de réduire les importations de denrées alimentaires. Les résultats obtenus sont enourageants et nous permettent actuellement d'atteindre annuellement des niveaux appréciables de productions vivrières, à savoir:

- 715 000 tonnes de riz paddy,
- 110 000 tonnes de fonio paddy,
- 85 000 tonnes de maïs,
- 158 000 tonnes d'arachide coque,
- 775 000 tonnes de manioc tubercule, etc.

L'augmentation de la production nationale a permis de réduire considérablement les importations des denrées alimentaires. Ainsi, les importations de riz marchand, qui est la denrée alimentaire de base de la population guinéenne, ont diminué de 45,7 pour cent en 4 ans, passant de 291 000 tonnes en 1995 à 158 000 tonnes en 1998.

Le Gouvernement poursuit donc sa politique d'intensification de la production agricole en mettant l'accent sur deux populations cibles privilégiées: les femmes et la jeunesse rurale.

En effet, en milieu rural guinéen, les femmes constituent 53 pour cent de la population active et représentent 78 pour cent de la main-d'oeuvre agricole. Il faut donc faire en sorte que les obstacles qui limitent leur accès aux ressources soient éliminés et qu'elles participent activement aux structures et institutions de planification et de prise de décision.

C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement guinéen ne ménage aucun effort pour la promotion de la femme rurale. Actuellement, tous les projets de développement rural contiennent un volet appui aux femmes rurales. Des technologies appropriées et matériels agricoles sont mis à leur disposition pour alléger leurs travaux. Des formations adéquates sont également organisées à leur intention.

Au niveau de la jeunesse rurale, qui représente une population nombreuse, dynamique et ouverte aux innovations technologiques, le Gouvernement guinéen a encouragé l'émergence des associations et des groupements d'intérêt économique. Dans ce cadre, comme programme de formation, un mécanisme de soutien et d'aide aux idées de projets de développement initiés a été conçu et mis en oeuvre.

Les progrès réalisés dans le développement rural de mon pays sont avant tout le fruit de travail des populations laborieuses de la Guinée profonde.

Le Gouvernement guinéen apprécie fortement le concours des partenaires extérieurs dont l'appui constitue un complément indispensable surtout en cette période de difficultés économiques créées par des facteurs liés à la présence sur le sol guinéen de plus d'un million de réfugiés libériens et sierra léonais, un septième de sa population, ainsi qu'aux conditionnalités de l'ajustement structurel renforcé de la Banque Mondiale/Fonds monetaire international.

Le Gouvernement guinéen fidèle à sa politique de liberté, de justice et de paix, voudrait à cette tribune rassurer tous les partenaires et toutes les institutions internationales au développement, qu'il sauvegardera l'état de droit en République de Guinée. Toutefois, force est de reconnaître qu'il ne saurait y avoir de véritable démocratie sans un État fort, capable de faire respecter la loi et la sécurité de ses citoyens.

C'est pourquoi, la Guinée, à l'avant-garde de la liberté et de la paix en Afrique, oeuvre inlassablement au renforcement des structures démocratiques déjà existantes, à savoir: l'Assemblée Nationale, la Cour Suprême, le Conseil Économique et Social, le Conseil National de la Communication.

Vous conviendrez avec moi que les institutions démocratiques ne peuvent jouer efficacement leur rôle de catalyseur de développement socio-économique que dans un environnement de paix durable. Or, notre pays qui se réjouit de son choix par les Nations Unies comme point focal de la paix dans les sous-régions ouest-africaines, connaît aujourd'hui des difficultés d'ordre économique, social et environnemental liées aux conséquences de la guerre au Liberia et en Sierra Leone.

Face à ces difficultés qui fragilisent la paix dans notre sous-région, vous me permettrez, Monsieur le Président, de saisir l'occasion qui m'est ainsi offerte pour lancer un appel à toutes les institutions internationales, ainsi qu'aux partenaires au développement, notamment la FAO, le FIDA et le PAM, pour un appui plus accru aux efforts du Gouvernement à travers une assistance matérielle et financière, dans la prise en charge des réfugiés et la restauration de notre patrimoine forestier menacé de disparition.

En parlant de l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans les différents pays nécessiteux, mon pays salue et encourage les efforts de la FAO relatifs à l'introduction des initiatives et des activités nouvelles, telles que la décentralisation sur le terrain des activités opérationnelles de la FAO:

- le recrutement des experts nationaux au niveau des représentations de la FAO dans les pays;
- la conception et la mise en oeuvre du Programme spécial d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire;
- le développement de la coopération sud-sud;
- le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation de novembre 1996;
- l' opération *Telefood*.

Je ne saurais terminer mon intervention sans remercier leurs Excellences Monsieur Kofi Annan, Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, Madame Sadako Ogata, Haut-Commissaire aux Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, Madame Emma Bonino, Commissaire européen aux réfugiés, Madame Madeleine Allbright, Secrétaire d'Etat américaine, pour les visites respectives qu'ils ont bien

voulu effectuer en République de Guinée au cours de l'année 1999 pour s'enquérir de la situation des réfugiés et leur promesse d'apporter aide et assistance à la Guinée.

Je voudrais enfin remercier et encourager au nom de la République de Guinée et de son Président, le Directeur Général et tout le personnel de la FAO pour l'excellent travail réalisé.

Je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 30ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO, et je vous remercie de votre aimable invitation.

Alexandre TILGENKAMP (Communauté européenne)

Puisqu'on me donne la parole en français je vais commencer par faire deux remarques. Tout d'abord, pour vous dire combien je suis honoré d'être à cette tribune aujourd'hui pour vous exprimer la position de la Communauté européenne. En second lieu, je ne peux laisser passer cette occasion sans féliciter M. Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection en tant que Directeur Général et je voudrais le faire au nom de la Commission européenne et en particulier au nom de M. Franz Fischler, Commissaire à l'Agriculture et qui est l'un des fidèles de vos réunions, mais M. le Président, puisque j'ai préparé quelques mots en anglais, vous me permettrez de continuer dans cette langue.

(continues in English)

The demographic developments and the likely increase in the world's population will provide considerable challenges in terms of food security, environmental pressures and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Globalization creates a new dynamic by giving a worldwide dimension to trade and economic relations, but also to social and environmental issues.

The last evolution of the main world commodity markets shows that their situation is very dependent on the global economic environment and on weather patterns. The financial crises in Asia, in the CIS and, more recently, in Brazil, have resulted in a decrease in income growth, a reduction of import demand for many commodities in 1998 and, consequently, in a fall in prices.

The effect of *El Niño* led, on the contrary, to a decline in production and resulted in higher prices for some commodities, as for example rice. This is a real handicap for developing countries, which are dependent on international markets to buy or to sell their agricultural commodities. We have the responsibility to examine what can be done in order to help them to anticipate evolutions and respond accordingly.

The European Union will do its part not to waste its resources and to contribute to the world supply at competitive prices. The Agenda 2000 measures to reform the Common Agricultural Policy intend to do just that.

The recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy - the so-called Agenda 2000 - is a comprehensive reform package relating to the financial perspectives, pre-accession measures, instruments for Central and Eastern European countries, reorganization of the structural funds and reform of the agricultural policy, including the establishment of rural policies as a second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Price cuts, combined with reduced market intervention, should limit the surplus in important sectors and avoid price-depressing effects of the subsidized exports. This reform is intended as a further step in reducing some distortive effects in the Common Agricultural Policy on developing countries.

Furthermore, the European model of agriculture and rural development must also respond to the requirements of consumers and society as a whole.

High standards of food safety and quality, the preservation of animal welfare, the integration of environmental goals into the CAP and the multi-functional character of agriculture, are the essential elements of the European model.

Agriculture is, indeed, multi-functional in itself because it is not limited to only the function of producing agricultural goods, but contributes to the achievement of important societal goals.

In many Regions, in particular in remote or peripheral areas, where there are few other possibilities of gainful employment, agricultural activities help also preventing out-migration, and will ensure that human activities and settlement are well-balanced through the territory.

Let me now come to the European model of agriculture in the international area. Production from developing countries is present on markets in the developed world. The European Union is by far the greatest importer of developing country production. Being a global player in agricultural trade, the EU is very well aware of its international responsibilities and the EU has a vital role to play in this process.

We have already begun to take appropriate steps in our bilateral external relations with the various regions of the world. On that point, the EU has taken major efforts to mitigate problems of developing countries through such preferential treatment as that established under the Lomé Convention and under the Generalized System of Preferences. For this purpose, talks between the ACP and the EU already started in September 1998 and have to be finalized at the end of this year. This ambitious strategy will be adapted to the economic and social situation, meaning that there will be differentiation according to the level of the development and that LDCs will continue to benefit from non-reciprocal preferences extended to essentially all products.

The EU acknowledged that for the less developed countries, the development of the agricultural sector is a priority. This is not only for food security reasons, but also because of its contribution to rural income and the expansion of international markets.

Security of food supply, in terms of both quantity and quality, is basic to social stability of nations. Although the main responsibility for the food security continues to lie at the local and national level, the international community must be able to respond quickly, and in an appropriate way, to natural disasters and other unforeseen shortages in food supply.

The last issue I want to refer to is to the next round of agricultural negotiations within the WTO which will start at the end of this month in Seattle. The basis for the EU position in the next round of agricultural trade negotiations will be the Agenda 2000 Reform, with further reduction in prices and support measures. But I have to repeat that the EU wants also to deal with non-trade issues like multifunctionality, food security, environment, food safety and animal welfare.

From a development policy point of view, the challenge is to push the developed countries as far as possible to less forms of support in their agriculture. We have to improve the relations with the LDCs, certainly the countries which have not experienced the full benefits of the introduction of the WTO Agreement.

Coordination of trade-related technical assistance and targeted training activities are among possible means to help and encourage countries and persuade them of the benefits of becoming more involved in the WTO process. But we think, that we cannot adopt it immediately. There is a need for transition regimes for the LDCs.

There should, therefore, be flexibility in liberalization transition periods, and the difficulties with implementation in some developing countries should be recognized and accompanied by appropriate measures.

The European Union has worked to better involve less developed countries in the multilateral trade system and will continue to support efforts to ensure that new WTO processes are particularly beneficial to them.

Gaston Noél MBOUMBOU-NGOMA (Gabon)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord M. le Président, au nom de la délégation gabonaise que je conduis, de présenter mes sincères condoléances à Madame Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM, aux membres des familles endeuillées, suite à la catastrophe aérienne survenue jeudi dernier.

Au moment où je représente mon pays, le Gabon, à la 30ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO, c'est pour moi un honneur de prendre la parole du haut de cette tribune, pour tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir été choisi pour diriger cette Conférence.

Je voudrais ensuite transmettre au Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, les félicitations et les encouragements de son Excellence, El Hadj Omar Bongo, Président de la République du Gabon, à l'occasion de sa brillante réélection à la direction de la FAO. J'aimerais également rendre ici un hommage particulier à Monsieur Diouf dont l'élection vient couronner les efforts inlassables qu'il ne cesse de déployer pour rendre notre organisation plus dynamique, plus performante, en un mot, plus opérationnelle. Je souhaite également la bienvenue à tous les nouveaux Membres.

Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de novembre 1996 s'était fixé comme objectif, à l'horizon de 2015, de diminuer de moitié, le nombre de personnes n'ayant pas accès à une alimentation suffisante. Mon pays, le Gabon, réaffirme solennellement son engagement à œuvrer dans le sens d'une application stricte des résolutions et recommandations de ce Sommet historique. C'est dans cette optique que le gouvernement a souscrit au *Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire* déjà opérationnel dans bon nombre de pays et en attente d'application sur le territoire national.

Le Gabon possède, comme vous le savez, d'importantes ressources naturelles. Bien que le revenu *per capita* soit l'un des plus élevés du continent, la situation agricole et alimentaire reste cependant précaire. Nombre de nos concitoyens n'ont pas accès à une nourriture suffisante et de qualité. Cette situation est le résultat d'une politique qui a consacré ces dernières années une grande partie de ses investissements agricoles à l'agro-industrie au détriment des agriculteurs.

Suite aux instructions du Chef de l'État, le Gouvernement a cru devoir réorienter ses stratégies en direction de l'agriculteur et du monde rural.

En d'autres termes, notre action vise à accroître la production agricole en quantité et en qualité, par une participation plus accrue de l'agriculteur dans le processus de développement rural, tout en cherchant à améliorer ses conditions de vie.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, mon département a initié des programmes en vue de relancer les principales cultures vivrières, l'élevage et les cultures de rente que sont le café et le cacao. La réalisation de ces objectifs nécessite la mise en place d'un certain nombre de dispositions, en matière de recherche agronomique, de formation, de financement et de commercialisation. Ces programmes nationaux s'intègrent parfaitement aux objectifs visés par le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire tel que conçu par la FAO. C'est donc l'occasion ici d'interpeler la FAO et les autres organisations des Nations Unies, afin d'aider le Gabon à réaliser ce vaste programme.

Les efforts déployés par le gouvernement pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations doivent s'accompagner d'un contrôle efficient de la qualité des denrées alimentaires. Les pays africains ne disposant pas toujours de matériel de contrôle adéquat, cette situation expose naturellement nos populations aux dangers de tous ordres et notre Organisation devrait se pencher très sérieusement sur cette question.

En ce qui concerne le budget de notre Organisation et le cadre stratégique de la FAO (2000 – 2015), le Gabon se prononce pour le scénario de croissance réelle zéro d'une part, et se réjouit de la conception d'un tel outil de référence qui intègre et précise davantage le degré de priorité des activités de la FAO dans le domaine des forêts et des pêches.

En conclusion, je voudrais rappeler que notre devoir à tous est d'œuvrer inlassablement pour l'éradication de la faim dans le monde. Nous ne pourrons y arriver que si nous sommes solidaires les uns envers les autres. En effet, il est regrettable de constater qu'au moment où certains pays disposent d'une technologie avancée et de systèmes de production performants qui dégagent des surplus alimentaires considérables, d'autres pays par contre, sombrent dans l'archaïsme de leurs systèmes agricoles sous productifs.

Saimin REDJOSENTONO (Suriname)

First of all I would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, my warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO. To you Mr Jacques Diouf, we want to congratulate you with your re-election as Director-General. Your dynamic leadership and your continued efforts to promote sustainable agricultural development, in particular, in the less developed countries, is for us the guarantee that FAO will play a key role in the realization of food security in the new Millennium.

The *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* are entirely clear about the aims which have to be realized. After making up the balances over a period of three years, in view of reports of FAO, we are unfortunately concluding that hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity have not been decreased as we had expected.

To improve this situation, it is our humble opinion that more investments should be made in developing countries to develop the agricultural sector. And just at this point, it appears that there still had been given less donor aid to developing countries for the benefit of the food production.

I believe that we should pay more attention to Commitment 8 of the *World Food Summit Plan of Action* where in it has been stated, and I quote: "The international community has a key role to play in supporting the adoption of appropriate national policies and where necessary and appropriate, in providing technical and financial assistance to assist developing countries and countries in transition in fostering food security".

Maybe we should find a way that FAO can be more involved in providing donor aid to developing countries for the benefit of the agricultural sector.

We are also concerned about the way which the ongoing globalization will affect the possibilities to save and to increase the market of agricultural products for developing countries. The removal of trade preferences and the drop of prices of agricultural products have put heavy pressure on efforts to eradicate poverty.

In this regard, the elimination of the export subsidies should have the highest priority because they are not in accordance with the idea of free competition. This situation is in particular not beneficial for the developing countries to increase food production. Less production in developing countries means, among others, an increase of poverty in these countries, and poverty is the real reason for the existing hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity in many countries, as we have stated during the World Food Summit. In this respect, we ask your special attention to small vulnerable developing countries and the assistance they need, in order to support those countries to successfully adjust to the demands of globalization.

I conclude with pleasure that FAO has drastically increased its support to developing countries regarding sustainable development of agricultural sector, especially activities to meet the demands of globalization. Although Suriname has a small economy, we are in the position to export more food products than we import for our domestic demand.

Given the favourable conditions such as fresh water and arable land, it is the endeavour of the Government of Suriname to further develop the agricultural sector in a sustainable way in cooperation with identified partners of the international community, in such a manner that the environment and the ecosystem will be preserved for future generations. In this light, I can inform you that the Government of Suriname has recently decided to offer almost 10 percent of

its territory as a gift to humankind by creating a nature reserve of nearly 1.6 million hectares. The environment and its bio-diversity shall, especially in this nature reserve, always be fully preserved for the whole of mankind.

Vova B. BULANE (Lesotho)

I feel honoured and privileged on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, to convey to you and the staff of FAO, greetings and wishes of goodwill from the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Allow me to take this opportunity to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election to chair this important Conference. Our special thanks go to Italy, the Host Country, Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO and to the FAO Secretariat who, without their dedication, this Conference would not be successful.

We note with concern that, despite our commitment and efforts since 1996 to achieve food security for all, and reduce the high prevalence of malnutrition and undernourished people, little progress is apparent in most of our developing Regions.

During the current financial year, Lesotho is implementing a programme to reduce undernutrition among children who are under the age of five by providing free therapeutic and supplementary feed and related drugs. This programme is proving a success. Attached to this feeding programme is a training component aimed to ensure non-recurrence of malnutrition incidences, and as such achieve our primary objective of reducing this plight.

Regarding the *State of Food and Agriculture*, my delegation note with great concern the non-growth in world agricultural production for 1998. The major culprit for this state of affairs is cited in document C 99/2 as extreme weather conditions such as torrential rains in some Asian countries and *El Niño*-related droughts which depressed planting in other Regions. This, we think, calls for well-planned but affordable programmes which would not necessarily depend on weather conditions, yet would improve agricultural productivity.

Like all the other Member Nations, Lesotho reiterates its commitment to the requirements and *Plan of Action* set out by the 1996 World Food Summit. We are already in the process of piloting implementation of the water control component of the FAO *Special Programme for Food Security*. Embodied in this Programme are activities such as water harvesting, on-farm water management, and small-scale irrigation and drainage. We are confident that if this long-term programme is successful and is replicated throughout the country, problems of rainfed agriculture will be history, and household food security will be achieved.

My delegation is fully committed to participate in the South-South cooperation initiative. Lesotho is in the process of identifying a strategic partner in this initiative. Our FAO Representative Office in Lesotho is unreservedly providing the required technical and advisory assistance. Besides this FAO initiative, other development partners such as IFAD, World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union and the German Government have expressed their desire to participate in the programmes that aim at increasing household food security and poverty alleviation.

Regarding FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2000-2001, I have the following comments. My delegation supports the Zero Real Growth plus as a minimum acceptable budget level for the biennium 2000-2001. We observe that although the budget level in the last two biennia took a declining trend, substantive activities have been maintained due to efficiency savings. However, the scope for savings has now diminished and any further budget reduction in real terms will cut seriously into the technical and economic programmes and the major programmes of policy assistance, which are the core of FAO's substantive output - hence our choice of Zero Real Growth as opposed to Zero Nominal Growth.

At the turn of the Millennium, FAO should be given adequate resources to enable it in carrying out its mandate of assisting Member Nations to combat increasing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the wake of the financial crises, natural disasters and civil strife.

The *Strategic Framework* should be an integral part of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. If FAO has to achieve its primary mandate of assisting Member Nations to raise levels of nutrition, secure efficiency of production, better conditions of rural populations, this framework has to translate the World Food Summit of 1996 into action. We want to emphasize that the *Strategic Framework* should enable FAO to contribute towards expanding the world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

On specific issues in the *Strategic Framework*, my delegation supports the exclusion of any reference to the multi-functional character of agriculture and land, found in document C 99/6. Furthermore, my delegation wishes to ask all Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization to safeguard this institution from becoming a specialized agricultural and rural development academic centre, but a Centre for Excellence for alleviating hunger and poverty.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of FAO, and FAO's Secretariat for having taken the initiative to organize the High-Level Consultation on Rural Women and Information in October 1999. My delegation and I endorse the commendable effort by FAO in mainstreaming gender into its programmes, as gender considerations must be firmly entrenched in FAO programmes. My country most readily welcomes these moves because they are programmes that address the constraints and the banners by which rural women, as well as youth, in most developing countries are left out of major developmental initiatives, thereby impeding agricultural production, as well as achievement of food security.

Please allow me, on behalf of the Lesotho delegation, Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to express our warm congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf for his commendable re-election as Director-General of our beloved Organization. May I conclude by expressing my deepest appreciation and indebtedness to the Food and Agriculture Organization and other international agencies that have assisted the Kingdom of Lesotho to enhance household food security and sustainable rural development. I once again express our appreciation for the hospitality extended to us.

Keith ARCHIBALD (Saint Kitts and Nevis)

I wish to congratulate the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, on his success at winning the election for a second term in office.

Just over 54 years ago FAO was established as a post World War II response to the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Its mission is to ensure *Food for All.*

FAO has held firmly to its goal and has been most instrumental in promoting positive action to increase food production, food productivity and food accessibility for the world population. With more than 800 million people worldwide faced with problems of hunger, FAO is challenged to strengthen its efforts and intensify action to eliminate hunger in the world.

We in Saint Kitts and Nevis wish to place on record our profound faith in the continuing relevance of FAO in the new Millennium, and as an advocate of sustainable agricultural development.

We are concerned that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Saint Kitts and Nevis are made to conform to the dictates of a new trading dispensation without adequate assistance being given to ensure that they can be meaningful participants in the new trade milieu.

The experience of the Windward Island bananas, the all-time low price for raw cane sugars on world and preferential markets, all point to the socio-economic haemorrhage of Small Island States by forces hell bent on a free trade agenda.

But it is not only traditional crops which are experiencing hard times. The reality is that few agro-based industries in Small Island States are able to effectively compete with their counterparts in the developed world. New sanitary and phytosanitary standards put a particular burden on the resource capacity of Small Island Developing States.

Rather than increasing trade among all countries, sanitary and phytosanitary preconditions have served to undermine the trade in agricultural produce by Small Island Developing States. The case of the ban on export of conchs and lobsters from Nevis to French overseas-dependent territories is a case in point.

FAO seems very mindful of the special vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and has been making serious efforts to assist them in improving their competitiveness and be better able to deal with new multilateral rounds of trade negotiations. FAO must assist Member Nations, in particular SIDS, in getting special recognition for their vulnerability.

FAO's interest in irrigation for agriculture and its lead role in bringing policy makers in agriculture abreast with developments in multilateral trade negotiations, are laudable events.

If we are able to deal with the problem of hunger, more investments must be made in establishing mitigation practices (against natural perils, of which hurricanes are our main worry) and sustainable land use policies. In this regard, we call on FAO to give urgent attention to the implementation of the OECS Land Use Project.

Saint Kitts and Nevis would like to place on record its commitment to Membership in FAO, our appreciation for the sterling leadership of Jacques Diouf, Director-General, and our desire to have FAO play a leading role in articulating a *Strategic Framework for agriculture in the world*.

We expect FAO to be the voice of reason, the voice of justice, and fairness. We expect to work for a better deal for all people in the Millennium. For only when growth and expansion takes place in a manner which is fair and equitable to all people, will we meaningfully be able to ensure *Food for All*.

Aminou TASSIOU (Niger)

Je voudrais tout d'abord au nom de la République du Niger, à mon nom propre et en celui de la délégation qui m'accompagne, exprimer toute notre compassion aux familles des fonctionnaires du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), victimes du tragique accident survenu au moment même où s'ouvraient les travaux de cette Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Mes condoléances vont également à la familles des Nations Unies et à Madame Bertini, la Directrice exécutive du PAM.

La problématique du développement agricole au Niger, pays sahélien par excellence, est dominée par la disponibilité et la maîtrise des ressources en eau, facteur limitant de premier ordre de notre agriculture.

Les politiques et stratégies agricoles mises en œuvre au Niger au cours de ces 20 dernières années ont connu une évolution notoire passant d'une période caractérisée par l'omniprésence de l'État dans les secteurs productifs et commerciaux à une phase de désengagement progressif, faisant place à une plus grande participation et à une plus grande responsabilisation des producteurs ruraux organisés et à un secteur privé en pleine restructuration.

C'est ainsi que le secteur agricole du Niger vit actuellement une période de réformes pour lesquelles nous saluons à juste titre l'appui des partenaires au développement, et particulièrement de la FAO, sous la clairvoyance de son Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour tous ses efforts évidents et porteurs, en faveur d'une agriculture plus productive et d'un développement durable des pays les moins avancés.

En effet les améliorations en cours dans la politique agricole du Niger visent à mieux répondre aux exigences d'une gestion rationnelle des écosystèmes, de la sécurité alimentaire et d'un marché international inégal.

Dans ce processus, l'appui technique de la FAO a permis la réalisation d'importantes études, à l'exemple de celles portant sur la sécurité alimentaire, la restructuration du monde rural autour des chambres d'agriculture, l'initiative sur la fertilité des sols, la commercialisation des produits agricoles, la relance de la filière semencière, la bio-diversité, etc., ainsi que la mise en œuvre, avec succès, de grands projets de développement.

Je voudrais, avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, souligner que le succès éclatant enregistré est certes l'œuvre des laborieuses populations du Niger, mais également celle des partenaires de mon pays qui n'ont eu cesse de lui témoigner leur constante sollicitude.

Les efforts de la communauté internationale en faveur de notre développement rural sont donc une réalité tangible mais les contraintes de notre agriculture sont multiples et rudes. Au delà de l'adversité du milieu physique, la pauvreté des populations rurales ne laisse entrevoir qu'une très faible amélioration des capacités d'investissements agricoles sur la base de la maigre épargne disponible.

Aussi, l'agriculture du Niger a-t-elle besoin de capitaux extérieurs pour émerger du stade de subsistance, être beaucoup plus compétitive et générer les richesses aux populations rurales et à l'économie nationale dans son ensemble.

Dans cette perspective, l'assistance de la FAO et de la Coopération internationale mérite d'être poursuivie afin de développer un partenariat fructueux entre investisseurs privés du Nord d'une part et les producteurs ruraux et opérateurs économiques nigériens d'autre part, en vue d'identifier des voies novatrices de financement.

Les engagements internationaux du *Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation*, de l'*Agenda 21*, des *Accords du Cycle de l'Uruguay* et les futures négociations multilatérales offrent les instruments performants de partenariat et d'assistance. Les opportunités récemment identifiées par la FAO à travers la multi-fonctionalité de l'agriculture représentent des outils novateurs pour la réalisation de cet objectif.

Le Niger a besoin, en ce moment critique de son évolution politique et socio-économique, d'une plus grande écoute pour asseoir les nouvelles bases de son développement. Plaise à Dieu, mon pays fera son entrée dans les tous prochains jours dans une nouvelle ère démocratique à l'issue du 2e tour des élections présidentielles et des élections législatives prévues pour le 24 novembre. Parmi les dossiers que le Gouvernement de transition actuel transmettra aux nouvelles autorités dans la passation du pouvoir figure celui des stratégies de croissance agricole durable.

Dans ce contexte, le rôle de la FAO s'avère plus déterminant pour les diverses actions prioritaires identifiées.

Je voudrais, en terminant témoigner ici, au nom du Président du conseil de réconciliation nationale, Chef de l'État du Niger, son Excellence Daouda Malam Wanke, au nom du Gouvernement de transition et des laborieuses populations rurales du Niger, notre profonde gratitude à tous nos partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux pour l'appui constant qu'ils apportent à notre pays dans sa lutte pour la sécurité alimentaire et une agriculture plus performante et durable.

La brillante réélection du Docteur Jacques Diouf à la tête de notre Organisation, me donne l'agréable occasion de le féliciter vivement et l'assurer de notre disponibilité à le soutenir encore face à tous les défis dans l'accomplissement de sa noble mission.

Je voudrais également vous présenter à vous-même, Monsieur le Président, et aux autres membres du Bureau de la Conférence, toutes mes félicitations pour la confiance placée en vous et souhaiter plein succès à nos travaux.

Steve AUMANU (Solomon Islands)

I stand here with much honour on behalf of the Government of Solomon Islands to address this distinguished Conference. I bring greetings from the Government and the people of Solomon Islands to this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference, with the hope that the deliberations of this important Session may bring about fruitful conclusions.

I would like to firstly congratulate the Chairman on your election to the Chair and trust that, under your capable guidance, this Session may conclude successfully. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Diouf for his re-election as Director-General for yet another six-year term. Solomon Islands and other South Pacific Small Island States join together in support for your election as we believe your efforts in your present capacity to be an added strength of cooperation in our efforts to achieve food security for our much-fragmented population. On behalf of the Small Pacific Island States, we are most appreciative of your visit to our Region early this year. It is to us a positive indication of your support and commitment to FAO's role in our Region.

I would also, at this juncture, like to join others in welcoming the newly-admitted Members of the FAO fraternity, especially our neighbours from the Pacific Region, namely, Niue, The Marshall Islands, Palau and Kiribati. Your willingness to join FAO is a manifestation of the value the Pacific Island States place on FAO as the leading Organization in addressing international, regional as well as national concerns relating to agricultural development in alleviating world hunger and poverty.

Solomon Islands pledges is continued cooperation to you and FAO in the fight against hunger. On the eve of the new Millennium, we are aware that the challenges ahead are immense but with your proven leadership and ability, we can all together endeavour to shoulder the responsibilities and face the challenges as we move into the Twenty-first Century.

As this Conference is the last one for this Century, it is important that FAO continues to assess its performance with more vigour and prepare itself for the challenges of the next Century. The challenges of alleviating world hunger, poverty, increased food production to meet the rising population demands, address youth and unemployment problems, establish sustainable practices for land, water and sea resources, protect environment, combat desertification, improve nutrition and increase food production through appropriate technology.

Solomon Islands applauds the efforts of FAO over the past years in addressing some of these issues, as well as the financial assistance given to support its programmes through various donors, both bilateral and multilateral. Solomon Islands wishes to thank those countries and institutions that are major funders to FAO. The support and collaboration provided by various international research and development institutes and agencies are also applauded.

Of particular importance to the Solomon Islands is the *Special Programme for Food Security* initiated by the World Food Summit as an initiative to address food security issues globally, and especially in developing countries. For Small Island Developing States such as those in the Pacific Region, food security is a major issue due to our limited land resources, exacerbated by poorly-developed transportation and marketing systems.

Solomon Islands wishes to see that FAO assists us in the adaptation of farming systems that will ensure sustainable production of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry and their management, technical improvements, capacity-building in policy and related issues, technology adaptation, interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to research and extension, gender sensitization, training and focusing investment, *inter alia* to achieve food security and eradicate poverty.

In this context, it is pleasing to note that the proposed *Strategic Framework* for FAO for the next 15 years has adopted this as its central theme. Solomon Islands wishes to have this implemented, adapting as circumstances change. It is hoped that all countries and institutions contribute actively in collaboration with all other developmental agencies in implementing this. We would like to see that the limited resources we have be more focused, in order to achieve maximum and optimum effect and impact.

Solomon Islands also applauds the decision of FAO to decentralize its administration. This is demonstrated through the effectiveness of FAO programmes, coordinated through our Sub-Regional office in Apia, Samoa. We also wish to commend the Sub-Regional Representative whose valued efforts are acknowledged. This decentralization, however, should also provide a mandate to Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for approval of funding for small-to medium-size projects, particularly those under the Technical Cooperation Programme mechanism. By delegating such authority, the establishment of Sub-Regional Representatives will be more meaningful and useful for practical purposes.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that my country is committed to cooperating with FAO and its Member Nations in the fight against hunger and poverty to create a better quality of life for all mankind.

Solomon Islands wishes us all every success in this endeavour as we enter into the new Millennium.

Komikipme BAMNANTE (Togo)

Au nom de la délégation togolaise, et en mon nom personnel je voudrais avant toute chose, Monsieur le Président, vous présenter mes vives et chaleureuses félicitations pour la confiance qui vous est faite, et la capacité qui vous est reconnue par cette auguste assemblée, pour présider ses assises.

Je tiens également, à l'occasion de cette session qui est d'une grande importance par les enjeux qu'elle renferme, à rendre un hommage tout particulier à la FAO, pour son rôle de premier plan, dans la sensibilisation de la Communauté internationale, à la lutte contre la faim, et pour ses actions en faveur du monde rural.

Je voudrais particulièrement saluer le Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour sa brillante élection à la direction de la FAO et le féliciter du fond du cœur pour les actions combien efficaces, qu'il a menées à la tête de notre Organisation commune. Mes félicitations vont aussi au Conseil, aux différents comités de notre institution, dont la disponibilité et la grande compétence ont été d'un concours inestimable dans le cheminement de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais enfin, remercier le Gouvernement et le peuple d'Italie, pour la qualité de l'accueil qu'il nous a réservé et pour toute l'attention dont nous sommes l'objet, depuis notre arrivée à Rome.

Si nous sommes aujourd'hui réunis ici c'est pour confirmer, une fois encore, notre lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition et la pauvreté dans le monde. Malgré les résultats probants obtenus, grâce aux actions de la FAO, l'ampleur du fléau de la famine, nous laisse dire qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour le juguler.

D'une superficie de 56 600 km^2, le Togo, mon pays, comme la plupart des pays en voie de développement, est un pays essentiellement agricole. La répartition spatiale de la production montre que seules trois régions sur les cinq sont en situation d'autosuffisance vivrière.

Dans sa déclaration de politique agricole, le Gouvernement indique clairement que le secteur agricole dispose de possibilités non encore valorisées, et doit devenir le moteur de l'économie togolaise.

Cette économie est fondée sur 3 objectifs, à savoir:

1. l'intensification et la diversification de la production,
2. la diminution de la pauvreté par l'augmentation des revenus ruraux et des emplois,
3. une croissance de l'agriculture supportable pour l'environnement.

Notre engagement au sujet de la déclaration reste ferme, et le plan d'action se révèle comme un outil indicatif incontournable pour parfaire nos stratégies.

Le développement rural et plus particulièrement la lutte contre la faim, et la pauvreté est une priorité exprimée dans le programme du Gouvernement. Pour réaliser cet objectif, il se consacre au redressement économique dans tous les secteurs et à l'amélioration des finances publiques gravement détériorées par la crise socio-politique. De nombreuses mesures sont prises en faveur du monde rural. A ce jour, le plan de restructuration des institutions rurales répondant à la nouvelle lettre de politique agricole est entré dans sa dernière phase. Le réseau des Chambres d'agriculture décentralisées pour une plus grande participation des agriculteurs aux prises de décision les concernant a également été mise en place. Le plan de développement de l'élevage et de la pêche est élaboré. Il en est de même pour le projet de riziculture et d'aménagement des bas-fonds.

L'observatoire de la sécurité alimentaire avec un système d'alerte précoce et comprenant des stocks décentralisés pour les moments difficiles a été créé. Le recensement national de l'agriculture et la mise en place d'un système permanent de collecte de données débuté en 1996 s'est terminé en juin 1999 avec l'appui technique de la FAO.

Le développement d'un système de crédit consacré au financement des activités économiques en milieu rural est en phase d'exécution.

Les années 1997 et 1998 ont été déclarées années de l'agriculture.

Ces résultats quoique modestes, M. le Président, indiquent tout de même, en ces moments difficiles des crises politique, économique et financière qui affaiblissent l'action du Gouvernement, que nous sommes sur la bonne voie.

C'est pourquoi, je voudrais réitérer l'appel lancé par la République togolaise à l'endroit des partenaires en développement, de soutenir ses programmes en vue d'une croissance économique durable dans le cadre de la lutte contre la faim.

Basil K. DALALI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

It is a great honour for me to represent my country, Iraq, at this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference. First of all, might I express my warm congratulations to Jacques Diouf on his re-election to head the Organization. We are firmly convinced that he will govern it well with the dynamism and vigour he showed during his first term. The delegation of Iraq would also express its condolences to the World Food Programme and the families of the victims who perished on duty when carrying out a humanitarian mission.

Iraq pays constant attention to agriculture. We have upgraded vast agricultural services and offered aid to agriculture and farmers in the form of agricultural input, fertilizers, pesticides, approved seeds and research and agricultural extension. We do this as well with respect to breeding stock for poultry, research and development in animal husbandry, etc. We would also mention training activities and retraining for managers to ensure that we can have transfers and adaptation of technology to the needs and conditions of the country. We have not yet achieved the ambitious goals we have assigned ourselves in terms of agricultural development.

The total embargo imposed on my country since 1990 has caused a major deficit in terms of agricultural input and basic products such as fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary medicines, agricultural machinery and spares. This embargo has lead to a propagation of foot-and-mouth

disease and other diseases which were unknown in Iraq before the embargo. The harmful effects of this embargo have also led to a reduction in agriculture production and productivity.

My country has also been hit during the last crop year by the worst period of drought that we have known during the last hundred years. So, the flow in the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers has gone down by some 40 percent, compared to the lowest level of 1961. We have developed a strategy to look at irrigation or irrigation crops to attenuate the risks linked to a mainly pluvial type of agriculture.

Iraq is endeavouring to face up to the embargo and its harmful effects by developing the needed equipment for pumping-irrigation and drop-irrigation. Some countries in the United Nations Security Council and the delegates to Committee 661 are doing everything possible to hinder the contracts concluded under the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and Iraq. Of the 18 contracts concluded during the Fifth Phase of the agreement (most of them are pending) and deal with products and material for poultry rearing and soya growing, etc. Several further contracts are pending with respect to the Sixth Phase of the Memorandum of Understanding, this is with regard to animal feedstuffs, veterinary medicines, etc. These countries are using all means to hinder us, so Committee 661 has said that we can get Jordanian protein but they have not allowed us to input French protein, saying that it could be used for other purposes.

We would appeal to FAO and its Member Nations to help us. This embargo has had the most harmful effect for our agricultural production and animal husbandry. We would pay tribute to the role played by FAO to help us and offering us, in particular, emergency aid under the Technical Cooperation Programme. Through its national office in Iraq, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO has helped us to improve agricultural production and meet certain pests, particularly the proliferation of the New World screw-worm and to help us deal with foot-and-mouth disease and certain ovine and caprine pests. The programme for food control is important; the budget allocation for foodstuffs production exceeds the FAO input. Unfortunately, food aid has only helped us to cover 40 percent of the needs. Nursing mothers or pregnant mothers only get 40 percent of their caloric needs, and the only solution to this problem is to lift the embargo against Iraq.

Iraq's needs for foodstuffs and agricultural development are immense. That is why we would reiterate our appeal to lift the embargo, thus enabling us to meet our needs fully and in a balanced manner. I would launch an urgent appeal to all participants in this Conference to take a just stance, *vis-à-vis* my country, in line with the law and justice which are the principles of this Organization.

Might I also draw your attention to the fact that the World Food Summit appealed to us saying that food should not be used as an arm against peoples.

Tomáš ZIDEK (Czech Republic)

Let me congratulate from this place to Mr Jacques Diouf on the occasion of his re-election as Director-General of FAO. The Czech Republic fully supports him in this responsible position and believes that he can build up on his successful execution of his first term in office.

We are glad to see that the FAO management started a process of increasing the effectiveness of its work several years ago and that it is an ongoing tendency. We really appreciate the process of decentralization and the comprehensive use of modern information technologies, which substantially improves communication and distribution of information. I personally welcome all these activities and developments which contribute to a better functioning of FAO.

The Czech Republic is a relatively small country in the heart of Europe. We nevertheless intend to play an active part not only in our Region, which is of our primary concern, but also in the global context. One of our international activities is development assistance provided through the

FAO Trust Fund. It is focused on professional development and information exchange within Central and Eastern Europe and on support of Czech experts participating in FAO projects. Furthermore, the Czech Republic provides development support on a bilateral basis to different countries all around the world. Together with various national projects, it is our main contribution to the fulfilment of obligations arising from the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*.

The Czech Republic recognizes the importance of international cooperation, and its goal is to contribute to development of good international relations. For this reason, the Czech Republic is a member of many international organizations, negotiates on membership in the European Union and plays an active role in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, where we have experience and potential influence. But it is not only membership of international organizations, it is mainly active work of people on different projects, and their administration. The Czech Republic has a very broad basis of research institutions, and our experts are ready to contribute to agricultural development and food security projects around the world.

The Czech Republic, as a part of former Czechoslovakia, was a founding Member of FAO, and it has been actively participating in FAO Meetings, Conferences, Projects and other activities. We would like to use all this experience to promote FAO goals and contribute to FAO development and, for this reason, we wish to announce the Czech Republic candidature to FAO's Council.

In the light of the prepared *Strategy Framework* of FAO for 2000-2015, the Czech Republic is ready to contribute to: implementation of the conclusions of the World Food Summit, with great concern on European Region; increasing international cooperation, namely with other international agencies; sustainable development of agriculture; concept concerning multi-functional character of agriculture; and other projects and activities which received support during the European Regional Conference.

The Czech Republic very much supports all the activities which lead to establishment of food security in the world. It is an extremely difficult objective, which requires active involvement of all participating countries, and we are ready to further contribute to its achievement. We wish all of us here good luck, and success in getting closer to our common goals.

Auguste-Célestin GONGARAD-NKOUA (Congo, République du)

C'est pour moi, un grand privilège de me retrouver à cette Conférence que je qualifie d'historique, car, elle clôture non seulement l'année, mais notre terrible siècle, le vingtième siècle. Le siècle qui a réduit les distances permettant au monde d'apparaître aujourd'hui comme une seule et même nation - le siècle des inventions de toutes natures. Mais malheureusement c'est aussi le siècle des guerres, dont les deux mondiales qui ont été les plus meurtrières de toute l'histoire de l'humanité.

Voilà un héritage que le Troisième millénaire ne doit pas accepter.

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, au nom de Son Excellence M. Denis Sassou Nguesso, Président de la République du Congo, de son Gouvernement et du mien propre et de ma délégation, de féliciter M. Jacques Diouf, pour sa brillante élection à la tête de notre Organisation pour un nouveau mandat de six ans. Cette réélection, nous la souhaitions beaucoup plus que quiconque, parce que nous avons souffert et que c'est grâce à l'attention particulière de la FAO et de son Directeur général, que le Congo a pu limiter ses difficultés.

C'est donc du fond de mon cœur et avec la bénédiction des populations congolaises, que je remercie la FAO et son dynamique Directeur général, pour ce qu'ils ont pu faire pour mon pays pendant les terribles événements que nous avons vécus. Grâce à votre aide, nous essayons aujourd'hui de faire face aux difficultés que nous connaissons depuis deux ans. Hélas! c'est le moment que la nature choisit pour accabler de plus belle, Congo, mon pays.

En effet, depuis le mois d'octobre dernier, des pluies diluviennes et torrentielles, s'abattent sur le Congo, plus particulièrement dans les (4) régions du nord, régions qui sont restées pourtant les seuls bassins d'approvisionnement du pays notamment de Brazzaville et de Port Noir. A cela, il

faut ajouter les maladies et les attaques du criquet puant sur le manioc; le principal aliment de base des populations congolaises. C'est dire, que notre pays peut être considéré aujourd'hui comme une personne en danger de mort: face à cela il faut donc aider cette personne.

Plus que jamais, nous avons besoin non seulement de l'attention particulière de la FAO, mais également de celle de tous les pays ici présents.

D'aucuns, pourraient s'exclamer l'aide, oui! Mais que faites-vous, vous mêmes ?

En effet, le Président Denis Sassou Nguesso et son Gouvernement se déploient sans façon. Aujourd'hui, nous pouvons qualifier nos efforts de payants. Il y a la paix à Brazzaville et au Congo.

Au plan de l'agriculture, le Gouvernement congolais s'efforce à remettre les paysans au travail. Il est vrai que nous sommes confrontés à la question de la semence et de notre approvisionnement pour la relance de l'élevage. Sur ce point, les efforts combien louables de la FAO ne suffisent pas. Nous avons encore besoin de la semence supplémentaire, car la région qui en procurait est aujourd'hui victime des inondations. Bien que l'aide d'urgence nous permettent de faire face à la situation du moment, il faut d'ores et déjà penser à la mise en place du projet de développement à moyen et à long termes ; car la période des urgences ne dure que le temps que dure les événements.

La faim est un fléau. Là où il y a fléau, il y a menace de paix. Les jeunes qui ne mangent pas à leur faim, pour ne citer qu'eux, n'ont point d'oreilles pour la paix.

Donnez-nous donc quelques moyens pour nous permettre d'assurer la réinsertion de notre jeunesse.

Je ne saurais terminer ma déclaration, sans faire allusion à cet autre fléau. La dette!

Oui, parmi les maux qui nous minent, nous pays pauvres, il y a la dette. La dette est pour nous un terrible fardeau. Un fardeau que nous n'arrivons plus à porter. Nous essayons de la rembourser, mais nous n'y arrivons pas. Elle est toujours là. Il faut donc la supprimer.

Quant à notre situation actuelle, nous lançons cet appel en direction de la Communauté Internationale, de la FAO, du FIDA, du PAM, ainsi qu'en direction des pays riches:

Tous, aidez-nous!

L'intérêt humain, doit primer sur l'intérêt politique.

Ms Renu CHAHIL-GRAF (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV-AIDS)

In recent years, we have witnessed the devastating effects of HIV-AIDS, the epidemic. These effects have gone beyond the obvious health implications that we are first faced with, but they have destabilized economies and, in many countries, have reversed the hard-won gains of development. A fledgling programme in the United Nations — the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV-AIDS, or UN-AIDS — was created four years ago. It was created to address the multi-dimensional aspects of HIV and AIDS. It drew together the strength and competencies of seven UN System Organizations, including UNDP, the World Bank, Unesco, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and, the most recent addition, UNDCP, the drug-control programme.

Recent analysis has described the crippling effects that AIDS is having on agriculture and on rural communities. Labour-intensive farming systems have been particularly vulnerable and the data have indicated that AIDS-related deaths, which occur mostly among working-age people, also then effect the work of these people in the farming systems. Furthermore, those affected with AIDS also become increasingly unable to carry out their usual farm functions as the disease progresses. The very basis of food security is thus being undercut, especially at the rural household and community level.

We were given vivid examples of the effect of AIDS on rural communities by the distinguished Minister of Swaziland, this morning, and yesterday by Kenya. However, the problem is not one of Sub-Saharan Africa alone. There is mounting concern in countries of Asia, as well. There is a need for a response, but there is hope and, if we act together and we act quickly, we can accomplish something together. FAO has already taken important steps towards this end. In July of this year, Mr Jacques Diouf and Dr Peter Piot, the Executive Director of UN-AIDS, signed a Cooperation Framework. The Framework lays down concrete areas of cooperation and seeks to build upon important work and studies which have already been undertaken by FAO in its Population Unit. Illustrations are available on the FAO Website, the Sub-site on FAO and UN-AIDS working together to fight AIDS. FAO has also served as chair of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS two years ago, at which time they started important initiatives analysing the linkages between migration and AIDS. At country level, HIV-AIDS operations are planned through UN think groups on HIV-AIDS, which stress multi-sectoral aspects of the epidemic and draw in partners other than the co-sponsors, and now also FAO. Governments themselves are important representatives in this group, and Ministries of Agriculture have also been mobilized in some countries.

I would like to conclude this statement, with assuring the cooperation and assistance of UN-AIDS at the global and country level, as well as through technical resource arrangements available at the regional level. We look forward to jointly combating HIV-AIDS, and with minimizing the effects on food security.

CHAIRMAN

I thank Ms Renu Chahil-Graf, the Representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS. I do not know whether you really want to go home, but the meeting is adjourned and we will reconvene tomorrow morning at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.
La séance est levée à 17 h 45.
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA

17 November 1999

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GÉNÉRAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bénin, Ireland, Myanmar, Tonga, Perú, Greece, Jamaica, Malawi, Nicaragua, Guinea-Bissau, Philippines, Portugal, Namibia, Belize, Holy See, Argentina, Italy, Sri Lanka, Antigua and Barbuda, Estonia.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la Neuvième session plénière et avant d'aborder le Point 5 je donne la parole au Secrétaire général adjoint pour vous donner quelques informations.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to read an announcement which we have received from the World Food Programme.

To pay tribute to the humanitarian workers and all those who lost their lives in the plane crash near Pristina, Kosovo, on Friday 12 November 1999, the World Food Programme is holding a commemorative ceremony today, Wednesday 17 November, at 16.00 hours in the Auditorium of its Headquarters.

For the members of the WFP Executive Board who wish to attend but are not in a position to be present at WFP and for the observers and others, a video re-transmission of the ceremony has been organized here at FAO Headquarters in the Iran Room, in Building B, First Floor at 16.00 hours.

You are all welcome to join WFP staff and family members on this solemn occasion.

Since I have the floor, I would also like to announce that this morning, in the order of business of the Plenary, there is the adoption of the Third and Fourth reports of the General Committee. We cannot take up these Reports until we have a quorum, therefore the Chairman has asked me to announce that we will be adopting the reports at 10.30 a.m. and would you kindly make sure that you are in the room, and probably other delegations might also join us so that we can gather a quorum for that time.

Jeremiah C. SCOTT (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

I bring greetings to you, Mr Director-General, Conference delegates and attendees, from the Government and peoples of this small-island developing Caribbean state, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

It will be remiss of me if I do not extend congratulations to you, Mr Director-General, for the overwhelming show of support you received in your reappointment bid, which is a confirmation of the confidence placed in your leadership. The same sentiments are extended to the other officers elected to various positions of this auspicious Organization.

This Session is being held on the threshold of two very important events: the close of the Twentieth Century and the ushering in of a new Millennium; and the meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle, Washington, to be held shortly. Perhaps, many people around the world await these events with a number of hopes and fears and even speculations about their impact on global life, and agriculture in particular. Is climate change going to be accelerated? And now that agriculture trade is definitely going to be one of the WTO issues, how will what is agreed affect small producers in rural communities?

It is with the afore-mentioned in mind that I offer this statement on the state of food and agriculture in our beloved island state of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Our ongoing programme of land reform has revised the very ownership of land from the few to the many, putting into the hands of several hundreds of small farmers the abilities to feed themselves and to provide economic empowerment to former peasants as a result of their new landownership tenure. In so doing, we have expanded our economic base. Our efforts at diversification from a monocrop to a multicrop agricultural economy will increase the challenges for productivity, consistency and quality considerations, roles in which FAO has played an important part. Our fisheries sector, despite encountering recent setbacks as a result of strange fish kills in our region, has generally seen consistent expansion in fish availability for local consumption and for export. Our forestry sector aims at ensuring that our forests are not destroyed, and even though some timber-related activity is being promoted, it is being done under close scrutiny to ensure that compliance with environmental considerations is always exercised. We aim each year to continue our efforts at reforestation, and we propose to reforest 50 acres yearly during the course of the ensuing years.

There is no doubt that FAO has been in the forefront on a global scale in addressing issues relative to agricultural development. Time would only allow me to highlight a few of these.

The annual World Food Day emphasis. There is no doubt that the themes which have been chosen have caused us to stop, to think and to refocus on so many sensitive elements such as trees for life, water, women and, this year's theme, Youth against Hunger.

World Telefood. As an outcome of the World Food Summit, this programme has reached directly to the rural poor. Small rural families have benefited from the proceeds of this initiative in my country in a tangible way, and indeed the world's rural poor have benefited.

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. This technical South-South partnership has helped to build confidence and capacity among scientists, experts and technicians of our developing countries. It also builds relationships among colleagues. (At this moment a data processing technician from the Commonwealth of Dominica is working with her counterparts in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on our agricultural census.)

The Sub-Regional Office. The decision to strengthen these Sub-regional Offices has had a positive impact, in that FAO experts are closer at hand for advice and consultation with our technical staff. There is still room for improvement in the time it takes for approvals to be obtained to execute projects, but the presence of the Regional Office has served us usefully in maintaining an easier link with FAO, especially in logistical and other support matters.

Technical Cooperation Programme. These still remain the easiest and fastest way for Small Island Developing States to access assistance from FAO, and we hope that this Programme will be maintained and even strengthened. Presently, we have completed with FAO assistance small

ruminants projects, we have embarked on a national agricultural census and we are anticipating assistance in developing our bottled coconut-water industry.

While I would have highlighted some positive initiatives of FAO, one cannot ignore that some of the issues which dominated our discussions over the latter half of the Century will go over to the new Millennium, such as dwindling resources, cost and relevance of research to small producers, appropriateness, transfer and adoption of technology, the cost and gender biase of credit, rural poverty and hunger, and the plight of women are still on the front burners.

But new issues are emerging. As the world turns and the concepts of trade liberalization and globalization begin to take effect, Small Island Developing States observe that the formation of mega-trading blocks, the increasing dominance of multinationals and the prominence of the supermarket chains lead not only to their further marginalization but also to the deepening of rural poverty. For in this global village, that elusive consumer is demanding higher quality with a social and environmental value attached to it. But the big question is, "who pays for all of this?" Of course, in developing countries we know that it is the farmer. Every new innovation and demand is placed squarely at his farmgate, but his farmgate price either remains the same or decreases in real terms. Hence poverty deepens.

Mention was made earlier of the WTO negotiations to be held in Seattle. Small Island Developing States may again be left on the sidelines as the mega-nations argue about the boxes they have created to protect their agriculture and maintain the *status quo* of denied access to their markets by developing countries. As one person was quoted as saying, "we don't even have a box". Saint Vincent cannot afford to pay subsidies to its farmers, nor do we have the technical capabilities to deal with some of the impositions dictated by some developed countries. Their very actions reek of indifference to Small Island Developing States, and among us it is especially felt that a Commission should be established to treat with the special peculiarities of small-island developers in dealing with questions of food security.

What, then, do Small Island Developing States, like mine, expect of this Organization in the new Millennium? The following are a few ideas which come to mind readily:

We expect to see a lean, efficient, responsive and accountable Organization. These are some of the words donors use on us. In other words, we expect reform and restructuring to continue in the Organization.

We expect to see continued good leadership. We would still like this august body to provide guidance and guidelines on a number of critical agricultural issues, as you are doing now with the *Prior Informed Consent* procedure.

We would like to see the continuation of information relative to technology generation and transfer. The publications which come from FAO do form part of this knowledge base.

We want to encourage a promotion and promulgation of international regulations and standards relative to agriculture.

We want to ensure that there is a forum for the discussion and decision-making on issues of global agricultural interest.

We want to see continued support for national and regional initiatives through projects, including TCPs.

We also want to make the argument for particular understanding of the plight of Small Island Developing States with their limited resources and infrastructure bases.

I would not like to conclude as if I was making a shopping list. As a Minister of Agriculture in my country, while I admit that there are still problems to be solved, much has happened and is happening in agriculture. And perhaps while paying tribute to FAO at this Thirtieth Session of the Conference, I may crave your indulgence to say before this forum, thank you to the European

Community, and in particular to Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom, for the substantial support they have provided us on agriculture, both at the WTO level, in the banana negotiations, and the Stabex funds, which they have contributed for our agricultural, rural and wider economic development.

While we continue to support and build on these partnerships, we will not forget those who used and abandoned us, and not even caring that they have threatened the economic existence of our people by their lack of concern and self-righteous posturing. Food security has everything to do with poverty, deprivation and with stable market conditions, in the same way that it has to do with infrastructure and technology innovation, especially biotechnology. It is simply defeating the essence and purpose of the exercise of securing food for the world's poorest when size and wealth are used to create organisms and mechanisms to disadvantage the less fortunate. In this regard, the banana crisis foisted upon the Caribbean has helped to destabilize the economies of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States and, consequently, has jeopardized our food security.

I wish to express absolute support for the solid statements made by the delegate of Canada, His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Mr Lyle Vanclief, the Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Representatives of Saint Kitts and Nevis and the British Under-Secretary for International Development, the Honourable George Foulkes, whose statements offered a hopeful and rational approach if we are to achieve the stated noble goals of poverty eradication in the coming Millennium.

Théophile NATA (Bénin)

Je vous remercie M. le Président pour l'opportunité que vous m'offrez de m' adresser à cette auguste assemblée au nom de nom pays. Je me réjouis de l'élargissement que vient de connaître notre Organisation par l'admission de nouveaux Pays Membres dont je félicite ici les distinguées délégations. A vous-même, M. le Président, j'adresse mes vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de notre Conférence dont vous dirigez les travaux avec une aisance qui témoigne d'une grande expérience. Je félicite de même les autres membres du Bureau qui vous assistent dans votre charge. Au nom de mon pays je voudrais maintenant féliciter très particulièrement et très chaleureusement le Dircteur général de la FAO, le Dr Jacques Diouf pour sa brillante réélection à la tête de notre Organisation, c'est là, le témoignage éloquent de la grande efficacité dont il a fait preuve au cours de l'excerice de son premier mandat. Je lui dis bon vent pour ce second qu'il vient d'entamer.

Je passe des pages pour gagner du temps et pour aller directement à l'expérience béninoise, mais je voudrais que le texte remis soit intégralement retenu. Il me plaît de saisir la présente opportunité pour exprimer au nom du Gouvernment et du peuple béninois, toute ma gratitude aux instances dirigeantes de la FAO, en l'occurrence à son Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, pour les efforts louables et permanents qu'elles ne cessent de déployer en vue de libérer les populations les plus pauvres du spectre de l'insécurité alimentaire.

Les délégués à la Conférence Mondiale de l'Alimentation de 1974 avaient exprimé l'espoir que l'insécurité alimentaire, la faim et la sous-alimentation seraient éliminées pendant les dix ans à venir. Près de vingt ans plus tard, à la Conférence Internationale sur la nutrition tenue en 1992, il est resorti que, dans de nombreuses régions du monde, cet espoir n'était pas encore réalisé. Malgré les progrès de l'agriculture, quelques 800 millions d'habitants de notre planète, notamment dans les pays en développement, sont encore sous-alimentés et vivent dans la précarité alimentaire. A l'échelle de la planète, la production de céréales a crû par tête d'habitant. Elle est passée de 303 à 325 kg par personne de 1970 à 1980 et de 325 à 327 kg entre 1980 et 1990. L'Afrique notamment au sud du Sahara fait exception. La production y a accusé plutôt une baisse, passant de 135 kg par habitant en 1970 à 114 kg en 1980 et à 112 kg en 1990. Ainsi les importations nettes de céréales de l'Afrique subsaharienne ont fortement augmenté, passant de 3 millions de tonnes en 1970 à 9 millions de tonnes en 1990 soit trois fois plus. Les causes

fondamentales de l'insécurité alimentaire sont bien identifiées. Les principales sont la faible productivité de l'agriculture, les sécheresses répétées et les conflits, mais aussi le taux d'accroissement de la population supérieur à celui de la production alimentaire dans certaines parties du monde. Il est particulièrement frappant de constater à quel point la production alimentaire a baissé dans les pays qui ont connu des guerres civiles ou d'autre conflits. Entre 1979 et 1991, elle a baissé de 2,8 pour cent au Soudan, de 3,1 pour cent au Mozambique, de 1,8 pour cent au Rwanda et de 5,1 pour cent au Nicaragua.

Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de novembre 1996, tenu à Rome, s'est attaqué aux causes fondamentales de l'insécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi les résolutions et les sept engagements pris doivent être mis en oeuvre méthodiquement, aussi bien par les pays développés, pourvoyeurs d'aides au développement, que par les pays en développement, bénéficaires de ces aides. Il s'agit pour ces derniers, d'oeuvrer pour la création d'un environnement favorable à la relance de la production agricole et de façon durable, grâce à un climat politique, social et économique, propice.

Au Bénin, le secteur rural occupe 70 pour cent de la population active et contribue pour près de 40 pour cent au produit intérieur brut (PIB).

En conditions de bonnes pluviométries, le Bénin est autosuffisant sur le plan alimentaire. Depuis ces trois dernières années, de bonnes productions vivrières sont récoltées, et la campagne 1999-2000 s'annonce très favorable.

Il convient de rappeler que mon pays a organisé une vaste croisade pour la promotion agricole en 1997 et 1998, et aujourd'hui poursuivie par les services de vulgarisation. Quatre thèmes importants bien ciblés font l'objet d'information et de sensibilisation auprès des agriculteurs en vue de leur mise en oeuvre. Il s'agit de:

4. La diversification agricole;
5. L'intensification agricole;
6. La gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles;
7. La maîtrise de la petite irrigation.

Dans la perspective de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales, les domaines prioritaires de la politique agricole de mon pays portent sur:

- La poursuite de la réforme des services agricoles pour améliorer l'efficacité de leur intervention.
- Le développement des infrastructures de base, notamment routières ainsi que les aménagements ruraux.
- La diversification agricole par la production de cultures d'intérêt et adaptées à chaque zone agro-écologique.
- Le développement de l'élevage et de la pêche.
- La garantie de la pérennité du patrimoine écologique national grâce à une gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles, où, l'approche participative impliquant les populations est privilégiée.
- La lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, en menant des actions spécifiques dans les zones les plus vulnérables.
- L'appui à la promotion des organisations d'agriculteurs.
- L'intégration socio-économique des femmes et des jeunes, grâce à des actions spécifiques en leur direction.
- L'accès au crédit par la promotion d'institutions financières adaptées aux petits producteurs.
- La maîtrise de l'eau.

La redéfinition du rôle de l'État, à travers la réforme institutionnelle des services agricoles, a favorisé aujourd'hui l'émergence de nouvelles formes d'organisation des producteurs, à travers

des structures destinées à leur permettre de prendre, effectivement en charge, la gestion de leurs propres affaires, au nombre desquelles, il convient de citer:

- Les Unions Sous-Préfectorales des Producteurs (USPP0);
- Les Unions Départementales des Producteurs (UDP);
- La Fédération des Unions des Producteurs (FUPRO);
- La Chambre d'Agriculture.

Il s'agit, à travers ces différentes structures, de permettre aux producteurs de prendre effectivement en charge la gestion de leurs propres affaires.

Pour la mise en oeuvre de cette politique agricole dont les objectifs sont d'élever le niveau de vie des populations et de renforcer le rôle du secteur rural au développement socio-économique, le Gouvernement de mon pays s'efforce de:

- poursuivre le renforcement de la démocratisation de la vie politique, pour la paix, la stabilité et la participation effective de toutes les couches de la population au développement de la Nation;
- poursuivre la réforme économique en cours, qui encourage le développement du secteur privé;
- mettre en oeuvre la décentralisation de l'administration territoriale dès le vote par l'Assemblée Nationale des différentes lois y afférentes;
- contribuer à l'intégration économique sous-régionale (Conseil de l'Entente, Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine, Communauté Economique des États de l' Afrique de l'Ouest).

Au plan des programmes réalisés ou en cours d'exécution, avec l'appui de nos partenaires au développement, il importe de citer M. le Président:

- La promotion des structures financières décentralisées pour l'octroi des crédits aux petits agriculteurs;
- L'ouverture au secteur privé de la distribution des intrants agricoles;
- La diversification des productions : végétale, animal et halieutique;
- La gestion participative impliquant les populations, des ressources naturelles (forêts, terres et plans d'eau) en vue de leur exploitation durable;
- Le financement des activités génératrices de revenus dans le domaine de la production de la transformation et de la commercialisation;
- L'amélioration de la production vivrière dans les zones d'insécurité alimentaire;
- L'aménagement et l'entretien des pistes de desserte rurale;
- L'insertion des sans-emploi dans l'agriculture;
- La mise en oeuvre du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire;
- La lutte contre l'analphabétisme par l 'institution d'une scolarisation obligatoire assortie de mesures incitatives pour les jeunes filles;
- L'élaboration en cours d'une législation foncière rurale pour sécuriser les agriculteurs dans leurs activités.

Ainsi, la mobilisation des moyens à travers ces projets et programmes, permettent de mettre en oeuvre de façon cohérente, le Programme d'Action du Gouvernement (PAG), au niveau du secteur rural.

Comme vous le constatez, mon pays s'est engagé à mettre en oeuvre, de façon progressive et déterminée, le Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimention de novembre 1996, cela avec l'aide de la FAO et de tous les autres partenaires au développement, auxquels j'exprime ici toute la reconnaisance du Gouvernement et du laborieux peuple de mon pays. Mais M. le Président, je souhaite que, ensemble, nous continuons de mener dans la solidarité internationale, la noble mission de libérer l'humanité de la faim de la malnutrition et de l'insécurité alimentaire.

Vive la coopération internationale. Vive le Bénin. Je vous remercie.

Ned O'KEEFE (Ireland)

I am very pleased and honoured to represent Ireland at the Thirthieth Session of the FAO Conference.

As we are now preparing to celebrate the Third Millennium, it is an appropriate time to examine the progress that the international community, including FAO, is making in its attempt to achieve food security for all. While the problem of food insecurity cannot be resolved in the short term, and we recognize that we have a considerable target to achieve, some advance has been made, in part through the work of FAO and guided particularly by the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

As the document from the Secretariat on the *State of Food and Agriculture* indicates, the most recent estimate of the number of undernourished in the developing world is 791 million people in the period 1995 to 1997. This is a welcome decline from the estimate of 831 million for the period 1990 to 1992. However, as the document points out, this corresponds to an annual average decrease of only 8 million, as against a fall of 20 million per annum required to meet the World Food Summit target for 2015. Furthermore, the number of countries facing food emergencies continues to be high, with the highest concentration in Africa.

The figures provided by the FAO Secretariat are deeply disturbing. They clearly indicate that only three years after the Summit, we are already failing to meet our targets. The toll of human suffering behind these figures is unimaginable. We must therefore redouble our efforts to feed the hungry and to help them to feed themselves. Quite simply, we must do better.

Irish aid: The Government of Ireland is committed to the implementation of the Commitments in the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, as indicated in our 1997 National Report. Our development cooperation activities are fully consistent with, and contribute to those Commitments. At national level, a Committee chaired by my Department and including other relevant Government Departments and NGOs, is actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Plan.

Ireland's relations with developing countries are an important and integral part of our foreign policy. We are committed to making steady progress in Irish Overseas Development Assistance towards achieving the UN-recommended target of 0.7 percent of GNP. Our actual level of aid has increased from 0.05 percent of GNP in 1974 when our aid programme began, to 0.3 percent in 1998, and the Government is committed to reach 0.45 percent of GNP by 2002. As a result of our efforts to meet these commitments, Ireland has one of the fastest growing aid programmes in the world today.

Ireland's development cooperation assistance addresses poverty as the primary cause of food insecurity. The main emphasis of Ireland's aid work is on the long-term sustainable development with the objective of poverty alleviation through meeting basic needs and building up indigenous capacity through the transfer of appropriate skills.

Ireland's aid also places particular emphasis on fostering democracy, respect for human rights, gender and social equality and protection of the environment. We actively support programmes which strengthen civil society and social solidarity. Ireland's aid works in partnership with Governments and communities in developing countries to ensure coherence with their national and local development strategies. Aid from Ireland is concentrated on assisting the poorest countries in the world, in particular those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ireland's aid also provides significant funding to Non-Governmental Organizations who traditionally play a large and important role in our international aid efforts.

Food aid: I would now like to briefly refer to the role of food aid in the struggle for food security.

We note that total cereal food aid shipments from FAO Members to developing countries reached 9.5 million tonnes in 1998-99, an increase of 53 percent from the previous year. These shipments

assisted many developing countries including those in crisis situations, the flood victims of Bangladesh, those in war-affected Yugoslavia and the inhabitants of the hurricane-ravaged countries of Central America. Ireland believes that food aid can play an important part in helping the food insecure, particularly in emergency and post-emergency situations. It is, however, vital that food aid should always be based on the needs of the recipients rather than the availability of surplus supplies.

All of Ireland's aid is currently given in the form of cash to world food programmes, through WFP. Ireland has supported projects for social and economic development in developing countries and emergency food supplies for disaster relief. In 1998, my Government contributed over 3.7 million Euros to the Programme. Most of this contribution was directed towards food aid for countries with severe food shortages and emergency operations.

Ireland attaches great importance to the role of FAO in the effort to achieve food security for all.

Ireland is a relatively rich country and has the fastest growth rate in the OECD. However, unlike most developed countries, we have a large agricultural sector and are dependent to a significant extent on trade in food products. Ireland is also a country with a strong commitment to playing its part in the efforts to assist others to achieve freedom from food insecurity and poverty. In both of these roles – as a food exporter and as a country committed to development cooperation – Ireland sees FAO as an important partner.

For this reason, we attach great importance to FAO's *Strategic Framework* initiative, which is, of course, a major focus of attention at this Conference. The formulation of a long-term *Strategic Framework* setting out goals, objectives and performance indicators, as well as a realistic assessment of the Organisation's strengths and weaknesses, could greatly benefit FAO by focusing its work on priority actions and current challenges.

Ireland acknowledges the effort that the Secretariat of FAO has put into this exercise. Inevitably, perhaps, the document before us has both strengths and weaknesses. We welcome, for example, the emphasis on partnership and interdisciplinary work. We are also glad to see the focus on cross-organizational issues. We would, however, have wished to see a stronger emphasis on administrative reform and the search for efficiencies within the Organization. In addition, while the document does examine the comparative advantage of the Organization, it lacks a clear operational statement of the criteria to be used for setting priorities in FAO's detailed work planning.

My Government now looks forward to the Medium Term Plan, which is the next step in the new planning mechanism of FAO. We hope that the useful material in the *Strategic Framework* can be supplemented and strengthened in that document.

To finish, I would like to say that Ireland remains a strongly-committed Member of FAO. We share the Organization's objectives and believe in the importance of its mandate.

We face a massive challenge in our efforts to achieve food security for all. The data that the Secretariat has put in front of us show clearly that our efforts to date have been inadequate. We must all do more and we must do it more effectively. In this renewed and strengthened effort, FAO must play a leading role. I assure the Organization of Ireland's support in this important task.

Major-General NYUNT TIN (Myanmar)

May I first of all join other distinguished delegates in extending my delegation's warm and sincere congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

At the same time, kindly permit me to also convey my delegation's heartfelt congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf, on his re-election to the second term as Director-General of FAO, for his invaluable and outstanding contributions to the ideals of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

May I in brief, outline the state of food and agriculture in my country. Our main economic objective has been for agricultural growth, to essentially serve as the basis for the all round development of other sectors.

In food crop production, the double-cropping of areas under paddy significantly increased in the 1990s and contributed to an overall percentage increase in cropping intensity. Traditionally only around 12 million acres of paddy were grown annually, mainly under rainfed conditions. However, since 1992, it was augmented with the introduction of summer paddy and within this decade the area under summer paddy has risen to 3 million acres. And it is envisaged that the current area under paddy should, within the extent of our present extension and intensification programme, attain 18 million acres by 2015, comprising 14 million rainfed and 4 million summer paddy.

Prospects for cereals, pulse and oilseed crops for the current year are good, reflecting favourable growing conditions. The 1999 monsoon paddy season is progressing well under favourable conditions due to the early arrival and adequate rainfall throughout this monsoon season. The area sown to the monsoon paddy increased substantially this year, totalling 12.7 million acres.

However, the most significant increase, both in terms of area and production, has been with regard to pulse production.

The fishery resources of Myanmar also play a crucial role in the production of food, improvement of income and generation of employment.

While developing countries are facing the challenges of hunger and poverty, development assistance regretfully continues to decline in real terms, particularly so in the agricultural and rural sectors. And at the same time, it is highly disheartening that development assistance is being unfairly used as a political weapon. We firmly accept that the goals of reducing undernourished people to half their present level by the year 2015, as set by the World Food Summit, will have to be initiated, first and foremost by respective Governments and people under their own national action plans and strategies.

Meanwhile, I remain pleased to inform this august assembly, that Myanmar had during the current decade made strenuous efforts in developing land and water resources with its own domestic capital, technical and human resources.

Irrigation, as significant farm input and a resource to increased productivity, was accorded high priority. As an essential element, the Government has, since 1988, constructed 102 large, medium and small-scale irrigation networks.

As a result, the irrigated area has increased by an unprecedented 1.49 million acres in a short period of 11 years, and bringing irrigation coverage to about 18 percent of the total net sown area.

Since its inception over fifty years ago, FAO has established itself as an effective instrument for the alleviation of hunger and poverty among the rural poor in the developing countries around the world. Myanmar, as an active Member of FAO, is proud to be associated with the noble missions and accomplishments of FAO, and we look forward to an even more productive fifty years in the next Millennium.

S. LANGI KAVALIKU (Tonga)

Tonga joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Chair; a position with onerous, and sometimes seemingly thankless, tasks, but a position, nonetheless, critical to the success of this Conference.

We would also like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election and reappointment. It is fitting, we believe, that he is allowed to complete the task of chartering FAO's course through and into the Twenty-first Century. We look forward to continue working with the Director-General to improve the welfare of all people, but especially of those in need.

May I also, on behalf of myself and my delegation, convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives while they were on a humanitarian mission on behalf of WFP, FAO and the people of Kosovo. We are honoured to have served with them.

The State of Food and Agriculture, the F*ollow-Up to the World Food Summit* and *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* reports, among others, indicate that FAO is moving in the right direction, but at a slower rate than envisaged. It is our hope that FAO could improve further on its present performance in order to achieve the target set for 2015. Food security is a basic *sine qua non* of living. It is hoped that the agonies of doomsday, so manifestly presented by the Club of Rome since 1970s, will not prove to be the foundation and our legacy for the future of adults, youths, children and those yet to be born.

We endorse the *Strategic Framework for FAO: 2000-2015*, the Mission stated, as well as the Vision and Objectives elaborated in the Report.

It is our hope, however, that the *Strategic Framework for FAO* will be considered more in terms of a "rolling plan" rather than a *fait accompli sine die.* One is reminded of the thrust of Darwin's argument when he wrote that "it is not the strongest that survive, nor the most intelligent: it is those who are most responsive to change."

There is no single path to sustainable development, and living in spite of poverty is possible. Living a quality of life befitting the integrity of each and all of us as human beings, however, is the real challenge for us in FAO.

Kierkegaard wrote that, "life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards". It is Tonga's view that we do understand the past; that we actively participate in the present and we have a pretty good idea of what must be done to alleviate poverty, feed those in need and sustain the present, as well as the future. Where we must concentrate is in the "living forward" with clear vision and commitment. Such a vision is needed if we are to ensure, even if there is inequality of life styles, that there is at least complementarity of relationships and living between societies and peoples who are equal but live on different levels and different playing fields. And we believe it could be done because we are not the only Organization active in this field, and we have partners to share this enormous journey.

We note with appreciation the findings of the auditors in their Audit Report for 1996-97. It is our understanding that efficiency and productivity has improved greatly while the annual balance has again improved. It is worthy of note that this has been achieved, while at the same time the FAO system has been rationalized. It is our view that the Director-General and the FAO staff have proven the credibility of the Organization. It is time to make a more committed and concerted effort.

A sound and realistic *Strategic Framework* is essential, but an adequate resource base is critical to achieving those hopes.

We are given three alternative budget approaches and it is our task to choose which is best for us in FAO in terms of the realities of the present mandate of FAO and our future.

Tonga would like to see a Real Growth budget as FAO's commitment for the beginning of the Twenty-first Century.

The realities, however, of Member Nations' priorities and ability to contribute, as well as varying degrees of commitment, seem to indicate that the realistic possibility is the "Zero Real Growth"

budget. It will not be easy in terms of increased contributions, nor for FAO to meet its commitments including emergency assistance to serve peoples suffering from natural and man-made disasters, but we believe it is possible. I am sure that we would not want to find ourselves in a situation so aptly described by the poet Sa'di who wrote that "he who learns the rules of wisdom without applying them ... is like a man who ploughs a field but never sows it."

As the Director-General stated in his report, FAO must "continue serving, to the best of its ability, the expectations of the needy, of all the people of the world who suffer from poverty, hunger and malnutrition." Let us not only plough the fields but also give the chance of choice for the sowing of seeds.

Our task is twofold. We must provide food for those who need it, but we must also make agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, an essential part of the economic and national development. To achieve this, cooperative partnerships are necessary. What is also needed are financial resources. An important element also of achieving sustainable development is the critical role of trade. Trade policies and practices have not been too helpful. It remains to be seen whether WTO will assist the movement of goods and services as well as objectives of FAO and its Member Nations or will only provide a platform for an adversarial system and a living for lawyers and professionals.

It is our view that FAO should push for acceptance of, and more affirmative action within, the WTO system.

May I express, as Chairperson of the Southwest Pacific Group, our deep appreciation for the granting of the membership to Niue, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Palau. In doing so, we take hope and courage from the spirit of solidarity within FAO – a foundation for the House of Humanity so eloquently elaborated by Prof. Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his McDougall Lecture.

The Small Island Developing States of the Southwest Pacific do not, so it seems, have any real strategic importance in the geopolitics of the global society. It should be noted, of course, that we cover in our territorial waters over 8 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. For this reason, we continue to urge equal balance in the Southwest Pacific for land and sea programmes in the policy of FAO. Imagine what the ramifications could be if we, the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific, had the facilities to control our own 8 million square kilometres of territorial waters.

But that is not what we want or believe. The resource of the sea is very important to us, but it is also important for humanity.

We have two activities that have worldwide implications because of this vast heritage, and especially within the FAO mandate. We are the keepers within our territorial waters of the largest tuna stock, among other ocean resources, in the world. It is our hope that, in utilizing these resources, we – together with distance-fishing nations – could meet the needs of the present without endangering the needs of future generations. It will not be easy because other resources are rather limited, but we believe it is a necessity.

The second activity that has worldwide, and often severe, ramifications on a cyclical basis is that, in each cycle, we in the Pacific export to the world *El Niño* with typhoons, hurricanes, cyclones and floods and *La Niña* with floods at times, but mainly drought. Perhaps, like the tuna stock, we are the keepers but it is not something we want to export! Nonetheless, it is a fact of life and compounds the problems before us.

It is therefore with real appreciation that we find emphasis being placed on EMPRES. I believe, however, that FAO should do more, not just for emergency needs but including the risks and damage caused by natural disasters.

Finally, I would like to say that the problems we face are much the same as for other developing countries. The real difference is the high degree of vulnerability of Small Island Developing

States to even the smallest current, both regional and global. It is on this basis that we need to find creative solutions. We believe that FAO could help us in this exercise, as has New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the European Union, among others.

I have spoken in general terms on a few objectives, policies and needs. I am a practising small farmer but not a professional and I look forward to the professionals, both here and in Member Nations, to provide the specifics, based on approved policies and perceived needs.

Mr Chairperson, in conclusion, I would like to thank you for the privilege extended to allow me to make an intervention. I wish also to thank you and our distinguished colleagues for your indulgence and patience.

Carlos LUNA CONROY (Perú)

A nombre del Gobierno del Perú deseo felicitar al Señor Jacques Diouf por su reciente reelección al cargo de Director General de la FAO y desearle el mejor de los éxitos para los próximos seis años.

En la presente década, Perú ha hecho un esfuerzo decidido por transformar su estructura económica y productiva. Hemos pasado de un modelo de crecimiento basado en la substitución de importaciones hacia una economía de mercado y de ampliación hacia el exterior, al poner en marcha un exigente programa de estabilización y ajuste estructural. La apertura económica y la globalización han puesto en evidencia nuestras falencias. El costo del ajuste ha sido alto, pero inevitable, y con mucho sacrificio lo ha asumido el pueblo peruano. A todo esto habría que sumarle el embate del terrorismo, hoy día felizmente superado.

El desarrollo del agro y la educación son dos pilares fundamentales para el progreso económico y para enfrentar estructuralmente el problema de la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria. En el período 1991-1998 nuestra agricultura ha crecido a una tasa anual promedio de 5,1 por ciento, con una perspectiva similar para el próximo quinquenio. Según informes del Banco Mundial, la pobreza, que es más acentuada en el ámbito rural, se ha reducido del 53,5 al 49 por ciento y la tasa de desnutrición ha disminuido del 30 al 23,8 por ciento. La matrícula escolar se ha incrementado en 200 000 alumnos y se ha promovido una amplia participación de la mujer en el quehacer nacional.

Estos logros se enmarcan también en los compromisos asumidos en ocasión de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en 1996; ellos forman parte de las orientaciones que las autoridades del Perú tienen en cuenta, en particular, a través del Plan de Acción que mi país viene implementando.

La agricultura peruana se caracteriza por tener un marcado dualismo: un sector moderno pequeño, pero capaz de competir en mercados internacionales; y, un sector tradicional que comprende una vasta extensión y un elevado porcentaje de la población. Hay que añadir el problema del minifundio, pues el 95 por ciento de nuestras unidades agropecuarias tiene una extensión promedio de 5 hectáreas, de las cuales sólo 3 se cultivan en forma regular a causa de restricciones de alguna índole.

Para atender esta problemática, el Gobierno ha emprendido programas específicos de reforestación, conservación de suelos y pequeñas obras de regadío para apoyar a la agricultura de subsistencia. Esto se complementa con el Programa Sierra Verde, de reciente creación, destinado a una mayor forestación en la zona alto-andina y a convertir 2 millones de hectáreas de pastos naturales en pastos mejorados, para apoyar a la ganadería, mejorar la nutrición e incentivar el ingreso rural. Se está dando un fuerte impulso al otorgamiento de títulos de tierras y a la agrupación o consolidación de agricultores organizados en unidades productivas de mayor relieve económico para aprovechar economías de escala.

Cabe añadir que, en la medida que la población mayoritaria peruana es una población rural, dentro de nuestro esquema de desarrollo resulta fundamental asegurar mercados externos que

permitan la absorción de la producción agroindustrial, particularmente, de la pequeña y mediana empresa.

Como país que contribuye anualmente a la producción mundial de pescado y productos pesqueros, con cerca del 10 por ciento del total, reiteramos, en esta ocasión, nuestro interés prioritario en una explotación pesquera racional y sostenible, sustentada en la preservación de los recursos marinos y en el respeto a su ecosistema. Y, en ese marco, pensamos que el *Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable* es una herramienta fundamental para alcanzar esos objetivos; por tanto, apoyamos el trabajo que desarrolla la FAO en la difusión internacional de su aplicación.

En el contexto internacional, una nueva ronda de negociaciones multilaterales está por comenzar, en la cual, el tema de la agricultura cobrará una especial importancia. Todavía son muchos los países en desarrollo donde la agricultura tiene un peso gravitante y persiste una gran brecha tecnológica con respecto a los países desarrollados, a pesar de los esfuerzos de la cooperación internacional y de la red ligada al CGIAR.

La agricultura mundial se encuentra inmersa en un creciente proceso de apertura económica y de transformación social. A pesar de que los resultados de la Ronda Uruguay han generado beneficios poco significativos para muchos de nuestros países, las próximas negociaciones multilaterales requerirán una seria evaluación de la situación actual y de los resultados obtenidos hasta la fecha, a fin de mejorar la comprensión de los alcances de los compromisos que se asuman, minimizando los costos del ajuste y, de este modo, obtener una distribución más equitativa de los beneficios.

En este sentido, existe una gran asimetría entre los países industrializados y aquellos en desarrollo en lo que se refiere al tratamiento de la agricultura, sobre todo por la significativa diferencia en la capacidad fiscal y en la disponibilidad de recursos. Ello permite utilizar subsidios a las exportaciones que afectan el desarrollo, la producción y la comercialización de los productos en países como el nuestro.

Perú apoya una mayor apertura de la economía y del comercio mundial; sin embargo, su continuidad deberá estar enmarcada dentro de un proceso de cambio equitativo y en la que los agentes económicos provenientes de todas las economías tengan las mismas oportunidades de competir para reducir las diferencias existentes y las pobrezas crecientes.

Nuestro reto es que un porcentaje creciente de nuestros agricultores se integre a una agricultura tecnológicamente moderna, competitiva y sostenible. Los organismos de regulación y cooperación internacional, como la FAO, deben jugar un papel preponderante en este desafío.

Es nuestro mayor deseo que el debate en esta sede conduzca a la búsqueda de un desarrollo económico sostenible en los países en desarrollo, brindando un adecuado apoyo a la agricultura rural y campesina, garantizando la seguridad alimentaria dentro de un marco multilateral equilibrado e igualitario y que promueva la perspectiva de género coadyuvando además la preservación de los recursos naturales, la biodiversidad y el medio ambiente.

Reiteramos nuestro interés en que las labores de la Organización, especialmente en el debate del *Marco Estratégico*, beneficien las necesidades de todas las regiones en desarrollo.

Acudimos a esta trigésima Conferencia de la FAO convencidos de que para alcanzar las metas de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de 1996, es imprescindible reforzar la cooperación multilateral, que constituye el complemento indispensable de los esfuerzos nacionales.

Georges ANOMERITIS (Greece)

On behalf of my Government, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and the members of the Bureau for your election. I also wish to extend my warmest congratulations to

Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO for his recent re-election, and I wish him every success in reaching the noble goals of the Organization.

The Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO is taking place in the context of an underlying sensitive balance, prior to the commencement of the new multilateral commercial negotiations before the WTO.

It is a fact that poverty is the main cause of starvation and malnutrition. Therefore a long-term and effective solution to the problem should mainly focus on the promotion of an economic growth that will ensure first, an effective, lasting and adequate food supply, insofar as food production does not entail environmentally-harmful effects and exhaustion of natural resources. Second, high quality products that can guarantee to consumers safety, good health and a balanced development of human personality; and, third, fair distribution of income between various population groups.

It is widely accepted that an essential feature of the agricultural sector is multi-functionality, which plays an important role in the process of economic development. State intervention of proper means and methods is a prerequisite for the safeguard and support of this basic characteristic. Therefore, in this context of further liberalization of agricultural commerce and the reform of agricultural policies, it is always necessary to consider this fundamental feature.

Despite the general accord on the multi-functionality of the agricultural sector, the importance attributed to particular aspects varies. Generally, however, the term can be so defined as to cover the following: first, contribution of the sector in achieving food sufficiency and ensuring high quality and safe products; second, protection of the environment, the bio-diversity and the rural landscape; and third, development of the countryside.

Food sufficiency is a top priority for both developed and developing countries. This goal, however, should be distinguished from self-sufficiency in fundamental food products. A long-term strategy of food sufficiency shall take into account the market ability to supply food products at reasonable prices and, consequently, to minimize the risk of food insufficiency.

The following points are of prime importance in minimizing that risk: first, decentralized production structure at national, regional and international levels; second, maintenance of sufficient fertile land reserves so that production growth can be achieved promptly and at low cost in periods of recession; and third, appropriate human resources.

Agriculture can provide a great contribution to the development of the countryside. The maintenance of agricultural activity in the countryside, especially in isolated and less favoured areas, is a *sine qua non* condition for the further growth and the optimization of the opportunities offered by the differentiation of production activities and goods. The contribution of FAO to this process can be of extreme significance.

Roger CLARKE (Jamaica)

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your being elected to preside over these deliberations and the able way that you have performed your duties. I would also like to join previous speakers in welcoming new Members to this most prestigious Organization.

As the delegate representing the country which presided when Dr Diouf was first elected Director-General of this Organization, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations on his election to a second term of office. I believe he is the right man, in the right place, at the right time. My congratulations to Ambassador Juan Carlos Vignaud of Argentina for facilitating the process of democracy and bringing to the table his own thoughts on the future of FAO, which can only serve to enrich the work of the Organization.

On behalf of my country, I wish to thank FAO for all the assistance received which has come at critical moments of need and which has addressed vital concerns of food security, rural

development, training and technology transfer. I must express delight at Jamaica's hosting of *Telefood 1999*. It promises to be a gala event and should prove to be the prototype for the hosting of such events by small developing states. I appeal for unconditional support from all Member Nations for this occasion. Jamaica's unmatched beauty and hospitality will be generously offered to the rest of the world.

Notwithstanding the efforts of FAO, food safety and food security remain formidable challenges particularly for small and vulnerable developing states where the impact of globalization has exacerbated the situation. Small states like Jamaica, having opened up their economies, now face the impact of global competition, many times not on a level playing field, which threatens the viability of the small farming sector and overall domestic production. Rural communities become impoverished, resulting in urban migration, culminating in increased crime and violence. Then perhaps, one of the most telling blows is the loss of the preferential trading access which developing countries, hither to now, enjoyed for a range of traditional export products. These products, in many instances, comprise the main planks of their international trade, and indeed the survival of their economies is dependent on the export of these products.

The current dispute concerning the banana trade is the most celebrated example of this move. It is for reasons such as this that FAO must continue to play a pivotal role in helping to resolve some critical trade issues germane to the conduct of free trade for all. These include: the use of biotechnology to improve productivity; special differential treatment for vulnerable small developing states; provision of technical assistance to improve competitiveness; phytosanitary standards and issues of food safety and the removal of certain technical barriers to trade.

We also look forward to FAO for assistance in critical issues relating to crop protection and post-harvest handling of crops, recognizing that in many developing countries, crop losses due to pest damage and post-harvest losses account for up to 30 percent of production. It is clear that this is a major area of need where integrated pest management must be enhanced to address food safety while ensuring the preservation of environmental standards. FAO must also maximize its efforts in providing assistance with training and the transfer of technology. These are not unreasonable requests and I am confident that the Director-General, with that great analytical mind that he possesses and his penchant for helping suffering humanity, will give serious consideration to these proposals. These proposals are aimed at achieving our goals of food security and ultimately the elimination of poverty.

On the eve of the new Millennium, as we ponder new initiatives to banish poverty and malnutrition from the face of the earth, we must concede that this is a time of great moment and history can be made. Let us seize the moment and make the history. Generations, yet unborn, will remember us and call us blessed.

Mrs Lyana Lexa TAMBALA (Malawi)

I am very pleased to participate in this important Conference. As a newcomer to this forum, it has given me the opportunity to be acquainted with many distinguished delegates from every corner of the world. Allow me to convey to you best wishes from my President, His Excellency Dr Elson Bakali Muluzi, who attaches great important to this Organization because of the crucial role it plays with regard to the issue of food and agriculture. I also wish to join all the previous speakers in congratulating you for being elected to the high office of Chairman of this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference, and Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as Director-General of FAO for another six-year term of office. On behalf of the Malawi Government, I wish you all success.

As you may be aware, agriculture is so vital to Malawi's economy that its growth is entirely dependent on increased crop and livestock. Because of various constraints which the agricultural sector faces, such as dependency on unreliable rainfed agriculture, limited availability of farm inputs to farmers, pests and disease infestation of crops and livestock and poor agricultural

infrastructure, among others, it is difficult to maintain a steady growth. In order to address these problems, the Government has adopted a comprehensive set of policy reforms.

As a result of these policy reforms, as well as favourable climatic conditions, Malawi was one of the countries in the SADC region that was able to produce all her staple food requirements in the 1998-99 season because of the Starter Pack Scheme which provided farm inputs to 2.86 million farm families all over the country. Through this Scheme, some farmers had access to improved seeds and fertilizers. The scheme was so successful that Malawi is repeating it this 1999-2000 season. This is one of the strategies Malawi is taking as a follow-up to the Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action endorsed by the Heads of State and Government in 1996.

In this regard, Malawi is further pleased to inform you that the Special Programme for Food Security implementation commenced in 1997, when the preparation of the Programme and Component Working Document was completed. With this Programme, Malawi is currently implementing the Water Control Component which was endorsed by the Director-General in May 1999.

The philosophy of this Programme, which is to increase agricultural productivity, is in line with the policies of the Malawi Government. Activities under this Programme include the intensification of irrigation, provision of diversified sources of farm inputs, such as fertilizers and seeds, and intensive campaigns by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development, the President, Members of Parliament, traditional leaders and other civic leaders to simulate greater productivity throughout the country.

On the question of irrigation, Malawi is committed to irrigation development because, as you may be aware, the country has vast water resources in the form of lakes, rivers and underground reservoirs. We intend to develop the full potential of irrigation in order to lessen our dependence on rains. Currently, activities such as rehabilitation of dams, development of irrigation in flood plains, development of small-scale irrigation which entails provision of treadle and small motorized pumps, and development of irrigation at a large-scale are underway.

Malawi has studied, with great interest, the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium, and has noted with concern that some activities will not be implemented if the budget is to be the Zero Nominal Growth level. This Conference should avoid adopting strategies that will impede the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In this regard, and having considered the three budget options, Malawi still wishes to inform you that it supports the "Zero Real Growth budget level.

On the concept of multi-functionality, which is related to the issue of WTO, Malawi supports the concept as long as it benefits both the developed and developing countries.

I wish to thank all our cooperating partners, both bilateral and multilateral, for the financial, technical and material support they provided to enable us to achieve our goals of food security and poverty alleviation. Their assistance is highly appreciated by my Government and the people of Malawi.

Lastly, I would like to state that Malawi has high hopes for this Conference because of the role it will play in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. This will help ensure that what our Heads of State endorsed here in 1996 comes to fruition. It is Malawi's hope, therefore, that this Conference speeds up the progress being made towards achieving the goals of the Summit.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Avant de passer la parole au Délégué du Nicaragua, avec votre permission, je confie la continuité des travaux au Vice-président M. Nuiry Sanchez.

Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair
Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Vice président Juan Nuiry Sánchez, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Horacio Jarquín DELGADO (Nicaragua)

Deseamos felicitar, en nombre de nuestro Gobierno, al Sr. Jacques Diouf por su reelección como Director General de la FAO. Hacemos votos para que su trabajo sea exitoso al frente de esta Organización.

El desempeño del sector rural en Nicaragua muestra señales de recuperación: su crecimiento fue del orden de un 4 por ciento desde 1990 hasta 1998. Desde 1994 el sector rural ha sido el motor del crecimiento del Producto Nacional Bruto, siendo el único país, en América Central, en el cual el sector agropecuario ha ampliado su participación relativa en el producto total. El área cultivada en este mismo período ha aumentado en un 6 por ciento anual, del cual aproximadamente un 4 por ciento corresponde a cultivos exportables.

Esto ha permitido la reconquista de mercados tradicionales de exportación y la reintroducción en los mercados regionales, lo que ha significado un mejoramiento en los precios de los principales productos de exportación y un aumento de los niveles de importación.

Sin embargo, la situación de nuestra población rural continúa siendo crítica. De acuerdo con estudios del Banco Mundial, el 76 por ciento de la población rural de Nicaragua se considera por debajo de la línea de pobreza, un 40 por ciento continúa siendo analfabeto, el 70 por ciento de las familias rurales no tiene acceso al servicio de agua potable, el 80 por ciento de estas familias no tiene acceso a los servicios sanitarios, y el 40 por ciento de los niños se encuentra en familias extremadamente pobres sufriendo desnutrición.

La situación de nuestra población rural es muy similar a la de otras regiones consideradas entre las más vulnerables del mundo.

Los esfuerzos por desarrollar la seguridad alimentaria en Nicaragua siguen siendo amenazados por los cambios que representan los procesos de globalización y de desarrollo de la competitividad.

A los problemas tradicionales del subdesarrollo en mi sociedad, se le suman los problemas provenientes de la necesidad de cumplir con las reglas de los mercados internacionales, y con la adopción de medios de producción que aseguren el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos. El universo de nuevas oportunidades que representa la apertura comercial, se vuelve al mismo tiempo una amenaza de quedar fuera de los circuitos, debido al atraso tecnológico y a los niveles de pobreza de nuestra población rural, que podrían anular los esfuerzos para desarrollar la seguridad alimentaria.

Al examinar el *Marco Estratégico* de la FAO para el próximo bienio, sentimos que la Organización podría jugar un papel determinante en la lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre en nuestro país, pero para que esto sea realidad sería necesario que aumente su presencia en nuestro territorio, dedicando mayores esfuerzos y recursos para que, en conjunto con el Gobierno y la sociedad civil, se puedan combatir los problemas señalados.

Es necesario que la Organización actúe con mayor agilidad y eficiencia, por lo que apoyamos la iniciativa para que la FAO se convierta en un organismo dinámico, moderno y eficiente en la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo.

Manuel BATISTA (Guinée-Bissau) (Original language Portuguese)

Permettez-moi, au nom du Gouvernement de la Guinée Bissau et au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et de mon nom de vous rendre hommage et vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence. Nous sommes certains que, grâce à votre compétence, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès. Permettez-moi également au nom de la Guinée Bissau de rendre

hommage à son Excellence M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour sa réélection qui est un vœu de confiance de la part de nombreux États Membres. Nous sommes certains qu'il mènera l'Organisation dans l'accomplissement de son mandat d'éradication de la faim et de lutte contre la pauvreté dans le monde. Je voudrais remercier la FAO et son Directeur général pour l'appui qui nous a été donné pendant le conflit armé que notre pays a connu il y a un an. Nous voudrions à cette occasion manifester notre remerciement à M. Anatolio N'Dong Mba, Représentant de la FAO en Guinée Bissau pour les efforts accomplis dans l'exécution des programmes de l'Organisation et pour l'appui aux populations affectées par la crise politico-militaire. La Guinée Bissau comme tout autre pays africain est un pays essentiellement rural. Plus de 80 pour cent de la population vit dans les zones rurales. Le secteur primaire est celui de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches; il contribue pour plus de 50 pour cent au PIB. Ce secteur représente 85 pour cent de l'emploi et 90 pour cent des exportations. Nous pensons que des actions prioritaires doivent donc être menées dans ce secteur qui fonctionne comme un catalyseur de toute notre économie.

Les difficultés du secteur agricole résident dans sa nature qui est profondément marquée par les cycles biologiques de la production et qui dépendent des conditions climatiques. Pour améliorer les mesures dans ce secteur, le Gouvernement grâce à l'appui, à l'engagement et, en particulier à celui de la FAO, a décidé d'élaborer une Charte de politique du développement agricole dont les objectifs sont de garantir la sécurité alimentaire, d'augmenter et diversifier les exportations, d'assurer la gestion rationnelle des ressources agricoles et d'améliorer le cadre de vie des populations rurales. Des priorités ont été fixées qui reflètent la Déclaration de Rome et le Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation où l'on réaffirmait le droit de chaque être humain à avoir accès à une alimentation saine et nutritive et d'arriver à la sécurité alimentaire en éradiquant la pauvreté par la paix et l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. Pour réaliser ces objectifs, nous avons un instrument qui est le Plan d'action qui regroupe tous les programmes, les mesures et les orientations nécessaires pour arriver à une croissance économique de 5 pour cent du PIB réel permettant de réduire la pauvreté et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire.

Après les négociations déjà entamées, le conflit politico-militaire du 7 juin 1998, nous a permis de pouvoir donner suite aux engagements pris et mettre en œuvre les programmes de cette Charte de la politique de développement agricole. La Campagne agricole 1998-1999 a eu une incidence positive sur l'économie du pays qui se trouvait en grave situation d'insécurité alimentaire, nous obligeant à recourir à l'aide de la Communauté internationale. L'impact du conflit continuera de peser sur la population pendant la campagne 1999-2000 amenant des graves problèmes d'insécurité alimentaire. Pour faire face à cette crise, le Gouvernement a demandé à la FAO de lui fournir des facteurs de production, en particulier des semences pour aider les agriculteurs. Un projet d'urgence a été mis en œuvre pour fournir ces facteurs de production aux populations touchées par la crise. Cinq mille personnes ont bénéficié de ce projet. A travers la FAO, la Suède a également financé une opération d'urgence pour la fourniture de facteurs de production primaires à dix mille familles en situation économiquement difficile dans d'autres régions touchées par la crise.

Pour le relancement de l'agriculture par la FAO, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, qui lui a été confié, a exécuté un Projet d'assistance préparatoire d'urgence aux communautés. Toutes ces actions ont été exécutées par le Gouvernement, grâce également à un partenariat avec les ONG, avec les œuvres religieuses et avec l'appui technique de la FAO.

Malgré ces contributions, nous avons encore besoin en Guinée Bissau d'aide humanitaire et technique pour la campagne 2000-2001. Après les prochaines élections du 28 novembre, un nouveau Gouvernement sera mis en place pour donner suite à ce programme et pour assurer le succès de la prochaine campagne.

L'engagement de la FAO est très apprécié par le Gouvernement d'Unité nationale en la personne de Son Excellence Monsieur le Premier ministre Francisco José Fadul qui a reçu en audience le Directeur général de la FAO.

Nous devons donc appliquer et avons pris les engagements nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans notre pays.

Je ne pourrais terminer sans remercier une fois encore la FAO pour l'aide prêtée à mon pays et pour son engagement à l'échelle internationale.

Edgardo J. ANGARA (Philippines)

Our countries may have diverse cultures and varied natural endowments, but here at FAO, we are bound together by common concerns. By applying our collective will, we can move ahead in our shared effort to banish hunger and deprivation from among all our peoples.

At the World Food Conference of 1974, the international community declared every human has the inalienable right to sufficient food and nutrition. Twenty-five years later, as we close this Century and open the gate of a new Millennium, that aspiration remains unfulfilled for hundreds of millions of people. Our coming here together reaffirms our commitment to global food security. To my delegation this Conference all goes well for a more vigorous and collective effort to banish hunger and poverty from the world in the early years of the new Century. The Philippine delegation welcomes and supports the adoption of the World Food Summit's vision and goals as part of the *Strategic Framework* for the years 2000-2015; that of reducing the number of undernourished people to half its present level within these next 15 years.

This Conference adoption of the FAO *Strategic Framework* will reaffirm and deepen our resolve to hasten the achievement of food security by all FAO's Member Nations. Please let me also express my delegation's support for FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2000-2001. We particularly appreciate the adoption of a new programming approach that has realigned major programmes according to set criteria and priorities.

Please allow me to turn to a few key issues that I believe deserve our attention. Next fortnight FAO's Member Nations will join the launching of the Millennium Round of negotiations on agriculture under WTO in Seattle.

A few years ago we took part in the Uruguay Round with great optimism, believing that developing countries like ours, like the Philippines, would benefit from the liberalization of agricultural trade. This time we enter the Millennium Round with more caution, with great apprehension, realizing that the poor countries stand to gain less than the rich and matured countries would from these negotiations.

We appeal to all FAO Member Nations, both developed and developing, to unite on the issue of dismantling barriers to a truly open and a truly fair global system in agriculture. We call particularly for the total elimination of export subsidies and the prohibition of all trade-distorting domestic support for agriculture, which place the agricultural products of developing countries at a huge disadvantage and effectively bar their access to markets. The Philippine delegation also wishes to enlist this Conference's support for the special and differential treatment for developing countries and small states at the Millennium round of WTO. For obviously there exist stark differences in the level of agricultural development within developed and developing countries. Consequently, we believe developing countries must be accorded a special and differential treatment in international accords to enable them to obtain food security and reduce the mass poverty among their peoples.

Let me put on record the Philippine delegation's appreciation of FAO's effort to explore the concept of multi-functionality in pursuing sustainable agriculture and rural development. Let me also reiterate the need we feel for FAO to clear up the concept of multi-functionality as it relates to agriculture, land and sustainable development. We are bothered by the potential use of

multi-functionality as an excuse to maintain production-linked agricultural subsidies and high levels of border protection. We believe the multi-functionality argument should not be used to draw the distinction between the legitimate non-trade concerns of developing countries, such as poverty alleviation and food security that call for a special and differential treatment, and the unwarranted use to which the concept to distort trade and to justify support and subsidy to agriculture. These are the bottom-line issues we shall face as we chart the future courses of collaboration among FAO Member Nations towards a feared global trade in agriculture. In order to ensure global food security and poverty reduction and ensure every country's continued growth and development.

Luís Manuel CAPOULAS DOS SANTOS (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)

First of all, allow me to congratulate the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Conference for their election to this difficult task. We believe that their effort and leadership ability may evolve into a desirable consensus leading to a good final report. We would also like to stress the remarkable commitment and intelligence as shown by the FAO Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, now re-elected. Indeed he reveals considerably good judgement and tries to instill into the Organization an open-minded view in search of new targets despite budgetary constraints. Furthermore, he always retains a close relationship with other consolidated activities; his usual outstanding work is cost-effective and increases efficiency. Indeed, he shows courage in redefining priorities.

Portugal has been a Member of FAO since the setting up this Organization, and it keeps alive the underlying spirit of this Organization: namely contributing to improving living conditions and food standards of populations. Bearing in mind that line of reasoning, the current concepts linked to the multi-functionality of agriculture, sustainable development and environmental protection, and preservation of the social fabric are worthy of our full support. The role of FAO in organizing the *Conference on the Multi-functional Nature of Agriculture* hosted in Maastrict with the support of the Dutch Government expresses the commitment of the Organization as regards this matter. Moreover, the drawing up of the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit were of paramount interest and are an historic landmark in solving famine and malnutrition problems. The courage to analyse change and to enforce principle of transparency, along with the wide-ranging debate on the future of this Organization, witness the huge undertaking necessary to better identify these goals. We believe that the *Strategic Plan 2000-2015* makes it possible to redefine the role of FAO for the future. The same applies to the roles of IFAD and the World Food Programme so as to avoid the overlapping of activities, increase efforts to bring about economies of scale and to improve profitability of shared infrastructures.

The importance of the new round of negotiations on the globalization of agri-business, under the auspices of the World Trade Organization to be held in Seattle, means that FAO has a great interest in this issue. We should like to emphasize the efforts carried out by FAO in organizing the Melbourne Conference on International Trade of Agriculture and Food Produce beyond the Year 2000. Therefore, we have consistently cooperated with FAO as regards the protection of genetic resources in updating the international convention relating to the protection of plants and in drafting provisions on agribusiness going under the aegis of the *Codex*. We thereby contribute to a set of regulations and a definition of terms of reference which are of considerable importance to trade in food and agriculture products at international level.

The availability of Portugal to support FAO aid to developing countries is not limited to the drafting of regulations. Consequently, allow me to recall the work linked to celebration of World Food Day, namely the *Telefood* programme. A live television show was held in Lisbon and broadcast by Portuguese television to Africa, Europe and Brazil, gathering artists from different Portuguese-speaking countries, and we got very good viewer ratings. Within the framework of the celebrations, a number of awareness activities were carried out in the area of famine and

malnutrition at primary and preparatory school level involving teachers from 13 000 schools. Schools and companies have also taken part in the campaign to provide school furniture to less-favoured Portuguese-speaking countries. Likewise we met the call of the Director-General and, with FAO collaboration, training was provided to specialists in developing countries integrated into specific projects supported by the Organization. Bearing in mind our possibilities, we are now ready to contribute to recruitment, and support the mobilization of young specialists, retired researchers and experts for scientific programmes of mutual interests for FAO and our country. Allow me to recall the present huge interest in channelling training and technical assistance, as well as human and physical resources, to assist the brother people of Timor Loro Sae.

All international aid mobilized for this emerging country will be important to help populations overcome this extremely difficult stage.

Portugal also shares the major goals of FAO, and you may be sure that we will do our utmost to fight poverty, famine and malnutrition while mobilizing our most suitable resources. It is a wide-ranging task that will only be successful if the common citizens are made aware of it, along with the mobilization of administration and private activities.

Stan WEBSTER (Namibia)

Allow me to convey warm greetings from the people and Government of Namibia. Similarly, my delegation, on the behalf of the people and Government of Namibia, extend our heartfelt condolences to WFP, and to all governments and families who are grieved by the tragic plane crash outside Pristina. Our condolences and sympathy also go to the people and Government of Turkey for the disaster which struck them last week. Secondly, allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the other elected bureau members for this last session of Conference for the Century. Congratulations also to Dr Jacques Diouf for his overwhelming re-election to head and steer the affairs of FAO into the new Millennium. In the same spirit, I would like to extend a friendly word of welcome to our newly-elected Members to this Organization.

Namibia pledges its unwavering cooperation and support. Namibia attaches great importance to the deliberations of this Conference, as decisions taken here where to a large extent determine our success or failure in eradicating hunger and poverty. Namibia, like many other developing countries, depends on agriculture for sustaining the livelihoods of the majority of our population. My Government's efforts to maintain these livelihoods are, nevertheless, seriously hampered by an agricultural environment which is characterized by scarce and fragile soils, coupled with limited water resources and erratic rainfall. Cognizant of these harsh realities, we have taken it on ourselves to learn to live and thrive within the confines of our conditions, rather than looking across our borders and becoming more and more dependent on donor assistance. To this end, my Government has proactively put in place policies and strategies aimed at combatting poverty, hunger and undernourishment that are consistent with the social, economic, agricultural and climatic realities of our country.

Our emphasis on policy and strategy formulations has been underlined by the realization that it is not only the provision of scientific and technological solutions that will counteract the problems of unsustainable resource management and food insecurity, but rather the formulation and implementation of sound policies and strategies. Of course, the former are still important in all aspects of development. An example of this is the GMO technology which will need special scientific attention, provided it is done in an environmentally-and morally-acceptable way. Today, however, we realize that the increased vulnerability to desertification and subsequent food insecurity could largely be ascribed to policy failures mainly in the socio-economic fields. In line with this understanding, Namibia, through a consultative and participatory process, has formulated the following policies and strategies.

- A National Agricultural Policy, which places emphasis on the principles of free and fair international trade and equal access to markets. In this respect we are in favour of the removal of all trade barriers and subsidies so as to establish an even playing field.

Namibia can, and will, become competitive within a conducive international trade policy framework. We, therefore, call on FAO to play its role in facilitating the establishment of such a framework.

- A drought policy and strategy that makes it Government's priority and responsibility to put special emphasis on drought preparedness to minimize the impacts of droughts, as we are a drought-prone country. Namibia continues to face recurrent droughts. Our focus is on drought risk management and the ability to build up strategic food reserves at household level to ensure that our people have access to food and to maintain our natural rangelands in a productive state. Once again, we call on FAO to initiate a process that will accord drought-prone countries like Namibia a special status.
- A water supply and sanitation policy aimed at the sustainable management and utilization of our water resources. In this regard, assessment of the quality and quantity of both our ground and surface water resources and water demand management are key issues that are being addressed through the community-based management and full cost-recovery approaches.

In addition to the above policies, we have the poverty reduction and population growth policies.

Namibia has the necessary policies. What we lack is the capacity to implement them to the benefit of our people. We appeal to FAO to continue assisting us in building the required capacity. We also recognize that FAO needs resources to assist Member Nations better, and we therefore express strong support for a Programme of Work and Budget based on a Zero Real Growth as a minimum. In conclusion, we extend our appreciation to the FAO Conference and Council for awarding the B.R. Sen award to a Namibian project for the second time in three years.

Horace GRANT (Belize)

On behalf of the Government and people of Belize, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General, on his re-election to office for a second term.

We, the people and Government of Belize, wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for the timely and valuable support to the various developmental projects carried out in Belize over the last four years. We are particularly grateful for the technical assistance provided for the "Mandatory Health Certification Scheme for Citrus", for the seeds of income-generating crops, and now for a new project on the enhancement of sustainable small farming food production in Belize.

The mission of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives is to enhance food security, promote income generation and gainful employment, as well as organize of the productive sector while conserving and improving the natural environment by catalyzing, supporting and accelerating the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries in order to secure better socio-economic and nutritional standards for the future of the Belizean people. With the winds of change blowing in terms of liberalization, and liberalization policies squeezing less competitive countries out of the market, we have been forced to diversify.

However, our capacity to do so depends on necessary changes in macro policies, research and extension systems, training and education, and most importantly, on international agriculture and food trade practices.

Our Government is committed to the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. Food security and nutrition means that agriculture must feed the nation, ensuring that there is enough quantity, diversity and quality of foods and food products, supplied to the consumers at competitive prices and following food safety standards.

In addition, to effectively provide support services to local producers will require careful monitoring of food exports to our country to ensure fair trade, safe and healthy products and to prevent dumping practices.

Poverty alleviation will be achieved through education, health care improvement, crime prevention and overall human development strategy. The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was established to respond to the basic human needs of the poorest of the poor in Belize using a community and participatory approach. Very soon we will be launching a major project for southern Belize, which aims to strengthen community initiatives, technological options, credit and marketing services, and natural resource management for the poorest of the poor. This project will particularly focus on gender, youth and multi-ethnic priorities for sustainable economic development. Another project is our regulatory service in plant and animal health, which will be improved so that food safety and nutrition can be regularized.

We have worked arduously to conserve and protect our natural resources. Belize is a leader in the Americas in attributing high priority to improve the quality of life by protecting and conserving the rich ecological patrimony for present and future generations. Therefore, we are promoting agro-forestry technologies as alternatives for sustainable small farming systems.

Belize is creating the enabling environment towards a more competitive and sustainable agricultural sector. However, we need the continued support of the Food and Agriculture Organization and other collaborators. With the establishment of the Agriculture Natural Resource Institute for Southern Belize, and the University of Belize, and the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources now underway, we will focus on developing human capital at the secondary and tertiary levels, respectively. They will require appropriate curricula development, teaching materials and technical expertise or planning, monitoring and evaluation. Only so can we realize the developmental potential of our agriculture, fishery and forestry sector to achieve a balanced optimum combination of social, economic and ecological benefits for our people.

Finally, the Honourable Minister extends his sincere regret for not being able to attend this very important Conference due to prior commitments. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for granting me the floor to address this Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO.

H.E. Monsignor Agostino MARCHETTO (Saint Siège)

Monsieur le Président, afin de respecter la limite de cinq minutes, je l'espère, accordée à chaque orateur, je vais abréger mon intervention, mais je voudrais vous demander de bien vouloir autoriser la publication du texte complet des procès-verbaux de cette session. Je vous en remercie d'avance.

(continues in English)

First of all, I wish to express my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election in this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference and to you, Mr Diouf for the renewal of your appointment as Director-General.

My statement, within the item generally reserved for the exposition of the agricultural situation in different countries, could lead me to deal with a model farm, of 20 hectares, created by Pope Pius XI, in the Ville Pontificie of Castel Gandolfo. I could talk also about the Vatican gardens.

I am telling this to you smiling a bit, since this small territory, the Vatican City, gives a support – let us say, a material one – to the Holy See, to the juridical personality (recognized by international law before the establishment of the Vatican City) representing the Catholic Church in the world. This little parcel of land – where you have been kindly invited tomorrow for the traditional Papal Audience, makes the freedom of the High Office of the Pope, perceptible and possible, also in front of the powers of this world. And it can be seen not only in the ministerial

service for the Catholic community, but also in favour of peace for all peoples, in truth and justice, and in love and liberty (*PACEM IN TERRIS*, opening address).

In this perspective, I could talk about the engagements "in the field" of this big Catholic family made up of more than one thousand million people, spread over the whole world. I mean, our international, national, local, religious or lay institutions, working in favour of the development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, of youth training, in service of the farmers' families, or those who depend on fishery and forestry products. This is a part of a big struggle against hunger and malnutrition in the world, which we consider deeply and essentially connected to the testimony of the "good news", the Gospel.

I am sure that many of you are acquainted with numerous beautiful and noble deeds of our Catholic fellow citizens, or of other men and women, of the same faith, coming from other countries, in the service of agriculture, plants and animals, as well as of people and families who get their living from land and water products, in order to have a more decent, free and brotherly life, in a generous effort towards the individual and common welfare.

In the same context, I remind you, humbly and briefly, of our commitment – in view of the by now near Jubilee – towards human promotion, the struggle against hunger and poverty. This commitment represents a fundamental part of the victory of peace over war, discrimination and domination. In fact, is not Jesus Christ – whose millennium of birth will be celebrated soon – the symbol of the research for peace? (cf. UNGA Resolution 53/27, 5 January 1999).

In this image of peace, we wish to mention the praiseworthy engagement of FAO and of the 186 Members that in 1996, on the occasion of the famous World Food Summit, adopted a Plan of Action aiming at favouring the agricultural and food policies.

In this context, we certainly believe that the "Plan of Action is fundamental" (para. 18), since

(continue en français)

"agir plus fermement en faveur des pauvres de la terre, des affamés, des nécessiteux et des laissés-pour-compte, c'est une affaire de justice et de charité, sans lesquelles le monde perdrait son sens de l'homme et ne pourrait construire la paix". (Message of the Holy See on the occasion of the World Food Day, this year).

Therefore, we hope from the bottom of our heart that our Conference will give every possible support to this cause.

Benalia Belhouadjeb, Chairman of the Conference, took the chair.
Benalia Belhouadjeb, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence.
Ocupa la presidencia Benalia Belhouadjeb, Presidente de la Conferencia.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Deseo felicitar al Dr. Jacques Diouf por su reelección como Director General de la FAO, con quien nuestra delegación seguirá cooperando abierta y sinceramente para cumplir con los objetivos de la Organización.

Mucho valoro tener la oportunidad de presentar en este Plenario la visión de Argentina sobre el contexto que rodea la actividad agro-alimentaria. Hay dos temas, fundamentales para mi país, en lo que se refiere a la evolución de la oferta de alimentos y el alcance del desarrollo rural sustentable. Ellos son la multi-funcionalidad de la agricultura y la incorporación de la biotecnología a la actividad agrícola.

Creemos que el concepto de multi-funcionalidad no es más que el reconocimiento de la complejidad de la realidad aplicada a todas las actividades económicas y no sólo a la agricultura. El desafío más importante es determinar la forma en que una sociedad, o un país, atiende sus

preocupaciones no comerciales, sin exportar las consecuencias a otras sociedades o a otros países a través de subsidios y/o distorsiones.

Para lograr un manejo adecuado de estas preocupaciones es fundamental que los precios estén exentos de estas deformaciones. Para ello se requiere un mercado libre que refleje el verdadero costo de producción.

Esta es la única forma de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria a largo plazo, que no excluye la ayuda alimentaria y la cooperación técnica.

Actualmente, tanto los productores como los consumidores reciben señales que distorsionan sus decisiones e impiden el logro de una asignación eficiente de los recursos. La mayor parte de esas señales se generan en los países desarrollados. Como ejemplo, baste mencionar que en 1998 los subsidios a la agricultura para los miembros de la OCDE alcanzaron los 360 billones de dólares, destinados principalmente a precios sostén y a subvenciones a las exportaciones.

El efecto sobre el medio ambiente y, obviamente, sobre el objetivo del desarrollo sostenible es adverso, ya que en este escenario se demandan más insumos que en una situación sin intervención. Creemos que es clave que los precios reflejen los costos ambientales de producción para implementar políticas ambientales sólidas. Esto ya fue aceptado por todos los países como Principio 16 de la Declaración de Río, aprobado por la Cumbre de la Tierra en 1992. Sólo una vez que los precios reflejen los verdaderos costos privados de producción, podrán incorporarse las externalidades.

Los subsidios de los países desarrollados afectan también a los países en desarrollo impidiendo su acceso a dichos mercados. Además, los altos excedentes exportables de los países más avanzados que se vuelcan al mercado por medio de ayudas a la exportación, generan precios distorsionados; esto afecta a las decisiones de inversión, a los métodos de producción, al comercio internacional y a los patrones de consumo. De esta forma, en los países en desarrollo se desincentiva toda nueva inversión en estos sectores.

Las políticas dirigidas al carácter multi-funcional de la agricultura y de la tierra deben tener un objetivo, ser transparentes y con costos eficientes sin generar deformaciones en el comercio internacional, sin limitar injustificadamente el acceso a los mercados; esto es esencial para el futuro bienestar de los países en desarrollo. Las políticas elaboradas deben aproximarse lo más posible a los problemas a tratar. Las medidas en las fronteras y los subsidios de precios no son las vías más eficientes.

El segundo tema que queremos tratar es la irrupción de la biotecnología en la actividad agro-alimentaria, que ha generado un extraordinario optimismo con respecto a la capacidad del mundo para alimentar a futuras poblaciones. Pero, al mismo tiempo, los cultivos producidos mediante la biotecnología moderna están originando importantes controversias debido a las exigencias de los consumidores con respecto a la inocuidad alimentaria y al impacto sobre el medio ambiente. En algunos casos esto se traduce en políticas que ponen en peligro los flujos del comercio mundial al establecer barreras injustificadas al comercio. De cara al próximo Milenio, estamos asistiendo a una de las situaciones más comprometidas que afronta el comercio mundial con respecto a la comercialización de este tipo de cultivos.

Las inquietudes sobre los riesgos en el cultivo y uso de organismos genéticamente modificados han dado lugar al establecimiento de numerosos regímenes regulatorios nacionales para controlar su producción y la distribución a los consumidores. Estos, por lo general, restringen la importación y la venta de productos no aprobados en esos países; dicha situación ha generado problemas comerciales por la introducción de organismos genéticamente modificados en el sistema alimentario mundial. Con áreas de producción de cultivos transgénicos cada vez mayores, la situación se vuelve crítica en ciertos contextos. Por lo tanto, es conveniente separar la seguridad y los elementos regulatorios, de la controversia popular y política respecto a cómo tratar estos temas en el comercio, para que países como Argentina (que posee un sistema

regulatorio de aprobación de organismos genéticamente modificados, basado en principios científicos para la evaluación del riesgo) puedan ingresar al mercado internacional sin discriminación alguna para estos productos. Creemos que, de esta forma, no se obstaculizará el crecimiento de la oferta de alimentos seguros para el consumo humano y para el medio ambiente y se incrementará el abastecimiento de alimentos a las futuras generaciones.

Paolo DE CASTRO (Italy)

First of all, I would like to express my sorrow over the tragedy that has struck the peace mission to Kosovo and that has seen the disappearance of representatives of the World Food Programme in the undertaking of a very humanitarian task.

I would like also to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election and it is certain that, under your management, the proceedings of this Thirtieth Session of the Conference will go very well and produce useful results.

Mr Director General, I also give my congratulations and best wishes to you for your re-election which is a testimony to the support and the appreciation for the work done during your first term.

The document which forms the basis of our discussion is the Report on the global food and agricultural situation which does indicate that 37 countries located throughout the world, but especially in Africa, face food shortage problems.

This particular forum, in which so many authoritative figures representing the different vocations of global and European agriculture have convened, is a chance for us to examine and discuss the future role that agriculture might play as a pillar of global development, not only in economic terms but considering also its implications for society and the territory.

To better understand, I find it useful to refocus attention on the values of agriculture in time and space-values which concern geography, economics, history and cultural heritage of the territory, and which determine the elements of the principle of multi-functionality. First among these is the ability to satisfy the nutritional needs of people. Therefore, the "natural right" to manage green areas and raise the quality of the territory, both from an aesthetic point of view, or from an environmental point of view and, not least, the health and the quality of life of humans for the maintenance of the rural world and protection from erosion and desertification, which are a consequence of the abandonment of land by people.

From this point of view, the role of FAO is central; within its mandate today it has through the *Strategic Framework* a large programmatic platform, which is able to give new energy to its operational activities.

From a wider perspective, I repeat the firm belief of the Italian Government of the need for major coordination and a progressive reinforcing of the *polo romano* of the United Nations, made up of FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme, also in the field of a new Food Security Alliance.

The fundamental characteristic which distinguishes the cooperation between FAO and the Italian Government is the establishment of a partnership based on technical support and on the availability of human resources which are principally concentrated in three areas of intervention: food and environmental security and sustainable development, as well as institutional support and, lastly, planning.

In this Conference, in the presence of authoritative representatives of world agriculture and under the supervision of the Ministerial Conference of Seattle, which will see agriculture in the centre of the debate of the Millennium Round, it is necessary and important to remember that, in 1996 at the World Food Summit, FAO recognized the multi-functional role of the agricultural industry, attributing to it a value which has no equal in other productive industries.

The agricultural industry must respond to the concerns and needs of consumers of quality materials, safety and security of food, as well as materials for the protection of animal well-being. In this setting, the European Agency for Food Security has been developed.

The primary agricultural function of production of food or primary materials constitutes the primary concern of less-advanced countries, which are unfortunately still confronted by serious problems of food supply.

In order to look after these primary needs, it is up to industrialized countries and developing countries to provide a concrete support for the agriculture of weaker countries.

It is to this end that the Italian position is clearly oriented in favour of all those measures to be used from the start of the Millennium Round, to assure less-advanced countries of different treatment in respect of multilateral obligations allowing them a faster integration into the international trade system.

In particular, I consider it important to guarantee to these countries access to the market with a tariff exemption before the conclusion of the new round of multilateral negotiations, essentially for all agricultural products.

It is therefore important to compensate the farmers for their work which is not exclusively aimed at commercial ends.

As far as the Plenipotentiary Conference on the Rotterdam Convention is concerned, Italy will have the honour to give a PIC Secretary, as usual, a warm welcome in its seats in Rome and Geneva.

Finally, I would like to thank the new FAO Member Nations for their application for Membership. They are sure to be able to strengthen the operative capacity of the Organization from the point of view of an increasingly strong involvement of the people of the world.

SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

Quería informar a los señores delegados que en vez de pronunciar una declaración, la delegación de Estonia ha entregado un texto a la Secretaría, el cual figurará ne las Actas de la Conferencia.

T.H. WOUTERSZ (Sri Lanka)

I would like to add to the sentiments of those who have preceded me to this podium in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference.

May I warmly congratulate His Excellency, Dr Jacques Diouf on his convincing re-election as Director-General of this Organization. Your mandate for a second term of office is a reflection of the confidence placed in you by the Membership of this Organization. I am confident that under your dynamic leadership, FAO will continue its endeavours to further its laudable objectives.

We are meeting at a historic moment on the eve of a new Millennium, a period that will present new challenges to all developing countries.

During the last decade the developing Member Nations of FAO have had to face the challenges of economic liberalization and the issues of the new economic order, international and regional agreements. These have made us change the economic policies set over the last few decades. While we are agreed on the need for change, this change has to be tempered with caution.

FAO has been involved in development assistance programmes to Sri Lanka almost since its inception and is one of the major agencies contributing towards the agricultural and economical development of the country.

Sri Lanka is predominantly an agricultural country. Over 60 percent of the population are engaged in farming, providing over 20 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The Government

recognizes the enormous potential of the agricultural sector in the economic development of the country.

I would like to highlight the new thinking in my Government's agricultural programme and show how enhanced collaboration with FAO can meet these challenges in the future.

The agricultural strategy we have developed as a six-year plan up to the year 2005 highlights the need for increasing agricultural productivity and, through this, the increase in total agricultural production. This will meet the ever-increasing demand for food and help increase the farmers income. It is my country's intention to be self'-reliant in our requirements of food commodities for our population as a major measure of food security.

At present, we produce approximately 75 percent of our basic staple food, rice, and around 45 to 60 percent of the other basic commodities. While we are firm believers in the tenets of free and regional trade, we also have a firm commitment to food security, both for strategic as well as economic reasons.

To meet the challenges for developing new technologies for all crops, as well as the many varieties of fruits, vegetables, cereals, legumes and pulses, we will access new technologies that are available in both the developing and developed world. We would also like to have access to the latest rice-breeding techniques. It is in this respect that we would like FAO and the other Members of FAO to help us. The use of these techniques will result in increases in productivity and overall production, thereby increasing the incomes of the farmers and the rural poor.

This agricultural strategy is being developed within the emerging issues that have been negotiated within the broad parameters of the World Trade Organization, the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement and the South Asian Free Trade Agreement. These arrangements have their impact on the farming economy of Sri Lanka, particularly in terms of relatively cheaper agricultural commodities entering the market. Some of this produce is directly, or indirectly, subsidized in a number of different forms. This should be taken note of in the light of the fact that Sri Lanka does not provide any form of subsidies, hidden or otherwise, to our farming community.

As a result, the impact on the farming community in Sri Lanka has sometimes been adverse. Farmers have kept away from their farms, resulting in the significant reduction in some of the more economically-important crops such as chillies, onions and potatoes. However, we are committed to meet this challenge.

In order to supplement these production strategies and provide the farming community with more affordable services, the Government has initiated a farmer pension scheme and a farmer insurance scheme, as well as a farmers' bank.

Finally, I would like to highlight the fact that Sri Lanka has consciously taken an approach to organize farmers into viable farmer organizations and farmer companies. This approach is to ensure that the farming community, through these organizations, will be a driving force and an effective group in bargaining with the private sector in marketing and input supply, as well as in the rehabilitation of our irrigation network.

Particular attention is paid for these organizations to be intimately involved in post-harvest handling of produce and the value addition process, in order to further the longevity of the produce and the income-generating capacity of the farmers.

These are the highlights of my Government's basic approach for the improvement of the agricultural and rural sectors. We look forward to working closely with FAO on these issues. Together, I am sure, we can ensure a better quality of life for our farming community and also provide a better involvement for social and economic development for the population of Sri Lanka.

Vere Cornwall BIRD, Jr. (Antigua and Barbuda)

I hale from the twin-island State of Antigua and Barbuda, known for its 365 beaches and hospitable people. My Government is pleased to congratulate the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, on his election to a second term, guiding FAO into the new Millennium with the success with which he has led the Organization over the past six years. We therefore wish to record our confidence that he will continue to play close attention to the needs of Small Island Developing States and net-importing countries. We have benefited from FAO in theie assistance to the following programmes which will soon become a reality: female farmers, vegetable seedling nursery establishment, future farmers, herbs and spice garden establishment, small-scale commercial poultry keeping in Barbuda, group farmers improvement project.

Two weeks ago we were struck by Hurricane Josè, and over the past four years some seven hurricanes. At this very moment, while speaking to you, Hurricane Lenny, with winds gusting in excess of 125 miles per hour, is within striking distance of our country. This, along with global warming, makes our country quite vulnerable. Our small farmers therefore face many odds, but continue to toil with the determination that they can increase the contribution which agriculture adds to our Gross National Product.

With the touristic country which we are, with the number of tourists both by air and sea annually, it is only to be expected that in a country that seeks jobs for its nationals, small farmers will be called upon to supply these demands which the industry requires. But with the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle later this month, and with our traditional neighbours, Guadeloupe and St Martin now applying sanitary and phytosanitary preconditions, we have been greatly stymied in the marketing of agricultural products from the net importing and small island developing states. Are we therefore to call on our small farmers to stop producing, while imports continue to increase and be the order of the day, thrusting a state of poverty on our country? In our country in which agriculture is gaining great prominence in our educational system, where therefore will these graduates look for solace? What do we say to our rural women's groups upon whom we are about set our focus and also realizing that many are the sole breadwinners of their families. All these will be a setback caused by developed countries to differential trading opportunities which were once enjoyed locally for several traditional export products, of which the recent banana controversy is an example.

We therefore urge a verse from the Holy Bible that God helps those who helps themselves. In this way one will be able, with help and technology, to stave off poverty and be able to provide food and sustenance to all.

Ivari PADAR (Estonia)

First of all, allow me to offer to the WFP and its Executive Director, mine, and my country's heartfelt condolences on the tragedy which has struck them. Allow me also to join in the congratulations to the Director-General on his re-election. May I further express my thanks to all Member Nations who participated in the Twenty-first Regional Conference for Europe, held in Tallinn last May, and the FAO staff who helped to prepare and carry through the Conference.

I have the pleasure to mention that, since 1991, during all the years of our Membership, Estonia has actively participated in FAO's activities. The Membership of Estonia in the FAO Council also contributed considerably to our understanding of the role of FAO. The FAO development projects in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food control carried out in Estonia contributed very much to the process of the legislative transformation of regulation of our agriculture and rural life.

Since the 1990s, considerable changes have taken place in the Estonian economy, including agriculture. In agriculture, the employment rate has fallen from 12 percent to 6 percent. Being a candidate country for EU Membership, Estonia has committed itself to accept, without reservations, the EU policies and goals and to harmonize its policies and policy means with the

respective EU ones. Based on the strategy of sustainable development of agriculture and rural life elaborated in 1997-98 in cooperation with FAO, the EU pre-accession Rural Development Plan has been prepared in 1999. Together with the SAPARD instrument, this will be one of the main tools of implementation of the long-term strategy.

Being a Member of several international conventions and organizations, we regard the imminent accession of Estonia to WTO, which was preceded by preliminary negotiations during five years, as particularly important. The recent Bratislava meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the CEEC countries within the framework of trade negotiations, is also worthy of remark. Estonia is, together with other CEECs, welcoming further liberalization of trade in order to give better market access to developing countries. Until now, Estonia has been a country with one of the most liberal trade regimes in the whole world. There are still no tariffs on food products. However, the share of food imports from developing countries amounted to less than half a percent last year. One should also not forget that food production is not the only function of agriculture. Estonia, as many other countries, is supporting the concept of the multi-functional character of agriculture. We think that FAO could also very much contribute to this item.

Estonia considers the FAO regulative role being most important. However, we are of the opinion that TCP projects helped us and will help developing and transition countries to better become familiar with this regulative role. In the financing of these projects, the regular budget should not be the major source of funding. Based on the high competence, FAO should attract other funding for TA projects.

The activities organized by FAO in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and environment are regarded as among the most competent in the world. Therefore, the privilege to benefit from the FAO activities means credit for the country concerned.

In August of this year, the Twelfth International Rural Development Summer School was organized in Estonia and the FAO and EAAP Advisory Service Seminar will be held in Estonia in November. The Estonian expert in the FAO Sub-Regional Office in Budapest is one of the organizers of the seminar. Estonia is ready to host also in the future this type of technical event of great practical value, and also to provide the expertise gathered in the transition process.

Estonia highly appreciates the coordinating role of FAO. Being aware of the fact that FAO National Committees established in the East European countries coordinate FAO activities in certain fields in the respective countries, we would consider the regular convocation of these Committees with the aim to share experiences and plan further activities to be expedient.

Today, the electronic data bases make the results of FAO surveys and studies in different sectors available to all Member Nations. The data have to be updated and attract a large number of people so that the scientists of all countries could benefit from these information bases.

Realizing that there are 830 million people suffering from malnutrition in the world, amongst whom only 30 million people can be assisted by WFP, the increase in the number of Member Nations involved is particularly important. The work done in the framework of WFP, in particular during times of crisis, deserves great recognition. Several CEEC have already participated in the work of WFP, and Estonia intends to join them.

Being an FAO Member, a country also has obligations to FAO including prompt payment of its Membership contribution. I am glad to mention that Estonia has been able to meet this requirement, even if it has been very difficult for a country in transition such as ours. More discipline should be required and rights should be more closely linked to obligations. Transparency of the FAO budget and the efficiency of the use of FAO funds has been widely discussed. I am of the opinion that guaranteed use of one part of the FAO budget to resolve the problems of our Region would improve receipt to the FAO budget. In this way the European Region countries in transition could feel themselves better supported by FAO.

In closing my statement, I would like to express the hope that our successful cooperation with FAO will continue in the future.[4]

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

Third Report of the General Committee (Election of Council Members)
(C 99/LIM/23)
Troisième rapport du Bureau (Élection des Membres du Conseil)
(C 99/LIM/23)
Tercer informe del Comité General (Elección de los Miembros del Consejo)
(C 99/LIM/23)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Maintenant nous passons à l'examen et à l'adoption des deux rapports du Bureau. Il s'agit du troisième et quatrième rapports. Ce que je propose pour le Troisième rapport, s'agissant de formalités, nous allons l'examiner et l'adopter dans son intégralité, par contre dans le deuxième rapport du Bureau il y a deux sections et nous allons donc l'examiner section par section et procéder à son adoption.

Nous commençons donc par le Troisième rapport, qui est le document C 99/LIM/23. L'objet de ce rapport est l'élection des Membres du Conseil.

Je tiens aussi à signaler que le Secrétariat m'informe que le quorum a été atteint.

Le rapport est donc adopté.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/24)
Quatrième rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/24)
Cuarto informe del Comité General (C 99/LIM/24)

21. Payment by the European Community to Cover Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization
21. Paiement par la Communauté européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de membre de l'Organisation
21. Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au quatrième rapport du Bureau qui est le document C 99/LIM/24. Ce rapport contient deux sections. La première section concerne le *Paiement par la Communauté Européenne des dépenses administratives qui découlent de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation*. La deuxième section concerne la *Nomination du Directeur général*. Nous passons donc à l'examen et à l'adoption de la première section relative au *Paiement par la Communauté Européenne des dépenses découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation*.

S'il n'y a pas d'observations la première section du rapport est adoptée.

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[4] Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

24. Appointment of the Director-General (C 99/18)
24. Nomination du Directeur général (C 99/18)
24. Nombramiento del Director General (C 99/18)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons à la deuxième section: *Nomination du Directeur général.*

S'il n'y a pas d'observations la deuxième section est adoptée et le Quatrième rapport de Bureau est adopté dans son intégralité.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

Desearía confirmar que el izamiento de la bandera de Kiribati tendrá lugar esta mañana, a las 12.45 horas en la parte exterior del Edificio A, hacia la avenida Aventino. Como está previsto en el Orden del Día, el Comité General tendrá una reunión a las 14.00 horas en la Sala de México.

Esta tarde no habrá reunión de la Plenaria, pero mañana por la mañana se volverá a reunir la misma. Tenemos ocho oradores inscritos para mañana. La Plenaria y las Comisiones I y II interrumpirán su trabajo a las 10.30 horas. Esto permitirá a los señores delegados tomar los autobuses que saldrán a las 11.00 horas frente del edificio A, hacia el Vaticano, con el fin de asistir a la Audiencia con Su Santidad el Papa, Juan Pablo II que tendrá lugar a las 12.00 horas.

The meeting rose at 12.20 hours.
La séance est levée à 12 h 20.
Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA

18 November 1999

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 99/2) (continued)
5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 99/2) (suite)
5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 99/2) (continuación)

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)
DEBAT GÉNÉRAL (suite)
DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATIONS (suite)
DECLARACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Barbados, Germany, Indonesia, Denmark, Saint Lucia, Sénégal, Conseil international des femmes (CIF), Communauté des pays de langue portugaise (CPLP)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour. Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la dixième séance plénière.

Avant de passer au Point 5 et à l'adoption des deux rapports, je voudrais vous donner quelques informations concernant la séance de ce matin. Cette séance sera de courte durée, étant donné que Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II recevra en audience les Chefs et les Membres des délégations de la Conférence ce matin à onze heures.

Afin de permettre aux délégués d'arriver à la Cité du Vatican en temps voulu, la réunion de ce matin sera suspendue à 10h30.

Les autocars qui assureront l'aller-retour de la FAO au Vatican sont garés devant le Bâtiment A. Ils quitteront la FAO à onze heures et rentreront vers treize heures.

Nous avons deux rapports à l'Ordre du jour, le Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs et le Cinquième rapport du Bureau. Le Quorum n'étant pas encore atteint, nous passerons au Point 5 sur la situation de l'alimentation et je donne la parole au délégué de la Barbade, Son Excellence Anthony Wood, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural et nous reprendrons à 10h15 pour l'adoption des deux rapports.

Anthony WOOD (Barbados)

I am greatly honoured for this opportunity to address this Conference on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados. Mr Chairman, first of all, allow me to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to you and the three Vice-Chairmen on your election and also to reiterate my congratulations to the Director-General on his re-election to his second term of office.

FAO's *Report on the State of Food Insecurity in the World 1999* indicates that, on a global scale, we are still some way from achieving the World Food Summit target of reducing the undernourished in the world to under 400 million persons by the year 2015. Nevertheless, current achievements in this regard are somewhat encouraging and offer a small ray of hope that the target can be met, granted, of course, that extraordinary abnormal conditions of global significance do not intervene.

For most of this century, agricultural production in Barbados has been heavily dominated by sugarcane production. However, over the past two decades, non-sugar production has been overtaking sugar. This has essentially been as a consequence of successive governments' overt policy of diversification of agriculture. Sugar now accounts for 1.7 percent of GDP and non-sugar 4.2 percent. Notwithstanding this, sugar continues to be the main agricultural foreign exchange earner, bringing in US$66.7 million in 1998. This is significantly more than our other export crops, such as cotton, sweet potatoes, breadfruit, okras, hot peppers, flowers and foliage.

Agriculture's contribution to the overall economy has been declining. Its contribution to GDP was 9.4 percent in 1978, as compared to 5.9 percent in 1998. These figures reflect the increasing importance of our tourism and service sectors to the economy.

Agriculture in Barbados faces a number of challenges, some of which I would wish to list here. These include: bringing idle lands into production; making agricultural lands available to persons who have an interest in commercial farming at a reasonable price; the effective use of irrigation water; the reduction of soil erosion; the restructuring of the sugar industry and facilitating the introduction of measures to improve its operational efficiency and to support independent plantations; the establishment of stronger linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors; and the restructuring of national agricultural institutions to play a more effective role in supporting and facilitating the agricultural development process.

Overcoming these challenges will have a direct impact on increasing food security and increasing export earnings from Barbados.

Barbados notes with pleasure FAO's support for Small Island Developing States, as evidenced by its prompt positive reaction to our request at the Twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Conference for a special Ministerial Conference to be convened to address the special concerns of SIDS. We are also appreciative of the other significant actions FAO has taken in support of the special needs of SIDS.

Barbados suffers from all the generic constraints of a typical SIDS and we therefore need the support of the international community to assist us in enhancing our agricultural development. However, we consider that we cannot wait for such assistance to be forthcoming before starting the process of eliminating or at least managing the constraints under which we operate. We are therefore using some of our very slender resources to take steps to modernize our agriculture and agricultural support systems, while developing an enabling climate for our private sector players to invest in and contribute to the development of the communities from which they derive their assistance.

To this end, we are in the process of restructuring the institutions which service agriculture and agricultural development in the island to equip them to adequately handle the challenges and opportunities which we expect will confront them in the new Millennium.

Perhaps the most significant constraints facing SIDS at this time are those related to globalization and the rapidly changing trade environment. Developed countries need to understand that current concessionary trading arrangements for traditional crops, such as bananas, are the lifeblood of some SIDS economies and the rapid curtailment of such concessions, in search of the "Holy Grail of free trade" could lead to dire consequences for such SIDS. The international community therefore needs to assist SIDS to adjust to the emerging trade environment, especially with regard to strengthening SIDS' institutional capacities to reap the most benefits from the Uruguay Round agreements.

The Right Honourable Owen Arthur, the Prime Minister of Barbados, headed a British Commonwealth ministerial team which visited various capitals and held in-depth discussions with the IMF, World Bank, WTO, ACP and EU to raise awareness and sensitivity to the special problems faced by small states in the international finance and trade systems. One important

result of this initiative is that there is now a structured debate in the Trade and Development Committee of the WTO on small economies.

Barbados has noted the excellent work done by FAO in the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures under the Sanitary and Pytosanitary Measures Agreement of WTO. However, the Caribbean region is at somewhat of a disadvantage in this regard because we do not have a functioning Caribbean Plant Protection Organization. We would wish FAO to assist us in resuscitating the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission, or replacing that body with an Organization modelled after OIRSA, to fulfil our new commitments and obligations under the WTO *inter alia*. In this regard, we look forward to the speedy development of a draft regional Technical Cooperation Programme on strengthening phytosanitary measures in the Caribbean.

It might also be of some benefit to consider establishing an analogous institution for animal health concerns on a regional basis.

Our region is subject to natural disasters, which can seriously impact on food security, with hurricanes being the most evident, followed by volcanoes and earthquakes. Barbados and four other Eastern Caribbean countries recently suffered an uncommon massive fish-kill episode. The death of nearly all mature reef fish on Barbados eastern and southeastern coasts has now been confirmed to have been caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus iniae.* Satellite images of the Caribbean clearly show the islands which experienced the fish-kill engulfed in a plume of water of low salinity from the Orinoco River during the fish-kill episode. This water also showed temperatures consistently 2 to 3 degrees centigrade higher than the normal, and contained high levels of chlorophyll. It therefore appears that oxygen depletion and abnormal aquatic conditions predisposed the fish to attack by the organism, which might have been transported from the Orinoco.

The fish-kill has been a tremendous financial burden to our fishermen and Barbados will require assistance from FAO for a project to further identify predisposing factors and develop systems for monitoring the incidence of these factors, including the presence of micro-organisms capable of causing fish-kills, and predicting any further incidence of fish-kill episodes.

Barbados has done significant work towards the full implementation of FAO's *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. We, however, fear that a move towards eco-labelling of fish and fishery products, in support of responsible fisheries, could easily lead to either trade discrimination or disguised restrictions to international trade, and thereby create barriers to market access. We would, therefore, wish FAO to use its good offices to moderate the thrust towards eco-labelling, especially in relation to small island developing and transitional economies.

We are impressed with the current version of FAO's *Strategic Framework 2000-2015*. We, however, expect that there will be some fine tuning of the Framework through the Medium-term Plans that will be developed during the 15-year planning period as well as the biennial budgets and world plans. We, therefore, fully endorse FAO's *Strategic Framework* as a signposting of the way forward for FAO over the next 15 years.

In closing, please allow me to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Director-General and his staff on the significant and impressive progress that has been made in reforming FAO over the last six years. The Caribbean Sub-region has benefited in many ways over this period, not least in the establishment of a Sub-regional Office in Barbados.

We look forward to the early years of the coming Millennium for further mutually beneficial interactions with FAO that will assist our farmers and people to benefit from the globalization of world trade and achieve the targets set at the World Food Summit.

Karl-Heinz FUNKE (Germany) (Original language German)

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address you on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany and on behalf of the Federal Government.

The fight against hunger in the world is a goal of the 1996 World Food Summit. It is still of topical importance today.

In the application of the Summit Plan of Action, FAO has indeed a pre-eminent role to play on the basis of its mandate and its technical competence and it is rightly so. A prior prerequisite for coping with this task is an efficient use of every means and energy available. Therefore the German Government supports the efforts of the United Nations to improve the coordination of the activities of its organizations and programmes in the fields of food security and the environment.

FAO has developed a *Strategic Framework* for the years 2000 to 2015. This *Strategic Framework* constitutes a sound foundation for targeting work in the years to come. In the process, the Secretariat should, in our opinion, seize every opportunity to: streamline administrative work; exploit the effects of synergy in internal and external fields; and intensify cooperation with other organizations.

This would in our opinion be a significant contribution to the necessary ongoing reform of FAO and the entire United Nations System. What matters above all is to set clear priorities and to examine and adjust their validity, if required, by new conditions.

Of course, financial resources must be used economically and efficiently. This counts more than ever in times of scarcer resources. FAO is called upon to focus on tasks it is in a unique position to tackle in the world – or in other words, where it has a comparative advantage. FAO has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is held in high esteem as an intergovernmental organization.

The concept of sustainable development, which is universally accepted in the entire United Nations family, provides the basis for solving global and regional problems in the agricultural and food sectors.

The elements which shape it – economic growth, social development and environmental compatibility – rest on such key principles as democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, good and responsible governance, and participation of the population concerned.

This is also a gauge of the effectiveness of FAO activity. One of the new tasks facing international organizations is the elaboration of indicators of sustainable development. Indicators in the agricultural sector are an important aid in taking environment-related decisions in a proper way and measuring the progress in the sustainable development of agriculture and rural development.

But that is not the only point. Today, environmental problems are of global importance. In view of the globalization of international economic relations, environmental issues increasingly arise in international agricultural trade. Environmental and trade policies should be shaped in such a way that they support each other and thus contribute to sustainable development.

The suitable and legally-safe way to go is to develop standards, for example, for environmental concerns of agricultural production, consumer protection, and animal welfare, and then enshrine them in international agreements. The international work on the development and application of indicators provides a basis for this.

FAO has played an important role in developing international standards, for example, with respect to food and plant production products. I also regard FAO's work in the conservation and

sustainable use of genetic resources as crucial for long-term food security and sustainable agriculture.

The Federal Republic of Germany feels particularly committed to the global Plan of Action adopted at the 1996 FAO Conference in Leipzig. The key task of monitoring the implementation of this Plan rests with FAO.

May I draw your attention to a special event in conclusion. Next year, Germany will organize EXPO 2000 in Hannover. EXPO 2000 will focus on sustainable development as well as on environmental and food issues. Here too, FAO could make a very important contribution to the International Conference "Rural 21" in Potsdam.

Syarifuddin KARAMA (Indonesia)

Allow me, on behalf of the Indonesia delegation, to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for your well-deserved election. I believe under your wise chairmanship, our deliberations will arrive at fruitful and successful conclusions. We also extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Secretariat for the substantive preparation for this meeting.

The Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference is convened at the period of recovery after economic and monetary crisis affecting several countries in Asia. The direct impact of the crisis is the declining of food security level in several countries. Indonesia is affected by the crisis. The negative effect is worsened by the severe drought. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector has demonstrated tremendous strength in coping with the economic crisis. Although the national economy experienced a contraction of 13.6 percent in 1998, the agriculture sector posted a positive growth of 0.26 percent, while other sectors were negative.

Repositioning agriculture as a prime mover of the national economy will be the focus for future development. Two priorities have been set up as the agricultural programme namely: improving food security and strengthening agriculture through agri-business approach.

With respect to the global efforts toward food security, the Indonesian delegation would like to reiterate several points, among others: we have, and will, consistently implement the results of the World Food Summit 1996, and the Special Programme for Food Security.

In relation to the Uruguay Round and WTO Conference, we expect FAO continue to play an active role in supporting developing countries. Transfer of technology should be enhanced through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. South-South cooperation in human resources development and transfer technology needs to encouraged and supported. Regarding the genetically-modified organisms, we are all aware that besides the huge potentials, there are also risks towards the environment, human health and food safety. We expect that FAO would play an important role in assisting the Member Nations to monitor and analyse the possible negative impacts of the GMOs.

The economic crisis has raised the reform spirits throughout the country, and on almost all aspects of public life. In the economic aspects, the reform is directed toward greater emphasis on market orientation and liberalization. In anticipation of the reform, a new paradigm of Indonesia's agricultural development was introduced in the mid-1990s, which consists of the following shifts: first, from centralized to decentralized planning; second, from higher production to improving income and welfare of farmers; third, from the production of primary commodities to agri-business development; fourth, from labour-intensive to more capital-intensive technology; fifth, from import substitution to export promotions; sixth, from a dominant government role to more participation of the private sector.

We realize that our efforts to implement the new policy framework might be hindered by several problems. We therefore suggest that FAO and other international donors assist countries that are currently facing a food shortage, by way of identifying the constraints and helping in the implementation of the solutions. In this regard, Indonesia is ready to extend its full cooperation

with FAO, Member Nations, other international donors and agencies in achieving world food security.

Finally, we would like to reiterate Indonesia's strong commitment to the work of FAO, and its programme in assisting its Member Nations to solve food and agriculture problems. Again, we congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to the second term as Director-General of FAO.

Henrik Dam KRISTENSEN (Denmark)

I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his election. He will meet many challenges in the coming six years. This Conference and the following discussion will give important guidelines for this work.

At the World Food Summit, we set up a most ambitious and important goal for ourselves. The goal was to reduce the number of hungry and undernourished people to 400 million before the year 2015. We are encouraged to learn that the number of undernourished people is reduced by 40 million. At the same time, we are deeply concerned that we are still so far from reaching our original target. Let us remind ourselves that it is possible to do something about hunger, and that the responsibility lies mainly with national Governments, including the Governments of the countries most affected by hunger. Democracy, respect for human rights and good governance are basic and necessary for all activities if we are to succeed. The developed countries have a major responsibility to assist the developing world. In Denmark, we continue to give one percent of our Gross National Product to development cooperation. This aid is given to some of the poorest countries in the world, and the aid is given with the direct aim of fighting poverty. We would like to appeal to all developed countries to live up to their responsibility and devote not less that 0.7 percent of their Gross National Product to development assistance.

We want to thank FAO for its important contribution to the follow-up on the World Food Summit. FAO should continue its work in close partnership with other UN organizations and NGOs. During the last two years, FAO has been preparing a *Strategic Framework*. This Framework should guide the activities of the Organization for the years 2000 to 2015.

Denmark has taken an active part in the process, and Denmark will be an active partner when we shall prepare the Medium-Term Plan. FAO has limited resources and we have to make choices. We will have to agree on a set of priorities that are clear and well-defined. In this way we can make the best choice and identify the necessary actions. The activities should always be based on the comparative advantage of FAO and on FAO's status as a Centre of Excellence. Of course, FAO should at all times work in cooperation with all relevant partners.

The WTO Millennium Round will start in Seattle at the end of this month, and agriculture and trade will play a major role in the negotiations. Denmark will work to ensure that these negotiations will lead to a better access for developing countries to the important markets, to increase transparency in the global trading system, and to fair legal frameworks that will benefit all – especially those who have the least resources.

We find that the growth in agricultural trade based on this principle is a necessary element if we want to eradicate poverty and ensure global food security. We think that FAO should make a major effort to assist developing countries in the preparation and in the follow-up to these trade negotiations.

I would like to mention a number of FAO activities that Denmark finds very important. For a number of years we have seen a growing focus on food safety. It is extremely important that we all respect the concern and demand of the consumers when we address this issue, and that consumer concerns are the starting points for our work. We want to thank FAO for the important work in this area, especially in the *Codex Alimentarius Commission*. We would like to encourage FAO to develop these activities further.

In the fisheries sector, FAO has become an extremely important forum and has a central role to play regarding the international efforts to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of fisheries resources. We want FAO to give an increased priority to activities in this area. It is important that FAO maintains its central role in the global forest dialogue. We put special importance on the monitoring of global forest resources and the technical advice in relation to the national programmes. FAO should therefore put more focus on the forest sector in the years to come.

FAO has been a very important forum for the *International Undertaking on Genetic Resources*. I will urge FAO and its Member Nations to do their utmost so that we can reach a solution and sign and agreement in time. Denmark will continue to be an active and constructive partner in the negotiations.

Let me conclude this intervention by giving my best wishes to the Director-General for the years to come. I trust that, together, we will be able to make the right choice, and in that way make FAO a major player in the global development and the fight against poverty and hunger.

James FLETCHER (Saint Lucia)

The Government of Saint Lucia wishes to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Independent Chairman of the Council, on your election to guide the proceedings of this Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO. We are confident that, under your skilled guidance, our deliberations will be productive.

Saint Lucia particularly wishes to join the other delegations in congratulating Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the position of Director-General of FAO. Dr Diouf's resounding election victory is eloquent testimony to his excellent stewardship of this Organization and reflects Member Nations' overwhelming support of his sterling efforts at transforming FAO into an organization that is well-poised to lead global agriculture into the Twenty-first Century.

As we move towards the Twenty-first Century, the world is witnessing unprecedented changes in respect of its international, political and economic landscapes. These changes present numerous challenges to our domestic economy, among these being the need to achieve international competitiveness for export commodities and improve our ability to service our domestic market; the need to place greater priority on marketing and investments; the need to redefine the roles of the public and private sectors; the need to forge effective partnerships and alliances; the need to exploit information technology to increase our efficiencies; and the need to create an enabling environment for the emergence of entrepreneurial spirit.

In the light of these imperatives, the Government of Saint Lucia has, over the past two and a half years, engaged in a process of re-engineering its agricultural sector in order to make it more responsive to the dynamics of the external environment.

As you are aware, the banana industry has, for a number of years, been the mainstay of the economy of our 238 square-mile island. Not only does this industry account for 59 percent of our domestic exports, and these exports account for 5 percent of our GDP, but also we have estimated that approximately 30 000 persons, or 20 percent of our population, depend on the banana industry for their economic survival.

Recently, however, our industry has been unsettled by changes in the global trading environment. Therefore, in order to respond to these changes, the Government of Saint Lucia has embarked on a complete restructuring of its banana industry. This restructuring has seen the complete privatization of the industry, thereby requiring that it operate under fully commercial lines, totally devoid of the political interference that has traditionally plagued the industry. In Saint Lucia, our banana farmers operate in an open, equal opportunity environment, in which they are expected to make their own decisions and determine their own commercial fate. This is a manifestation of the philosophy of our Government, that our farmers must be given complete

control of their destiny, in much the same way that we give this deserved freedom to stakeholders in all of the other economic sectors.

We believe that, with these changes, our industry is well-placed to compete favourably in the global environment. However, we ask that our international partners take cognizance of the fact that, like all industries going through a period of transition, there is a need for careful and delicate management of this transition, to allow the industry to metamorphose into a strong, self-sufficient organism.

We recognize, however, that so heavy a dependence on an export crop is not in the best interests of our economy. This is why we have embarked on an integrated agricultural diversification programme that seeks to promote market-driven, environmentally-sustainable production.

The most critical element of our diversification programme is our farmers. In order to achieve sustainable growth and development in the agricultural sector, we must train and empower our farmers. Consequently, we have placed institutional capacity-building among our farmer organizations high on our list of priorities.

Additionally, with the kind assistance of FAO, we have embarked on a project for the strengthening and streamlining of extension service delivery. We have endeavoured also to establish greater linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors. The growing tourism and hospitality sector represents a captive market for agricultural commodities. These initiatives, together with ongoing projects aimed at increasing the access to credit for investment, have allowed us to begin the transformation of the agricultural sector.

In the area of fisheries, we realize that, worldwide, our marine resources are under tremendous pressure. Consequently, we have vigorously promoted the concept of sustainable use of our fisheries resource. Our numerous consultations with our fishers, and our establishment of protected marine reserves and marine management areas have ensured that we will have a viable fisheries industry for many more years to come. I am sure you will agree, Mr Chairman, that to be without a viable fisheries industry in an island whose shores are routinely washed by the warm inviting waters of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean would be an unpardonable sin.

In the area of forestry, we have sought to institutionalize co-management of our forested areas and our watersheds. The establishment of community-based action groups has significantly improved the protection and preservation of these critical water sources. There is much that we have started and achieved, but there is even more that needs to be done. While we restructure our agricultural sector to make it more commercially-competitive, we must simultaneously attend to the need for the socio-economic transformation of the rural communities that are most adversely affected by this sometimes painful modernization process.

Saint Lucia is extremely thankful for the invaluable support that has been provided by FAO in myriad areas related to agriculture and rural development. FAO's assistance via its *Telefood* Programme has been particularly helpful to our small farmer associations. We are confident that, with the continued support from FAO and greater sensitivity to the needs and concerns of Small-Island Developing States like ours, we will be able to address whatever challenges may present themselves in the Third Millennium.

On behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, I thank you for this opportunity to address this Thirtieth Session of the Conference, and we look forward to continued cooperation between the Government of Saint Lucia and FAO for the advancement of the cause of our rural people. The Government of Saint Lucia wishes Dr Jacques Diouf and his team at FAO a productive team of office and pledge our full support for the work of FAO.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Cette Trentième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, la dernière de ce Millénaire, est à inscrire en lettres d'or dans les annales de cette prestigieuse Organisation.

La globalisation aidant, elle sera à n'en pas douter, un point de départ d'une nouvelle ère de partenariat et de solidarité où les égoïsmes nationaux devront céder le pas à une lutte commune contre l'exclusion, la pauvreté, la misère et la faim dans le monde.

Les performances réalisées au cours de ces dernières années sont si encourageantes que nous venons renouveler massivement notre confiance au Directeur général de la FAO que je félicite au passage, ainsi que sa compétente et dynamique équipe.

Monsieur le Président, votre brillante élection m'offre l'occasion de vous adresser mes vives félicitations ainsi que les Membres du Bureau. Soyez persuadé que le Sénégal sera toujours à vos côtés pour vous aider dans votre difficile mission.

Le Sénégal, dont l'économie est fortement tributaire de l'agriculture, place ce secteur, au sens large du terme, au centre de sa politique de développement économique et social. C'est pourquoi l'année 1997 a été consacrée par le Chef de l'État "année de la relance du secteur agricole".

Aussi le Gouvernement du Sénégal a-t-il décidé de finaliser son Programme agricole visant entre autres à:

- faciliter l'accès des producteurs aux facteurs de production grâce à un système de crédit à la portée des ruraux à travers des structures d'emprunt, de services et autres fournisseurs d'intrants;
- restaurer la fertilité des sols par le phosphatage de fond;
- mettre en œuvre un important volet de lutte phytosanitaire;
- développer l'élevage au moyen d'une lutte zoosanitaire et d'une amélioration de l'alimentation et de la production laitière.

L'accès au crédit est désormais soumis à des conditions allégées avec un taux d'intérêt relativement bas et une durée de remboursement plus souple, assortie en cas de nécessité, de possibles moratoires tenant compte des situations particulières des débiteurs concernés.

Le capital global des semences et des engrais est maîtrisé et bien réparti.Les mesures incitatives en matière fiscale appliquées au matériel agricole et d'élevage permettront une forte baisse du prix dudit matériel.

En ce qui concerne la restauration de la fertilité des sols, considérée comme un investissement structurant à la charge de l'État, elle concerne la quasi totalité des communautés rurales.

Enfin, le Gouvernement du Sénégal se félicitant des travaux du *Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire* initié par la FAO a décidé, en raison de son succès d'y contribuer avec ses propres ressources, jusqu'à concurrence de deux milliards de Francs c.f.a. Nous rendons hommage à la FAO et à certains Pays Members dont notamment le Vietnam, l'Italie, la France, le Maroc et l'Egypte, pour ne citer que ceux-là, pour leur précieux appui à cet important *Programme spécial*.

La vallée du fleuve Sénégal, la basse Casamance, la moyenne Casamance, le Sénégal oriental et d'autres régions ont pu ainsi bénéficier de petits projets ruraux adaptés au milieu et à moindres coûts.

Sur une plus large échelle, les objectifs ici visés, concernent l'intensification et la sécurisation de la production agricole, par une gestion hydrogéologique plus rationnelle des infrastructures et équipements, ainsi que le développement d'innovations technologiques fiables, peu onéreuses et sans incidence néfaste sur l'environnement.

Toutes ces initiatives, appuyées par la FAO et la Communauté internationale, sont complétées par un Programme d'ajustement sectoriel agricole ayant pour objectifs:

- une croissance agricole soutenue;
- une amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire;
- une meilleure gestion des ressources naturelles;
- la sécurisation foncière;

- la création d'emplois et l'accroissement des revenus en milieu rural; et
- la promotion de l'investissement privé et des dépenses publiques.

Dans ce but, les mesures suivantes ont été prises:

- la libéralisation des prix et du commerce des produits agricoles;
- la privatisation de la production;
- la transformation et la commercialisation des produits agricoles;
- le désengagement de l'État au profit du secteur privé de toutes les activités marchandes, et
- la création d'un cadre incitatif pour l'émergence du secteur privé.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO est par excellence un Centre que nous devons appuyer de toutes nos forces, et nous en avons les capacités et l'expertise pour aider les centaines de millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants qui comptent énormément sur notre solidarité.

Aujourd'hui, après avoir ratifié le premier bilan du Directeur général, nous lui renouvelons notre confiance et nous ne devons ménager aucun effort pour lui apporter notre plein appui. À notre avis, le budget doit être adopté à un niveau égal à la Croissance Réelle zéro. Le *Cadre stratégique* devrait également être adopté car il répond à une approche visionnaire, claire et cohérente. Pour ce qui est de la collaboration des institutions à Rome, nous pensons qu'elle devrait être renforcée sans que cela nous amène à adopter des réformes institutionnelles ni à une fusion d'organes directeurs, l'objectif étant un décret d'une synergie dans leurs actions et programmes, sans préjudice aucun des spécificités des unes et des autres.

Je vais conclure en nourrissant l'espoir que nos travaux s'inspirent d'une philosophie bien sénégalaise voulant que l'homme soit au début, au centre et à la fin du développement économique et social, tant au plan national qu'à celui international.

Que l'audience papale à laquelle nous assisterons aujourd'hui nous offre, grâce à la sagesse légendaire de sa Sainteté le Pape, l'opportunité de faire un examen approfondi de nos consciences et éclaire notre chemin vers ce monde de rêve où tous les êtres humains connaîtront respect, dignité et joie de vivre dans le travail et l'effort.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je tiens à remercier le délégué de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise CPLP, qui a décidé, pour nous permettre de gagner du temps, de remettre au Secrétariat son rapport, et nous lui assurons que ce rapport sera repris intégralement dans le document de notre Conférence. Nous terminons avec le dernier intervenant, le délégué du Conseil international des femmes, Mme Lydie Rossini van Hissenhoven, Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO.

Mme Lydie ROSSINI van HISSENHOVEN (Observatrice du Conseil international des femmes)

C'est un privilège et un honneur pour moi de pouvoir prendre la parole ici, à la Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO, au nom du Conseil International des Femmes (CIF).

Fondé en 1888 à Washington DC et doté du Statut consultatif (Catégorie I) auprès de l'ECOSOC, le CIF est conscient du lien étroit existant entre le développement durable, la sécurité alimentaire, la pauvreté et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Comme l'a mentionné l'Ambassadeur Paolo Fulci, en juillet, à Genève, lors du Summit ONU, "Il ne peut y avoir de paix sans développement ni développement sans paix".

A l'aube du Troisième Millénaire, nous poursuivons notre engagement et diffusons au sein de nos 78 Conseils nationaux affiliés de par le monde, tant dans les pays développés qu'en voie de développement, notre œuvre de divulgation, de formation et d'information.

Nous suivons de près les Résolutions et Plans d'action adoptés lors d'importantes Conférences internationales et Sommets mondiaux auxquels nous participons, ainsi que la CEDAW (Convention sur l'élimination de toutes formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes) et nos Commissions permanentes soutiennent leurs directives afin de les faire appliquer sur le terrain.

La Commission permanente du développement durable étudie les sources de financement mises à la disposition des femmes pour le développement de petites entreprises. Elle étudie l'utilisation et le recyclage de toutes sortes d'emballages, de vieux récipients vides, afin de les réutiliser: ceci pour contribuer à la préservation de l'environnement et pour obtenir ainsi une source de revenus pour les femmes. Elle aide les femmes à acquérir les aptitudes à développer des projets générateurs de revenus afin d'employer d'autres femmes dans de tels projets. La Commission met en place des programmes éducatifs pour les femmes et les jeunes filles sur les procédés de développement et les technologies appropriés amis de l'environnement.

La Commission permanente "Bien-être général" demande aux conseils nationaux de travailler sur les thèmes de la Commission du statut de la femme aux Nations-Unies, tels que:

- Femme et santé, y compris la nutrition: droit à une nourriture adéquate, accessible, saine, (non polluée par des pesticides, des substances toxiques, et de l'eau non potable).
- Femmes et environnement, Femmes et économie, Droits humains des femmes, y compris droit au logement afin d'assurer un habitat humain durable pour les futures générations.

La Commission "Communication" s'occupe du degré d'alphabétisation et de l'acquisition du pouvoir des femmes ainsi que de l'éducation à la tolérance et aux droits de l'homme.

La Commission "Questions sociales" devra étudier les questions sociales qui affectent le bien-être de chacun, l'impact de la pauvreté, des bas revenus, du chômage, etc. et agir afin de construire une société équitable, incluant les gens de tout âge et de toutes cultures et s'occuper des problèmes de l'enfant dans la famille, de la jeunesse, du vieillissement et de la migration.

La Commission "Condition de la Femme" devra étudier les législations des propres pays, afin d'améliorer la condition des femmes dans tous les domaines de leur vie, qu'ils soient économiques, sociaux, législatifs ou éducatifs.

Comme vous pourrez le constater, notre Plan d'action 1997-2000 est ambitieux. Toutefois, le CIF se préoccupe et est particulièrement soucieux des données négatives dans bien des pays, données exposées dans le document C 99/2, aux paragraphes 18 à 23 et mentionnant "forte aggravation de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire dans plusieurs pays touchés par la crise"; ainsi que le paragraphe 40 qui indique entre autres "que l'état nutritionnel des populations s'aggrave dans les districts à économie pastorale et agro-pastorale".

Lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, nous nous sommes engagées à contribuer à réduire de moitié le nombre de sous-alimentés d'ici l'an 2015 au plus tard; nous espérons que tout sera mis en œuvre de la part des Gouvernements et de tous les Membres signataires du Plan d'action pour que cela devienne une réalité et puisse même dépasser les espérances et les attentes des couches sociales les plus vulnérables et défavorisées. Nous sommes prêtes à collaborer avec la FAO pour relever le défi.

Marcolino MOCO (Secrétaire Executif, Communauté des pays de langue portugaise)

Récemment, le Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, Monsieur Jacques Diouf et le Secrétaire exécutif de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise (CPLP), Monsieur Marcolino Moco, ont décidé d'établir des relations formelles entre les deux organisations qui leur permettent de participer en qualité d'observateurs et sur invitation, aux conférences et réunions organisées respectivement par l'une ou l'autre organisation sur des questions d'intérêt commun.

Le Secrétaire exécutif de la CPLP nous a sollicité de le représenter à la Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO. C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de lire le message de Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif de la CPLP, Monsieur Marcolino Moço.

"Ce fut avec beaucoup d'honneur et satisfaction que la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise a accueilli l'invitation de Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO pour participer aux travaux de la Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Permettez-moi de m'associer aux nombreuses délégations qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de ce forum. Ma satisfaction est extensive à Messieurs les Vice-Présidents et à tous les Membres du Bureau.

Je profite aussi de cette opportunité pour adresser mes sincères félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO pour la période 2000-2005. Je suis convaincu que sa présence à la tête de cette organisation permettra, certainement, la consolidation des relations de coopération existantes entre la CPLP et la FAO.

Tous les pays qui composent la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise sont Membres de la FAO. Dans tous ces pays, les secteurs de l'agriculture et de la pêche ont un poids significatif dans leurs économies respectives. C'est pourquoi, la CPLP confère à la FAO une importance particulière.

En effet, la FAO, étant un organisme de développement, un centre d'information, un centre par excellence pour les questions d'alimentation, d'agriculture, de pêches et de forêts, a toujours fourni une contribution importante aux États Membres de la CPLP, et en particulier, aux six pays en développement de l'Organisation susmentionnée, dans la définition des priorités de ces États dans lesdits domaines, dans la question d'environnement, dans l'évaluation de la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, dans l'assistance à la formation universitaire et à la recherche dans l'appui à la formation à tous les niveaux dans les trois secteurs clé ci-dessus, en somme, dans le processus de développement économique des pays de la CPLP.

Tous les programmes d'assistance technique menés par la FAO sur le terrain se sont révélés positifs et d'un grand intérêt. Par conséquent, nous osons espérer que les pays de la CPLD, continueront à bénéficier dans l'avenir de cet important service de la FAO.

Un des éléments qui lient les pays de la CPLP entre eux, est comme l'indique le nom de l'Organisation, la langue portugaise. Sept pays parlent le portugais au niveau mondial et réunissent une population d'environ 200 millions de personnes.

Nous reconnaissons, Monsieur le Président, les difficultés en termes linguistiques auxquelles se trouvent souvent confrontés les représentants de notre Organisation ou les ressortissants de ces Pays Membres au sein des Organisations du Système des Nations-Unies, pour participer aux débats, en utilisant une langue qui n'est pas la leur, ce qui provoque souvent des situations d'inégalité. Nous comprenons ce que représente l'adoption d'une nouvelle langue de travail pour la FAO, en termes techniques et financiers. Cependant, nous aimerions exprimer le désir que dans l'avenir, la langue portugaise puisse devenir une de ses langues de travail.

Toutefois, dans un premier temps, nous souhaiterions que les documents les plus importants de la FAO soient traduits en portugais et que cette langue soit retenue également comme langue de travail lors de l'organisation des ateliers et séminaires où participent les pays de la CPLP.

Nous aimerions réitérer les remerciements de la Communauté des pays de langue portugaise pour l'opportunité qui nous a été accordée de participer à cette Conférence, étant confiant que les conclusions qui en surgiront, auront un impact positif sur le développement futur de la FAO et de nos pays."[5]

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5 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme nous n'avons pas suffisamment de temps pour examiner les deux rapports, nous allons donc reporter l'examen des deux rapports à la session plénière de cet après-midi et avant de lever la séance, je donne la parole au Secrétaire général.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I just want to make some announcements that I would ask you to kindly note. The General Committee will be meeting at 15.00 hours instead of 14.30. The Plenary will be meeting at 15.30 hours, instead of 15.00 hours, and you are kindly requested, as you leave now, to go directly to the buses that are waiting to take you to the Vatican. So please, you are requested to go directly there, this is in front of Building A, at the entrance of Building A, the main entrance of the Organization. I repeat, you are kindly requested to go directly to the buses which are waiting so that you can be transported to the Audience with His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that this afternoon's Plenary, as it has been indicated in the Journal of the Conference, will adjourn to permit His Excellency Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of Brazil, to address the Conference.

The meeting rose at 10.40 hours.
La séance est levée à 10 h 40.
Se levanta la sesión a las 10.40 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

18 November 1999

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.55 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª primera sesión plenaria a las 15.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Adoption of the Second Report of the Credentials Committee (C 99/LIM/27)
Adoption du deuxième Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 99/LIM/27)
Aprobación del segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 99/LIM/27)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la Onzième séance plénière et nous passons au Point 16 de l'Ordre du jour. Je voudrais vous soumettre le Second rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (document C 99/LIM/27) dont chaque délégation a reçu copie du document C 99/LIM/27.

Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I just wish to draw the attention of the honourable delegations that there is a slight amendment to the Second Report of the Credentials Committee which they have received, namely document C 99/LIM/27, in that the List A, the list of Member Nations which have deposited valid credentials, is now 163; it has gone from 162 to 163 with the inclusion in List A of Bhutan. And that List B, as a consequence, the List of Members whose credentials were considered merely as information on their delegations, now totals eight, and Bhutan is to be crossed out of List B.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie.

Les rectifications des chiffres sont: 163 au lieu de 162, et 8 au lieu de 9.

S'il n'y a pas d'observations et après éclaircissements donnés, nous considérons le Rapport adopté.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Adoption of the Fifth Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/25)
Adoption du cinquième Rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/25)
Aprobación del quinto informe del Comité General (C99/LIM/25)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons à l'examen du Cinquième rapport du bureau qui se réfère au document C 99/LIM/25. Je demanderai également au Secrétaire général d'apporter ses commentaires ou précisions sur ce document.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would just like to bring to the attention of the Plenary that there are some corrections, some amendments, to document C 99/LIM/25 which you have before you, namely the Fifth Report of the General Committee. The amendments are to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I would first like to begin with paragraph 4. Instead of 14 Member Nations, there are now 12 Member Nations and we strike out Armenia and Dominican Republic so that it now reads 12 Member Nations: Azerbaijan, Comoros, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Guinea, Grenada, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Yugoslavia had not advised that payment was in process, nor requested restoration of Voting Rights. That is the amendment to paragraph 4, so that as I said it is now 12 Member Nations instead of 14.

With regard to paragraph 5, instead of 20 Member Nations, it now reads 22 Member Nations, and I will continue because there are other amendments to this paragraph and will read it slowly as amended.

Paragraph 5, 22 Member Nations had requested special consideration under Article 34 of the Constitution, and permission to vote. The majority of the General Committee, after an examination of the requests, recommends that the Conference restore Voting Rights to the Member Nations concerned: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lithuania, Moldova, Nicaragua, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Yemen.

Some members of the General Committee disagreed with this recommendation since it is their general principle that Voting Rights should be reinstated only for countries having requested and agreed to an instalment plan for repayment of their arrears. This ends the amended paragraph 5.

And, if I can continue, I now come to paragraph 6 which has also been amended and it now reads, "Some members of the Committee objected to restoring Voting Rights to Iraq because this would be inconsistent with actions taken at UN Headquarters in New York".

Those are the amendments to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the Report. The remainder of the Report remains as it is.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie M. le Secrétaire général du complément d'information qu'il vient d'apporter au rapport soumis à la Conférence.

S'il n'y a pas d'observation, nous considérons le Cinquième rapport du bureau, après ces amendements, approuvé.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Je donne la parole à la Suède.

Comme vous le savez , S.E. M. le Président du Brésil nous honore de sa présence maintenant. Nous allons l'accueillir et suspendre notre séance.

Michael ODEVALL (Sweden)

I am sorry for coming in at this stage, but I did raise my flag before we entered this point. I hope the mike is functioning. Sweden is a member of the General Committee, and I just first of all want to apologize to the Conference that we did not manage to have all the thoughts in the papers which were circulated here today. I have no explanation why some amendments were not put into the paper; but that was just an apology from Sweden as a member of the General Committee and elected by this august body.

My second point is that some decisions in the General Committee have been taken by majority vote. We have been discussing the issue of losing Voting Rights and that is a very serious business. When countries are in arrears for more than two years they lose their Voting Rights. The Constitution of this Organization is very clear on that point. It is also clear on the point that there is one way of exception – circumstances without the control of a Member Nation. This is a very delicate issue to discuss, because what are occurrences outside a country's control? But I just want to underline that, in the General Committee, the majority has all the way decided to restore the Voting Rights. This is for me a bit of a concern because in difficult cases I can understand that, but in all cases I do not understand it, and I am just mentioning this because my country is one of the strongest supporters of the UN and the UN Organizations, and I think it is

very important that Member Nations, when they discuss constitutional matters of an organization, really discuss and look at advantages and disadvantages on a certain issue. It might be difficult for me and my Government to defend the UN and the UN System if we are always overruled by majority without really a deep discussion. I just wanted to make this point.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Dans les amendements qui ont fait l'objet d'un complément apporté par le Secrétaire général, nous avons tenu compte de l'opinion de la minorité, dont nous respectons les avis, et je considère ce rapport approuvé.

La parole aux Pays-Bas.

Jan BERTELING (Netherlands)

I will be very brief. I agree that it has been taken care of as a minority position, nevertheless the concerns that Sweden has just expressed are also ours. We are very large supporters of the UN System and of FAO, and we feel that this is very difficult to defend. We have noticed it, we wanted to put it also on record here in Plenary because we consider it as a dangerous trend, and that is why I and my delegation completely support the statement made just now by the delegation of Sweden.

Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Estonia)

I should just like to express Estonia's support for the position taken by Sweden and voiced by the Netherlands.

Pedro ZWAHLEN (Switzerland)

Switzerland fully supports the intervention of Sweden and the Netherlands, and Estonia of course.

Jörn BREIßERT (Germany)

Germany shares the opinion of the delegations that have just spoken and finds that the resolution in this present form, that the report in this present form is not found agreeable by us.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italy)

Just to support the previous speakers.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

Just to express our agreement with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

Pause
Pause
Pausa

Statement by His Excellency Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federal Republic of Brazil
Allocution de Son Excellence Monsieur Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Président de la République fédérative du Brésil
Discurso del Excmo. Sr. Don Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Presidente de la República Federativa del Brasil

LE PRÉSIDENT (Langue originale arabe)

Notre Conférence à l'honneur d'accueillir aujourd'hui Son Excellence M. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Président de la République fédérale du Brésil. En votre nom à tous je tiens à lui exprimer toutes nos sincères expressions de bienvenue. Son Excellence M. Cardoso va nous présenter son discours dans lequel nous pourrons comprendre quelles sont ses pensées et ses

préoccupations concernant les questions posées à notre session. Sans plus tarder, je donne la parole à M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de notre Organisation.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is a great honour and a pleasure for me to introduce His Excellency Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federal Republic of Brazil. An eminent social scientist who has taught in the most prestigious universities of Europe and the Americas. President Cardoso has taken on his shoulders the burden of leading his great country — one of the world's largest agricultural producers — through a difficult, but successful process of modernization. One of the fathers of the revival of Brazil's democracy for which he struggled in difficult conditions for many years, Fernando Henrique Cardoso has continued his commitment with the people of his country by introducing profound reforms while seeking to reinforce the bonds of solidarity among the different sectors of the Brazilian society, and while assigning a high priority to poverty alleviation and food security.

Excellency, on behalf on the Organization, it is a privilege for me to welcome you to this Plenary Hall, which, many years ago, witnessed the presence of another eminent Brazilian who played an important role in raising the world's awareness of the problems of hunger — Josué de Castro.

Fernando Henrique CARDOSO (Président de la République fédérative du Brésil)

M. le Directeur général, votre réélection a été la preuve que votre Administration compte sur la confiance de l'écrasante majorité de cette Organisation. Cela cependant, comme vous l'avez d'ailleurs bien reconnu dans votre premier discours après les élections, a augmenté dans la même proportion le poids des responsabilités posé sur vos épaules. Le Brésil a été avec vous dès les premières minutes. Il est prêt à travailler à vos côtés de façon constructive et attentive, mais le Brésil M. le Directeur général n'est pas seul dans ses propos. Il sera accompagné des autres pays latino-américains qui, démocratiquement, reconnaissent et accueillent les résultats de ces dernières élections. Comme vous le savez bien, M. le Directeur général, nous avons, pays de l'Amérique latine, un très fort trait d'union avec pratiquement tous les peuples du monde. De l'Europe, nous avons hérité la base culturelle et notre formation politique et sociale. De l'Afrique, nous avons acquis les renforcements culturels et ethniques dont nous avions besoin pour trouver notre identité et de l'Extrême-Orient, l'apport précieux pour l'amélioration de nos forces de production. Ici, dans cette condition multi-culturelle et multi-raciale, qui la rend unique parmi les régions en développement au sein de cette Organisation, et pour cela capable de s'identifier dans ses intérêts avec les autres régions qui composent la géographie politique de la FAO, l'Amérique latine avec les pays des Caraïbes, est prête à coopérer avec vous, avec votre Administration nouvelle et aussi, je l'espère, renouvelée.

(continúa en español)

Si me permite ahora voy a hablar un poco en castellano por mis compatriotas latinoamericanos.

Este es un momento de renovación de la confianza en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Ha llegado la hora de duplicar nuestros esfuerzos para que la FAO cumpla con su elevada responsabilidad de encaminar soluciones para los problemas del hambre y de la desnutrición, las cuestiones más urgentes de la agenda contemporánea.

El cometido no podría ser más audaz. La Organización tiene ante sí la exigencia de velar por la ejecución del Plan de Acción definido en la Cumbre de la Alimentación de 1996. A este foro le cabe acompañar la consecuencia del objetivo de reducir a la mitad la desnutrición en el mundo dentro del año 2015.

Deseo reiterar el firme compromiso de Brasil con la FAO e insisto en informar personalmente que Brasil está cumpliendo con su parte para el logro del Plan adoptado en 1996. Quiero asimismo referirme a los beneficios sociales resultantes de la estabilización de la economía brasileña y comentar la orientación distributiva que hemos buscado imprimir a la acción del

Estado, a favor de los más pobres. Deseo compartir con los presentes la experiencia brasileña en la lucha contra el hambre y la miseria, caracterizada por la concertación del Estado con la sociedad. Deseo igualmente hacer oír, en este elevado foro, la preocupación de Brasil por las asimetrías que seguimos observando en las relaciones entre los Estados, sobre todo, en el ámbito del comercio internacional que afecta directamente al bienestar de nuestras poblaciones.

Con satisfacción, vengo a transmitirles el testimonio de una nación que estabilizó su economía sin relegar el progreso social a un segundo plano. Si el plan de estabilización de la moneda brasileña trajo beneficios para el país en su totalidad, que ahora goza de un crecimiento sostenible, los principales beneficiarios fueron los más pobres. Eliminamos el perverso gravamen inflacionista. El Plan Real permitió que más de 10 millones de brasileños superaran el umbral de la pobreza absoluta. Entre 1993 y 1995, el nivel de pobreza bajó del 30,7 por ciento al 20,5 por ciento en una población de 160 millones de habitantes. Contamos todavía con el inaceptable número de 30 millones de indigentes, pero ha sido posible rescatar de esa condición a millones de familias, en un esfuerzo cotidiano, sin tregua, que continúa y por el cual me seguiré empeñando hasta el último día de mi Gobierno.

La lucha contra la pobreza exige un Estado nuevo, virtuoso, donde el equilibrio presupuestario no sea un fin en sí mismo, sino un instrumento para la promoción del bienestar social. Es lo que hemos intentando y continuaremos haciendo en Brasil. La preocupación por un gasto virtuoso del dinero público es el máximo fundamento de las políticas sociales, que adoptaron, como criterio básico, contemplar los intereses de los menos favorecidos, tanto en el campo como en la ciudad.

Quisiera agregar que, en el caso de ciertos países como Brasil, no se trata solamente de la cantidad de recursos disponibles sino de cómo éstos son utilizados. En nuestro caso, alrededor del 20 por ciento del Producto Interno Bruto (PIB), se destina a gastos sociales, porcentaje elevado comparable con el de los países que más gastan. Sin embargo, sería dudoso creer que esos recursos llegan efectivamente a los que más lo necesitan. Hay siempre problemas de burocracia y de intereses arraigados en la distribución de los recursos que no necesariamente son los intereses de los más pobres. En el mundo contemporáneo hay que mirar cada vez más, no sólo la cantidad del gasto público, sino su calidad y destinación. Y ése será quizás el problema político más difícil a enfrentar porque, frecuentemente, cuando se intenta dirigir los recursos a los más pobres, otros hablan por ellos para impedir que lleguen a los que efectivamente lo necesitan.

Pese a todo, creo que estamos haciendo un esfuerzo válido, construyendo un nuevo mundo rural con el que tanto soñó Josué de Castro, a quien el Sr. Director General hizo referencia, y que fue el tercer Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO y el máximo estudioso brasileño de los problemas relacionados con el hambre.

En este esfuerzo, si observamos el Plan de Reforma Agraria, y tengo la alegría de tener conmigo a nuestro Ministro de la Reforma Agraria, vemos que hemos asentado 280 mil familias en 4 años, o sea, un millón y medio de personas aproximadamente, cifra que supera el total alcanzado en los 30 años anteriores.

La superficie expropiada para la reforma agraria de 1995 a 1998 fue de 7 millones de hectáreas, un área equivalente al territorio de Irlanda o a dos países como Bélgica. La dimensión de esos números habla por sí sola y revela la magnitud de la tarea de democratizar el acceso a la tierra en Brasil, cometido que va más allá del trabajo de asentamiento de poblaciones, por más crucial que éste sea.

Con dicho criterio, se puso en marcha el Programa Nacional de Fortalecimiento de la Agricultura Familiar (PRONAF), el cual dota a centenas de miles de familias agrícolas, muchas de las cuales asentadas recientemente, de condiciones de acceso al crédito, asistencia técnica e infraestructuras necesarias para el progreso sostenible.

Cada año se destinan unos 1 500 millones de dólares EE.UU. al PRONAF, que fomenta la agricultura familiar, orientando los agricultores en la selección de cultivos y técnicas saludables sin dañar el medio ambiente.

Promover el bienestar en el campo requiere una atención especial hacia los grupos más vulnerables, tales como los ancianos, los niños y las mujeres. Por tal razón, nuestro Gobierno se ha comprometido en mejorar el sistema de seguridad social rural que constituye un auténtico programa de garantía de ingresos mínimos, puesto que los beneficios son otorgados sin el pago de las contrapartidas correspondientes. Las pensiones rurales hoy incluyen a más de 6 millones de habitantes; el gasto para el pago de esta renta mínima corresponde entre 4,5 y 5 mil millones de dólares EE.UU. cada año.

La misma prioridad se aplica a los niños. Mi Gobierno se ha comprometido a erradicar el penoso y degradante trabajo de los menores de 14 años y los resultados ya son tangibles: hemos logrado alejar a más de 130 mil menores de los trabajos de alto riesgo.

Para este logro fue determinante el instrumento de la beca escolar, que asegura a las familias de bajos ingresos, los recursos para mantener sus hijos en la escuela. Estamos alcanzando el objetivo de garantizar la escolaridad a todos los niños del país. El 96 por ciento de los niños han sido inscritos en el ciclo básico de enseñanza. Tengo el compromiso (formalmente establecido en el Plan de Desarrollo) de erradicar la infancia de los trabajos penosos y degradantes para lo cual hemos destinado 500 millones de dólares en los próximos 3 años, lo que permitirá recuperar a los 300 mil niños que aún desempeñan trabajos inadecuados. Y como el sistema está basado en asegurar la renta a la familia y un puesto en la escuela para el niño, es necesario realizar un gran esfuerzo en la mejora del sistema escolástico para que haya suficientes centros que reciban estos futuros escolares.

La experiencia brasileña destaca la importancia de la ciudadanía como garantía de progreso social. Cuanto mayor sea la capacidad de organización de la sociedad, mejor y más eficaz será su lucha contra la pobreza. El mejor ejemplo es el Programa de Comunidad Solidaria, cuya línea directriz es la asociación entre el Gobierno y los sectores organizados de la sociedad. El mismo cuenta con la participación de las comunidades locales, tanto para su ejecución como en el control social de sus proyectos, como sucede en los 1 360 municipios en que actúa, todos ubicados en regiones pobres del país, con resultados alentadores.

Se han reducido los índices de mortalidad infantil del 43 por 1000 al 34 por 1000 y de hospitalización de niños de hasta 5 años de edad. Son cifras aún elevadas, aunque existe una fuerte diferencia regional, o sea, en algunas regiones se ha llegado a niveles aceptables, mientras que en otras el trabajo es aún arduo para obtener la asistencia necesaria. Y reitero que los medios para obtener este desafío son tan importantes como las cifras y el dinero destinado. Insisto en la relación directa con la sociedad y en los grupos locales de control del gasto público. No solamente se requiere una redistribución de las funciones del Estado central en la dirección de los grupos locales y de las provincias, sino también la responsabilidad de las alcaldías y los administradores locales en la asignación de los recursos y que además se creen grupos compuestos por representantes de la comunidad, de los partidos de oposición, de la Iglesia Católica, Evangélica y otras, del sindicato local, para que se asegure un proceso transparente de transferencia de recursos. La reorganización de esta burocracia es muy difícil porque involucra un quiebre en el sistema anterior de un estado basado en el clientelismo, en el patrimonio y en el hecho de que los grupos políticos se adueñaban, -como todavía lo hacen en ciertas áreas- de los recursos públicos para su distribución. En ciertos casos, como las escuelas, dirigimos los fondos directamente a sus directores, para que junto con los padres de familia, destinen apropiadamente esos recursos.

La lucha contra la pobreza ha dejado de ser monopolio del Estado. Se trata cada vez más de un compromiso de la sociedad brasileña con lo que se ha dado en llamar la modernidad, lo que significa, la mejoría del bienestar de la población. El trabajo de Herbert de Souza ("Betiño"),

reconocido sociólogo brasileño, vocero de esa alianza estado-sociedad, no fue en vano. Aunque sigamos conviviendo con la miseria de millones, el pueblo ya no la acepta, y exige que se traduzca en políticas concretas este sentimiento de indignación, que se extiende a todo el país, más allá de cualquier procedencia partidaria o ideológica.

Debemos sacar provecho de la tecnología moderna que reduce las distancias y que permite que cualquier ciudadano pueda mirar la televisión, escuchar la radio y saber lo que ocurre no solamente en su país, sino que conozca también otros modos de vivir más prósperos, situaciones de vida más favorables y en consecuencia, incitar la sociedad a mejorar. Para el Gobierno no siempre esta situación es placentera pero es positivo para el país en su conjunto. Y esta casi angustia, esta casi permanente aflicción que hay en la gente, y que se traduce en presión, no puede ser contestada por los Gobiernos como si fuera inaceptable, sino que al contrario, aún sabiendo que la acción, por más inmediata que sea, será siempre menor a las expectativas. Éste quizá será el incentivo más importante para que la modernización no sea sólo una palabra, sino efectivamente una transformación de la sociedad.

Concluyo volviendo mi mirada al mundo y recordando que la lucha contra la pobreza no debe combatirse solamente dentro de nuestras fronteras, puesto que está más sujeta que nunca a factores condicionantes internacionales. Es ilusorio pensar en estrategias duraderas de transformación social que no contemplen reivindicaciones en el plano exterior. Países como Brasil no pueden seguir viéndose privados de los recursos indispensables para el bienestar de sus pueblos a causa de la irracionalidad de los mercados. Tampoco aceptamos que siga quedando vedado nuestro acceso a los mercados agrícolas y de productos manufacturados.

Brasil se ha integrado plenamente en la economía internacional. Se siente, por consecuencia, autorizado para reclamar que se disuelvan los reductos autárquicos, proteccionistas, sobre todo los que parecen afirmarse en los países de mayor poder relativo económico. Con esta perspectiva, y con esta expectativa, participaremos en la ronda del Milenio, expectativa que comparte el Gobierno y el pueblo brasileño.

Expreso mi agradecimiento por la acogida que he recibido en este foro al que se le ha confiado una misión histórica. La causa que defiende es primordial para este final de Milenio: rescatar la dignidad y la esperanza de millones de seres humanos amenazados por el azote del hambre.

La misión de la FAO, estén seguros, tiene una fuerte resonancia en Brasil, con la plena participación del Gobierno y de la sociedad civil. Mi presencia aquí, hoy, comprueba la importancia que atribuimos a la Organización y a sus múltiples compromisos.

(continue en français)

Monsieur le Directeur général, je vais encore une fois vous dire que je suis très heureux d'être là et vous féliciter à nouveau et vous assurer de la confiance que le Gouvernement et le Peuple du Brésil déposent sur vos épaules, aussi que sur les résultats de cette Conférence. Nous sommes pleinement conscients des difficultés auxquelles nous aurons à faire face dans les prochaines années, mais nous sommes aussi confiants que nous serons capables, ensemble, d'affronter ces difficultés, pour finalement rendre, ce que l'on dit assez souvent: "le monde plus solidaire", une vérité.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT (Langue originale arabe)

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, Au nom de nous tous ici nous voudrions vous remercier pour cette déclaration d'une très grande utilité, que vous nous avez présentée ici à notre Conférence générale. Vous avez, M. le Président, vraiment satisfait ce que nous attendions. Vous nous avez fourni des idées très précieuses sur les questions qui nous tiennent à cœur et nous

sommes pleinement conscients et confiants que ces idées seront discutées et examinées par nous tous ici présents, pendant nos débats.

Maintenant je vais donner la parole au Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf. Vous avez la parole Monsieur le Directeur général.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je voudrais remercier très sincèrement le Président Cardoso pour la communication de qualité qu'il nous a faite. Nous avons pu aujourd'hui apprécier de nouveau ses qualités d'orateur et de communicateur. Mais nous avons vu aujourd'hui aussi qu'il incarne une synthèse rare, celle d'un brillant financier, mais aussi celle d'un homme de cœur. Ces éléments sont souvent antithétiques, mais il a réussi à dépasser cette dichotomie pour s'orienter et orienter son pays vers une société d'équilibre. Tout en veillant au respect des équilibres macro-économiques qui sont une condition essentielle de croissance, il a veillé à la prise en compte des facteurs sociaux et les opérations avec *PRONAF (Programa Nacional de Apoyo a la Agricultura Familiar)*, avec *Comunidades Solidaria* sont des exemples de son souci de développement par delà la croissance. Il nous permet donc d'avoir une vision économique mais humaine du progrès. Nous voudrions l'en remercier très sincèrement et je voudrais personnellement lui exprimer toute ma gratitude pour la confiance qu'il m'a accordée, le soutien qu'il m'a apporté, et l'inspiration qu'il me donne pour un second mandat. En plaçant ce second mandat sous de meilleurs auspices en étant le premier Chef d'État à venir ici, au sein de notre Organisation, nous rappeler les raisons et les fondements de notre Organisation, mais aussi que nous sommes à même de gagner la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

Encore une fois, merci Monsieur le Président Cardoso.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons suspendre la séance pendant quelques minutes afin de permettre à Son Excellence le Président du Brésil de prendre congé.

Pause
Pause
Pausa

18. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
18. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
18. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

18.1 Cooperation Agreement between FAO and the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE) (C 99/LIM/17)
18.1 Accord de coopération entre la FAO et l'Organisation intergouvernementale d'information et de coopération pour la commercialisation des produits de la pêche en Afrique (INFOPÊCHE) (C 99/LIM/17)
18.1 Acuerdo de Cooperación entre la FAO y la Organización Intergubernamental de Información y Cooperación para la Comercialización de los Recursos Pesqueros en África (INFOPECHE) (C 99/LIM/17)

18.2 Cooperation Agreement between FAO and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) (C 99/LIM/18)
18.2 Accord de coopération entre la FAO et l'Organisation des pêches du lac Victoria (LVFO) (C 99/LIM/18)
18.2 Acuerdo de Cooperación con la Organización de Pesca del Lago Victoria (OPLV) (C 99/LIM/18)

18.3 Cooperation Agreement between FAO and the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPESCA) (C 99/LIM/19)
18.3 Accord de coopération entre la FAO et le Centre pour les services d'information et d'avis consultatifs sur la commercialisation des produits de la pêche en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes (INFOPESCA) (C 99/LIM/19)
18.3 Acuerdo de Cooperación entre la FAO y el Centro para los Servicios de Información y Asesoramiento sobre la Comercialización de los Recursos Pesqueros en América Latina y el Caribe (INFOPESCA) (C 99/LIM/19)

LE PRÉSIDENT

On reprend donc les travaux. Le Point 16 est reporté à la séance de demain et on passe directement au Point 18: *Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques*, et dans ce point nous avons quatre sous-sections. Il s'agit du premier alinéa, qui est l'*Accord de coopération avec INFOPÊCHE*, qui correspond au document C 99/LIM/17, le deuxième Accord: il s'agit de l'*Accord de coopération avec l'Organisation des pêches du Lac Victoria*, document C 99/LIM/18, et le troisième qui est l'*Accord de coopération entre INFOPESCA*, qui correspond au document C 99/LIM/19. Je donne la parole au Conseil Juridique.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The first three sub-items deal with the confirmation of Cooperation Agreements between the Organization and various other international organizations set up outside the constitutional framework of FAO under agreements deposited with the Director-General. In this connection, Article XIII.1 of the FAO Constitution reads as follows:

"In order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Organization may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation".

All of the three Agreements have already been considered by the CCLM and have been endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session which recommended they should be referred to the Conference for confirmation in accordance with General Rule XXIV.4. The three Cooperation Agreements follow the "Guiding lines regarding relationship between FAO and Intergovernmental Organizations", that is, Part N of the Basic Texts, approved by Conference Resolution 69/59. The three Agreements follow also very much the same lines. I will, therefore, deal with the three Agreements together.

Cooperation Agreement with Infopêche. The first of these Agreements is that under Agenda Item 18.1, the *Cooperation Agreement between FAO and the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE).* This Cooperation Agreement is presented in document C 99/LIM/17 which is an extract from the report of the Hundred and Seventeenth Session of the Council.

Infopêche was initially established as a Trust Fund Project executed by FAO in order to provide fish marketing and information services in Africa. In December 1991, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, adopted the *Agreement for the Establishment of*

the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa. The Agreement came into force on 23 December 1993. At present, thirteen Member Nations are Members of the Organization. At its Fifth Regular Session in March 1998, the Governing Council of Infopêche decided to propose a Cooperation Agreement with FAO with a view to reinforcing existing relations between Infopêche and FAO and to formalize the cooperation between the two Organizations. The focal point for liaison between Infopêche and FAO will be the Fisheries Industry Division and GLOBEFISH at FAO Headquarters, following the present practice.

The Cooperation Agreement, endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session is before the Conference for confirmation.

Do you want me to stop here, or should I go on and deal with the rest of the Agreements? Yes, the rest of the Agreements.

The *Cooperation Agreement with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization*, that is point two of this agenda item, is presented in document C 99/LIM/18.

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization was established by a Convention adopted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Kisumu, Kenya, on 30 June 1994. The Members of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization are Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. At its second Regular Session, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 1998, the Council of Ministers of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization proposed to FAO that a Cooperation Agreement be concluded under Article XIII of the FAO Constitution. The focal point for liaison between FAO and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization will be the Fisheries Policy and Planning Division at FAO Headquarters, in collaboration with the Sub-Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa, following the present practice.

The Cooperation Agreement was endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session and is before the Conference for confirmation. So, too, is the Cooperation Agreement with INFOPESCA, which is in document C 99/LIM/19, which is also an extract from the Report of the Hundred and Seventeenth Session of the Council.

INFOPESCA was initially established as a Trust Fund Project, executed by FAO, in order to provide fish marketing and information services in Latin America. INFOPESCA was established as an independent intergovernmental organization by a Constituent Assembly, held in February 1994, in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the Director-General of FAO is the depository of its Constitution. The Constitution of Infopesca came into force on 18 February 1994. At present, ten Member Nations are Members of the Centre. At its Third Regular Session, held in Rome, in February 1999, the General Assembly of Infopesca decided to propose to the Organization a Cooperation Agreement between FAO and Infopesca, under Article XIII of the FAO Constitution. Article 17, paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Infopesca provides that "INFOPESCA shall seek to establish an agreement with FAO and to build a close working relationship with the FAO Network of Regional Fish Marketing Information and Technical Services". In line with this provision, the General Assembly of INFOPESCA decided, at its Third Regular Session, held in Rome on 11 and 12 February 1999, to propose to FAO a Cooperation Agreement under Article XIII of the FAO Constitution.

The Cooperation Agreement, endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session is before the Conference for confirmation.

These are the three Cooperation Agreements are now before you for confirmation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des délégués qui veulent se prononcer sur ces trois accords qui sont présentés à la Conférence pour approbation? S'il n'y a pas d'observations ces accords sont approuvés.

Adopted
Adopte
Aprobado

18.4 Use of Gender Neutral Language in the Basic Texts (C 99/LIM/20)
18.4 Utilisation d'un langage neutre dans les Textes fondamentaux (C 99/LIM/20)
18.4 Utilización de un lenguaje neutro en cuanto al género en los Textos Fundamentales (C 99/LIM/20)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 18.4: *Utilisation d'un langage neutre dans les textes fondamentaux*. C'est le document C 99/LIM/20. Je ne sais pas si le Conseiller juridique a des textes à me rapporter sur ce sujet.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The English language version of the Basic Texts of FAO contains many examples of language that refer to one gender only. For example, the terms "Chairman" and "Vice-Chairman", or references to the Director-General are often followed by a reference to "he" or "his". Likewise, in Rule III, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization, the word "delegate" is followed by a reference to "his".

The CCLM reviewed the matter at its Seventieth Session in September 1999. The CCLM noted that the fact that the English language version of the Basic Texts contains many examples of language referring to one gender only should not cause any substantive legal problems, inasmuch as it would be assumed, in accordance with generally accepted rules of interpretation, that the use of the masculine gender includes the feminine gender when referring to office-holders.

The CCLM recommended that the Conference resolve that, in the Basic Texts, the use of one gender shall be considered as including a reference to the other, unless the context otherwise requires, and adopt a draft Conference Resolution to that effect. The Council, at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session, in November 1999, endorsed the Draft Resolution, and transmitted it to the Conference for approval.

The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Y a-t-il des commentaires pour le Point 18.4, document C 99/LIM/20?

Sénégal vous avez la parole.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

M. le Président, simplement une clarification: dans le document C 99/LIM/20, est-ce que le Conseiller juridique pourrait nous expliquer ce qui vient avant extrait du rapport de la Cent dix-septième session du Conseil, accord de coopération avec l'Organisations des pêches du Lac Victoria. Quel est le lien de cette mention avec ce que nous sommes en train d'examiner? Je vous remercie.

LEGAL COUNSEL

There is no link, but we have already approved, I believe, confirmed the Cooperation Agreement with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization under Agenda Item 18.2. We have, in fact, confirmed all of the Agreements under 18.1, 18.2 and 18.3 and we are now dealing with the use of gender neutral language in the Basic Texts, which is Agenda item 18.4. In fact, this merely gives an interpretation regarding gender language in the Basic Texts, rather than rewriting the whole of the Basic Texts. Does that answer your question?

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Une erreur d'édition. Le texte français porte en tout cas, dans ce même texte, il est vrai, C 99/LIM/20, quelque chose d'assez bizarre d'ailleurs, qui n'a rien à voir. Je pense que c'est une erreur d'édition. Nous avons voulu comprendre ce que l'on vient de nous dire.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I am not sure whether I understand totally the concern of the distinguished delegate of Senegal. If his concern is what the linkage between the three sub-items, there is no linkage, other than that the first three sub-items deal with confirmation of Agreements, and the fourth sub-item deals with something else, the use of gender language.

If his concern is regarding the French translation of the document dealing with the utilization, the use of gender neutral language in the Basic Texts, which sets out the Resolution that is in C 99/LIM/20-Rev. 1, which says French only, then I am not sure, because that makes no reference, as far as I know, at all to the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

I am not sure whether I understand the question.

I am sorry, I see the problem now. There is a revision to C 99/LIM/20, which in error talked about the Cooperation Agreement with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. The one I was reading is C 99/LIM/20-Rev. 1 where this error has been corrected, which is purely a typographical error.

There is no connection whatsoever. It is merely a misprint and that is corrected in C 99/LIM/20-Rev. 1. I am sorry, I did not realize the confusion that was there.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je pense donc qu'après ces précisions sur la pensée juridique réponse a été donnée au délégué du Sénégal: il s'agit donc d'une correction de texte qui a été déjà faite. Donc combien d'observations? Nous approuvons cette Résolution et je passe la parole à l'Indonésie.

Approved
Apprové
Aprobado

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia)

This morning we participated in the Papal Audience, and heard with great interest the message of His Holiness, the Pope John Paul II. This was a message full of wisdom and full of food for thought. I feel this message should not be forgotten and should become part of the Conference proceedings. I would like therefore, to propose that the message be included in the Verbatim Records of the Plenary of the Conference.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just to remind delegates that the delegation of Algeria, and particularly the President, has invited delegates to a reception at 18.30 hours which is in the FAO Cafeteria on the Eighth Floor.

LE PRESIDENT

Nous avons terminé l'Ordre du jour, à l'exception du Point 16, que nous avons reporté à demain. Monsieur le Secrétaire général, vous avez la parole.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Africa Group is holding a meeting tomorrow at 8.30 hrs in the Malaysia Room. I have only just received the announcement so I thought I would just read it out to you.

The meeting rose at 17.20 hours.
La séance est levée à 17 h 20.
Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

19 November 1999

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 10.10 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)
PARTE III: ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

16. Amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization
16. Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation
16. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización

16.1 General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution) (C 99/LIM/8)
16.1 Règlement général de l'Organisation (Projet de résolution) (C 99/LIM/8)
16.1 Reglamento General de la Organización (Proyecto de resolución) (C 99/LIM/8)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la Douzième session plénière.

Nous allons examiner le Point 16, *Amendements aux textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation*, dans lequel il y a deux sous-points, le point 16.1 *Règlement général de l'Organisation* et le deuxième Sous-point 16.2 *Règlement financier*.

Nous allons donc commencer par le Point 16.1, *Règlement général de l'Organisation*. Compte tenu du document C 99/LIM/8 qui contient le projet de Résolution d'amendements au Règlement de l'Organisation qui a été approuvé préalablement par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et le Conseil.

Je donne tout de suite la parole au Conseiller juridique.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you have noted, you are now dealing with the *Proposed Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization*.

I should like to recall that at its Hundred and Fourteenth Session in November 1997, the Council mandated the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to review the procedures and methods of work for Conference Sessions, including voting and the relevant General Rules of the Organization. In May 1998 the Joint Meeting of the Seventy-Ninth Session of the Programme Committee and the Eighty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee commenced the Review, and made some preliminary suggestions. They requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for submission to the Joint Meeting of the Committees to be held in September 1998, and to submit the document also to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for consideration, together with the Report of the Joint Meeting of September 1998. An extensive exchange of views on the proposals, involving amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization, took place at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the CCLM in September 1998.

At its Hundred and Fifteenth Session in November 1998, the Council reviewed the procedures and methods of work for Conference Sessions in light of the proposals of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Report of the CCLM, and provided further guidance to the CCLM on the matter. In particular, the Council requested the CCLM to submit to its Hundred and Sixteenth Session, in June 1999, draft amendments to the General Rules of the Organization to permit, first of all, the abolition of the Nominations Committee and the transfer of its functions to the Council, including designation of the Credentials Committee, by the June Session of the Council, subject to formal election by the Conference; second, the introduction of an electronic voting system; third, the election of Council Members by clear general consent whenever the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies; and, fourth, the elimination of references to Conference Technical Committees which are now obsolete.

At its Sixty-Ninth Session, the CCLM examined the draft amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and the Draft Resolution for the Conference. The FAO Council, at its Hundred and Sixteenth Session, endorsed the Draft Resolution and transmitted it to this Session of the Conference for approval.

This is the Draft Resolution which is now before the Conference for adoption. If the Conference is in agreement with the amendments proposed, it will need to adopt this Resolution presenting the amendments by a two-thirds majority vote.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous allons prendre les dispositions pour le vote. Je vous rappelle que la majorité requise est de deux tiers des votes valables. Je vais demander tout de suite au Secrétaire général de prendre des dispositions nécessaires pour connaître le nombre de pays présents dans la salle.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Puis-je demander à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon à ce que le dispositif électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes. Je répète: on vous demande d'appuyer sur le bouton vert. Ceux qui n'ont pas encore voté sont invités à appuyer sur le bouton vert.

On va maintenant fermer la liste des votants. Je vous remercie. Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a 113 délégations présentes dans la salle. Le quorum nécessaire est de 91 Membres, nous pouvons donc procéder à la votation électronique. Si vous êtes favorable au projet de Résolution d'amendements au règlement de l'Organisation, contenu dans le document C 99/LIM/8, appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyez sur le bouton rouge. Si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Je répète, ceux qui sont pour la Résolution, appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyez sur le bouton rouge. Si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Vote
Vote
Votación

Maintenant, nous allons fermer la liste des votants.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

19/11/99
10.27.31

Vote on: .....
Vote sur: .....
Votaction para: .....

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	110
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	73
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	110
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	57

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D' IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HAITI, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA REP. OF, LAOS, LEBANON, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIANA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NICARAGUA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VANUATU, VIET NAM, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
BOLIVIA

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARMENIA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BRAZIL, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CONGO DEM. REP. OF, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, GAMBIA, GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HONDURAS, ISRAEL, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LESOTHO, MALDIVES, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGER, NIGERIA, NIUE, OMAN, PALAU, PARAGUAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, VENEZUELA, YEMEN, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr .....

Draft Resolution was adopted
Le Projet de résolution est adopté
El projecto de la resolución es aprobado

16.2 Financial Regulations (Draft Resolution) (C 99/LIM/13)
16.2 Règlement financier (Projet de résolution) (C 99/LIM/13)
16.2 Reglamento Financiero (Proyecto de resolución) (C 99/LIM/13)

LE PRÉSIDENT

On passe au Sous-point 16.2: *Règlement financier*. C'est le document C 99/LIM/13. Avant de passer au vote, je donne la parole au Conseiller juridique pour nous apporter plus de précisions et clarifications sur ce Sous-point 16.2, objet du document C 99/LIM/13.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you have noted, the amendments are this time to the Financial Regulations of the Organization, and they are set out in document C 99/LIM/13. Under this Agenda item, the Conference is invited to consider three sets of amendments to the Financial Regulations of the Organization. These are as follows: first, an amendment to Paragraph 5 of the Annex to the Financial Regulations to change the format of the External Audit Opinion; second, an amendment to Financial Regulation 9.1, regarding arrangements for a Review of Investments of the FAO Reserve Fund; and third, amendments to Financial Regulations 11. 9 and 12.1, providing for the Establishment of a Revolving Fund for FAO Products and Related Services other than Information Products.

As regards the amendment to Paragraph 5 of the Annex to the Financial Regulations, dealing with the format for the External Audit Opinion, the amendment was proposed by the Finance Committee at its Eighty-Ninth Session in May 1998. The amendment was considered upon suggestion by the United Nations Panel of External Auditors, in order to ensure that the Audit Opinion of the External Auditors reflects current best practice and to maintain consistency throughout the United Nations System. The CCLM reviewed the amendments at its Sixty-eighth Session and found them to be in proper legal form. The proposed amendments were endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Fifteenth Session in November 1998 and submitted to the Conference for approval.

On the second set of amendments, at its Eighty-Ninth Session in May 1998, the Finance Committee also proposed that the FAO Internal Investment Committee and the FAO Advisory Committee on Investment replace the oversight function performed by the United Nations Investment Committee, over the investments of the FAO Reserve Fund. The reason for this proposal was that the United Nations Investment Committee had communicated to FAO that, as a result of a substantial increase of their responsibilities with regard to funds under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including the funds of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, they could not continue to exercise responsibility with regard to FAO funds. The proposed amendment to Financial Regulation 9.1 was reviewed by both the Finance Committee at its Ninetieth Session and the CCLM at its Sixty-Eighth Session in September 1998. It was endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Fifteenth Session in November 1998, and submitted to this Conference for approval.

The third set of amendments provides for the Establishment of a Revolving Fund for FAO Products and Related Services other than Information Products. The amendments were prepared in response to a request by the Finance Committee at its Ninety-Third Session in September 1999. The Committee noted that there was a growing need for the establishment of a new revolving fund for FAO products and related services under Financial Regulation 6.9, along the same lines as the existing Information Products Revolving Fund, to allow the proceeds derived from such products to be ploughed back into their maintenance and further development. Examples of such products developed by FAO within the framework of its approved programmes, are the Micro-banker Software and the new Coconut Water Processing Technology. The proposed amendments allow FAO to reinvest income from FAO products and related services other than information products for the maintenance, dissemination and further

development of such products. They also allow funds to be used to pay for the direct costs of the production, sale and marketing of such products, and the protection of intellectual property rights in those products. The proposed amendments were reviewed both by the Finance Committee at its Ninety-Third Session and the CCLM at its Seventieth Session in September 1999. Both Committees noted that the products so developed should be related to the institutional objectives of the Organization, that the Organization should not be tempted to duplicate the role of the private sector and that arrangements for the exploitation of such products should be in line with the objectives of the Organization, such as ensuring that such products are made widely available to developing countries or sectors at accessible prices. The proposed amendments were endorsed by the Council at its Hundred and Seventeenth Session in November 1999, and transmitted to the Conference for approval. If the Conference is in agreement with the amendments proposed, the Resolution presenting the amendments will need to be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons procéder à la votation électronique comme pour le vote précédent. Si vous êtes d'accord avec le projet de Résolution d'amendements des Articles 6.9, 7.1 et 9.1 du Règlement financier et du paragraphe 5 de l'Annexe au Règlement financier contenu dans le document C 99/LIM/13, appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyez sur le bouton rouge. Si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune. Nous allons fermer la liste des votants.

Vote
Vote
Votación

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

19/11/99
10.38.39

Vote on: .....
Vote sur: .....
Votaction para: .....

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	115
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	77
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	114
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	2
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	51

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D' IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HAITI, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA REP. OF, LAOS, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIANA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MONGOLIA, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NICARAGUA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:
PORTUGAL

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
BHUTAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARMENIA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BRAZIL, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CONGO DEM. REP. OF, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GAMBIA, GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HONDURAS, ISRAEL, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, MALDIVES, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGER, NIGERIA, NIUE, OMAN, PALAU, PARAGUAY, POLAND, QATAR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, YEMEN, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr .....

Draft Resolution was adopted
Le Projet de résolution est adopté
El projecto de la resolución es aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

La Conférence a adopté la Résolution relative aux amendements des Articles 6.9, 7.1 et 9.1 du Règlement financier et du paragraphe 5 de l'Annexe du Règlement financier, contenus dans le document C 99/LIM/13.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV: NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Election of Council Members and Independent Chairman (C 99/11; C 99/19-Corr.1; C 99/19-Corr.2; C 99/LIM/15; C 99/LIM/23)
25. Election des membres du Conseil et du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 99/11; C 99/19-Corr.1; C 99/19-Corr.2; C 99/LIM/15; C 99/LIM/23)
25. Elección de Miembros y del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 99/11; C 99/19-Corr.1; C 99/19-Corr.2; C 99/LIM/15; C 99/LIM/23)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons maintenant au Point 25. Il s'agit de *L'élection des membres et du Président indépendant du Conseil.* Les documents C 99/11, C 99/19, C 99/19- Corr.1, C 99/19-Corr.2, C 99/LIM/15 et C 99/LIM/23.

Donc, en premier lieu, nous allons élire les Membres du Conseil. Les candidats nommés pour les périodes et les régions figurent dans le document C 99/LIM/23, c'est-à-dire le Troisième rapport du Bureau. Comme vous pouvez le constater dans le paragraphe 3 à chaque période pour toutes les Régions concernées, le nombre de candidats est égal au nombre des sièges à pourvoir.

Etant donné que la Conférence vient d'approuver une Résolution qui modifie le paragraphe 9 de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation afin de permettre l'élection des Membres du Conseil par consentement général manifeste, lorsqu'il y a plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir, on va procéder à l'élection par consentement général manifeste. Si aucune délégation ne désire présenter des observations ou demander des éclaircissements, nous allons procéder à l'élection par consentement général, et je donne toute de suite la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je vous invite à lire la page 4 de l'Ordre du jour, ce qui vous facilitera la tâche. Il y figure un tableau indiquant la Région, la période et les candidats. Nous allons procéder comme suit: pour chaque Région, je lirai tout d'abord la période et ensuite les candidats. Le Président vous demandera ensuite si vous êtes d'accord pour élire les pays candidats par consensus. Au cas où la Conférence serait d'un avis contraire, nous procéderons au vote pour la période indiquée. C'est donc par consensus, mais si la Conférence est de l'avis contraire, à ce moment là, nous sommes obligés de passer au vote.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Secrétaire général vient d'annoncer une procédure. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, ni d'avis contraire, nous allons passer tout de suite à la mise en oeuvre de cette procédure. Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je vous demanderais de reprendre la page 4 du journal d'aujourd'hui. Premier pour la Région Afrique, période novembre 1999 à novembre 2001, le candidat est le Burkina Faso, il s'agit donc d'un Siège.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc je répète pour la Région Afrique, période novembre 1999 à novembre 2001, le candidat est le Burkina Faso. Est-ce que la Conférence est d'accord pour élire le Burkina Faso par consensus ?

Il en est ainsi décidé et nous félicitons le Burkina Faso. Je demande au Secrétaire général de continuer pour les autres Régions.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Afrique, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, quatre sièges, les candidats sont l'Ethiopie, le Lesotho, la Mauritanie et le Sénégal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que la Conférence est d'accord pour les quatre pays que l'ont vient d'énoncer?

Félicitations pour ces quatre pays. Nous continuons avec la Région Afrique.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Afrique, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, trois sièges. Les candidats sont le Cameroun, le Kenya et le Zimbabwe.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que la Conférence est d'accord pour ces trois pays?

Félicitations pour ces trois pays. Passons à l'Asie. Je redonne la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Asie, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, trois sièges. Les candidats sont l'Inde, la Malaisie et le Pakistan.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, nous avons trois pays: l'Inde, la Malaisie et le Pakistan. Est-ce que la Conférence est d'accord?

Félicitations pour ces trois pays. Continuons avec la Région Asie.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Asie, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, six sièges. Les candidats sont la Chine, le Japon, la République de Corée, les Philippines, le Sri Lanka et la Thaïlande.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La Conférence est-elle d'accord pour les 6 pays suivants: Chine, Japon, République de Corée, Philippines, Sri Lanka et Thaïlande?

Félicitations pour ces pays.

Passons maintenant à la Région Europe.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Europe, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, 4 sièges. Les candidats sont: France, Irlande, Italie et Royaume-Uni.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la Région Europe, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002 nous avons 4 pays: la France, l'Icelande, l'Italie et le Royaume-Uni. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour ces 4 pays.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Europe, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, 3 sièges. Les candidats sont les pays suivants: Chypre, République Tchèque et l'Allemagne.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003 nous avons 3 sièges, Chypre, République Tchèque et Allemagne. Est-ce que la Conférence est d'accord?

Félicitations pour ces trois pays. Passons maintenant Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Amérique latine et Caraïbes, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, 1 siège. Le candidat est le Guatemala.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la Région Amérique latine et Caraibes, période novembre1999 au 31 décembre 2002, nous avons 1 siège: Guatemala. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour ce pays.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Amérique latine et Caraibes, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, 3 sièges. Les pays sont les suivants: Argentine, Chili et Pérou.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour cette Région, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, nous avons l'Argentine, le Chili et le Pérou. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour ces pays. Passons maintenant à la Région Proche-Orient.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Proche-Orient, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, 3 sièges. Les candidats sont les suivants: Egypte, Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite et Syrie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la Région Proche-Orient, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, nous avons l'Egypte, le Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite et la Syrie. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour ces pays.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Proche-Orient, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, 1 siège. Le candidat est la République islamique d'Iran, .

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour cette Région, période 1er janvier 2001 à novembre 2003, nous avons la République islamique d'Iran. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour l'Iran, République islamique d'. Passons maintenant à la région Pacifique du Sud-Ouest.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Région Pacifique du Sud-Ouest, période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, 1 siège. Le candidat est l'Australie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la période novembre 1999 au 31 décembre 2002, nous avons l'Australie. La Conférence, est-elle d'accord?

Félicitations pour l'Australie et félicitations à tous.

Nous passons maintenant à l'*Élection du Président indépendant du Conseil*. Ce point est contenu dans le document C 99/15, Deuxième rapport du Bureau. Le Secrétaire général va prendre les dispositions pour connaître le nombre de pays dans la salle et je donne tout de suite la parole au Secrétaire général. Comme nous avons déjà le quorum, conformément à l'Article XI-2 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, nous passons directement aux dispositions nécessaires et je donne la parole du Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Les délégués recevront un bulletin de vote qui comporte trois cases où sont indiquées les mentions "pour", "contre" et "abstention". Le Représentant devra cocher la case correspondant à son choix pour le candidat. Il est noté que conformément à l'Article XII-4c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme portant la mention "abstention". Veuillez noter également que conformément au paragraphe 4(d) du même Article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc conformément à l'Article II-2 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO et aux dispositions de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le quorum requis pour cette élection est une majorité des États Membres de l'Organisation. Autrement dit, au moins 91 Membres devront être représentés cette fois-ci.

Puis-je vous rappeler que conformément au paragraphe 14 de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, lorsqu'un scrutin a été ouvert, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut l'interrompre, sauf nous présenter une motion d'ordre touchant le vote.

Conformément au paragraphe 9(c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Président de la Conférence nomme deux scrutateurs choisis parmi les délégués ou les représentants ou leurs suppléants. J'invite donc les délégués de la Suisse et du Mexique à se diriger vers la zone réservée au vote - les délégués de la Suisse et du Mexique.

Bon les deux délégués ont rejoint la zone qui est réservée au vote. Je cède la parole au Secrétaire général adjoint qui va maintenant appeler les votants à se diriger vers la zone réservée au vote.

Vote
Vote
Votación

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le vote est presque terminé. J'invite les pays qui n'ont pas voté à le faire maintenant.

Le vote est terminé et les scrutateurs vont maintenant quitter la salle avec les urnes afin de procéder avec l'assistance des membres du Secrétariat chargés de l'élection au dépouillement du vote. Pendant le dépouillement du vote nous allons suspendre pour quelques minutes la séance.

The meeting was suspended from 11.15 to 11.50 hours
La séance est suspendue de 11 h 15 à 11 h 50
Se suspende la sesión de las 11.15 horas a las 11.50 horas

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je tiens à informer les honorables délégués que la France veut exercer son Droit de réponse. La délégation française m'a fourni une déclaration écrite en réponse à la déclaration de Saint Christophe-et-Nevis délivrée en Plénière de la Conférence le 16 novembre 1999. Cette déclaration sera donc inscrite dans le procès-verbal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc revenons au point sur l'élection du Président indépendant du Conseil. Le dépouillement est terminé.

C 99/RS/19

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ELECTION DU PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL ELECCION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins deposés Papeletas depositadas	129	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	105
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	16	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	112

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	57

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairman of the Council.

est nommé président du Conseil.

ha sido nombrado Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma

Claudia GONZALEZ EGUIA
MEXICO

19/11/99
Date
Fecha

Signature
Firma

Rolf GERBER
SWITZERLAND

B. Linley
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

BALCHCL2

Donc Monsieur Baharsjah a été élu Président indépendant du Conseil. Je saisis cette occasion pour lui présenter toutes nos félicitations en mon nom et en votre nom. Je lui donne maintenant la parole.

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Independent Chairman of the Council)

May I take this opportunity to thank the Conference for electing me once again to the position of Independent Chairman of the Council. Your vote of confidence is in fact an honour for which I wish to thank you on behalf of my country, Indonesia.

The experience of the last two years has been a most rewarding one for me. It has offered me the opportunity to work closely with the Members you have designated and also with you, Director-General, and your highly competent staff. I hope that the experience of the last two years has made me better prepared to execute the duties and the responsibilities of this important position. We are fully aware of the very heavy task which awaits us as we enter the new Millennium. I will do my best not to disappoint you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Président indépendant du Conseil. Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres délégués qui veulent prendre la parole?

Ms NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG (Viet Nam)

Au nom du Groupe de l'Asie et au mien, en tant que Représentante du Viet Nam je voudrais féliciter très chaleureusement M. Baharsjah de sa réélection au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil. Nous nous félicitons de cet honneur qui est fait à notre région, et nous sommes convaincus que par sa présidence le Conseil pourra continuer à travailler pour lutter contre la pauvreté dans le monde. Nous saisissons aussi cette occasion pour assurer à M. Baharsjah que nous l'aiderons toujours dans les efforts qu'il déploiera pour travailler. Donc une fois de plus au nom de l'Asie, au nom du Viet Nam, nous offrons nos meilleurs vœux de succès à Monsieur Baharsjah pour son second mandat.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie et je passe la parole au Représentant du Burkina Faso.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais, au nom du Groupe africain, féliciter Monsieur Baharsjah pour sa réélection à la Présidence indépendante du Conseil et lui assurer au nom du Groupe africain notre soutien et notre disponibilité pour continuer à vivre ensemble notamment à travers le Conseil de la FAO pour relever les nombreux défis qui se présentent.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le Représentant de Haïti a la parole.

Mme Suze PERCY (Haïti)

Je voudrais, si vous me le permettez, m'associer aux Présidents des groupes régionaux qui ont félicité Monsieur Baharsjah pour son second mandat. Son premier mandat couronné de succès lui a bien sûr fourni tous les bagages nécessaires à un second mandat. Une fois de plus, toutes nos félicitations.

LE PRÉSIDENT (Original language Arabic)

Je donne la parole au Représentant du Royaume de l'Arabie Saoudite.

Bandar AL-SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God the compassionate, on behalf of the Near East Group, like the preceding speakers I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere congratulations to Mr Baharsjah on his re-election as Independent Chairman of the Council.

We are quite confident that he will be leading us very skilfully as he has done in the past, and we are fully willing to cooperate with him in the future.

Once again, our congratulations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je passe la parole au Représentant de l'Irlande.

Tony DEVLIN (Ireland)

I just want to add the best wishes of the European Regional Group to Mr Baharsjah, and wish him good wishes as he takes on another two years of office.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First of all I would like to congratulate Mr Baharsjah on his excellent performance in the past. "Baharsjah" in Persian means the King of Spring, and we are confident that under his leadership in the future the Council will blossom in Spring.

Thank you, and we stand ready to support you.

Andrew Craig COONEY (Australia)

Just briefly, on behalf of the Southwest Pacific region we would like to add our voice to the congratulations provided by other regions to Mr Baharsjah to the position of Independent Chairman of the Council.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

Allow me on behalf of the North American region and certainly on behalf of the Canadian delegation to join the others who have expressed their congratulations to Mr Baharsjah.

We have the privilege to serve on the Council and also on the Programme Committee, and I should note that he has faithfully attended the meetings of the Programme Committee as well. Both on that Committee and on the Council we have benefited greatly from his experience as a government policy-maker, and he brings a great deal of wisdom to our deliberations, and we always value the advice he brings to us.

Please allow me to add the voice of the North American region to all the others in congratulating him and pledging our support for him over the next two years.

Syarifuddin KARAMA (Indonesia)

First of all, allow me on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, the Government and the people of Indonesia and my own to congratulate Mr Sjarifudin Baharsjah for his second-term appointment as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. We are particularly very happy to witness that his second-term appointment is supported by a majority of Members of the Organization.

Indonesia is an agricultural country, and Mr Baharsjah, as a former Minister of Agriculture, is surely very eager to provide continued services to FAO and Member Nations, since the noble goal of agricultural development is combatting hunger, food insecurity and poverty to honour the dignity of human beings.

We would like to assure Mr Baharsjah that the Indonesian Government will make every effort to support you in implementing your duties as an Independent Chairman of the Council. We believe

that with your talents and experience you will make your second-term assignment more fruitful in satisfying the wishes of all Member Nations to make FAO an efficient and effective Organization.

Through this opportunity, allow me to also to thank Member Nations in supporting the process of this election, particularly the Government of Guinea by voluntarily withdrawing its competent candidate in favour of the Indonesian candidate. Furthermore, we also wish to thank all Member Nations, particularly those presently sitting as Council Members, for their continued support to Mr Baharsjah.

We certainly hope that FAO will continue to grow and render better services to fight hunger and poverty in the world.

May God bless Mr Baharsjah and family with prime health and wisdom, particularly for the sake of hunger and poor people in the world.

RIGHT OF REPLY
DROIT DE REPONSE
DERECHO DE RÉPLICA

Daniel BERTHERY(France)

La France se réfère à la déclaration du Ministre de l'agriculture de Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis délivrée en salle plénière lors de la Conférence le 16 novembre 1999.

La délégation française souhaite rappeler l'attention particulière qu'elle accorde aux relations entre les Départements et Territoires d'Outre mer et les pays des régions concernés.

Ces relations qui se traduisent par des échanges commerciaux croissants sont soumis aux législations européennes en vigueur qui s'appliquent, non seulement aux exportations et importations des pays de l'Union européenne, mais aussi à celles de leurs Départements et Territoires d'Outre mer.

L'Annexe du texte communautaire 97/296 qui comporte la liste des pays autorisés à exporter vers l'Union européenne les produits de la pêche et, sous quelque forme que ce soit, destinés à l'alimentation humaine, a été révisée pour la dernière fois le 14 juillet 1999, sous la nouvelle cote 99/532.

De nombreux pays des Caraïbes en font partie, ce qui n'est pas le cas de Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis.

La procédure conduisant à l'autorisation d'exporter vers l'Union européenne est une démarche volontaire de la part des pays demandeurs.

Soucieuse de développer ses relations commerciales avec les pays voisins de ses Départements et Territoires d'Outre mer, la France a diligenté une mission d'information en juin 1998 à destination des pays des Caraïbes.

Cette mission avait pour objectif d'informer les gouvernements des pays intéressés sur les démarches à entreprendre auprès de l'Union européenne pour pouvoir exporter des produits de la pêche et de la mer destinés à l'alimentation humaine. Elle s'est rendue à Nevis comme dans tous les autres pays de la région. A ce jour, aucune demande n'a été transmise à l'Union européenne par les Autorités de Saint-Christophe-et-Nevis.

Lorsque tel sera le cas, L'Union européenne pourra se prononcer sur la recevabilité de cette demande, et la France appliquera, bien entendu, la décision qui aura été prise.[6]

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[6] Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais vérifier une dernière fois s'il n'y a pas de prise de parole. Je considère donc la séance levée et nous nous retrouverons dans cette salle à 15 h 30.

The meeting rose at 12.05 hours.
La séance est levée à 12 h 05.
Se levanta la sesión a las 12.05 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIÈME SÉANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

19 November 1999

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.45 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 15.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES ET ADMINISTRATIVES (suite)
PARTE III: ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

20. Scale of Contributions 2000-2001 (Draft Resolution) (C 99/LIM/11; C 99/LIM/11-Corr.1; C 99/LIM/26)
20. Barème des contributions 2000-2001 (Projet de résolution) (C 99/LIM/11; C 99/LIM/11-Corr.1; C 99/LIM/26)
20. Escala de cuotas para el 2000-2001 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 99/LIM/11; C 99/LIM/11-Corr.1; C 99/LIM/26)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la Treizième séance de la plénière. Comme indiqué dans l'Ordre du jour, nous allons examiner le Point 20: *Barème des contributions 2000-2001.*

Avant d'entamer les discussions sur ce point, je donne la parole au Burkina Faso qui le demande.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Avant que nous abordions les points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour de cet après-midi, je voudrais solliciter de la part de la Conférence la possibilité de suspendre l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation pour permettre au Groupe africain de procéder au remplacement d'un candidat pour la Présidence du Comité financier.

Si la Conférence est d'accord, je souhaiterais que le Président puisse convoquer une Réunion du Comité général le plus rapidement possible pour examiner cette question.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour que les délégués comprennent mieux votre proposition, je vous demande de la reformuler une deuxième fois pour qu'elle soit bien comprise.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je disais qu'au nom du Groupe africain, je voudrais demander à la Conférence de bien vouloir permettre la suspension de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation relatif au délai de dépôt des candidatures pour le Comité financier, parce que le Groupe africain voudrait procéder à la substitution de la candidature de l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal pour la présidence du Comité financier par une autre candidature. Pour ce faire, il faudrait que vous puissiez convoquer une réunion du Comité général qui examinerait cette question.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il y a donc une proposition du Groupe africain pour la suspension de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation relatif au délai de dépôt des candidatures. S'il n'y a pas de remarques, nous pouvons réunir lundi matin le Comité général, c'est-à-dire le Bureau pour examiner ce point.

Revenez donc au document C 99/LIM/11. Le Conseil à sa Cent seizième Session a soumis un projet de Résolution à la Conférence portant sur les *Contributions 2000-2001.* En outre, le *corrigendum* met à jour l'Annexe avec les nouveaux Pays Membres et le document C 99/LIM/26 introduit des amendements au projet de Résolution.

Je vais demander à Monsieur Mehboob, Sous-directeur général du Département de l'administration et des finances, de nous présenter cette Résolution.

Mais s'agissant d'un point qui touche plus au volet juridique, je préfère donner la parole au Conseiller juridique.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The documents that you have before you on the *Scale of Contributions* are document C 99/LIM/11, which sets forth the Draft Resolution for the Conference dealing with the *Scale of Contributions for the Biennium 2000-2001* and C 99/LIM/26, which is a *Draft Amendment to the Draft Resolution for the Conference*, and this comes as the *Second Report of the Resolutions Committee* to Plenary. You also have a *Revision to the Scale of Contributions*, C 99/LIM/11-Corr.1, which revises the Scale of Contributions to include the admission of the new Member Nations: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau and San Marino. These, then, are introduced into the Scale, in order to give you a complete Scale including the current Membership of FAO.

Maybe I should say, by way of introduction, a few words about the Draft Resolution in C 99/LIM/11, and the amendment to the Draft Resolution set out in C 99/LIM/26. The Draft Resolution would set the Scale of FAO contributions for 2000-2001 to be derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments in force during 1999 in fact for the year 2000, but it is still the Scale in force during 1999.

I will explain that the United Nations Scale of Assessments is set on a three-year period, and its current scale runs from 1998 through 1999 to the year 2000. The Draft Resolution adopted for use, in 2000-2001, the Scale as set out in Appendix E, derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments for the year 2000. You have that Scale before you.

The Draft Amendment, however, would set a condition that, if the United Nations General Assembly adopts a new United Nations Scale of Assessments for the years 2001 to 2003, before the end of the year 2000, the Director-General shall prepare a modified Scale of Contributions for the year 2001 to reflect the Scale of the Assessments for that year, fixed by the United Nations General Assembly, applying established principles for adjusting the FAO Scale of Assessments to take into account differences in Membership between the United Nations and FAO. This means that if there is a new Scale adopted at the end of next year, instead of applying the Scale that is in force right now under the United Nations, we would switch to the new Scale of Contributions that is adopted at the end of next year by the General Assembly, when they set their next three-year cycle. The purpose of this is to allow for the changes in that Scale and, in particularly, as you all know, the proposal which is now under discussion in New York to reduce the ceiling from 25 to 22 percent. This is the purpose of this Amendment to the Resolution.

I should also point out that a Resolution, virtually word for word the same as this amended Resolution, was adopted by FAO at the last Session of the Conference in 1997. This again provided for a switch-over to the United Nations Scale in force for the last year of the biennium, if a new Scale were adopted by the General Assembly. In fact, the new Scale was adopted by the General Assembly, and during the course of this current biennium, we have for the last year switched over to the new scale in force in the United Nations for the year 1999. So, you have that precedent before you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Conseiller juridique. Vous avez donc devant vous les documents afférents à ce Point 20: *Barème des contributions 2000-2001* complétés par un commentaire d'éclaircissement de notre Conseiller juridique.

Y a-t-il des observations sur ce rapport?

Japon vous avez la parole.

Kazuo TANAKA (Japan)

We do not intend to stand in the way of the speedy deliberation of the issue but we wanted to put on record our concern. Knowing very well the procedure established in FAO adopting the Scale

of Contributions, it seems to us there are three points which we would like to clarify from the proposal.

One is the issue of a new United Nations Scale of Assessments, which might include a reduced ceiling rate. This issue is still being discussed in the United Nations Committee on Contributions, and we cannot foresee at this stage the outcome of the discussion. However, it appears to us that the Draft Amendment before us is not necessarily a concrete figure, but is assuming a reduced ceiling rate of 22 percent.

Second, the ceiling rate of 22 percent would definitely increase the financial burden of the majority of FAO Member Nations. I think I see in the theoretical Scale of Contributions prepared by the Secretariat, in the Council document CL 117/4, the lowering of the ceiling rate from the present 25 percent to 22 percent would increase the amount of Assessed Contributions of 86 Member Nations, including a number of the developing countries, as well as OECD Member Nations. Indeed, Japan and other major contributors have already been absorbing a substantial part of the relief given to the Major Contributor, even though under the 25 percent ceiling, and the burden will be made even heavier once the 22 percent ceiling rate is adopted.

Third, perhaps we need a clarification from the Secretariat or from the proposer of this amendment whether it may not be too late to adopt a new revised Scale of Contributions at the next FAO Conference, after the United Nations have adopted a revised Scale next year, because this simply means to delay the application by one year of the revised Scale of FAO.

I stop my intervention at this moment and I would appreciate a clarification, as well as some reactions from the proposer of this amendment.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je redonne la parole au Conseiller juridique.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I think I can respond only to the last question because I think that is the only question which was directed at the Secretariat and which is possible for me to comment on as Legal Counsel. That question was, was it possible to delay the decision until the next Conference? The only point that I can comment on here is that the next Conference, of course, would not be able to apply this retroactively to the last year of the biennium, it would not be possible to do anything to increase liabilities retroactively. If the new Scale of Assessments in the United Nations is introduced at the end of next year and is to be applicable to FAO Member Nations in the year 2001, if you, as this amendment suggests and as was done last year, wish to switch in to a modified Scale based on the UN scale for 2001, then that decision must be taken at the present Conference. Otherwise, you would not be able to apply it until the year 2002.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres questions? D'autres observations? Vous avez la parole Monsieur le délégué du Japon.

Kazuo TANAKA (Japan)

Perhaps I did not make myself clear when I posed the question on the application of the FAO Scale after the United Nations has adopted the revised Scale next year. What I meant was on the substance of the matter, which means that if we are talking about the payments from the Major Contributor, then it seems that the Major Contributor might be able to make a payment after the United Nations has adopted a ceiling rate of 22 percent.

What I am proposing or rather questioning is whether it is not too late to adopt a newly-revised Scale of Contribution at the next FAO Conference to enable to receive the payment from the Major Contributor.

LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)

My delegation is of the following opinion on the Scale of Contributions for the year 2000-2001. We cannot support it because during the last Conference in 1997, we gave our opinion, and on that occasion as well we reserved our position. We do not believe that this is the customary approach in our Organization. Furthermore, this Resolution does not allow Member Nations to have a clear understanding of the Scale of Contributions beyond the year 2001, and this is very important for all Member Nations to know the Scale of Contributions after 2001. Since we have no clear idea about that scale, then we can adopt no decision. Since our Organization was established, all Member Nations have followed the tradition and custom. No country has ever made exceptional proposals depending on their level of contributions, but this was done by the Major Contributor, and therefore the position of the Major Contributor would come to differ from that of other Member Nations. So we cannot approve C 99/LIM/11. The Draft Resolution contained therein covers the position of the Major Contributor, and it goes against the Financial Regulations.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

We would like to make a few observations on the comments that have been made.

First of all, we do support the Draft Resolution with its Amendment as it has been described by the Legal Counsel. I think it is important for the group here to realize that there will be a new Scale negotiated in New York at the end of the year 2000, in any event. This a normally scheduled event; there will be Scale discussions at that point. We cannot prejudge what will go up and what will go down in that negotiation. I would furthermore point out that no one here knows what their payment to New York will be in the year 2001 for that triennium. That will be determined at the end of the year 2000. In other words, if we can have a little bit of uncertainty about New York, we should also be able, it would seem to me, to have a little bit of uncertainty about Rome and the FAO beginning in the year 2001. As I said, we do not want to prejudge who will go up and who will go down, but I would point out that getting Scale reform for the United States is a very important issue, and we will be arguing this issue very hard in the negotiations in New York. It is one of the building blocks in the legislation that has just been approved in the United States by our House of Representatives - we expect it to be approved by the Senate by the weekend - to allow for the payment of a large sum of our arrears.

There is no reason, in our view, to have a lag in FAO of one year before a new Scale is applied. A Scale is negotiated every two years or three years, as the case may be, so that it can keep up with economic and political realities. We see no reason to delay that decision by one year. Adjustments to the Scale should be made on a timely basis.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I would like to respond just briefly to the remark which was made by the distinguished delegate of China and his allusion to the Financial Regulations. I would like to say that at the last Session of the Conference we went into some detail as to the legal justifications for, and the legality of, the approach which is being suggested, that is, to switch over to the new United Nations Scale for the last year of the biennium. On that occasion, I gave a rather detailed legal opinion indicating that in my opinion this approach was perfectly consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization, including Article XVIII.2 and Financial Regulation 5.1. I just wanted to put that on the record.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations? On vient d'écouter les délégués du Japon, de la Chine et des États-Unis. Le délégué de la Chine a parlé des respects des coutumes dans le passé, et dans cette même salle, la Conférence a discuté du barème. Ce que nous proposons aujourd'hui, comme l'a bien expliqué le Conseiller juridique, et proposition est faite que s'il y a des décisions au niveau des Nations

Unies, la FAO tiendra compte du barème décidé à New York. Donc, s'il n'y a pas d'observations, je déclare la Résolution adoptée, bien sûr en tenant compte de ce qui a été dit par la Chine.

LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)

Though Member Nations have not opposed adoption, as delegate of China, I wish to submit my reservation, the reservation of my delegation to this Resolution. During the last Conference of FAO, for other similar cooperation projects, we adopted a similar position. Now, I do not think that this proposal is in line with FAO custom, and I am afraid that it will cause trouble for the future operations of the Organization. This is why we feel that this Draft Resolution is against the Financial Regulations. The Financial Regulations state clearly that the Conference should adopt a clear Scale of Contributions. The Conference should not adopt a Scale which is not specifically determined.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je ne vais pas faire de commentaires sur ce que vient de dire le délégué de la Chine ce qui pourrait créer des troubles pour la FAO. Je crois qu'on était très clair, et le Conseiller juridique l'a clarifié, lorsqu'il s'agit de textes assez importants nous donnons la parole au Conseiller juridique pour nous éclairer.

Et je me répète, on a dit que lorsqu'il y aura la décision des barèmes des Nations Unies, la FAO appliquera ces barèmes. Je passe donc ce point et, pour la réserve émise par la Chine "comme par le passé", nous disons, la Résolution est adoptée avec l'amendement prévu au document C 99/LIM/26.

Draft Resolution, with draft amendment, was adopted
Projet de Résolution, avec projet d'amendement, est adopté
Proyecto de resolución, con proyecto de enmienda, es aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY PART I (FROM COMMISSION II) (C 99/REP/1)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFÉRENCE (COMMISSION II) (C 99/REP/1)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (DE LA COMISIÓN II) (C 99/REP/1)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Passons au point suivant Adoption du Rapport de la Commission II sur le Point 14, *Programme de travail et budget 2000 – 2001*, document C 99/REP/1.

Avec ce point nous commençons une autre phase importante de notre travail. C'est l'adoption du Rapport de la Commission II, y compris la Résolution sur l'ouverture du crédit ou l'exercice 2000-2001. Le Rapport figure dans le document que j'ai cité, c'est-à-dire C 99/REP/1.

Avant de passer la parole à M. Pascal Valois, Président de la Commission II, je voudrais demander à Monsieur Wade du Secrétariat de prendre la parole pour nous apporter quelques éclaircissements concernant le Projet de rapport qui est soumis à votre considération. Monsieur Wade vous avez la parole.

Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

First of all, there are two textual changes of an editorial and non-substantive nature which I would like to introduce.

The first refers to paragraph 19 of C 99/REP/1. There you will find that the last sentence reads, "... it underlined the desirability of previous examination of proposed priorities ..." We would like

to change the word "previous" to the word "prior". It is more correct in English. It may make no difference in the other languages.

The second change is in the second Resolution dealing with Arrears, page 10 of the document in English. The fifth clause which begins with the underlined word "notwithstanding". So I am dealing with the Resolution with Arrears, it is the second to last page of the document, I think on the third last page, and it is the fifth clause which starts with the words "... notwithstanding the continuing generous support of Trust Fund donors to the work of the Organization and recognizing that some of ..." and I would like to delete the words "items of work listed" and replace them with the words "purposes mentioned", and then read on "below may" and instead of "be subject to", which I would like to delete, so delete the words "be subject to" and replace them with "benefit from voluntary contributions".

I will read the full sentence again so that we can be sure that all delegates have got it. "Notwithstanding the continuing generous support of Trust Fund donors to the work of the Organization and recognizing that some of the purposes mentioned below may benefit from voluntary contributions". The reason for that is that the items of the works listed below is a reference that was contained in an earlier version of this Resolution, and really we are trying to reference the word "purposes" on the next page of the Resolution in the paragraph commencing "Further authorizes ...". This was always the intent and so this is just to clarify and make strictly correct the structure of the Resolution. It is not a change in the original intent.

If there are no questions on the two textual revisions, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this document includes the *Conference Resolution for Budgetary Appropriations* for 2000-2001, and would of course like to draw your attention to the Budgetary Rate of Exchange. In line with past practice, this is set at the spot rate for the day on which the budget is voted by the Conference.

As you can see from the footnote to the Resolution, the rate is set at Lire 1 875, that is one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, or Euro 0.9684 to the dollar. That latter rate is more commonly expressed the other way around, that is dollars 1.326 to the Euro. This is the spot rate reported by the market this morning.

As per past practice in recent biennia, and as endorsed by both the Finance Committee and the Advisory Committee of Investments, the Organization will, following approval of the Budget by the Conference, enter into a forward Purchase Contract for its Lire requirements for the entire biennium so as to protect the Programme of Work against exchange fluctuations.

Given the lower rates of interest on the Euro versus the US dollar, this will result in a charge to the Special Reserve Account for the difference between the contract rate and the spot rate.

The distribution by Chapter of the Resolution reflects the details shown in the Programme of Work and Budget document C 99/3. However, as mentioned in the Draft Report, any changes in the distribution of resources which may prove necessary as a result of this budget rate will be reported to the Council through the Finance Committee in due course.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie Monsieur Wade pour ces précisions. Notre point de vue pour la première précision du paragraphe 19 pour le texte français, je précise bien, est qu'il n'y a pas de grand changement. Par contre, la précision qui a été apportée pour la Résolution concernant l'utilisation des arriérés et des avances des fonds de roulement, il est important qu'il soit mis "activités" et Monsieur Wade vient de corriger ses objectifs, enumérer ci-après: "pourraient faire l'objet, pourraient bénéficier", c'est exact, le taux du jour. Je passe maintenant la parole à Monsieur Barua à qui je voudrais, en mon nom personnel et au nom de tous les délégués, adresser nos vifs remerciements pour le travail qui a été accompli au sein de cette Commission.

Bhaskar BARUA (Chairman, Commission II)

This report and the two resolutions it contains represents, if I may say so, the result of a lot of hard work of the members of Commission II. The package, as it may be called, involves an amount of US$ 650 million in the Budgetary Appropriations Resolution and then authorization for additional expenditure of US$ 9 million through an advance from the Working Capital Fund in the second Resolution on Arrears. This additional amount of US$ 9 million will be used for redeployment and separation costs.

This second Resolution also authorizes the use of the balance of the arrears paid subject to prior approval of the priorities by the Council. This Report and the Resolutions were adopted by acclamation in Commission II.

I may mention that the Contact Group was formed for purposes of going into great detail. The various particulars of the documents of the Programme of Work and Budget, and I am indebted to the Chairperson of the Contact Group, Mr Bill Doering, who is one of the Vice-Chairs of Commission II, and the other members of the Working Group who worked day and night practically to achieve the results. Their substantive work and their contribution of the Drafting Committee in achieving this Report is also noteworthy as also the assistance received from Mr Tony Wade and his team.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to introduce this Report.

Paragraphs 1-19
Paragraphes 1-19
Párrafos 1-19

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Président de la Commission II pour la présentation du Rapport.

Nous passons maintenant à l'Adoption du Rapport sur le Point 14 de l'Ordre du jour, qui figure dans le document C 99/REP/1. Puisque ce Rapport a déjà été examiné par la Commission II, sur la base du Projet de Rapport présenté par le Comité de rédaction, j'aimerais suggérer l'adoption *en bloc* des paragraphes 1 à 19 qui représentent la partie narrative de ce Rapport.

Après avoir adopté cette partie du Rapport, nous allons procéder au vote sur les deux Résolutions qui figurent respectivement à la page 9 et à la page 11. Il s'agit des pages 9 et 11 de la version française, il se peut qu'il y ait un décalage dans les autres langues, toujours le même document le C 99/REP/1.

Sénégal, vous avez la parole.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, comme vous, nous apprécions le travail remarquable qui a été fait, et nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec vous. Il faudrait trouver un moyen de récompenser utilement ces efforts consentis, c'est dire que je souscris à votre démarche, mais je souhaiterais auparavant obtenir une clarification du Président sur la lecture du paragraphe 17.

Dans le paragraphe 17, on se félicite d'informations qui nous laissent espérer. L'espoir même sans information est toujours permis. N'a-t'on pas eu l'intention d'être beaucoup plus clair, beaucoup plus précis, dans le sens, où on aurait pu dire, à notre avis, qu'on se félicitait des informations de la part du principal bailleur, sur sa volonté de procéder à un règlement important ? C'est ce que nous espérions voir, mais peut-être que cette rédaction subtile cache quelque chose de beaucoup plus positif. Nous aimerions avoir des précisions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il faut toujours rendre les choses positives. Je donne la parole au Président de la Commission II.

Bhaskar BARUA (Chairman, Commission II)

The distinguished delegate from Senegal has a raised a question about intention; we have used the word "hope". The information available to us in Commission II so far indicated that the information is very positive, and therefore we have designated it as positive information. But it will be appreciated their many formalities involved in the various steps which require to be accomplished before the positive information which we have will result in concrete, so to say, flow of funds maybe. Therefore, we have used an optimistic turn of phrase "reason to hope".

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après les explications données par le Président de la Commission II sur les termes utilisés, je pense qu'il est clair que le délégué du principal bailleur et des mandatés a donné des informations à la Commission. Ces informations ont été appréciées, et la Commission s'est félicitée de ces informations positives. A ce stade, je pense que nous n'entrerons pas dans le détail parce que le paragraphe est très clair.

N'ayant pas d'autres commentaires, je vous prie d'adopter par acclamation les paragraphes 1 à 19.

Paragraphs 1 to 19 adopted
Les paragraphes 1 à 19 sont adoptés
Los párrafos 1 a 19 adoptados

Je déclare cette partie du rapport adoptée et vous remercie de votre collaboration.

Paragraph 20, including Resolutions
Paragraphe 20, y compris les Résolutions
Párrafo 20, incluyendo Resoluciones

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous en arrivons à la Résolution portant à l'ouverture de crédits pour l'exercice 2000-2001 qui figure au paragraphe 20.

Canada, vous avez la parole.

Ms Thi Lan HOANG (Canada)

We wish to address the proposal to authorize the Director-General to borrow US$ 9 million from the Working Capital Fund. When we approved a similar authorization in 1977, we made it clear that this was a one-time provision not to be repeated. We believe that those costs are a direct consequence of the measures the Director-General has put forward to prepare a budget totalling US$ 650 million, and that these costs should be absorbed within the US$ 650 million. We note that unchanged budgets have been adopted in other UN Specialized Agencies which have been approved this year. It was not necessary for these other Organizations to resort to this kind of extraordinary measure, and we regret that it has been necessary here at the FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie et on note votre observation.

Je vais à présent donner la parole au Secrétaire général pour procéder au vote des deux Résolutions.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

L'Article XVIII, paragraphe 5 de l'Acte constitutif stipule que "les décisions relatives au montant du budget sont prises à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés". Selon l'Article XII, paragraphe 7, alinéa a du Règlement général, "un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité des deux tiers est requise en vertu de l'Acte constitutif". L'Article XII, paragraphe 3, alinéa c du Règlement général stipule que "lorqu'en vertu de l'Acte constitutif, 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". En l'occurrence, il faut donc que le nombre des voix pour ou contre soit de 91 au minimum.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous allons procéder au vote. Je vais demander au Secrétaire général de prendre des dispositions pour connaître le nombre de pays dans la salle.

Vote
Vote
Votación

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	19/11/99 16.59.52

Vote on: BUDGET RESOLUTION
Vote sur:
Votaction para:

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	105
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	71
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	105
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	62

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:
ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, CONGO REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D' IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, KOREA REP. OF, KUWAIT, LAOS, LESOTHO, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MAURITIANA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NIGER, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:
NIGERIA

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:
AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARMENIA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CHILE, COLOMBIA, CONGO DEM. REP. OF, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FIJI, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, LEBANON, MALDIVES, MALI, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NICARAGUA, NIUE, OMAN, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, QATAR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SUDAN, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, VANUATU, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr .....

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

19/11/99
17.04.31

Vote on: USE OF ARREARS AND ADVANCE FROM WCAP1783L FUND
Vote sur: .....
Votaction para: .....

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	108
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	73
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	108
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	60

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables: ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, COTE D' IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, KOREA REP. OF, KUWAIT, LAOS, LESOTHO, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIANA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARMENIA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CHILE, CONGO DEM. REP. OF, CONGO REP. OF, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FIJI, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, LEBANON, MALDIVES, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NICARAGUA, NIUE, OMAN, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, QATAR, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SUDAN, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, VANUATU, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr .....

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après les résultats du vote, les Résolutions sont donc adoptées. Nous venons de terminer l'Ordre du jour de notre Treizième séance plénière, et je tiens à vous remercier.

Paragraph 20, including Resolutions, was adopted
Paragraphe 20, y compris les Résolutions, est adopté
Párrafo 20, incluyendo Resoluciones, es aprobado

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je tiens simplement à rappeler aux membres du Bureau que le Président a décidé de convoquer une réunion du Bureau lundi matin à 8 heures 30.

J'ai aussi une autre annonce. Je tiens à rappeler aux honorables délégués qu'il y aura une démonstration et j'ai la version anglaise, je m'excuse, sur *Electronic Book Technology* qui aura lieu au rez-de-chaussée du bâtiment A et elle est aussi prévue pour lundi 22 novembre à 12 heures.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de terminer, je donne la parole au délégué de la République Unie de Tanzanie, et ensuite au délégué du Gabon. République Unie de Tanzanie, vous avez la parole.

Asmani ALBANO (Tanzania, United Republic of)

The Chairman of Group-77 had planned to raise a few issues on behalf of Group-77. Since he is not present at the moment, I kindly request the Chair to give the floor to Her Excellency the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to speak on his behalf.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Pour l'instant je n'ai rien à dire. Nous allons nous concerter et ensuite nous verrons.

Marcel IBINGA-MAGWANGU (Gabon)

Rassurez-vous, vous avez bien travaillé, nous avons bien travaillé. Je ne vais donc pas du tout réouvrir les débats. Je voudrais tout simplement dire que nous avons voté avec beaucoup de joie, le Programme de travail et budget parce que nous voulons absolument que le Directeur général dispose des moyens d'action très rapidement afin d'assurer sa mission.

Mais nous pensons qu'il est temps que la FAO choisisse la voie de la proximité quant à sa présence sur le terrain. Je veux tout simplement parler de l'expertise dont dispose seule la FAO auprès de nos États, notamment à travers une représentation nationale tout à fait dosée et négociée avec les États qui en font la demande.

Je sais qu'on va dire que le coût sera plus élevé, et bien je m'insurge contre ceux qui le diraient car il a été prouvé depuis 1994 que seules 17 demandes ont été faites d'une part, et d'autre part, les États sont en mesure de négocier avec le Directeur général les formes de représentation de la FAO sur le terrain, au niveau de nos capitales. Bref, le Gabon demande que sa requête pour une Représentation de la FAO à Libreville soit examinée avec beaucoup d'attention et je dirais même assez positivement comme celle d'ailleurs des 17 autres demandeurs.

Roy FANOURAKIS (Swaziland)

My delegation wishes to register its appreciation for the consensus that has been reached with respect to the budget level for the coming biennium, even though we would have settled for a minimum Zero Real Growth scenario.

May I also express my country's appreciation for FAO's decentralization policy, particularly with respect to the establishment of FAO's Sub-Regional office in Harare, Zimbabwe.

I wish, however, to make an earnest appeal to the Director-General of FAO to seriously consider establishing an FAO Representation in Swaziland, so as to eventually consolidate our cooperation with FAO. We strongly believe that such Representation would also effectively promote alliances with other UN Agencies in the country, with FAO taking the leading role in agriculture and rural development.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

En relación al tema que han tratado las delegaciones que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, la delegación de Guatemala solicita que se incluya para el *record* de esta Conferencia el interés que países como Guatemala han planteado a la FAO respecto a la posibilidad de tener una Representación en el país. Deseo recordar a la Conferencia, que en 1976 se creó la red de Representaciones de FAO y que desde 1987 se mantiene inalterable el número de

Representaciones en los países, situación que contrasta con el incremento del número de Países Miembros de la Organización.

Por ello la delegación de Guatemala se permite informar que 17 Países Miembros han solicitado a la FAO el establecimiento de una Representación, a saber: Asia cinco países, Africa cuatro, Cercano Oriente tres, Europa uno, América Latina y el Caribe cuatro. Por lo anterior solicito que la Conferencia permita que la FAO amplíe el número de Representaciones como parte de la política de descentralización progresiva de la sede.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Ateniéndome a lo que acaba de decir Guatemala y otros colegas, también la delegación de Panamá tiene interés en las oficinas nacionales y ha hecho una solicitud a la FAO en tal sentido, por lo cual solicita que sea atendida dicha solicitud.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

L'Angola a déjà une Représentation et nous voulons réellement qu'elle soit renforcée. Nous appuyons ce qui a été dit par le Gabon et le Swaziland quant à l'installation d'un Bureau dans ces pays car ces Bureaux sont indispensables à la résolution de certains problèmes ponctuels.

Nouri Ibrahim HASSAN (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

My delegation wishes to express its great satisfaction for the consensus achieved in the adoption of the budget, though we would have been in favour of Zero Real Growth for the 2000-2001 period.

We hope that FAO will be able to accept our request that a Representation be opened in our country. We have taken all the necessary steps to host this office. We have the building and all the necessary services for this office to become operational as soon as possible.

Choni DHENDUP (Bhutan)

We also wish to put on record our request that an FAO Representation be opened in Bhutan.

Rachid BENAISSA (Algérie)

A l'instar des autres demandes, et compte tenu que la FAO n'est pas représentée dans notre pays, l'Algérie souhaiterait l'ouverture d'un Bureau national de la FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'autres intervenants, je propose à la Conférence, après avoir entendu une partie des délégués, que nous autorisions le Directeur général à prendre en charge ce qui vient d'être soulevé parce qu'effectivement la répartition actuelle de la FAO à travers les continents est basée sur un certain nombre d'États. Ce nombre a évolué et nous devons tenir compte de cette évolution.

Nous autorisons le Directeur général à ce qu'il ait toute la souplesse nécessaire pour agir, tout en visant l'efficacité de ses Représentations. Cela devra se faire dans le cadre du budget qui a été arrêté. En d'autres termes, il n'y aura pas d'autres incidences financières, mis à part ce que nous venons d'arrêter.

Thomas J. KELLY (United Kingdom)

Can you just repeat what you said? I would like to be quite clear as to what you said.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais essayer d'expliquer à nouveau ma proposition. Après les différentes interventions des délégués, leur demande est le déploiement des secteurs de la FAO, c'est-à-dire les Représentations. Actuellement, le nombre de Représentations de la FAO, est de 78 et cette répartition date de 1987. Nous sommes en 1999 et le nombre d'Etats Membres de la FAO a

augmenté entre temps. Nous voulons dire que sans toucher au budget sans augmentation du budget, nous autorisons le Directeur général de la FAO à revoir la distribution de la FAO à travers les différents continents sans augmentation du budget. Le nombre actuel de Représentations est 78, il date de 1987. Les choses ont changé, il y a eu évolution, c'est pourquoi notre Organisation doit évoluer en fonction de ces changements. C'est pour cela que je propose d'autoriser le Directeur général à mener cette opération de redéploiement de la FAO à travers les différents continents sans augmentation du budget. Je donne la parole aux États-Unis.

E. Michael SOUTHWICK (United States of America)

We are somewhat confused and concerned as to why this discussion is taking place now when this issue, as I understand it, has been addressed elsewhere. We would like to note that the United States has addressed the issue of Country Representatives in Commission II, and I add that we still question whether nearly ten percent of the FAO budget should be allocated to Country Offices.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italie)

Je voudrais vous poser des questions car vous avez dit que depuis le début de l'année 1987, il n'y a pas eu de nouveaux Bureaux locaux, mais il y a eu quand même des nouveaux Bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux. C'est donc toute la structure de la présence de la FAO à l'étranger que nous avons considéré et discuté pas mal au Comité des finances.

Nous nous étions même demandé au Comité des finances comment mieux structurer les dépenses et je ne vois pas bien comment on peut augmenter les Bureaux avec le budget actuel. Si on augmente les Bureaux au niveau local, il faudrait les réduire au niveau régional ou sous-régional parce qu'il faut quand même faire cadrer le budget. Je crois qu'il y a eu pas mal d'observations de la part des États Membres sur le fait que certains de ces Bureaux locaux, régionaux ou sous-régionaux ne rendaient pas tout à fait ce qu'ils auraient dû.

Il y a donc eu pas mal de remarques critiques. C'est donc une question qui a été ouverte à la discussion et qui continue de l'être. C'est un problème assez complexe sur lequel les positions sont assez divergentes, et je vois mal comment on peut l'affronter en fin de discussion comme "autres questions". C'est pour cela que j'hésite à suivre le consensus, parce que c'est une question qui a été sujette à plusieurs discussions et hésitations.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Je pense qu'il est tout à fait légitime pour des pays Membres d'une organisation de souhaiter leur présence physique en constatant les sacrifices minimums nécessaires de l'Organisation auprès de laquelle ces pays sont Membres.

Toutefois, on aurait pu effectivement, comme l'a dit mon collègue de l'Italie, éviter le débat en prenant note de cette requête, et demander au Secrétariat de voir, dans la mesure du possible, ce qui peut être fait. Je pense qu'il y a quand même là une légitimité pour le Secrétariat de se déployer de la manière la plus efficace. On aurait dû simplement dire de se limiter à cela. Si on va jusqu'à lui donner l'autorisation d'ouvrir tous ces bureaux sans moyens supplémentaires, je me demande comment ce sera possible? C'est donc là tout le problème.

Donc, je propose que nous prenions note de ces demandes qui sont, tout à fait légitimes, et que nous demandions au Secrétariat de les examiner avec bienveillance dans toute la mesure du possible pour obtenir l'efficacité requise.

Charles BOIS d'ENGHIEN (Belgique)

Ayant moins d'expérience que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, surtout dans les questions financières, je voudrais tout de même me racrocher à son intervention que je crois pleine de bon sens car si, comme l'un des orateurs précédents l'a bien souligné, il est tout à fait légitime que le

Directeur général fasse des propositions, encore faut-il que ces propositions suivent la procédure normale, qui me paraît être celle de la présentation de telle proposition au Comité compétent.

Avec un singulier ou un pluriel, je n'en sais rien, mais en tout cas il paraît, tout de même, un peu curieux que l'on puisse comme cela donner une sorte de blancin alors que nous ne savons pas quelles seront les mutations budgétaires qui seront nécessaires pour que de tels ajustements dans les postes dans les Représentations de la FAO puissent être réalisés. En d'autres termes, puisque le Secrétariat nous suggère, à juste titre, que cela soit réalisé éventuellement sans changer au montant total actuel, donc dans le cadre budgétaire actuel, cela veut dire qu'il y aura des modifications, des économies, des réductions de dépenses ailleurs.

Je crois qu'on ne peut pas sans autre forme d'examen donner comme ça une espèce d'autorisation de "blanket authorisation", dit-on en anglais, au Secrétariat. Ce n'est pas une question d'opposition de principe, c'est une question un peu de pouvoir quand même un peu connaître comment cela sera en pratique. Alors, je suggèrerais en tout cas que la question soit présentée aux organes compétents.

Ms Aulikki KAUPPILA (Finland)

This is indeed a very complicated matter. It is not only about the budget, it has also other dimensions, so in case we want to have this kind of discussion, I would very much appreciate the possibility to coordinate the views of the European Community and its Member States, and before that we cannot take any kind of decisions. I would like to know if we are going to continue the discussion during this Conference.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

We certainly recognize the desire of Member Nations which are not represented or do not have FAO Resident Representatives, but we would support the comments made by Italy and by Belgium and by others that this is not exactly the right fora or the right approach to take these up. This matter has been reviewed over the past year by the Finance Committee and by the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee. It has been debated in Commission II, and I would suggest that the proper place for this to have been debated would have been in Commission II. I agree that a number of countries have raised this, and the record should note that they were raised, but I would be most reluctant for this body to conclude that these requests should be elevated to a specific request for a study by the Secretariat, particularly one that involves redeployment of resources and implications for staff movements, etc. I would also echo the comments of my colleague from Italy that part of the reason for the staff redeployment to Regional and Sub-regional Offices has been to address this particular concern. We have just approved a Budget for the next biennium. There is no scope within that for additional offices, so I would suggest that this Body simply note that these requests were made.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

Australia would also endorse the comments of a number of other Members here, such as Italy, Belgium and Canada. We would also question the need to reach any decision on this issue now. We would wish that these legitimate requests be noted at this time but that any other authorization of new offices should be considered through the normal procedure of this Organization, including the Organization's competent committees. It is not possible to give authorization on this issue now, and we would suggest that this Body only note the requests that have been made.

Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

The Mauritius delegation realises that the question in fact is very complex, and it is not possible to come to a decision here. My delegation would like to support the delegation of Senegal. My delegation believes that the request made by the various delegations here should be submitted to the Director-General for study within the framework of the budget, taking into consideration the

various arrangements made already and the Sub-regional and Regional offices that exist. I think that the request made here should be submitted to the Director-General as proposed by Senegal so that a decision could be made by the Director-General in consultation with the Secretariat of FAO.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais intervenir sur tout autre chose. Alors je ne sais pas si je peux. Ce n'est pas sur le même sujet.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous permettez, Madame, on termine ce sujet et on vous donne la parole ensuite si cela n'a pas de lien avec ce que nous sommes en train de discuter.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La delegación de Guatemala le pide excusas por volverse a dirigir a la Conferencia, pero es para apoyar a la delegación de Senegal y de Mauritania en el sentido de decir que lo que se ha solicitado en esta ocasión no ha sido un procedimiento extraordinario del que siguen todas estas solicitudes que se hacen a la FAO. El propósito de esta intervención ha sido para hacer presente a la dirección de la FAO y a esta Conferencia que países como Guatemala han hecho la solicitud de tener una oficina en la confianza de que eso ayudará a establecer una mejor relación entre los Países Miembros y la Organización. La delegación de Guatemala desea que conste en las Actas de esta Conferencia la importancia que tienen estas solicitudes, para que sean consideradas como merecen, cada una de acuerdo a sus circunstancias especiales. Solamente quería reiterar el sentido de la solicitud.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Yo también quisiera unirme a lo que han dicho los distinguidos colegas de Senegal, Mauritania y Guatemala. No voy a entrar en detalles porque ya está todo dicho, solamente quiero reafirmar y dejar abierta la oportunidad de que el Director General pueda decidir sobre esto e inclusive ver las contribuciones o la manera en que los diferentes países pueden ayudar a que este hecho sea una realidad.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il y a beaucoup d'intervenants sur ce point. Il y a des demandes pressantes, des demandes certainement légitimes de ses Membres. J'avais parlé au début que la répartition actuelle date de 1987, et dans toute Organisation, si nous voulons chercher l'efficacité, nous devons chaque fois se pencher sur le type de répartition, de redéploiement de notre Organisation pour atteindre cette efficacité.

Effectivement, le Directeur général est mandaté pour réfléchir, examiner la situation actuelle et faire des propositions. L'Organisation a ses organes, tels que le Conseil et ses Comités. Je pense, pour clôturer ce point, qu'il faut noter la demande pressante et légitime formulée par certains pays. Cette demande, quelle qu'elle soit, doit être examinée par le Conseil et ses Comités, c'est-à-dire Conseil et Comités de l'Organisation FAO. Je donne la parole à la déléguée du Burkina Faso.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Comme je le disais, il s'agit de tout autre chose et je voudrais revenir en arrière sur le vote des deux Projets de Résolution concernant le Budget. J'ai eu connaissance du fait qu'un pays africain s'est abstenu lors d'un de ces votes. Nous en sommes surpris parce qu'au niveau du Groupe africain nous sommes favorables à l'unanimité à ces deux Projets de Résolution. Etant donné que le délégué concerné a quitté la salle entre temps, pour éviter que le procès-verbal ne reflète quelque chose que ce délégué n'a sûrement pas voulu exprimer, je voudrais lui proposer

d'intervenir à la prochaine séance de la Plénière, puisqu'il ne s'agit pas d'un scrutin secret, il peut faire connaître sa position pour que l'histoire enregistre ce qu'il pense vraiment.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

J'interviens pour appuyer fortement ce que notre Président vient de dire parce qu'effectivement, nous aussi avons cherché à savoir, et si vous voyez les deux votes des deux Projets de Résolutions, il est clair que la machine à dû jouer un mauvais tour à ce pays qui n'est certainement pas habitué à ce système de vote qui remplace le vote par appel nominal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puisque le délégué est absent, lors de la prochaine séance plénière nous lui donnerons l'occasion de nous dire exactement ce qu'il s'est passé. Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général qui doit faire une annonce.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have an announcement to make. The Friends of the Chair of Commission II are to meet in the Mexico Room immediately. The Drafting Committee of Commission II will meet in the Mexico Room, the same room, at 20.00 hours. Commission II will reconvene in the Red Room at 9.30 hours, 22 November, on Monday morning.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous venons donc de terminer l'Ordre du jour de notre séance. Je tiens à vous exprimer mes vifs remerciements pour votre compréhension. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.
La séance est levée à 17 h 45.
Se levantala sesión a las 17.45 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIÈME SÉANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

22 November 1999

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Statement by His Excellency Martti Ahtisaari, President of the Republic of Finland
Allocution de Son Excellence Monsieur Martti Ahtisaari, Président de la République de Finlande
Discurso del Excmo. Sr. Don Martti Ahtisaari, Presidente de la República de Finlandia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la quatorzième séance plénière.

J'ai l'honneur de souhaiter la bienvenue à Son Excellence Monsieur Martti Ahtisaari, Président de la République de Finlande, qui honore notre Conférence de sa présence.

Je donne la parole au Directeur général.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is indeed a great honour and a great privilege for me to welcome His Excellency Martti Ahtisaari, President of the Republic of Finland.

Despite his numerous obligations as Head of State of the country currently holding the Presidency of the European Union, Mr Ahtisaari has graciously accepted to honour this Thirtieth Session of the FAO Conference with his presence.

Mr Ahtisaari is the tenth President of Independent Finland, but the first one to be elected by direct popular vote. This election marked an important change in the history of the Finnish democratic system. For a man who has advocated democracy all his life, and who firmly believes that in a democratic society power resides with citizens, his election to the highest post in his country could not have been otherwise than by direct popular vote.

Although Mr Ahtisaari initially contemplated a career as an educator, he began his association with international development as early as 1965 when he joined the newly-established Department for International Development Cooperation, at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he worked his way up to Deputy Head of the Department. In 1973, he was appointed Ambassador to Tanzania, serving at the same time as Ambassador to Mozambique, Somalia and Zambia. During this period, he developed a vast network of African contacts, and it was, therefore, not a surprise that the African leaders put their trust in him when the United Nations sought a Commission for Namibia, by endorsing the Secretary-General's decision to appoint him as his Special Representative to Namibia.

Mr Ahtissari performed an almost impossible feat in helping Namibia to attain independence without any rupture in the social fabric of the nation. Mr Ahtissari's term came to an end in 1984, and he returned to Finland to serve as Under-Secretary of State for International Cooperation with Developing Countries.

In 1987, the Secretary-General called upon his services once again and appointed him Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, also retaining his position as Special Representative for Namibia. By then the Namibian march towards independence was on its final leg and entering an extremely delicate phase. All went well, however. Namibia became an independent country, and held free and fair elections. Namibia is clearly one of the United Nations' success stories, and Mr Ahtisaari has played the key role in that process. Evidence of this is the honorary citizenship which the young nation bestowed on him.

In 1991, he returned to the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and took over the post of Secretary of State, its highest civil service position. But in 1992, the United Nations again called on Mr Ahtisaari's negotiating and mediating skills, and he was appointed Chairman of the Bosnia- Herzegovina Working Group on the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia,

and served as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Former Yugoslavia.

More recently Mr Ahtisaari was again instrumental in negotiating, on behalf of the NATO Members, the end of the Kosovo conflict, and thus prepared the path for the return of the thousands of refugees back to their villages. In recognition of his contribution to the international community, many international and national institutions have bestowed him with honorary distinctions and decorations which are a tribute to this messenger of peace and democracy.

I now call on His Excellency, Martti Ahtisaari, to address this Conference.

His Excellency Martti AHTISAARI (President of the Republic of Finland)

First of all, I should like to take this moment to thank FAO for providing this opportunity to address this extremely important issue.

My topic today in my speech is sustainable forest management in Finland, its development and possibilities.

These days forests are not only a local and regional issue; they are very much a global issue. Let me begin with the concept of sustainable forest management. We can then move on to Finnish examples of enhancing sustainable forest management, and finish up with a discussion on some international forest issues.

A forest symbolizes something different for each and every one of us. For some, it might be a source of essential firewood, a place to go hiking or even a spiritual place. For others, it is a source of pure drinking water or raw material for a sawmill. Different perceptions sometimes make it hard to understand other people's perspectives and needs. Although we might agree about the importance of sustainable use of forests, do we really have a common understanding of what forests are and therefore what kind of sustainability we are seeking? The general recognition of the sustainability of forestry has broadened. Stable economic growth nowadays has an equal standing with concepts such as environmental, social and cultural sustainability and the desire to pass on the legacy of welfare and well-being from one generation to another.

Sustainable forest management, however, is becoming more and more a complex question of balancing. It includes the balancing of private and public interests, present and future generations' needs, environmental and economic benefits, to mention just a few examples. Forestry must address increasingly complex demands from a growing number of users. Based on the definitions and the general criteria of sustainable forest management at the European level, the following principles were agreed upon in Helsinki in 1993. Forest resources should be maintained and enhanced for the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, as well as for the global carbon balance. Forests should be tended for the biological diversity of forest ecosystems and to advance the socio-economic functions and conditions of forests. Wood and non-wood productive functions of forest should be encouraged.

In Northern Europe we have a tendency to take it for granted that stability of society needed for sustainability is easily achieved, unlike in some other places in the world. We might offer some experiences about the development and present state of our forestry but we have to keep in mind that the development of our forestry is based on a combination of circumstances that are not present anywhere else.

In Finland, climatic conditions are not the most favourable for forest growth, yet the forestry sector and the export of forest products are very important for our economy. The forest sector alone accounts for a third of Finland's gross export income. With approximately 0.5 percent of the world's forests, Finland accounts for 15 percent of the world's export of paper and paperboard. In the history of social and industrial development in Finland, forests have gone through many different phases, from the balanced coexistence between forests and early hunters, to the crude exploitation of forests for grazing, sifting cultivation and distillation of tar in the late

nineteenth century, leaping up to the current situation where forestry resources are managed through sustainable use which is based on a large variety of forest products, ranging from timber to berries and from pleasant scenery to the mere existential value of forests.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the growing demand for timber for the expanding European market and the domestic exploitation of forest for tar and sifting cultivation raised for the first time concerns for the future sufficiency of wood as a raw material. The then Senate invited the German forestry expert Edmund von Berg to evaluate Finnish forests. Our first known foreign forest consultant gave us the following questionable appraisal: "The Finns have become very skilful in the art of destroying forests, and, furthermore, the Finns live in and from the forests but out of stupidity and greed, like the old woman in the fairy tale, kill the goose that lays the golden egg." That was not terribly complimentary for my ancestors.

As a consequence of the report, our first forest law was written in 1886. The statement was simple but effective. "The forests shall not be destroyed." In a small country it was easy to realise, if we didn't plant when we harvested, we would not have trees in the future. The most recent reform of Finland's Central Forest Legislation took place in the 1990s. It retains the prohibition on the destruction of forests, and, in addition, the renewed forest legislation covers all the aspects of the Rio Conference, such as social and environmental sustainability.

I would like to give you some examples of our efforts. In the long run, we see the Finnish National Forest Programme as one of the best ways to ensure the sustainable use and development of our forests and to maintain a sufficient level of forest conservation in Finland. The idea behind our national forest programme is to meet domestic and international requirements in order to develop forest management and protection, along such lines that forests will provide Finns with as much work and sources of livelihood as possible, remain healthy, vital and diverse and provide spiritual and physical recreation for the Finnish people.

The sustainability of forest ecosystems rests on protected areas and the management of commercial forests. In Finland, 7.6 percent of forests and other wooded land is protected. Today the emphasis is, however, on maintaining the level of biodiversity in many forests. The 1997 Forest Act and the 1997 Nature Conservation Act have created a good framework for this work. For instance, according to the Forest Act, during harvesting large trees are left on the side as nesting trees for large birds of prey and that leads to host a variety of insects. According to the National Forest Programme, social sustainability is supported by strengthening family forestry, by decreasing rural unemployment and by supporting the creation of new employment opportunities. In rural areas, forest and wood are more and more essential in creating and supporting employment and developing business ventures, such as value-added wood processing, wood-based energy production or the multiple use of forests.

As part of enhancing sustainable forest management, Finland has also been active in developing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and in creating favourable circumstances for forest certification. Based on the Helsinki Process, Finland has thrown up six criteria and some 150 indicators, adjusted to local conditions, which are now being tested in practice.

Throughout the last decade, a very active intergovernmental forest process in various forms has taken place, in which Finland and the European Union have underlined the crucial role of forests for sustainable development. Sustainable forest management is an integral part of sustainable development, and it requires long-term commitment and adequate arrangements for its execution and for cooperation on all types of forests at the global and national level.

International cooperation in forestry and environmental issues is also growing fast. One example of this is the valuable work performed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. The outcome so far of the United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development, UNCED, in Rio in 1992, as well as the IPF and IFF process, represent a large spectrum of useful proposals which form a solid base for further progress.

The negotiating process at IFF shows an emerging consensus for the need to continue the international forest policy dialogue for action and to reach a common understanding of its basic functions. These, in my view, should include objectives and global goals along the lines of UNCED decisions and the valuable work of the IPF/IFF process. We should reach a common understanding and holistic view of sustainable forest management which reflect global, regional and local concerns. We should promote and enhance the coordination of forest-related actions between and among forest-specified and forest-related international instruments and initiatives and build synergies and effective cooperation. We should improve the implementation of comprehensive programmes for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. We should provide an international forum for addressing consensus-building, decision-making, monitoring and actions and issues of global concern through increased transparency and with the appropriate participation of the relevant actors.

Finland, as the current holder of the Presidency of the European Union, is convinced that the time between now and early 2000 should be used to find a negotiated solution to the apparent divergence of use and sometimes strict positions by all parties. After all, we are making decisions regarding the most important terrestrial ecosystem on which mankind depends for its livelihood and survival—the forests. The forests merit an international arrangement and agreement which takes a comprehensive and holistic approach and also enhances the effective execution of the global and environmental conventions, with due regard to the coordination of actions. The future arrangement and agreement should also facilitate equality and equity between countries and provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by taking into account their specific circumstances. In Finland's development policy, one priority area is support for developing countries to implement international environmental agreements, like the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climatic Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as the proposals for action produced in the IPF and IFF process.

In actual activity, support for national forest programmes and forestry-related projects have a major role. Finland is also keen to support the implementation of the international forestry regime and these conventions in the future and to assist developing countries in this context as a bilateral donor, while working with intergovernmental organizations like FAO. However, these international conventions have laid down forestry-related regulations and guidelines without consideration of their possible implications on the forest sector as a whole. Therefore, I wish to reiterate the importance of the international community in reaching consensus on a comprehensive and holistic arrangement and international agreement on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. We are convinced that the future arrangement should manifest the necessary political will and a permanent high-level commitment for policy-making at the international and national levels. A commitment by countries to apply a holistic approach to forest-related issues, within the framework of national forest programmes, is a prerequisite.

In the Ministerial Meeting on forestry convened by FAO, constructive work has been done in promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. The conclusion of the Ministers placed emphasis on the importance of forests for people's welfare, livelihood and food security now and in the future, as well as for the life-supporting system of the entire planet.

The Ministerial Meeting has also called on FAO to continue to serve as a facilitator and to give support to international processes related to sustainable forest management. FAO has done an excellent job in sharing the high-level Interagency Task Force on Forests and has facilitated, in many ways, the intergovernmental negotiating process over the past years. At the same time, FAO has continued to perform as a Centre of Excellence in both normative and technical work in

the development of forest policy strategy and instruments as well as practices in the forum of national forest programmes and in the areas of special importance, such as the field of community forests. FAO's work in global forest resource assessment and the evaluation of the state of the world's forests is commendable and should be further strengthened. The valuable work of FAO in promoting national forest programmes worldwide as one integral element in the implementation of the emerging international forests regime should gain even new momentum. The Organization-wide strategic planning process offers renewed opportunities to effectively address the interface between agriculture and forestry and the role of forests in food security and poverty reduction through the enhancement of rural livelihoods. The role of FAO as a United Nations Specialized Agency should offer, yet again, good prospects for establishing partnerships between the Organization and other key players, such as UNDP and the World Bank, in order to make the work on forests even more efficient and effective.

Over one third of the world's land area is forested. We certainly all agree on the importance of forests on the local, national and global scale. Forests continue to be a source of environmentally-friendly raw materials. Forests can slow down climate change and contribute to maintaining the habitability of the planet. But for how long can forests contribute to do this? In the near future, the important question will be how the principles of sustainable forest management, the forestry guidelines and the resolutions of conventions can be transformed into concrete methods. It is up to each country to decide how best to balance human activities with nature's ability to renew itself. It also requires foresight, greater global understanding of the current and potential values of forest ecosystems, private and public investment in forests and, sometimes, restrictions on utilization by curtailing exploitative short-term forest uses.

The world population is expanding, and it is our responsibility to see that our children will have their chance to get to know the forests. We can help the forest to survive for future generations only through concrete methods.

Before I finish, I would like to once again extend my appreciation for the opportunity to speak here today. My term as the President of Finland will end at the end of February next year, and I am not seeking, as is my constitutional right, my second term. In a sense this is one of my last public appearances in this office in this capacity and I have been very much touched by my discussion with the Director-General and his colleagues today over lunch because I cannot help recalling my first visit to this Organization, which took place well over thirty years ago. It has been very nice to be back.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je souhaite, en votre nom à tous, remercier son Excellence, le Président de la République de Finlande, pour son allocution et je donne tout de suite la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like on behalf of the Member Nations and the Secretariat of the Organization to express our profound gratitude. His Excellency Ahtisaari is an internationally-respected figure who, in coming here today as Head of State, is allowing us to benefit from his wisdom, his long experience, as well as from his guidance for the future. Beyond the very important issues you raised as regards forestry and the role that FAO should be playing to ensure that this important natural resource, which is at the core of the future of humanity on this earth, is preserved. We shall also retain the lessons you are giving us, Your Excellency, in behaviour and in statesmanship. We respect your decision, when your country is so successful and when you are so popular, to have the courage and the wisdom of deciding to take another step. This is a lesson for many leaders. We also appreciate the fact that you have allowed us to travel back to the past

as far as thirty years ago to the date of your first encounter with this Organization, when you played such a key role in starting the programme of Finland's cooperation with FAO.

Today, as yesterday, you are also playing a key role in the promotion of this Organization and you are encouraging us to continue to serve the international community in such vital areas as food security and the protection of natural resources and their effective sustainable use for humanity. Mr President, I wish to thank you again and hope to see you here in the future, even in a private capacity.

Applause.
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons suspendre la séance pendant quelques minutes afin de permettre à son Excellence, Le Président de la République de Finlande, de prendre congé.

Je voudrais demander aux délégations présentes dans la salle de bien vouloir rester afin d'assurer la majorité nécessaire pour pouvoir adopter une Résolution sur la suspension de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, comme annoncé pendant notre dernière séance.

Adoption of the Sixth Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/28)
Adoption du sixième Rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/28)
Aprobación del sexto informe del Comité General (C 99/LIM/28)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de poursuivre avec les points sur le programme de cette séance, nous allons passer au Sixième rapport du Bureau qui est contenu dans le document C 99/LIM/28, déjà remis à tous les délégués. C'est un projet de Résolution sur la nomination du Président du Conseil.

Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général pour apporter quelques précisions et clarifications.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je tiens à vous signaler que dans toutes les versions du programme des séances, il est dit que le document se référant à l'adoption du Sixième rapport du Bureau est C 99/LIM/25. Mais, c'est une erreur, ce n'est pas C 99/LIM/25 mais C 99/LIM/28, comme vient de le préciser le Président. Le Secrétariat tient donc à s'excuser. Le document en question est C99/LIM/28 et non pas C 99/LIM/25 comme indiqué dans le programme des séances.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a-t-il des observations sur ce rapport, le Sixième rapport du Bureau?

En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la Résolution adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Seventh Report of the General Committee (C 99/LIM/30)
Septième Rapport du Bureau (C 99/LIM/30)
Séptimo Informe del Comité General (C 99/LIM/30)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au Septième rapport du Bureau figurant dans le document C 99/LIM/30. Nous allons procéder de la même façon pour ce rapport.

S'il n'y a pas d'observations sur ce Septième rapport du Bureau, je déclare le rapport adopté.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Suspension Of Rule XXVII.2 GRO
Suspension de l'application de l'article XXVII.2. du RGO
Suspensión del Artículo XXVII.2 del RGO

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avec l'adoption du rapport, nous passons au vote pour la suspension de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général pour permettre la réception d'une candidature au Comité financier même s'il y a moins de dix jours d'ici à la date du Conseil.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous allons procéder au vote et je vais donner la parole au Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

L'Article XXVII Suspension et amendement des articles du Règlement général stipule ce qui suit: "Sous réserve des dispositions de l'Acte constitutif, l'application de tout article du présent Règlement peut être suspendu par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés au cours d'une séance plénière, à condition que la proposition de suspension ait été notifiée aux délégués au moins 24 heures avant la séance au cours de laquelle la proposition doit être faite".

L'Article XII, paragraphe 3, alinéa (c) du Règlement général stipule que lorsqu'en vertu de l'Acte constitutif "...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..." en l'occurrence, il faut donc que le nombre des voix pour ou contre soit 91 au minimum.

Pour connaître le nombre de pays dans la salle, puis-je demander à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon à ce que le dispositif électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes. Je répète, puis-je demander à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert, sur leur pupitre.

Je tiens à vous préciser que nous allons fermer la liste et je vous invite donc pour une dernière fois à appuyer sur le bouton vert.

Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a 102 délégations dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder à la votation électronique.

Si vous êtes d'accord avec la suspension de l'application de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, afin de permettre au Maroc de présenter sa candidature au Comité financier, appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyer sur le bouton rouge, si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Je répète, ceux qui sont d'accord pour la suspension de l'application de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation afin de permettre au Maroc de présenter sa candidature au Comité financier, appuyez sur le bouton vert, si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyez sur le bouton rouge, si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Nous allons procéder à la fermeture de la liste des votants. Y a-t-il d'autres délégations qui veulent voter? Nous allons donc fermer la liste des votants.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS | ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE | ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

22/11/99
15.58.27

Vote on: SUSPENSION OF ARTICLE XVII.2
Vote sur: .....
Votaction para: .....

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Prèsents/ Presentes
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	102
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	69
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	102
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	66

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables: ALGERIA, ANGOLA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO DEM. REP. OF, CONGO REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D' IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, DOMINICA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZELAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, ROMANIA, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA,UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, THE F.Y.REP.OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VANUATU, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, CHILE, CROATIA, D.P.REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FIJI, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KOREA REP. OF, LAOS, LITHUANIA, MALAWI, MALDIVES, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIANA, MOLDOVA, REP. OF, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, NIUE, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PARAGUAY, RWANDA, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SUDAN, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, TONGA, TUNISIA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr .....

La Résolution concernant la suspension de l'Article XXVII.2 est donc approuvée.

Resolution adopted
Résolution adoptée
Resolución aprobada

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

La Conférence a bien voulu accéder à la requête du Groupe africain, en procédant à la suspension de l'application de l'Article XXVII.2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Cette suspension qui permet la recevabilité de la candidature marocaine au poste de Président du Comité financier à la place de la candidature sénégalaise, évite au Groupe africain une situation qui aurait pu être préjudiciable dans la mesure où elle ne lui aurait pas permis de participer dans sa pleine mesure

aux débats du Comité financier. Et je voudrais remercier la Conférence et vous remercier personnellement, Monsieur le Président, pour cette compréhension.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il en est ainsi décidé. L'Article XXVII, paragraphe 2 du Règlement général a été suspendu.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

19. FAO Audited Accounts 1996-97 (including Draft Resolution) (C 99/5; C 99/LIM/10)
19. Comptes vérifiés de la FAO 1996-97(y compris il Projet le résolution) (C 99/5; C 99/LIM/10)
19. Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO, 1996-97 (incluído el Projecto de resolución) (C 99/5; C 99/LIM/10)

Passons maintenant au Point 19: *Comptes vérifiés de la FAO, 1996-97.* C'est donc un projet de Résolution de la Conférence sur les *Comptes vérifiés*, qui figurent dans le document C 99/LIM/10.

Je vais demander à Monsieur Mehboob, Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'administration et des finances, de nous présenter cette Résolution. Monsieur Mehboob, vous avez la parole.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director General, Administration and Finance Department)

As you have mentioned, the documents before the Conference are C 99/5 and C 99/LIM/10. C 99/5 are the Audited Accounts of the Organization, and as the Conference will note, the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion on the Financial Statements.

I may also add that the Finance Committee carries out a rigorous review of the External Auditor's recommendations and their implementation by the Secretariat. We present a document to the Finance Committee giving the status of the implementation of the recommendations, and also the documents contain remarks of the External Auditor commenting on our implementation.

Document C 99/LIM/10 document has the Draft Resolution presented to the Conference by the Council. It is for the adoption of the Audited Accounts for 199697.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je note que le Comité financier et le Conseil ont déjà examiné le Projet de Résolution. Y a-t-il des observations?

En l'absence d'observations, je déclare la Résolution adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

22. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
22. Autres questions administratives et financières
22. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

22.1 After Service Medical Coverage (C 99/LIM/12)
22.1 Couverture médicale après cessation de service (C 99/LIM/12)
22.1 Seguro médico después de la separación del servicio (C 99/LIM/12)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc, dans le document C 99/LIM/12, il y a un projet de Résolution déjà considéré par le Conseil et le Comité financier.

Y a-t-il des observations sur ce projet de Résolution?

États-Unis, vous avez la parole.

Mrs Laurie J. TRACY (United States of America)

The United States can support the proposal contained in the Resolution. In doing so we note the need to balance the contributions and earnings of such funds as the Staff and Separation Payments Schemes with their expected liabilities. Therefore, the United States would appreciate a Report from the Secretariat to the Finance Committee at some point in the not-too-distant future on whether there would be a need to adjust contributions to these funds in view of the US$ 40 million surplus. In saying that, I would note that we do not oppose this Resolution; we support it.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous prenons note de la remarque du délégué des États-Unis et nous déclarons la Résolution adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais passer la parole à Madame Margaret Eldon, Secrétaire générale de l'Union du personnel des services généraux (UGSS), qui fera une déclaration au nom de l'Association du personnel du cadre organique (APS), de l'Association du personnel de terrain (FSA) ainsi que de l'UGSS.

Ms Margaret ELDON (FAO Staff)

It is both an honour and a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the three staff bodies of FAO and World Food Programme; the Association of Professional Staff, the Field Staff Association and the Union of General Service Staff. We are grateful to the Director-General and the Chairman for permitting us to address this Conference. A copy of our statement will also be circulated for your information.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Director-General on his being appointed to a new term in office. The trust that the delegates of so many countries have placed in him to guide this Organization for another six years is clear proof of what the Organization has been able to achieve. We wish to reassert our commitment to work with, and not just under, the Director-General and his Senior Management, and thus enhance still further the impact of this Organization.

We would also like to thank those delegations that have expressed their interest in staff issues and their recognition of the importance of staff and staff morale.

At the Twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Conference, the staff representatives drew attention to the impact of change and limited resources on the work of the Organization. We expressed concern about the level of staff reductions, the Organization's management of vacancies for the Professional category, the cost-cutting policy of downgrading posts, the decline in career development prospects and the use of retirees to full the functional gaps in specific expertise and skills, all of which impact on the quantity and quality of outputs and the efficiency, effectiveness and credibility of the Organization. We noted with appreciation the emphasis many Member Nations had placed on an effective human-resources development policy and requested that the Organization be given the guidelines and the resources necessary to meet the challenges ahead.

Today, two years later, the situation has not improved. Notwithstanding the Organization's achievements, staff morale is not high. In this era of continuous belt-tightening, restructuring and

downsizing, staff feel they are continuously under assault. Rather than being considered a productive resource, we are considered a costly burden. The number of staff positions is being continuously reduced or downgraded. Job descriptions, particularly for the General Service, are out of date. Grading inconsistencies exist for all categories and between Headquarters and the field. Salaries are being eroded and promotions are few and far between.

During a period of restructuring, downsizing and redeployment, the staff accepted these anomalies as an inimicable but inevitable feature of the transition period. Should these anomalies persist, however, there is a high risk of the staff feeling exploited.

We must emphasize that the vast majority of staff members are committed, not in a mere calculative sense, where people are committed only to the extent that they are prepared to do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. They are fully committed in the idealistic sense. They know that they are doing something for the betterment of humankind. They know their contribution counts. Witness the number of cars in the parking lot beyond working hours on any given day of the year, Sundays and holidays included. Just look at the exit times of staff members as they sign the attendance books downstairs. Staff are working hard and making personal sacrifices for a cause in which they truly believe. But, sadly, self-fulfilment seems to be the only goal because recognition and rewards are ever more elusive. The long-term prospect is that of continuous demoralization ultimately having negative implications on programme delivery.

We are convinced that more emphasis should be placed on staff issues and, as staff representatives, would welcome the opportunity to provide a valuable input into a human resources management plan that respects the needs of all. An excellent example of the benefits of staff participation was the Task Force on Redeployment. With appropriate staff involvement, the task force managed to cope with a significant downsizing and redeployment exercise in a short space of time, without unrest or appeals. We believe staff representatives can and should have input on all issues of concern to the staff: on contractual status; on improving the transparency and fairness of recruitment, promotion and post classification; on creating real opportunity to develop a successful career in an international organization; on correcting the gender imbalance; on the language policy; on field staff security and on improving the means for individuals to have their concerns addressed quickly and fairly: to name but the more salient topics.

The Professional Staff Associations – the Association of Professional Staff and the Field Staff Association – have been in intensive negotiations with the management of World Food Programme on the implementation of the new appointment category referred to as the "indefinite appointment". Although they have not opposed this approach, the staff representatives have insisted most strongly that the special rules for this category of staff continue to foster a cadre of UN Civil Service Professionals. Only through job security and accumulated years of proven competence and profound experience can the programme be well implemented. Only through the self-same factors – security, competence and experience – can the spirit and dedication of the United Nations' ideals be truly developed.

Competence also plays a key role in recruitment. A recent ILO Administrative Tribunal judgement upheld the principle that among the criteria for selection, paramount consideration be given to competence. As staff representatives, we embrace this ruling which is fully consistent with Article 101 of the United Nations Charter. We recognize the importance of maintaining geographic and gender balance. We firmly believe that these principles can be complementary without sacrificing the Organization's need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.

We also support the principle that due consideration should be given to internal candidates who, by their very status, have shown a dedication to the Organization. The effectiveness and efficiency of FAO Representatives are enhanced immeasurably when they come from the ranks of staff who have served at Headquarters and the field and understand intimately the workings of the Organization.

We believe that the inconsistencies in post classification need to be tackled without delay. The inconsistencies result in failure to respect the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and provide cause for staff members to feel unfairly treated. Today, it has become much more difficult to grant a well-deserved upgrading, even when the division has the resources and submits a request. As the staff members concerned continue to work with outdated job descriptions and/or above their current grade level, frustration and disappointment grows.

The average working life of a staff member in the Professional category is approximately 13 years, and in the General Service category, it is over 20 years. Investment in resources that remain so long makes good sense. As staff representatives, we wish to fully participate in efforts to construct a comprehensive and equitable human resources development plan that addresses the issues of recruitment, career paths, development of talent, lateral mobility, promotion and succession planning. Excessive use of retirees to plug holes in the Organization's knowledge can be avoided through planning, since retirement hardly creeps up on one from behind. It is an event that is known well in advance - and not only to the retiree.

Last week, the Organization informed that it has implemented a policy of transferring high-level General Service posts to the Professional category when vacant. We would like to see this complemented by a policy that facilitates the promotion of deserving General Service staff to the Professional category so that career possibilities for the General Service - those with the longest working life - are not reduced. The human resources aspect of technological change needs to be given earlier attention. For example, with the introduction of Oracle, the Organization's new financial system, the staff who have been asked to get the system up and running are the very ones who will be affected by the subsequent economies of scale, and face an uncertain future.

We support the efforts of the Director-General in striving to improve the representation of women among the staff of the Organization. However, although the numbers of women Directors have increased, the rate of increase for women at the higher Professional levels has been slow and more can be done in this regard. FAO has a fairly large pool of women in low- and mid-level positions which constitutes a pool of potential women managers. As staff representatives, we would welcome the opportunity to share in the development of strategies for improvements in gender balance that will put FAO on a par, if not ahead, of other organizations in the UN System.

With respect to the new language policy, which we fully support, its success will depend on an intense training effort, together with the recruitment of language staff. We support the importance of furthering these policies and would support the dedication of adequate resources to that effort. Likewise, it is necessary to continue the support of multilingualism among staff through the continuation of the current incentives.

With human resources at a premium, some may search for panaceas in new technologies – along the lines of Oracle – to the detriment of sound human resource planning. We must recall, however, that computers and computer programmes can produce efficiencies if – and only if – their introduction is accompanied by proper staff training, effective delegation of authority and genuine assumption of responsibility, as well as a rational streamlining of procedures. In most cases, new technologies do not really save money. However, they do provide the tools to increase productivity, as long as the human resource potential is truly empowered. They will decrease productivity if they result only in over-loading technical staff with duties and responsibilities outside their sphere of competence.

The initiatives of the Director-General in addressing food security problems in a majority of the Member Nations have had an important impact. The decentralisation implemented over the past years may further strengthen the impression that the focus of activities has moved from Headquarters to the field. Unfortunately, staff are concerned over the marked reduction in human and financial resources for FAO field activities over the past five years. In many ways, this has reduced the impact of the Organization in the field.

Just a few days ago, we saw another tragedy unfold in the field. Twenty-four aid workers, several from the World Food Programme, gave their lives in service to our common humanitarian ideals. Our hearts go out to the families of all concerned. We assume that the crash was an accident, and some accidents may be unavoidable. United Nations staff, however, face many security threats that are not accidents. All too often, UN workers are the victims of summary executions, kidnappings and imprisonment. The staff of FAO and the World Food Programme, in the name of all of the United Nations staff, appeal to the Member Nations to do their utmost to protect the security of all UN staff, both the nationally and internationally-recruited.

Staff representatives have shown a responsible and constructive attitude when they are consulted. On many an occasion, they have responded constructively without even being asked. On behalf of all of the staff, we want and stand ready to make our contribution again and again to the future benefit of this Organization and to the Member Nations we serve. We trust in your understanding and your support.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie Mme la Représentante.

Délégué de la France, vous avez la parole.

Louis DOMINICI (France)

J'espère que je prends la parole au moment où il est possible de la prendre, sinon je suis prêt à attendre.

Après ce que nous venons d'entendre de la part du Représentant du personnel je voudrais dire quelques mots, si vous me le permettez. Je voudrais dire que nous avons le devoir de rendre hommage au personnel de l'Organisation, à son dévouement, à son attachement à notre idéal commun. Je crois aussi que nous avons le devoir de penser à ce qui doit être fait pour assurer au personnel la sécurité qui convient, les promotions qui conviennent, les perspectives durables de carrière qui conviennent, et enfin la participation globale à l'organisation du travail de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais ajouter que cette question du personnel, de ses rémunérations, de ses conditions de travail, de ses perspectives de carrière, est une des raisons pour laquelle la France avait souhaité que cette année le budget de l'Organisation soit augmenté et aille au-delà de la Croissance Nominale Zéro. Il faudra y penser pour l'avenir. C'est certes l'intérêt du personnel mais c'est aussi l'intérêt même de notre Organisation.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)

As a newcomer to FAO, and especially on this Thanksgiving Day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the personnel of FAO for the fact that they do an excellent job and they carry out their ideals, to which we all adhered when joining this Organization.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Je pense que ce qu'il faut regretter tout en félicitant la Représentante du Personnel, c'est que sa déclaration n'ait pas été faite avant l'adoption du budget, et la question qui me vient à l'esprit est que parfois je me demande ce que nous voulons. Nous reprochons parfois à l'Organisation d'avoir les moyens de satisfaire à toutes les conditions optimales de fonctionnement parmi lesquelles les préoccupations soulevées tout à l'heure, et demander à celle-ci de faire toujours l'impossible. Ceci pour dire que l'Ambassadeur de France a parfaitement raison. Je pense que cela devrait rester en mémoire pour que nous puissions en tenir compte prochainement dans l'allocation des ressources à cette Organisation si nous voulons qu'elle remplisse toutes ses obligations.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italie)

Je m'associe pleinement à ce que vient de dire l'Ambassadeur de France. Je suis personnellement très touché par ce que le Représentant du Sénégal vient de dire et je suis très inquiet par les sensations de frustration et déceptions auquelles il a fait référence. Je dois dire que les syndicats de cette Organisation ont toujours fait preuve d'une très grande responsabilité. Il faut leur en donner acte.

Je tiens aussi à souligner le problème de la sécurité et celui de la prospective de carrière. Sans prospectives de carrière, il est effectivement difficile de motiver les gens à faire davantage. Je dois dire que c'est une grande preuve d'engagement et de dévouement au devoir que donnent les employés de cette Organisation. Je vois souvent leurs voitures très tard la nuit. Je crois que l'Organisation doit leur en être gré et en même temps, les inciter à faire mieux en reconnaissant leur mérite personnel c'est-à-dire en leur donnant des promotions.

Mrs Laurie TRACY (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and to the Representative of the General Staff Association for that exhaustive review of her perspectives beginning with an endorsement of the recent decision on the part of the Conference regarding the top management of this Organization.

First of all, let me say that I endorse her appeal to all countries and all parties to conflicts to protect United Nations and NGO staff in the field. That is something that obviously all of us can support. We certainly welcome her constructive engagement and willingness to participate with the Director of Human Resources, whom I see sitting on the podium there and who has come up with many good ideas and who I know is working very hard on updating position descriptions. I am sure that she was delighted to hear of staff associations' willingness to work on that whole process.

As a point of procedure, we were not aware that this was going to be on the Agenda. We had ample opportunity to discuss that at the General Committee meeting or to see it in black and white on this Agenda. Nor were we aware on Friday afternoon that we would have a long discussion on the role of Country Offices. Now, I will say that there are resource implications in the items that were mentioned by the Staff Association Representative as well as in this discussion on Country Offices that took place in an unannounced way on Friday afternoon. I will recall for the Conference, if I might, the words that Mr Wade used with us the other night in the Drafting Committee when the delegate of Egypt had a very strong view with respect to reinstating a position on the Desert Locust Commission for the Middle East, a position that had been eliminated. And he said at that time in very strong words, he said that "the Conference cannot ask for funds, cannot ask for certain mandates to be funded within a given budget level without first anticipating where the offsetting cuts might come", and I would remind you all that that guidance stood as we considered the very important request made by Egypt and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa for reinstatement of funding for that position. I think it is very significant.

Finally, I would note that again the Representative of the Staff Union raised the Resolution on Gender and Geography, which, as I understand it, we have yet to consider, and she has yet been given the podium to offer her views on that. She also offered her views on the distribution of staff between Headquarters and the field and on the productivity gains that she feels that are not to be forthcoming from the use of technology. These are all issues that have resource implications, that have procedural implications in the sense that the Conference, the rest of us, did not have the advantage of knowing in advance that these things would be on the Agenda.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En tant que Président je m'associe à toutes les déclarations qui viennent d'être faites par la France, l'Italie, la Bulgarie, le Sénégal et les États-Unis d'Amérique et je tiens à remercier Madame la Représentante et lui adresser tous nos encouragements sur la remarque qui vient d'être formulée par le Représentant des Etats-Unis. Effectivement cela n'a pas été inscrit à l'Ordre du jour du Bureau pour examen. Mais c'est par respect pour la Représentante que j ai accepté qu'elle fasse sa déclaration.

Nous prenons note Madame, et vous avez raison. Ce que vous venez de dire, nous aurions dû l'examiner d'abord au niveau du Bureau et le ramener au niveau de la Conférence mais par respect pour le personnel nous avons accepté que Madame fasse sa déclaration malgré que cette déclaration n'ait pas été examinée par le Bureau.

26. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 99/17)
26. Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel (C 99/17)
26. Nombramiento de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 99/17)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons considérer maintenant le Point 26: *Nomination des Représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des Pensions*, document C 99/17. Comme vous le voyez dans ce document, la Conférence est appelée à élire un représentant et un suppléant pour la période allant du 1 janvier 2000 jusqu'au 31 décembre 2002 et un représentant et un suppléant pour la période allant du 1 janvier 2001 jusqu'au 31 décembre 2003.

Pour la période 1 janvier 2000 jusqu'au 31 décembre 2002, on propose comme Représentante Madame Korntip Ratanakomut (Thaïlande) et comme suppléant Monsieur Gaspard Kabura (Burundi).

Y a-t-il des objections à ces candidatures ?

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, il en est ainsi décidé.

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

Pour la période du 1 janvier 2001 au 31 décembre 2003, on propose comme représentant Monsieur John Borg Gil (République Dominicaine) et comme suppléant Monsieur Souhaid Deen Bangura (République de Guinée).

Y-a t-il des objections à ces candidatures ?

Il en est ainsi décidé.

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

PART V - OTHER MATTERS (continued)
CINQUIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)
PARTE V: OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

27. Date and Place of the Thirty-first Conference Session
27. Date et lieu de la trente et unième session de la Conférence
27. Fecha y lugar del 31° período de sesiones de la Conferencia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 27 de l'Ordre du jour. Date et lieu de la Trente-et-unième Session de la Conférence. Je passe la parole à Monsieur le Secrétaire général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Il est proposé que la Trente-et-unième session de la Conférence ait lieu à Rome du 2 au 13 novembre 2001. Cette proposition est soumise à l'approbation de la Conférence.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y a t-il des observations sur cette proposition ?

Il en est ainsi décidé.

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

28.6 In Memoriam
28.6 In Memoriam
28.6 In memoriam

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons maintenant passer au point traditionnel *In Memoriam* où la Conférence rend hommage à ses Fonctionnaires qui ont perdu la vie en service depuis la dernière Conférence. Je demande au Secrétaire général de lire les noms de ces Fonctionnaires.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Depuis la dernière Conférence, les Fonctionnaires suivants ont perdu la vie pendant qu'ils étaient en Service: Monsieur A.S.A. Ahmed, Monsieur Roderick Beare, Ms. B. Bowyer, M. R. Cannarsa, Mme Diana Fabbri-Ruggeri, Mr. K. Frimpong, M. Carlos Gonzalez Paez, Mme P. Guidoni-Nobili, Mme Jeanette Issine, Mr. A. Kabutaku, M. Matthias W. Oggema, M. Rajab Phiri, Mme Maria Puniello-Ambrosi, M. Ronald L.A. Rizzo, M. Hans W.O. Röbbel, M. Tafesse Sergut, M. Ould Banoun Sidi Baba.

(continued in English)

If I may, I would also like to pay at this moment a special tribute to Mr Hans Robbel, who was Assistant Secretary-General to the Council and the Conference and who worked alongside me at the FAO Conference in 1995. He was known, and I am sure well appreciated, by many delegations that are present at this Conference. A native of Germany, Mr Robbel was a Ph.D student and later a lecturer at the Universities of Gottingham and Hanover, and he came to us after having served as Senior Nature Conservation officer in Capetown, South Africa. He joined thirty years ago, FAO, as a young Associate Professional Officer. He spent most of his career in the Forestry Operations Service, and he in fact became Deputy to the Director of that Service. In 1995 the Director-General appointed Mr Robbel to the post of Director, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division and as Assistant Secretary-General of the Council and Conference. At the end of 1996 he became Director of the Field Operations Division of the Technical Cooperation Department. Known for his dedication and hard work, his sharp wit and plain

speaking ability, which were tempered by a keen sense of the political realities of the international development environment, and a total commitment to the ideals of this Organization. Mr Robbel is survived by his wife and daughter.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puis-je demander à l'Assemblée de se lever et d'observer une minute de silence en mémoire de ses Fonctionnaires qui ont perdu la vie depuis la dernière Conférence de 1997.

One minute of silence
Une minute de silence
Un minuto de silencio

28.7 Draft Resolution on FAO Compliance Agreement and Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention (C 99/INF/17; C 99/LIM/29)
28.7 Projet de résolution sur l'Accord visant à favoriser le respect par les navires en haute mer des mesures internationales de conservation et de gestion et sur le Texte révisé de la Convention pour la protection des végétaux (C 99/INF/17; C 99/LIM/29)
28.7 Proyecto de resolución relativa al Acuerdo de la FAO sobre el Cumplimiento y texto revisado de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (C 99/INF/17; C 99/LIM/29)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au troisième rapport du *Comité des résolutions*, document C 99/INF/17 et le document C 99/LIM/29. Pour le projet de Résolution sur *l'Accord visant à favoriser le respect par les navires de pêche en haute mer des mesures internationales de conservation et de gestion* et le *Texte révisé de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux* qui se trouve dans le document C 99/LIM 29, y a-t-il des observations avant de procéder à l'adoption de la Résolution?

En l'absence d'observations, la Résolution est adoptée.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Nous venons de terminer l'ordre du jour de cette séance. Nous continuerons demain matin à 10 heures avec l'adoption du Rapport de la Conférence.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours.
La séance est levée a 16 h 45.
Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirtieth Session
Trentième session
30º período de sesiones

Rome, 12-23 November 1999
Rome, 12-23 novembre 1999
Roma, 12-23 de noviembre de 1999

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIÈME SÉANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

23 November 1999

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.00 hours
Mr Benalia Belhouadjeb
Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 11.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Benalia Belhouadjeb,
Presidente de la Conferencia

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la quinzième séance plénière. Avant de commencer avec l'adoption des Rapports des Commissions de la Conférence, je voudrais donner la parole au Représentant du Nigéria qui a demandé d'intervenir. Vous avez la parole.

PART II - PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (continued)
DEUXIÈME PARTIE - QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET (suite)
PARTE II: ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y EL PRESUPUESTO (continuación)

14. Programme of Work and Budget 2000-2001 [C 99/3; C 99/3-Corr.1; C 99/3-Corr.2 (Chinese and English only)]
14. Programme de travail et budget 2000-2001 [C 99/3; C 99/3-Corr.1; C 99/3-Corr.2 (anglais et chinois seulement)]
14. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 2000-2001 [C 99/3; C 99/3-Corr.1; C 99/3-Corr.2 (sólo chino e inglés)]

Onyeabo E. ONWUKEME (Nigeria)

May I crave your gracious indulgence to the voting last Friday, 19 November 1999, by this august body on the Programme of Work and Budget submitted by Commission II. During that voting my colleague from home was sitting in for me and he has since left for the capital. However, my attention has been drawn to an error made during the voting process. I must point out that it was not an intentional error on the part of the Nigerian delegation. We have always recognized Zero Real Growth budget as a minimum level that is desirable for our Organization to effectively discharge its mandate.

Indeed, our Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development made this clear in his country statement on Saturday, 13 November 1999. Thus, there is no mistake about that. The mistake was rather with the application of technology. The Member of our delegation, unfamiliar with the electronic equipment, during the voting process erroneous pressed the wrong button, the abstention button, instead of the button for a yes vote.

In conclusion, Nigeria votes for, and is for, net appropriation of US$ 650 million for the financial period 2000-2001.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I (C 99/REP/3; C 99/REP/4; C 99/REP/5; C 99/REP/6)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I (C 99/REP/3; C 99/REP/4; C 99/REP/5; C 99/REP/6)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I (C 99/REP/3; C 99/REP/4; C 99/REP/5; C 99/REP/6)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur le Représentant du Nigeria. Votre intervention va être insérée dans les procès-verbaux de la Conférence.

Nous allons passer à l'adoption du rapport de la Commission I. Vous avez sous vos yeux les quatre documents concernant les travaux de cette Commission. Je voudrais inviter l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti, qui a présidé la Commission, à nous faire la présentation de son Rapport. Vous avez la parole.

Luigi M. FONTANA-GIUSTI (Chairman, Commission I)

I think that all delegates have a clear and complete picture of the work of Commission I in the excellent report made by the Drafting Committing who I would like, once more, to thank through its Chairman, the Ambassador from Chile. I would, therefore, limit myself to a few general remarks and political considerations on three of the most delicate issues that we discussed: first, on Gender Mainstreaming in FAO; second, on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; third, on the progress and follow-up of the World Food Summit. I am then open to all questions and possible comments and remarks.

Starting from the first point, Gender Mainstreaming in FAO, there was an interesting discussion, and also at the moment of the approval of the text. Some delegations wanted to stress the positive fact that the number of women in posts of responsibility became six times higher than before. Some other delegations insisted that the percentage proportion should be more complete and put in evidence the fact that this sixfold increase would be valued in more general terms, also considering the low basis from which it started. Everybody agreed in the end to avoid detailing the concept which is contained anyhow in the documents available from the Secretariat to Member Nation. The text remains as drafted.

It is a fact that much remains to be done in this Organization and I should remark personally that there is not one ADG who is a woman.

On Monday 15 November, we approved a project of resolution for which there was some previous criticism but no opposition, after the request of the last speaker on behalf of a regional group that recommended a transmission to this assembly of the text as it was drafted.

On the following day, some delegates protested, bilaterally in Plenary, to a text which mixed different ideas and recommendations such as gender and geographic representation that could be better structured to be better implemented. I would not exclude, therefore, that some of this criticism could be reproposed in our two-day meeting and some precision requested.

Second point, on International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This is one of the most difficult and important, and I would add vital, issues FAO is facing, has faced in the last few years and it is still facing.

I have followed most of the technical meetings since I was named Permanent Representative to FAO and I realize that the issue is as complex as important or, I repeat, vital. That is why I personally insisted so much to insert it in the Agenda of our Conference. The experts worked very well under the leadership of Ambassador Gerbasi and much has been achieved, particularly this year, but much remains to be done with a necessary sense of urgency.

We, and our Governments, have to take our responsibilities for present and future generations very seriously and make all possible efforts to conclude the revised Undertaking for the Council's Hundred and Nineteenth Session next year.

If some countries, for whatever reason, are less interested in finalizing the Undertaking, they should say so and allow those who wish to do so, to work constructively for a final conclusion within an agreed timetable. The political option by the Commission, as well as the technical issues, are clear in the Chairman's elements, agreed in Montreau last January and accepted by the Commission.

We have spent our time to clear the ground on all technicalities and we need now to act for political choices, decisions and commitments. The risks are, among others, that decisions are being taken in other fora that could condition access to, and use of plant genetic resources, crucial for agricultural development and food security in ways that may not adequately take into account the real needs of people in this crucial sector. Therefore, a binding international instrument is urgently needed and we have registered some encouraging signs during our

discussions. FAO has to continue to play the central role. I beg you therefore, Ministers and Representatives, to give a clear message, through this Conference, of political will and fix a definite deadline for a submission of the revised Undertaking to the Council in November 2000.

(continue en Français)

Point 3. Je m'excuse auprès des interprètes si je passe au français. Je sais que je crée des problèmes techniques mais je sais avec quelle professionnalité ils ont fait leur travail. Je les remercie encore une fois.

Notre premier point de l'Ordre du jour a été le plus long et le plus souffert dans nos délibérations et le dernier à conclure les travaux. Et ceci, pas tellement pour des différences sur le thème plus général des suites du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996, même si plusieurs délégations ont exprimé leur préoccupation pour les résultats largement insuffisants dans le calendrier des réalisations des engagements pris par les Chefs d'État et des Gouvernements lors du Sommet de Rome, mais plutôt pour les tentatives prolongées et infructueuses à se mettre d'accord sur un texte de Résolution commun à vous proposer.

Je voudrais quand même vous faire un bref historique de l'initiative de Résolution en vue d'une Alliance pour la Sécurité Alimentaire à l'époque, qui est officiellement née en mai 1999 avec des démarches dans toutes les capitales pour une alliance pour le développement agricole avec un premier texte qui a été perfectionné dans six versions successives. Je voudrais me référer à la sixième version du texte que l'Union européenne avait proposé et la proposition avancée par la Communauté européenne et ses États Membres discutée longuement avec les différents groupes régionaux au cours des déjeuners de travail très utiles et constructifs.

Nous avons donc pu discuter et améliorer ultérieurement ce texte, cette version et ces améliorations ont portés à la version 7 du projet de Résolution. Mais il faut aussi considérer l'apparition d'une version 8 de la part du Secrétariat. Il y a des délégations qui n'ont pas encore compris pourquoi le Secrétariat d'une organisation internationale doit se mêler en première personne à des discussions de ce genre entre États Membres avec un texte alternatif. A la version 8 a donc suivi la version 9 du Groupe des 77. La Commission I s'est alors efforcée de fondre les versions 7 et 9.

J'ai constitué, en tant que Président, un Groupe de Contact ouvert entre Pays Membres de l'Union européenne et du Groupe des 77, qui se sont fructueusement rencontrés pendant de longues heures improvisant un texte unifié, version 10. Le rapport de nos travaux reproduit très bien les conclusions, ou plutôt le manque de conclusions, sur ce point mais laisse aussi la porte ouverte pour les développements à venir que je souhaite fortement.

Je remercie les collègues qui ont si durement et passionnément travaillé pendant des heures et pendant plusieurs réunions pour faire aboutir cette idée et je regrette seulement que l'occasion n'ait pas été cueillie et que sa portée politique, au moins de rétention de ses promoteurs, n' ait pas été saisie. L'idée de base était celle de valoriser le rôle et les actions de notre Organisation dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la malnutrition dans le monde et pour une plus complète réalisation des engagements du Sommet de Rome de 1996.

Ces trois points sont ceux qui ont pris le plus de notre temps. D'autres questions ont été aussi intéressantes et aussi importantes mais moins contentieuses. C'est pour cela que je trouve utile pour l'assemblé de connaître les points les plus difficiles plutôt que de connaître le reste de la discussion pour laquelle je suis à votre disposition afin de vous donner tous les éléments qui pourraient vous être utiles.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je tiens à exprimer mes remerciements et félicitations au Président et aux membres de la Commission I pour tous les efforts déployés et le travail laborieux qui nous est soumis aujourd'hui. Je donne tout de suite la parole à Cuba.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba)

Si tenemos en cuenta que dado a su acertada conducción en los debates de la Plenaria de este 30o Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, como en el logrado trabajo de las Comisiones I y II, han existido las condiciones requeridas, así como en las direcciones en las presidencias y los Comités de Redacción. Como todos conocemos existió un amplio y transparente debate y cada aspecto fue detalladamente analizado, lo que posibilitó que cada delegación tuvo posibilidad de una amplia participación en las negociaciones con un estudio posterior en los documentos puestos a nuestra disposición por la Secretaría. Nuestra delegación, en homenaje a todo este loable y positivo trabajo en equipo realizado, desea presentar en este último día de sesiones plenarias una propuesta en grande con un inolvidable final, aprobar en bloque tanto el Informe de la Comisión I, que hemos oído ahora el informe de su Presidente, el Informe de la Comisión II así como el Informe de la Plenaria. Nuestra propuesta, por todo lo que hemos manifestado y reitero, en homenaje a todos los trabajos realizados en esta Conferencia que es la última Conferencia del siglo, es que se apruebe el Informe de la Comisión I, de la Comisión II y el Informe de la Plenaria en bloque, siempre y cuando la Secretaría le dé la oportunidad a los distintos Presidentes de la Comisión II de poder hacer su informe. Esta es nuestra propuesta, muy concreta, que pongo a la consideración de los distintos colegas aquí presentes.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais m'inscrire à la suite de ce que vient de déclarer l'Ambassadeur de Cuba et proposer à la Plénière, tout en prenant en considération ce qui a été dit, et par rapport à la façon dont cette Conférence s'est tenue, à la qualité de la participation de toutes les délégations au niveau de toutes les Commissions des Groupes de travail etc, que nous puissions finir en beauté en adoptant en bloc l'ensemble de ces rapports soumis à notre appréciation après avoir évidemment entendu également la présentation commentée par le Président de la Commission II et après avoir soumis le Rapport à la Plénière.

Asmani ALBANO (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I wish to support the proposal presented by the Ambassador of Cuba.

It should be recalled that the Ambassador of Cuba was one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Plenary, and, therefore, I could not underestimate his wisdom, because he has followed very closely the proceedings of this Conference. On behalf of the G-77, I wish to strongly second, or support, his motion that after the Chairpersons of the Commissions have presented their Report, we endorse their reports *en bloc*.

Ahmed Suleiman AL-AQUIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, we should like to support the previous speakers, namely Cuba and the Group of 77, to adopt these reports *en bloc*.

Since we have the floor, may we thank the Chairmen of Commissions I and II, respectively, for having prepared these sound reports. May we also pay tribute to you, sir, for having chaired our deliberations in a wise and efficient manner.

Furthermore, I should like to refer to paragraph 11 of the Report of Commission I, namely the *Follow-up of the World Food Summit*. Concerning this very paragraph, I should like to pay tribute to Italy and the European Union for their initiative, namely, that of strengthening the cooperation of the three Agencies and Organizations based in Rome. On behalf of the Near East Group, I should like to pay tribute to this initiative. We do support and encourage cooperation between these three Organizations here in Rome but, obviously, this cooperation should be channelled in order to be in the interests of the Member Nations. We have clear examples bearing witness to the fruitful cooperation between these three Organizations. The paragraph, as it is in this document, does refer to further discussion of this question in the future. I should like to thank the Government of Italy and the European Union for this sound initiative.

Ms NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG (Viet Nam)

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to join with our colleagues from other regions to support the proposal to ask the Conference to adopt the report *en bloc.*

Jean Walnard DORNEVAL (Haïti)

A l'instar des collègues qui m'ont précédés et particulièrement de l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, au nom du Groupe Amérique latine et Caraïbes, je voudrais proposer que le Rapport puisse être adopté en bloc bien entendu après avoir écouté les rapports des Présidents.

Je voudrais aussi saisir l'occasion pour féliciter l'Ambassadeur de l'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti pour le travail remarquable qu'il a accompli et féliciter tous les participants aux Commissions pour la qualité de leur travail, les efforts qu'ils ont accompli pour préparer ces documents qui sont des documents que nous trouvons intéressants, importants et qui marquent la fin de ce Millénaire, pour que nous puissions entamer avec encouragement et avec élan le nouveau Millénaire qui arrive et qui se présente plein de défis pour notre Organisation.

Tony DEVLIN (Ireland)

I wish to inform the Conference that I am now speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group and I wish to draw your attention to document C 99/REP/4. It is the item on *Gender Mainstreaming in FAO.*

The Members of the European Regional Group are prepared to adopt the Report of Commission I, C 99/REP/4, from paragraph 1 to paragraph 7. The Report reflects accurately the discussions that took place on Item 7, *Gender Mainstreaming in FAO.*

Let me state that we are very happy that we had the opportunity to consider gender issues on the occasion of this Conference, yet the Draft Resolution presented to us bears the title, *Correction of Geographical and Gender Imbalances in the Professional Staff Structure.* It does not concentrate on gender issues, as we would have wished. The title even refers, in the first place, to geographical distribution. This element is also contained in the body of the Draft Resolution before us. The gender question in this way is being diluted. We think that geographical distribution is important, but is already provided for in the Basics Texts and the Staff Regulations of the Organization.

Moreover, this Draft Resolution considers at the same level of importance the requirements of the highest standards of competence on the one hand, and of the gender and geographical balances on the other. We think that there is a hierarchy between these requirements. First, comes competence and then, only after that very primary requirement has been met, comes the gender balance and geographical distribution. Ignoring this hierarchy of requirements, as the present formulation of the Resolution would allow you to do, is questioning the Basic Texts of Organization.

Let me say that we are in favour of a Resolution on gender issues. We think it is an important question and we think that there is still a lot to do in the frame of gender mainstreaming in FAO in general and in the context of correcting the gender imbalances in the Professional staff structure of FAO in particular. We had hoped to work with the regional groups on the text to render it acceptable for all, but unfortunately because of a lack of time due to other important matters under discussion, and a lone Member of the African Group kindly offered advice, to which we are grateful, we are of the view that we should give ourselves more time to reach an agreement. This question is too important to be treated in a hasty way.

May we propose that this matter be further studied and then considered by the Council in 2000 in view of possible recommendation for a Conference Resolution in 2001, as it was decided in the case of the Draft Resolution on an *Alliance for Food Security.* It goes without saying, though,

that, in the meantime, the issue of gender mainstreaming has to remain of primary importance to the Organization.

Lyall W. SMALL (Barbados)

I would wish to take this opportunity to support those delegations which supported the proposal by Cuba that the Reports of the Commissions and Plenary be accepted *en bloc* after the Chairpersons of the various Commission have presented their Reports.

I can attest to the hard work, dedication and attention to detail evidenced in Commission I and the hard-won consensus that was achieved therein and reflected in the work of the Drafting Committee of which I had the honour to be a Member. Also in that Commission I think some of the concerns that were just raised were mentioned, but the consensus that was achieved in the Drafting Committee was a good one, and I do not think that the gender issues are being diluted in the draft on gender mainstreaming.

I would wish to take this opportunity to fully endorse the strategy of the Director-General that is geared towards a more equitable geographical distribution of staff at FAO. Some Caribbean countries have already benefited from this policy, which is clearly the only reasonable one for an Organization that represents over 160 Member Nations. The road towards equitable geographical representation is not fully travelled, although excellent progress has been made over the past five years or so. My delegation would wish that the Director-General would continue, during his new term, the processes started in this current term.

In conclusion, I consider that the gender issues are important and they have not been in any way diluted by reference to the issues of geographical distribution in the Report.

Mohamed Abd El Hamid KHALIFA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

After examining the Report of Commission I, the Egyptian delegation, also having examined the Report of Commission II and the Report of the General Conference, and remembering that the General Committee has engaged in great efforts, as have the Members of the two Commissions and the Groups of Friends of the Chairman, the Egyptian delegation for these reasons supports the adoption of the Report of Commission I, the Report of Commission II and of the Report of the Conference *en block.*

We approve of what has been said by previous speakers. The question of gender mainstreaming and geographical balance, as regards the staff of the Organization, well, this is a question of great importance for FAO as it is for all Member Nations. The role of women in all areas of activities is particularly important. This is a subject that we discussed in Commission I. We went into this in detail, and in part of my delegation this was examined by the G-77 as a whole and also by the Near East Group. Several Member Nations have supported this approach, this position, and it was agreed that we should approve what we proposed on this subject. A Draft Resolution before the Commission on this subject was also adopted. That is why we believed that the Conference should adopt the Draft Resolution which was adopted by its Commission, Commission I.

We thank the Chairman of Commission I, the Chairman of Commission II, and the Chairmen of the Drafting Committees and the Friends of the Chairman and all the Members of the different groups for the tremendous efforts they have engaged in throughout the course of this Conference.

In concluding, we thank you, sir, in particular, for the excellent way in which you have guided the work of the Conference and also the work of the General Committee of this Conference. We congratulate you on your very precise manner and your spirit of understanding and reconciliation. We trust that this example will be followed at subsequent Conferences of our Organization. This will serve the interests of our Organization and the Member Nations.

RHO Kyeong-Sang (Korea, Republic of)

I will be very brief. I feel that there is already a consensus on adopting the Report of Commission I. However, I would like to confirm only one thing, paragraph 9, in document C 99/REP/3. If we look at this paragraph: "The Conference *strongly endorsed* FAO's assistance to developing countries and the countries in transition for the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations . . . ". I think this is very important. I think the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations confirms that through the CCP and the last Hundred and Sixteenth Council, there are many requests from the delegates about the assessments of the impact of the Uruguay Round on the agriculture market and food security, especially the negative impact on food security. So, the Secretariat of FAO distributed the document CCP 99/12/Rev. I fully agree with the conclusion of this document. If we look at paragraphs 59, 60, 61 and 62, I fully appreciate these conclusions. Here, I would like to confirm that the FAO Secretariat will continue to undertake other studies. If we look at paragraph 63, it is saying that ". . . it may, therefore, be necessary to undertake other studies when more years of data would be available . . . " So, here, I would like to confirm if FAO Secretariat will continue to undertake these other studies.

Finally, I would like to express appreciation to the Chairperson of Commission I, Mr Fontana-Giusti. My understanding is that he will retire on 25 November. This is his final job for FAO.

Mrs Laurie J. TRACY (United States of America)

We, like other delegates before us, would like to express our appreciation, particularly to the Chairpersons of the various Committees and to the Working Groups, that is, the Friends of the Chair and to the Drafting Committees who dedicated so much time and effort to a very successful outcome.

Like many delegates before me, on behalf of the North American Region, Canada and the United States, we can accept the adoption *en bloc* of 99.9 percent of this set of Reports. However, I would like to highlight one area where I think we would have a preference for something other than what is written in the document, and this is in C 99/REP/4. The delegate of Ireland, I think, raised a similar point, and we would support the statement that he made on behalf of the North American Region, at least the bottom line of that statement, which is that we need more time, we think.

First of all, the North American Region, Canada and the United States, strongly support gender and geographic balance, the achievement of this in FAO as well as the paramount importance of technical qualifications. We emphasize this to the extent possible in our statements before the Commission, and we note also, resulting from documents to which we had access in Finance Committee, that there are several divisions in FAO that need special attention from top management to ensure a more appropriate gender balance, and we will be looking forward to some additional follow-up from management in that respect. However, we would have to support the European Region's request to postpone, I did not say permanently, but postpone or delay consideration of this important Resolution. We think that the Resolution needs further examination before consideration by a Conference. We only received it last Friday. We think that management may already have the authority necessary to achieve at least some of the goals that the Resolution appears to advance.

There are many initiatives that management can take to achieve these goals. We know, those of us who are involved in WFP, WFP management has taken many of those initiatives to achieve a more equitable geographic and gender balance. For example, a more creative and activist recruitment approach, stronger follow-up by top management on the results of these recruitment efforts, and targeted recruitment efforts. We are not completely convinced that all of this has been done within existing authorities, and we are not convinced that the Conference should

therefore act now on this Resolution. We would support giving the Governing Bodies greater time to consider this important initiative more fully.

Jacques de MONTJOYE (Belgique)

En fait ma collègue américaine vient de me couper l'herbe sous les pieds en un certain sens. Je voulais simplement revenir sur certaines déclarations qui ont été faites précédemment tendantes à laisser entendre qu'il y avait un consensus sur l'ensemble des rapports et je suis tout à fait d'accord avec la collègue américaine pour dire qu'effectivement sur 99,9 pourcent il y a accord. Mais on ne peut pas dire qu'il y ait un consensus total à cent pourcent puisqu'il y a tout de même un Groupe régional, le Président d'un Groupe régional, représentant plus de 40 États, qui a indiqué qu'il ne partageait pas les vues exprimées dans le Projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis et surtout dans la dilution qui est opérée entre la question de la parité hommes/femmes qui faisait l'objet du Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour et d'autres critères également valables mais qui sont déjà inscrits dans les textes de base.

Il y a effectivement dilution puisque le titre même du Projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis, cite, donne en premier lieu la question de la répartition géographique, la parité hommes/femmes venant en deuxième lieu. C'est une illustration du fait qu'il y a une dilution. D'autre part, on nous dit avec beaucoup de justesse qu'il y a eu ce Projet de Résolution, ce rapport avec le projet de Résolution annexé et passé par les différents stades de la Commission I et puis du Comité des Résolutions. C'est tout à fait exact et nous ne le remettons pas en cause. Je pense que le Groupe régional européen ne met pas en cause, les Points 1 à 7 du Rapport.

Seulement, il se fait que le Projet de Résolution est soumis maintenant à nos suffrages. Je pose la question de savoir si cette assemblée est une simple chambre d'enregistrement. Il n'est jamais trop tard pour revenir à de meilleures idées. La Conférence n'est pas terminée, la Conférence est souveraine, cette assemblé est souveraine.

D'autre part je comprends, nous comprenons fort bien, qu'on ne veuille pas qu'il soit trop tard pour réouvrir le débat de substance. Des propositions ont été remises au Secrétariat, au Service juridique à ce sujet, la semaine dernière, mais nous nous rendons tout à fait à la raison en ce qui concerne le fait qu'il soit trop tard pour ouvrir un débat. Ce n'est pas ce que nous demandons. Nous demandons simplement de changer le libellé du paragraphe 8 du document C 99/REP/4 en notant tout simplement que la Conférence a examiné le Projet de Résolution et a estimé qu'il nécessitait un examen plus approfondi. Voilà ce que nous proposons.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je peux rassurer Monsieur le délégué de la Belgique que la Conférence n'est pas une chambre d'enregistrement. Elle a ses compétences, il ne faut pas minimiser les efforts déployés par chaque délégué au sein de cette salle, et elle est souveraine. Elle prend donc la décision au moment voulu, après les débats. Je passe la parole au délégué du Sénégal.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour reconnaître les grands mérites, les mérites et les talents de diplomate persévérant, subtil et plein de doigté de l'Ambassadeur d'Italie qui, tout au long de sa carrière parmi nous, a effectué un travail remarquable. C'est personnellement avec beaucoup de regret, qu'il manquera à la délégation sénégalaise, mais nous sommes sûrs de pouvoir toujours, puisque nous sommes encore en Italie, bénéficier de sa sagesse partout où il sera, en lui souhaitant en tout cas beaucoup de succès dans ses nouvelles entreprises.

J'ai eu quelques expériences aussi bien ici, qu'à Bruxelles comme à New York mais j'ai l'impression qu'ici je ne me trouve pas dans une institution du Système onusien; parce qu'en réalité l'Article 101 de la Charte des Nations Unies insiste particulièrement sur la répartition géographique, qui est le principe fondamental de l'universalisme des organisations internationales.

Vouloir établir ici un ordre de priorité entre compétence, équilibre hommes/femmes, qui n'existe dans aucun des textes fondamentaux des organisations, et la répartition géographique maintenant en fin de liste, je souhaiterait qu'on revienne là-dessus. Cela est tout à fait contraire au Système onusien. C'est dire donc que nous sommes en train de vouloir mettre ici peut-être des règles contradictoires avec le principe qui guide le Système onusien.

D'autre part, je crois que dire ici que l'assemblée n'est pas une chambre d'enregistrement, vous avez répondu, Monsieur le Président, mais je me demande aussi ce que signifient les Commissions. Si les Commissions n'ont pas un rôle quelconque de facilitation de prise de décision par l'assemblée où cette question a été évoquée, examinée et en cours de route, on se rend compte que peut-être, les objectifs que l'on visait n'étaient pas ceux-là et que pourtant on n'avait pas soulevé ces questions, et par ailleurs venir maintenant remettre tout en cause au nom du principe de la souveraineté de la Conférence qui n'a jamais été mise en doute. Comme d'ailleurs la compétence des Commissions n'a jamais été mise en doute.

Nous ne croyons pas qu'il est normal que par là même, la Commission II pour faire comparaison, bien que comparaison ne soit pas raison parlant de la FAO et du PAM, pouvoir dire que pour la Commission II, par exemple, le Groupe des 77 – qui numériquement quand même représente également beaucoup de choses – à dû vraiment contre son gré, faire bon cœur pour accepter presque un *diktat* que nous connaissons tous.

Je pense que ce processus ne devrait pas se poursuivre et cet exemple ne devrait pas nous plonger dans une situation qui ne devrait pas continuer dans la lancée de consensus, de compromis et même de souplesse état d'esprit qui nous a toujours marqué depuis le début de ces travaux au niveau de toutes les Commissions présentes.

Je pense qu'initier ce processus de remise en cause de tout ce qui a été construit avec beaucoup de finesse, beaucoup de bonne volonté, n'est pas une bonne voie de la sagesse, surtout si l'on vise à remettre en cause des principes fondamentalement acceptés par le Système onusien. Je crois que cette Résolution, nous le souhaitons, aussi bien avec son rapport que les autres Rapports des autres Commissions, après présentation de leurs Présidents, qu'ils soient acceptés pour éviter de réouvrir des déséquilibres et de déséquilibrer tout le travail que nous avons fait avec beaucoup de bonne volonté pour des intérêts assez particuliers sur lesquels il n'est même pas besoin de revenir parce que jusqu'à présent on ne nous a pas dit réellement la pensée de toute cette démarche que nous préférons ignorer pour nous pencher sur le compromis.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais ajouter pour compléter mes explications que les Commissions sont les organes de la Conférence; elles sont indissociables de la Conférence. Nous sommes là pour valoriser les travaux de la Commission, des Commissions, et la Conférence s'appuie sur ces deux organes qui sont extrêmement importants. Je passe la parole au délégué de la Dominique.

Mrs Hannelore A. H. BENJAMIN (Dominica)

My delegation will be pleased and wants to fully endorse the proposal made by my distinguished colleague from Cuba, Ambassador Nuiry Sánchez. My delegation would also like to take the opportunity to thank you, Mr Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Commission and the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee for the excellent and professional work done, that hopefully, now will lead to the adoption of the Reports before us.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)

I would like to proudly state that Bulgaria is represented on the professional staff of FAO exclusively by the better part of its population, the women. That is why I would like to restate our composition as expressed by the delegate of Ireland, as Chairman of the European Regional Group, as well as to support the position expressed by the delegate of the United States of

America, and request that the issue of gender equality in FAO be discussed in greater detail with the participation of a greater number of Member Nations that are, obviously, vividly interested in this issue, as the preceding statements today show.

Thus we, as Member Nations, will also show the due respect to the request for support of the efforts of the FAO Secretariat to ensure and guard the gender equality in the Organization. I believe that there is consensus on this issue, and with the able assistance of our respected Chairman of Commission I, in support of the suggestion made by my colleague, the delegate of Belgium, we can find the brief formulation to include in the final Report. I think that the gender issues in FAO and in the future of our common work deserve that.

José Ignácio TRUEBA JAINAGA (España)

En primer lugar la delegación española quisiera demostrar su conformidad con la declaración de la presidencia del Grupo Regional Europeo y concretamente la delegación irlandesa. Sin embargo, quisiéramos hacer constar que la competencia profesional es un elemento clave para la incorporación del personal a la Organización. Además de la competencia las cuestiones de género, y en concreto la delegación española es sensible en este sentido, el tema del género y el tema de la distribución geográfica son factores igualmente importantes que de alguna manera deben ser considerados. La delegación española, considera que los avances realizados en el tema de género y de distribución geográfica han sido positivos en la Organización durante estos últimos años.

Finalmente quisiera felicitar de una manera especial al Presidente de la Comisión Embajador Fontana Guisti. Para todos nosotros, la llegada del Embajador Fontana Giusti ha marcado una época distinta, es una persona con una grandísima personalidad, con un gran espíritu y con una gran iniciativa. Yo quería darle las gracias de una manera especial por sus referencias, su asesoramiento, su apoyo durante estos últimos años. Le deseo lo mejor y que tenga mucha suerte.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA ALVARADO DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

En primer lugar quisiera felicitarlo por el excelente trabajo que viene realizando en la dirección del debate de la Conferencia, asimismo felicitar a los Presidentes de las Comisiones, al Grupo de Redacción y al Grupo de Amigos del Presidente.

Apoyamos la declaración del distinguido Embajador de Cuba de aprobar en bloque los Informes de la Comisiones I y II.

Me correspondió presidir, a solicitud del Embajador Fontana Giusti, la Comisión I en el Tema 7, *Integración de las Cuestiones de Género en la FAO*. Todas las delegaciones tuvieron la posibilidad de una amplia participación, puedo asegurarle que se llevó a cabo una discusión muy provechosa y llegamos a la conclusión de que se debe de hacer más y mejor como declaró la distinguida delegada de Suecia. Esto quedó muy claro durante los debates. Participaron más de 24 oradores, algunos de los cuales se refirieron al Proyecto de Resolución sobre la Distribución Geográfica presentado por el Comité de Resoluciones. Cuando consulté a la asamblea si existía alguna objeción para presentar este Proyecto de Resolución, ningún País Miembro se opuso, aprobándose para traerlo a esta Plenaria.

Comprendo muy bien la posición de Bélgica, y creo que debe hacerse más por la mujer en el organismo de la FAO pero creo que esto fue aprobado en una comisión y todos los Países Miembros tuvieron la oportunidad de participar y de presentar sus puntos de vista.

Finalmente quiero aprovechar para felicitar al Embajador de Chile que estuvo en la Comisión de Redacción como Presidente y lamentamos mucho también la decisión del Embajador Fontana de dejarnos. Le vamos a extrañar mucho.

Sra. Rita CLAVERIE DE SCIOLLI (Guatemala)

La delegación de Guatemala, como miembro del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, se encuentra muy incluída en la declaración que hizo su Presidencia de total respaldo a lo declarado por la Representación de Cuba de que se aprobaran en bloque estos informes con las consideraciones de que sus Presidentes pudieran presentar sus informes también a esta Conferencia. La delegación de Guatemala desea apoyar fuertemente lo que ha manifestado la Representación de Costa Rica que dirigió precisamente los trabajos en la temática que ahora estamos discutiendo. Respaldamos completamente lo declarado por la Representación de Costa Rica. Consideramos que en homenaje al trabajo que se han hecho por parte de todas las representaciones que han trabajado árduamente para lograr textos de compromiso, se respete el apoyo en bloque y aprobación de estos documentos.

Creo que todos debemos también tener presente que cuando hablan las Presidencias de los Grupos Regionales hablan en nombre de la totalidad de sus Miembros. El Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe está representado por 33 países, por lo cual hago un llamado al compromiso, al consenso que se ha solicitado en esta ocasión. No deseo concluir sin expresar mi agradecimiento, en nombre de Guatemala, por el excelente trabajo realizados por los Presidentes de los distintos grupos y de las distintas comisiones y principalmente expresar un muy especial saludo al Embajador Fontana Giusti por el esfuerzo incansable que ha realizado en esta Organización y deseándole el mayor de los éxitos y que sigamos contando con su participación decidida y asesoría constante.

Bob Francis JALANG'O (Kenya)

Thank you for giving me the floor to comment on a few issues on this very important subject. I would like, first, to use this opportunity to thank you particularly for the able manner in which you have guided us since the commencement of the Conference. Your guidance, your patience in particular, have been able to assist us in reaching consensus, in reaching decisions, especially in some very difficult issues. I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to register our appreciation for a job well done.

I would like also to thank the Chairman of Commission I, Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, for the very excellent manner in which he chaired Commission I, of which I was privileged to be one of his Vice-Chairmen. It is a pity that we will lose you, Ambassador, for the time that we have been with you here together. The support you have given us, the advice, the guidance, is greatly appreciated and, as one delegate indicated, since you will still be with us here in Italy, I hope that we will have an opportunity to call on you, as and when necessary, to continue to give us your guidance.

I wish also to thank the Drafting Committee of Commission I for a job well done. It was not easy to come up with this very accurate, very conclusive draft of Commission I, which dealt with extremely important issues, and I really want to thank them for the time that they spent, the very many hours that they spent, in coming up with this draft Report.

I want also to thank the Secretariat, which assisted the Commissions throughout these two weeks that we have been here, in providing not only accurate and timely documentation for this Conference, but also in assisting the Drafting Committees. So my delegation also wishes to register our appreciation of the Secretariat.

On this issue of Gender Mainstreaming, which has been raised by the delegation of Belgium on behalf of the European Community States, I must say that this Resolution took us a long time to discuss, and with the patience of Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, our Chairman, this Resolution went back and forth until it finally came to the status where it is today. It covers all the various issues that were raised during the Commission, and I really would like to thank the Ambassador who chaired this particular Agenda item, because of the sensitivity of it. As she rightly puts it, all

24 persons who contributed during the deliberations came up with what finally resulted in this Resolution.

This Resolution confirms that in the selection and appointment of Professional staff, the Director-General, while maintaining the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and technical competence, should continue to give effect to criteria of equitable geographical and gender distribution, through a combined application of these requirements. There would be no better summary than what appears in the draft Resolution, and I would like to appeal to the European Community States to accept the Resolution as it is and to continue to look at it in case there are any other issues that may occur in the future, but that we accept the Resolution the way it is at the moment.

Finally, I would like to support the proposal made by Cuba, by the Chairman of the African Group, the Chairman of the G-77, to have this Draft Report and the additional ones from Commission II at the Plenary to be adopted *en bloc*.

Asmani ALBANO (Tanzania, United Republic of)

The G-77 has actively participated in the work of this Conference at all levels, at the Conference level, at the Commission level, at the Friends of the Chairman, and every level of discussion. When I supported the suggestion of Cuba, I supported it wholeheartedly, understanding that the Chairpersons of the Commission will make a summary of the proceedings up to the time of submitting these reports here.

As Chairman of the G-77, I would like to say that I still understand the concern of our friend from Belgium because we did have some discussions yesterday, but I had no impression that the idea was not to accept the Report of Commission I on Agenda Item 7. Everybody has some concern, and consensus means giving and receiving, whether it is 99.99 or 100 percent, I do not know. But consensus is consensus. Let me be frank. I do not see any contradiction to talk about the gender issue and geographical distribution. There are countries, like mine, where we only have one person in this Organization, so to cut him by half is impossible. So, the gender issue may be interpreted differently depending how many people you have in the Organization. Let me say that we have no quarrel with the gender issue, and there should never be any quarrel on geographical distribution as a paramount, as the Ambassador of Senegal did mention.

I did not wish to have this second time to take the floor on this particular item, but I have been forced to do so, on behalf of the G-77. But having participated effectively in the proceedings of Commission I in the preparation of the Resolution, it is becoming very difficult for the G-77 to do anything else but to accept the Report as presented by the Chairman of Commission I, including the entire Resolution. So, I wish to seek the indulgence of everybody here that let us approve these Reports *en bloc*, as most of us have suggested to do so.

Now that I have got the floor, I do not want to have it a third time, because you get fed up with me. Let me sincerely thank all the officers of the Conference, from the Chairperson, Ambassador Fontana-Giusti – we are sorry you are leaving us – the Chairpersons of the two Commissions, the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee and the Resolution Committee, of course our able Chairperson.

The job of this Conference has been complicated, very difficult and a with many time-related pressures, but here we are now, we are seeing the fruits of our labour, which we have collectively done. I have no wish to recall some difficult negotiations in other committees and informal committees, but I wish to thank all those who chaired, all those who participated, and all those who made it possible, that is including temporary staff, translators and the Secretariat. So, I wish to end here by again pledging to let us adopt these Reports *en bloc* after hearing the Report from our good Chairman of Commission I.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden)

Sweden would also like to thank all those that have worked very hard in different meetings and sessions, and for which we are very grateful. We would definitely like to echo the comments made by the distinguished delegate of Spain on Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, and wish him all the very best for the future.

This is the first time that Sweden takes the floor, and we do so to endorse what has been said on Gender Mainstreaming by the distinguished delegation of Ireland, who was speaking for the European Regional Group, Belgium, Bulgaria and the United States. This is a very important topic, as you might recall from our Minister's speech last Monday. As such, the Resolution merits more time and consideration than it has been granted at this Conference. We would therefore appreciate the opportunity to continue work on it for the Council in 2000.

Paul ROSS (Australia)

We appreciate the European Region drawing to our attention the Resolution in paragraph 8 of C 99/REP/4. Both Gender Mainstreaming and Geographical Balance are extremely important for this Organization but the context of C 99/REP/4 is on Gender Mainstreaming, and we share the concerns expressed by others that we would not want that to be diluted in any way and the way this Resolution is presented does tend to hide Gender Mainstreaming behind Geographical Distribution.

Also, as emphasized in paragraph 7 of C 99/REP/4, the paramount criterion for selection of staff to FAO must continue to be efficiency and technical competence, and we are not sure that this is accurately reflected in the Resolution. We would certainly not want this important aspect to be diluted either.

Our preference is in line with what the delegate from Belgium has suggested, that we could amend this Report to task the FAO Council and its Committees to look more closely at the draft Resolution and Gender Mainstreaming, which we all agree is an extremely important topic.

Ivine Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise appuie l'adoption du Rapport de la Commission I en bloc et attend l'exposé du Président de la Commission I pour pouvoir en faire de même. Nous félicitons les Présidents de ces Commissions pour l'important travail accompli.

Par ailleurs, nous appuyons la Résolution sur la question de parité hommes/femmes telle qu'elle figure dans le Rapport de la Commission I.

Je voudrais dire aussi que nous ne comprenons pas très bien la position avancée par l'Irlande au nom de la Région Europe qui d'un côté trouve que la parité hommes/femmes est diluée par la question de l'Équilibre géographique, idée que nous réfutons, et par ailleurs, voudrait voir la question de compétence en premier plan dans cette Résolution, sans craindre cette fois-ci de diluer la question parité hommes/femmes.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

Let me say that Cameroon is part of the G-77 and part of the African Group, and therefore we support the views that were expressed by our Chairperson and particularly the views that were expressed earlier on by the President of the African Group, Madam Damiba.

The Cameroon delegation supports the proposition of previous speakers about the Resolution on the Gender Mainstreaming in this Organization. My own experience here, working closely with these Organizations, FAO and WFP. When I say "my experience ", I mean it – ten years since I have been working with them – that the women have always demonstrated devotion, efficiency

and punctuality when it comes to the execution of their duties. There is no doubt left in my mind that they deserve, they merit equal rights and privileges like their male counterparts.

Now about Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, whom I would prefer to call Luigi. I have known him not only within the walls of FAO but even farther away as in China, where we worked together, and that is when you know the spirit of a man, in trying circumstances on long-away missions. I always listen to him with great attention, for his contributions and to debates at the FAO/WFP board meetings and at FAO. Let us not talk about him as though he is dying or is dead because he is still around, or we would not pay all the tributes now. I know that we are meeting him from time to time.

That said, let me say that yesterday the staff representative brought an issue which is very very important, but since it was not in our Agenda it almost was almost left to slide. I will say, as we all know, that the success in every enterprise or achievements does not depend only on the complicated machinery involved but more so on the type of people who work them. The staff at WFP and FAO do deserve consideration for their output, but they are also fully aware that there are such budgetary constraints that make it difficult for us. If they had brought their issues before, like my colleague of Senegal mentioned yesterday, before the adoption of the budget, something may have been done. I would recall that many years back, when I was Chairman of the Africa Group, this issue came up, and we recommended – I do remember – we recommended that the Director-General or the whole of FAO should look into these issues again. We do hope that this very important issue should not be allowed to slide and that it should be re-examined again. And my advice to the staff representative is that such an important issue they should endeavour to make it find its way into the Agenda of the meeting. That said, we support that the Report of the Conference by adopted *en bloc*.

Ahmed AFAILAL (Maroc)

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre clairvoyance, votre patience à la tête de cette Conférence. Je voudrais également exprimer au Président de la Commission I, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Fontana-Giusti, nos félicitations.

Nous regrettons qu'il nous quitte, cependant nous espérons rester en contact avec lui, à l'avenir, quelles que soient les nouvelles fonctions qu'il aura à assumer.

J'aimerais au nom de la délégation de mon pays, exprimer mon appui total à ce qu'a dit Madame la Représentante du Burkina Faso en sa qualité de Président du Groupe africain et également à ce qu'a dit Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, lorsqu'il nous a rappelé quelques-uns des principes qui régissent le problème de la répartition géographique. Je voudrais ajouter simplement qu'il y a beaucoup de contraintes qui s'imposent et des règles qui s'appliquent pour tout ce qui est des fonctionnaires de cette Organisation, et particulièrement la répartition équitable des postes entre les hommes et les femmes, lors de l'examen du budget de cette Organisation. Ceci est une contrainte en plus de la répartition géographique équitable.

Mais, c'est une façon d'agir qui, à notre avis, ne portera pas atteinte au principe de compétence et d'efficacité que nous demandons aux fonctionnaires de cette Organisation. Je pense qu'il n'y a aucune contradiction entre les critères de l'efficacité et de compétence d'une part, et la répartition géographique équitable d'autre part. Car, nous recrutons des fonctionnaires dans cette Organisation et nous devons recruter des fonctionnaires sur le principe de la compétence quel que soit le poste.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I have taken the opportunity of the last half-hour of the discussion to review my notes on the issue of this Resolution. My notes show that there were concerns and reservations concerning this Resolution expressed in Commission I, both on its content and the late receipt of the Resolution.

In the Drafting Committee on which I served, we were informed that it was not our role to discuss or amend the wording of the Resolution itself, so we did not. When adopting the Report of Commission I, several delegates said that they reserve their decision on this matter until the Resolution got to Plenary, since I guess we are having this discussion now. So, that indicated to me that a discussion in Plenary was to be expected to come to some position on this. I do not know if we have time for a full discussion on it, so in that context, our delegation joins with those who consider that the Resolution needs further time for reflection.

Percy W. MISIKA (Namibia)

First and foremost, let me thank you for the way in which you are guiding this Conference. Let me also congratulate the Chairpersons of the two Commissions for the wisdom that they have shown in guiding the Commissions to make their work and the decision-making process of Conference much easier. Indeed, what we have before us are testimonies of the wisdom of the Chairmanships of yourself and the other chairpersons of the Commissions, and the quality of the work we have in front of us indicates that time and effort have gone into elaborating and formulating whatever is before us.

My delegation wishes to endorse the position of Cuba and, supported by the Chairperson of the G-77, the delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania and also supported by the Chairperson of the Africa Group, the distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso and also endorsed by the Near East Group through their Chairperson of Egypt, and the Caribbean's through their Chairperson of Haiti.

It is true that this Conference is not a rubber stamp. However, Conferences, whenever they set into place organizations of their own to assist them in decision-making, it would be unfortunate to try and contradict their own arms or institutions, and therefore, believing that this Resolution came out of the efforts of the entire Membership of Commission I, Namibia would like to recommend and endorse that it be adopted or their reports be adopted *en bloc*.

In addition, the concern that has been put across by the distinguished delegate of Ireland, representing the European Community, does not in anyway seem to be quite different from what is reflected here. Indeed, Namibia fails to understand what the background or the motives are of their concern. Because the Resolution starts with saying. " . . . it confirms that the paramount criteria should be competency and efficiency . . ." So, in other words, if this Organization has three competitors for any post, the first criteria that would be considered according to this Resolution would be efficiency and technical competence, and if the three are equally good and competent, then the other issues of Gender Balance and Geographical Distribution would be considered further. So, in that light, unless if there is another motive, our delegation fails to understand why the concern is being raised now. Considering also that the posts of FAO, irrespective of the demand from Member Nations, are allocated according to your contributions, each and every country, like Namibia only has one post that we can aspire to fill here. So, if we have ten competent people, as long as our post is filled, we can not get another chance, So, unless Member Nations are having more than their quota, then there should be no concern here.

Once again, I endorse those speakers that are for the adoption of these reports *en bloc*.

Mme Hariba YAHIA-CHERIF (Algérie)

Je me joins aux délégations qui m'ont précédée, notamment à l'argumentaire fait par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, pour appuyer l'adoption en bloc des Rapports des Commissions I et II, y compris le paragraphe 8 du document C 99/REP/1, REP/4, portant Projet de Résolution sur la parité hommes/femmes.

Cette Résolution, comme beaucoup de délégués l'ont souligné, a été le fruit et le résultat d'un travail très fructueux, et un consensus, même s'il n'a pas été obtenu à 100 pour-cent comme il l'a été dit, a néanmoins été trouvé autour de cette question. A notre avis, un débat ne doit pas être ré-

ouvert ici, comme nous ne souhaitons pas non plus aller au vote sur la Résolution. C'est pourquoi, comme l'a encore souligné Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal, le Groupe africain, tout au long du travail surtout fait à la Commission II, a montré un esprit de compréhension et de souplesse au niveau de cette Commission, pour ce qui est du budget, demandant aux groupes régionaux qui veulent apporter des amendements de fonds sur la Résolution d'en faire de même.

Pour terminer, je m'adresse à Monsieur Fontana-Giusti pour lui rendre l'hommage de la délégation de l'Algérie pour la qualité et l'excellence de son travail au sein de la FAO.

Nouri Ibrahim HASSAN (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

May I thank you, Sir, and thank the Secretariat of the Organization for the efforts made during this Session of our Conference. Furthermore, to you, Sir, I would like to pay tribute for your patience during these eleven days in which you have conducted the business of this Conference. Here, we are finally approaching our destination.

I should like to join the previous speakers and more particularly, the Chairman of the Group-77 and the Near East Group, concerning the adoption of the Reports *en bloc*. I hope that you will be doing so after having listened to the Chairman of these two Commissions.

Finally, may I seize this opportunity to thank both Chairmen of the two Commissions. I also pay tribute to you, Sir, for all the efforts you have made in order to reach these positive results. My delegation took part in the work of the different Commissions and Committees, and here we should like to pay tribute to that spirit of constructive cooperation that prevailed. Thanks to this spirit, we were able to reach major decisions by consensus on the various topics discussed during this Session. Again, may I reiterate, my thanks to you, Sir.

Mahjoub LAMTI (Tunisie)

La Tunisie exprime sa satisfaction sur la qualité du travail accompli par la Commission I et se joint aux délégations qui ont félicité le Bureau et le Comité de rédaction de la Commission I, notamment à l'hommage rendu à son Président, Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti. Ma délégation appuie le rapport soumis à la Conférence et, conformément à la position exprimée par les Présidences du Groupe des 77 et du Groupe africain, propose son adoption en bloc.

Júlio C. GOMES dos SANTOS (Brasil)

Me gustaría empezar por hablar a un hombre que nos deja. Fontana-Giusti se nos va. Como estaremos ahora sin él, sin sus observaciones finas e inteligentes, su ironía sofisticada, su gran cultura y su enorme capacidad de trabajo. Yo diría que como mínimo estaremos menos iluminados y, porqué no, menos alegres. En francés o en inglés, impecable, algunas veces en latín de dar invidia a Cicerón, Fontana-Giusti se nos va. Al Gobierno Italiano quedará la responsabilidad de reemplazarlo por alguien que se le pueda comparar por su nivel y por la excelencia de sus cualidades. No será una tarea de las más fáciles. Al Embajador Fontana-Giusti: que Dios lo acompañe y lo mantenga como es, por muchos años, para la alegría de sus amigos, que desean poder seguir en contacto con usted, para continuar inspirándose en sus buenos ejemplos. La delegación de Brasil así se lo desea de corazón.

Cuanto al informe de la Comisión I, me gustaría expresar el testimonio de lo que pasa en mi país: es un país en que por las estadísticas está demostrado que existen más de seis mujeres para cada hombre. Mayoría en número, igualdad en la calidad y por lo tanto igualdad en las oportunidades. En mi país las mujeres están en el Ministerio del Presidente, en el Congreso Nacional, en los más altos rangos de las Fuerzas Armadas y una de ellas ocupa la posición ejecutiva más importante de uno de los conglomerados industriales mayores en América Latina. Las oportunidades, por lo tanto, son las mismas. En esas condiciones y si mi delegación transfiere nuestra realidad nacional al Plan del Sistema de Naciones Unidas en lo que concierne el género, apoyamos la adopción en bloque de ese informe.

Souhaib Deen BANGURA (Guinée)

Je commencerais par féliciter les deux Présidents des Commissions et leur équipe qui ont travaillé sans trêve et sans fatigue pour mettre en exergue les documents qui nous ont été soumis ce matin pour adoption. Ma délégation voudrait leur rendre un vibrant hommage. C'est pourquoi d'ailleurs je voudrais me mettre sur la même trajectoire de ceux qui voudraient qu'on adopte en bloc les travaux de cette Conférence.

Quant à Monsieur Fontana-Giusti, c'est un ami, et nous regrettons amèrement son départ. Je voudrais aussi souscrire entièrement à ce qu'a dit Mme Béatrice Damiba, l'Ambassadeur du Burkina Faso ce matin.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Permítame en primer lugar felicitarlo a usted por el excelente trabajo realizado al frente de esta Conferencia, felicitación que quiero hacer extensiva a los Presidentes de las Comisiones I y II, a los demás Comités que trabajaron en estas Comisiones.

No creo necesario repetir lo que ya aquí se ha expresado sobre este asunto. La delegación de El Salvador apoya la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Cuba al inicio de nuestros debates, la cual fue sostenida por Haití en su calidad de Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. Deseo también dar mi respaldo a la declaración hecha por la Embajadora de Costa Rica, quien presidió los trabajos de la Comisión durante el debate de este Tema y quien nos explicó con mucho detalle, de manera excelente, la forma en que se desarrollaron los debates. Creo que debemos de apoyar este documento y aprobarlo en bloque como se nos ha propuesto. Es lamentable este largo debate.

Permítame unas breves palabras para concluir, para rendir un homenaje a mi amigo, el Embajador Luigi Fontana-Giusti, por su incansable labor, por su espíritu, por su alegría y por la forma en que siempre nos acoge. Lo vamos a extrañar mucho; le deseamos todo lo mejor, tanto en la parte profesional como en la personal. Que tenga usted un futuro excelente, señor Embajador.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je m'excuse de prendre la parole une deuxième fois. Je suis tentée de vous proposer de demander une motion afin de mettre un terme à cette discussion fort intéressante et très utile mais qui pourrait nous retenir et faire jouer à la Conférence les prolongations.

Ces discussions montrent à quel point il est difficile de s'entendre dans le cadre de la Plénière et c'est pour cette raison que les Commissions existent. Lorsque le Président de la Commission I, l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, Monsieur Fontana-Giusti a présenté le Rapport, il a signalé que des critiques ont été enregistrées après l'adoption par la Commission sur ce point là, mais qu'il n'y a pas eu d'oppositions lors de l'adoption. Je pense que le travail de la Commission devrait pouvoir faciliter l'adoption par la Plénière.

Vous savez qu'au niveau du Groupe africain, j'ai déjà proposé l'adoption en bloc de l'ensemble des Rapports, ce qui ne veut pas dire qu'en regardant de plus près nous n'aurions pas pu avoir aussi à soulever d'autres questions. Je vous assure qu'il y a des aspects dans certains rapports que le Groupe africain aurait voulu soulever. Mais finalement nous nous sommes dit que ce ne serait pas la peine de le faire pendant la Plénière parce que nous aurions pu le faire au niveau des Commissions.

C'est cette compréhension que nous avons, bien que la Plénière ne soit pas encore une fois, une caisse d'enregistrement. Il n'y avait pas d'oppositions a-t-on dit, et je crois qu'il n'y en a toujours pas, parce qu'à écouter les uns et les autres, nous avons à la fois l'impression de ne pas être d'accord, mais finalement nous sommes tous d'accord. Par exemple, sur la question des parités hommes-femmes, nous sommes tous d'accord sur la répartition géographique, nous sommes tous

d'accord d'adopter le Rapport jusqu'au paragraphe 7, alors que dans certains de ces paragraphes., notamment au paragraphe 6, on rapproche la question des déséquilibres entre hommes et femmes au déséquilibre géographique. Donc, ce que veut le projet de Résolution c'est en fait de renforcer ce qui en train de se faire, et ce qui est commun à la question hommes/femmes comme à la question de répartition géographique, c'est le déséquilibre.

Et je pense que le titre de la Résolution porte essentiellement sur les déséquilibres. On voudrait donc pouvoir résoudre tous les déséquilibres. A moins de faire maintenant deux projets distincts de résolution, je pense que cela ne vaut pas la peine, autant en faire un seul puisque nous sommes tous d'accord qu'il faut simultanément tenir compte des compétences, de l'équilibre géographique et de la parité hommes/femmes. Je ne vois vraiment pas pourquoi on passerait encore des heures à discuter alors que nous sommes finalement tous d'accord.

Je ne sais pas à quoi cela nous amènerait de renvoyer la discussion à d'autres Comités. Nous avons renvoyé un autre projet au CSA, mais cela est différent parce que la Commission avait demandé que des discussions et recherches plus approfondies soient menées sur des concepts. Ce n'est pas le cas ici. C'est pour cette raison qu'on devrait pouvoir tous se mettre d'accord. J'allais vous proposer pour finir, à ce stade de nos discussions, de pouvoir, avant de lever la séance de la Plénière aujourd'hui, entendre également le Président de la Commission I et le Rapporteur de la Conférence, afin qu'ils nous présentent les autres documents et vraiment demander la compréhension de tous, puisque nous parlons le même langage et que nous puissions les adopter tous ensemble.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

In order to be brief, I join others who thanked you and other officers of the Conference for the excellent job that they have done. I cannot do this with Mr Ambassador Fontana-Giusti. I was going to sincerely thank him for so many things that he has done for our Organization but so many good things have been said about him that, with my limited vocabulary, I have no other good words to express. It is my difficulty and therefore, my delegation would like to propose to Conference a vote of thanks to Mr Fontana-Giusti in the conventional way, which is by acclamation.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Coming to the issue under consideration, we have reached a level of 99 percent of agreement on the whole issue, and it is a high level of agreement. I am sure that most of those who have proposed the adoption of the Report *en bloc* have not reached this level of agreement. For example, we have voted for a Zero Nominal Growth while G-77 was proposing, at the minimum, the Zero Real Growth. But, in a spirit of cooperation and compromise we accepted that and we are proposing the adoption of the Report *en bloc*. Therefore, we do expect our colleagues to do the same. Since we have gone so far together, let us take another step, a final step together and adopt the whole Report *en bloc*.

In order to show that we are really attaching importance to the Gender Imbalance, and for the satisfaction of the distinguished representative of Belgium, I can propose that we change the title of the Resolution, by saying: "Gender and Geographic Imbalances", instead of "Geographical Imbalances". This shows that we do attach importance to gender by putting it at the beginning and then, mentioning the geographical imbalances. I hope that this proposal will satisfy the colleagues who want to reconsider this Resolution. Of course, we all know that there is plenty of time in the future and this issue can be reconsidered, re-examined again in the Thirty-first Session of the Conference or the other Conferences that we do have in front of us.

Ms Neela GANGADHARAN (India)

Much of what I wanted to say had been said by the Islamic Republic of Iran. I would think that the issue of gender balance is so complicated and so difficult to achieve unless you have something like what the Americans call Affirmative Action. It is very difficult to achieve, and it is very difficult to define as well. So, I would plead that we do not look for too much perfection in the Resolution that we are putting forward on this issue, and one idea is what the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggested, whether the title could give more weight to the gender imbalance in the Resolution. Also I think adopting of a Resolution does not close the possibility of further discussions in this matter. We have always discussed Resolutions, and I would therefore plead for great compromise so that we could get on with business.

I would be failing in my duty as a representative of my country if I do not take this opportunity while we are considering the Commission I work, to pay our felicitations and our good wishes to Ambassador Fontana-Giusti, who will be leaving us at the end of this year. Mr Giusti's passion for alliance, expressed effectively in bringing people and views together, and his sheer humanitarianism that he has evinced in all his words and deeds throughout his tenure in this Organization will be remembered by all of us. Let me please wish him the very best, and a very fruitful and peaceful retired life.

Ms Ulla-Maija FINSKAS AHO (Finland)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the European Community and its Members States. The representative of Ireland took the floor on behalf of the European Region. It is almost the same thing, but not quite.

I think words are a way for we human beings to express ourselves and try to convey the messages to us, each other and to the Secretariat. I think we are now in a kind of word mill here, trying to convey our impressions and expressions to the Secretariat. Maybe I would like to be as bold to say that we know where the Resolution comes from. We also know where the Resolution came from regarding the Food Alliance. Maybe we should as Members here be also a bit more attentive when we are in the Commissions and work better there. At this hour of the Conference, I plead to you, I plead to all of us here, that we should now conclude the work and get these reports approved *en bloc.*

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Vincent KIRABOKYAMARIA (Uganda)

I thought I was reasonably conversant with English but it made me think this morning that probably there is something missing because, when I read this Report, especially on this Gender Mainstreaming, I find, like my colleagues from Burkina Faso, Cuba, Kenya and all the others, that really indeed a lot of work and consideration did go into the questions of competence, the questions of geography, the question of gender, to the extent that they were really included in these recommendations.

The question, surely, of which is greater, geographical versus gender — I suspect that that is where the bone perhaps is — will I believe always lie in the case in point at the time the subject is considered. Therefore, it may be very difficult for us now to even say that we shall put one before the other and *vice versa,* because both are alternatives to, well, they go together with the competence but the competence is first. In this event, I would like to believe that the Secretariat, the people concerned with considering any appointment, would certainly consider the merits of the cases as and when they arise. In which case, what is written in the paper, to me at least, seems quite reasonable and equally workable. From that point of view, I commend the Commission that worked on these subjects, and I can quite imagine now how much thought went into these works.

As a result, I surely support very much the idea of adopting *en bloc* these documents, and commend the work that these people did.

I would like also, like my predecessors, to say congratulations to the Chairman and also, you will forgive me, Ambassador Giusti, you know my feelings, I expressed them to you at one time in person. Your loss has been acknowledged by the acclamation that you had a short while ago. You can be sure that some of us are not going to leave you free somehow, even after you have left the work of FAO here.

With those remarks I would like to beg that we support *en bloc* what has been presented to us.

Point of Order
Point d'ordre
Punto de Orden

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais redemander une motion. Je crois qu'après l'intervention de la déléguée de la Finlande qui parlait au nom de la Communauté européenne, il y a eu des applaudissements et c'est comme si l'on avait déjà acclamé l'adoption du Rapport. Je voudrais prier les Membres du Groupe africain de ne plus intervenir. Je ne sais pas si je peux également usurper le pouvoir au Président du Groupe des 77 pour demander aux Membres du Groupe des 77 de ne plus intervenir et vous demander, Monsieur le Président, c'est l'Ambassadeur de Belgique, nous le savons, qui avait souhaité que ce débat ait lieu - de suspendre le débat. Comme je l'ai déjà dit, ce débat est très intéressant et il aura été utile, mais par discipline, cela m'est arrivé il y a quelques jours dans une Commission, lorsque le Président d'un Groupe se prononce, tous les autres Membres s'alignent.

Je croyais que même l'Ambassadeur de Belgique n'insisterait plus outre mesure à ce stade de la discussion. Je me demande également si tous ces hommages et ces félicitations à l'adresse du Président de la Commission I, qui est en l'occurrence l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, sont sincères parce qu'à entendre tout cela on lui étendrait le tapis rouge quand il sortira, mais on est en train de détruire le résultat de son travail. Je voudrais donc qu'on soit conséquent et qu'on tienne compte de l'importante déclaration de l'Union européenne et qu'on l'acclame.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je tiens tout d'abord à m'excuser auprès des autres Membres parce que je vais arrêter la liste: Uganda, Autriche, Angola, Madagascar et Mexique. J'ai eu beaucoup de patience. Il est 13 heures 25, j'ai donné suffisamment de temps. Nous devons terminer ce point.

J'ai accordé toute mon attention, en tant que Président à tous les intervenants. Cette Commission a eu à traiter des thèmes extrêmement importants tels que le suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, l'intégration des questions de parité hommes/femmes, l'engagement international sur les ressources phyto-génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, le Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO, les conclusions de la Conférence plénipotentiaire sur la convention de Rotterdam sur l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable. Comme je l'ai déjà dit, nous tenons à les féliciter parce que parallèlement aux travaux des Conférences, j'ai eu des échos sur les travaux des Commissions, ils sont restés à des heures tardives. Un excellent travail a été fait. Le point concernant la parité hommes/femmes, la répartition géographique n'a pas été diluée, il a eu toute l'importance donnée au point de vue examen/étude par cette Commission au même titre que les autres points.

Après avoir écouté l'ensemble des intervenants, la liste était longue, je considère que la Conférence adopte la démarche suivante: l'adoption en bloc des rapports de la Commission I. Pas d'objections ? Le rapport de la Commission I est adopté.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Report of Commission I was adopted.
Le rapport de la Commission I est approuvé.
El informe de la Comisión I es aprobado.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 99/REP/2; C 99/REP/15)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 99/REP/2; C 99/REP/15)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 99/REP/2; C 99/REP/15)

LE PRESIDENT

Nous passons au rapport de la Commission II et je donne la parole au Secrétaire Général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le Secrétariat tient à présenter ses excuses à la Conférence parce qu'il y a eu erreur dans la préparation du rapport de la Commission II et essentiellement le *Barème des contributions*, Point 20.

Nous avons inséré dans ce Rapport qui est devant vous pour approbation, l'ancienne Résolution sans les amendements qui ont été apportés par les Etats-Unis. Il s'agit toutefois d'une simple formalité parce que la Plénière a déjà adopté la Résolution telle qu'amendée. Notamment, cette Résolution avec l'amendement prévu au document C 99/LIM/26 a été déjà approuvée par la Plénière vendredi dernier.

Avec mes excuses, je vous prie de bien vouloir noter que la Résolution qui doit faire partie du Rapport de la Commission II est en effet la Résolution contenue dans le document C 99/LIM/26 telle qu'amendée par la plénière.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de terminer ce point et donner la parole au Vice-président qui a présidé la dernière partie de la Commission II, je donne la parole au délégué de l'Irlande.

Tony DEVLIN (Ireland)

It is just in relation to the Report on Commission I. I would just like to put on record the reservations of the European Regional Group to the Resolution contained in C 99/REP/4.

Bill DOERING (Vice-Chairman, Commission II)

I will try to be brief. There are four documents before you that I will briefly talk about. The first one, C 99/REP/1, Programme on Work and Budget 2000-2001, has already been considered and adopted in Plenary, so we can forego that. Dealt with later in Plenary will be C 99/REP/1-Sup. 1. That will be a follow on to that one. Again that will be done in Plenary, not now.

You have before you C 99/REP/2, which is the *Programme Implementation Report for 1996-97* and the Programme Evaluation Report for 1998-99, and those reports include the discussions that took place during the Commission.

The final document is C 99/REP/15, the *Strategic Framework*. Because of the scope of this document, we broke out into a Friends of the Committee Group, which went for the better part of a week and all day yesterday, and we reached consensus on that document. We went through an

exhaustive number of options before we did so and, in a spirit of cooperation, I repeat, we reached consensus.

I would like to thank a lot of people for the cooperation, for the innovation, for the hard work and commitment that went into this. At this stage we have said an awful lot, and I would turn it back over to you now to deal with the document.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je tiens à remercier le Président et les Membres de la Commission II pour la qualité du travail et tous les efforts déployés pour arriver aux documents qui nous ont été présentés. S'il n'y a pas d'observations, le rapport de la Commission II est approuvé.

Report of Commission II was adopted.
Le rapport de la Commission II est approuvé.
El informe de la Comisión II es aprobado.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF PLENARY (C 99/REP/1-Sup.1; C 99/REP/7; C 99/REP/8; C 99 REP/9; C 99/REP/10; C 99/REP/11; C 99/REP/12; C 99/REP/12-Sup.1; C 99/REP/13; C 99/REP/14)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE (C 99/REP/1-Sup.1; C 99/REP/7; C 99/REP/8; C 99 REP/9; C 99/REP/10; C 99/REP/11; C 99/REP/12; C 99/REP/12-Sup.1; C 99/REP/13; C 99/REP/14)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (C 99/REP/1-Sup.1; C 99/REP/7; C 99/REP/8; C 99 REP/9; C 99/REP/10; C 99/REP/11; C 99/REP/12; C 99/REP/12-Sup.1; C 99/REP/13; C 99/REP/14)

LE PRESIDENT

Nous passons maintenant aux rapports des points de séance plénière qui sont dans les documents C 99/REP/I -Sup. 1, le C 99/REP/7, C 99/REP/8, C 99/REP/9, C 99/REP/10, C 99/REP/11, C 99/REP/12, C 99/REP/12-Sup 1, C 99/REP/13 et le C 99/REP/14. Il s'agit des rapports de Conférence. Je donne la parole au Secrétaire général.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

My colleague has just pointed out to me that when I was making my point early on, I got a little confused and I mentioned the Report of Commission II. I would just like to correct that. It is a Report of the Plenary. It is C 99/REP/13, which has the error, namely it has the previous Resolution, whereas it should have had the Resolution which was adopted on Friday afternoon by the Plenary regarding the *Scale of Contributions*. I just wanted to make sure that this was understood by the honourable delegations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'observations, les rapports sont adoptés.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Report of Plenary was adopted.
Le rapport de la salle plénière est approuvé.
El informe de la plenaria es adoptado.

LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)

Actually, when I heard the interpreter say that you have adopted the Report, and then I wanted to raise my hand, but it was too late. First of all, I agree that we adopt the Report of the Plenary *en bloc*; even so, the Chinese delegation would like to say a few words on C 99/REP/13, on a

mistake contained in this document, because we would like to say something on paragraph 5. The first sentence, we would like to suggest a proposed amendment.

(continues in English)

I would like to speak English now. paragraph 5, as follows: "One Member Nation expressed reservation on a proposed Draft Resolution, and believed that it is incompatible with the Financial Regulations of the Basic Texts of FAO and its traditional practice." For comment.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pouvez-vous clarifier votre position, elle n'est pas claire.

LIANG QU (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to see C 99/REP/13, Paragraph 5, of this document. It would like to propose an amendment. That is the first sentence of paragraph 5 of this document, and the second part of the first sentence, I would like to propose an amendment.

I would like to repeat what I said just now. "One Member Nation expressed reservation on a proposed Draft Resolution, and believed that it is incompatible with the Financial Regulations of the Basic Texts of FAO and its traditional practice." For comment.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a pas d'objections dont le Conseiller juridique ait tenu compte.

Le délégué de la République Unie de Tanzanie, vous avez la parole.

Asmani ALBANO (Tanzania, United Republic of)

I had given my compliments to the Officers of the Conference. Now, as we come to the end of this Conference, to the end of the year, and also to the end of my only mandate as Chairman of Group of 77, may I extend my gratitude to the Chairpersons of the other Regions, the EU, which is Finland, Ireland, I am told the group leader of the European, and Hungary. These are the people and persons with whom this Chair has worked very closely. We have put our brains together to the extent possible, we have achieved whatever results are now visible, and I hope they are also credible. May I therefore extend my gratitude to them and hope that the next Chair of the G-77 will also have a very collaborative relationship with the other Chairpersons in the year 2000 and beyond. This is a sincere expression of thanks to these people with whom I have worked very closely. So, on behalf of the G-77, we wish to wish them Godspeed in their new endeavours next year.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Jean Walnard DORNEVAL (Haïti)

Je voudrais, maintenant que nous sommes à la fin de cette Conférence, saisir l'occasion pour vous réitérer nos félicitations pour la manière excellente, la sagesse avec laquelle vous avez conduit nos débats.

Je profite aussi de l'occasion pour féliciter tous les membres du Bureau. Au nom du Groupe Amérique latine et Caraïbes, je voudrais présenter ici mes plus vives félicitations à Monsieur Frédéric Zenny, qui est le Secrétaire général de cette Conférence.

Monsieur Zenny part à la retraite à la fin du mois de décembre et il a consacré près de trente ans à notre Organisation. Il a toujours fait preuve d'une volonté inlassable de travail pour la FAO. C'est quelqu'un de dévoué, qui n'a jamais ménagé ni peine, ni force, ni courage. C'est un travailleur infatigable, qui est apprécié par toutes les personnes qui ont travaillé dans cette Organisation. Avec son départ à la retraite, nous perdons un ami, à la FAO, pour le reste je sais

que je conserverai, un frère, un compatriote, et quelqu'un surtout de notre rRégion, Amérique latine et Caraïbes, sur qui pouvoir compter.

Je voudrais simplement, au moment de son départ, lui dire que nous l'accompagnerons dans sa retraite, que nous espérons la plus longue possible, la plus heureuse possible. Nous lui adressons nos vœux de succès, de santé pour lui, pour sa famille, pour sa femme qui l'a toujours accompagné dans ce travail fait à la FAO et quant à moi, pour ce qui me concerne comme Représentant de Haïti, je lui dis tout simplement qu'il a été fidèle au peuple et au pays, à la terre qui l'a vu naître.

Je sais que mon pays, notre pays, Frédéric Zenny, pourra encore longtemps bénéficier de votre expérience, de votre savoir-faire, de votre sagesse. Nous savons et nous espérons que vous serez à nos côtés pour travailler longtemps encore à servir notre pays.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mrs Hannelore A. H. BENJAMIN (Dominica)

One would think that after so many fine speeches made, one would be speechless, but I am not yet. We have come to the end of the Conference, and I thank very wholeheartedly the Chairman of Group-77 for the kind and constructive work he had for all Members. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to be allowed to address the Secretary General of the Conference, Mr Zenny, who at the end of this Millennium will retire from FAO. This is his last Conference in the capacity of Secretary-General.

Mr Zenny, I would like to address you as a colleague and a friend. On behalf of the Sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean, may we thank you for all your efforts and that you helped us, the Caribbeans, through many difficult times, in particular, when the hurricanes rode very high in our Region. You assisted us and advised us, not only professionally, but also as a friend, or when we came to you to ask for your guidance, and we thank you for your constructive spirit you not only showed toward the Caribbean Islands but to all FAO Member Nations. Within a few weeks you will retire and you will approach a new challenge, that of retirement. Knowing you, we are well aware that you already have a private agenda filled with new issues. Mr Zenny, we wish you and your family the very best for your future and wherever your steps might lead you, in the hope that peace, good health, friendship and good luck be your companions in the days to come. May God bless you and your family. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to address our friend Mr Zenny.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)

Je ne voudrais pas par un long discours prolonger inutilement nos discussions, mais je voudrais me joindre au Président du Groupe des 77 qui est intervenu tout à l'heure pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour la façon dont vous avez su diriger cette Trentième Session de notre Conférence et pour les résultats obtenus.

Ces félicitations s'adressent également à tous les Membres du Bureau et en particulier au Vice-Président. Je voudrais aussi toujours au nom du Groupe africain, féliciter tous les États Membres qui ont été élus durant cette Conférence pour faire partie d'un certain nombre d'organes ou de structures de la FAO et leur souhaiter courage.

Permettez-moi également de saisir cette occasion pour remercier vivement tous les Présidents des Groupes régionaux ainsi que tous les Représentants permanents avec qui j'ai eu l'occasion de

travailler également toute cette année durant, et quand nous avons eu les résultats que vous connaissez tous, parmi lesquels je ne peux omettre de citer à nouveau la brillante réélection de Monsieur Jacques Diouf à la tête de la FAO.

Je voudrais également m'associer à ceux qui l'ont déjà fait pour remercier Monsieur Zenny pour tout l'effort qu'il a pu consentir pour toujours nous faciliter la tâche et lui souhaiter une bonne retraite.

Egalement, je sais qu'il y a d'autres responsables de la FAO que nous n'aurons plus la chance d'avoir avec nous, les mois à venir, et donc que nous ne retrouverons pas dans deux ans, à la prochaine Conférence, et je voudrais également leur adresser au nom du Groupe africain, tous nos remerciements.

Bon vent et bonne retraite à eux tous.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms NGUYEN THI XUAN HUONG (Viet Nam)

Speaking on behalf of the Asian Group, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the hard work having completed successfully by the Chairmen of the two Commissions, Members of different committees and groups, and the FAO Secretariat as well.

My high appreciation also goes to the Chairman of the Conference for his efforts of wisdom and skill in which he has conducted the work of the Conference. The Asian Group wishes all Members involved in the work of the Conference all the best in their future endeavours and expresses the hope that they would continue to associate themselves with the Organization to contribute to its mission.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

A cette heure-ci, Monsieur le Président, la sagesse dicte la brièveté. Je voudrais tout simplement vous remercier d'avoir dirigé avec compétence, avec sagesse, les travaux de notre Trentième session.

Je voudrais aussi saisir l'occasion pour remercier tous les Représentants des États Membres qui ont poursuivi ici le dialogue du donner et du recevoir. Avoir une diversité de vue de 180 pays, c'est la marque de l'universalité. Car 180 pays n'ont pas une seule opinion, une seule idée, une seule vision des choses, mais vous avez su comprendre que c'est en faisant un pas vers l'autre, qu'on se retrouve dans ce qui nous unit, et non dans ce qui nous divise. Je voudrais vous remercier d'être parvenu sur l'ensemble des questions difficiles, à un consensus.

Parce que ce consensus m'est indispensable pour travailler dans la sérénité, et pour avoir des actions représentatives de la totalité des États Membres.

Nous sommes à la fin de cette Conférence, mais ce sera aussi la dernière Conférence de mon premier mandat. Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour vous exprimer ma gratitude, à vous toutes, à vous tous pour le soutien que vous m'avez apporté, pour les appuis que vous m'avez donnés, pour les conseils que vous m'avez prodigués.

Je voudrais encore une fois solliciter votre indulgence parce que malgré toute la bonne volonté, au sein du Secrétariat, de faire bien, nous ne sommes que des êtres humains, c'est-à-dire capables de se tromper. Si nous nous trompons, sachez que c'est dans le souci de bien faire. Et n'hésitez

pas à nous le dire, n'hésitez pas à nous le faire savoir. N'hésitez pas à travailler avec nous pour que nous fassions mieux.

Et je suis convaincu qu'au prochain Millénaire, au prochain siècle, c'est-à-dire dans un temps très court, nous pourrons relever le grand défi humain, le défi de la faim, le défi de la pauvreté. L'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation est à notre portée. Et dans un laps de temps plus court même que les horizons envisagés dans le cadre du *Sommet mondial de l'alimentation*. Nous en avons l'intelligence, nous en avons les compétences, nous en avons l'expérience, nous en avons les ressources. Il faut que nous en ayons la volonté politique.

Je voudrais donc encore une fois vous exprimer toute ma reconnaissance, toute ma gratitude, en mon nom personnel et au nom des agents de la FAO qui me secondent et sans lesquels je ne serais pas en mesure de faire ce qu'on a fait ensemble.

Je voudrais donc vous remercier, vous tous et vous toutes, et vous prier de me soutenir et de m'aider dans ma tâche pour qu'on ait une FAO plus performante, plus efficace et qui atteigne les objectifs que vous avez bien voulu lui assigner pour le prochain Millénaire.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Directeur général.

(continue en langue originale Arabe)

Nous sommes au terme de la Trentième session de la Conférence de la FAO dont les travaux se sont déroulés dans d'excellentes conditions, comme il est de coutume dans notre Organisation.

Cette Session a été marquée par une série d'événements importants, sinon majeurs, parmi lesquels la brillante réélection de Monsieur Jacques Diouf, à la direction générale de la FAO, et qui constitue assurément la plus parfaite illustration d'un tel succès. Elle a également permis à la FAO de se doter d'un nouveau Conseil exécutif, d'un nouveau Conseil pour l'exercice biennal 2000-2001.

La qualité et la représentativité de la nouvelle composante du Conseil devront permettre d'espérer de ce dernier une action en parfaite symbiose avec celle du Directeur général, pour la mise en œuvre du programme que s'est tracé notre Organisation pour la période 2000-2001. La Conférence a eu, par ailleurs, l'insigne privilège d'accueillir respectivement Messieurs Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secrétaire général de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie, son Excellence Monsieur Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Président de la République du Brésil ainsi que son Excellence Martii Ahtisaari, Président de la République de Finlande, qui sont venus chacun avec talent et conviction nous faire partager un certain nombre de réflexions et de préoccupations en relation avec les objectifs poursuivis par notre Organisation.

Les allocutions prononcées par ces illustres personnalités, de même que celles des différents chefs de délégation, lors de cette Trentième Session de la Conférence, s'inscrivent en droite ligne avec les préoccupations exprimées par le *Sommet mondial de l'alimentation* de 1996 et des engagements pris par les Etats Membres de la FAO de réduire la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Il s'agit là vraiment du défi majeur auquel nous resterons confrontés en l'absence d'un traitement global des problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté, qui sont indissociables, comme l'ont souligné plusieurs des délégués à cette Conférence.

Outre cette conviction, les travaux de la Trentième Session m'auront permis de tirer un certain nombre de conclusions que je pense partager avec l'ensemble des Membres de la Conférence.

La première de ces conclusions a trait au renforcement de la composante de notre Organisation par l'élection de cinq nouveaux États Membres, dont je voudrais au passage saluer à nouveau et chaleureusement les délégations ici présentes.

La seconde conclusion que je tire est la parfaite identité de vue de l'ensemble des États Membres de l'Organisation sur la nécessité d'accroître les efforts en vue de réaliser les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996.

Les progrès enregistrés dans le domaine de la diminution du nombre des personnes sous-alimentées restent inégaux selon les pays. Ils sont d'une manière globale en deçà des engagements pris par les États Membres lors du Sommet de 1996.

Cette situation ne peut naturellement pas nous satisfaire et demande plus d'engagement et de conviction afin de réussir la mise en oeuvre des objectifs que nous nous sommes tracés.

L'autre conclusion qui s'impose est la forte demande formulée par plusieurs pays qui ont appelé à plus de solidarité et à une coopération plus large pour faire face à un fléau dont les dimensions planétaires et humaines postulent un traitement approprié à l'échelle internationale.

Le *Cadre stratégique 2000-2015* devant guider l'action de notre Organisation pour les quinze années à venir et servir de référence pour les plans d'action à moyen terme est une autre réalisation de cette Conférence.

Le Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice biennal 2000-2001 en est également un autre acquis.

Pour conclure, je peux affirmer, sans donner dans l'autosatisfaction, que les résultats enregistrés par la Trentième Session de la Conférence, ont été probants et que cette Conférence a été un franc succès.

Je rends hommage aux Présidents des deux Commissions ainsi qu'au Secrétariat et au Bureau de cette Conférence pour l'efficacité avec laquelle ils ont contribué à la réussite de cette Conférence.

Je voudrais également exprimer ma gratitude et ma reconnaissance à l'ensemble des membres des deux Commissions pour les efforts qu'ils ont pu déployer. De même, voudrais-je exprimer ma considération et ma gratitude aux interprètes, sans la participation desquels les débats, tant en plénière qu'en commissions, n'auraient pas été possibles.

Je ne saurais clôturer mon intervention sans saluer l'important travail effectué par les différents services de la FAO et la qualité des documents mis à notre disposition pour nous permettre d'appréhender avec le maximum d'informations et de clarté les différents points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour de nos travaux.

Je voudrais aussi, à la fin de cette Session, qui a été à mon avis un éclatant succès, réitérer mes remerciements à l'ensemble des délégués participants à cette Conférence ainsi qu'aux organisateurs de cette même Conférence.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare clos les travaux de la Trentième Session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

The meeting rose at 13.50 hours.
La séance est levée à 13 h 50.
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.50 horas.