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منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Twenty-third Session • Cent vingt-troisième session • 123<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones

Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 28 octobre – 1 novembre 2002  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 28 de octubre – 1 de noviembre de 2002  
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO



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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

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

**28 October 2002**

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

## LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la première séance de la cent vingt-troisième session du Conseil de notre Organisation. Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'accueillir chaleureusement le Directeur général et tous les délégués et observateurs. Je suis particulièrement heureux de noter la présence de plusieurs ministres parmi nous.

Avant de commencer, je voudrais faire une brève annonce. La Communauté européenne participe à cette session 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 Etats Membres figure dans le document d'information CL 123/INF/6 qui a été distribué à tous les membres du Conseil. J'attire l'attention du Conseil sur cette déclaration.

Je laisse à présent la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général.

## LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord souhaiter la bienvenue à tous les délégués, qui sont avec nous aujourd'hui pour travailler dans le cadre du Conseil, afin de nous guider dans notre travail et de nous préciser les différentes priorités et les différentes actions à mener dans le cadre du Programme de travail défini par la Conférence de l'Organisation.

Ce Conseil revêt une importance particulière parce qu'il se situe au lendemain du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après* qui s'est tenu au mois de juin cette année. Il se tient aussi après le Sommet de Johannesburg sur le Développement durable. C'est donc dire qu'il se situe à un moment crucial de la réflexion internationale sur les actions à mener. Je voudrais cependant rappeler que, lors de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le 16 octobre, nous avons publié "*l'Etat de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde*". Et je voudrais juste vous en rappeler les chiffres. Le nombre de personnes mal nourries est de 840 millions: 11 millions dans les pays industrialisés, 30 millions dans les pays en transition, 799 millions dans les pays en développement. Pour les pays en développement, nous observons donc une diminution de seulement 20 millions depuis la date de base 1990-92, utilisée au moment du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Cela veut dire que la baisse annuelle depuis le Sommet de 1996 n'a été que de 2,5 millions de personnes. Pour atteindre l'objectif de réduction de moitié à l'horizon 2015, il faudrait accélérer le mouvement pour réduire annuellement le nombre de personnes qui ont faim de 24 millions, soit 10 fois plus que le rythme actuel.

Si en revanche, nous maintenons les tendances présentes, l'objectif du Sommet serait atteint dans 150 ans. Je pense que ceci explique, s'il en était besoin, le fait que nous ayons alerté nos Etats Membres, le fait que nous ayons cru devoir proposer - et heureusement, vous avez accepté - la tenue d'un Sommet au plus haut niveau pour sensibiliser les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement, parce qu'au-delà des ministres de l'agriculture chargés du développement du secteur, ces questions touchent les ministres chargés des affaires étrangères, les ministres chargés de la coopération, et dans beaucoup de pays aussi, les ministres chargés de l'économie et des finances, qui, à travers leurs représentants dans les conseils d'administration des institutions financières internationales (Banque mondiale, Banques régionales et autres), déterminent les politiques, les priorités, les affectations de ressources.

Vous savez que, hélas, de 1990 à 2000, la part de l'agriculture dans les financements a baissé de 50 pour cent. Il n'est donc pas étonnant que les résultats soient ce que nous venons de vous indiquer.

Nous comptons donc sur vous pour aider à renverser ces tendances, pour sensibiliser et surtout, pour mettre en œuvre la Déclaration qui a été adoptée à l'unanimité au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*.

Je voudrais dire que nous avons été encouragés par le fait qu'au "*Sommet de Johannesburg*", sur cinq thèmes prioritaires retenus par le Secrétaire général, pour des débats de fond, quatre relèvent



directement du mandat de la FAO, et je dirais même, que le cinquième thème relève aussi indirectement du mandat de la FAO.

Le premier thème est celui de l'eau. Nous avons dit et répété depuis bientôt six ans que, tant que nous n'aurons pas réglé le problème de l'eau, on ne réglera pas le problème de l'agriculture. L'eau est source de vie, que ce soit pour les êtres humains, les animaux et les plantes; si on ne maîtrise pas ce facteur, la production agricole est aléatoire, d'autant que les changements climatiques ont exacerbé ces derniers temps les grandes sécheresses ou les inondations. Si je prends l'exemple de l'Afrique sub-saharienne, il n'y a que 4 pour cent des terres arables qui sont irriguées. Ce qui veut dire que sur 96 pour cent des terres, la production dépend d'un facteur sur lequel nous n'avons aucun contrôle, à savoir la pluie.

Je ne peux pas ne pas profiter de l'occasion pour attirer aussi l'attention de nos Etats Membres sur le fait que lorsqu'il y a des crises, nous avons tendance à faire face à des conséquences, pas à des causes. Nous avons vu la sécheresse dans le Sahel et en Afrique orientale, dans la Corne de l'Afrique. Cette année, nous avons la sécheresse en Afrique australe. Nous nous évertuons donc très justement à trouver des vivres à envoyer à ces pays. Nous nous évertuons à trouver des semences pour la saison prochaine, avec des engrais et du petit matériel pour permettre aux agriculteurs de maintenir leurs capacités productives, mais nous ne faisons rien pour la maîtrise de l'eau. Nous devons faire face à des situations paradoxales comme celle d'un des pays, le Malawi, où le tiers du territoire est constitué par un lac, et où pourtant une partie de la population souffre de famine à cause de la sécheresse.

Le deuxième thème du Sommet de Johannesburg qui nous touche directement, c'est l'agriculture. Le troisième thème, c'est celui de la biodiversité et la signature en novembre du premier Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques témoigne de l'importance de ce secteur pour le travail de l'Organisation. Le quatrième thème, c'est l'énergie. Bien que le Sommet se soit focalisé sur le débat: énergie non renouvelable ou énergie renouvelable, en mettant l'accent sur le pétrole essentiellement, il faut garder à l'esprit que pour les pays en développement, 80 pour cent de l'énergie domestique est constituée de bois et de charbon de bois, donc de biomasse et d'arbres, avec toutes les conséquences en matière de déforestation et de désertification pour l'utilisation de cette ressource.

Le cinquième thème, c'est la santé, et naturellement la base de la santé, c'est la nutrition. Et nous avons organisé avec l'OMS en 1992 la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Il est donc encourageant de voir que les thèmes que nous avons développés sont repris à l'échelle internationale mais aussi que dans nos conversations, aussi bien avec les donateurs bilatéraux qu'avec les institutions financières internationales; en tout cas sur le plan des intentions, il semble qu'il y ait une volonté réelle de renverser les tendances, du financement à l'agriculture. Il s'agit de voir si les faits vont permettre de concrétiser ces impressions. Et chacun d'entre vous a un rôle à jouer pour que ceci devienne réalité.

Encore une fois, lorsque nous parlons de 840 millions de personnes, ce sont 840 millions d'individus de chair, d'os, de sang, de cœur, d'esprit et d'âme. Ce ne sont pas seulement des statistiques. Et j'ose donc espérer qu'avec votre aide, nous allons pouvoir mettre en place les dispositions nécessaires pour que la Déclaration que vous avez adoptée puisse être traduite en actes et en résultats.

Le Secrétariat de la FAO se tient naturellement à votre disposition à la fois pour prendre en compte vos suggestions, vos observations, vos conseils, mais naturellement pour mettre en œuvre vos décisions.

Encore une fois je vous remercie d'être venus à Rome. Soyez les bienvenus.

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

**1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable: for decision** (CL 123/1; CL 123/1-Add.1; CL 123/INF/1; CL 123/INF/6; CL 123/INF/20)

**1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier des travaux** (CL 123/1; CL 123/1-Add.1; CL 123/INF/1; CL 123/INF/6; CL 123/INF/20)

**1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario** (CL 123/1; CL 123/1-Add.1; CL 123/INF/1; CL 123/INF/6; CL 123/INF/20)

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

**Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)**

I have asked for the floor in order to request you kindly to give the floor to the Representative of Argentina who has some very important information to pass on to this Council. I would like to inform you that we express all our solidarity to the words she will say.

**Sra Elsa Diana Rosa KELLY (Observador de Argentina)**

Simplemente el pedido de la palabra obedece a la transmisión de nuestra gran pesadumbre por no haber podido cumplir con el pago de nuestra cuota, lo cual ha dado lugar a la aplicación inmediata de las consecuencias establecidas en nuestra constitución de la FAO. Al respecto, quiero también informar al Consejo que la razón que nos ha llevado a esta situación obedece a la situación económica muy crítica que todo el mundo conoce y, que mi Gobierno y la delegación argentina aquí presente quiere reiterar, ratificar la importancia que otorga a los objetivos de la Organización, al cumplimiento de todas las reglas establecidas por nuestra Constitución y a la permanente voluntad y vocación de mi país de trabajar con todos los miembros de la FAO en la consecución de sus altos objetivos.

Como todo el mundo sabe la Argentina ha sido Miembro fundador de la FAO, es un gran país agrícola y siempre ha tendido muy en alto la necesidad de contribuir con su colaboración y cooperación con los demás países para lograr los objetivos que están establecidos. Quizá en una nota personal presentaré también mis excusas por no haber podido llegar en esta ocasión al pago de la contribución; sé que muy pronto, en cuanto se pueda resolver la situación económica en mi país, se regulará esta situación para poder nuevamente tomar parte plena como corresponde a todo miembro.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

L'Argentine comme vous l'avez si bien dit, a été membre fondateur de la FAO. L'Argentine a été pour très longtemps Membre du Conseil de cette Organisation. L'Argentine a été membre très efficace de plusieurs comités de cette Organisation. L'Argentine a toujours contribué, et nous le savons tous et tous ceux qui ont travaillé avec vous, combien l'Argentine a contribué à ce que les objectifs de la FAO soient atteints. Croyez que nous sommes désolés que vous ayez été obligés de ne pas participer avec nous en tant que Membre du Conseil. Nous comprenons très bien la situation de votre pays. Tout le monde est au courant et ce que nous vous souhaitons tous, c'est que cette situation soit dépassée le plus vite possible et que vous reveniez parmi nous au sein du Conseil.

J'ajouterais que toutes vos observations, même si vous n'êtes pas assis tout près de moi, seront les bienvenues. Très bien, nous passons donc à l'élection des trois Vice-présidents et la nomination du Président et des Membres du Comité de rédaction.

**2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee** (CL 123/INF/9; CL 123/INF/9-Sup.1)

**2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction** (CL 123/INF/9; CL 123/INF/9-Sup.1)

**2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción** (CL 123/INF/9; CL 123/INF/9-Sup.1)

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Après consultation entre les groupes régionaux nous disposons des propositions suivantes pour les trois postes de Vice-présidents du Conseil. Le CDE, M. Pavel Skoda de la République tchèque, le G-77, M. Nouri Abraham Hassan de la Libye et M. Wilfred Ngirwa de la République unie de Tanzanie. Y aurait-il des objections ou des observations? Non, alors je tiens à féliciter les trois Vice-présidents pour leur élection. Je demande à tout le monde de les acclamer et de leur souhaiter la bienvenue. Merci et bienvenus à bord.

Comme président du Comité de rédaction, nous allons avoir les Etats-Unis d'Amérique en la personne de M. Vinik. En ce qui concerne les Membres du G-77, il y aura le Cameroun, l'Égypte, l'Inde, le Mexique, le Pérou, les Philippines, l'Arabie saoudite et la Tunisie. En ce qui concerne le CDE, pays en transition, nous allons avoir l'Australie, la Bulgarie, la France, l'Islande, la Corée du Sud et les Etats-Unis. Nous avons quelques noms: l'Australie, ce sera M. Brett Hughes, la France M. Prévot, l'Islande M. Jonasson et les Etats-Unis Mme Lucie Tamlyn. Très bien. Est-ce qu'il y a des objections?

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

*16.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions* (CL 123/LIM/2)

*16.1 Invitation d'États non Membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO* (CL 123/LIM/2)

*16.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO* (CL 123/LIM/2)

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons au point 16 de l'ordre du jour. Point 16.1 "Invitation des Etats non Membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO". Il s'agit du point de l'ordre du jour: "questions constitutionnelles et juridiques". Le document relatif à ce sous-point porte la référence CL 123/LIM/2. Je donne la parole à Madame Gardner, Secrétaire générale de la Conférence et du Conseil pour présenter ce sous-point.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

A request was received from the Russian Federation to attend this Council Session in an Observer capacity. An invitation was issued on 15 October 2002, subject to approval by the Council. At this time Council approval is sought to admit the Russian Federation, as an observer to the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Council.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Est-ce nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil est d'accord pour que la Fédération de Russie assiste à cette session en qualité d'observateur? Il n'y a pas d'objections? Donc la Fédération de Russie est bienvenue parmi nous.

Le paragraphe 5 du document CL 123/LIM/2 présente pour information une liste des réunions de la FAO auxquels la Fédération de Russie a participé depuis la dernière session du Conseil. Si nous sommes tous d'accord, nous allons passer à l'examen du point suivant de notre Ordre du jour.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

*16.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization (CL 123/17)*

*16.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (CL 123/17)*

*16.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (CL 123/17)*

## **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Il s'agit du point 16.2. Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation. Le document pertinent porte la référence CL 123/17. Le Directeur général a reçu le 19 novembre 2001 une demande officielle d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation des Etats fédérés de Micronésie. Nous prenons acte de cette demande et la transmettons à la Conférence qui examinera cette question lors de sa 32<sup>ème</sup> session en novembre en 2003. En attendant la décision de la Conférence concernant cette demande d'admission en application de l'article 25.11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et des paragraphes B-1, B-2 et B-5 des principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux nations, le Conseil est appelé à autoriser le Directeur général à inviter les Etats fédérés de Micronésie à participer en qualité d'observateur aux prochaines sessions du Conseil, ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation pouvant l'intéresser. Le Conseil souhaiterait que les Etats fédérés de Micronésie participent à ses sessions et à des réunions régionales et techniques. Personne ni voit d'objections? Il en est ainsi décidé.

Le Conseil autorise donc le Directeur général à inviter les Etats fédérés de Micronésie à participer à cette session en qualité d'observateur. Soyez les bienvenus.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

### **David INGHAM (Australia)**

I do not wish to take up too much time on this Item, but as Co-Chairman of the Southwest Pacific Region I would just like to make a couple of very brief comments.

We very much welcome the application by the Federated States of Micronesia to join FAO, not only for the value that it will bring to the Federated States of Micronesia, but also because it adds to the importance of the Southwest Pacific Region within FAO and overall, when admitted, it will bring our total numbers to 15 in this Organization. We also think that is very important because it will contribute to increased and continuing focus on the unique issues and circumstances faced by Pacific island countries.

Australia also warmly welcomes the participation because we value the participation of Pacific island states in the United Nations bodies, which is consistent with the priority that we place on future economic and social development within the Pacific Island Region.

With that, I would just like to say that we very strongly support the Federated State of Micronesia's bid to join FAO and think it important that they be able to participate in Council and FAO bodies pending the, hopefully, positive decision by Conference next year.

## **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons donc au point 3 de l'ordre du jour. "La Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en l'an 2002".

Le document CL 123/2 présente divers aspects de la situation actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. J'aimerais demander à M. de Haen, Sous-Directeur général chargé du Département économique et social, d'introduire ce point.

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION**  
**II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE**  
**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**

**3. State of Food and Agriculture 2002 (CL 123/2)**

**3. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2002 (CL 123/2)**

**3. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 2002 (CL 123/2)**

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

I am very pleased to introduce the agenda item, The State of Food and Agriculture and, with your permission, I would like to make a short introduction with the use of a Power Point presentation in order to give you some more recent and additional information that is not contained in the document.

I will distinguish three major points: the food security situation; the recent developments in agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and the few remarks on the resources for food and agriculture.

Turning to the food security situation. The Director-General has just presented to you the latest estimates by FAO published in the *State of Food Insecurity in the World Report* for 2002, which we have published on World Food Day. I can be very brief on this and just repeat that the latest number referred to 840 million chronically-undernourished people mostly live in Asia. But, the percentage of the population suffering chronic hunger continues to be highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where around one-third of the population is undernourished, according to these estimates.

The next slide shows you the figure mentioned by the Director-General, that is, a decline in the number of undernourished during the 1990s by 20 million people, hides a very fundamental structure discrepancy between two groups of countries. On the left of this slide you see in red, the indication of the order of decline in the number of hungry people in those countries where we had a decline. This group of countries is small and of the 116 million, 74 million is the decline in one country only, China. There are some other countries like Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam, where we also observe a significant decline.

On the other hand, there is a group of countries – this is, unfortunately, the majority of the developing countries – where the number of hungry has either not changed or has even increased. The total increase being 96 million. There is a relatively long list of countries which were affected by a variety of factors, including conflicts and natural disasters. The net decline of 20 million people is, therefore, just the difference between a decline of 116 million in the successful country and an increase by almost 100 million in the non-successful countries, which, unfortunately, are the majority of the developing countries.

The next slide refers again to the unfortunate fact that the trend is not good. In fact, the average decline, which the Director-General referred to by 2.5 million people annually in the 1990s, led us to say that progress has practically come to a halt and that we are far from being on track towards the World Food Summit target.

I would like to refer to the fact that this year's *State of Food Insecurity in the World Report*, for the first time, presents a more systematic report on the consequences of this continuing hunger in, what we call, covert famine. That means that many people die from hunger and that is not directly but indirectly from diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, measles and others. They would most likely survive if they were better nourished.

The report also refers to the food emergency situations in 32 countries, affecting 62 million people. The Director-General has referred to that as well, therefore I will not go into further detail.

Turning to the current agricultural situation. Let me begin by referring to the slow down of GDP growth that you see in this slide, in yellow for the developing countries and in blue for the world. In fact, it shows that the slowdown of GDP growth in developing countries and worldwide has been significant for the year 2001. However, the growth rate has been much higher in the developing countries.

This slowdown in 2001 has contributed to slower demand for food and this, in turn, has contributed to the low prices that we have seen on the markets.

Turning to the years 2002 and 2003, the graph shows a slight recovery that is underway since last year, mainly in advanced economies, but also in Asia and the Near East while we expect that trend to continue until 2003 and, therefore, affecting our agricultural markets. I should add that the expectation may be even that the growth rates are lower than recently predicted, as has just been published by the IMF in its *World Economic Outlook* in September 2002.

The next graphic shows our estimates of the annual change in world agricultural production – crop and livestock production – over the past five years, as well as the average annual rate of change for 1991-1996, for comparison.

Our provisional estimates for 2001 suggest a very low growth rate of 0.5 percent. This would be the lowest rate of expansion for agricultural production since 1993. I will not dwell on the underlying factors that may contribute to the explanation of this.

We go to the next graph, which shows the annual rate of growth of agricultural production by country groups. Here you see that the slower agricultural output growth over the last two years is the result of the slowdown in the developed market economies and the developing countries.

A positive point in 2001 is that the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe recorded the first year of strong agricultural output growth, for the region as a whole – following, as we all remember, a decade of mostly contracting production. This is a positive note in this overall context of relatively low growth.

Another important development that has gained momentum over the 1990s is the growing agricultural trade deficit of developing countries. It is declining. There is growing trade deficit of developing countries, that is, agricultural exports are increasingly insufficient to cover agricultural imports. There are a number of reasons such as, strong growth in domestic demand, outpacing production growth and low price surpluses on world markets available as low priced imports to the developing countries.

If we look forward to the on-going Doha Development Round, of course the outcome of that Round will determine to which degree this trend towards the agricultural trade deficit of developing countries will continue.

The agricultural trade deficit is most pronounced and growing in the Least Developed Countries, where agricultural imports are now twice as high as agricultural exports and most of the imports are for food.

The overall agricultural trade balance worsens and many developing countries remain heavily dependent on exports of just a few commodities. I can only give the example of coffee, which shows that some countries earn up to 70 percent of their export earnings from one commodity, in this case green coffee. The same dependency exists for a number of other commodities such as sugar, bananas and cotton. This has continued in the reporting period.

The report goes into further detail of individual agricultural commodities and I will not summarize that here but only refer to cereals, the commodity which continues to provide more than half of the calorie supplies to the populations of developing countries.

The graphic in front of you shows the recent trends in global cereal production and utilization. After a slight recovery in 2001, cereal production is expected to decline in 2002 to 1 830 000 000 million tonnes, which is about 60 million tonnes less than last year and the lowest crop since 1995. That means that for the third year in a row, global cereal output is expected to fall short of utilization. The consequences are a sharp fall in global cereal stocks, which have been already declining over the last few years. The decline in stocks is expected for the crop seasons ending in 2003. The decline will amount to 19 percent.

Cereal prices have fallen significantly since their peak in 1996-97 and have remained depressed until recently. However, the tighter grain supply situation that I have just described, has led to

price increases for wheat and coarse grains in recent months. For rice, large supplies in major exporting countries still keep prices under pressure. Overall, you see that the prospects for recovery of prices are now more indicated than what we expected last year.

This ends my introductory remarks regarding agriculture and now a few words on the fishery situation.

World fishery production reached a new high of 130 million tonnes. This represents a 12 percent increase compared to 1995. The limited world fish stocks place a significant constraint on total wild capture production, which in 2000 was only three percent above the level 1995.

Aquaculture production has continued to show a strong upward trend. Total world aquaculture production increased by 45 percent from 1995 to 2000. Most of the increase in aquaculture production has taken place in China, which now accounts for more than two-thirds of world aquaculture production. This may not be so well known. Therefore, I underline it here on behalf of the Fishery Department.

Now turning to the forestry sector, according to our preliminary estimates for 2001, global roundwood production contracted one-half a percentage point due to a lower production in the developed countries and a very limited expansion in the developing countries.

Tropical deforestation and degradation of forests, in many parts of the world, continue to be a problem and we published that for the past decade the net annual loss in forest areas worldwide was 9.4 million hectares.

Global trade in forest products also continue to grow in 2000. Overall exports of forest products increased by around six percent, 83 percent of which was accounted for by the developed countries.

Finally, a few words on the resources for food and agriculture, the importance of which cannot be overemphasized.

Capital stock per agricultural worker in developing countries varies greatly between groups of countries. Countries are grouped by prevalence of undernourishment and two periods are compared: the late 1970s and early 1980s; and the late 1990s.

The graph highlights two points: first, it shows that countries with low percentages of hungry people have invested significantly more in agriculture than countries with high prevalence of hunger. Second, this capital gap, between the successful and less successful countries has been growing. Good performers have increased their capital stock per farm worker and poor performers have seen capital stock stagnate or even fall.

In external assistance to agriculture, again we see systematic differences between groups of countries. External assistance to agriculture per agricultural worker has been relatively higher for countries with low prevalence of chronic hunger. External assistance per agricultural worker declined over the 1990s but the decline has affected all categories of countries and was greatest in countries where hunger is highest. That is, of course, an orientation of the trends that are not conducive to the solution of the problems in countries suffering from high percentages of chronic hunger.

The final topic refers to resources going to agriculture through policies of the OECD.

The first speaks of transfers to the developing countries. Official Development Assistance, bilateral and multilateral grants and concessional flows to developing countries and transition countries amounted to about US\$ 8.1 billion. This is roughly US\$ 6 per farm worker in the recipient countries.

Referring to the support that OECD countries provide to their own agriculture – provisional estimates are only available for the year 2001 – they show that the level of transfers to agriculture producers, which is called Producer Subsidy Equivalence (PSE), stood at US\$ 230 billion. Adding

into that general services to agriculture one arrives at the much quoted figure of US\$311 billion for Total Subsidy Equivalence (TSE).

The level of support has been declining over the last three years but the amount remains high, related to the number of recipients calculated in fulltime farmer equivalent it amounts to roughly US\$ 12 000 per person.

**Ms Vilma DU MARTEAU (European Community)**

I welcome this opportunity to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. The distributed document CL 123/2 gives an overview of the current situation regarding the WTO negotiations, the trends of the various commodity markets, agriculture and the current situation on undernourishment and food shortages in the world.

The European Community and its Member States are concerned by the food security situation in the developing world and believe that the best way to bring about food security is to pursue a broad policy for sustainable development and poverty-reduction at the National level combined with appropriate action at International level.

Poverty reduction has been confirmed as the central objective of the European Community development cooperation along with three other strategic areas deriving from the Treaty of the European Union: (i) sustainable development, (ii) integration into the world economy, and (iii) democracy, human rights, rule of law, peacemaking and conflict prevention. Recognizing the importance of the reduction of rural poverty, the European Community has identified rural development and food security as one of the six priority sectors for the EU development cooperation.

We also believe that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and it is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, nutrition and food security is imperative. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way.

At the moment Southern Africa faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and the European Community has promptly and generously responded to the emergency. The European Union's (Commission and Member States) contribution to the region and the six most affected countries: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe was more than €310 million, representing at least 40 percent of the needs estimated by the UN Organizations.

Adverse climatic conditions have affected two consecutive cropping seasons reducing agricultural output drastically and contributing to acute vulnerability. However, in many cases the causes of a crisis can be linked to other sources as evidenced in the conclusions of a recent mission by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Humanitarian Needs, Mr Morris. He notes "serious problems of governance, weakened social sectors, poorly performing or constrained private sectors and poor macro-economic performance are seriously affecting key countries in the region".

Traditional coping mechanisms have been exhausted and chronic malnutrition has exacerbated the vulnerability of the region's poor populations. In addition, HIV/AIDS is a fundamental underlying cause of vulnerability in the region and represents the single largest threat to its people. HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the Southern African region are among the highest in the world. Political, economic and social consequences of land acquisition policies in Zimbabwe have added to the crisis, turning the country from a traditional food exporter into the country with the greatest requirement of food aid.

We reiterate the importance of sound economic policies and promoting broad based growth and poverty reduction to address the root causes of the food security problem but we also think that the political dimensions of food insecurity need to be tackled by giving greater attention to promoting good governance, preventing conflict and building peace.



The goals set out at the World Food Summit in 1996 and confirmed at the WFS: *fyI* in June 2002 will not be reached within the declared time period without the concerted efforts of Governments, the support of the international donor community and the private sector and without the broad participation of civil society. This is even more urgent when we see that the most recent 1998-2000 estimates of FAO on the chronically-undernourished worldwide and in developing countries – 840 and 790 million, respectively – and we learned that – I quote from SOFI 2002 – "the average annual decrease since the Summit has been only 2.5 million, far below the level required to reach the WFS goal". However, we are confident that the two international events held this year almost in parallel with the WFS: *fyI* in June 2002, respectively, the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg can provide synergies and additional impetus to reach the Millennium Development Goal and as reaffirmed in the World Food Summit: *fyI* Declaration, to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

The European Community and its Member States endorse the document made by the FAO Secretariat.

We are convinced that developing countries need increased market opportunities in the developed world as well as developing domestic, regional and South-South markets. The "Everything but Arms" initiative of the European Community is an example for other developed countries to follow. The recently commenced negotiations (September this year) between the European Community and the ACP countries to create WTO-compatible economic partnership agreements will enhance the opportunities for the ACP countries to integrate into the world trading system, increase investments, create economic growth and provide the opportunities to diversify exports. The latter is an issue that has become increasingly relevant taking account of the situation of world prices for certain export commodities, which are vital for the economy of some developing countries.

At the WTO Conference in Doha a comprehensive new round of negotiations was launched. Without prejudging the outcome of the WTO negotiations in agriculture, the European Community and its Member States will be constructive in the process of establishing a fair and market-oriented multilateral trading system, in accordance with the conclusions of the Doha Ministerial Conference. Comprehensive negotiations are to be pursued on the three pillars: market access, all forms of export subsidies and trade distorting domestic supports, bearing in mind non-trade concerns. The Doha Development Agenda commits us to pursuing an outcome which is positive for developing countries. The European Community and its Member States will do its utmost to contribute constructively to the process. Special and differential treatment for developing countries needs to be an integral part of the negotiations, to be operationally effective and to take account these countries' development needs, including food security and rural development. The European Community and its Member States firmly believe that these negotiations will provide more opportunities for all countries to increase trade, development and growth and consequently contribute to poverty reduction.

In fact, an equal share of the fruits of growth is of major importance to allow fair improvement of livelihoods for all. Capacity-building and technical assistance to participate in the negotiations will help to maximise such benefits. The European Community and its Member States have provided, and will continue to provide, such support alongside initiatives such as the "EBA initiative" favouring the neediest of all, the LDCs. FAO and the other international organizations should also continue to offer support to developing countries in the fields in which they are mandated in a coherent and coordinated manner.

**Oswaldo DEL ÁGUILA RAMÍREZ (Perú)**

Este detallado documento, preparado por la Secretaría, nos da una visión general de las tendencias en la agricultura y la alimentación mundial ante el desafío de reducir el hambre en el mundo en un 50 por ciento para el año 2015, un compromiso que asumimos en 1996 y renovamos en el presente año durante la CMA: *cad*.

Sin embargo, hemos constatado que el número de personas subnutridas no ha disminuido en los porcentajes requeridos para lograr los objetivos. Por otro lado, la producción agrícola en los últimos años ha decrecido frente a períodos anteriores. Las emergencias alimentarias continúan, los precios de los productos básicos agrícolas disminuyen y la asistencia exterior a la agricultura también ha decrecido. Es preocupante ver que el panorama no es muy alentador en estos aspectos que están ligados unos a otros.

La Región de América Latina y el Caribe no escapa a esta problemática. En los últimos años se ha visto afectada por desastres naturales, caída en los precios de sus productos, crisis financieras y una sensible disminución en la cooperación destinada a la agricultura. Esto ha tenido consecuencias en el sector agrícola.

Sin embargo, en el Informe que hoy analizamos, hemos encontrado información esperanzadora, como el aumento del 2.7 por ciento en la producción agrícola para el año 2001 en la Región de América Latina y la diversificación en la producción agrícola de exportación y con mayor valor añadido, así como los mercados de destino.

Nuestra región también mantiene grandes bolsones de pobreza extrema rural, lo cual debe ser tomado en cuenta en los distintos análisis del sector agrícola mundial.

Ante esta situación, los países miembros debemos hacer los mayores esfuerzos para cumplir los compromisos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Y crear los ambientes propicios para el desarrollo agrícola y la disminución de la subnutrición.

Para ese objetivo reiteramos la necesidad de ampliar la cooperación técnica a los países en desarrollo que completamente los esfuerzos nacionales, el acceso a los mercados para productos agrícolas, el fin de las ayudas estatales que causan distorsiones en los mercados. Creemos que la CMA: *cad* las próximas negociaciones sobre cultura en el marco de la Cumbre de Doha, también brindará una oportunidad para lograr una mayor equidad en el comercio de productos agrícolas y, de esa manera, promover la producción y mejores niveles de la producción alimentaria.

**Philippe J. LHUILLIER (Philippines)**

On behalf of my Government, we would like to express our appreciation to the FAO in preparing this broad and balanced world outlook of the State of Food and Agriculture 2002. Indeed, this report reflects the many challenges still facing agriculture in my country.

Five years ago, my Government passed into law the most comprehensive piece of legislation that provides the policy directions and sets into motion the operational mechanisms that aim not only to modernize Philippine agriculture but would also make it a globally competitive one. It was hoped that through this process we would address poverty where it was (still is) most prevalent, the rural areas.

We believe that agricultural modernization holds the key to achieving the goals of food security, reduced rural poverty and global competitiveness in agriculture. More specifically, this means creating a policy environment supportive of increased competitiveness and private sector investment in the sector. My Government is encouraging private sector investment into agricultural-based activities by expanding basic rural infrastructure such as irrigation, and rural roads, among others.

We continue to improve our system of agricultural research through the help of friendly donor countries, the FAO and the UN Agencies. Innovative credit and financing schemes have been launched to encourage the financial institutions, cooperatives and Non-governmental Organizations to help finance viable farm projects with low interest loans.

Our agricultural sector, modesty aside, is growing at higher rates than those described in the FAO report. During the first six months of this year, Philippine agriculture posted a 3.17 percent growth compared to a similar period last year. Our crop sector expanded by 1.90 percent. Livestock production increased by 3.42 percent while fishery output grew by 5.36 percent. On the

average, farm gate price appreciated by 3.76 percent. With the onset of *El Niño* in the second half of the year, agricultural growth rates performance will decline.

We, however, continue to face many challenges. In the wake of the 9/11 event, our Government suffers from budgetary deficit. We could not pursue the budgetary increases needed to modernize agriculture. We need a more aggressive human resource development programme particularly in the area of food safety and quarantine expertise in the light of greater consumer food safety awareness. In this aspect, we believe FAO can be instrumental in helping us develop those capabilities.

On the international front, we continue to feel the ill-effects of protectionist policies, where our agricultural exports decline while our domestic market is flooded with cheap agricultural imports, these effects are the results of the unabated subsidies extended by developed countries to their agricultural sector. We earnestly hope that the WTO Development Round will redress this imbalance. We advocate that a special and differential treatment for developing countries be implemented and subsidies to agriculture under whatever cover by developed countries be immediately stopped. Let us, in the name of globalization, fight hunger, fight poverty together on a level playing field.

**Mohammad Saeid NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

Let us start by thanking the FAO Secretariat for preparing this interesting report and Mr de Haen for the introduction of a new report which was much more up to date than the report that was distributed.

Based on the report under consideration it is not promising that after seven years, since the World Food Summit we are still talking about 840 millions undernourished people in the world. It is even more discouraging being informed that rapid progress in a few countries obscures a stagnant and deteriorating situation in many developing countries. However, at the same time, we can interpret this in different ways and argue that if rapid progress has been possible in a few countries why should it not be possible in others. The answer might be complicated and addressed to many social, economic, political and military issues but at the same time, no doubt, there are more than enough cases which could have been resolved without much difficulties if the political will, supported by financial assistance, would have been existent.

We also read in the report that undernourishment in developing countries has fallen from 28 percent of the total population to 17 percent during the last two decades, which is a considerable achievement, although with the population growth the absolute number of undernourished has continued to rise. In other words, high population growth is a major constraint to achieving food security and decreasing undernourishment.

While my delegation recognizes the major responsibilities of the National Governments, as was emphasised by the distinguished representative of the EU, at the same time it strongly believes that existing high level expertise and skills in FAO, if backed by even modest financial support is able to effectively combat hunger and malnutrition through tested and proven regional and country specific modalities and means. We do believe that TCP projects, Special Programme for Food Security and South-South Cooperation, are examples of means, which have proven to be efficient, cost-effective and responsive to the specific needs, and conditions of different countries. We would like to see their share of both budgetary and extra-budgetary allocations increased in the future.

As far as food shortage is concerned it is disturbing to see that globally 31 countries are experiencing severe food shortage and in southern Africa, alone 13 million people need emergency food assistance. Most of these cases are due to poor harvest caused by low rainfall and draught. Drought is the major cause of most of food shortages and food insecurity cases.

My delegation is of the belief that in certain parts of the world, mainly in Africa, Asia and the Near East, frequent drought is a fact of life. We have to accept this reality and face it with courage and knowledge. In some countries rain is a blessing and we have to be ready to save the rainwater

whenever it falls, protect it and use it in the most efficient way. In this regard, there is a tremendous amount of local knowledge and experience in many developing countries which can be updated in combination with new technology, and which was disseminated and utilized.

Agricultural Biotechnology is another promising factor which, unfortunately, developing countries have not benefited from its full potential. This is a big challenge and responsibility for FAO as a centre of excellence. FAO should play a major role in transferring biotechnology from developed countries and international research centres to the developing world. Failing in doing so means a failure in combating food insecurity and agricultural underdevelopment.

As far as the current Agricultural Situation is concerned we read in paragraph 16: " The recent slowdown in output growth is primarily the result of depressed commodity prices that have reduced farmers' incentives to expand production"... And again in a later part of the paragraph: "Policy changes in some countries may also have contributed to the slowdown by reducing incentives for over-production".

Of course, we all understand that this is a reference to heavy subsidies paid in some of the developed countries - as was mentioned by Dr de Haen - and it amounts to almost a billion dollars per day. My delegation does not intend to discuss this issue here and we hope that it would be handled in WTO. However, we strongly request that the Secretariat prepare a series of analytical reports on the negative effects of subsidies paid in developed countries on production and food security of developing countries, as well as the negative implications of the implementation of GATT and WTO agreements in these countries. We expect these papers to include quantitative estimates of losses and negative effects, as well as ways and means of its prevention and compensation.

As far as external Assistance to Agriculture is concerned, unfortunately the report is not updated. The figures in the report are mostly up to 1999. I was going to ask the Secretariat why we are in the Twenty-first century and discussing the statistics of the Twentieth century, but fortunately Dr de Haen's presentation prevented me from doing this because we received updated data. However, we are facing the following facts, EAA has declined by 17 percent from 1998 to 1999, just in a year. Share of ODA to agriculture has decreased by more than 50 percent during past 15 years. FAO's budget, the only UN specialised agency for agricultural development, has been declining or is stagnate during the past eight years. Finally FAO's Trust Fund for food security has received little attention.

With all these facts, can we still oppose the argument of those who say the culture of greed has overcome the culture of care in our world? Can we remain optimistic to the fulfilment of the objectives of the World Food Summit and World Food Summit: *five years later*? We are waiting to see the answer in action and not to hear it in a statement or to read it in reports. Finally, I would like to inform you that the budget for the agricultural sector in the Islamic Republic of Iran this year has been doubled. This is a sign of commitment of the country to the agricultural development combating food security and the objectives of World Food Summit and World Food Summit: *five years later*.

**Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)**

May I congratulate you for your work as Independent Chairman of this Body to which we attribute the importance of its role in the framework of FAO. Let me express my firm support, to you, Sir, to the work being done by delegations and the Secretariat in order to arrive at a successful end at the final session of the Council this year. I welcome the words I have just heard from Mr Jacques Diouf, and I wish to congratulate him for his tireless efforts to promote the objectives of FAO, as a legitimate representative of Africa and of the community of developing countries.

As this is my first intervention as designated Permanent Representative of Brazil, I believe I could not miss this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership of FAO and reaffirm the commitment of my country to contribute constructively and decisively towards the full implementation of the mandate of this Organization.

Brazil is today at the front line in fighting hunger and social exclusion. We have already dramatically reduced the number of Brazilians living under the line of extreme poverty, but we are conscious of our ethical duty to reduce the present numbers to zero. It is a national concern and a common task of the Government and civil society. It is in this framework, which corresponds to a national option, that I intend to work with all Members of FAO and with its Secretariat to ensure that we can live in a world free of hunger.

I have noticed that this Session of the Council will consider the very important issue of the elaboration of guidelines to support the realization of the right to adequate food. We will engage ourselves to this debate in order to advance ways and means to attain the goal of eliminating hunger on our planet.

Brazil has supported the relevant initiatives related to the right to adequate food in other international fora, particularly in the UN Commission on Human Rights. We believe it is high time for FAO to address this crucial matter, in accordance with the mandate received from the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

As I mentioned before, one of the central priorities for Brazil is to seek ways and means to promote social inclusion, which necessarily comprises the fulfilment of the right to adequate food to every man, woman and child. An adequate agrarian structure which could provide for the sustainability of rural populations is a step in that direction and Brazil is ready to share its ongoing positive experience in this field with other Member Nations, through FAO or through any other organ or institution dealing with this essential aspects of social reform. We expect that the policies which we have strived to apply nationally with success can be replicated in the international plan.

For Brazil, the promotion of Food Security for All and the eradication of hunger, the two main components of the International Alliance Against Hunger, agreed last June, will require the full implementation of the international commitments made not only in this forum, but also in Monterrey and Doha.

The correction of all distortions that presently afflict the international trading system in the field of agriculture will be an important tool to allow developing countries to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization.

We recall, in this regard, that we recognized in the World Food Summit: *five years later* that international agricultural trade has a role to play in promoting economic development and alleviating poverty. This concept needs to be adequately reflected in all relevant activities developed by FAO and through our deliberations we should exert our influence on decisions that have to be taken in other specialized fora.

The Brazilian delegation has in this semester an increased responsibility. Besides speaking on behalf of 170 million Brazilian citizens, we have the honour to presently preside over the GRULAC, which represents the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This group of countries has been proudly committed to the implementation of the outcome of the World Food Summit and to the promotion of the goals of FAO. I am sure, as its present President, to express the readiness of the whole group to engage in a constructive dialogue with other regional groups with a view to achieving the proper consensus in issues included for discussion and decision in this Council session.

At this point, let me say a few words specifically on the issue being discussed under Item 3. The Brazilian delegation welcomes the Secretariat's work in producing documents CL 123/2 which highlights important issues about the State of Food and Agriculture during the year 2002. Document CL 123/2 clearly states that keeping the current trend the goal established in the World Food Summit regarding the 50 percent reduction in the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015 will not completely be attained. If you are to advance in such a path the world would attend the stated goal only in one hundred and fifty years.

The document highlights the decline of commodity price as a result of the fact that output growth has outpaced the demand growth at the global level. What are the reasons for that? Unfortunately the answer cannot be found in document CL 123/2. The reasons are better explained in the publication of the IMF on the World Economic Outlook. I quote: "Industrial economies provide extremely high levels of support to their farmers, OECD has calculated that total transfers from consumer and tax payers to farmers averaged about 30 percent of gross farm income in 2001, cost were over three hundred billion and amounted to six times Overseas Development Aid." Support to Agriculture is much higher than that given to almost any other significant sector of industrial economies, and, as discussed below, it is generally provided in a manner that is highly inefficient at achieving its underline social aims. The high levels of support largely reflect the influence of special interests which gain significantly, while larger losses to consumers are more diffused and less visible.

While agricultural support benefits some farmers in industrial countries it can actually hurt others by increasing the prices they pay for inputs and depressing world prices for those who receive relatively little support. Furthermore, it imposes substantial costs on consumers and tax payers in industrial countries and on commodity producers in the rest of the world, many of whom are poor.

Indeed, the vast majority of the world's poor are farmers in developing countries, whose product prices are depressed by Industrial Country Farm Support Programmes.

Bearing all these issues in mind, besides our own concern at FAO, the Brazilian Government cannot detach our deliberation within this Council from the Ministerial Declaration negotiated and concluded during the WTO Doha Fourth Ministerial Meeting which took place last year. We recall the commitments made at that meeting, that is, the undertaking of all nations to engage in comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidies and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.

#### **Arturo LIEBERS BALDIVIESO (Bolivia)**

Por su digno intermedio quiero aprovechar la oportunidad a nombre del gobierno de Bolivia, a nombre del Presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada y el cuerpo de Ministros y el pueblo de Bolivia, de saludar al señor Director General de la FAO, las autoridades de la FAO y a los miembros de este Consejo. Es una muy buena oportunidad para nuestro país participar por vez primera en este Consejo. Digo por vez primera porque desde el 6 de agosto de este año Bolivia tiene un nuevo gobierno democrático, fruto de las elecciones de junio pasado. Se ha inaugurado un gobierno de responsabilidad nacional en el cual dos partidos políticos de diferentes tendencias políticas, de diferentes ideologías políticas, situados tal vez en los extremos de posición, han tenido que dejar de lado estas diferencias y unirse para conformar una coalición de gobierno.

Quiero también traerles el saludo del parlamento boliviano. Son 22 años de democracia que vive el país y por vez primera el Parlamento Boliviano está constituido por una gran representación de pueblos originarios, siendo el bloque de oposición mayoritaria el representado por originarios de la región Aymará quechua, que habita en la zona andina de Bolivia y también del Oriente Boliviano.

Nosotros hemos definido un Plan Bolivia, basado en catorce puntos, donde el principal objetivo es, sin duda alguna, la lucha contra la pobreza. Como todos los delegados saben, Bolivia es el país más pobre de la región sudamericana, circundado por cinco países hermanos como Perú, Chile, Argentina, Brasil y Paraguay. Bolivia no tiene una salida al mar desde el año 1879, pero los procesos abiertos de integración que han ido produciendo en los últimos treinta años nos están permitiendo el desarrollo integral entre nuestros países, trabajar a través del comercio, sobretodo de productos de la agricultura, es una de las esperanzas de Bolivia.

¿Cuál es la situación actual de la agricultura en nuestro país? Bolivia tiene alrededor de 1.100.000 kilómetros cuadrados, es decir, estamos hablando de 110.000.000 de hectáreas, de las cuales solamente son cultivadas 2.000.000 de hectáreas y de éstas solo el 10 por ciento tienen riego precario, primario: estamos hablando de alrededor de 200.000 hectáreas. Por lo tanto, coincidimos

con una de las principales prioridades mencionadas por el señor Director General de la FAO: sin agua va a ser muy difícil que nuestro país pueda desarrollarse en agricultura. Solamente tenemos agua durante los meses del verano y sequía durante ocho meses; cada año es necesario luchar contra estos extremos de inundaciones en el verano y un déficit muy grave de agua. Por eso es que el gobierno de responsabilidad nacional y este Plan Bolivia Agropecuaria prioriza el riego, es decir, dotar de agua a los campesinos para que puedan tener durante los doce meses del año este elemento fundamental de las cadenas productivas y poder hacer que nuestros campesinos no migren hacia las ciudades. Si comparamos el censo del año 1950 Bolivia tenía una población del 70 por ciento rural y un 30 por ciento urbana. El censo de septiembre del año pasado indica una situación totalmente diferente, cerca del 40 por ciento representa la población rural y un 60 por ciento es urbano. Esto significa que nuestros hermanos campesinos han tenido que migrar por falta de infraestructura básica de producción, agua, caminos, electrificación rural, créditos y asistencia técnica, donde está básicamente el mensaje hacia la nueva gestión que queremos iniciar con la FAO. Todo esto provoca la migración hacia las ciudades.

Esa es la dramática situación de la agricultura, que también afecta a la seguridad alimentaria. En este momento nuestro país, a nivel agropecuario, exporta el 70 por ciento de materias primas a la Comunidad Andina de Naciones; estamos hablando, en primer lugar, de la soya y el azúcar, pero lamentablemente solamente exportamos materias primas. Nuestra producción ha bajado, los rendimientos se han estancado, no podemos comparar los rendimientos de soya, azúcar, papa, maíz, con los rendimientos de países vecinos como Argentina, Paraguay, etc.

Ha llegado el momento de transmitir por su intermedio la dramática y real situación que nuestro país debe enfrentar, decididamente dar un gran salto tecnológico para mejorar sus índices de producción, su productividad y, por supuesto, su competitividad en el futuro. Estamos convencidos de que para competir necesitamos primero producir muy bien y, por supuesto, dar acceso a los alimentos a nuestra población rural. La pobreza en Bolivia es alrededor del 70 por ciento. Se cumplen ya tres meses en esta difícil misión, y consideramos que esta reunión del Consejo es histórica para Bolivia. Nos reuniremos a lo largo de estos días con las autoridades de la FAO para mostrarles la difícil y real situación que tiene nuestro país.

Una semana atrás se realizó en Bolivia una reunión del Grupo Cairns. Bolivia pertenece a este Grupo desde el año 1999. En Santa Cruz de la Sierra nos reunimos 18 Ministros de Agricultura e invitamos a tres países fundamentales en el tema de los objetivos del Grupo Cairns: Estados Unidos de América, China, que es un nuevo Miembro de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, y Uganda, que al igual que Bolivia no tiene acceso al mar y sin embargo jugará un rol muy importante en lo que significa llegar al continente africano con el mismo mensaje. En esta reunión de Santa Cruz de la Sierra presidida por los hermanos de Australia, consolidamos los tres objetivos por los cuales estamos unidos en esta coalición: la lucha contra los subsidios, la lucha contra la protección interna, que favorecen especialmente países como Estados Unidos, el bloque europeo, Japón y Corea, y la lucha para obtener, en igualdad de condiciones, acceso a los mercados mediante nuestros productos agropecuarios.

Ha llegado el momento de unirnos en todo esto y un país pequeño, el más pequeño de Sudamérica, tal vez el más pobre pero, no olvidemos, tal vez uno de los más ricos en recursos naturales, convoca a todos ustedes a que hagamos un esfuerzo muy importante con los mensajes que nos ha dado el señor Director General de la FAO: unirnos entorno a estos objetivos, hacer de este siglo el siglo del agua. Bolivia es el país donde nace la Cuenca del Amazonas que va a Brasil, donde nace la Cuenca del Plata y, sin embargo, no podemos aprovechar la gran cantidad de agua que nace en nuestro país porque no tenemos las posibilidades económica y técnica para regular, y embalsar esas aguas y poderlas administrar durante los meses de estiaje.

El agua ha sido el tema fundamental del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Sin agua no puede haber seguridad alimentaria y, por supuesto, no vamos a poder dar un salto tecnológico si no tenemos agua para mejorar la producción y la productividad de nuestra agricultura.

Quisiera finalmente por su intermedio aprovechar la oportunidad para felicitar al hermano país, al gigante sudamericano que es Brasil, nuestro hermano con el cual tenemos alrededor de 3.400

kilómetros de fronteras comunes. El día de ayer, en una verdadera fiesta de la democracia, han elegido un Presidente en el cual tenemos una gran esperanza. Sabemos cuales son los orígenes del señor Lula da Silva, y sabemos que como hombre luchador por las grandes mayorías nacionales luchará por desarrollar nuestra agricultura y alimentación. Los objetivos son comunes: Bolivia, aunque sea el país más pobre, ubicado en el corazón de la América Latina, le da la mano a través de la FAO a los Miembros del Consejo y les pide, ahora más que nunca, ayudar por el bien de su desarrollo y de su progreso.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je peux vous souhaiter plein succès dans votre œuvre de développement de l'agriculture de résolution de vos problèmes, et je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter Monsieur l'ambassadeur du Brésil pour l'élection du nouveau Président de la République du Brésil. Je passe donc la parole à Monsieur le délégué de la République tchèque.

### **Rudolf JÁNSKÝ (Czech Republic)**

At the outset I would like, on behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic, to express my great pleasure to participate in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the FAO Council. At the same time, I would like to thank the Secretariat for an excellent preparation of the subject document CL 123/2 with a structured overview of the trends concerning the world food situation.

Czech agriculture went, during the last decade, through an important transition that resulted in a profound change of ownership relations and in a significant increase in labour productivity. As an evidence of this development, I wish to mention not only a rapid decrease in the number of people working in agriculture but also a change in the structure of production caused by orientation of domestic demand towards certain commodities and by impacts of international trade. More than one half of total agricultural land area consists of various types of soil in less favourable areas. Agriculture of the Czech Republic is, at a given perspective level of management, able to ensure the needs of domestic market for basic commodities of plant and animal production when having a potential possibility of exports of a part of its production, especially of its specialities such as hops, malt, ham, fish, etc. From the analysis of the present state of our agriculture arise the following conceptual measures that are aimed at: development of a competitive, intensive, and at the same time environmentally-friendly agricultural production, especially in the areas with more favourable conditions; development of a multi-functional agriculture aimed at a more extensive production and ensuring services of landscape maintenance and other environmental services, especially in the areas with less favourable conditions; diversification of agricultural companies also in the production of non-traditional agricultural raw materials for a non-food use (potentially up to 20 percent of the total farm land area) and in the non-agricultural activities; maintaining comparative advantages resulting from a concentrated agricultural production when respecting environmental requirements; and last, but not least, modernization of agricultural and food companies (especially for the purpose of ensuring a higher added value, quality and food safety) and development of an efficient structure of the agrarian sector of the market.

A mission of Czech agriculture is thus not only production of food stuffs for the needs of domestic market and possibly also for exports, but also a production of raw materials for processing industry. Agriculture also creates a cultural landscape, has a significant impact on the quality of environment and provides employment opportunities in rural areas. Moreover, the Czech Republic is in the EU pre-accession period. From this point of views, a principle priority of our agriculture is the preparation for ensuring future competitiveness of our producers within the EU single agrarian market.

The Czech Republic is concerned about an increasing shortage of food in the developing countries. We acknowledge that there is a strong relation between poverty and food insecurity, and for this reason, we are going to continue in the form of foreign development aid, to contribute within our economic possibilities, in a transition towards full world food security. We are prepared to continue and broaden our development cooperation using our experience and



technologies in preparation of development projects for the benefit of developing and transitional countries.

However, at the same time, the Czech Republic pays great attention to the protection of consumers, based on respecting environmental standards and bio-security. A basic aspect of the system of food safety is consequently food legislation, which is based on the principle of protection of consumer health, as well as the protection of consumer economic interests. A responsibility of the producer for the quality and health safety of product that he/she releases into circulation is a crucial principle of food production in the whole chain from agricultural primary production to sales to the consumers. In accordance with the situation in the EU, also in the Czech Republic, it is obvious that legislative and inspection activities will stay in the hands of the state administration and institutions through which the state delegates precisely defined powers and obligations. It can be legitimately said that the level of compatibility of Czech legislation and inspection in the area of food safety with the level of EU is high. In relation to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), there was, on the basis of the Government-adopted "Strategy for Ensuring Food Safety in the Czech Republic", established an office at the Ministry of Agriculture. This independent unit will represent a contact point for communication with EFSA and, at the same time, it will independently ensure a coordination of all elements of the food safety system from the farm to consumer.

We thus believe that the area of ensuring food safety in the Czech Republic is of an adequate level. For this reason, we would like to share, in cooperation with FAO, our knowledge and experience, for example in the form of organizing workshops, with the countries in which the issues of consumer protection may not be developed to such an extent.

A part of a very comprehensive sector of quality and food safety is also the phytosanitary area – plant quarantine and protection of territory or the parts of a territory of individual states, regions or the whole continents against the introduction or spreading of quarantine pest organisms. Phytosanitary measures have a precautionary character and they can thus help to prevent significant economic loss and deterioration of food quality as a result of necessary direct protection interventions.

In the phytosanitary field, as you are well aware of, the concluded International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has its Secretariat as a part of the FAO administration.

Unfortunately, a limiting factor for the preparation of new international phytosanitary standards within IPPC is a shortage of financial resources. In this respect, we support the process of seeking a solution directed towards finding adequate resources from the regular budget of FAO that would, at least partially, contribute to a mobilization of resources for the activities of the IPPC Secretariat.

In closing, I would like to stress that the Czech Republic shares the opinion, that world food security, belongs to the essential conditions of a balanced development of the international community. The Czech Republic supports international efforts in the field of strengthening the economy of countries threatened by food insecurity. It offers the temporarily unused production potential of the country, as its contribution to an increase in global food supplies.

**Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)**

Let me first congratulate you once again, for your election as Independent Chairman of the Council and to wish you every success in your duties. I wish to assure you in this respect, that the delegation of Cyprus is ready to cooperate closely with you for the successful conclusion of the work of the Council.

With reference to the State of Food and Agriculture, it can be said that the situation remains at a stage, which does not satisfy anybody. All relevant indices are negative, mainly those referring to the countries or the regions, which are usually stricken by food shortage. The situation is clearly represented in the FAO documents prepared for this Council and the situation as presented today by Mr de Haen.

According to FAO's projections the new 2002-03 marketing season could mark the beginning of a much tighter supply and demand situation for cereals; opening stock are smaller than in the previous season, production is forecast to fall and consumption is expected rise.

A total of 31 countries throughout the world are currently experiencing severe food shortages and require international food assistance. A new food crisis has emerged in southern Africa, following two successive years of poor harvest in most countries of the subregion calling for immediate international response.

The expected global output in 2002 has been revised downward, while world cereal utilization is forecast to increase by 1.4 percent compared to last year's figure. The result is a sharp fall of world cereal stocks from the level of previous years.

Turning to the food security situation in the world, the picture is equally disappointing. It is a fact that even today there are more than 800 million undernourished people in the world. This is a high number of people although percentage wise one can suggest that the number of undernourished persons is diminishing. Although progress has been made and success stories in some developing countries can be found, much remains to be done. The latest statistics published by FAO shows that the number of undernourished people in the developing countries has been reduced by just 2.5 million people per annum since the 1996 World Food Summit. This means that if we continue like this by the year 2015 the number of hungry people will be reduced by only 10 percent and not by 50 percent, which is the target agreed by leaders from all over the world who met here in 1996.

There are many reasons for the slow progress in the fight against hunger. In our view, the most important reason is that too often, countries do not give sufficient priority to agricultural policy, neglecting rural areas despite the fact that 70 percent of the poor live in the rural areas of developing countries. These people are dependent on agriculture for their survival for food, income and employment.

Access to adequate food ensures that people can be physically active and that children can resist illness, and therefore grow and learn normally. The fight against hunger should therefore be the first and vital step of all development efforts. Both developing and developed countries seem to be unwilling in spite of the commitments made at the 1996 World Food Summit, to set aside sufficient resources to eradicate hunger. As Mr de Haen's presentation indicated, hunger remains high where agriculture resources are scarce.

The External Assistance to Agriculture has declined in recent years affecting negatively both developing countries and countries in transition. Most of the decline in multilateral commitments was due to significantly lower lending by the World Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Relatively modest investments, combined with simple technology applications can raise production of small farmers, improve food security and reduce poverty.

We must not lose faith that the vision of reducing by 50 percent the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015 can be achieved. It is essential however, that countries and their development partners make this goal as their objective. It has become clear that agricultural policy must receive proper attention and the resources needed to accomplish this task must be made available when and where they are most needed.

### **Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to express to the Independent Chairman of the Council our best wishes for the success of the One-Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Council. I would also like to inform you that we are quite prepared to contribute to the best of our ability to this success.

As Egypt has worked hard to achieve world food security, our faith in the right to healthy food is strong, it is one of the human rights and we are committed to reducing those who suffer from hunger and famine. We have increased our land sowing crops by two million feddans, we have

initiated reform of our agricultural plan and we have managed to increase our grain production to twenty million tons, which has increased our self-sufficiency, for example, in wheat. What is more we lead countries in rice production per feddan because our productivity is 3.7 tons per feddan; this was also achieved for sugarcane too, we produce 49 tons per feddan over sugar; and we have also grown 15 and half million tons of coarse grains compared to 8 million in the past; we have increased our rice production to 7 million tons in the same period. Productivity has increased across the board. We have increased all commodities in fish farm production, livestock production, poultry production, and we have now reached really respectable figures in the production of farming of fish and poultry in the Mediterranean basin, as well as dairy products such as eggs and we have increased our self-sufficiency despite the fact that our population growth is going up.

The value of our exports for food commodities has increased by over two billion Egyptian pounds. This has been accompanied by increased attention being given in the same period to rural areas and to the importance of women in agriculture. We have also invested more resources and study in various parts of Egypt in development projects.

With respect to the international scene, Egypt is always ready to make available its experience and achievements to countries in the Near East and Africa. We participated in the FAO project for South-South Cooperation, we have also sent experts to African countries to set up trial farms in those countries with respect to agricultural extension and training centers in order to grow high-yielding varieties we have been active there too. We have introduced variations in agricultural produce so the report on this data for State of Food and Agriculture 2002 shows that there are still over 800 million people suffering from hunger, 799 million of which are to be found in developing countries. Despite the Report says, and what the Director-General said in his Introductory Statement to the effect that the number of people suffering from hunger has gone down. Although this drop constitutes a progress it is far below what we were hoping and expecting to achieve if we need to meet our target, i.e. to halve the number of the hungry between now and the year 2015.

Considering the critical situation in a large number of developing countries, climatic conditions, deterioration in agricultural production, demographic explosion, disease, and in particular HIV/AIDS, strife, conflicts etc. All shows that the situation remains critical in many countries. In fact, these are challenges that we shall have to tackle such as to continue analyzing and monitoring the situation of famine, food insecurity and production in developing countries, increase training, provide greater aid, support to developing countries so as to strengthen regional information networks. Also support for research and IT so as to increase agricultural production. Particularly in developing countries, help improve their institutional capacities in order to enable them to meet food security standards. Safeguard genetic resources for food and agriculture to guarantee development and last but not least insist on the need to develop and train human resources.

We believe that everything that is listed calls for greater effort, not only nationally but also internationally. Egypt is always ready to take an active part in these efforts.

**Nasiruddin AHMAD (Pakistan)**

Allow me to thank the Secretariat for presenting The State of Food and Agriculture 2002.

Six years down the line from the World Food Summit of 1996 and two years on from the Millennium Summit we are far from halving the number of undernourished by 2015, be it in absolute or in proportional terms. On the contrary, all evidence indicates that progress on this front has come to a grinding halt, if not already in reverse mode. The World Food Summit: *five years later* held earlier this year took stock of the situation and endorsed a declaration affirming our commitment to further the objectives of the Summit. All efforts must now be made to implement the declaration in right earnestness if real gains are to be made.

Recognizing our national responsibility, we are working towards the development of our agriculture in the context of our wider Poverty Reduction Strategies.

Pakistan's agriculture showed an impressive 6.1 percent growth in 1999 to 2000 but could not maintain the pace resulting in a negative growth of 2.5 percent in 2000 to 2001. This was mainly on account of a drought-like situation which prevailed across the country throughout the year. In the current year, however, we expect a positive growth of 1.4 percent, though some parts remain drought affected.

Wheat production is estimated at 18.6 million tonnes and rice at 3.9 million tonnes, livestock sector would grow at 3.4 percent, fisheries at 4 percent and forestry at 1.1 percent.

While we remain committed to meeting the global goal of halving the number of undernourished by 2015, there are several areas of concern:

The fact that the slow down in the rate of increase in agriculture production is mainly attributable to depressed commodity prices at the world level calls for deeper soul-searching. Continuing subsidies to agriculture to the tune of US\$ 1 billion a day by the developed world has been instrumental in maintaining this state of affairs. This is now well recognized by all and sundry as a major impediment in eliminating hunger and poverty. The Doha negotiations would, therefore, be the single most important instrument in this battle. We call upon all actors to do their utmost to make this round a truly Development Round.

We remain concerned about the decline of external assistance to agriculture, be it narrowly or broadly defined. We hope that the Monterey Consensus, the World Food Summit: *five years later*, and the Johannesburg Summit would result in reversing this trend. We note that there is already an acknowledgement among the development community to have a second look at agriculture as a primary instrument in the fight against poverty. We welcome the re-emergence of some major donors as contributors to this sector. We also commend the role of FAO, and other Rome based agencies in highlighting the central nature of agriculture and rural development in poverty alleviation and hope that these agencies would also be able to expand their programmes as a result of this change in thinking.

Finally, food-related emergencies remain on the rise, be it for natural or for human-induced reasons, in almost all regions of the world. However, even emergency assistance remains seriously constrained by resource availability. We think a new emergency is in the making in Ethiopia and Eritrea, probably of greater magnitude than that in southern Africa. All this is happening when existing emergencies like the one in Afghanistan is still seriously under-funded. We call upon all donors to do their utmost in meeting these serious shortfalls. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts of Mr Jim Morris, Executive Director of WFP, to broaden the donor base to meet new challenges.

#### **Hunt SHIPMAN (United States of America)**

As we begin the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the FAO Council, the United States looks forward to continued cooperation with FAO to address the challenge of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty. This Organization has played a key role in building a more open and prosperous global food system.

This year's State of Food and Agriculture Report provides a useful assessment of conditions in the major subregions of the world and in global commodity markets. It also provides a thoughtful and professional perspective on key issues facing us today, including the persistence of food insecurity and the challenges of creating opportunities for enhanced trade and growth. Indeed, the Director-General's forward could almost serve as a US national statement.

We do take exception to Part III of the Report on Agriculture and Global Public Goods. The United States does not believe that a Global Public Goods approach to development is sound in terms of analysis or policy. Few of the goods highlighted in this context are either predominantly global or public, and this is especially true of agriculture.

The State of Food and Agriculture, like the World Food Summit: *five years later*, concludes that we are far from meeting the International Development Goal of reducing the number of hungry people by half, by the year 2015. Hunger and extreme poverty are inextricably linked. Inadequate

progress on both of these fronts is a reflection of insufficient investment in people and infrastructure, inadequate governance and poor public policy, conflict and slow progress in expanding access to the benefits of globalization and in introducing science and technology to spur development.

Over the past year, gains in the fight against hunger in some subregions, such as east Asia, have been offset by setbacks in other regions, like sub-Saharan Africa. Drought, compounded by policy failures, conflict and the pervasive HIV/AIDS epidemic have resulted in two major food crises in Africa. Famine is today, once again, a very real possibility.

The State of Food and Agriculture draws our attention to these severe food emergencies. In southern Africa over 14 million people are at risk of starvation. In Eastern Africa the unfolding drought threatens over 10 million people.

The United States has made a significant food aid response to the southern African emergency. Over the last several months, the United States has provided and pledged well over US\$ 100 million in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia. Since the beginning of 2002, the United States has delivered and committed over half a million metric tonnes of food to southern Africa, almost half the amount requested in the United Nations' Emergency Appeal. Unfortunately, some countries in the region are denying the hungry access to this critically-needed food because some US maize contains products of biotechnology.

FAO, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization have jointly reported that US maize is safe, as has the European Commission. Still, the needy are blocked from obtaining the same corn that Americans and millions of others around the world consume daily. FAO must do more, and do it more emphatically, to overcome unfounded, unscientific and perhaps, politically-motivated impediments to famine relief.

The United States' response to emergencies is part of a broader commitment to global food security. The United States provides more than half of the total global food assistance, most of it as grants. This year the United States will provide over US\$ 1 billion in food aid to 84 countries. Yet this only meets part of the need, and we call on other countries, including those that have not yet become food donors, to support the international emergency response to hunger and famine.

At the same time, the United States recognizes that the key to reducing chronic hunger lies in creating an economic environment in which people have the resources to meet their own food needs. Moving people out of poverty requires investment in agriculture and rural development. United States' investment in agricultural development is growing, in contrast to the general decline noted in the SOFA.

The United States Agency for International Development has renewed its commitment to agriculture, ending famine and improving nutrition. The United States Department of Agriculture also supports food security through its programmes of trade capacity-building and the transfer of science and technology.

We are responding to the special vulnerability of sub-Saharan Africa. Through programmes such as the African Food Security Initiative, the Global Food for Education Initiative and the Africa Trade and Investment Program, we are increasing funding for agriculture, catalyzing investment, helping transfer of critically-needed new technology and providing capacity-building activities for trade.

We have also implemented the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and have seen African exports, from some participating African countries to the United States, increase by up to 60 percent during the two years this programme has been in effect.

The United States recognizes the important role FAO plays in helping to meet the food security challenges before us. In the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and the renewed international commitment, we believe FAO needs to focus increasingly on targeting, achieving and demonstrating real results in its efforts to combat hunger. We encourage FAO to rise to the

continuing challenge of providing the accurate and timely information the global community needs to help focus resources to more effectively enhance food security.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

Allow me to congratulate you and your Vice-chairman for steering this very important deliberation in such a congenial atmosphere.

We are very appreciative of the detailed report that we have received from FAO, both the verbal and written report that was circulated to us all.

For Africa, and I believe, indeed, for the rest of the developing world, FAO statistics paint a gloomy picture. This should challenge us all to want to better the situation for the vulnerable groups in our society.

Though there is a reduction in the aggregate figure of the undernourished by 19 million, we should not sit on our laurels, as this is a result of rapid progress in a few countries. Our major concern should be that of the remaining figure of the undernourished. In Africa, with 196 million people who, for one reason or another, remain undernourished, it is a major concern for the region. We wish to tackle this challenge so the percentage of African undernourished can be reduced from the current figure of 33 percent of the total number of undernourished in the world so that the benefits that we seek are more evenly distributed on the continent.

Our subregional groups are working seriously, within the limits of their resources, to address the major challenges facing them. To this extent, the different subregional groups will be presenting the situation in their particular areas in their detailed country reports. I will just give you an overview.

In eastern Africa, the successive droughts, which we have all read about in Ethiopia and Eritrea, have decimated livestock in the main pastoral areas and negatively impacted on crop farming in the region. In some countries even the optimistic crop forecast is now being compromised by the encroaching drought. To this extent, some parts in Kenya will continue to depend on food assistance. It is encouraging to note that from a statistical point of view some countries in the region, such as Uganda and Tanzania, are increasingly becoming food secure. Notwithstanding, the region will continue to want to develop further drought mitigating strategies, in order to address the cause of food deficit that is arising from climatic causes.

In west Africa, we see the north of the Sahel continuing to pose strong challenges to us due to the effects of drought this year. The eastern and central regions have given us reason for optimism because they have received better rains. This gives us hope that individual households will produce enough for their needs and those of the less-endowed areas in that particular area.

The continued large numbers of the displaced persons impact negatively on the region's capacity. The Sahel, therefore, wishes to address the causes of the drought and ensure that its population can get the best out of their inputs in agriculture. Water resources development will require investment from outside, and we call on the international community to view the situation imaginatively.

In central Africa there is optimism in the current crop season in a number of states in which Burundi and Rwanda are registering most of the gains. Notwithstanding their fragile situation in the DRC, we find that the region would otherwise have been in a position to produce good amounts of food because it received good rainfall. Because of the situation we find still existing in DRC, full implementation of the UN Resolution will be required to enable peace to rein in this area and facilitate food distribution and rehabilitation of families. We ask the international community to assist us in this regard.

The northern African situation has been adequately dealt with in the Near-East statement by our colleague from Egypt, so I will not dwell much on that.

I will proceed to deal with southern Africa.

This region currently poses the strongest challenge. After two successive poor harvests due to floods and drought, food reserves in the region have been depleted. Despite such clear causes, some have started speculating the agrarian reform in Zimbabwe as the major cause for the food shortage in the region, deliberately ignoring the effects of the natural causes and the magnitude of the people affected. Some of the countries in the region that are affected, such as Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, do not have an agrarian reform in place. We should really accept the reality.

It takes one to understand the climatic cycles in this region to fully appreciate the situation. Since 1992, the region has experienced severe droughts every so often. Each time it had to supplement its grain requirements from outside. We used to get most of the grain resources from East Africa and Latin America. The severity of the drought is getting more disastrous each time. Were it not for the floods the year before, the grain reserves would have been able to prevent the type of catastrophe now being experienced. Regardless of the location, unexpected catastrophes will unsettle any government budget and necessitate the need to seek external help one way or the other. The recent floods in Europe are a case in point.

In any good year in Zimbabwe we produce between 2.2 and 2.6 million tonnes of cereals. Our domestic requirements are about 2.1 million tonnes. We usually sell, in the region, between 300 000 to 500 000 tonnes. The current food deficit in the SADC region is about 3.6 million tonnes. To suggest that a good harvest in Zimbabwe would have been adequate to meet the southern African food shortage is, therefore, to deny the impact of the statistics, which are self-explanatory.

Communal farmer in Zimbabwe produce 60 percent of the grain and this is their staple food. They retain most of this for domestic purposes. The commercial farmers make up the difference, which they normally retain for stock feed, preferring, instead, to grow more of the cash crops. A bad year will not only affect family stocks but that which goes to the national grain reserves. This year, the crops wilted when they were just about to flower. Farmers had done what was possible in the circumstances. This is the real cause of their food deficit. Therefore, in trying to address the situation we should focus on those measures that will protect the farmers from such hazards in the future.

To this end, SADC has identified the lack of irrigation facilities as the major cause for the vulnerability of small farm holders. In three out of the four major disasters that the region experienced in the last 20 years, the cause of food deficit was drought. SADC is, therefore, looking at putting in place effective drought mitigating measure. Irrigation features as one of the keys to ensure that the hazards caused by drought are contained. We would urge the expansion of programmes such as the Special Programme for Food Security be expanded in the region because these are programmes that have shown good results in small irrigation schemes, which have direct impact on smallholder farmers. Looking at Africa, with 96 percent of the continent subjected to climatic hazards, such programmes will have far-reaching effects.

The current drought in Zimbabwe and Zambia has led to experimenting on winter crops. The acreage was small but it has turned out to be a success. The pilot crop is now being harvested. With adequate financing for irrigation, the winter crop will be grown on a larger scale and farmers will be able to supplement rainwater for their summer crop whenever the need arises. Huge resources will be required to develop this potential and international partners will be welcome to come on board in their assistance to augment the financial base for infrastructural development since local civil society is inclined to invest in short-term projects. Farming will transform from being a seasonal operation to being a continuous activity that can offer better returns for the individual farmer.

Smallholder farmers need to restart, having lost their crops and livelihood. Crop input assistance for the region would reduce the need for long-term assistance programmes. The World Food Programme forecast for the region is for the next few months, after which it is expected to depend on its own harvest. It is for this reason that I ask the international partners to help the farmers re-establish. The timing of these inputs is very important. It has to coincide with the summer

cropping season, which is just about to begin. Otherwise, it will not deliver the desired results if it is made after the farmers have already planted.

Peasant farmers have the problem of inputs. Besides banks and other soft windows for agricultural financing, the civil community can play an important role to ensure that smallholder farmers are adequately capacitated. In Zimbabwe, commodity buyers and exporters are investing in the operations of smallholder farmers through contractual agreements. They supply the farmers with inputs and give extension support. In return, the farmers sell their crops to the buyers. To safeguard the interests of the farmers, preplanting prices are negotiated countrywide. Crops such as tobacco, cotton and oil seeds have registered increased production because of the back-up offered to the farmers. More involvement of the civil society will ease the burden for inputs among peasants. They will be able to embark on high-value crops, which normally would require a lot of expensive inputs, and sell to realize better incomes.

For most African farmers, the major challenge remains the manner in which the postharvest process impacts on their efforts. This is in particular with relation to the subsidies given to farmers in the developed countries, market access and pricing of produce from developing countries and trade distortion policies made by our partners in the developed world. The dimensions are crucial to food security. Farmers will find it very difficult to work in this sector if the returns are not commensurate with their inputs.

Cognisant that these are issues that we can not possibly resolve in this forum, we urge our partners to communicate our concerns to their governments. The issues will come up in the negotiations pertaining to the agricultural sector that were initiated by the Doha Ministerial Conference. We cannot meaningfully talk of reducing poverty and undernourishment until we take concrete steps to remove the real impediments to achieving food security.

The debate will remain futile, as long as our partners in the developed world continue to increase their budgets for farm subsidies when in the same vein we cannot do the same for our own farmers because of the liberalization programmes we are implementing.

As we seek to create a coherent set of international trading rules, the situation of the vulnerable groups of countries, e.g. Small Islands States, Land Locked States, Net Food Importers and Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries deserve our attention.

In conclusion, the Africa Union has identified meaningful projects in the agricultural sector for which we seek partners. They fall within the regular programme of FAO and include, *inter alia* include infrastructural development for increased food production, mechanization of the sector, capacity-building in biotechnology and research and development, food-processing and distribution, establishing and/or strengthening of information databases. We invite our partners to work with us in this imaginative programme called the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

We are aware that the challenges ahead of us are great and to overcome them, we have to strengthen our partnership in the global village. To this end, we are appreciative of the role played by the international community through the WFP and FAO in helping us to contain the emergencies we have faced during the time under review. We invite you to join hands with us in the Special Programme for Food Security to promote irrigation and water development.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

May I start by congratulating the Secretariat for preparing the document CL 123/2. Indeed, in the document is clearly highlighted the main parts of the State of Food and Agriculture in the year 2002.

Let me now share with you my comments on this document.

First, Asia remains the area with the highest number of undernourished people, namely 508 million or 60 percent of the total 840 million. I believe that the countries in Asia have invested both budget and technology in order to reduce the number of undernourished people in their



countries. This document has also indicated that the level of external assistance to agricultural development would continue to decline further. If this trend goes on, it would be very difficult not only for the countries in the Asia region but also countries in other regions to improve the number of undernourished people. FAO could consider its role to convince both the donors and the multilateral institutions if we all want to achieve the target of the World Food Summit.

My second comment is on the current agricultural situation. It is true that the slowdown in output growth is primarily the result of depressed commodity prices. The document also indicated that most agricultural prices remained depressed in the year 2001 and are likely to remain low throughout the rest of 2002. I would like to stress that the relationship between production and price is closely linked especially in developing countries. In my view, although disasters affect agricultural production, trade-distorting measures such as domestic support and export subsidies by many developed countries are the major cause of the slowdown of agricultural growth. The farmers in developing countries will never make a profit if their products are competing with highly-subsidized products from developed countries. I share with many previous speakers that the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries would be a great challenge to secure food for all.

I am convinced that without trade-distorting subsidies agricultural growth will increase substantially. In this connection, I am very grateful to the Secretariat for updating the ongoing negotiations on agriculture to the Council. The FAO assistance to developing countries on the WTO agricultural negotiations at this moment is crucial. It would be appreciated if the Secretariat could provide us with more information on future activities to assist developing countries.

Finally, please allow me to brief you on the agricultural situation in Thailand. The recent floods in Thailand have caused loss of life and damage to infrastructures, farm animals and crops mainly in the central and north-eastern provinces of Thailand. A preliminary survey has shown that more than 320 000 hectares of crops, particularly rice paddy fields, are severely damaged by the floods. However, output for rice is expected to decline marginally. In general, I believe that Thailand will continue to be the largest supplier of rice in 2002 and 2003.

**Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka)**

Sri Lanka has observed the steady decline in external assistance to the agriculture sector, as indicated in Section IV of the report.

It is Sri Lanka's view that this declining trend will have a significant effect on the production and availability of food to people in the rural areas, particularly in the developing countries. External assistance has been viewed by Sri Lanka as a means to acquire new technologies through acquisition of new germplasm, upgrading of technical skills of the staff and identifying access to new markets. These strategies have over the last two decades helped Sri Lanka to improve its productivity in the major crop paddy from 3.5 tonne/ha to 3.9 tonne/ha and have, at the same time, new irrigation technologies, new varieties, production systems have been acquired. However, a potential paucity in external assistance could jeopardize these initiatives.

The problems facing the domestic agricultural sector are high production costs, low productivity, lack of commercialization with large numbers of producers, and over 65 percent of the population living in the rural sector and depending on agriculture for their livelihood as producers and/or agricultural workers. Successive Governments have given special treatment to the agricultural sector. Subsidized credit, water, fertilizer, etc. have been provided over the years. The Government has also assured salvage prices and protective duties on imports for competing crops such as rice, chillies, onions, potatoes and maize.

It is a known fact that certain developed countries protect their agricultural products at very high levels of duties going up to about 900 percent. Therefore, it is urged that even if the domestic agriculture sector is a high cost producer, the farming community has to be given assistance by way of higher import tariffs temporarily, up to a reasonable level and the consumers will have to bear the cost of supporting this programme. The answer to this current situation is high productivity and low cost, so that consumers could bear the burden at a lower level. The

population of developed countries could afford to support subsidies whereas developing countries, particularly Sri Lanka, cannot afford this luxury.

It is well known that prices of agricultural commodities fluctuate in the international market and therefore *ad valorem* duty schemes will not work satisfactorily. As such, a specific duty structure does not move up or down with the price. In times of low prices, minimum protection is assured. When international prices rise the duty incidence will not move up and consumers are therefore protected. Many countries have adopted specific duties per unit weight. The levy for specific duties is not prohibited under the WTO Agreement. After experimenting with *ad valorem* duties the Government has adopted specific duties as well.

At this juncture, when Sri Lanka is attempting to make a breakthrough in the food production programme, it must be kept in mind that we are facing many challenges in the light of globalization and liberalization based on the WTO agreements. The liberalization of our markets through the market access principle has placed a strain on the economy by allowing free trade of essential commodities, which has caused greater strain on the rural farmers, who suddenly have been made to realize that the current level of technology is inadequate. Therefore, confirmed external assistance to improve the production potential of our farmers is absolutely necessary.

Another significant feature identified in the document on the State of Food and Agriculture 2002 is that of decreasing commodity prices in 2001, which will remain decreased in 2002 as well. The prices peaked a few years ago and now have been observed to be declining.

Declining commodity prices have a significant effect on the incomes of farmers in the exporting countries and also affects the foreign earning for an economy such as Sri Lanka. Considering the situation where on the one hand there is a decline in yields and on the other a decrease in prices, primary exporting countries, such as Sri Lanka, can be placed in a fairly difficult situation. This phenomenon has affected us for the last few years.

In conclusion, I call upon FAO to address their attention to the above issues. Often FAO tends to address issues in a regional or macro manner. While regional statistics are useful to understand regional trends, they are quite inefficient in addressing specific country concerns. In South Asia, trends can be misleading, due to the imbalance in the economies and as such examination of the specific problems facing small economies such as Sri Lanka is imperative.

I therefore request FAO to consider seriously these aspects in developing their future strategies.

## **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons terminé avec le travail prévu pour la matinée. Nous devons lever la séance. Cet après-midi, nous allons avoir la suite des interventions. Les délégations qui devraient intervenir sont la Malaisie, le Chili, la Bulgarie, le Burkina Faso, le Japon, l'Inde, le Kenya, le Canada, l'Australie, le Mexique, le Guatemala, la Suisse, l'Ethiopie, la République unie de Tanzanie, le Sénégal, la Tunisie et Cuba.

Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais faire une annonce: le Groupe africain devrait se réunir à 13 h 30 à la Salle du Mexique à la demande du Vice-Président. Le GRULAC devrait également se réunir à 14 heures à la Salle du G-77.

Je voudrais quand même demander à ce que tout le monde soit ici à 14 h 30. Il y a beaucoup d'interventions et afin de terminer ce soir les travaux prévus pour la journée, il faudrait que nous soyons ici à 14 h 30 précises. Il est probable, compte tenu des nombreuses interventions qui restent, que notre session continue au-delà de 18 heures.

*The meeting rose at 13.00 hours*

*La séance est levée à 13 heures*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 13 horas*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Twenty-third Session Cent vingt-troisième session 123<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002 Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002 Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002</b></p>
<p><b>SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>28 October 2002</b></p>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION** (continued)  
**II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)  
**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**  
 (continuación)

- 3. State of Food and Agriculture 2002** (CL 123/2) (continued)  
**3. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2002** (CL 123/2) (suite)  
**3. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 2002** (CL 123/2) (continuación)

**Dato'Abi Musa Asa'ari MOHAMED NOR (Malaysia)**

Malaysia would like to express its concerns on the very modest growth in world agriculture production of crops and livestock in the past few years. The growth rate recorded is below the average of the preceding periods. Even more disturbing is the result of estimates showing that in the coming years the growth rate will be even lower. If commodity prices continue its depressing trend farmers' incentives to extend production will be severely affected. This slow down in performance particularly among the developing countries will worsen the situation of hungry and undernourished people in the region. Malaysia has always believed that for reasons of food security domestic food production should always be given priority, when the capacity and capability to produce its own food has reached its limit and the domestic production cannot meet the demand of the country. Only then will imports be considered, this will better ensure the country's food security.

The notion that a country must import its agriculture products and needs from those countries that produce cheaper than its own, could lead to disastrous results for the food security situation and the small scale food production communities of the developing nations. For many developing countries that face persistent shortage of a foreign exchange, they will be in serious difficulty if they always depend on food imports for their essential and stable food items. It may be wiser for them to increase their domestic food production, even by doing so the cost may be slightly higher than imported food. Furthermore, the search of cheaper imported food into developing countries may force many poor local farmers out of business, many will have lost their traditional agriculture income and become unemployed. Although cheap food may be available for imports the poor farmers who have lost their income source will not be able to access these goods.

Malaysia notes that FAO analyzes regularly the food situation of the world, past, present and the projected future. The findings and conclusions contained in the report of the State of Food and Agriculture 2002 are valuable and should be a strong basis in planning and formulating programmes towards increasing food production, accessibility and security in the regions.

**Octavio SOTOMAYOR ECHEÑIQUE (Chile)**

El gobierno que represento valora y comparte el documento FAO presentado en la mañana y expresa su preocupación por las dificultades crecientes que enfrentamos para reducir la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo.

Frente a esta situación, quisiera informar a los Miembros del Consejo que Chile ha aprobado recientemente una Política de Estado para la Agricultura, con el apoyo de todos los sectores políticos internos. Esta Política de Estado está permitiendo que Chile empiece a transformarse, modestamente, en un exportador de productos en que tradicionalmente hemos sido deficitarios, como las carnes bovinas y los lácteos. Ellos se suman a nuestros productos ya consolidados en los mercados externos, tales como la fruta, el vino, las carnes blancas, las semillas y los productos agroindustriales. También esperamos que esta Política de Estado permita avanzar todavía más en la reducción de la pobreza, que disminuyó a la mitad entre los años 1990 y 2000. Chile está haciendo lo suyo, y además está cooperando con los países de la región en temas técnicos, en la medida de sus posibilidades.

No obstante lo anterior, Chile está convencido que la palanca fundamental para avanzar más rápido hacia una disminución del hambre en el mundo pasa por una disminución de los subsidios a la agricultura, y confía en el éxito de las negociaciones iniciadas en Doha.

En tal sentido, quisiera recordar las conclusiones de la reciente reunión del Grupo Cairns realizada en Santa Cruz, Bolivia. En esa oportunidad el Grupo Cairns concluyó con una señal explícita a los demás Miembros de la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) en orden a que no habrá avances en otros temas tales como servicios, inversiones o compras gubernamentales, mientras no se perciban adelantos concretos y reales en la reducción de los subsidios agrícolas que aplican diversas naciones desarrolladas, que suman mil millones de Dólares diarios. Los Ministros de Agricultura y Comercio que asistieron a ese encuentro señalaron que "la reforma del comercio agrícola mundial es la clave para alcanzar los objetivos del desarrollo establecidos en la decisión histórica tomada en Doha, con el lanzamiento de la primera Ronda del Desarrollo".

Adicionalmente, la reforma al comercio agrícola mundial debe ser acompañada por otras iniciativas adoptadas por los gobiernos, bajo su propia responsabilidad, y entre las que se incluyen la profundización de la democracia y el desarrollo de normas e instituciones que permitan el buen gobierno y una adecuada administración de la economía.

Finalmente, queremos reiterar que para Chile la FAO representa un foro político técnico especializado de alto nivel que debe promover la realización de su mandato, satisfaciendo los requerimientos diferenciados, pero prioritarios, de sus Estados Miembros. Así la FAO, en el caso de Chile, debe profundizar la construcción de una normativa internacional que facilite el intercambio comercial internacional de los productos del sector agrícola, favoreciendo la participación de los países en desarrollo en los grandes mercados. Con tal finalidad, la FAO debe fortalecer los acuerdos internacionales que están vinculados con la OMC y con otros organismos internacionales. En ese sentido, tenemos especial interés por las labores que se desarrollan en el marco del Codex Alimentarius, el Convenio Fitosanitario, el Tratado Internacional de los Recursos Filogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, entre otros.

#### **Sra Maria LAZAROVA (Bulgaria)**

En primer lugar quiero agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO y al Subdirector General por la excelente preparación del documento sobre La Situación de la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Mi discurso intentará explicar la situación de la agricultura búlgara.

Los cambios en la vida socio-política de nuestro país en el último decenio han orientado nuestra economía nacional de planificada centralmente a un sistema de mercado. Esta transición ha afectado todas las esferas de la economía incluyendo la agricultura, que tiene un sentido estratégico en nuestro país.

Desde el año 2002 sigue el desarrollo sostenible de la economía búlgara en condiciones de índices macroeconómicos estables. En el contexto de esta estabilidad existen condiciones reales para el crecimiento en la producción agrícola, factor básico de la nutrición de la población.

Se observa una tendencia hacia el aumento de las superficies cultivables sobretodo de cultivos otoño-invernales sobre los cultivos primaverales, a causa de las condiciones agroclimáticas negativas. Los cultivos básicos en la producción de cereales en Bulgaria son trigo, cebada y maíz. En cuanto al trigo, la producción marca una tendencia en aumento; el maíz, por el contrario, denota una tendencia a la reducción de las superficies y por lo tanto de la producción. Todo esto se debe a los daños que han sufrido los productores causados por la sequía.

En lo que se refiere a la ganadería, en los últimos años la política estatal está orientada hacia la estabilización del sector, la estimulación de la producción y la igualdad del estándar europeo. El objetivo básico en este sector es establecer una producción ganadera moderna y competitiva. Para lograr este fin es importante que se agranden los minifundios, que se creen granjas orientadas al mercado con posibilidades de mecanizar y automatizar su proceso de producción, que se optimice la estructura de la raza y de la edad en direcciones y sectores. Prioridad básica en la esfera de la

ganadería es invertir en la renovación del proceso tecnológico y en el mantenimiento del genofondo nacional.

En la esfera del comercio exterior, Bulgaria ha dirigido sus esfuerzos hacia la reestructuración radical de su política económica y comercial con el objeto de mantener y aceptar los principios y las reglas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio hacia la liberalización general del comercio y la realización de las obligaciones a través de acuerdos bilaterales y multilaterales con países europeos y con otros países.

En los últimos años ha predominado la exportación de productos de origen animal y vegetal sin procesamiento, ocupando un 53 por ciento de la exportación general. Esto se debe a la ausencia de recursos financieros e inversiones en la modernización del sector alimentario y a la falta de aplicación de marketing y publicidad. Por otra parte, el sector ha estado sujeto a la fuerte competencia de los mercados internacionales tradicionales, basados en los más altos criterios de calidad y en los severos requisitos sanitarios de estos mercados.

Para los años 2002-03 la política del Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques de Bulgaria está orientada hacia la creación de las condiciones económicas necesarias para apoyar a los productores agrícolas en la producción y la realización de productos agropecuarios mediante el perfeccionamiento de la base normativa conforme a los principios de la economía de mercado.

Una de las prioridades fundamentales de nuestro país es la adhesión a la Unión Europea y el aprovechamiento de los fondos del programa SAPARD. El equipo del Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques trabaja intensivamente para que se cierre con éxito el capítulo 7 "Agricultura".

Quisiera subrayar que, junto con el apoyo de la Unión Europea, la FAO tiene méritos considerables para la elaboración de la estrategia de desarrollo de la agricultura en Bulgaria mediante la ejecución de proyectos nacionales y regionales en el área de la piscicultura, de la ganadería y de la empresa forestal.

Concordamos con las medidas que la FAO ha tomado para solucionar los problemas de la alimentación mediante varios programas y proyectos, y la creación de fondos especiales para el conseguimiento de los fines del Encuentro Mundial referido a la alimentación.

Dirigiendo nuestros esfuerzos hacia el mejoramiento de la alimentación en Bulgaria, quisiera declarar que el gobierno búlgaro apoya el proceso para alcanzar los fines del Encuentro Mundial de la Alimentación. Han pasado solo cinco años, pero nuestro Gobierno ya está listo para participar en la realización de actividades orientadas al conseguimiento de la seguridad alimentaria en el plano mundial. Por eso es necesario que se reúnan y concreten los esfuerzos de los diferentes gobiernos, y que trabajen junto con las organizaciones gubernamentales y no-gubernamentales, que muchas veces han demostrado su validez en la elaboración de varias metodologías, proyectos y programas en esta esfera. Consideramos que la FAO sigue siendo la organización que tiene una contribución considerable en la lucha contra el hambre y tenemos que activar nuestra colaboración.

Finalmente, quisiéramos proponer la continuidad de las actividades de la FAO en el apoyo a los países de Europa Central y Oriental para el desarrollo del sector y para la solución de los problemas en el período de transición a la economía de mercado.

Teniendo en cuenta las actividades y el carácter complicado y diversificado de la transición, proponemos que el apoyo de la FAO continúe con la aceptación de varios programas a nivel regional y subregional, así como el trabajo de la FAO con los Países Miembros. Consideramos que la práctica de la FAO en la atracción de otras organizaciones donantes e instituciones financieras, en la formulación y realización de proyectos ha resultado eficiente y esperamos que continúe en el futuro.

**Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso)**

C'est avec plaisir que je vous revois à Rome en train de présider les travaux de notre Conseil. Je voudrais féliciter également les autres membres du Bureau qui ont été élus ce matin. Ensuite, vous

me permettez d'apprécier le document qui est présenté en discussion CL 123/2 et qui a été fort bien enrichi par Monsieur de Haen ce matin.

Le Groupe africain, par la voix de sa Vice-Présidente, l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe, s'était déjà exprimé ce matin sur la situation générale au nom du Groupe africain. Pour ma part, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais constater que malgré la multiplication des sommets, des conférences, des discours fleuves, des tonnes de documents, mais aussi des manifestations bruyantes, ainsi que le nombre important de recommandations et de résolutions, malgré tout ceci, les réalités sont têtues et fort tristes. Et les statistiques sont là pour nous le rappeler malheureusement. Nous avons fait presque du sur place depuis le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, comme l'ont constaté beaucoup d'orateurs avant moi et, en effet, lorsque vous avancez de trois pas et vous reculez de deux pas vous n'avez avancé en réalité que d'un pas. Et c'est ce que nous sommes en train de faire. La diminution de 20 millions de personnes qui ont faim durant ces années est loin d'être le rythme que nous aurions voulu imprimer à notre combat. L'Afrique sub-saharienne en particulier est touchée même si en chiffres absolus on n'a pas le record; l'Afrique comporte quand même 33 pour cent de sa population concernée par cette situation de pauvreté et de famine. La baisse générale ne doit pas nous faire oublier qu'il y a donc des inégalités selon les régions du monde. Et encore, c'est l'Afrique qu'on trouve lorsque l'on parle d'urgence. Effectivement, l'Afrique australe, l'Afrique de l'Est en ce moment, et je me réfère aux paragraphes 7 et 8 du document notamment. Et pour comble il convient de rappeler toujours les ravages sur le continent africain du sida, du paludisme, des conflits et bien d'autres fléaux qui frappent malheureusement les personnes en âge de produire. Je pense qu'il faut, comme beaucoup l'ont dit déjà, encore plus d'investissements de la part des gouvernements eux-mêmes en premier lieu, des institutions bancaires, des ONG, des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux parmi lesquels nous comptons évidemment la FAO comme leader de ce combat.

Si à défaut d'aider les pays dans leur politique et comme cela a été dit lors de la Conférence de l'OMC, il faudrait au moins leur acheter les produits à leur juste prix et cesser d'ériger les barrières à l'accès au marché de leurs produits. Car les paysans des pays en développement, nos paysans, ne demandent qu'à être payés au prix de leurs sacrifices. Je me réfère au paragraphe 58 et suivant notamment. En particulier, je voudrais souligner qu'il faut faire confiance encore et toujours aux femmes dans ces pays en développement notamment, à leur ingéniosité, à leur disponibilité et à leur disposition aux changements qualitatifs pour le bien-être de toute la famille. Pour cela, les femmes doivent faire l'objet davantage d'attention notamment dans le domaine de l'éducation, de l'information et de la formation. En ce qui concerne le Burkina Faso, je voudrais dire ici qu'une vigoureuse politique agricole et de maîtrise de l'eau est en train d'être mise en œuvre et notamment un vaste programme de petite irrigation villageoise avec des technologies simples pour réduire les aléas dus à la seule agriculture pluviale. Cette année, comme le dit le document d'ailleurs, le Burkina Faso a des perspectives plutôt bonnes; selon les prévisions, on s'attend à une augmentation de cinq pour cent de la production céréalière par rapport à l'année dernière et une augmentation de plus de 22 pour cent par rapport à la moyenne des cinq dernières années. Ces prévisions sont donc réconfortantes, mais nous devons essentiellement cette situation favorable à l'intervention du gouvernement sur les nuages pour provoquer des pluies artificielles sur l'ensemble du pays, et mieux les répartir dans le temps et dans l'espace. Cela était possible grâce à une coopération bilatérale avec le Maroc et sur une technologie américaine que désormais nos techniciens nationaux arrivent à maîtriser. Je crois même savoir que dans la zone du Sahel cette opération dénommée SAGA du nom "amuré", une des langues nationales de la pluie, va faire tâche d'huile dans la zone du Sahel. Tout compte fait, il nous faut rester optimistes je crois, mais il nous faut aussi redoubler d'effort aux plans nationaux, régionaux et au plan mondial pour un monde de justice sans pauvreté et sans faim. Et pour ce combat le Burkina Faso sera toujours disponible avec les moyens à sa mesure pour contribuer à l'atteinte des objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés.

**Shoji SATO (Japan)**

Japan thinks that the attainment of food security is one of the most important goals for all of us in the international community. To achieve this FAO's information is very useful for analysing and understanding the current situation. In this respect, Japan appreciates the efforts of FAO in preparing valuable reports, such as the State of Food and Agriculture 2002 and the State of Food Insecurity in the World.

Responding to the recent humanitarian crisis in the southern African region, Japan has pledged thirty million US dollars as emergency aid to alleviate hunger situations in the region. We would like to see FAO and other international organizations to promptly provide donor countries with information on food security situations in this region.

In the longer term, Japan believes that it is essential for developing countries to expand agricultural production in a sustainable manner together with food import and food stock to supplement domestic food supply. By so doing, developing countries can attain food security. In this regard, I would like to mention that Japan contributes to FAO's Trust Fund projects and cooperates with FAO in mobilizing the Telefood programmes.

With regard to the economic incentives and subsidy issues about which several delegates spoke this morning, we should truly be aware that in-depth discussions are going on in Geneva. Therefore, my delegation believes that it is better for us in FAO to refrain from duplicating the WTO process. Instead, we should ask the FAO Secretariat to conduct a technical analysis on the effect of economic incentives and subsidies on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

As to the water issue, we know that the total amount of freshwater on earth is very limited. In order to provide sufficient food for ever-increasing populations, it is necessary to consider sustainable utilization of freshwater and to manage properly water resources. For this objective, in March next year, Japan will host the Third World Water Forum and on that occasion we will be co-organizing with FAO a Ministerial Meeting to discuss issues of water, food and agriculture.

**Bruce Misoga MADETE (Kenya)**

On behalf of the Kenya delegation, I would like to welcome you back to Rome to Chair this important session of the Hundred and Twenty-third FAO Council meeting. We are optimistic that the session will come up with useful recommendations and/or decisions.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, for the summary but incisive report on the Global State of Food and Agriculture. Let me take this opportunity, at the onset, to update delegates on the food situation in my country since most of the six speakers before me have spoken at the global level. It is important to note, that unlike in previous years, that is in 1998, 1999 and 2000, which were characterized by severe drought, during the year 2000 there was an improvement in the weather conditions with enhanced rainfall in most parts of the country. Consequently, the country realized above average production of 2.9 million metric tonnes of maize, the staple grain for the country. In addition, other grains such as wheat, rice and pulses registered normal production while livestock production was also favourable.

Following the improvement in the general food situation in the country in the year 2001, the Kenya Emergency Operation Programme which was jointly operated by the World Food Programme and the Government of Kenya came to an end last month. As you will recall the programme began in March 2000 and at its peak had a beneficiary level of some 4.4 million people in twenty-two districts throughout the country. For the entire duration of the programme, over 670 000 metric tonnes of relief food was distributed to drought affected Kenyans at an estimated cost of US\$ 300 million.

Although much of the country has recovered from the adverse effects of the prolonged drought, there are few pockets which have not sufficiently recovered. These are mainly in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas which are still receiving small quantities of food relief from the Government. This year the long rains have had mixed performance in Kenya. While the amounts received have



been near normal, in most parts of the country, the distribution both in space and time has been poor. As such, overall food crop production during the year is expected to be slightly below normal.

Overall, the food security situation in the country is expected to remain favourable for the remainder of this year. The situation that will prevail next year will very much depend on the performance of the short rains which began a week ago and the long rains of next year.

Therefore, as a follow-up to the World Food Summit 1996 and the World Food Summit: *five years later*, this year, the Government of Kenya has initiated several activities aimed at reducing poverty and improving food security in the country. I would like to mention a few of the activities and they are as follows: we have been revising various policies with an aim of improving service delivery and injection of growth into rural development and poverty reduction. Policies that have been revived so far and are being implemented include those in tea, coffee, sugar and fisheries. Policies that are at different stages of revision include the National Food Policy (developed in 1981 and revised in 1994); cotton, irrigation, livestock, dairy, the national extension policy, and pyrethrum – just to mention a few.

The Government has also prepared additional policy documents which include the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for the period 2001 to 2004 and the Poverty Eradication Plan targeting the year 2015. These documents outline priorities and measures necessary for poverty reduction and economic growth. Some strategies outlined in those documents are already being implemented.

The Kenya Rural Development Strategy (KRDS) paper is being finalized to run from this year to the year 2017. This is a long-term framework document outlining a broad range of strategies for improvement of rural Kenya over the next 15 years. It is a road map for the Government, the private sector, civil society and our development partners, targeting equitable growth and development in the rural sector.

In addition, the Government has developed a special programme for food security in Kenya. Through this programme, specific successful food security initiatives and technologies that have significantly contributed to food security in various parts of the country will be documented and up-scaling done for those with unique potential.

The programme has also put in place institutional structures for coordination and implementation of food security projects within the Ministry and among the various relevant stakeholders. The programme emphasizes issues concerning capacity building and farmer participation for sustainability.

Furthermore, the Government is in the process of finalizing a preparation of a disaster management policy which will establish a disaster management unit to coordinate the management of all forms of disaster. As we are all aware, disasters have a bearing on our food security.

At a sub-Regional level the country's membership of regional trading blocks such as COMESA and the east African Community has greatly enabled easy flow of food from surplus regions to deficit areas, thus enhancing food security in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to give an assurance that Kenya is on the right track with regard to the implementation of the follow-up actions to the World Food Summit. Although there are many constraints the country still needs to overcome, we are determined to register some achievements towards poverty reduction in the near future.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

I would like to congratulate FAO on their comprehensive report and presentation on the State of Food and Agriculture. We particularly appreciate the precise overview provided by Mr de Haen.

The Government of India is fully committed to the Millennium Goal of halving the number of hungry by the year 2015. While the country has become self-reliant in food grains at the macro

level, micro level food security remains a problem. The Government has initiated several targeted programmes to meet the challenge of food security. Although we are facing the most severe drought in the country in recent years, the food availability position continues to be satisfactory. We are following a policy of intensive integrated cropping system, to promote sustainable agriculture and we are confident that the Millennium Goal will be achieved before 2015.

The Government of India has adopted a regionally differentiated strategy based on agricultural agro-climatic regional planning to narrow down the regional and crop imbalances, so as to accelerate growth in every region. Agricultural productivity in India has been increased by focussing on agricultural research and technology, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, agricultural extension, a pro-active price support regime and adoption of better farm management practices.

National efforts, however, should be supported by a conducive international environment, particularly an equitable trade regime. We are hoping that the latest round of negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture in the World Trade Organization will pay special attention to the development needs of the developing countries, including food security and rural development. We would like to call for a translation of the commitments expressed at the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, into specific contributions in the form of higher levels of multilateral, as well as bilateral funding for agriculture and rural development.

We look forward to growth that is based on efficient use of resources and which conserves soil, water and biodiversity; growth with equity, which is widespread across regions and categories of farmers. We would expect FAO to play a pro-active role in conveying the benefits of technology to poor farmers in developing countries while seeking to promote a more equitable international environment.

**Paul MURPHY (Canada)**

Canada would also like to thank the Secretariat for the analysis they have done. The remarks of the delegations reveal a significant degree of consensus as to the seriousness of the situation, as well as what action is needed to improve it. Let me briefly describe what Canada is doing on its part.

We are supporting the elimination of all trade-distorting subsidies in the World Trade Organization negotiations. Also, effective 1 January, 2003, Canada will eliminate tariffs and quotas on most imports from all these developed countries. We are also dedicating US\$ 500 million in new spending to the Canada Fund for Africa. In addition to this Canada will increase its overseas development assistance by eight percent annually, which would double our overall spending on overseas development assistance by the end of the decade.

Our Minister responsible for international development has this month released a discussion paper on the role of agriculture in international development, which is aimed at increasing the emphasis on agriculture within Canada's development activities. The Minister is currently conducting consultations within Canada on this issue.

In two key areas - food safety and sustainable production - Canada has considerable knowledge and expertise which it currently shares with developing countries. We are working internally to increase the number of Canadian experts in these areas that are available for our development efforts. Finally, this is an area where Canada believes that further research and analysis are warranted.

It is clear from the Secretariat paper and from this morning's presentation that some countries are making significant progress toward their food security objectives despite the presence of the many obstacles we all agree must be addressed, such as tariffs, quotas and subsidies. Canada intends to pursue this issue with its own analytical work, and urges the Secretariat to make special efforts as well in this regard.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

Australia welcomes the continuing work of the FAO Secretariat in the production of the State of Food and Agriculture report which is particularly helpful in reviewing the prospects of the world agriculture markets and the various factors which impact upon them.

Australia remains concerned with the current food security situation in which it is estimated that 840 million people are undernourished around the world. We are particularly concerned that more than half of the undernourished, as pointed out by our colleagues from Thailand, 60 percent of the total are our Asia and Pacific neighbours. The recently-convened World Food Summit: *five years later* refocused all our minds on the need for appropriate action and policies, in order to improve the global food situation if we are to meet the 1996 WFS goal of halving the number of hungry by the year 2015.

To this end Australia is pursuing a number of strategies to address the problem of food security in developing countries. However, it is important, as we have already stressed previously, to remember that the world already has the capacity to produce enough food to feed the world's people. Inadequate food availability stems primarily from problems of distribution and access to food, not the ability of the world to produce at inadequate quantities. With this in mind, we would say that improving production and technical assistance is important but it is beyond the spirit that international trade plays a vital role in delivering the economic growth and reducing poverty in developing countries. One fundamental way to move towards achieving this is by removing the current inequities in the world trading system which is a major feature of the agenda document before us.

The Cairns Group have put forward comprehensive and ambitious reform proposals during the current WTO agriculture negotiations, which if adopted, would lead to significantly enhanced international agricultural markets. As has already been referred to, the Cairns Group meeting in Bolivia by the Bolivian colleague and the Australia would also like to make a few further comments on this.

As Cairns Group Ministers indicated that during the Twenty-fourth Ministerial Meeting last week in Bolivia, further trade reform will promote growth, sustainable development and poverty alleviation and will strengthen the economies of all nations, even the major subsidizing countries. Also, during the same meeting Ministers highlighted the absence of proposals from key negotiating partners, greatly complicated the negotiating process and urged parties who have major backward reforms to table proposals consistent with the agreed objectives of a fair market oriented trading system. Indeed this sentiment echoes commitment for the 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security.

It is critical that all countries see the opportunity presented by current WTO Doha Round of negotiations to secure comprehensive reforms to world agricultural markets. While the successful conclusion to the WTO Doha development synergy is important to many Member Nations, it is essential for the long-term prosperity of almost all developing countries. As it has already been indicated by many members today, including Philippines, Brazil, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Thailand, and Chile – as I said we cannot allow subsidization and protection by wealthy countries to continue to distort markets and undermine agricultural advancement and poverty reduction objectives of many developing countries.

Australia considers that an important aspect of FAO's role in facilitating policies and to eradicating poverty in equality in the long-term is in assisting in encouraging developing countries to participate in their own manner in the current WTO agricultural negotiations. In this regard we would also wish to express our support for the Iranian proposal, and I note comments by our Canadian colleagues only a moment ago. With regard to agriculture in public goods, we wish to indicate our support for the concerns duly raised by the United States on the effects of agricultural trade distortion of world markets.

**Aciselo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)**

Permítame felicitar a los vicepresidentes, al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a los delegados de los Países Miembros del Comité nombrados y que habrán de colaborar con usted con el mejor de los éxitos.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría el informe presentado, sumamente preciso y puntual, sobre el estado de la agricultura descrito, y lamentamos que no puedan participar en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, todos aquellos que puedan y quieran hacerlo, tal y como ya lo expresara el Gobierno de Guatemala en la pasada Cumbre. En la Organización Mundial del Comercio, la República Popular de China y la República de China participan por igual, una en pos de la otra entraron a formar parte y forman parte de esa Organización. Y aunque no sea este el foro para discusión y decisión sobre este asunto, quisiéramos se recogiese nuestra observación. El estado actual de la agricultura, el estado actual de la alimentación, el estado actual del hambre y la pobreza obligan a un imperativo categórico de índole moral: no debe excluirse de la lucha mundial contra el hambre y la pobreza a quien pueda y quiera participar y coadyuvar. La experiencia de Taiwán en el proceso de desarrollo agrícola y rural, su experiencia en la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza son importantes y no debieran ser ajenos a esta Organización y a esta lucha.

En el mismo orden de ideas y principios debemos insistir una vez más que son ya suficientemente difíciles los aspectos naturales y técnicos de la erradicación de la pobreza, los asuntos estructurales, como para sumarle lo eminentemente político que depende tan solo de la voluntad. El uso de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política impidiendo el libre comercio que permite alcanzarlos persiste. La instrumentalización para que se dé no tiene que ser necesariamente directa, también indirectamente se logra esta instrumentalización. Quisiera además señalar que el análisis del Estado de la Agricultura no puede ser ajeno al libre acceso de los mercados tal y como ha sido señalado reiteradamente en este Consejo por países que integran el GRULAC, por la Representación del GRULAC en su Presidencia protémpore y por muchísimos otros países de otras regiones. Todos concuerdan con que el proteccionismo, llámesele subsidios, barreras arancelarias o no arancelarias, el proteccionismo del poderoso determina que los otros no puedan desarrollar su propia producción y superarse; incluso castiga también a sus mismos consumidores, a las grandes mayorías de estos estados poderosos que consumen para beneficio de unos pocos, grandes mayorías que no pueden beneficiarse de mejores precios en esos países si erradicasen las prácticas de protección.

La enunciación y análisis de las causas de lo que ocurre y la propuesta de soluciones debe ser un complemento del preciso y puntual documento presentado. Quizá la más grave preocupación que debe dejarnos ese documento es que hace evidente el decrecimiento de la asistencia externa a la agricultura cuando supuestamente debiésemos estar todos en una lucha que permitiese erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, o al menos reducirlas a las metas fijadas en la Cumbre y ratificadas en la CMA: *cad.* ¿Dónde está entonces la voluntad política, si el documento hace evidente el dramático decrecimiento de la asistencia exterior a la agricultura?

***Wilfred NGIRWA, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair***  
***Wilfred NGIRWA, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence***  
***Ocupa la presidencia Wilfred NGIRWA, Vicepresidente del Consejo***

**Anton KOHLER (Switzerland)**

Allow me to start with the first introductory point. The Swiss delegation is happy to inform you that we have just signed the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

Coming to the presently discussed agenda point, I would like to thank Mr de Haen for his updated power-point presentation. May I suggest that his update be made available to all of us?

Food shortage and decreasing stocks in the face of depressed prices and stagnation of undernourishment. What a contradictory world we are living in, not only in economic terms but in

terms of human dignity. Faced with food shortage one would expect rising prices and higher incentives to invest in developing countries agriculture.

What are the reasons for these contradictory moves? Nobody can deny the fact that especially, export subsidies have detrimental effects, but the elimination of trade distorting measures is not the only means to gradually reaching higher food security in developing countries. What we are missing in CL 123/2 is a more in-depth analysis for the reasons of depressed prices.

Persisting rural and urban poverty in all its dimensions is one further main reason in the economic explanation for the missing demand. Poverty limits the access especially of women to input markets and to the food available. To solve the poverty problem, social and political factors have to be tackled. If not, poverty will remain the main obstacle on the way towards the right to food for everyone.

**Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)**

I would like to join the others in congratulating the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for their election to lead this Council.

We consider the document the State of Food and Agriculture comprehensive enough to provide us with a thorough picture of agricultural development and food production of the world.

As one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, I am afraid that the conditions reflected for that particular region do not give the true picture of what some of our countries are currently facing. At present, my country is struggling with severe drought where 14 million people are vulnerable and we are forced to appeal again for international assistance. As much as we would like to get out of this quagmire once and for all, to our dismay we are again drawn back into this vicious circle.

As properly addressed in the document, agricultural output has still been trailing population growth in my country. It is not the lack of water, that contributed to low food production in some of our countries in the region but, as properly addressed by the Director-General this morning, it is the improper utilization and poor conservation of the available water and lack of irrigation infrastructure development in some of our countries.

To our dismay, resources flowing in the development in that infrastructure is very meager. We realize that if external assistance is geared towards that direction it definitely and drastically reduces food insecurity, engulfing some of the countries in the region. I think it is high time to look into this crucial matter of water resource development to reduce poverty, to eradicate hunger and famine for the years to come.

As you may know, pastoralists who are victims of cyclical drought, live only on the blessings of rainfall for pasture development. In the absence of rain, they are the first victims, people and cattle become vulnerable beyond the level of rehabilitation.

Do we have a way out? Currently, in Ethiopia, this situation is highly aggravated by failure of the two seasonal rains. My country is doing all it can to streamline its policies with all its available resources in order to assure food security at the household level with the aim of alleviating poverty.

It may be high time to acknowledge FAO for the rapid action taken to support the pastoralists in distress in Ethiopia by establishing with a programme to replenish stocks and other supportive services. With the assistance rendered by all concerned, the United Nations Agencies, financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGOs, hopefully, we shall attain the goal entrusted upon us to be self sufficient in food and become a nation with food security.

**Costa Ricky MAHALU (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Member Nations for electing the United Republic of Tanzania to be a Member of the Council. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-

Chairpersons for being elected. We will do our best to support the Chairman in running the affairs of the Council during this week.

I would like to acknowledge the good work done by the Committee on World Food Security in monitoring and following up on the State of Agriculture and Food Security in the world.

While some developing countries such as those in Latin America, Caribbean, Near East and North Africa have recorded reasonable progress in the fight against hunger and under nutrition, the estimates for the number of hungry in the world, and particularly in developing countries are still alarming. More than a quarter of the undernourished are in sub-Saharan Africa. At this level it is indeed far below the rate needed to meet the World Food Summit and Millennium development goals of halving the number of the undernourished and poor by the year 2015. Talking of the southern African region, the current food crisis affecting nearly 15 million people has drastically affected the efforts to curb hunger and undernourishment in Africa. This is an alarming humanitarian crisis requiring appropriate and timely intervention by the international community.

We should all note that hunger is basically, both a cause and a consequence of extreme poverty. Hunger prevents the poor from taking full advantage of development opportunities that can disentangle them from poverty; therefore, hunger eradication is a vital step in alleviating poverty and inequality. It should also be noted that 70 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend almost entirely on agriculture. However, in many developing countries there is also a rapid increase in the numbers and proportion of urban people affected by poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

In order to significantly reduce hunger and poverty by the year 2015, we need a collaborative effort and a comprehensive strategy that would include all the components of civil society and governments from all countries both from the north and the south. Therefore, I would like to stress that poverty reduction strategies at national and International levels, need to properly address food security and rural development issues. The strategies should include among others, measures for improving sustainable agriculture production and food distribution, creating employment opportunities for the poor and equal access for women and men to food, water, land, credit and agricultural technology.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is firmly committed to the implementation of strategies toward the realization of the Declaration of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Millennium development goals. Accordingly, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has accorded a top priority to improved food security and poverty reduction as a means for improved quality of life for the population. New strategies have been put in place. There is a political commitment and enhanced good governance and significant increase in public expenditure on agricultural and rural development. These efforts have brought about encouraging results.

While the United Republic of Tanzania has remained a food deficit country for many years the situation has improved significantly in recent years. Food production in the year 2001 to 2002 has improved significantly over the previous years. The total food production for the year 2001 to 2002 is estimated at 8.55 million metric tonnes while our food requirement for the year 2002 to 2003 is estimated at 8.38 million metric tonnes or a food self-sufficiency of 102 percent. This is a very encouraging situation that we have not realized for many years. It is a clear indication that with the proper strategies and a focused implementation our country can achieve a reasonable level of food security.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the international development partners for collaborating with us in our endeavour to attaining national food security. Many thanks go to FAO and other development partners for helping us in implementing the Special Programme for Food Security. The programme is another important vehicle for combating hunger and reducing poverty in our communities. The programme has been implemented successfully by our farmers as it is practicable and well understood. Examples of success are many with some farmers having increased production from less than 2.5 tonnes of paddy per hectare prior to the programme, to

currently more than 5 tonnes per hectare. The positive results of the Special Programme for Food Security will be instrumental towards the formulation of a comprehensive food security policy and subsequent strategy.

The Government of Tanzania is in the process of finalizing the Agricultural Sector Development Programme. This programme will be the main framework for implementing the agricultural sector development strategy, which was endorsed by stakeholders about one year ago. Among others, the programme aims at reducing the proportion of the population below the basic poverty line from 48 percent in the year 2000 to 24 percent by the year 2010. Reducing the proportion of rural population below basic poverty from 57 percent in the year 2000 to 29 percent in the year 2010 and the proportion of food for all from 27 percent in 2000 to 14 percent by the year 2010.

I quite agree with the FAO Director-General's statement on the harnessing and appropriate use of available water resources. While the United Republic of Tanzania has an abundant water resource for irrigated agriculture, we irrigate only about one to two percent of all cultivable land. This is not an encouraging situation for a country which is still grappling with food insecurity.

In recognition of this fact the Government, in collaboration with development partners is finalizing the irrigation master plan for the country. Apart from irrigation, the Government of Tanzania is also promoting aquaculture, small scale fishing in both marine and inland water bodies in order to enhance food security and livelihood.

We understand that globalization has been increasingly bringing together all countries in areas of trade, economy, communication, agriculture and many other areas of social and economic development. While developed countries have been able to benefit from its advantages, developing countries more than often face constraints and unfair terms of trade, thereby, frustrating all their development efforts. I therefore, urge the Council to suggest ways and means for addressing the imbalance now apparent in globalization, such as huge subsidies given to farmers in developed countries are not available to their fellow farmers in developing countries.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and, particularly, the FAO Director-General for spearheading a fight against hunger and poverty and also the assistance extended to the United Republic of Tanzania.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Il me semblait, d'après la liste lue par le Président du Conseil juste avant la pause, que notre délégation venait juste avant le Kenya. Enfin, permettez-moi de souhaiter bon retour à Rome à notre Président et de vous féliciter pour votre élection, ainsi que les autres Membres du Bureau et les Membres du Comité de rédaction. Permettez-moi également de m'associer à la solidarité exprimée par le Président du Conseil à la République sœur d'Argentine.

Je voudrais sur ce point de l'ordre du jour m'associer à la déclaration du Président du Groupe africain, l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe. Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat pour le document CL 123/2 mis à jour et enrichi par le Directeur général de la FAO et Monsieur de Haen. Les chiffres qui nous sont fournis sont effrayants dans la mesure où il nous est dit que, si le rythme actuel de réduction des personnes sous-alimentées que nous ensemble sommes en train d'opérer, continuait, il faudrait attendre 150 ans et non plus 2015 pour atteindre l'objectif que les leaders mondiaux se sont fixés en 1996 ici-même et qu'ils ont renouvelé en juin dernier.

Cela est d'autant plus préoccupant que la constante est que l'Afrique sub-saharienne continue d'être à la traîne. Au lieu de diminuer, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées dans cette zone défavorisée a plutôt augmenté. Le Sénégal, comme beaucoup de pays sahéliens, a encore connu au mois de juillet dernier, une pause pluviométrique qui a entraîné un déficit très important dans toutes les stations du pays, qui est aussi la période la plus critique pour le développement des cultures. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Sénégal tient à rappeler le thème important de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation: l'eau, source de sécurité alimentaire. Notre délégation souhaite que l'aide publique au développement soit davantage augmentée et orientée vers des investissements destinés à l'augmentation des surfaces irriguées. Le Sénégal est grand importateur de céréales. Les

devises obtenues avec nos cultures de rente exportées, sont presque totalement absorbées dans ce commerce. Ainsi, l'arachide a un prix qui baisse sur le marché mondial. S'agissant de l'OMC, force est de constater que notre production de coton est fortement concurrencée par le coton subventionné de pays développés eux-mêmes. Cette situation nous pose des problèmes et décourage nos agriculteurs en hypothéquant l'objectif de faire reculer la faim et la pauvreté.

Il est, par contre, réconfortant que le Programme spécial de la FAO pour la sécurité alimentaire ait pu connaître des résultats positifs dans notre pays et dans d'autres pays du monde, et nous souhaitons qu'il y ait davantage de ressources pour ce Programme. Qu'on nous permette à l'occasion de remercier le Viet Nam et l'Italie en particulier, qui sont nos partenaires privilégiés dans la mise en œuvre de ce Programme.

Le document qui nous est soumis CL 123/2 reflète bien sûr la situation que nous connaissons tous, mais ne semble pas prendre en compte les poches de sécheresse de l'hivernage en cours au Sahel, contrairement à ce que la FAO a déjà initié concernant les programmes d'urgence, notamment au Sénégal. Dans ce cadre, nous voulons, à la suite de la déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, appeler à nouveau la Communauté internationale à aider les pays africains dans le cadre de la courageuse entreprise qu'ils ont adoptée à travers le NEPAD, et notamment son programme agricole, après les différents programmes adoptés dans les cadres sous-régionaux que connaît l'Afrique.

Avant de finir, permettez-moi de déplorer qu'au niveau du document sous examen, le Secrétariat n'ait pas jugé bon de mentionner au titre du paragraphe 61 la situation particulière des pays les moins avancés, situation sur laquelle nous aurons à revenir avant la fin du point à l'ordre du jour.

#### **Naceur BEN FRIJA (Tunisie)**

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat de notre Organisation pour le document intéressant qui nous est soumis au titre du point 3 de l'ordre du jour, relatif à la Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2002. En dépit de quatre années consécutives de déficit pluviométrique important, la Tunisie a réalisé d'importants progrès dans le domaine du développement agricole. Ce qui la rend apte à faire partager les expériences qu'elle a acquises grâce notamment à la coopération fructueuse avec notre Organisation, avec la FAO.

Le Directeur général de notre Organisation a de nouveau rappelé ce matin, comme à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, que le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées a diminué dans les pays en développement de seulement 2,5 millions par an, depuis la période de référence 1990-1992. Il a noté qu'à ce rythme, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées dans le monde n'aura même pas diminué de 10 pour cent, soit un taux bien inférieur à celui de 50 pour cent escompté pour 2015.

La situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est donc préoccupante. Les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement, que la Communauté internationale s'est fixée pour but de réaliser, apparaissent lointains. D'autant plus que la CNUCED a prédit que le niveau d'investissement étranger direct baisserait de 27 pour cent en 2002, à environ 534 milliards de dollars, comme l'a souligné le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans son message, à l'occasion de la Journée des Nations Unies, le 24 octobre 2002.

La Tunisie voudrait saisir l'occasion de sa présence au Conseil de l'administration de la FAO pour réitérer l'appel lancé à la Communauté internationale pour la création d'un Fonds Mondial de Solidarité, destiné à consolider les mécanismes internationaux existants de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans les diverses régions du monde.

L'Afrique, qui est la région la plus touchée par la malnutrition, mérite toute notre attention. Le Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD) qui constitue une initiative africaine doit, à cet égard, bénéficier des efforts qui seront certainement déployés pour renverser la tendance et rattraper le retard accusé à mettre en œuvre, notamment les recommandations adoptées par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.



**MA SHIQING (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Delegation of China, first of all, would like to thank Mr De Haen, the Assistant Director-General for his introduction, which has given us the latest information on the current status of food and agriculture in the world.

Since the World Food Summit in 1996, there has been good progress in the development of food and agriculture in the world. The world has witnessed a certain improvement in food security in most developing countries. However, the problem with poverty and hunger remains very serious. Unfortunately, we have noticed that the growth of agriculture output of the world, during 2000 to 2001, is even lower than the average rate in the past decades, while the *per caput* output has been on the decline.

The Chinese Delegation has also noticed with concern that the number of the malnourished population of the world, in recent years, has returned to the level of five years ago. If the situation continues like this, the target set by the World Food Summit shall be too distant to reach. Therefore, we must face the reality and take action to respond to this challenge and put the commitments made at the Summit into concrete practice.

At present, the economics of globalization and multipolarization are developing at a high speed. Science and technology are also developing rapidly. Mankind is marching forward at big strides, however, it is still faced with the threat of hunger and its challenges. The number task for mankind is to have decent food and nutrition. We must eradicate hunger and poverty once and for all to guarantee the right to food for all people. We believe that all the countries in the regions should unite together and grasp the opportunity and respond to the challenges.

First, various governments and the international community should take this opportunity to honour their commitments, and to take active measures to eradicate hunger and poverty. Second, we must set up a fair and just international, political and economical environment, streamline the international trade mechanism and address the issue of distribution as well as the marketing of agricultural products.

On one hand there is a surplus of agricultural output in the world, but in some areas there is a serious shortage. We must make serious efforts to overcome this coexisting phenomena. We have noticed that the developed countries have reduced, somewhat, their agricultural support. However, their support to agriculture still is at a level of US\$ 23 billion or US\$ 12 000 per farmer. We hope that developed countries will further cut subsidies to agriculture and create conditions for agricultural export of developing countries.

Third, the developing countries should also further increase their food production and improve their agricultural input. Increase the food supply so as to improve food security. The developed countries and international community should increase their official assistance to agriculture and reverse the present adverse trend of decline.

The Government of the People's Republic of China always attaches importance to the question of agriculture production and food security, and we have achieved a big progress in this regard. At present the *per capita* output for most agricultural products has reached or exceeded the world average level. There is a big reduction of the poverty population, with less than three percent poverty rate. Despite this, for a long-term guarantee of food and security, China still faces a great deal of challenges. We have a shortage of resources. We have 22 percent of the world's population with only less than ten percent of the world's cultivated land. China's water resources take up only seven percent of the world's total.

In food production, degeneralization of agriculture ecology, such as desertification, soil erosion and population growth, stresses even more these relations with resources and the environment. We are facing enormous tasks in combating poverty.

In view of the above mentioned challenges and difficulties, the Government of the People's Republic of China formulated the strategy of placing the priority on domestic production with a goal to meeting the basic domestic needs that is assuring a long-term food security.

The Chinese Government will implement a strategy of promoting development in the western region of the country together with a new ten-year poverty alleviation outline, the object being to promote a steady production and improve the agriculture production system. We will accelerate the economic development in poverty-stricken areas to provide food security for the poor in rural areas, effectively increasing their income and trying to raise their food purchasing power.

We believe that with our efforts and actions taken, long-term food security will be achieved in China. We can make fresh and great contributions to the food security situation in the world.

**Rafael TOVAR Y DE TERESA (México)**

Es un gusto para mi delegación participar en los trabajos de este Consejo.

El documento que nos ocupa en este debate indica que las tendencias sobre la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo no son favorables, por el contrario son fuente de preocupación que invitan a redoblar esfuerzos y compromisos.

Hay aún más de 800 millones de personas con hambre en el mundo y la tendencia actual hará difícil alcanzar la meta fijada en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación; la situación sobre emergencias alimentarias tampoco es alentadora y, sin tener los altos porcentajes de otras regiones, aún hay problemas agudos en países de América Latina y el Caribe que es necesario atender.

El crecimiento de la producción agrícola mundial está por debajo de los índices del crecimiento de la población, los precios de varios productos han alcanzado niveles mínimos que ponen en riesgo a las poblaciones campesinas, sobretodo de los países en desarrollo; el café es el ejemplo más dramático. Continúa la preocupación mundial por la pérdida de extensas áreas de bosques. La pobreza rural es fuente de inseguridad, que merece una mayor atención por parte de la comunidad internacional.

Deseo hacer particular énfasis en la disminución de la asistencia externa para el desarrollo de la agricultura. De conformidad con los datos más recientes, el ritmo anual de reducción alcanza el 15 por ciento, pero para la región de América Latina y el Caribe la situación es aún más crítica, menos 39 por ciento. Es indispensable revertir esta tendencia en materia de asistencia para el desarrollo tanto para la agricultura como para la alimentación.

De los resultados de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Financiamiento para el Desarrollo, realizada en Monterrey, México, se destacaron los compromisos de varios países para movilizar un mayor número de recursos financieros que impulsen el crecimiento económico y permitan, en consecuencia, alcanzar las metas de desarrollo global, especialmente en lo referente a la lucha contra la pobreza. Esperamos que dichos compromisos se traduzcan en acciones concretas.

El Consenso de Monterrey reconoce que el financiamiento es una condición necesaria, pero no suficiente para el desarrollo, que se requiere también de una reforzada voluntad política y el compromiso de todos para identificar formas eficaces de promover el desarrollo, bajo el principio de responsabilidad compartida.

Estos factores se encuentran contenidos también en la "Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*", por ello mi país le ha dado el más fuerte respaldo, convencido que la lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición requiere, para un éxito duradero y sustentable, del desarrollo.

La voluntad para mantener y promover la agenda integrada para el desarrollo debe ser un propósito común de todos los países y los organismos internacionales, incluida la FAO, como vía para alcanzar los Objetivos del Milenio.

En México estamos trabajando con renovado esfuerzo para fortalecer al sector agrícola y mejorar los niveles de desarrollo rural. Para ello, propiciamos que el productor reciba mayores ingresos por sus productos; impulsamos el incremento de la productividad agrícola y un mayor acceso al crédito rural; trabajamos para garantizar la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos; promoveremos la sustentabilidad sectorial, con un uso racional de los recursos y en un ambiente de equidad y buen gobierno.

Hemos tenido resultados positivos. En 2001 el Producto Interno Bruto sectorial creció 2.6 por ciento y en el primer semestre de este año el crecimiento alcanzó el 2.8 por ciento. Si bien el año pasado la balanza comercial agropecuaria fue deficitaria, los primeros seis meses de éste tuvo un saldo acumulado positivo. La producción ganadera en México ha tenido un comportamiento estable, en contrapartida a la difícil situación internacional. Las actividades pesqueras y acuícolas registran un crecimiento sostenido.

Sin embargo, la situación del café es preocupante. Los precios internacionales del producto han alcanzado su nivel más bajo desde hace 30 años, lo que ha provocado que miles de pequeños productores en varias partes del mundo vean reducidos drásticamente sus ingresos. Es indispensable tomar medidas urgentes. Para ello, este año México, Colombia y los países de América Central promovieron el establecimiento de un Comité de Calidad, en el marco de la Organización Internacional del Café para establecer niveles mínimos para el producto de calidad exportable, con emisión de certificados de origen. Nuestros países ofrecen, así, calidad.

Una tendencia del comercio internacional debe ser que todos los países obtengan beneficios del intercambio de productos agrícolas, y para ello se requieren también precios justos.

Las negociaciones que se realizan en el contexto de la Organización Mundial del Comercio no sólo deben dar como resultado una mayor liberalización del comercio, sino buscar que éste contribuya a promover el crecimiento económico, el empleo y el desarrollo de todos los países. El comercio es una de las principales herramientas para combatir la pobreza, se necesita una mayor apertura de los mercados, acompañada de la eliminación de todo subsidio que distorsione el comercio agrícola mundial.

Un comercio equitativo será también una vía para cumplir el compromiso que todos nuestros gobiernos asumieron en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y será un camino para alcanzar los Objetivos del Milenio, que incluyen la reducción de la pobreza y, por ello, del hambre y la malnutrición.

Mi país renueva su respaldo a esta noble institución y continuará trabajando para hacer realidad los altos objetivos que la guían en la construcción de un mundo más justo, sin hambre.

**Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Libya) (Original language Arabic)**

I wish to thank the Secretariat for this very important document prepared by the Secretariat on the State of Food and Agriculture for the year 2002. I would also like to thank Mr de Haen for the presentation given this morning and the very comprehensive and useful explanations provided with regard to this document.

The delegation of my country has looked into this document on the State of Food and Agriculture 2002. We have noted with concern the negative trends in the situation of undernourishment in many areas of the world, as well as the adverse environmental conditions for agricultural production in many regions of Africa, Asia, the Near East and Latin America.

To this we should add the urgent need to provide assistance to those countries whose economies are in transition. This situation will undoubtedly lead to broader commitments on the part of the Organization and WFP to deal with the urgent needs of millions of human beings who suffer hunger. We would also like to give our support to FAO and WFP for their action in the Horn of Africa and in southern Africa where they are feeding thousands of hungry people. However, the level of aid is still insufficient and therefore more efforts and more international solidarity are required to provide support for the emergency situations and all the other operations in the

affected areas in the Horn of Africa and the Near East where in some countries the food situation is very serious.

The delegation of my country has also noticed that there has been a slow pace in economic growth in many countries while there is a rapid demographic growth. The reasons for this and the differences between one area and another are not mentioned. We have also noted with concern a reduction in agricultural production in the Near East and the Sahelian region due to repeated droughts which have reduced food production and increased the food gap and its impact on the food security situation.

FAO is asked to double its efforts to help those countries which suffer most from desertification and drought. This, by means of strengthening coordination of research with international bodies, is in order to provide all the necessary technical assistance to these countries so that they may double their efforts to better use their water resources, receive appropriate high-yield variety seeds and improved extension to achieve best results. We also wish to stress the importance to make the best use of applied research in this area and of giving very special attention to the role played by women in rural areas.

We also wish to stress the role of FAO in this context, thanks to its programmes, and namely the Special Programme for Food Security and the strengthening of South-South cooperation, availing itself of all the capacity existing in developing countries.

For my country these are all very important issues and our efforts, jointly with other organizations, will help developing countries to be able to increase their own food production and overcome the problems caused by drought and, in the long term, reduce food crises and overcome natural disaster situations.

On the basis of all the comments heard, we too wish to approve this document, and we hope it will be a success.

**KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

We all know that the progress in general terms is not so promising and furthermore is disappointing. However, I would like to see the bright side. I would read the sentence in paragraph 3 of our document: "The global reduction masks wide variations in regional and national performance. Rapid progress in a few countries obscures a stagnant or a deteriorating situation in many more countries".

We have countries which have succeeded in reducing the number of hungry people. This should also be highlighted in our discussion. We can learn something from them. I have three points on the world food security situation and policy.

First, as we have seen in the total stagnant number and wide variances of performance in countries, unfortunately the impacts or effectiveness of international or multilateral efforts, like FAO, have been restricted until now. At this stage, we need a big change, reforms and a new momentum.

Second, national dimension is most critical. The key responsibility should lie in national governments for eradicating hunger. Success stories in many Asian countries prove this very well.

Third, if looked at more closely, man-made disasters should be blamed for food insecurity in many countries.

On commodity prices, we express our concern over the steady decline on international prices of agricultural commodities. This may have a negative impact on world food security by reducing production with a certain time lag. This is a very uncommon and worrying situation and phenomenon, as our distinguished Swiss delegation pointed out before.

On the external assistance, we have to know exactly what caused the World Bank and the IBRD to reduce their multilateral commitment in the agricultural area. This is necessary to seek a momentum to reverse this negative trend in the future. On the other hand, as illustrated in

paragraph 55, I would like to welcome major bilateral donors' action to maintain or increase their assistance to the agricultural area.

Finally, we appreciate the Secretariat's work on part 5, Implications of the First WTO Ministerial Conference on Agriculture. It explains briefly and very well the progress and current situation. I would like to encourage the Secretariat to develop this part further by analysing more substantial implications of the negotiations on agriculture in the future.

**Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINO (Cuba)**

Aprovecho la ocasión para felicitar a la Mesa recién electa para conducir las labores de este 123° Consejo, y permítame también agradecer la Secretaría por la presentación del documento CL 123/2, El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 2002.

Resultan alarmantes las cifras del hambre en el mundo, como alarmantes son también las tendencias decrecientes de los recursos financieros que pudieran disminuirlas ó, lo que sería preferible, erradicarla. Según la información ofrecida por la FAO, de los 840 millones de personas desnutridas en el mundo al concluir el año 2000, 799 millones viven en los países en desarrollo, 30 millones en los países en transición y 11 millones en los países con economía de mercado desarrollada. De ellos, sólo 19 millones de personas han logrado disminuir sus índices de subnutrición, mientras que el resto observa con desconsuelo que el cumplimiento de los compromisos contraídos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación hace ya siete años demorarán mucho más. Según cálculos muy conservadores se requerirían alrededor de 60 años para alcanzar nuestra propuesta en esa ocasión, de reducir la población subnutrida del mundo a la mitad. Todo ello sin dejar de considerar los efectos de las catástrofes naturales, las guerras, las epidemias, por sólo mencionar alguna de las causas que pudieran incidir en que tales aspiraciones se alejaran aun más ¿Qué hacer ante tales perspectivas? ¿Qué conclusiones podemos sacar ante una situación que se nos muestra desalentadora pues no sólo decrece la producción agrícola mundial *per cápita* sino que también decrecen los precios de nuestros productos básicos, en su mayoría procedentes del sector agropecuario? ¿Qué hacer si los principales donantes bilaterales y multilaterales reducen sus compromisos y contribuciones a la asistencia externa, tendencia que parece continuar a la baja? Es cierto que hace falta voluntad política y recursos financieros para erradicar la presencia del hambre y la pobreza en nuestros países, pero también se requiere que comprendamos que son las causas y no los efectos las que originan que cada día la diferencia de ingresos entre los países más ricos y los más pobres sea cada vez mayor; en 1960 esta diferencia era de 37 veces, hoy es de 74. El documento sobre Evaluación de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, examinado durante la CMA: *cda* lo señalaba claramente y cito: "aunque el crecimiento es de vital importancia para reducir la pobreza y el hambre, tiene que ser un crecimiento adecuado que aumente considerablemente los ingresos de las personas pobres en relación con los de las personas ricas".

Por otro lado, existe también, lamentablemente, la tendencia de los principales contribuyentes a dirigir sus recursos como ayuda de emergencia con prioridad sobre la ayuda oficial al desarrollo, esto lo hemos escuchado en varias ocasiones y reconocemos su carácter humanitario. Sin embargo, nos preocupa que no se entienda que no es el pescado lo que a veces requerimos sino la vara de pescar.

Como resultado de la Conferencia Ministerial de la Organización Mundial del Comercio celebrada el pasado año, se iniciaron negociaciones multilaterales de especial interés para la agricultura, la pesca y la silvicultura, como reconoce el documento para nuestros países en desarrollo, en este sentido mi delegación desea reconocer el papel de la FAO en estas negociaciones y nuestro interés en que ese papel continúe fortaleciéndose, que permita recibir un mayor apoyo e información a nuestros países y que todo ello pueda contribuir a que realmente se nos reconozca un trato especial y diferenciado ante nuestras necesidades en materia de desarrollo.

Mi delegación confía en el papel que la FAO está jugando en esta lucha desigual contra el hambre y la pobreza y por ello apoya la labor que está realizando en esa dirección. Nuestro país

contribuye modestamente a esos esfuerzos. Somos de los que consideramos que un mundo sin hambre y sin pobreza es posible.

*Aziz Mekouar, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the Chair*

*Aziz Mekouar, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence*

*Ocupa la presidencia Aziz Mekouar, Presidente Independiente del Consejo*

**Anwarul CHOWDHURY (United Nations Under Secretary-General, High Representative for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States)**

I thank you for the invitation to address the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Council. Though I am taking the floor under Item 3 of the agenda, my statement will focus on the implementation of the Action Programme for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the present decade.

More than a year has passed since the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries was held in Brussels. A forward-looking Declaration and Programme of Action (POA), adopted at the Conference to support the development efforts of the Least Developed Countries, reaffirms the collective responsibility of the international community to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity. The global scenario that has emerged since calls for a renewed focus on this most vulnerable group of countries.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000 also called on the global community for both financial and technical support to these vulnerable countries. It emphasized that the efforts that the Least Developed Countries, as well as the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, make toward their development goals should be supported through adequate resources by the international community. The Brussels Programme has recognized the special problems of landlocked and small island LDCs as a cross-cutting priority. Here I commend the FAO Director-General, Jacques Diouf, with whom I just had a productive meeting for the special interest taken with regard to the Small Island Developing States.

The Brussels Programme focuses on seven specific commitments made by the LDCs and their development partners: (i) fostering a people-centred policy framework; (ii) good governance at the national and International levels; (iii) building human and institutional capacities; (iv) building productive capacities to make globalization work for the LDCs; (v) enhancing the role of trade and development; (vi) reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and (vii) mobilizing financial resources.

Recognizing that the lack of follow-up machinery in the past two Programmes of Action for the LDCs was a major impediment for their implementation, the Brussels Programme recommended that an "effective and highly visible follow-up mechanism" be created to undertake the implementation, coordination, review and monitoring of the Programme. For this purpose, upon recommendation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly by its resolution 56/227 established the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) last year. I assumed my responsibilities as the High Representative formally in April this year.

In carrying out the mandate of the General Assembly and the Brussels Programme, the Office has adopted a framework of action with four main elements: (i) Focus on country-level implementation; (ii) Work with all the relevant entities of the UN family, in particular the funds and programmes, Regional Commissions, Specialized Agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, to ensure that these entities mainstream the Brussels Programme in their activities and in the intergovernmental processes as well as establish appropriate focal points for the review and follow-up, as called for in the Brussels Programme and the General Assembly Resolution 56/227; (iii) Work with multilateral organizations, particularly the regional and subregional organizations, for support to the implementation of the Programme of Action; and (iv) work closely with the

civil-society and private sector – both at national and global levels – so that they contribute as full development partners.

The Economic and Social Council in July this year adopted a resolution to undertake the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action. For this purpose, I have been asked to submit a comprehensive progress report at its substantive sessions every July. My office will be coordinating the inputs *inter alia* from the United Nations system organizations for these reports. In this context, the input from FAO will be highly valuable to the preparation of the annual reports and also to the Economic and Social Council's annual reviews for the implementation of the Brussels Programme.

Agriculture is a pivotal sector for development in the Least Developed Countries, as it underpins food security, export earnings, industrial and rural development and employment generation. Yet, LDC agricultural production for domestic and export markets in the LDCs has fallen behind. Slow production growth combined with sharp fluctuations in outputs have been a serious problem for the LDCs, contributing to their persistent poverty and rising food insecurity. According to the FAO report, the proportion of undernourished in the total LDC population increased from 38 to 40 percent between 1970 and 1997, while the absolute number of such people rose from 116 to 235 million. LDCs have also been marginalized from world agricultural markets, accounting for only five percent of global agricultural exports in the early 1970s but barely one percent in the late 1990s. In addition to the market access constraints, the situation has been made worse due to the harsh impact of the agricultural subsidies, particularly for these countries. Increasing the productive capacity of agriculture and fisheries, and the income of people working in these sectors in LDCs is therefore a key priority. Further support is needed to enhance productivity and competitiveness, and to diversify exports and moving up the value chain in the processing and export of their agricultural products.

The Brussels Programme incorporates such concerns in the Commitment 4 of the Programme which focuses on "building productive capacities to make globalization work for the LDCs". I would like to underscore two sections of that Programme that are highly relevant to the work of FAO. First, Section E of Commitment 4 deals with agriculture and agro-industries. It urges both the LDCs and their development partners to take actions to increase new investments in agricultural and fishery research, and rural infrastructure, extension of better farming and fishing practices, and sustainable technologies, as well as marketing advice, effective finance and greater tenure security. Secondly, Section G of the same Commitment, specifically calls for actions regarding rural development and food security. Lack of food security is the most typical face of poverty for both urban and rural people in the LDCs. It calls for food and nutritional security to be part of a larger framework of sustainable rural development and of poverty eradication. Some 70 percent of the poor and food-insecure are rural dwellers, and many of them are small farmers who produce on the brink of survival, or landless people trying to sell their labour. It also refers to the importance of women's rights for entitlements over land, as women are often responsible for the bulk of food production. However, they need the right to own land and to inherit land, in order to increase the productivity of the land and to be able to better feed themselves and their families.

The target of the World Food Summit, reiterated at its five-year review earlier this year, to reduce by half the number of undernourished people by 2015 is specifically stated as the goal in Commitment 4 of the Brussels Programme. I am also advised that the FAO Secretariat has, in addition, identified other commitments from the Brussels Programme that are relevant and important for follow-up within its mandate.

With 34, out of 49, Least Developed Countries in Africa – and again, out of 53 African countries, 34 are LDCs – special attention and measures are needed for these countries to accelerate their development, and end their marginalization in an increasingly globalizing world economy. Focused global, regional and national efforts are critical to eradicate poverty and to build a better life for the large segment of humanity living in the continent of Africa. Here I would like to underscore that the commonalities between the Brussels Programme and the NEPAD, which are remarkable and need to be emphasized and taken advantage of. The overarching objective of both

NEPAD and the Brussels Programme is poverty eradication. Human, institutional and productive capacity-building, good governance, mobilization financial resources and promotion of market access are all covered by both NEPAD and the Brussels Programme of Action.

There is need for promoting synergy between NEPAD and the Brussels Programme in order to accelerate sustained growth and sustainable development in the LDCs. Last week the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development adopted a Declaration in Johannesburg emphasizing that this synergy needs to be promoted.

The Brussels Programme is also closely linked to the values, principles and objectives of the Millennium Declaration. The global campaign that has recently been launched by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has incorporated addressing the needs of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as key targets. The Millennium Declaration's goals for development and poverty eradication will not make much headway toward their achievement if the LDCs are not supported to perform better. The Secretary-General's First Annual Report released recently on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration also indicates that these vulnerable groups of countries suffered from lack of such support, particularly due to a decline in ODA.

The Brussels Programme and subsequently the United Nations General Assembly have clearly indicated the important role of the UN System organizations in the implementation of the Programme. The General Assembly Resolution, which I mentioned earlier, invites the United Nations system organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action within their programmes of work, as well as in their intergovernmental processes.

Responding to this call, the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); UNICEF; World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); the World Trade Organization (WTO); and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have also already adopted decisions to mainstream the Brussels Programme within their respective programmes of work. In this connection, I would like to request the distinguished delegates participating at this Council session to take a similar action to mainstream the Brussels Programme within FAO's programme of work, as well as in its intergovernmental processes. I am encouraged by the initiative that the representatives have taken in this regard for action during this Council session.

Commitment of the United Nations System organizations is particularly needed to help these most vulnerable countries overcome the enormous challenge that they face. The Office of the High Representative is determined to make a concerted effort in coordinating actions and mobilizing support for a global movement to end the marginalization of the LDCs.

I conclude my statement by quoting Secretary-General Kofi Annan from his recent message to the Cotonou Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries: "The United Nations family remains committed to helping the Least Developed Countries overcome the formidable obstacles they face. All LDCs and their development partners, as well as civil society, the private sector and all other stakeholders, will forge partnerships that will make the difference between success and stagnation".

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Ma délégation intervient sur autorisation du Président du Groupe des 77, et au nom de ce Groupe, ma délégation étant elle-même d'un pays les moins avancés, d'après le critère des Nations Unies.

Nous voudrions remercier et féliciter Monsieur Chowdhury, Sous-secrétaire général et Haut Représentant pour les PMA, pays enclavés et pays insulaires en développement, pour son excellente intervention qui a campé le cadre du Programme d'action de Bruxelles pour les Pays les Moins Avancés pour la décennie 2001-2010. Comme l'a si bien rappelé le Haut Représentant des



Nations Unies, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a demandé aux Organisations internationales d'intégrer ce Programme dans le cadre de leurs programmes de travail. Or, nous voyons que la FAO est concernée par deux sections importantes de ce Programme d'action de Bruxelles: la section E portant sur l'agriculture et l'agro-industrie, la section G portant sur le développement rural et la sécurité alimentaire.

Aussi, voudrais-je au nom du Groupe des 77 dans son ensemble, inviter notre Conseil, après avoir écouté l'exposé liminaire et brillant du Haut Représentant, Sous-secrétaire général des Nations Unies, à attirer l'attention de la FAO sur la mise en œuvre de ce Programme, et notamment sur ces deux sections qui la concernent spécialement. C'est la première invitation. La deuxième invitation s'adresse au Directeur général de la FAO, lui demandant des mesures nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre de ce Programme d'action de Bruxelles. Enfin, comme suite logique à ces deux invitations, nous voudrions, avec l'autorisation du Conseil et l'accord de ce dernier, inviter le Directeur général à faire rapport sur la mise en œuvre des actions concernant le Programme d'action de Bruxelles pour les Pays les Moins Avancés.

Voilà ce que les Pays les Moins Avancés, et par une action de solidarité le Groupe des 77 lui-même, attendent de votre Conseil, et nous sommes sûrs que dans sa magnanimité, le Conseil ne les décevra pas.

Avant de finir, permettez-nous de vous demander de bien vouloir demander aux éminents Membres du Conseil de bien vouloir donner la parole au Représentant du Soudan, le Professeur Hardy, pour qu'il explicite davantage les attentes et les besoins des Pays les Moins Avancés.

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (original language Arabic)**

First of all I should like to warmly welcome the High Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Chowdhury, I should like to thank him for his exhaustive and good presentation.

It is indeed an honour for me to speak on behalf of the LDCs, since Sudan is the Vice-President, and Benin's Representative is not in Rome at present. The Least Developed Countries who are Members of FAO are very appreciative that FAO members participated in the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs held in Brussels in May 2001 and also supported the adoption of the Brussels' Programme of Action for the decade 2001 to 2010.

I wish to take this opportunity, Sir, to thank the FAO Secretariat for the active involvement in the preparatory process for that Conference as well as for the active participation at the Conference itself by organizing the thematic session on: " Housing Productive Capacities in Agricultural Sector and Food Security". We are happy to see that the FAO Secretariat has submitted a document related to the contribution of developing countries in the world economy.

We also know that this decade is the third United Nations Decade for LDCs and despite the good intentions of the past two programmes of action for the decades of the 1980s and 1990s implementation has been very poor indeed. Basically no country has been able to graduate out of the least developed status. Hence with a new approach adopted towards the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, the LDCs are hoping that this time around more concrete actions will be taken. The LDCs welcome very much the decision of the Secretary General of the United Nations and in conformity with the Brussels Plan of Action this initiative to appoint a High Representative of the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing Countries.

We also welcome the decision by the General Assembly to review and monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action as it also stipulates this review and monitoring documentation of the Plan of Action should be carried out by the relevant bodies of the UN System. It is therefore, our hope and expectation, that the LDC Members of the FAO, that this FAO Council and Conference will review annually the work of the Organization towards the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The work of FAO is very relevant to the implementation of the large number of commitments in the Brussels Plan of Action, for example under Commitment 3 on building human institutional capacities, actions in the area of health and nutrition and sanitation; Commitment 4 on building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs, actions in the areas of agriculture and agro-industries in rural development and food security; Commitment 5 on enhancing the role of trade and development, actions concerning trade, commodities and regional trading arrangements, involving agricultural politics; and Commitment 6 on reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment, actions to protect the environment and alleviating vulnerability to natural shocks. All these activities fall within the domain of FAO.

All of these activities also fall within the Strategic Framework of FAO for the period 2000-2015. The same applies to the Medium-Term Plan of the Organization at least up to the year 2009. Hence no new mandate of work programme on the subject matters of the commitments I have just cited is required. However, what is needed is to focus the attention of the Organization in implementing the work programme to pay due attention to the LDCs with a view to implementing the Plan of Action in the areas of FAO's competence.

I would like to emphasise that although this would be a significant step undertaken by the Organization, we are convinced that the Organization could do more if extra budgetary sources could be made available, especially earmarked for assisting LDCs in areas of FAO competence. We therefore make an appeal to the donors to supplement existing FAO Trust Funds in order to allow the Organization to enhance its assistance to LDCs within the context of the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action.

We support the annual review and monitoring the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action by the FAO Council and Conference, and call upon the Secretariat to take the necessary actions to ensure annual reporting of activities of the Organization in support of the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

I would like to say with very strong satisfaction that the chain of discussions that I witnessed this morning during Mr de Haen's presentation was excellent. I have read the paper carefully but the issues have been so well articulated that it serves no purpose to bore the audience with any further comments on the subject.

The usual topics I have been hearing for quite some time when this type of paper is presented in this room, are the domestic support, export subsidy, market access, and so on. The one that appears to have captured my attention today in particular, is that affecting agricultural production emanating from natural disasters. It is a bit of a soothing kind of environment to that of the man made conflicts that we are used to hearing about in Africa. It is a pleasure to see that we are moving away from that.

However, my reason for wanting to comment specifically on the areas that affect direct agricultural production, in other words, natural disasters that bring on drought, water shortage and so on, would appear at the end of the day, to be the solution to the particular problem in sub-Saharan Africa, with specific reference to southern Africa and the Horn of Africa. It is evident that the issue does not lie primarily with giving food aid. We very much appreciate the support of WFP, no doubt; we very much appreciate the support given by other donors bilaterally, no doubt; but we must admit, and I think this point has been made before, that the ultimate solution to the problem in that part of the world lies on developing fundamental problem on the ground, that is, the source of water.

I think that my distinguished colleagues from Iran, Ethiopia, Senegal and many others raised this point this morning. The effort of the international donors, multilateral agencies should now be directed towards resolving the issues that will affect agricultural production on a sustainable basis and one of the major ways my delegation and I see it, is to address the issue of water resources management in that part of the world. This then brings in the role of FAO, I think that this point was brought up very actively where the areas of FAO competence come in.

The point I want to drive home here relates to the budgeting process for FAO. There has been this long drawn argument about the channelling of resources to the normative work versus the operational work of FAO. I do have some sympathy for those who are arguing for the normative work of FAO, but, I think the time will come later to discuss the budget. Could we please look at the balance and try to strike a reasonable balance between the normative work of this Organization and the operational angle of the job? What I am talking about here relates to the operational angle from which I seem to get the impression that there is some thinking that FAO should gradually move away, at least, to some extent. I think there is a point to be made here, regarding land resources. We should try to strike at a reasonable balance between the normative work, so as to tackle the problems of production on ground in which ever way FAO can and the operational argument that I have been hearing being put forward. This is the point I wanted to drive home, we will come back to the issue of the budget later.

**Abdul Kareem Mohammed AL-AMRI (Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development) (original language Arabic)**

I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for inviting the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, to address this important session. The force of FAO to fight against hunger and poverty are very much appreciated and admired. We do believe that the best and most efficient way of fighting poverty is through generating economic growth in the rural areas, and of course the economic growth needs private investments in the agricultural sector. Indeed the major obstacle for such an inflow is the lack of infrastructures connecting the rural areas with the market in the rest of the country.

We believe that the suggested International Alliance Against Hunger is of vital importance. In this regard, we in this authority, have two suggestions. First, the alliance needs to work for the establishment of a regional fund to build infrastructure mainly roads, in rural areas. In fact there is no aid for new resources to realize this project and what is needed is the reallocation of a certain percentage of financial resources in the already existing development funds. In this regard, the International Alliance needs to bring together governments, development funds, international regional and national and the private sector to discuss the establishment of the suggested fund.

Second, the International Alliance needs to work towards the establishment of a mechanism to coordinate the work of the international situations fighting poverty with the work of the Welfare Charity Organizations, such as in supporting their special programmes for Food Security. We do believe that such a mechanism will result in a highly efficient way of fighting poverty. We at the AAAID are more than happy to cooperate with the FAO to implement the suggested alliance.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je voudrais revenir à l'intervention de M. le délégué du Sénégal. Au nom du Groupe des 77, M. le délégué du Sénégal, vous aviez fait une proposition. Est-ce que vous voulez que cela soit reflété dans le rapport final du Conseil? Il faudrait donc que le Comité de rédaction en prenne compte.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Notre délégation, au nom du Groupe des 77, a fait une demande au Conseil et si le Conseil était d'accord, cela serait reflété au niveau du rapport et ce serait la tâche du Comité de rédaction.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Est-ce que le Conseil est d'accord pour porter cette proposition dans le rapport final de notre réunion?

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

I must say, it would be useful and interesting for us to hear a reaction from the Secretariat to the proposal, as well as to the other comments from the Floor and perhaps that might come before we move to that conclusion. I'm sure there won't be any difficulty – but that might be helpful for us.

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

Thank you very much for this very rich debate. Indeed, we are grateful for positive comments on the document which I shall convey to my colleagues in the Secretariat, but of course, in reply to the distinguished Ambassador of Nigeria, I must say that I am rather disappointed as the substance of our debate was a very serious one – slow down and progress in the fight against hunger.

Just to begin, let me reply to the delegate of Switzerland who wanted to receive a handout of the introductory presentation using power point. We are glad to do that if you accept that this be in the language that it was presented. You saw the slides were all in English. Of course, presenting them, you had the benefit of the interpretation, but the handout would still be only in English, if that is acceptable to you.

There were many comments but very few questions but a number of them warrant a reply. We note that many delegates have emphasized the need for FAO to continue its comprehensive monitoring and assessment of the World Food Security Situation. Of course we are prepared to do so. You also emphasized that the information provided to you should be as up-to-date as possible. It is not always easy to do so but of course we do our best. There was emphasis on a number of specific work areas that should have priority. I can certainly not list them all but they included certainly water and field work including, in particular, the Special Programme for Food Security, Biotechnology and in general, pro-poor technologies in the field of agriculture, there was emphasis on access issues – issues of poor farmers on access to resources and to credit; gender equality, capacity-building, food safety; and plant and animal health. I cannot attempt to list, in a complete fashion, all the issues mentioned but these were the ones particularly emphasized. We will note your statements, and I will certainly convey them to the competent units in the House for follow-up.

Several delegates talking about the food security situation emphasized the need to learn from success stories. I just want to confirm that the FAO Secretariat is indeed intensifying this assessment of cases of success as well as failure, following also the side event held on this very theme during the World Food Summit: *five years later*. We will be elaborating those lessons later into other concepts including work on the anti-hunger programme that the Secretariat presented to you during the World Food Summit and that was also presented at the Johannesburg Summit.

We are working closely with other agencies in the Millennium Strategy, in particular in the Task Force on Hunger that is looking into translation of these global concepts into country-level work. This was also emphasized by several of you –that you wanted more emphasis on country-level work.

There was a lot of discussion on the impact of policies including trade policies on price incentives and on food security. I can confirm that FAO will continue to concentrate on the technical studies and analysis, and on training in this field as was emphasized, in particular, by Japan. Of course we are not the body here to deal with trade-related negotiations. But doing this technical work is in line with the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit that requests FAO to provide technical assistance to developing countries to make them well-informed and equal partners in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

This work, includes, of course, the impact of policies on sustainable agriculture and rural development - as was also emphasized by the distinguished delegate of Japan- as it does include the emphasis on the special development needs of developing countries, in particular, Food Security and Rural Development which is stipulated in the Doha Development Agenda.

A number of countries, beginning with the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also many others, requested more information on FAO's work in this field of impact of policies including trade policies on food security. I am glad to report that we have recently published the first results of fifteen case studies in which we have studied the impact of trade liberalization and the Uruguay Round on food security of individual countries.

We have in early October held another of a series of Symposia in Geneva for the trade negotiators dealing with the negotiations in Geneva where we have presented the full set of twenty-three case studies – individual country case studies – impact of the Uruguay Round and trade liberalization in general on the situation in particular countries. This will be made available through our Website and through documentation. Generally we will continue our series of symposia that we keep holding, if possible, on the eves of Sessions of the Special Committee on Agriculture that negotiates in Geneva.

Of course, I can just report that we have undertaken a major training programme which we call 'Umbrella 1' that was held in fifteen Sub-regional locations and which all agreements of the Marrakech Accord were covered. Eight hundred and fifty participants were trained from all member countries, as far as they are developing and transition countries.

We are proposing, Mr Chairman – and this brings me to reply to other questions – a programme that we are calling the 'Umbrella 2' programme that we have presented to donors. We can only appeal to donors to support us, and through us the participants, in discharging this programme which would deal with new issues now under negotiation, would again provide training but also studies and analysis at country, regional and global level dealing with all aspects on agriculture, fishery and forestry, and other issues under negotiation as far as they are relevant for FAO.

This programme has a ballpoint figure of roughly five million dollars for the undertaking of and holding all these events which I just mentioned, but of course it is time to launch it because the negotiations are now. If we would wait too long, the benefits for participating countries to learn from it and to learn from each other in these fora would be much reduced.

I should mention that in the same context we are also intensifying the capacity-building efforts, provided by the Economic and Social Department, the Agriculture Department and the Fishery Department in all matters under the SPS and TBT agreement and relevant parts of TRIPS. Again, this would require extra-budgetary support if we were to do a good job in capacity building.

Turning finally to a few specific statements made, I would like to come back to the distinguished delegate of Switzerland who noted a kind of contradiction between the currently depressed low-prices on the one hand and the aim to achieve food security. Of course, this is a contradiction in so far as the poor and hungry people depend on income from agriculture for their food security. Higher prices will help them in this regard. But, of course, in so far as the poor and hungry are net buyers of the food, higher prices do not help them so much and this is, in fact, the reality which is in front of us and that has to be resolved through national policies as well as an accord in the World Trade Organization. It has two sides, always as in any market there are some who gain and others who do not gain from higher prices. I just wanted to emphasize that this is the view that we are also emphasizing here and that explains why you also have expressed rather diverging views depending on the situation that you refer to.

There were two remarks on the relationship, or rather on the role of agriculture for the supply of global public goods, the United States on the one hand and Australia on the other. I suggest you were referring not to the Council document on the State of Food and Agriculture but to the published book that we have presented to the public just a few weeks ago which had the same title The State of Food and Agriculture 2002 which has such a chapter. Since I cannot easily refer to that here and do not fully appreciate the reason for your expression of concern, I would suggest that we contact you directly and try to clarify the point of view of your observation.

Finally, as we had covered in our report the rising number of food emergencies and the preoccupation of the Secretariat which most of those who spoke about it have fully shared, I feel I should supplement the information that was in the document concerning southern Africa by the fact that it is no longer nearly thirteen million people who need food emergency as stated in the document, but it is according to the latest estimate 14.4 million people. The estimate has been updated mainly through an estimate by SADC but in collaboration with other agencies.

A delegation asked about a Secretariat position on the submission made by the High Representative for LDC Landlocked Developing Countries and Small-Island Developing States,

Mr Chowdhury. I am not sure whether you want that at this time or not. I think I would limit my comments to saying that FAO has indeed taken very active part in the preparations and in the holding of the Third UN Conference on LDCs. There are, as was also stated, a number of sections in the programme of action that are highly relevant for agriculture. We have contributed our knowledge and expertise to this programme, and we note that there is a very full congruence between FAO's work programme and the various components of the programme of action. So, work is under way in these fields. Of course it is a matter of scope. Is it sufficient to satisfy all the development needs of these groups of countries? I would not comment on that, but I would just limit myself to saying that perhaps there is no relevant area that is not covered in FAO's work programme. I would not wish to comment on whether what we are doing is sufficient or not because that is a value judgement which I am not prepared to give at this time.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois que nous avons conclu le point 3, donc nous pouvons passer au point suivant. Nous allons à présent examiner le point 7 de notre ordre du jour intitulé "Révision du texte du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides". Les documents relatifs à ce point portent la référence CL 123/19 et CL 123/19-Sup.1. Ainsi qu'il a été suggéré par la Consultation technique qui s'est tenue en mai 2002, le Conseil est invité à examiner le texte de l'Article 6 du Code de conduite, et plus précisément ses paragraphes 6.1.7 et 6.1.8, ainsi que les commentaires reçus sur le texte du Code de conduite. S'il le juge approprié, le Conseil pourrait approuver le texte approuvé du Code par une résolution. M. Van der Graaf, Chef du Service de la protection des plantes, va introduire ce point.

#### **7. Revision of the Text of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (CL 123/19)**

#### **7. Révision du texte du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (CL 123/19)**

#### **7. Revisión del texto del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas (CL 123/19)**

#### **Niek VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)**

It is a pleasure for me to report to you on the progress made in finalizing the revised version of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. As you remember, a draft revised version of the Code was presented to the last Session of the FAO Conference in November 2001 resulting in increased statements stressing the relevance of the Code and the importance of this globally-accepted standard for pesticide management.

With the exception of one paragraph the text of the revised version of the Code was acceptable to the Conference Session. In particular, members praised the potential contribution of the Code towards the safe use pesticides for human health and environmental safety.

Now, for those who are unfamiliar with the Code and its history, allow me to say a few words about this voluntary international instrument which was the first Code of Conduct ever to be established by this Organization.

The Code was first adopted in 1985 and it was amended in 1989 to allow for the incorporation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure into Articles 2 and 9. Therefore, practically the entire present version of the Code has been in existence for seventeen years now. The big procedure, of course is now covered under the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. But new developments have also taken place in other areas of crop protection and pesticide management that needed to be reflected in the Code. The revised version of the Code incorporates these developments.

The revised Code embodies today's approach to the sound management of pesticides which focuses on risk reduction, protection of human and environmental health and support for sustainable agricultural development by using pesticides in an effective manner and by applying integrated pesticide management strategies. It includes the life cycle concept of pesticides

management, as well as newer Annex consisting of references to the international policy instruments relating to the Code. In conclusion, the revised Code provides an up-to-date standard for pesticide management.

The main document CL 123/19 reflects the steps taken to seek consensus on Article 6.1 after last year's Conference. It also reflects the interest of governments, international organizations and the public, in the Code. Following further circulation of the draft revised version of the Code, the Secretariat received comments from forty-two governments in preparation for the Technical Consultation on Article 6.1. The Technical Consultation was held in May 2002. Government nominated experts from sixteen countries, representing the seven FAO regions attended the consultation. The report of the consultation is provided to you in the Council document I just mentioned. Representatives from other international organizations as well as from the pesticide industry and public interest groups participated as observers in the Consultation. The Consultation discussed comments received from countries and the nuances and legal issues associated with data protection at a National level in great detail.

There was consensus among all experts that the revised version of the Code as a voluntary instrument should not attempt to interpret the legal provisions of TRIPS. This explanation is in brief the background for the proposed wording of Sub-paragraph 6.1.7 and 6.1.8. The report of that Technical Consultation was then circulated to all governments prior to this Council meeting and comments were invited.

Comments were received from 21 Members, 19 of which have been included in the two Council documents before you, i.e. CL 123/19 and CL 123/19-Sup.1. Additional comments have since been from two countries. These were India and Estonia, both supporting the wording resulting from the Technical Consultation. Furthermore, an additional comment was received from the United States of America last Friday.

Concerns on the new paragraph 6.1.7 are reflected in the comments by some Members. Crop Live International which represents multinational companies within the pesticide industry, has also expressed its concern in a letter relating to the new wording of paragraph 6.1.7.

The new text of paragraph 6.1.8 reflects the importance of public access to information related to human health and environmental safety in order to improve public confidence, in the regulatory process for pesticides. A number of countries have commented on this paragraph and have raised the question of which information is to be made public and what should be considered as appropriate. In this respect, the Technical Consultation stated already in its report that the decision as to which information is to be made public and how much information should be made available would be national responsibilities.

Approval of the full text of the revised Code will assist members in reviewing and improving their pest and pesticide management systems. The Organization stands ready to assist its members and will update and revise the technical guidelines in support of the Code. However, I wish to add, as resources permit.

This concludes my remarks. The Conference did seek the earliest possible resolutions of these paragraphs in the Code and we hope therefore that the Council can conclude the questions on this subject and approve the full text of the revised Code.

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

The 2001 FAO Conference accepted all the revisions to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides except for Article 6, which deals with data protection and public access to health and environmental information. New text developed by May 2002 Technical Committee is before the Council for approval and has been explained by Mr Van der Graaf very well.

The United States continues to have serious concerns about the new Article 6. The International Pesticide Industry has stated that if the language in Article 6 remains they will no longer support the Code. Council Members must ask themselves how effective a Code of this nature can be without industry's support.

In an effort to find a mutually-agreeable compromise, the United States would support reversion to Article 6.1.3 which is from the original Code and reads as follows: "...protect the proprietary rights to use of data...". We would also add the new language from the May consultation Article 6.1.8 which states "...provide public access to appropriate information related to human health and environmental safety...".

Let me explain the reasoning behind that. The United States considers the issue of data protection to be an appropriate one for inclusion in a Code related to pesticide regulation. But the new 6.1.7 has proven to be contentious and jeopardizes the support of the pesticide industry.

We propose reverting to the original Article 6.1.3 from the original Code of Conduct as it has been in place for some time and should be acceptable to all governments. Old Article 6.1.3 could not be construed as interpreting TRIPS which is one premise of countries which has opposed the language presented to the Conference in 2001. Since it, in fact, predates the conclusion of the TRIPS Agreements as does the finalization of the FAO guidelines on the topic which were mentioned by Mr van der Graaf.

Looking at new Article 6.1.8 which was worked on by the recently-concluded Technical Group, we believe there is a public policy imperative to maintaining data protections in the context of pesticide regulatory programmes. This accesses any pesticide regulatory programme that can be attributed in part to the level of confidence industry has that when submitting data for review the government will protect it from unfair commercial use. The risk assessment is only possible with access to scientific data on a pesticide's potential for health and environmental risks.

We see considerable merit in adding the new language of Article 6.1.8 to our proposal to use old 6.1.3 because it balances the responsibility to provide data protections with the need to facilitate public access, thereby enhancing transparency in decision-making. In so doing the public has an opportunity to confirm that health and environmental safety decisions are based on sound science and principles of risk assessment.

The United States sees considerable merit in the new code and we do seek its rapid adoption. We are willing to work throughout this week in an effort to find consensus on this extremely important issue.

**Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brasil)**

Con relación a esta cuestión, la delegación de Brasil habla en su calidad de presidente de turno del Grupo Latinoamericano. Hemos aprobado esta tarde una posición del Grupo que aquí ha expresado: la Consulta Técnica Intergubernamental realizada en el mes de mayo pasado para tratar la cuestión relativa al Artículo 6.1.7 coincidió: 1) que el mencionado párrafo se refiere a la protección de los datos de prueba u otros no divulgados que se someten a los gobiernos u organismos oficiales contenidos en el artículo 39.3 del Acuerdo TRIPS de la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC); 2) que existe una cuestión de ámbito de tratamiento del tema ya que los acuerdos de la OMC sólo pueden ser interpretados o modificados por los órganos competentes de dicha organización y de conformidad con los procedimientos establecidos en el Acuerdo de Marrakech; 3) que una interpretación o modificación al texto de los acuerdos multilaterales de la OMC en otro ámbito, aunque fuese normativa voluntaria, puede constituir una modificación de los estándares aceptados en un acuerdo jurídicamente vinculante y, por consiguiente, constituirse un precedente a ser invocado en la OMC como una interpretación válida en otro ámbito del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, lo cual puede dejar la puerta abierta para que este procedimiento se haga extensivo a la propiedad intelectual sobre otros productos bajo el Acuerdo TRIPS; 4) que específicamente el Acuerdo TRIPS, al regular derechos de propiedad de carácter privado, constituya un acuerdo *sui generis* dentro de los acuerdos de la OMC, que establece estándares mínimos de protección dejando al criterio de sus miembros la implementación nacional de dichos estándares, el Artículo 1º del TRIPS; 5) que la decisión de aumentar la protección de un estándar mínimo es una decisión soberana de cada Miembro la cual no puede ser impuesta a otros miembros; 6) que el Artículo 39.3 del TRIPS establece una



protección de carácter general para la información no divulgada sin precisar si la misma tiene efecto o carácter excluyente, ni tampoco prevé plazo alguno de protección.

En conclusión, la Consulta Técnica Intergubernamental mencionada consensuó en la necesidad de hacer referencia al Artículo 39.3 del TRIPS, sin incluir ninguna interpretación ni modificación al mismo. Por consiguiente, los países de América Latina y el Caribe insisten en que se mantenga el texto acordado en la Consulta Técnica Intergubernamental efectuada en mayo pasado, habida cuenta que mantener en el Código de Conducta una relación previa al Acuerdo TRIPS resulta inconsistente con dicho Acuerdo.

**Claude CHÉREAU (France)**

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais simplement vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole à la délégation du Danemark, qui s'exprimera au nom des Etats Membres et de l'Union européenne.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

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

In the document in front of us the CL 123/19, we are invited to consider the text of Article 6 especially paragraphs 6.1.7 and 6.1.8 as proposed to us by the Technical Consultation held from 27 to 29 May 2002 here in Rome.

We have carefully reviewed the proposed amendment to the text Article 6 and considered the comments received from governments. Although the EU is still considering the matter, we are, nevertheless, prepared to participate in a working group for the mandate to find a solution.

**Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

Egypt attended this Consultation on Article 6.1.7 the revised text of the Code of Conduct held here in Rome from 27 to 29 May this year. Egypt insisted on the importance of such a Code of Conduct, as regards the distribution and use of pesticides in developing countries and also for the registration of these pesticides. In general terms Egypt agrees with the revised versions proposed by the Technical Consultation on these Articles. We have no additional comments to make to what was said on that occasion.

**Costa Ricky MAHALU (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

The replacement of the original text of subparagraph 6.1.7.1 and subparagraph 6.1.7.2 by paragraphs 6.1.7. and 6.1.8 is considered by the United Republic of Tanzania as appropriate due to: a) in the original subparagraphs 6.1.7.1 text companies in developing countries intending to manufacture generic products, that is, products whose patents have expired would be forced to get the old data toxicological environmental from the first manufacturer. This precondition could hamper the development of pesticide manufacturing in emerging economies. Therefore, the text in the revised paragraph 6.1.7 does to some extent address the concerns of manufacturers of generic pesticide in developing countries; and b) in the original subparagraph 6.1.7.2 text regulatory authorities in developed countries are restricted in revealing some data which maybe crucial to its peoples health and/or environment. We believe that the public should be given access to appropriate information related to human health and environmental safety. This is accommodated in the revised text of paragraph 6.1.8.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

My delegation recommends that the revised draft be accepted. I find that the role of deliberation has already been undertaken for this and I think we should accept the recommendation of the Expert Group. I also find that this revised draft 6.1.7. is in harmony with the provisions of the TRIPS agreement in the WTO. This has been accepted and finalized by the WTO. We should accept that and also 6.1.8 as it is calling for public access to information relating to human health environment safety, to improve public confidence in a regulatory process.

I believe the governments will decide what information and in what manner it should be disclosed. I think this really takes care of all the issues related to pesticide industry and its use. I would strongly recommend that revised summary be accepted.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)**

First of all I would like to thank Mr van der Graaf who acted as Chairman of the main meeting. Thailand has participated in the Technical Consultation relating to paragraphs 6.1.7 of the Code at the last May meeting.

My delegation regrets that the Consultation could not agree on the final text. However, the new wording as submitted in document CL 123/19 is the result of the hard work of the main meeting. I only want to emphasize that this Code is a voluntary code. Having said that, my delegation supports the revised Code as appeared in Annex 3.

If a consensus cannot be reached in this Council, you may consider to create an Open-Ended Working Group to deal with the text of paragraph 6.1.7 and 6.1.8 before the last day of the Council.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

Canada also participated in the Technical Consultation which I would like to remind delegates arrived at a consensus text. It was a text agreed by all Members of the Technical Consultation. I would also like to recall that there was a representative, in fact two representatives, of The Crop Life who did attend that Consultation in the capacity of observers, and their views were listened to very carefully by all of the Members of the Technical Consultation.

Having taken their views into consideration, it was the view of the Technical Consultation that the industry should not, in fact, exercise a right of veto over the work of Governments. The views of Crop Life were listened to and taken into account but were not reflected evidently in the final text, although that text was a consensus text to which all the members of the Technical Consultation did agree.

We all know, as Government Representatives who attend meetings such as this one and participate in international consultations, that our work is often criticized by the Non-Governmental Organizations and by civil society who are of the view that in the work we do, the forces of globalisation are paramount and as representatives of elected Governments we constantly defer to wishes of multinational enterprises. I do fear that in some way the request by one delegation whose representative did participate in the Technical Consultation which reached a consensus of that delegation wished to defer to the industry on a given matter, although the industry would be a participant in the execution of the Code. In some ways that industry is subject to the Code, the industry is, in fact, what is to be regulated. Canada finds it disappointing that the industry is effectively through one Government giving what appears to be a veto in the work of Governments to regulate that industry. So it would not be Canada's wish to reopen this question. We would wish that the text which was a consensus text to the Technical Group would be adopted as it is.

However, if the Council is unable to move forward in this matter in a consensus we are open to participating in any kind of negotiation that would take place during this Council. However, we know that many developing countries attach a lot of importance to the early implementation of this Code and that any further delay in adopting the Code in implementing it does cause a real hardship and real damage to developing countries. We would urge that the matter be concluded during this Council and that any Working Group conclude the matter by Friday. We should not have to move to further intersessional work.

**Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

Switzerland wishes to emphasize the high relevance of the Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Code of Conduct needs to have the broadest support possible in order to be effective. This support should include Governments of developing and developed countries, the industrial sector and civil society.

Referring to paragraph 6.1.7, Switzerland agrees with the substance of this paragraph, which prevents tests and other confidential data from being used illicitly leading to unfair commercial use for the registration of plant protection products.

Switzerland also agrees with the substance of paragraph 6.1.8, provided that the term, appropriate information, does not refer to the data obtained from the testing mentioned in paragraph 6.1.7, but refers to information of broad interests to pesticide use. Ensuring public access to appropriate information on the proper use of pesticides and the risks to human health and environmental safety is a responsible way of safeguarding public health and of providing the transparency needed in the authorization of plant protection products.

Paragraph 6.1.8 of the previous version: "Improve regulations in relation to collecting and recurring data on import, export, manufacture, formulation, quality and quantity of pesticides", is no longer included in the revised text of the present version.

Switzerland considers that this text should be reinserted into the revised version. Hence, paragraph 6.1.9 of the current version should be amended accordingly.

**Ms Elsa M. BAYANI (Philippines)**

The Philippine delegation would like to support the consensus reached during the Technical Consultation held in May 2002, regarding Article 6, particularly paragraph 6.1.7 and 6.1.8 of the Revised Text of the Code.

We are sympathizing with the statements of Brazil, Denmark, United Republic of Tanzania, India, Thailand and Canada, and we feel that the consensus arrived during this consultation remains very fragile and, therefore, reopening this for further debate will be counter-productive.

**Michihiro TAMURA (Japan)**

The Government of Japan submitted its comments on this proposal on the International Code of Conduct in August. Our basic idea is that the TRIPS Agreement must be appropriately reflected in this Code of Conduct.

Regarding the data required to register agricultural chemicals, the Government of Japan detected the data submitted by companies from disclosure. At the same time, for the sake of public interest, the Government obligates such companies to disclose summary data concerning toxicity of agricultural chemicals.

Regarding Article 6.1.7, Japan can accept the proposed provision, which is in accordance with the TRIPS Agreement.

Regarding Article 6.1.8, the definition of "appropriate information" is not clear enough and we are concerned that the data related to human health and environmental safety is not substantially protected. Because of this, Japan cannot agree to Article 6.1.8.

Thus, Japan thinks that this provision must be amended. For example, the clause previously included in the draft Code of Conduct last year should be added to the current draft article 6.1.8 as shown in our comment.

**Claude CHÉREAU (France)**

Monsieur le Président, je vous demande de bien vouloir passer la parole à la délégation du Danemark au nom de l'Union européenne.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

We heard your intention to set up a Working Group during this Council meeting. I will have to say that this creates a problem for us. We think that this work demands the presence of our experts on this matter. We do not have our technical experts with us so we will not be able to contribute in such a Working Group. We are very ready to take part in any working group after this Council and we will have our experts there with the objective to find a final solution.

**Aciselo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)**

Solamente quisiera recordar un evento que bien vale la pena. En la pasada Conferencia me tocó en suerte ser el Presidente de la Iª Comisión, dentro de la cual, entre otros aspectos, se debatió este tema. Creo que es importante recordar que en el seno de esa Comisión se organizó un grupo que hizo un trabajo extraordinario y que, incluso, llevó al Comité de Redacción lo que había sido consenso para remitir el tema, precisamente en esos artículos específicos, a un Comité de Expertos intergubernamentales. Ese Comité de Expertos fue convocado y se reunió en el mes de mayo. Fue una reunión en la cual cuanto tenía que decirse desde el punto de vista técnico fue dicho y, además de lo técnico, se dio la oportunidad de que quienes tuviesen interés sobre el tema se pronunciasen. Por lo tanto, se dio no solamente un consenso técnico sino también político.

Yo creo que es verdaderamente peligroso que a esta altura lo ya hecho, lo ya dicho, el consenso obtenido, sea retirado. Y sea retirado como consecuencia de una posición no gubernamental, puesto que los gobiernos estuvieron de acuerdo entre sí, los técnicos gubernamentales, sea introducida y se sobreponga sobre los que son los estados soberanos.

Yo considero entonces, y en esto me sumo a lo dicho por la Representación de Dinamarca, que un paso hacia atrás en esto es sumamente grave, o sea constituir una Comisión para que entre a discutir este tema nuevamente es, sin la presencia de los técnicos, difícil, y con la presencia de los técnicos, y esto lo agrega Guatemala, sería volver donde nos encontrábamos en el momento en que la Iª Comisión de la Conferencia concluyó su trabajo y la Conferencia aceptó lo decidido.

Así pues yo creo que es importante sobretodo pensar en lo siguiente: este debate ha sido muy aleccionador y ha sido muy interesante escuchar que se reitera lo ya planteado y propuesto por los técnicos en su gran mayoría, y bueno es que aquel Estado que está preocupado por la industria, que se abocó a ella, pueda hacer una evaluación de lo que es la voz de los otros estados y lo que es en el fondo, para una organización de este tipo, que la voz de una industria pese sobre ese Gobierno y sobre los demás, de tal forma que excluye lo que fue un consenso tan difícilmente logrado.

**Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

Allow me to emphasize what has been said about the Working Group. The experts from our countries met during three days and discussed the matter in-depth. I would like to support those who have stated that we are now going back on that consensus. What are we trying to achieve? Are we going to have a serious discussion by the Technical Group, or are we going to have a general discussion so that we can ask the experts to meet again or, at least, to try and find a solution in some other way?

**Niek VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)**

I find it difficult to say very much on this issue. Of course it is true that we have had a very extensive discussion in a group of government designated experts and, indeed, also at the Conference at a very clear schedule for how this whole process would have to be gone through.

To go back to these experts, I wonder whether we will get much of a different outcome. It would, of course, be of great value if indeed there could be a further discussion during this week and then a conclusion could be reached. If we have to go back to a meeting after this session and before the next Conference, I'm not quite sure what that meeting would achieve in the end.

Second, this again would result in very substantial unbudgeted costs. We had this process already between the last Conference and this Council, which was indeed also an unfunded mandate to the Organization and we would indeed again run a very substantial cost and, furthermore, you would have to decide on a type of meeting which would ensure representations from all regions.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

I think the point made about costs is certainly relevant to the resolution of this matter. I noted that among the few delegations who are unable to support the consensus text reached by the expert

consultations, were some delegations who are the firmest on budgetary discipline in this Organization, I might say. I wonder if those delegations, who are preventing us adopting the text by consensus, could make a proposal as to how this further consultation is to be funded.

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

I wanted to reiterate my delegation's readiness to discuss the issue this week, and I share the concerns that Mr Van Der Graaf has expressed about budgetary implications as well as possibly the danger of experts coming back with the same conclusion.

I understand that some countries have difficulty with that, but perhaps we might simply leave the door open for further informal contacts and come back at a later date. I would like to propose that as one alternative, which we would certainly be happy to participate in.

**Gilbert Kabelo MAFURA (Lesotho)**

I think we are being victims of our own regulations here. We have very straightforward regulations that we want to use consensus as much as possible in all of our issues. Here, consensus has been used. The proposed sub-group, that was going to be suggested, was indeed done last year in May. This special group reached by consensus with this text which was delicately agreed upon and now, nine months later, the same group is turning back, saying there is no longer any consensus.

In our own rules is that if consensus defeats then the next step – I am not sure if now is the time to get into the next step and I do not think it would be in anybody's interest to get into the next voting step when we are defeated by a consensus.

Mr Chairman, I am sure you are going to talk to us nicely and then request us to go back to consensus, which was agreed upon.

**Augustin Frédéric KODOCK (Cameroun)**

Permettez-moi, puisque je prends la parole pour la première fois, de vous féliciter pour votre élection ainsi que les Membres du Bureau. Je tiens également à féliciter le Secrétaire général pour la qualité des documents que son équipe nous a présentés.

Cette question, sur laquelle je me suis penché depuis un bon moment, met en cause des utilisateurs que sont les pays comme le nôtre, condamnés à importer et à acheter les produits et les fabricants de produits. Je pense que dans l'idée de protéger les populations, et d'avoir des garanties sur les produits que nous achetons et que nous utilisons, les fabricants de produits devraient prendre certaines réserves avec beaucoup d'importance. Je souhaiterais donc ici, insister sur le fait que les réserves que l'on constate dans l'attitude d'une grande délégation sur cette affaire, doivent tenir compte que ce sont des utilisateurs qui ont des obligations vis-à-vis de leurs populations, qui doivent ici être les plus écoutées. En conséquence, le Cameroun n'a pas d'objection à adopter le compromis qui avait été adopté par les experts.

**Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brasil)**

Yo soy nuevo aquí y me parece extraño que después de un trabajo político-técnico que llegó a conclusiones que están de acuerdo con el Acuerdo TRIPS, empezamos a discutir nuevamente la cuestión para dar pasos hacia atrás; todo lo que hacemos es estar de acuerdo con el Acuerdo TRIPS. No se trata de modificar nada sino aprobar el Acuerdo TRIPS y, por esto me parece que estamos trabajando sobre una zona gris, es algo que no se puede hacer aquí porque no es el foro apropiado, modificar decisiones que han sido tomadas políticamente, según intereses gubernamentales porque algunas empresas no están satisfechas ni contentas con la solución que hemos encontrado. Creo que debemos aprobar lo que está en el párrafo 22 y que es la forma acordada por este grupo técnico-político.

**Sra Elsa Diana Rosa KELLY (Observador de Argentina)**

En primer lugar, querría agradecer las intervenciones de los países que han puesto de manifiesto la consecución de un consenso arribado por el grupo técnico de expertos a nivel gubernamental,

es decir, expertos que tenían la representación de su Estado en las consultas de mayo. Tal como yo lo veo y el Sr Van der Graaff también me puede atestiguar en este sentido, este fue un consenso muy difícil de lograr en el grupo de expertos. Estábamos todos los países que tenían distintas posiciones iniciales, algunas bastante coincidentes pero otras arbitrariamente opuestas y en esta negociación la Argentina, en particular, partió de la eliminación de los dos párrafos del texto del Código de Conducta: 6.1.7.1 y el 6.1.7.2 que era la posición inicial. Como consecuencia de un largo debate, la Argentina y otros países de la región y también fuera de la región, en el intento de lograr el consenso, lo cual incluyó el consenso de los Estados Unidos en esa negociación, nos apartamos de nuestra posición inicial para ir al encuentro de esa posición y ahora nos encontramos que hicimos un sacrificio inútil porque evidentemente ese país no está de acuerdo con el consenso logrado, pero lo hace y lo pone de manifiesto en un marco donde los procedimientos están agotados.

En algún momento los estados soberanos tienen que tomar alguna decisión en beneficio del interés general de sus países, ya sabemos que estamos tratando intereses contrapuestos dentro la industria química y podemos entender que las industrias agrupadas bajo Crop Life no están de acuerdo, pero es que estas industrias lo que quieren hacer es cambiar el texto del Artículo 39.3 acá en la FAO ¿Cómo se puede hacer una cosa así, cuando ese texto ha sido negociado en la Organización Mundial de Comercio? Es realmente sorprendente que estemos en esta situación como en un callejón sin salida, con un Código de Conducta que en su casi totalidad de artículos está adoptado y que no se puede adoptar totalmente porque un país insiste en modificar el Artículo 39.3 del TRIPS que se negoció en otro lado, en esta situación estamos. Por consiguiente, lo que yo creo es que de alguna manera tenemos que volver a la normalidad de la conducción de nuestro debate sobre este tema y realmente terminar la discusión, porque por más grupos de trabajo que vayamos a crear, por más tiempo que perdamos en el futuro aunque tengamos consultas interseccionales, no se va a poder conseguir un consenso.

Esto es dejar una puerta abierta para que en cualquier ámbito de negociación de un tema cuando existe la competencia de otro organismo, pueda venir un estado o un organismo no gubernamental, como en el caso de Crop Life que agrupa toda la industria multinacional norteamericana y no norteamericana con intereses muy fuertes en el cambio de esta norma de Artículo 39.3, y nos vamos a encontrar en que en otros ámbitos, funcionarios del sector público como el caso de la Argentina se encuentren discutiendo un tema para el cual no están preparados y en un ámbito que además no es el competente para desarrollar esta negociación. Por eso agradezco a todos aquéllos delegados y países que han interpretado la situación difícil en que se ha colocado, precisamente nuestro país en esta negociación.

Creo que hemos hecho un servicio a la comunidad internacional tratando de aclarar el punto que se está discutiendo, un punto muy serio que va a abrir la puerta para que cualquier producto protegido bajo el TRIPS pueda abrirse en cualquier Organización del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas bajo la forma de un Código de Conducta ó la forma de una elaboración de estándares que después van a tener su gran aplicación en la interpretación de estos mismos en la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Este es el peligro que estamos corriendo. Creo que me he explicado suficientemente.

**KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

I will be very brief, I am not an expert on this matter, I have a basic instruction from the capital that the Republic of Korea will go along with the amended text proposed in front of us. Having said this, however, we do not object to have an informal exchange of views during this session of Council because at the moment I do not see any possible way out unless certain members withdraw their positions.

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

I truly apologize for taking the floor a third time at this late hour but since one country seems to be mentioned a lot, I just wanted to say that country has also expressed its strong interest in seeing rapid adoption of this Code. We have said, that we are very interested in working this week, some

other countries seem to have had a problem with that, but I wanted to say that the one country which seems to be mentioned a lot, is ready to work and we do want to work. I hope it is possible to have some kind of informal discussions during this week or informal contacts, and maybe we can make some progress.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Il ne s'agira pas de renégocier ce qui a été décidé parvenant à un consensus au mois de mai, mais ne serait-il pas judicieux qu'il y ait quelques contacts informels afin d'arriver à une solution définitive durant la semaine sans descendre de la substance? Je pense que cela serait peut-être une solution qui nous aiderait à prendre une décision définitive d'ici à la fin du Conseil et d'une manière informelle. Est-ce que le Conseil approuve? Très bien.

Je souhaiterais que les délégations, si cela était possible, prennent la page les unes des autres et essaient d'arriver à un consensus avant la fin de la semaine et qu'elles nous informent de ce qui a été décidé. Je vous remercie pour le point 7.

Donc on reportera cela peut être à demain ou après-demain dès que vous aurez atteint une décision. Je suis à votre disposition bien entendu, si vous avez besoin d'intermédiaire.

On va aborder maintenant le point 8 de l'ordre du jour relatif à "l'Organisation de réunions des responsables de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments à l'échelle mondiale et régionale". Le document qui s'y réfère est le document CL 123/20.

#### **8. Convening of Global and Regional Meetings of Food Safety Regulators (CL 123/20)**

#### **8. Organisation de réunions des responsables de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments à l'échelle mondiale et régionale (CL 123/20)**

#### **8. Convocatoria de reuniones mundiales y regionales de las Autoridades de Reglamentación sobre Inocuidad de los Alimentos (CL 123/20)**

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

I shall be very brief, the document is rather clear at least we hope you will find it clear. I would like to begin by making reference to the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the Council in June 2001 which endorsed the FAO-led initiatives to convene jointly with WHO, both a Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators and a Pan-European Conference of Food Safety Regulators. I am glad to report that both events have taken place, both have been convened jointly with WHO and in particular or more specifically the Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in January 2002, and the Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality was held in Budapest, Hungary in February this year.

These conferences provided an opportunity for Food Safety Regulators for developed and developing countries to exchange information and experiences on food safety risk management and to foster partnership among countries to resolve outstanding issues related to food safety and trade. This applies to both, but of course the Global Forum dealt with the global dimension; the Regional Conference dealt with the regional dimension and therefore went into a much more concrete detail. They both served, in principle, as a forum for Food Safety Regulators to exchange experiences and try to identify systems of food safety management that worked and those that did not and to enter into collaborative arrangements. The report gives more details on it and there are specific reports on these events.

I want to just briefly refer to the outcomes by first talking about the Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators, an important conclusion drawn by the participants of this Forum was that they agreed to aim for another Global Forum, a Second Global Forum that should be held in 2004 in a developing country. May I recall that this first Global Forum had been suggested and was financially supported by the members of the G-8 and the European Commission. I reveal no secret, in fact it has been discussed in Marrakech that it was suggested to the G-8 to consider supporting also a Second session of this Forum. The meeting in Marrakech proposed, as the main theme for the next forum "Building Effective Food Safety Systems". It agreed that discussion

should focus on a few selected topics with emphasis on practical aspects and certainly on capacity-building.

As regards the Pan-European Conference, as a regional gathering I am glad to confirm what has been stated by the Director-General at earlier occasions, that the FAO Secretariat is ready to organize similar conferences for other regions if regional groups so wish. They may wish to take into account the rather positive experience from the Pan-European Conference. By the way, both the Regional Conference of FAO in Cyprus this year as well as the Regional Conference of WHO held earlier this year discussed and endorsed the outcome of the Pan-European Conference which was considered rather helpful in forging regional collaboration and capacity-building.

In conclusion, the Council may consider: first, endorsing the recommendations of the First Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators and to convene a Second Forum in 2004 on the topic "Building effective food safety systems" and if this is the case we would also appreciate if the Council would indicate its views on the mobilization of additional financial resources that would be necessary for the two agencies to implement this recommendation. Furthermore, the Council may also wish to provide guidance on the holding of further regional food safety and quality conferences and possibly receive expressions of interest from representatives of specific regions. We have so far heard on various occasions that there was interest but it has not been firmly communicated with the exception of one country having offered to host such a regional event in the Asia and Pacific region.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

The European Community and its Member States welcome the opportunity to address the important question of food safety.

In recent years, public awareness of food safety issues has increased dramatically, especially in developed countries. International and domestic markets need to cope with the increasing demands for food that meet consumer's expectations in terms of food safety and nutritional benefits.

With the expansion of Agricultural and Food Trade, the agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO) to eliminate unjustified trade barriers have given momentum to efforts for the harmonization of food standards and regulations between countries. This changing situation creates both challenges and opportunities for the food producing sectors in developed countries, in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition. It is evident that developing countries and countries in transition need technical assistance to implement concrete, economically feasible and environmentally sound measures to enhance food safety and quality during handling, processing, packaging, storage, transportation and marketing.

We agree with the description in document CL 123/20 of background and outcomes of the Marrakech meeting, of the Pan-European Conference in Hungary and the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Cyprus in May 2002.

Regarding the matters for consideration of this Council listed in paragraphs 19 to 21, of the document in front of us, the European Community and its Member States endorse the recommendation of the First Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators that FAO and WHO convene a Second Forum in 2004.

As we support the proposal at the Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Europe to place food safety and quality as one of the main items on the agenda of the Twenty-fourth FAO Regional Conference for Europe to be held in 2004, we recommend that other regional groups consider to introduce food safety and quality as an item in the agenda for the Regional Conferences in 2004, combined with Ministerial Roundtables on Food Safety.

We recommend the instrument of pan-regional conference on food safety, a decision which should be taken by the region itself.



For the European Regional Conference in 2004, we recommend that the technical preparation of this item should be undertaken within the framework of the Thirty-third Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) to be held in early 2004.

Finally, we reaffirm the importance of continued close cooperation between FAO and WHO on food safety and we strongly support the partnership between FAO, WHO, OIE, the World Bank and WTO for capacity-building in food safety in developing countries.

**Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)**

The United States notes that FAO and WHO sponsored the first Global Forum for Food Safety Regulators in Marrakech and achieved their goals of providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among food safety regulators around the world without duplicating the work done in Codex.

The United States recognizes the benefit of an international venue for the exchange of information and ideas among food safety regulators. Nevertheless, we note that the Codex Alimentarius Commission Strategic Framework 2003-2007 contains, as its first objective, promoting sound regulatory frameworks by promoting national regulatory systems that are based on international principles, guidelines and sound science. We also note that the Codex Alimentarius is currently undergoing an evaluation, the report of which might recommend some changes in the Organization, both structurally and functionally. This evaluation will be reported to countries by 1 December 2002 and will be discussed by Codex at an extraordinary meeting of the commission in February 2003. It is entirely possible that the Commission will take action to accommodate the interests and needs of food safety regulators.

The United States believes it will be more useful and appropriate to postpone further discussion on a Second Global Forum until the evaluation report of Codex Alimentarius is fully considered by the Codex commission and acted upon by FAO and WHO.

We support FAO and WHO collaboration on food safety and capacity building.

In a closing note, the United States would like to point out that a key component to holding such a Second Global Forum will be adequate financial support and making sure not to duplicate efforts which are, or could be, undertaken in other organizations.

**Ms Sigrídur Ásdís SNÆVARR (Iceland)**

Iceland speaks on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland Norway and Sweden.

We welcome the documentation of this agenda item provided by the Secretariat in document CL 123/20. The document gives a good overview of the outcome of the Global Forum and the Pan-European Conference.

The Nordic countries place great emphasis on continued focus on food safety. In August of this year, the Nordic Ministers responsible for food security met in Greenland. They agreed on a declaration which will form the basis for further work in this field for the Nordic Countries.

The Greenland Ministerial Declaration recognizes the importance of international organizations and processes in this connection. In particular, the organizations and processes in which rules are set and normative work is undertaken are seen as particularly important. We recognize FAO as one of the key actors in this regard.

Within the Nordic Countries consumer interests are at the heart of our food safety policies. We wish to influence international processes in the same direction and will participate in further discussion in the international arena with this aim.

Finally, the Nordic Countries would like to give support to the statement made by Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

**Claude CHÉREAU (France)**

Je voudrais simplement faire une déclaration complémentaire par rapport à celle de mon collègue de l'Union européenne. Pour la France, nous partageons complètement l'appréciation positive qui a été formulée à la fois par l'Union européenne et la Représentante de l'Islande, sur le premier Forum global FAO/OMS qui s'est tenu à Marrakech, et nous voudrions qu'il y ait un nouveau forum, qui soit préparé dans de bonnes conditions; et c'est pourquoi nous voudrions, à cette occasion, apporter un concours particulier à la FAO sous la forme de la mise à disposition d'un agent dès l'hiver 2002/2003 pour une durée de deux ans, pour aider l'Institution à préparer cette échéance. Il s'agirait d'un agent ayant une bonne connaissance du contexte international et d'analyse des risques de problèmes de sécurité sanitaire des aliments, ainsi que des problèmes de réglementations sanitaires vétérinaires et des aliments dans les pays en transition ou en développement. C'est ainsi que mon pays voudrait contribuer à la bonne organisation d'un nouveau Forum global.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)**

The agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures adopted has given the tool to governments to protect human, animal and plant health. This tool must not be used as trade barriers, without the support of scientific evidence.

Indeed, food producers, manufacturers, handlers and marketers must be aware of the consumer's expectations. Food safety should be considered as a right of the rich and the poor to access to a nutritious food.

In the case of Thailand, we attach great importance to producing safe and tasty food, not only for the domestic consumers but also international consumers. My delegation has studied the documents CL 123/20 carefully and we are grateful to the Secretariat for bringing the report of the First Global Forum on Food Safety Regulators and the Report of Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality to this Council.

Having read this document, the Second Global Forum would be held in 2004 in a developing country. To my view, the Second session should be held next year as food safety is the major concern of the public and we should not wait until 2004. FAO and WHO may wish to reconsider this suggestion.

Ensuring safe and nutritious food for consumers requires a commitment to food safety throughout the food chain. My country welcomes the need for capacity building based on a farm to table system management approach, to food safety as stated by the Global Forum and the Pan-European Conference.

As a developing country, I agree that the lack of efficient national export inspections and certificating systems constitutes a major drawback in the ability of developing countries to benefit from their food export potentials.

With regard to paragraph 19, my delegation endorses the Second Forum to be held in 2003, rather than in 2004, if possible.

FAO, in close association with WHO, should discuss and find additional financial resources either through the regular budget or special funds from potential donors.

In paragraph 20, Thailand strongly supports the organization of a Regional Conference on Food Safety and Quality in a developing country of the Asia region. Thailand also agrees with the introduction of food safety and quality as an item in the agenda of the next FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which is to be held in China.

May I also suggest that the Ministerial Round Table on Safety be substituted with the High Level Policy Makers Roundtable on Food Safety. The reason to support my suggestion is the technical knowledge of officials who would contribute more fruitfully in the discussion.

In closing, Thailand fully endorses FAO to expand its activities in the field of food safety, particularly to further assist the capacity building of developing countries.

**Vincent BOULÉ (Gabon)**

Intervenant pour la première fois, la délégation gabonaise tient avant tout à vous exprimer le plaisir qu'elle a à vous revoir parmi nous. Nous sommes certains que sous votre direction avisée, les travaux de notre cent vingt-troisième session se dérouleront de la façon la plus fructueuse qui soit. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour féliciter également les Vice-Présidents élus.

En ce qui concerne le point que nous discutons, nous remercions le Secrétariat de la FAO pour le document très pertinent qui nous est soumis sur les problèmes de sécurité sanitaire des aliments dans le monde, et notamment dans les pays en développement, et qui fait rapport des deux Conférences tenues à l'initiative de la FAO sur ce thème.

Nous félicitons la FAO et l'OMS pour avoir organisé de telles réunions. Nous encourageons la poursuite de telles initiatives, à savoir un deuxième Forum mondial dans un pays en développement en 2004, comme l'a recommandé le Forum de Marrakech, ainsi que la tenue d'une Conférence sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments en Afrique, ou à défaut, l'organisation de tables rondes pendant la prochaine Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique de la FAO, pour laquelle nous demandons l'inscription de ce thème à l'ordre du jour.

Nous lançons un appel aux pays donateurs afin qu'ils mobilisent des ressources additionnelles pour l'organisation de ces réunions et pour aider la FAO à renforcer ses activités techniques dans ce domaine dans les pays en développement, et notamment en Afrique, où les nécessités se font sentir à différents niveaux: au niveau législatif, de qualification du personnel, celui du matériel et des installations. C'est le cas de notre pays, le Gabon, et mon gouvernement a pour cela adressé une demande d'aide technique à la FAO, dont les services compétents examinent actuellement la faisabilité d'un projet intitulé: "Projet d'appui au renforcement de contrôle du système alimentaire" et qui s'avère d'une grande importance pour le Gabon.

Enfin, nous encourageons la FAO à renforcer ses activités dans ce domaine au travers du partenariat avec les autres institutions concernées.

**Philippe J. LHUILLIER (Philippines)**

Generally, we sympathize with paragraph 19 of the document CL 123/20 to convene a Second Forum of Food Safety Regulators. We are, however, worried and concerned that this might develop into another institutional mechanism such as a third and fourth Forum of Food Safety Regulators.

As a developing country we have a hard time sending delegations into so many Codex meetings. An additional Forum presents an additional burden on our resources. Perhaps at some time in the future we can stop a moment to reflect and see whether it is duplicating the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In the Programme of Work and Budget, as well as the Medium-Term Plan, funding allocated for Codex is very small. Perhaps what can be done is to refocus ourselves to Codex, since it is the recognized international standard setting mechanism by the World Trade Organization.

Consultations and forum have a habit of developing themselves into further institutions. While we do support the present request, we would also like to include the possible strengthening of Codex as succinctly stated by the delegate of the United States of America.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

Estamos tratando un aspecto que está adquiriendo una importancia creciente en el marco de los trabajos de la FAO y que requiere cada vez una mayor atención mundial, porque toca un aspecto sensible como es la inocuidad alimentaria no sólo frente a los posibles focos de contaminación tradicionales sino a los derivados del propio desarrollo biotecnológico o de nuevas formas de alimentación animal.

Mi misión apoya la recomendación del Primer Foro Mundial de Autoridades Reglamentarias sobre Inocuidad, para que la FAO, en asociación con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)

convoque a un Segundo Foro en 2004 bajo el tema "Establecimiento de Sistemas Eficaces de Inocuidad de los Alimentos". También apoya la iniciativa de organizar nuevas conferencias regionales en la materia.

Pero todos estos procesos e iniciativas deben de estar bien organizados y no caer en las improvisaciones que se tuvieron en el Primer Foro, pero sobretodo no deben derivar en nuevas formas de proteccionismo. Por otra parte, la FAO debe ampliar también su asistencia técnica a todos los países en esta materia.

Finalmente, deseo señalar que debe mantenerse la estrecha cooperación en este tema entre la FAO y la OMS.

**Octavio SOTOMAYOR ECHEÑIQUE (Chile)**

Sólo quiero intervenir para señalar que nuestro país apoya la celebración de estas reuniones, regionales y mundiales, sobre inocuidad alimentaria. Consideramos que es importante continuar con estos esquemas de coordinación que facilitan el avanzar internacionalmente en una efectiva armonización para la inocuidad e higiene de los alimentos. Estas iniciativas son de gran importancia para el esfuerzo exportador nacional y complementan eficazmente las acciones dirigidas para mejorar el acceso a los mercados de los productos agroalimentarios nacionales y tienden a la eliminación de obstáculos técnicos al comercio.

**Hideki MORONUKI (Japan)**

Japan recognizes that the First Meeting of Global Food Safety Regulator was very useful for us by which we could put forward the process to urge governments of both developing and developed countries to take measures based on scientific information. In this regard, Japan feels it is also useful also to convene the Second Session of a Global Forum where we could exchange information derived from the cooperation established during and after the first forum.

Having said that, I have to say that my Government is hesitant to further convene meetings at Regional level because Japan believes that food safety systems differ from country to country and thus have a domestic nature, rather than a regional nature. As far as international measures are concerned, substantial work has been conducted in several fora and Japan believes that we have to refrain from duplicating the work with those organizations such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

We welcome the document and fully recognize the importance of food safety measures. Two documents in the meeting were extremely useful. However, we are also hesitant to accept the proposals in the document, paragraph 19 to 21. Particularly, it is difficult to accept the proposal in paragraph 20, of having a Pan-regional Conference initiated by the FAO Council.

First, some Members may not be prepared at the moment to engage in this kind of international work such as a regional conference on food safety particularly as not being based on a voluntary basis.

Second, we do not see urgency for which FAO needs to initiate a regional conference on food safety because, as the United States and the Philippine Delegates mentioned relevantly, FAO has already worked on this matter through the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat.

I would now like to propose to leave the matter of convening a regional conference to each region's disposal, just as the Pan-European Conference was held. Instead of holding a regional conference, I welcome the inclusion of food safety and quality in the item of agenda of each Regional Conference.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

Rapid developments in biotechnology are increasingly making this topic very pertinent to food security. In our region in southern Africa, these issues such as the capacity to test food safety for

incoming food supplies, the capacity to certify our own exports and inspections are becoming very critical for us to be able to improve our own agricultural programmes.

Changes are inevitable, but we feel that we can understand the subject better through consultation and continual capacity building. Pan-regional conferences would be very important for us to help us improve our understanding of the subject. For instance, southern Africa is grappling with the need to fully appreciate the new developments in biotechnology so as to solve the food deficit problem that it is facing at the moment. We feel that through regional consultations and indeed consultations at a higher-level we will be able to continually build on our understanding of the subject. We need to be able to realize the gains already made in research and development. And on this agenda, we would feel that this Pan-regional conference should eventually culminate into a world forum.

As a result, we would support the Second Forum in 2004 because we would want the subject to be discussed concretely so that we do not continue with these grey areas that we are facing at the moment. Right now, I know that my region has come to FAO and to WHO, trying to seek answers but no single entity at this point in time can give us those answers. So, we are appealing to ensure that the discussion of food safety and inspection is built in our agenda in these forthcoming sessions so that by the time we reach 2004, we are able to tackle it with clarity and be able to give guidance to many regions that are going through problems like us.

It is important that FAO expands its activities in technical assistance to be able to ensure that the members do participate effectively. You recall in our region that Zambia posed this question to the SADC and, indeed to the WFP and FAO that they need this type of assistance to be able to understand for themselves and not to use material that is being passed on by others.

So, as a region, in this particular case, I would like to speak for Zimbabwe and may to some extent for the Southern African Development Region we are more willing than ever to be able to understand the subject of food safety in our own rights so that we can guide the policies that we would use for defining the topic.

However, for us we think it is important to mention that quality standards should not be used as a way of barring our exports into the markets of the developing world. Therefore if we can build our own quality basis we would be able to meet the challenges that are required in international trade.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

Australia welcomes the opportunity to consider appropriately designed and realistically resourced initiatives seeking to lift Member Nations' capacities to improve national food safety regulations and to assist them to take advantage of international trade opportunities.

Australia believes that FAO's role in international standards setting is critical to underpinning the global agricultural trading system and addressing both the developmental aspirations of developing countries and global food security. Indeed the vital need for standards in providing safe food to consumers and ensuring smooth and efficient functioning of the international trading system has never been more important.

Australia also considers the need for countries to adopt a risk-based approach in developing food safety frameworks is critical, as is the need to ensure that food safety policies are based on scientifically-justified measures that are the least trade restrictive and meet international obligations. In addition to capacity-building initiatives, we believe that serious efforts should be given to redirecting regular budget funding to existing FAO programmes involved in food safety such as Codex to allow these programmes to meet their increasing demands of both developing countries and developed countries.

With regard to the agenda paper, we note in paragraph 17 a reference to the need to develop and implement a comprehensive global capacity-building programme capable for providing the necessary support in response to express needs of developing Member Countries. However, we understand that the recently distributed FAO Secretariat's draft document entitled "*Building*

*Capacity for Biotechnology, and Food Quality and Safety, Phyto- and Zoo Sanitary Standards - an integrated programme"*, already seeks to address this perceived need and therefore the proposal in paragraph 17 would seem to be duplicatory.

With regard to the matters for consideration outlined in paragraphs 19 to 21 of the agenda paper, Australia would like to make the following observations. On the suggestion of convening Pan-regional conferences, we understood that the original proposal for regional conferences was to facilitate practical action with regard to capacity-building and technical assistance work to help developing countries improve their national food safety regulations and take advantage of international trade opportunities.

Therefore, we do not consider that Pan-regional conferences would be the most suitable way of achieving these outcomes. As such, conferences tend to focus on policy dialogue and not on specific regional and national needs and actions required.

For the same reasons, we also do not consider that the first Pan-European Conference would be a suitable model for possible future conferences on food safety. We note the budget needed would also amount to about US\$ 560,000 per conference and consider such a large amount of money could be used more effectively on delivering capacity-building and technical assistance activities under existing FAO programmes, in particular, through the work of the Codex Alimentarius.

With regard to paragraph 21, we agree that capacity-building activities in the field of food and safety should be coordinated to the extent possible between international agencies and between international agencies and countries. This will facilitate the delivery of a more integrated series of training activities and reduce duplication of efforts.

Australia also notes that contained throughout the agenda document are references to food safety and quality, for example paragraphs 19 and 20. We wish to caution that the focus of any food safety initiative needs to be on food safety, not food quality. Food safety and food quality should be addressed separately as the former is a science-based issue while the latter is a consumer taste and preference issue which Australia considers falls outside the realm of international standard setting and policy formulation.

Finally, we would like to support strengthening of the work of Codex as indicated by a number of delegates and the United States and Philippines. As Codex is the only international body dealing with food safety matters, we need to avoid any duplication of its work.

**Ms Maryam Ahmed Moustafa MOUSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

We very much appreciate the Secretariat's efforts. We consider this as a very high quality document. I would like to give a few remarks on paragraph 20 regarding the regional conference. We have no objection to the holding of that conference in that context. We have delegations that go to the Codex Alimentarius who could deal with these issues and these delegations meet regularly. Therefore, the discussions on food safety should also be included on the agenda of these deriving from the Codex Alimentarius.

**Arnaldo de Baena FERNANDES (Brazil)**

The Brazilian delegation could, in principle, support the idea of a Second Global Forum on Food Security as long as two critical concerns are duly taken. First, duplication of efforts already undertaken by the Codex Alimentarius should be avoided. Second, the decisions and policies advanced in those fora should not interfere with the principle of science-based standards consecrated by Codex and already mentioned by other delegates.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois qu'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'intervention. Je demanderais donc à M. de Haen de répondre à toutes ces interventions et de faire part des observations du Secrétariat là-dessus.

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

Thanks to all delegates who spoke on this item. In fact, it was rich in commentary but also, not always very conclusive, if I may say so. You have made partly contradictory comments, so the challenge for us is to draw conclusions from it that would lead us further. Let me just try to draw some conclusions.

I should say at the outset something that I did not say, that the food chain approach to which some of you referred, was certainly an emphasis that came out of the Global Forum as well as the Pan-European Conference and this has led us and the Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture to put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture an item that deals with what we call biosecurity – how to handle aspects of food safety, plant and animal health within a food chain approach. So, the members of COAG will have an opportunity again, irrespective of the debate on Global or Pan-Regional fora to discuss this matter again next year.

Now, I will try to draw a conclusion on what we heard about the Second Global Forum. I think I noted the support in general by quite a number of delegates but also some reservations – the United States proposed to postpone further the discussion and consideration of this until the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius evaluation have been discussed by the special session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and have been acted upon by the respective Secretariats.

On the other hand, Thailand, proposed to hold the Second Global Forum already next year. This will be difficult to reconcile because if we start with the preparations for the Second Global Forum after the special session of the Codex Alimentarius which is planned for February, it will leave us very little time to hold the Global Forum if that is then decided still in 2003. Just to show you the difficulties that we have to deal with.

So, this leaves me with noting the relatively positive comments of others. I guess we will have this issue before us and we will have to tackle it as time goes by and if we maintain the proposal to hold it in 2004, but subject to the endorsement by the Codex Alimentarius Commission that would then leave us time. We would then start to discuss it in early 2003.

On the other hand I wish to clarify that the main mandate of Codex Alimentarius is standard setting. The fora, and especially the Global Forum dealt with how to implement standards, experiences with standard implementation. That was the distinction between the Codex and the Global Forum that was expressed and underlined in Marrakech. I have noted the distinguished delegate of the United States mentioned that Codex is also speaking of capacity-building. We probably have to find a *modus operandi* in the next month on how to respond to your various interventions on this item. I am unable to draw a conclusion, unless you can help us to draw that conclusion.

I should say that the emphasis on capacity-building made by several of you was also an emphasis at the Marrakech Global Forum. Capacity-building links standard-setting and standard implementation, and risk management because capacity building is needed for both. Therefore the emphasis on capacity-building and the recommendation by the Global Forum in Marrakech to make this a major theme at the Second Global Forum is probably the bridging agenda item for work by Codex itself and could be on the agenda of the Global Forum.

Regarding Pan-regional conferences, again, we have heard various interventions that are not all consistent. Again, we may need further reflection. Several have expressed a clear priority for a Pan-regional conference in their respective region, but others have said that this would compete with scarce resources that could be needed for capacity-building.

There was the proposal not opposed to by others that at least FAO Regional Conferences of the future should have food safety and quality on the agenda possibly followed by Ministerial level Roundtables or High-level Roundtables on food safety. I will convey this to the Director-General, if that is the wish of the Council.

However, I should say that there is one difficulty. Several of you have underlined the importance of collaboration between FAO and WHO in this regard. FAO Regional Conferences are

conferences of this Organization, not of both organizations. Therefore, that would have to be resolved if you want to limit regional gatherings on food safety and quality to the FAO Regional Conferences.

I am sorry that I am raising some questions, so to speak, giving them back to Council because I find it a bit difficult to draw a conclusive lesson from the debate in these respects. I have noted that extra-budgetary funding was mentioned by several as a requirement for the holding of these events and I can only underline that this is so. Our Regular Programme does not foresee resources for either a Global Forum or another Pan-Regional Conference. In this regard, we have noted with gratitude expressions of intent by France in this case, and there have been others at earlier occasions, to give us some support in human resource capacity to be able to prepare whatever you decide or request us to do; in particular, a Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators.

A very final remark in response to the distinguished delegate of Australia who drew a line between food safety and food quality. We are tackling with this daily, so to speak, and there are different interpretations and definitions. For some food safety is a sub-set of food quality. Therefore, to talk about food safety and food quality is not fully logical in this sense. For others, the reference to food quality is more to the non-safety aspects of food, that is nutritious character of food, taste of food and other characteristics, many of which are not in need of international standard-setting because they are dealt with between trading partners. However, it is not so easy. Codex Alimentarius also has on its work programme some aspects that are not food safety but are still food quality, and they have to do with the labelling, for instance, of health claims. Therefore, I would suggest that this be handled in the Codex Alimentarius Commission because it is rather complicated to say that one thing is subject to Codex work and the other is not. There is an overlapping grey zone that is very carefully discussed and negotiated in the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

If I may refer this aspect of your debate to Codex, I think it would only be fair to their mandate.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons une décision à prendre. Il s'agit de savoir si nous allons recommander une deuxième session ou une deuxième conférence sur la sécurité des aliments ou pas. Ici manifestement n'existe pas de consensus réel sur la nécessité d'organiser un deuxième Forum global sur la sécurité des aliments. Il y a des points qui ont été soulevés si cela ne fait pas double emploi avec le Codex Alimentarius; M. de Haen a bien répondu qu'il ne s'agit pas réellement d'un double emploi, mais de deux choses distinctes. Si nous décidons d'organiser une deuxième conférence, nous trouverons certaines délégations soulever la question des problèmes budgétaires. Et donc nous devons prendre une décision à ce sujet, c'est-à-dire que nous devons décider du soutien budgétaire à cette deuxième conférence.

#### **Hartwig DE HAEN (Sous-Directeur général, Département économique et social)**

J'ai entendu qu'une délégation était opposée à un deuxième Forum. La seule remarque que j'ai entendue était de ne pas décider maintenant. Les Etats-Unis peuvent clarifier. Selon moi, ils n'étaient pas contre, ils ont seulement dit qu'ils veulent attendre les résultats de l'évaluation du Codex Alimentarius qui est en cours en ce moment.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Cela veut dire que nous devrions reporter notre décision à une session ultérieure. Et ce serait la seule solution, puisqu'on aurait alors les résultats de la réunion du Codex Alimentarius.

Je crois que finalement la solution serait de reporter notre décision à une date ultérieure. Je ne sais pas si toutes les délégations sont favorables à cette option.

Monsieur de Haen disait justement qu'il faudrait peut-être que nous chargions le Secrétariat de continuer à préparer ce deuxième Forum, c'est-à-dire ne pas arrêter complètement notre travail de préparation du Forum en attendant que nous fassions une évaluation complémentaire après la réunion du Codex, et après des consultations entre nous. On pourrait donc prendre comme



décision de demander au Secrétariat de continuer à préparer le Forum, quitte à prendre une décision définitive au prochain Conseil.

Nous avons une suggestion du Secrétariat et je voudrais que vous l'écoutez. On va voir si cela pourra résoudre notre problème.

**Jean-Louis JOUVE (Personnel de la FAO)**

Il s'agit simplement d'une proposition qui vise à tenir compte des aspects les plus positifs des commentaires que vous avez bien voulu faire, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, et en même temps de proposer une chronologie praticable par le Secrétariat et par les différentes organisations. La proposition est celle-ci: on pourrait effectivement attendre le mois de février et prendre à ce moment-là, à l'occasion de la réunion exceptionnelle du Comité exécutif du Codex et de la Commission du Codex, la décision finale d'organiser ou de ne pas organiser, le deuxième Forum Global, cela étant assorti bien entendu de l'engagement des différents pays de contribuer aux ressources extrabudgétaires nécessaires pour ce faire.

La décision étant prise à cette occasion, il est du point de vue matériel très faisable d'organiser la réunion du deuxième Forum Global à l'automne 2004. On compte au Secrétariat environ un an de préparation. On pourrait donc à ce moment-là, si telle est la décision, organiser le deuxième Forum Global à l'automne 2004. Ce qui a l'avantage de permettre d'organiser le cas échéant, dans les différentes régions, des réunions régionales sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, si les régions le souhaitent. La décision leur appartiendrait et ces réunions pourraient alors se faire, soit à l'occasion des réunions régionales de la FAO, soit pourquoi pas, comme on dit en anglais, back to back, à l'occasion des réunions régionales du Codex, ce qui permettrait de résoudre la difficulté indiquée par M. de Haen, qui consisterait à organiser ces réunions de concert entre la FAO et l'OMS. Les réunions régionales du Codex s'échelonnent entre décembre 2003 et la fin du premier semestre 2004. La chronologie pourrait être ainsi respectée. Les réunions régionales se tiendraient dans les régions qui le souhaiteraient. Le Secrétariat avec les responsables régionales pourraient pendant l'année 2003 procéder à cette organisation, en parallèle avec l'organisation du deuxième Forum Global, le cas échéant, à l'automne 2004.

**Hartwig DE HAEN (Sous-Directeur général, Département économique et social)**

Je regrette de prendre à nouveau la parole. Je voudrais seulement clarifier un point à ce que vient de dire Monsieur Jouve. Il ne s'agit pas du Codex Alimentarius. C'est à moi de prendre une décision. Il s'agit seulement, comme suggéré par le délégué des Etats-Unis, d'attendre jusqu'à la séance du Codex Alimentarius qui va discuter les résultats de l'évaluation. Mais après cela, c'est aux Secrétariats FAO et OMS et à leurs organes directeurs de diriger cette affaire. Ce n'est pas une affaire Codex.

**Jean-Louis JOUVE (Personnel de la FAO)**

Effectivement cette décision n'appartient pas au Codex en tant que Programme, elle appartient bien entendu à la FAO, à l'OMS, à leurs Etats Membres et aux organes dirigeants. Il faudra attendre le Conseil du mois de juin. On reste dans les temps pour l'organisation d'un deuxième Forum Global à l'automne 2004 si la décision est prise par le Conseil au mois de juin. Mais le problème est qu'on ne pourra pas organiser en pratique ces choses-là avant. On pourra toujours organiser les conférences régionales avec la participation des pays qui le souhaiteraient, sans aucun problème, mais nous sommes contraints d'attendre la décision prise par les Etats Membres et les organes dirigeants de la FAO et de l'OMS pour démarrer l'organisation du Forum Global.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Voilà une proposition. On attend l'évaluation du Codex qui ne sera pas décisionnelle. On ne décidera pas au Codex. La décision sera prise au Conseil. Le Secrétariat dit qu'il peut encore organiser un deuxième Forum Global en 2004 si la décision est prise au mois de juin au Conseil. Au courant de l'année prochaine, au cours des conférences régionales, par exemple, on pourrait organiser des conférences régionales sur la sécurité des aliments et on prendrait une décision définitive au Conseil du mois de juin.

**Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)**

Considero más fácil su propuesta inicial, pues es más inteligible y comprensible. Su propuesta original era simple y sencillamente consistía en encargar a la Secretaría de hacer los preparativos del caso por si acaso se hace y que el Comité del Codex deberá esperar los resultados y será el Consejo en junio quien tome la decisión final.

Creo que esto es lo más sencillo pues todos los demás aspectos son de carpintería y no de ingeniería como corresponde al Consejo.

**Richard J. HUGHES (United States of America)**

With regard to maybe helping us along, as I stated in our intervention, the Commission may accommodate this during their discussions about food safety regulators. I think once that decision is discussed and raised with parent bodies of both FAO and the WHO, there is an opportunity to take it from that February date to inform the Committee on Agriculture of where you might stand so that you do not have to wait all the way until June for a Council meeting, as you can put it in as a special agenda item for discussion or information. That is just a possible suggestion.

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

I just interpreted what was just said by the United States as somewhat in line with what I tried to propose earlier. This COAG occasion work session would allow us to get some indication of Member Nations' interest. It would not replace a Council endorsement but it would allow the Secretariat and Member Nations interested in supporting it to enter into contact because we would need the first half of next year even if we wanted to do a decent job in the second half of 2004. Therefore, an early indication and debate for instance during COAG would help us to get this machinery started if there is the continued wish of our Membership to do so. Then in June you will receive a report that may give it its final blessing.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Monsieur de Haen, vous avez donc résumé la proposition. Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord avec cette proposition?

Parfait, nous avons donc terminé le point 8 et la séance d'aujourd'hui.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

*The meeting rose at 19.40 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 40*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19:40 horas*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Twenty-third Session Cent vingt-troisième session 123<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002 Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002 Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002</b></p>
<p><b>THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>29 October 2002</b></p>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,

Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

## LE PRÉSIDENT

Je déclare ouverte la cent vingt-troisième session du Conseil. Nous allons commencer par le point 4 de notre ordre du jour relatif au rapport de la vingt-huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui s'est tenue à Rome du 6 au 9 juin 2002. Le document relatif à ce point porte la référence CL 123/10. M. Adisak, Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, va nous introduire le rapport.

## II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

### II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

### II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

#### 4. Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, June 2002) (CL 123/10)

#### 4. Rapport de la vingt-huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, juin 2002) (CL 123/10)

#### 4. Informe del 28º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, junio de 2002) (CL 123/10)

#### Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Chairman, Committee on World Food Security)

As the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security, I am honoured to have this opportunity to report to the Council on the outcome of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

The Committee was able to successfully conclude its deliberations and submit an agreed Draft Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* which was a major achievement. The outgoing Chairman of the CFS, Mr Aidan O'Driscoll deserves much credit for making that happen as he so aptly Chaired the Open-ended Working Group dealing with the Resolution.

I would like to draw the particular attention of the Council to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 27 and 32 to 34 of the Report of the Committee, CL 123/10. For the sake of brevity, I have compressed the recommendations into the following groups.

Governments were urged to improve their monitoring of food security, develop national food security plans and implement them taking into special account the role of women in food security and respect the principles of good governance and human rights. FAO was requested to continue to strengthen food information systems at national and International levels, analyse the effective use of food aid, and incidence and causes of food insecurity with special focus on the impact of different policies on livelihood strategies of the poor, develop member's capacity to participate in international trade negotiations and comply with international food standards and assess the impact of climate change on food security and sustainable food production.

All concerned parties were collectively asked to ensure that food security is a priority in poverty reduction strategies and programmes, promote substantial improvements in market access to enhance income opportunities for the poor and address the issue of food availability, access to food and response to crisis situations, and nutritional problems in an integrated and simultaneous manner.

I would like to urge the Council to endorse these recommendations.

#### Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)

The Cyprus delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for having presented this document. We believe that the report of the Twenty-eighth Session of this Committee on World Food Security generally reflects the tone of the discussion of the meeting and the views of the Member States. We are in favour of adopting this Report in the Council.

Food security is more than food production and food supply. Food security includes economic growth; sustainable environmental development and human resource development; the development of gender equality; the sustainable natural resource management; and soil and water conservation, are considered to be necessary measures for the creation of food security on our planet. The Committee has given proper attention to all those issues in this meeting and has formulated recommendations which are presented in paragraphs 11 and 27 of the document CL 123/10 which is before us.

The delegation of Cyprus supports the adoption of these recommendations and hopes that both FAO and interested governments will do their utmost for their implementation. Regarding the future work of the Committee, my delegation considers the selection of the topic for the next thematic debate, that is, the impact of disasters on long-term food security and poverty alleviation policy implication, to be timely and important and supports its inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

**Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)**

Allow me to place on record our deep appreciation for the work done by Mr Adrian O'Driscoll in Chairing the CFS, as well as the Open-ended Working Group which finalized the Declaration adopted by the World Food Summit: *five years later*. Similarly, we acknowledge the contribution of the Co-chair, Mrs Muchada.

Allow me also to appreciate once again the format of reporting used for CFS where findings, recommendations and conclusions are clearly spelled out. We propose that FAO maintain a tracking system for reporting on these recommendations to the Committee on Food Security in as concrete terms as possible.

We endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 27 of the Report. In doing so, we particularly stress the recommendations made for FAO. We urge FAO to urgently undertake discussion with other UN Agencies to arrive at a consistent set of targets and indicators.

Furthermore, we cannot but emphasize the importance of FAO's active and positive assistance to developing countries to improve their capacity in complying with international food safety standards, as well in participating in agriculture trade negotiations.

**Oswaldo DEL ÁGUILA RAMÍREZ (Perú)**

Mi delegación reitera la importancia que tiene una efectiva lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición. Es necesario que los gobiernos la incorporen en sus estrategias nacionales para enfrentar la pobreza, con el objetivo de mejorar la seguridad alimentaria de sus poblaciones. Consideramos que éste es el punto de partida para un enfoque amplio del problema que debe ser también compartido por los organismos internacionales, instituciones financieras y gobiernos.

La aprobación de la Alianza Internacional Contra el Hambre constituye un importante avance que permitirá definir estrategias conjuntas y, en ese contexto, reiteramos la importancia de establecer foros nacionales destinados a coordinar y diseñar estrategias conjuntas sobre la seguridad alimentaria.

Mi delegación desea reiterar la importancia de analizar la idoneidad de la clasificación de los países PBIDA como lo hace para determinar la asignación de ayuda. La cooperación debe llegar donde se presenten situaciones de inseguridad alimentaria y su asignación no debe verse limitada por este tipo de clasificación de países.

**Guntram FREIHER VON SCHENCK (Germany)**

I would like to ask the Floor for the Danish delegation to speak on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

The European Community and its 15 Member States would like to endorse the Report of the Committee on World Food Security which had its Session in June of this year and recall the role of the CFS in the follow-up to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

We will refrain from repeating our comments made at the CFS, but they still remain valid. Many of the recommendations of the Committee were endorsed in the Declaration from the World Food Summit: *five years later* and we note that the recommendations for FAO to some extent are already reflected in the Medium-Term Plan.

We support the recommendations to governments, FAO and concerned parties as expressed in paragraph 11 and we urge all governments who have not already done so to implement without delay the recommendations falling under their mandates. We would, however, go further by adding that governments should commit themselves not only to the principles of good governance but also to sound economic policies and management, including providing a supporting environment to private sector investments in agriculture and developing markets. All concerned parties also need to re-examine the role and the proper use of food aid to ensure that local production and markets are not undermined.

In regard to FAO, we would like to emphasize the two first recommendations under paragraph 27 which reads as follows: "...recommendation to be pursued by FAO: undertake further and more comprehensive analysis for the understanding of the causes of food insecurity, the livelihood strategies of poor people and the impact of different policies, drawing upon the information available through FIVIMS; Secondly: "work together with other Organizations of the UN System and OECD to agree on the same set of indicators for the monitoring of the MDGs on poverty and hunger, as well as the WFS target, and agree on a division of work among Agencies".

Finally, on the arrangements for the Twenty-ninth Session of the CFS and the topics proposed, which strongly supports the two proposals which we have in paragraph 32, that is at the topic for the next thematic debate. "The impact of disasters of long-term food security and poverty alleviation - policy implications" and that the topic for the next informal panel be". The impact of access to land on improving food security and alleviating rural poverty - a review of successful cases of land reform in selected countries".

**Michihiro TAMURA (Japan)**

I would like to make some comments on behalf of the Government of Japan. Despite its severe economic and finance situation, Japan plays a key role in assisting developing countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. We are confident that Japan will continue to help developing countries in tackling their acute issues such as food insecurity and poverty.

In the longer term, Japan believes that it is essential to increase agricultural production in a sustainable manner. In this respect, Japan has been supporting developing countries to attain their food security through FAO's SPFS projects. In addition, in view of responding to the emergency needs of developing countries, in the WTO negotiation, Japan proposes a new framework for international food stockholding in fish. Food can be provided to the countries that suffer temporary and large-scale food shortage.

Since hunger and poverty are the global issue that the international community must tackle together, Japan hopes that the determination to fight against hunger of individual countries and FAO will be renewed and reinforced.

**Octavio SOTOMAYOR ECHEÑIQUE (Chile)**

Chile apoya el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial resaltando la importancia de la aplicación efectiva del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. A este respecto se debe destacar la importancia de un entorno favorable de políticas apropiadas para

combatir la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo, la buena gestión en los asuntos públicos, los principios de buen gobierno, la transparencia de las decisiones públicas, la participación ciudadana a las decisiones que los afectan y el alcanzar una complementariedad efectiva entre el sector privado y la sociedad civil. Son todos elementos sustantivos para alcanzar un desarrollo social que posibilite la implementación de políticas públicas adecuadas para combatir el hambre y la desnutrición a nivel nacional.

Chile apoya las recomendaciones alcanzadas por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. En particular, desea recordar el importante aporte realizado por el Instituto Internacional para el Análisis de Sistemas Aplicados de Luxemburgo, el cual se refirió a la importancia de la relación del cambio climático con la seguridad alimentaria. A este respecto la Red de Seguridad Alimentaria puede servir como contribución a los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de esta Organización. Es importante explorar la forma cómo se pueden establecer vínculos entre el Comité y la Red de Seguridad Alimentaria.

**Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)**

La délégation gabonaise a examiné avec attention le rapport de la vingt-huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et remercie ce dernier pour le travail accompli. Nous déplorons ce qui apparaît au point de "l'évaluation de la sécurité mondiale" et que l'examen du point 3 de notre ordre du jour a également mis en évidence, à savoir le faible recul de la prévalence du nombre de personnes sous-alimentées en Afrique avec une situation particulièrement précaire en Afrique Australe. Nous réitérons l'appel à l'aide internationale pour cette sous-région lancé par le Comité de sécurité alimentaire.

Nous appuyons les recommandations faites aux gouvernements au paragraphe 11, et rappelons que dans nombre de pays en développement l'objectif de sécurité alimentaire peut difficilement être atteint sans un appui international. A cet égard nous aurions préféré que le contenu du paragraphe 10 apparaisse plus clairement comme invitation au monde développé à collaborer avec les pays africains dans leur mise en place de la composante agricole du NEPAD (Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Afrique), plutôt qu'une simple présentation de ce programme.

En ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire dans mon pays, le Gabon, elle constitue actuellement une priorité gouvernementale, notamment à travers une promotion du secteur agricole. A cet égard nous tenons à remercier vivement la FAO qui vient d'accorder à mon pays le financement d'un projet "PCT" pour la préparation d'un Programme d'investissements pour la sécurité alimentaire (PSSA) et qui nous permettra de mettre en œuvre un programme national visant un accroissement de la productivité et l'amélioration de la qualité des produits. Pour revenir au paragraphe 11 de notre document, nous appuyons les recommandations faites à la FAO et celles à l'attention de toutes les parties prenantes. Toutefois, nous voudrions souligner que la gravité de la l'incidence du VIH/SIDA nous incite à recommander plus que la simple information du CSA, à savoir une véritable prise en compte de ce problème dans l'assistance en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

Nous souscrivons aux idées exposées à la troisième partie de ce rapport, et particulièrement aux sections B, (nécessité d'intégrer de façon explicite la problématique homme/femme), F (échanges internationaux et sécurité alimentaire), G (droit à l'alimentation), H (Alliance mondiale contre la faim) et I (aide publique au développement).

Enfin nous appuyons les recommandations figurant au paragraphe 27 ainsi que les propositions des paragraphes 32 à 34.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

We endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Food Security. I would like to mention that the Government of India has launched its Five-Year Plan, and in the Plan, agriculture and rural development has now been given the highest priority both in terms of budgetary support and also the policy reform.

It is very clear that, as mentioned in this document, now we have to move from adequate food to action. Also recognize that awareness has been created concerning food security and poverty but I think we must now move from awareness to the Action Plan.

Among others, one of the most important issues is the equitable international trading system. We are hoping that the developed countries will take care of the perceptions, and the interest of the developing countries whilst negotiating the segment of agriculture in the WTO. Similarly major support is required for investment in agriculture and we are hoping that the Monterrey Declaration will result in a major involvement of developed countries in the agricultural rural development programme for developing countries. This will help us to realize whatever suggestions have been made in this document.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

In this document Zimbabwe supports the recent recommendations in paragraph 11, especially for governments to improve monitoring food insecurity.

We recognize the important role of women in food security and improve their access to resources such as land, water, credit and training and also to ensure the equal participation on their part.

While primarily food security should and is seen as an individual government's responsibility it should also be noted that the success of the government's policies would to a large extent depend on how the other partners behave or react, because we are all in a global village and the many issues yet to be addressed following the Doha Conference will have an important bearing on the success of government policies and programmes.

We can only urge the acceleration of the negotiations and appeal for firm commitment on the part of our partners to help level the playing field with particular regard to market access and removal of subsidies.

FAO should continue to support developing countries, to participate in agricultural trade negotiations, as this will give us an opportunity to make a contribution. It should also analyze the incidence and causes of food insecurity as this will help us to come up with incisive strategies to address the situation of the poor.

We endorse the need to understand these main contributing factors and to institute these appropriate measures. We support the need to promote harmonization among the UN Bodies to avoid duplication of efforts; in capacity building we feel that this is important as it will help us all to participate and negotiate effectively in the international fora when we find ourselves having to make contributions with our partners.

In the SADC region we have found that the need to have more information on the nature of food security and the nature of food and imports is important. We feel that capacity building will help improve understanding of new developments in biotechnology not only in my region but I think in other regions as well.

In order for us to all realize the gains our data bases need to be continually updated and upgraded and networks encouraged. The recent consultation on the management of information in agriculture which was a case in point. It clearly demonstrated some of the gaps that we still have in the agriculture sector. The board of knowledge in this area is basic and it needs to be fortified because of the IT division many of the Member Nations from the developing countries will for some time require some capacity building in order for them to be effective partners.

We know very little of some of the developments that are taking place but we would want to come on board and negotiate meaningfully.

In paragraph 32 the impact of disasters on the long-term food insecurity is an important issue in many regions today and we feel that it would be an important topic to discuss in our group. Regarding the impact of access to land to improve food security and alleviate rural poverty for which different models have been applied in many parts of the world countries, such as mine and my region, in which land is still an important issue would benefit a lot from sharing such ideas



with others. I am sure that we are not the only region that is facing this challenge. So topics that have a general approach, would be of interest to us.

**David INGHAM (Australia)**

Australia would like to express its strong support to the Committee's recommendations in paragraph 11 on assisting FAO Member Nations capacity in relation to international food safety standards and participating in agricultural trade negotiations is clearly articulated during the World Food Summit: *five years later*. Agricultural trade is a key element in providing food security

Australia believes that trade liberalization in agriculture will benefit FAO Members considerably through providing greater access to the supply of food, by increasing the choices available to countries to source their demand for food and also by reducing variability in world market prices.

FAO plays a crucial role in assisting developing countries to capitalize on the benefits of agricultural trade liberalization through capacity building and technical assistance programmes. Consistent with this, we also strongly support further development of FAO's technical assistance activities, that are aimed at strengthening developing countries' capacity with respect to management of food safety, plant and animal health.

**Wilfred NGIRWA (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to air my comments to the Council. The work done by the Committee on the World Food Security is commendable. The Committee made a comprehensive analysis on the world food security situation. I would like also to share my disappointment at the slow pace of keeping up with the goals of reducing hunger in the world. Now that the causes are known, it is up to our governments, involving partners and stakeholders to act on these broad recommendations.

The issue of food safety, even though it appears to be far fetched for developing countries, has now become important, particularly considering the grave food security situation currently affecting southern Africa. The expected intervention in terms of food aid to the region has met a slow response. This notwithstanding, we all now understand that the issue of genetically modified organisms, has become one of greater concern for agriculture in these countries, besides the issues of having specific policies on GMOs in the region. I call upon the Council to endeavour to provide the necessary clarification to Members and thereby allay the concerns about introduction of GMO foods in the region and elsewhere.

I do concur with the recommendations put forward by the Committee. While going through them I have observed the need for including additional recommendations as follows: Governments should combat the spread of HIV/AIDS creating awareness in the farming and fishing communities and the population at large; increase budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector; reduce environmental degradation through promotion of sustainable agricultural production methods; increase sustainable and efficient utilization of viable water resources for agriculture; set-up bio-safety policies in the guidelines in an effort to ensure the safety of people and the environment with respect to the risks arising from GMOs; recognize the significant role played by livestock and the fisheries to food security, considering the huge livestock and the fisheries resources available in the most low income food deficit countries; for FAO and the others, assist the developing countries to build the capacity with a view to effectively conduct risk analysis regarding the GMOs; assist developing countries to build the capacity to provide quality fingerlings and feed for fish farmers.

The Committee presented a good report on the follow-up on the implementation of the World Food Summit commitments. However, I had observed that during the Summit meeting, countries had differing formats of reporting their progress made. In this regard, I call upon the Committee to make deliberate arrangements to liaise with Member Nations through country offices and provide not only guidelines but some form of seminars or training to facilitate other Members to set up or improve systems for continuous monitoring of progress.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

Mi delegación brinda su apoyo a este informe. El Comité, sin embargo, debe fortalecer su función para alcanzar los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996 y para que se apliquen las acciones contenidas en la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*.

Deseo realizar algunas observaciones a este informe. Por lo que se refiere a las recomendaciones de los párrafos 11 y 27 sería conveniente que las evaluaciones que corresponden a la FAO sobre diversos aspectos vinculados con la seguridad alimentaria y la producción sostenible de alimentos se realicen en coordinación con los instrumentos o arreglos pertinentes. Tal es el caso del cambio climático, cuyo análisis y evaluación deben realizarse de manera coordinada con el Secretariado de la Convención "Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático".

Con referencia a la sección E titulada "Pesca Sostenible para la Seguridad Alimentaria", párrafo 19, en el que se hace mención a la Conferencia de Reykjavik, que México apoyó firmemente, sería conveniente saber cómo las acciones indicadas en dicha Conferencia contribuirán a la seguridad alimentaria como se indica en ese párrafo.

En relación con los preparativos del 29º Período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que se celebrará el próximo año, específicamente párrafo 33, sería también conveniente vincular el tema seleccionado que se titula "Contribución de la acuicultura a la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria a nivel comunitario", con los trabajos del Comité de Pesca que también se celebrará el próximo año.

**I. KIBIRIGE-SSEBUNYA (Observer for Uganda)**

Uganda endorses this report. I refer to paragraph 11 under the subtitle: For all concerned parties and it's last bullet: "promote food security by addressing simultaneously the issues of food availability (national production strategic reserves and trade)...", I am seeking a clarification. Did the Committee have any proposal as to how these strategic reserves would be funded whether by nationals or by the private sector?

**Mohammad Saeid NOURI-NAENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

I would like to join others in confirming the recommendations in paragraph 11 and we totally support these recommendations.

I have one question concerning the final two recommendations for FAO which reads "analyze the incidence and causes of food insecurity, its impact on the livelihood strategies of poor people...", as well as "the effects of different policies on food insecurity". Considering that five months have now passed since this recommendation and that the next meeting will be held in six months, I would like to see what has been done by FAO during this time and what are their plans for the future in this regard.

The same is true for the last recommendation: "assess impact of climate change...". This is very important and as emphasized earlier also by numerous delegations we consider drought as a climate change and we would like to have some information about past and future activities in FAO on drought mitigation.

**Sra. Erika Jacqueline CUELLAR CHÁVEZ (Bolivia)**

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la presentación del informe del 28º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

A pesar del crecimiento de la producción agrícola, los esfuerzos por doblegar los niveles de pobreza en el mundo y, por ende, disminuir el hambre, han sido poco menos que satisfactorios. Esto nos lleva a señalar que, mientras no se alcance a reducir significativamente la malnutrición y el hambre en el mundo, será imposible lograr avances en las otras áreas que involucran a la lucha contra la pobreza. En este sentido, mi delegación ratifica las recomendaciones y conclusiones del Comité, principalmente en la necesidad de continuar reforzando los sistemas nacionales de

información sobre la seguridad alimentaria, y fomentar la colaboración con los sistemas mundiales, analizar los obstáculos al funcionamiento de los sectores productivos en los países en desarrollo y apoyar a estos países a beneficiarse del acuerdo sobre la agricultura, aumentando la capacidad de negociación de los mismos, tomando en cuenta que el acceso a los mercados para nuestros países es crucial. Mientras más oportunidades de mercados dispongan nuestros productos de exportación, más y mejores oportunidades de crecimiento económico y social tendrán, y de esa manera se podrá superar también los niveles de hambre y desnutrición de sus poblaciones.

Por otra parte, es importante para mi delegación que la FAO continúe apoyando la asistencia técnica para promover prácticas agrícolas de conservación para pequeños agricultores y fomentar la creación de dependencias de planificación del uso y la ordenación apropiada de recursos de agua así como de aprovechamiento de las tierras.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois que nous n'avons plus de demandes d'intervention. Je passerai la parole à Monsieur Adisak et à Monsieur de Haen pour donner des éclaircissements demandés par les délégations. La Guinée équatoriale a demandé la parole et Madame la déléguée du Guatemala, donc, avant de passer la parole à Monsieur Adisak, d'abord Madame la déléguée du Guatemala s'il vous plaît!

### **Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGIOTTI (Guatemala)**

Guatemala apoya las recomendaciones presentadas en el Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, agradece la claridad y puntualidad del documento presentado. Convidimos lo manifestado por Perú, Chile y México. Haciendo únicamente hincapié en que, para alcanzar las metas del derecho a una alimentación adecuada propuesta de la acción concreta de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, hay que tratar que la ayuda llegue realmente a los más vulnerables; por esto la importancia de los mapeos de vulnerabilidad. Los fríos factores macroeconómicos para formar clasificaciones y categorías únicamente falsean la realidad de las naciones, no reflejan en ningún momento las verdaderas condiciones de sus pobladores.

Queremos hacer constar que el mandato expreso de las naciones es llegar a cancelar esta inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

### **Rosendo ELA NSUE MIBUY (Observador de Guinea Ecuatorial)**

Queremos hacer notar que, desde que tomara las riendas del poder, el primer programa de nuestro gobierno fue la diversificación de cultivos en contraposición del método monocultivista de la época de la dependencia. Este programa ha estado ayudando la producción y la disponibilidad de los alimentos básicos constituidos principalmente de carbohidratos. El agradecimiento de la Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial a la Organización y a su Director es multifacético. La introducción del Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria después de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996, ha sido de efecto de la suministración de unos conocimientos y conciencias sobre el hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza eternos compañeros.

El PESA, mediante la presencia de los expertos cubanos, unidos a los nacionales, ha llevado a la población rural el concepto triunfador del binomio producción-agrupación, el cual aún, no habiéndolo implementado todas sus fases ya funcionan muchas agrupaciones agrícolas y sus efectos positivos no se han hecho esperar y Guinea Ecuatorial se está liberando a grandes pasos de su dependencia del exterior sobre todo, en lo que respecta a los alimentos de origen vegetal.

El PESA ha despertado y llevado en el ambiente rural de mi país, el conocimiento y la conciencia de ámbitos de alimento. Paralelamente al PESA, en mi país funciona el Instituto Nacional de Promoción Agropecuaria (INPAGE) subvencionado totalmente por el Gobierno. El INPAGE dependiente del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural, ha participado positivamente en la producción de alimentos mediante aceptables créditos en metálicos o en insumos a las agrupaciones. El INPAGE no obstante, se extiende para diferentes productos. En la Conferencia Económica Nacional de 1977, nuestro Gobierno acordó importancia especial en la economía nacional, en el empleo del petróleo, en los sectores de la educación, la sanidad y la agricultura. Este último sector independientemente de la ayuda del PESA y del INPAGE recibe

gran protección y empuje de la Primera Dama de la Nación con la ayuda a la mujer rural, gran exponente en la economía y en la producción agrícola del país.

También funciona en el país un proyecto para el Alivio a la Pobreza, el cual, con el PESA, el INPAGE promocionan la agricultura alimentaria rural del país, en lucha contra el hambre; y quien lucha contra el hambre lucha contra la pobreza consiguientemente lucha contra la malnutrición que no se puede separar del hambre.

Para el establecimiento de la disponibilidad y estabilidad de alimentos en el país ya empiezan a funcionar otros centros de acopio; pero para la accesibilidad a los alimentos el gobierno, mediante el Ministerio de Industria, Comercio, Grandes y Pequeñas Empresas, está estudiando actualmente una Ley para la reducción de precios en relación a los alimentos básicos, para facilitar la accesibilidad hacia ellos del campesino, población de bajos ingresos y funcionarios de medios.

Sólo dos aspectos faltan para el efectivo establecimiento de la Seguridad Alimentaria en Guinea Ecuatorial. La falta de una verdadera organización para la producción ganadera, hace que se siga registrando insuficiencia de proteínas a la dieta alimentaria diaria y la falta de transformación de las materias alimentarias, resta la necesaria estabilidad de los alimentos. Dos aspectos por los que pedimos especial atención a la FAO porque vencidos los aspectos de la transformación podremos hablar positivamente de una seguridad alimentaria

#### **Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINI (Cuba)**

Ante todo queremos agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento CL 123/10 que resume los resultados, conclusiones y recomendaciones del 28° Período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Al mismo tiempo, aprovechamos la ocasión para agradecer a la distinguida Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial por su mención y evaluación de la asistencia que modestamente le brinda nuestro país a través del Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria. En este sentido, dirigiéndonos ya ó refiriéndonos al documento en cuestión no pretendemos ser reiterativos con respecto a lo que ya han planteado algunas delegaciones con las cuales compartimos.

Son conocidos los esfuerzos que realiza nuestro país por garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y por eso hacemos nuestras las recomendaciones que se recogen en el documento con respecto a las responsabilidades que deben asumir los gobiernos. En este sentido, nos pronunciamos por apoyar íntegramente este documento. De la misma forma y tomando en consideración los esfuerzos que también realiza Cuba con respecto a los programas especiales de seguridad alimentaria en otros países, agradeceríamos a la FAO que también nos apoyara con el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria que tenemos presentado y que tendrá un gran impacto en la seguridad alimentaria de nuestra población.

#### **Kwaku Owusu BAAH (Ghana)**

Thank you for the opportunity granted me to share the success story of Ghana, as far as food security issues are concerned.

Ghana welcomes the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security. We recognize that food security is the responsibility of national governments. Accordingly, the Government of Ghana has pursued interventions that have helped to improve the food security situation in the country.

Supply response to government policies have been overwhelming in the last couple of years, to the extent that the country over produced her basic food requirements. This resulted in another kind of problem, in that it led us to problems with post-production management and marketing.

It is, therefore, our view that food security should not only be tackled from the supply side alone. Agriculture is a chain and we think that problems along the chain must be addressed holistically.

To address the demand side of the equation, as a first step to stabilizing the situation, the Government of Ghana has promoted a partnership between Government, financial institutions, farmers and other private sector brokers. By this partnership, the Government has improved

private sector access to finance and other services. This has resulted in building national food security stocks as well as buffer stocks to ensure a sustainable food security programme.

Although the country has made some progress, with regard to food crop production and food security, we still require considerable assistance when it comes to the question of livestock and fisheries production. We still have problems in those two sub-sectors.

We would, therefore, require support to improve production of livestock and fisheries and we count on FAO for this type of support, perhaps, through technical cooperation programmes, for us to succeed completely.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Chairman, Committee on World Food Security)**

On behalf of the Committee on World Food Security, I would like to thank the Council for the intensive discussion about the Report and recommendations. All comments and suggestions have been noted and will be discussed during the next CFS meeting in May. We will be discussing the preparation so all of the comments and suggestions will be taken into account.

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

There is not much I need to add other than thanking the Council Members for their general comments on the document.

We note that you seem to propose endorsement of the main recommendations, including those that are directed to FAO. We have also noted that there was quite a support for the two topics: one for the somatic debate and one for the informal panel, proposed by the CFS for the next session of the Committee.

There were a few specific questions that I would like to refer to, beginning with the distinguished delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran who had two questions relating to paragraph 11. One was, that he requested clarification of work under way in the recommendations for FAO on the penultimate bullet under paragraph 11. Specifically, effects of different policies on food insecurity. May I refer to my reply yesterday to you, Mr Ambassador, during which I explained in some detail the work under way through case studies, which deal with the impact of the Uruguay Round and certain policy proposals under discussion on the food security situation of specific countries. Twenty-three case studies have been undertaken on experience with the Uruguay Round and most have them have been published or presented at the symposium in Geneva. They are also available on our trade-related web page. Of course, these are studies on the impact of other countries policies on the food security situation of specific countries, which is trade related policy or general agriculture policy. Consequently, my answer is yes, in that work is under way, in compliance with this request by the CFS, which is documented here.

The other question was whether we are making progress in regard to assessing the climate change impact on food security, which is the last bullet under the recommendations for FAO. I can confirm that FAO has established an Interdisciplinary Working Group dealing with issues of climate change. That is also to be found on page 36 of the Medium-Term Plan. This Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Working Group is very active in assessing impacts of climate change on production, on the natural resource base and, of course, on rural communities. Through this, it is a study of impact on food security. Of course we will have to draw all these ongoing studies together to provide the next CFS with a report.

I would also like to draw your attention to the recent publication that we have just presented, Agriculture Towards 2015-2030, which has a special section on the Impact of Climate Change. This year's state of knowledge has been put into that document. I hope this shows you that both of these issues are being dealt with by the Secretariat and we will also continue to do so.

The distinguished delegate of Uganda made reference to the last bullet under paragraph 11, which is a recommendation for all concerned parties to promote food security by addressing simultaneously the issues of food availability, including national production, strategic reserves and trade. A specific question was raised on who should pay for these strategic reserves. As far as

the Secretariat is concerned, we are, of course, in our design of food security strategies and policies, looking into all aspects, including the financing of strategic reserves as a component of overall food security. There is no specific work underway and we have no preconceived concept where the funding should come from. I can only refer you to the fact that FAO is a member of a Task Force established by WTO, in the current negotiations, in the part that deals with implementation of the Marrakech Agreements and implementation, in particular, of the Marrakech Ministerial Decision on measures to assist countries that are negatively affected by the reform. These are least developed and net food-importing countries. In that discussion of the task force in Geneva there is a particular proposal of a revolving fund, that was made by a number of countries, this would contribute to assisting these countries, including through food aide, support of reserves and as through assistance to the agriculture sector of these countries. Should you wish to know more, I will be pleased to provide you with more specific information on that discussion. If I am not mistaken, the work has made some progress but is still on-going.

We will certainly take note of the delegate of Mexico's recommendation to link the work on agriculture to the work on fisheries and forestry to ensure that all intersectorial linkages are being taken care of in our work.

### LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que toutes les délégations s'estiment satisfaites par les précisions apportées par Monsieur de Haen. Donc, ceci conclut le point 4 de l'ordre du jour et nous passons au point 5 relatif au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, qui s'est tenu à Rome du 10 au 13 juin 2002.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

**5. World Food Summit: *five years later* (Rome, 10 – 13 June 2002) (CL 123/21)**

**5. Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après* (Rome, 10 – 13 juin 2002) (CL 123/21)**

**5. Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después* (Roma, 10-13 de junio de 2002) (CL 123/21)**

### LE PRÉSIDENT

Le document qui concerne ce point est le document CL 123/21. Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, un événement très important, a été convoqué afin de donner un nouvel élan à la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Rome sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996. En appelant le Sommet à se réunir, le Conseil a retenu l'importance de mobiliser la volonté politique et les ressources nécessaires pour atteindre d'ici 2015, l'objectif fixé par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Le Conseil, qui se réunit pour la première fois depuis le Sommet, doit à présent examiner les conclusions tirées en juin 2002 et déterminer les modalités de suivi du Sommet. Il s'agit, en effet, de s'assurer que le nouveau souffle donné contre la faim ne retombe pas dans les années à venir. Nous avons reçu la première partie du Rapport du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, où se trouve le texte de la Déclaration intitulée: "Alliance internationale contre la faim". Je suggère que notre discussion se concentre aujourd'hui sur les mesures concrètes à prendre en vue de la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration.

J'aimerais souligner que le paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration prévoit l'établissement d'un Groupe de travail intergouvernemental. Cette question fera l'objet d'une discussion distincte; il s'agit du sous-point 5.1 de l'ordre du jour, que nous examinerons un peu plus tard dans la matinée. Je voudrais, à présent, donner la parole à Madame Killingworth, Conseiller spécial pour le Suivi du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, qu'elle introduise le point 5 de l'Ordre du jour.

**Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Director-General/Special Adviser, World Food Summit Follow-up)**

You mention that Part 1 of the Report has indeed been circulated to all members quite a while ago, but I would just like to point out that you have in your boxes, as of this morning or yesterday, Parts 2 and 3 of the Report. Therefore, the documentation, at least in its provisional version, is available to you on the event itself. I think other than that the World Food Summit: *five years later* needs no introduction from me. I would like to, however, focus a little bit on the other content of the document CL 123/21 and also draw your attention to the document entitled CL 123/INF/8 which supplements the material provided to you on cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations.

Document CL 123/21 discusses some new or strengthened areas for action by the Secretariat itself in following-up on the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* at three levels: international, regional and national. It points out that the strategic framework for FAO for 2000 to 2015 sets as a major strategic objective the achievement and maintenance of a central place for food security on the international agenda. The holding of the World Food Summit: *five years later* definitely is inscribed as part of that strategy and has, as has already been pointed out this morning, certainly helped achieve that objective of keeping food security in the forefront of international attention.

We have also pointed out additional areas where the FAO Secretariat has interacted with other organizations in the UN System and at other major international events, most recently, the World Summit for Sustainable Development about which the Director-General informed you yesterday in his introduction. You might refer to the document CL INF/19 which gives a further report on FAO's participation in that event.

We were indeed very gratified to see the attention which was placed on our issues in the Johannesburg Summit but our major challenge, and I think the challenge of all Members is, as the delegate of India pointed out just a few moments ago, that of moving from advocacy to action to ensure that the impetus, as you said, is not lost in the coming years.

There we have outlined some new initiatives which FAO is taking in response to conclusions and requests made at the World Food Summit: *five years later*. In particular, at the Regional level those 17 side events on regional strategies have led to requests for further support from the Organization in cooperation with regional organizations around the world and for reinforcement of the regional programmes for food security.

Finally, at the National level as many members have pointed out this morning, this is where the assistance of the Organization can be effective in promoting revision or a new look at national strategies and we are preparing to reinforce our insistence in that area to all countries which request it. We would recall that in the wake of the World Food Summit in 1996 FAO, IFAD and WFP, in cooperation with other international organizations and various organizations at the National level, have set up a network on food security and rural development. This can also provide a focus at National level for bringing together the various members from the private sectors, from Non-Governmental Organizations, from various local governments, municipalities and other partners to create a constituency for food and food security issues.

Finally, as you are aware, the Director-General addressed a Note Verbale to all countries in August/September of this year, encouraging countries to take off from the Declaration and begin the process of promoting alliance against hunger at the National level.

The Secretariat awaits Council guidance on the issues and lines of action outlined in this document and on other issues on which you would wish to give us your views. We stand prepared to answer any further questions as well.

**Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)**

Brazil wishes to comment on the second draft of the anti-hunger programmes mentioned in document CL 123/21, in the context of the immediate follow-up action by FAO to the World Food Summit: *five years later*. The latest version of the programme mentions some elements needed to make the international environment friendlier to the efforts by developing countries to reduce poverty and hunger.

This is a fundamental issue in international relations and the national consensus in Brazil. Among those elements we strongly affirm the need to promote rule-based multilateral systems. In its paragraph 64, the document says that world agricultural markets remain highly distorted and that the main cause of those distortions is the high level of protection and trade distortive agricultural support, such as subsidies and other internal measures adopted by developed countries which are protective to their own agriculture. Brazil believes, however, that the anti-hunger programme should stress clearly the importance of the commitments made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to change that situation which has prevented developing countries to achieve their objectives of economic development, poverty reduction and food security.

The statements made yesterday, in this regard, by many countries from different regions and the debate on the State of Food and Agriculture bear witness to the need to reflect in the programme a call for serious improvements in market access, the phasing out of all forms of export subsidies and reductions in trade distortive domestic support.

Brazil understands, therefore, that the second draft of the anti-hunger programme has to be reviewed in order to reflect the vital importance of implementing those three pillars on which to base the reform of the international agricultural trading system. A step much needed to allow all countries, especially the developing ones, to benefit fully from increased integration into the global economy.

We insist in this connection that the final version of the document will take care of those points as expressed yesterday by the majority of the countries present at this session of the Council.

**Hunt SHIPMAN (United States of America)**

The task of ending hunger is dawning. In June the international community reached agreement on a landmark document at the World Food Summit: *five years later*. This short programme truly contains all the elements for reaching the international development goal on hunger, achieving it will require first and foremost action at the National level. An open and growing trading system is important in order to facilitate trade liberalization barriers between developing countries, as well as developed countries must be eliminated. Effective, efficient and results-oriented multilateral organizations are critical in achieving this goal.

FAO has begun to consider implementation of the International Alliance Against Hunger and we appreciate these efforts. The United States believes that FAO should concentrate on implementation of this agenda, rather than large new proposed programmes. We applaud FAO's initiative to help countries review national agricultural development and food security strategies. This process is being integrated with the poverty-reduction strategy process. This is consistent with the Monterrey Consensus that puts the ultimate responsibility on national governments to ensure development and food security.

In its concept paper on an Anti-Hunger Programme, FAO notes "enough is known about how to fight hunger", we agree. US priorities for reducing hunger include boosting agricultural productivity, ending famine and improving nutrition. They are consistent with the core objectives of the international alliance. We support the definition proposed by the FAO of the International Alliance Against Hunger as "a framework for all constituents concerned with eliminating hunger to join forces" and coordinate action.

We conceive the Alliance as a common undertaking of all development partners, Governments, international community and civil society that would build on existing initiatives and institutions



and not as a new mechanism. However, many of the proposed activities laid out in FAO's Anti-Hunger Programme concept paper, such as visible representation at major events and national hunger observation centres, seem to focus on form and process. These activities would require new staff, budget and a coordinating Secretariat for activities that will not have any direct result in hunger reduction on the ground.

We would like to discuss with all development partners what activities would be appropriate for any multilateral anti-hunger initiatives – results are truly key. It is clear that solving the problem of hunger requires resources from all sources. The international community addressed this challenge clearly at Monterrey, and we believe the Monterrey consensus to be directly applicable to our work here. The United States has a hard time replicating FAO's cost estimates of an additional US\$ 24 billion a year, of which US\$ 13 billion is official development assistance.

FAO's estimates do not seem to include all costs for agricultural and rural development and safety nets foreseen for sub-Saharan Africa and do not include emergency assistance interventions. Our own guess is that the incremental assistance needed to implement the broad strategies of the Anti-Hunger Programme may be about US\$ 6 billion per year. This assumes a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia and investing in effective strategies for reducing undernutrition. These include agricultural research, safe water and sanitation, women's education, rural infrastructure and targeted transfers of food aid.

We are not at all certain, however, that it is really possible to estimate the cost for long-term achievement of the international development goals. Neither do we believe that these estimates should be the focus of international debate and action. The time has come for implementation; resources must be put to use to achieve results.

Here is an update of what the United States is doing to carry out its World Food Summit commitments. At the World Food Summit: *five years later* the United States announced new initiatives for increasing agricultural productivity, ending famine and improving nutrition. The main US Government effort to increase agricultural productivity is the agricultural initiative to cut hunger in Africa through partnership with African Governments and regional organizations.

Starting in 2003 the United States will provide US\$ 148 million, an increase of over 25 percent to boost agricultural productivity and trade in Africa through improving access of smallholders to science and technology markets. This includes new investment in research on improved varieties and management practices, training of agricultural leaders and scientists, building farm to market roads through food for work programmes, developing market information systems and trade capacity building.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development the United States announced partnership initiatives for water for the poor, clean energy and forest conservation in the Congo Basin along with key actions to fight HIV/AIDS, restore and protect ocean and watershed resources and improve education and low-cost housing in Africa. As President Bush has said "we will lead by example", and we look forward to working with FAO and all our partners in this important effort.

**Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)**

Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the membership of FAO and the Director-General for holding a highly successful review Summit. This event has to be considered in the perspective of a series of high-level fora beginning from the Millennium Summit and culminating at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The World Food Summit: *five years later* furthered the agenda of the Millennium Summit and provided an advocacy base for agriculture and rural development for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

In the latter case, we note the important contribution of FAO through the formulation of the Anti-Hunger Programme and we call for mobilizing support for its implementation. An important outcome of the Summit was call for an International Alliance against Hunger. It is now time to give this concept some substance. We note that the Director-General has sought ideas from the Membership and plans to hold consultations with other international partners. We request FAO to

present a concept paper to the next CFS based on the afore-mentioned consultations outlining the key parameters of this Alliance.

The food emergencies discussed yesterday bring to fore the regional dimensions of food security and importance of putting in place relevant regional strategies. We support FAO's work on regional programmes for food security and encourage it to prepare detailed project documents to operationalize these strategies.

It is quite clear that the bulk of the work has to be done and remains to be done at the National level. While governments are working on the poverty-reduction strategies, strengthening their governance, introducing proper policies and altering resources allocations in favour of poverty-reduction programmes, there remain serious internal and external constraints, and these constraints were recognized by the Summit.

The Director-General's proposal of a national alliance is a good initiative and should be pursued. However, the national effort would remain constrained by capacity and therefore FAO would have to play a much more pro-active and meaningful role even at the National level to make the national alliance a reality.

Finally, we have always been ardent supporters of FAO's Special Programme for Food Security. We have supported its up-scaling through our own resources in Pakistan. We believe that FAO should continue to support this up-scaling through complementary and appropriate technical assistance. We believe that these steps would go a long way in meeting the Summit goals.

**Guntram FREIHERR VON SCHENCK (Germany)**

I would like to ask the floor for the Danish delegation to present the position of the European Community and its 15 Member States.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

The European Community and its 15 Member States take note of the Report made by the FAO Secretariat, on the preparation conduct of the World Food Summit: *five years later* and support the lines of action outlined in document CL 123/21 as mediate follow up in particular at the Regional and National levels.

At the international level FAO, has a strategic role in promoting action and raising awareness to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit target. We appreciate the concerted efforts by FAO, IFAD and WFP before and under the International Conference on financing for development in Monterrey and that the World Food Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. In connection with the outcome of World Food Summit: *five years later* these efforts have helped to ensure international consensus about the need for great investment in, and development of, rural areas if lasting success in poverty reduction and sustainable development is to be achieved.

We expect to see continued close collaboration between these three Agencies in a common interest of improved impact and call on the United Nations System and other international development agencies to join in this concerted and reactivated effort.

The Anti-Hunger Programme will coordinate closely with the hunger task force under the millennium development project of the UN Secretary General. We would like to request FAO to set out how they intend to take forward the Anti-Hunger Programme and how it will coordinate with the Hunger Task Force and the Millennium Development projects.

In relation to the International Alliance Against Hunger, the view of the European Community and its 15 Member States, is that the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* calling for political will, presenting the challenges and considering different modes of resources, is the best expression of the international consensus for an International Alliance Against Hunger.

In our view, the Declaration itself gives substance to the concept of this Alliance and serves as a broad framework for action for Governments, donors and international organizations, and that the

existing framework, that is the Committee for World Food Security is the best mechanism for taking this initiative forward. In addition, the work of the proposed Intergovernmental Working Group on voluntary guidelines in the right to adequate food, may give the concept a specific and concrete content.

Measurement of hunger is not only important to monitor progress towards the MDG's but also to ensure correct policy decisions. The FAO organized Scientific Symposium on Hunger and Measurement in June 2002, raised a number of concerns about existing indicators and measurement and suggested approaches to improving these. We would like FAO to publish the conclusions and recommendations of this Symposium as soon as possible and we request FAO to produce an Action Plan in the near future, outlining how it intends to take these forward.

At the regional level, we support FAO's work assisting regional organizations to develop regional food security strategies as expressed in paragraphs 21 to 23. We also support the particular reference made to paragraph 11 of the World Food Summit: *five years later* Declaration urging Governments to review, strengthen the efforts at National level and urging governments to ensure that these efforts are closely linked with national poverty planning processes such as the PRSP. We share the opinion, that it is important that developing countries and countries in transition revisit their strategies and policies at the National level with full stakeholder participation, in order to achieve their national food security targets.

We therefore, support the FAO initiative foreseen in 2002 to 2003 to provide technical advice and assistance to countries which requested it as well as to facilitate the participation of UNDP, World Bank and other UN Agencies in this process.

Finally we believe that an appropriate role for the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security would be advocacy for food security objectives in national development strategies rather than trying to identify projects and compete for financial resources.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

Eventos como el realizado en Doha y en Monterrey apuntan a un cambio en la visión de las relaciones económicas internacionales a reincorporar la dimensión del desarrollo a la gestión del comercio, las finanzas y las inversiones internacionales, con el fin de que los países en desarrollo puedan explotar su capacidad y potencial así como recibir los beneficios de un comercio más equitativo y abierto. A esto hay que agregar los compromisos adoptados en la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, y desde luego también en la Cumbre de Johannesburgo sobre Desarrollo Sustentable.

Deseamos manifestar nuestro aprecio al contenido del documento que nos ocupa en este debate. Ayer, en la declaración general, mi delegación expresó la estrategia, las acciones y los resultados que en mi país hemos emprendido para avanzar en materia de seguridad alimentaria e incrementar la capacidad productiva en el campo. A esto último hacen referencia justamente los párrafos 24 y 27 del documento. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso sobre los esfuerzos nacionales que debemos seguir realizando para alcanzar los objetivos de la Cumbre y su Plan de Acción.

El documento que nos presenta la Secretaría, si bien es bastante importante y lo apoyamos, también nos incita algunas dudas sobre las cuales quisiéramos que la Secretaría nos proporcione mayor información. Por ejemplo, en relación al párrafo 22, donde se habla de la aplicación de Programas Regionales de Seguridad Alimentaria, PRSA, y en especial quisiéramos mayor información sobre lo que esto representa para América Latina y el Caribe.

También quisiéramos mayor información sobre la iniciativa post-Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, prevista para 2002-2003, y me refiero al párrafo 28. Sobre todo porque de los más de 100 países que se indican en dicho párrafo, mi país no fue seleccionado para los talleres nacionales realizados en 2000-2001. En el párrafo 30, donde se habla de Instrumentación de la Alianza contra el Hambre a Nivel Nacional, quisiéramos saber cuál ha sido la respuesta recibida sobre la aceptación de esta iniciativa.

En cuanto a la mención específica que se hace a la Conferencia Internacional sobre Financiamiento para el Desarrollo, y me refiero al párrafo 17, mi delegación estima que el financiamiento al desarrollo debe tener como un objetivo central el incremento de los recursos para el desarrollo rural, por lo que apoya lo indicado en dicho párrafo.

En relación con el PESA, párrafo 31, la delegación de México expresa su reconocimiento al apoyo brindado por la FAO para el diseño y puesta en marcha de un programa de este tipo en mi país. También quisiéramos expresar el apoyo a la propuesta muy específica señalada por el delegado de Brasil sobre el Programa contra el Hambre.

Finalmente deseo indicar que en el informe final de la Cumbre, específicamente en el párrafo de países que participaban en ella, no fue incluido el nombre de mi país. Por escrito se pidió a la Secretaría corregir dicho error y hasta ahora no hemos tenido una respuesta. Espero que se tomen las medidas del caso y se nos informe.

**Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)**

The Philippines would like to echo the statement made by Brazil, regarding the Anti-Hunger Programme. We had thought along these lines yesterday in our statement on the State of Food and Agriculture. We believe that while the responsibility for implementing food security strategies lies squarely on the shoulders of the individual countries themselves, we find it clear that assistance is urgently needed for low income countries, particularly those with high levels of undernourishment.

Likewise, for countries to succeed in the fight against hunger and poverty a favourable international environment has to be put in place. We voice our strong support for the agreement reached at Doha, for comprehensive negotiations in WTO aimed at substantial improvements in market access, reductions of all forms of export subsidies of trade distorting domestic support and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

**Octavio SOTOMAYOR ECHEÑIQUE (Chile)**

Nuestro país participó con una delegación de alto nivel en esta Jornada de Compromiso Internacional en la Lucha contra el Hambre en el Mundo. Sobre el particular, se subscribió la Declaración Final de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, en la cual se hace un llamamiento a una efectiva aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial realizada en noviembre de 1996. Si bien los avances en esta materia, informados por Chile a la FAO, demuestran el logro de determinados resultados, no es menos cierto que existen áreas en las cuales es necesario profundizar un exceso a los beneficios del desarrollo de los más pobres. Por ello Chile, como uno de los socios activos de la FAO en esta materia, manifiesta su voluntad de seguir apoyando las labores del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Sobre este particular se debe recordar que este Comité está radicado el tema de la inocuidad alimentaria, aspecto central de la preocupación del Gobierno de Chile.

Por otra parte, Chile desea señalar a la atención del Consejo que la materialización de los objetivos contenidos en el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial, si bien recae en los Gobiernos, también es de responsabilidad de la labor solidaria de todos los sectores. Al respecto, el Gobierno de Chile ha fortalecido su cooperación con diversos países de la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Son diversos los programas en desarrollo que en lo esencial apuntan a fortalecer la institucionalidad agrícola, el diseño de políticas agrícolas y la creación de programas de prevención de enfermedades, como son la erradicación de la peste porcina clásica o el control de la mosca de la fruta. Ello se ha traducido en el envío de técnicos y profesionales bajo un concepto de cooperación Sur-Sur.

**Michihiro TAMURA (Japan)**

Japan thinks that the World Food Summit: *five years later* was a valuable opportunity. While the progress of the reduction of the number of the undernourished people was not sufficient to achieve the goal of the World Food Summit, it was significant that at the World Food Summit:

*five years later* world leaders gathered in Rome to discuss issues concerning hunger and poverty and renewed their determination to address these issues.

Japan will continue to assist developing countries, to achieve food security and poverty alleviation, concerning the outcome of the World Food Summit: *five years later*. Japan expects FAO member countries, FAO and stake holders will enforce their effort to tackle both hunger and poverty. In the meantime, Japan would like to draw your attention to the importance of the financial discipline. Since financial resources are not limitless and the economic prospect is not promising, it will be much harder to attract additional financial resources. Therefore, FAO should refrain from establishing new frameworks or requesting donor countries to contribute to them with constraints towards the global economies.

We would also like to refer to the Special Programme for Food Security. Our Government highly regards the concept of the programme and expects that the programme will contribute to the attainment of food security and poverty alleviation. In view of this, our Government has been contributing to the SPFS Project in several countries. Nevertheless the Government of Japan thinks that there are several points to be addressed in the SPFS Project especially in respect of the effectiveness of its implementation and its elaboration. Since participation of farmers positive involvement of Government officials and careful management, FAO are essential components of the project. If there is any shortcoming of these components the outcome of SPFS projects will be seriously damaged and unable to achieve the objectives.

To share the experience of these few projects supported by Japan, we are now considering that it will be quite meaningful in future to prepare a report with FAO on this project. As for other SPFS projects, since some of them are to be completed in the near future, Japan expects appropriate follow-up activities will be planned and implemented at local and National levels

**David INGHAM (Australia)**

The recently convened World Food Summit: *five years later* refocused all our minds on the need for appropriate action and policies in order to improve global food security. In considering which lines of action FAO should pursue in follow-up to the World Food Summit: *five years later*, Australia supports targeted activities that are focussed on addressing the key provisions in the Summit's Declarations. Specifically, Australia would like to reiterate its support for implementing the provisions in the Summit Declaration that focus on, firstly the importance of trade to food security, the significance of the Doha Round of Multilateral Negotiations in reforming the international agricultural system Declaration paragraph 12, the importance of Codex the IPPC and the OIE, Declaration paragraph 16, and strengthening developing countries' capacity with respect to the management of food safety and plant and animal health, Declaration paragraph 17.

It is now important that the FAO work actively towards implementing these areas within its mandate. Finally I would also like to express our support for comments by Brazil on the Anti-Hunger Programme, particularly with regard to the importance of many comments made by the delegations yesterday.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

The document CL 123/21 submitted by the Secretariat is of high quality. I am grateful to the Secretariat. My delegation would limit comments only on immediate follow-up action by FAO.

At the International level, we support the International Alliance Against Hunger, however the details of the alliance has not yet materialised, I hope the Secretariat could elaborate on this subject. On the Anti-Hunger Programme, Thailand is one of the countries who expressed concern on the high level trade distorting agricultural subsidies. In this connection, I do share the statement proposed by Brazil calling for a second draft of the Anti-Hunger Programme to reflect the concerns of Members.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

I wish to share the same concerns with previous speakers. Whilst we support the concept of the International Alliance Against Hunger, we would appreciate clarity in the approach that we are going to check.

We welcome the progress that we have reached in our negotiations, as we are preparing the basis of this paper, and we hope we can still continue on the same optimism as we look at the implementation.

We are committed to implementing those actions that are necessary at National level. We do realize that the success of the alliance against hunger also involves other partners in order for the equation to be complete. There are many commitments that we have seen in a number of meetings, this year and in the previous years. Monterrey, the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the Sustainable Development Conference in South Africa, and we feel that all these conferences and summits have contributed to our understanding of this subject, and also contributed to the importance of the three pillars that were identified in the Declaration. Political will, resource mobilization and the need to address the challenges that are still facing us.

We have made agreements, and I think now we its time for us to act. We cannot continue to procrastinate we therefore, need to agree in a concrete manner on how to operationalize the concept, this is why we are appealing for a paper that addresses some of the concerns that have been raised by the Member Nations.

The World Food Summit, requested us to take action, we need to empower the FAO, where we as Member States have to take decisions to enable us to operationalize our ideas, we need to be practical. As Member States, the responsibilities for policies lies with the governments, but as a community, the trading environments depends on the international trading environments that we find ourselves in at any one time. We edge the acceleration of the negotiations that were initiated in Doha, to help eliminate some of the impediments.

Having a trading environment that is conducive will help the developing countries to improve agricultural trade and since our economies are agro-based, this will have an impact on poverty alleviation. The Declaration focuses, much of its success on resources mobilization. We see this as an important element. Both our partners will have to take this into consideration when producing the final format.

At National level, it calls on us as Governments to work with other stakeholders and there are many ways in which they can contribute to agriculture. For example, the Banks in the Business Community of Commodity Buyers, can come in to work with the farmers, at a local level. Also the need for extension services. I think this is where the FAO normative function can help us by continually strengthening the capacity of our farmers.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois qu'il n'y a pas d'autre délégation. Je voudrais donc demander à Madame Killingsworth d'apporter des éclaircissements sur les points soulevés par les différentes délégations.

**Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Assistant Director-General/Special Adviser, World Food Summit Follow-up)**

A few words from me, and then I'll ask you to kindly give the floor to Mr de Haen for some of the other questions that were raised in the debate.

First of all, the various questions asked by Mexico with regard to regional, as well as national strategies. I think the question of the corrigendum to the Report of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, from which unfortunately in the Spanish version, the names of Mexico and some other countries were omitted, has already been dealt with. There will be a corrigendum coming out soon, I understand.

On the work on regional strategies for food security, you may recall that at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, MERCOSUR, the PACTO ANDINO, CARIFORUM AND CORECA presented their respective regional food security visions during side events at the Summit. Now, in the follow-up, technical assistance has been provided to these three regional economic organizations to help them progress in the preparation of regional food security strategies and programmes. The Inter-American Development Bank has accepted an FAO proposal to provide support to these organizations' efforts. In Washington from 11-12 November, there will be a high-level technical meeting held to discuss their progress and to promote technical and financial support to those organizations. The main elements in all of the regional programmes for food security are agricultural trade facilitation, food safety measures and regional support to national food security efforts.

With regard to the assistance both in the past, and planned for the coming months and years, to countries on both regional and national food security strategies, the Secretariat has noted considerable support from members for these initiatives. To clarify for Mexico, the exercise carried out in a hundred countries recently on national strategies was of course at the request, and only at the request, of the countries concerned. So, for the next phase of assistance which the Secretariat will be prepared to provide, countries are encouraged to seek the assistance in order that we can provide it in cooperation with the national authorities.

I don't believe there is very much else that I need to address. We are grateful for the comments and support expressed for these specific directions the Secretariat is planning on taking in the coming months and years. Now Mr de Haen has a few points to make in answer to various other questions raised in the debate.

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

I am glad to provide some further clarifications, although I should say, as far as they relate to the Anti-Hunger Programme, I consider them directed toward the entire Secretariat of FAO. My Department had the lead in preparing this programme, but it was made with inputs and close collaboration from practically all other Departments of FAO.

So, I will first reply to some questions raised with regard to the Anti-Hunger Programme. I should begin by saying it is a proposal by the Secretariat of FAO which was presented for the first time at the World Food Summit and as a second draft, was presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Comments received on that draft after the mentioned two events and those made today, by Brazil and others, will be noted. I should underline that this is an evolving document. We consider it a concept that we will benefit from those comments and although we have no concrete plans at the moment, you can rest assured that they will be taken into account as we develop the concept further and possibly publish a third draft.

As to specific questions made by the United States. Is there the intention to create or propose new structures and mechanisms? The answer is clearly no. It is not the intention to create or propose new structures or mechanisms. That would be costly. In particular, it is not proposed to establish a fund for FAO to administer. It is simply the intention of this paper to advocate and call for action worldwide and to accelerate measures that would be needed if we still want to reach the halving target with regard to the number of undernourished by the year 2015. The programme clearly states that in our conviction it is still possible and not only this, it would create extraordinary additional benefits that we have estimated annually to amount to US\$ 120 billion, if the halving target could be achieved. This could be mainly through enabling people to live a more healthy life, a more productive life and contribute more to the respective economy in which they are living.

The distinguished delegate of the United States questioned the annual amount estimated by FAO for additional public investment. Our estimate is US\$ 24 billion. Now the assumptions underlying these estimates are all transparent and published. They are simple, it is admitted. This figure is a ballpark figure, it is an order of magnitude; it is not to have the precision that some might wish to

see but it is a very rough estimate. We thought this should suffice to give enough justification for the call for additional action to fight hunger and achieve the World Food Summit target.

Still in response to the United States, we refer to a much lower figure that would be needed but I understood you are also saying that this would be a concentration on Africa. The Anti-Hunger Programme is not just for Africa, it is for all developing countries and countries in transition, and it covers a whole range of areas. You will recall that it has five priority areas that we propose for stakeholders consideration and the relative magnitude of these five priority areas would certainly vary depending on the decisions taken at national or Regional levels. However, it includes as you will recall not only measures to enhance productivity in small and poor rural communities but also a major component for infrastructure investment in rural areas for natural resource rehabilitation, for research and education, as well as for direct safety nets for the hungry and poor. That may explain why the total amount estimated by us is somewhat larger. We still think it is realistic, especially if the burden was shared half-half on average by the developing and the developed world.

The question was, further, what does FAO plan to do with the Anti-Hunger Programme and how does it collaborate with the Hunger Task Force that is part of the Millennium Development Strategy? Firstly, with regard to our intentions, this is an evolving concept. Therefore, I am neither authorized or in a position to give you a precise schedule for various actions that we intend to undertake but I can say that as we collect comments and as we strengthen the concept we will propose that countries integrate this kind of five priority areas into their national strategies, or regional bodies may consider that it may be a useful guide for priority-setting. Of course, the ownership for national and regional strategies rests with the Governments or Regional Bodies.

We have called the underlying philosophy 'twin-track approach' which alludes to the combination of direct measures of food assistance for the absolutely poor in combination with investment in infrastructure in all the five areas that I mentioned earlier, or rather the four areas that are not direct food assistance. The twin-track approach has been developed jointly with WFP and IFAD, and the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development, which was mentioned repeatedly. It was there where the three Agencies jointly presented this concept of a twin-track approach to development.

It is also through the Millennium Strategy, and FAO's collaboration with the Task Force on Hunger that we provide this concept as an input for consultation by this Task Force which is composed of a wide number of representatives of research and NGOs and various organizations. FAO is a member and attended the first Hunger Task Force meeting which took place in New York. We have submitted the Anti-Hunger Programme as one of our concepts, certainly we will collaborate with the Task Force to develop it further. So far my comments have been on interventions with regard to the Anti-Hunger Programme.

There was a question by Denmark regarding the measurement of hunger and the Symposium that we have held following the World Food Summit: *five years later* last June with participation of scientists who are involved and measurement of food insecurity with various indicators. The report is still being finalized because there were a number of scientific papers that were presented and the proceedings of the international symposium will be available in January or February 2003.

It is true, as the delegate of Denmark stated, there were issues raised on that occasion. The conclusion was, if I may simplify it, that we should continue with our standard measure of chronic undernourishment as we publish it in SOFI. However there are a number of other indicators that should complement this basic one, for example, metric measurement of children's nutrition status and a number of others which were all recognized as complementing each other. There is no one indicator that measure the complex phenomenon of food insecurity and we proceed along these lines. You would find in our State of Food Insecurity in the world publication that we also publish these other indicators, as far as they are available.



Finally, there were some questions with regard to the International Alliance Against Hunger, which Ms Killingsworth has already referred to as well. I can only confirm that the way FAO has seen it and as is published as an initial concept in the Anti-Hunger Programme paper is a call for all stakeholders to get together to show commitment and accelerate action.

I can inform you that the Director-General has decided to invite a core group of Rome-based agencies and NGOs to get together and jointly discuss the first draft or the beginning of the development of a concept note as was proposed for your next Session, next year.

We are not doing this alone; we will hold a first meeting next week together with IFAD, WFP and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute as part of the CGIAR system, as well as a group of representatives of NGOs. Therefore, we will try to start from this base, to develop the concept further and present for your consideration at a later stage some Secretariat suggestions on how this, in the National level, could be workable in practice, both at international and National levels.

*5.1 Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group requested in para 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later (CL 123/22)*

*5.1 Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, demandée au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après (CL 123/22)*

*5.1 Establecimiento del Grupo Intergubernamental de Trabajo solicitado en el párrafo 10 de la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después (CL 123/22)*

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

You have to bear with me again because I have been charged together with the Legal Counsel, Mr Pucci, who is sitting here at the Podium to take responsibility within the Secretariat to prepare your debate today.

The operative paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* invites, as you know "...the FAO Council to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group..." to elaborate...", a set of voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security..."; I am quoting only a part of the Declaration, paragraph 10, which you have in front of you in its full length.

The FAO Council, as the Governing Body of the Organization acting between Conferences, has been requested by the World Food Summit: *five years later* to establish this Working Group at this Session. Assuming that the Council decides to establish such an Intergovernmental Working Group in accordance with the Terms of Reference set forth in the Declaration just quoted, other matters that need to be decided by the Council include modalities for the establishment, composition and modes of operation of this Working Group, as well as election of its bureau.

The Secretariat has prepared a paper that is before you. Council document CL 123/22 which contains the elements for your decision. Since the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS, is to be a reporting body for the Intergovernmental Working Group, it would, in our view, be appropriate to establish the Intergovernmental Working Group as a Subsidiary Body of the CFS.

As such, the membership of the working group would be open to all members of FAO and all Member States of the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Working Group would conduct its business in accordance with the rules of procedure of the CFS. This is spelled out in the document.

Relevant international and regional institutions would thus be invited to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society groups, parliamentarians, academic institutions and foundations, and the private sector.

According to the criteria governing the issuance of invitations to NGOs for sessions of the CFS, Non-Governmental Organizations can register as observers provided that their work is related to the food security mandate of the Committee, they are international in character and they

demonstrate this through a network of affiliated branches in different countries or an international Board of Directors or both. For the work of CFS, the term NGO is understood to cover all forms of civil society or private sector organizations.

I have gone into some detail here on these procedural matters, because this is probably the theme of your debate, rather than discussing the content that will be subject to the work of the Working Group.

I have just described who would be invited to participate in the Inter-governmental Working Group sessions if you would follow this advice, but as to how Members and Observers would participate, or the mode of participation as we would call it, there are two options. One option would be that in accordance with the General Rules of the Organization and common practice at FAO meetings, observers could be invited to speak after members. Another option - taking into account the provision of operative paragraph 10, which states that the working group should be established with the participation of stakeholders – would be for the Council to decide to invite the Inter-governmental Working Group to conduct its meetings in a way which facilitates participation of stakeholders in the debate while maintaining the decision-making authority of Members.

Thus, it will be convenient if this second option would be followed for the Inter-governmental Working Group to hold at its sessions two types of meetings. It is a bit complicated. We distinguish between sessions and meetings. Within a session there are several meetings, and if the group were to follow the advice of the second option it would have two types of meetings. Firstly, meetings for presentation of views and conducting open debate at which stakeholders would participate fully. And second, meetings for decision-making on elements for inclusion in the draft voluntary guidelines at which only Members would have the right to make decisions.

The Secretariat has also considered the need to make the most effective use of the short time given to the Inter-governmental Working Group, which is two years, to conclude its work. Therefore, we also present as an option in the text before you to invite members to consider designating spokespersons on a regional basis to present their common views and participate in the debate, in particular for decision-making meetings which I just referred to.

Of course, I should underline that this is only a method of work and would certainly not infringe on the right of any Member to speak at any time if the Members so wishes. Similarly, participating stakeholders could be invited to form focuses and designate spokespersons as well.

Coming to an end of my introductory remarks. In line with what I have just mentioned and based on the indications of operative paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, a draft for decision concerning the establishment of the Inter-governmental Working Group is given in Annex 1 of the document before you in which the Council is invited to consider three things.

First, to establish the Inter-governmental Working Group for the purposes spelled out in operative paragraph 10, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources consistent with the budgetary implications shown in Annex 2 of the document.

Second, to adopt a decision based on the draft contained in Annex 1 in which the options presented in paragraph 16 of the Council document are presented in square brackets pertaining to the Terms of Reference; criteria for membership and stakeholder participation, methods of work, organizational structure, calendar of meetings and consultations, reporting requirements and servicing arrangements.

Third, to appoint a Bureau for the Inter-governmental Working Group consisting of a Chair and six Vice Chairs. This would facilitate the preparation of the first meeting by providing direct links between Members and the Secretariat.

Before I conclude, I note that the Government of Germany has committed to underwrite the core that will be associated with work of this Working Group. As presented in Annex 2 the full budget covering more working days for the Inter-governmental Working Group, developing country

participation, additional meetings and consultations, and a larger consultancy and travel budget would require additional extra-budgetary resources which are currently being sought.

I should, at the end, draw your attention to the proposal that we would establish a Secretariat in FAO to service this Working Group, but this Secretariat would be composed of staff to be appointed by FAO, but also staff seconded by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. That we consider important and more details are to be seen in the document. If I am well informed, a representative for the High Commissioner for Human Rights should also be in the room here to provide further clarifications.

**Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brasil)**

Con mucho gusto pido que pase la palabra al Embajador de Venezuela que ha trabajado dentro del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe para producir una propuesta al Consejo que, por supuesto, el Grupo hace suya. El Embajador de Venezuela ha aplicado su competencia y su liderazgo para producir un trabajo que fue aceptado ampliamente por consenso en el GRULAC.

**Fernando GERBASI (Observador de Venezuela)**

Quisiera comenzar recordando que en la Declaración de Roma de 1996, los jefes de estado y de gobierno reafirmaron el derecho de toda persona a tener acceso a alimentos sanos y nutritivos en consonancia con el derecho a una alimentación apropiada y con el derecho fundamental de toda persona a no padecer hambre. También en el Plan de Acción existe un objetivo específico sobre este tema, Objetivo 7.4.

La Secretaría de la FAO en los documentos preparatorios a la CMA: *cad* reconoció, de manera amplia, que uno de los temas en los cuales más se había avanzado había sido justamente en el derecho a la alimentación. Como consecuencia de ello, era lógico que la declaración que adoptó esa Cumbre, denominada Alianza Internacional Contra el Hambre, contuviera en su parte resolutive una definición sobre cómo avanzar aún más en la aplicación del derecho a la alimentación, y eso se encuentra en el párrafo 10 de la parte resolutive a la cual se refirió el Sr de Haen y contenido al inicio del documento CL 123/22.

El Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe ha analizado con detalle este documento y, en particular, su Anexo 1 que se refiere al proyecto de decisión del Consejo para el restablecimiento del Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental. Quisiera referirme específicamente a este proyecto de decisión porque entiendo sea sobre lo que debe pronunciarse el Consejo en esta ocasión.

En el párrafo 1 se establece este Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental con el que nosotros estamos plenamente de acuerdo, sobretudo en la forma en que está presentado. En el párrafo 2 nos parecería apropiado realizar algunas enmiendas. La Secretaría propone que el Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental se establezca como órgano subsidiario del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. En realidad no entendemos las razones para ello, puesto que en ningún momento la decisión de la Cumbre señala tal situación. Pensamos que este grupo de trabajo deba ser independiente aunque cumpla con el compromiso de informar al Comité tal como se le solicitó.

El párrafo 3 nos parece perfecto así como el 4 que se refiere a la participación de las partes interesadas. En cuanto a los párrafos 5, 6 y 7, sobre la metodología de trabajo, creemos se deban formular enmiendas al 6 y 7 y explico brevemente porque. Tenemos la impresión de que en el párrafo 6 se extienden mucho los detalles, y en cambio proponemos una sola frase que diga que "en las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental, o de cualquier grupo subsidiario que se pudiera crear, las partes interesadas podrán participar plenamente en las deliberaciones". En el párrafo 7, como explicó el Sr de Haen, se trata de dos cosas al mismo tiempo; pensamos que es correcto el hecho de que los Estados Miembros son los únicos que tendrán la posibilidad de tomar decisiones, pero debemos ser mucho más claros en su redacción, por lo tanto decimos que "en las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental o de cualquier órgano subsidiario que se pudiera crear, sólo los Miembros tendrán derecho a tomar decisiones". No obstante, pensamos que las partes interesadas podrán participar como observadores en este proceso.

En lo que respecta a la designación de portavoces de cada región para participar en el debate, siendo un grupo abierto, debe darse la oportunidad a todos sus miembros de participar en sus deliberaciones, independientemente del hecho de que el Presidente, en la medida que lo considere pertinente, apropiado y oportuno, canalizará de alguna forma el debate.

Sobre el párrafo 8, concordamos con la Secretaría en que se elija una mesa directiva integrada por un presidente y 6 vicepresidentes, pero esa elección debería ocurrir en la primera reunión de trabajo del grupo, por una razón muy sencilla: este es un trabajo abierto a la participación de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO y del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y no todos están presentes aquí ni son Miembros del Consejo y participarán con su mejor voluntad en ese grupo de Trabajo, por lo tanto habría que darles la oportunidad para que puedan ser electos para ocupar la Presidencia o las Vicepresidencias. Para subsanar el problema que indicaba sobre establecer la mesa para la primera reunión, pensamos modificar el último párrafo proponiendo que sea el Director General de la FAO quien convoque a la primera reunión de ese grupo.

Para el párrafo 9 no tenemos ninguna corrección. Sobre el párrafo 10 pensamos que las consultas no deben ser de la mesa sino del presidente con el Director General de la FAO. El párrafo 11 nos parece innecesario y hemos propuesto una nueva redacción del mismo que quizás haya que revisar, pero donde lo fundamental es que el Grupo de Trabajo deberá informar al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y que se asegure la participación de los delegados de los países en desarrollo en los trabajos del grupo.

Finalmente, pero no por ello menos importante, los demás párrafos no encuentran ningún problema con excepción del párrafo 14 en su última oración. Quisiéramos sustituirla diciendo que "la mesa directiva, bajo la responsabilidad del presidente, elaborará el primer borrador de los lineamientos generales voluntarios, tomando en cuenta las opiniones, puntos de vista y elementos que hayan sido sometidos durante la primera sesión del Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental abierto y que tal borrador servirá de base para las consultas subsiguientes.

He sido muy detallado y por eso solicito entregar a la Secretaría un texto para que se distribuya, en el entendido de que es una simple propuesta, sugerencia de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, tendiente a mejorar lo que ha ya sugerido la Secretaría en el Anexo 1 como decisión del Consejo.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons donc des propositions claires du Groupe du GRULAC et je demanderai à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela de faire parvenir au Secrétariat cette proposition écrite, comme cela les autres régions pourront en prendre connaissance et les pays Membres du Conseil également.

#### **Guntram FREIHERR VON SCHENCK (Allemagne)**

J'aimerais demander la parole pour la délégation du Royaume du Danemark, pour parler au nom de la Communauté européenne de ses 15 Etats Membres.

#### **Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States.

Delegates here assembled and the international community in general are fully aware: Progress in fighting hunger and malnutrition has been unsatisfactory during the last decade. The rate at which the number of undernourished is going down in developing countries has proved insufficient to achieve the demanding target and comply with the great commitment adopted in 1996 at the World Food Summit. It seems more and more challenging to attain on time the goals of the World Food Summit and the UN Millennium Declaration.

Concepts and measures that proved successful have to be strengthened and new approaches addressed in order to reverse this negative trend and to significantly improve the unsatisfying balance. One of these new approaches is in our view the development of a set of voluntary guidelines.

The European Community and its Member States would like to express their appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the well-prepared document CL 123/22; second welcome the draft decision to establish an Inter-governmental Working Group following recommendation in paragraph 10 of the World Food Summit: *five years later* Declaration.

We take note of the progress reached since 1996 in the discussion on paragraph 7.4 in the World Food Summit Plan of Action to clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, in particular of the work undertaken by UN Bodies and the International Community.

The European Community and its Member States support that a decision is taken by the Council to establish an Inter-governmental Working Group in a way that allows for the effective participation of other concerned organizations, especially the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and that the IGWG reports to CFS.

For the European Community and its Member States the participation of non-governmental organizations in these discussions is important so as to broaden the dialogue and allow all those involved to fully raise their concerns and participate. A large and open discussion will also contribute, to secure full support and broad application of the set of voluntary guidelines. NGOs should, during the work of the IGWG, be allowed to speak, on an equal footing with Members and with the same speaking terms, but recalling that only Members would have the right to make decisions.

We are however not quite convinced that the draft decision proposed by the FAO Secretariat allows for a large participation. We would rather favour the option, that ensures the expression of a large variety of views, allowing each FAO Member and interested observers to speak individually.

We would therefore like to propose, on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States three amendments to the Draft Council Decision: the first one in relation to NGOs. In line with paragraph 10 of the Declaration for the World Food Summit: *fyI*, the words "with the participation of stakeholders" should be inserted in paragraph 1; the second amendment in relation to modalities of work, we suggest the modification of paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 be modified so as to allow for the participation of members and observers at the IGWG to speak; concerning paragraph 13, we would like to add after the words "...UN System and treaty bodies..." we would like to add in the last sentence as follows "as well as the WTO".

With respect to the proposed calendar, the European Community and its Member States, in order to ensure the quality of the guidelines suggest to schedule the meetings of the IGWG in such a way as to allow for the sufficient reporting time between other sessions, particularly those of CFS.

To ensure that the human rights aspects in the voluntary guidelines are fully taken into account, the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights, as well as other relevant human rights mechanisms, should take part in the preparations for and actively participate in the meetings of the Inter-governmental Working Group.

Finally, we would also like to recommend that the FAO Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, prepare a draft on the terms of reference for the IGWG, to be circulated before the first meeting for discussions and adoption at its first session. In paragraph 14 of document CL 123/22, it is suggested that FAO – in preparation for the first session of the IGWG "...invite its Members and Member States of the United Nations, as well as relevant stakeholders, to submit written comments and views, including proposals for elements for possible inclusion in the draft voluntary guidelines...". The European Community and its Member States fully supports this approach and in order to structuralize the discussions on the elaboration of the set of voluntary guidelines on the right to food we would like to request the Secretariat of FAO, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, prepare *inter alia* a synthesis document with a list of all the prioritized proposals submitted.

Due to a heavy-loaded agenda during month of March 2003, we consider it to be more appropriate to convene the first meeting of the IGWG in April 2003.

Finally, let me mention that some EU Member States will support by means of financial contributions, the process of developing and negotiating the set of voluntary guidelines on the Right to Food and afterwards their application. FAO Member Nations from the other regions are kindly invited to provide additional support as well.

My last final comment would be we will of course study very closely and carefully the proposal we have just heard conveyed from Venezuela.

**Ms Sigrídur Ásdís SNAEVARR (Iceland)**

Iceland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We welcome the proposal that this Council establish an Inter-governmental Working Group to define voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. We appreciate the well prepared background document for the Council's proposed decision on establishing a Working Group in which we intend to participate.

The Nordic countries would like to make the follow remarks: the right to adequate food, the basis of voluntary guidelines emanates from the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It is essential that provisions are made for the Working Group to benefit from human rights expertise. The Nordic countries believe that this is best realized if the Office of the High Commissioner as well as other human rights mechanisms take part in the preparation and the deliberations of the Working Group.

Second, as stated in paragraph 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the Inter-governmental Working Group should be established "...with the participation of stakeholders...". This intention must be respected when deciding on the modalities of work of the group. Non-governmental Organizations have shown great interest and contributed considerably in this process thus far. Broad participation is vital for the work of the Working Group and should in future support a broad application of these guidelines.

Finally, we support and look forward to Member States of the United Nations, as well as relevant stakeholders will be invited before the first meeting to submit written proposals for elements for possible inclusion in the draft voluntary guidelines.

**Thomas W. MAEMBE (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

I would like to commend FAO for convening the World Food Summit: *five years later* held in June 2002. The Summit played an important role of bringing together the Heads of State and governments to deliberate on the implementation of the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action. It is my conviction that the objective of the Summit, on giving renewed impetus on the implementation of the 1996 Summit goals was achieved.

Following the Declaration adopted at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, in June 2002, reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food and subsequent invitation for the Council to make operational this proposal, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my country, to endorse the establishment of the Inter-governmental Working Group to elaborate voluntary guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security.

It is my expectation that the Inter-governmental Working Group will work within the specified period of two years and come up with the elaborate voluntary guidelines to support Member Nations' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

As indicated clearly in paragraph 2 of CL 123/22, Thailand fully supports the establishment of the Working Group, together with the general mandate.

More specifically, the paper also seeks decision by the Council on modalities for the establishment, composition and operation of the IGWG.

My delegation agrees with the suggestion to establish the IGWG as the Subsidiary Body of the CFS. This proposal would ensure the full participation of stakeholders.

With regard to the mode of participation of members and observers at the IGWG, my preference is to follow the General Rules of the Organization. We are of the view that voluntary guidelines are the guidelines for the governments to follow. Therefore, the stakeholders are not in a position to draft guidelines for the Governments. However, suggestions and notions from other stakeholders will be taken into account in drafting guidelines.

Having said that, my delegation supports paragraph 17.

With regard to the appointment of the Bureau of the IGWG, consisting of a Chair and six Vice-chairs, I am not convinced that the Bureau has to be appointed by the Council. Instead, the Bureau should be elected by IGWG itself.

In addition, I also want to suggest that a Chair should be a Rome-based Representative. I understand that the work of IGWG is not an easy task. The work must be concluded within two years. Therefore, close collaboration of members, stakeholders and the Secretariat is, indeed, very necessary.

**Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)**

During the World Food Summit: *five years later* Switzerland was a strong supporter of the elaboration of a voluntary instrument to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. My delegation believes that such an instrument is appropriate and much needed to facilitate the implementation of this said right at the National level. It will be a flexible framework for governments and stakeholders to work towards achieving equitable access to food.

Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for the preparation of the document CL 123/22. It forms an excellent basis for our work during this week. With regard to this document, and in particular Annex 1, we have the following comments.

Switzerland is of the view that it is of utmost importance for the IGWG to finish its work within the given timeframe of two years. The calendar and the method of work have to be framed in such a way that allows for the timely completion of our difficult but highly important task.

Two essential principles should guide the work. These are transparency and encompassing participation. Switzerland, therefore, agrees with paragraph 4 of Annex 1 of CL 123/22.

With regard to the calendar, my delegation supports the notion of three sessions: two in 2003 and one in 2004. In order to make efficient use of time, we propose to invite members and stakeholders to submit in writing their views and proposals as to the elements of the draft voluntary guidelines prior to the first session of IGWG. The Secretariat should be requested to prepare a compilation of these submissions. At the first session, this process of information sharing and exchange of views should be continued.

During the inter-sessional period prior to the Second Session, Members and stakeholders should again have the possibility to submit the information and proposals in writing. On the basis of these submissions and the outcome of the First Session, the Secretariat should be requested to compile these views and to prepare draft elements of the draft voluntary guidelines. These draft elements should then form the basis of the work at the Second Session of the IGWG.

The aim of the Second Session should be to prepare, in a participatory and transparent manner, the final drafting exercise, which would take place at the Third Session.

This Third Session should finalize the draft guidelines for consideration by the CFS and the Council.

The conclusion of a set of guidelines on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits within the Convention of Biological Resources demonstrates that such an approach delivers successful results.

Turning to the method of work, Switzerland believes that, for the outcome to be meaningful, a transparent and participatory approach is crucial. Therefore, my delegation is of the view that if smaller meetings, such as sub-working groups and contact groups, be deemed necessary during the work of IGWG, no more than two such groups should be allowed to meet in parallel. This way, smaller delegations of Members and stakeholders would be able to make their voice heard. Only for the finalization of the draft voluntary guidelines, use should be made of the system of designated spokespersons for each region, if necessary and decided by the Chairman of IGWG in consultation with the Bureau.

These regional spokespersons – we propose three per region – would make the final decisions regarding the remaining open elements of the draft voluntary guidelines. Other Members and stakeholders should be allowed to be present in the room without having the right to speak.

Experiences in other international settings, such as during the final negotiations of the Biosafety Protocol or the procedures during the World Summit in Johannesburg have shown that such a method of work, as proposed by my delegation, may deliver timely and appreciated results in a transparent and participatory manner.

**Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)**

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express our support of the establishment of an Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Food.

The elaboration of certain voluntary guidelines on the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is, for us, one of the better results of the World Food Summit: *five years later*. We feel we are so far behind in the development of the concept of the right to food, compared to what our colleagues have done in chapter 11 of the International Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1966 and General Comment number 12, adopted in 1999 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reaches the treaty body for the International Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thus, while other United Nations bodies have progressed further in the political field, on the concept of the right to food, we here at FAO seem to be a little bit late in the concept of the right to food.

We believe that we should build and advance the principles and work started by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We hope that this Inter-governmental Working Group will get the financial support that it deserves so that we can make a dent in our goal of halving the number of hungry and malnourished by the year 2015.

Finally, we would like to identify ourselves with the proposals made by Venezuela, on behalf of GRULAC regarding the operational details and modalities of the Inter-governmental Working Group on the right to food.

**Sra Erika Jacqueline CUÉLLAR CHÁVEZ (Bolivia)**

Con referencia a la invitación que efectuaran los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno para que el Consejo en el presente período de sesiones establezca un Grupo Inter-gubernamental para que elabore un conjunto de directrices voluntarias para la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada, reafirmando el derecho de toda persona a tener acceso a alimentos sanos y nutritivos, adoptado en la Declaración de Roma en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996, mi delegación apoya el proyecto de decisión presentado por la Secretaría para el establecimiento de dicho Grupo de Trabajo Inter-gubernamental, con las acertadas propuestas de



modificación presentadas por la distinguida Representación de Venezuela a nombre del GRULAC, al Anexo 1 del documento CL 123/22.

**Mohammad Saeid NOURI-NAENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

I would just like to inform the August Council that we had an opportunity to briefly discuss the proposal made by GRULAC. Although we did not have the text in different languages and we did not have the chance to go into details, this proposal received a wide range of support from members of the G-77 Group. Because we thought that, first, with accepting these amendments the Working Group would be more effective and, second, it facilitates the work of the working group.

Now, listening to other proposals, I personally believe that these amendments by other delegations and the general groups are very consistent with each other. I hope that we can reach an agreed text very soon.

**Guntram FREIHERR VON SCHENCK (Germany)**

We are fully in agreement with the statement of the European Union. The German delegation wishes to underline the great importance attached to this forthcoming mandate for FAO, the other UN agencies, the Member Nations and, not least, for the NGOs.

The fight against hunger has always suffered from a lack of political will. The voluntary guidelines are to provide the future tools to suggest instruments to those responsible worldwide that can be efficiently employed to fight against hunger.

We see good examples of successful governance in food security on all continents. Let us derive inspiration from these good examples when it comes to formulating the guidelines. Let us jointly draft a document that can set a milestone for the fight against hunger in the world. Let us jointly take a step forward to help enforce the fundamental human right to adequate food and let us do so with the intention to subsequently embark on realizing the proposals for good governance at national and International levels.

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the good preparatory work it has performed when drafting the document CL 123/22.

Germany will support this key process for the formulation of voluntary guidelines by providing personnel, as well as considerable funding. We hope that this will prove to be a good investment.

**Grishon Kithome NZUVA (Kenya)**

Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to support my other colleagues, who have supported the idea of establishing an Inter-governmental Working Group for the elaboration of a set of voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security.

This is crucial as a strategy is aimed at supporting Member Nations in efforts to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

Experience from past food summits have indicated that tangible results can only be achieved through a planned follow-up strategy. In this regard, my delegation supports the Secretariat recommendation contained in CL 123/22 paragraph 16, in which IGW will conduct its meetings in a way which will facilitate participation of stakeholders while, at the same time, making the most effective use of our available time.

Since the World Food Summit in 1996, this forum has appreciated the fact that the task of reducing the number of malnourished people is not an easy one. Any effort, therefore, likely to assist Member Nations to achieve food security, is an effort in the right direction.

In this regard, we support this commendation.

**Nasiruddin AHMAD (Pakistan)**

We endorse the setting up of the Inter-governmental Working Group for preparing the voluntary guidelines in a time-bound manner. We have noted the draft of the IGWG as proposed in Annex 1

of the document. We agree with the amendments proposed by Venezuela and support the adoption of TORs as amended.

We note that the resource implications spelled out in Annex 2 and wholeheartedly welcome the gesture of the German Government to provide the initial funding. We call upon other donor countries to meet anticipated costs. In particular, we emphasize the need to facilitate participation of developing countries and call for adequate resource allocation for this purpose.

It must be appreciated that this work has to be done in close collaboration with other UN Bodies, particularly the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Special Repertoire on the Right to Food. We believe that the proposed *ad hoc* unit should reflect, as far as possible, this close collaboration.

Finally, we hope that the IGWG will begin its deliberation as soon as possible to begin its preliminary work.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je voudrais maintenant lever la séance. Il est 12 h 40 et nous poursuivrons nos travaux cet après-midi. Les pays qui ont demandé la parole sont: le Brésil, le Japon, le Sénégal, les Etats-Unis, le Zimbabwe, le Canada et la Corée. Et pour les observateurs: le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés et la Norvège.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 40*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**29 October 2002**

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION** (continued)  
**II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)  
**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**  
 (continuación)

*5.1 Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group requested in para 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later* (CL 123/22) (continued)

*5.1 Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, demandée au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après* (CL 123/22) (suite)

*5.1 Establecimiento del Grupo Intergubernamental de Trabajo solicitado en el párrafo 10 de la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación: cinco años después* (CL 123/22) (continuación)

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Point 5.1 de notre ordre du jour "Etablissement du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental" demandé au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*. Donc je vais passer la parole aux différentes délégations qui l'avaient demandée.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

Brazil would have liked to state at the end of the morning session that the particular question of having other international organizations and bodies was an essential feature of the decision taken in the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the delegation of Brazil firmly sticks to it.

The point that the Permanent Representative of Brazil had wished to make at the end of the morning session deals with the essential role of FAO in this process, which also is an essential feature of the Declaration. In accordance with the Brazilian opinion, the IGWG should work under FAO's auspices and sole leadership, basing its decisions on the much-valued contributions to be made by other international organizations and bodies as mentioned in paragraph 13 of the proposed draft Council decision in document CL 123/22 including, as suggested by the European Community, the two.

**Hideki MORONUKI (Japan)**

The notion of the right to food is defined in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as Article 11 of the Covenant A as one of the components composing the right to adequate living standards. In addition, Article 11.2 of the Covenant A recognizes the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

Japan is, in principle, supporting the notion of the right to food as set out in these articles, in terms of protecting and promoting such rights. Consequently, at the Commission of Human Rights, Japan joins the proposal on the resolution on the right to food.

With regard to the establishment of the IGWG, my delegation has two comments on Annex 1 of the document CL 123/22. First, in paragraph 7, specifically on the decision making process, my delegation believes that meetings where decisions will be made should not limit the participation of interested members. Japan prefers an open-ended type of meeting as was convened before for elaborating the declaration adopted at the World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Second, my delegation has a comment on paragraph 9 – timing of the first session. My delegation is afraid that March 2003 is not a suitable time to organize this kind of important meeting, as from the end of February through the beginning of April next year we will also have a series of other important Technical Committee meetings, such as COFI, COAG and COFO. We will have quite tight schedules during that time. Therefore, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to consider timing the first session sometime after April.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Le Groupe africain avait participé activement au côté du GRULAC et des autres composantes du G-77, le Proche Orient et l'Asie, à l'élaboration au niveau de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*, de ce qui est aujourd'hui sous nos yeux et qu'il va falloir maintenant mettre en œuvre. Et comme l'ont dit ceux qui m'ont précédé, nous appuyons d'une manière générale et fortement la proposition faite par le Venezuela au titre de ce projet de décision que nous examinons. Vous-même avez invité la session de ce Conseil à être pratique en s'adressant plus particulièrement au point contenu à l'Annexe 1. S'agissant justement de cette proposition contenue à l'Annexe 1, nous voulions tout d'abord dire que nous comprenons qu'il faudrait qu'au niveau des parties prenantes, les différents organes, qui au niveau des Nations Unies s'occupent de ce droit à la nourriture, puissent être impliqués dans ce travail d'élaboration; bien sûr, le Comité des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, la Commission des droits de l'homme, le Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les droits de l'homme, le rapporteur spécial, M. Ziegler, sur cette question.

Mais nous pensons que il ne s'agira pas cette fois-ci de mettre l'accent sur l'aspect normatif seulement, mais de voir de façon concrète comment mettre en œuvre ce droit à la nourriture, et c'est cela qui devrait constituer l'axe fondamental du travail d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre, puisque le travail théorique a été dépassé. Nous savons qu'au niveau des Nations Unies les ONG, dans le domaine des droits de l'homme, ont été déterminantes dans l'élaboration de toutes ces conventions, de tous ces pactes que nous avons aujourd'hui acquis sur le plan des droits de l'homme au plan international, et donc je crois qu'il serait bon que l'expérience de ces ONG dans la mise en œuvre pratique de ce droit, puisse être prise en compte dans tout effort d'élaboration du droit à la nourriture ou bien des lignes directrices à ce sujet. Cela, bien sûr au niveau de la participation des parties prenantes, ne saurait être complet sans la prise en compte du paragraphe 6 au niveau des méthodes de travail, de la différence possible entre les parties prenantes et les membres eux-mêmes.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la proposition du Venezuela, au paragraphe 6, nous paraît plus que pertinente dans la mesure où elle nous indique de façon concrète mais aussi la différence qu'il y aurait notamment au niveau de la prise de décision. C'était l'élément manquant et je crois que la proposition du Venezuela a le mérite de combler cette lacune. S'agissant à présent du paragraphe 7 de ce projet de décision, comme d'ailleurs le montre la démarche de la proposition du Venezuela, je crois qu'il faut être prudent quand on dit que les Membres seront invités à désigner deux porte-parole par région et qu'il faudrait quand même être équitable car il existe certaines régions qui compte tenu de leur nombre et de l'expression plurielle des opinions qui convergent ont besoin d'avoir une représentation peut-être plus importante, et en tous cas, le critère de répartition géographique équitable devrait être tenu en compte. Je crois que cela nous pose un problème; la proposition vénézuélienne passe sous silence cette question, en laissant à chaque région le soin de décider mais en tout état de cause je pense qu'on ne devrait pas pénaliser des régions qui, quand même par leur nombre, sont assez importantes par rapport à d'autres régions. C'est ce que nous tenons à dire au niveau de ce paragraphe 7, qui nous pose en tout état de cause un problème tel qu'il est actuellement rédigé.

Au niveau du calendrier je crois que le représentant du Japon, qui vient actuellement d'intervenir, a expliqué la raison pour laquelle sa délégation ne pouvait pas endorser la réunion en mars 2003. Nous aimerions aussi de la part des autres délégations qui ont des problèmes comprendre quelles sont les raisons à la base de leurs préoccupations, car nous n'avons pas bien compris les préoccupations, contrairement à ce que vient de dire la délégation japonaise. Maintenant, s'agissant du paragraphe 14, les dernières lignes nous ont posé également un problème, et nous voudrions nous référer à la proposition vénézuélienne concernant les propositions telles qu'elles doivent être présentées; et je crois que cela permet de tenir en compte les problèmes que rencontrent les pays en développement dans ce genre d'exercice, et le fait de confier la responsabilité principale au Président de ce groupe nous semble pouvoir être un acquis et une

garantie pour que toutes les expressions écrites ou non, puissent être prises en compte dans l'élaboration de ce qui constitue un élément important pour tous.

Permettez-moi enfin de rendre hommage à l'Allemagne qui a déclaré qu'elle fournira un financement important, et je voudrais à ce sujet, dire que peut-être tout en invitant les autres donateurs à faire le même geste, il faudrait qu'on ait à l'esprit la pratique au niveau de la FAO et des autres Organisations internationales, à savoir qu'il faudrait faire en sorte que les experts des pays en développement puissent être favorisés à participer à ces réunions, et je crois que ce genre de financement peut permettre d'arriver à cet objectif en permettant à nos experts qui autrement ne pourraient pas le faire, de venir participer et rendre compte des expériences que les pays en développement sont en train de vivre, également pour que ces directives soient vraiment universelles.

**Seth D. WINNICK (United States of America)**

The United States supports the right to have access to food and we have extensive assistance programmes to ensure the domestic food security of our own citizens and to support the development and food security of the needy abroad. Of particular concern, with economic and social rights, is how to effectively operationalize and enforce them. We are pleased to see that the context of the voluntary guidelines is national food security. This is consistent with the Monterrey consensus that puts the ultimate responsibility to ensure development and food security for citizens on their own national Governments with active participation by non-governmental organizations and civil society.

It is probably no secret to most of my colleagues in this room that the United States was not particularly enthusiastic about embarking on this Inter-governmental Working Group process. We continue to believe that the elaboration of guidelines for realizing the right to adequate food is unlikely in itself to be useful in reducing the number of hungry and impoverished people in the world, and we remain concerned that the exercise can distract from the real work of development.

That being said, the United States is prepared to participate fully, constructively and very seriously to seek an approach that can be practically implemented. With respect to the proposals in paragraph 5 to 7 of the Annex, that members and other stakeholders present views and participate in the debate to designate its spokespersons, we can understand the need to make effective use of time but we support instead allowing each individual delegation or observer group to express its viewpoint. It has been our experience that negotiating and presenting views by region or stakeholder group tends to be unwieldy and does not generally yield a particularly fruitful debate.

We also suggest that the Inter-governmental Working Group be permitted to decide itself how it wants to compose smaller meetings, contact groups, friends of the chair, drafting committees, etc. but we do not think that there should be an explicit limit on the number of decision making meeting that can be convened for this purpose. So, we would suggest that paragraphs 5 to 7 in Annex 1 on the method of work be deleted and replaced with regular FAO rules.

We cannot support the proposal for the calendar or what is implicit in the proposal for the calendar contained in paragraph 9 of the Annex. The first meeting of the Working Group really should be an opportunity to discuss and agree on a work programme and to have a preliminary discussion of issues, consider what resources must be consulted and what work methods would be most appropriate. We stress that this Working Group should be a Rome-based FAO-led activity as we stated clearly in the World Food Summit: *five years later* document.

But, our overall approach to this Group is truly one that, before getting into the difficult work of negotiation, this is a Group that needs to carefully take stock of the issues, assess where there are commonalities and differences, where consensus exists and where it does not, and then examine those issues which lack consensus in considerable detail – really be a deliberative body before moving into the negotiation stage. We think that is an approach that has in the past and can in the future provide a road map to a practical outcome when a truly difficult and controversial subject is discussed, as is the case with this Group.

We think that after the first year of this Working Group is devoted to analysis and deliberation then perhaps after that period it will be possible to sit down, negotiate and draft actual text in a constructive way.

To conclude, this is going to be a difficult working group to have a successful outcome. There are wide divergences of opinion on some of the key aspects to this question, so it is important that we undertake the work in a way that is serious, that is applied and that requires some real work by delegates and by experts and not simply move into the all too familiar confrontation or negotiating mode. We think that if we do that there is every possibility of arriving at a set of guidelines that are agreed upon generally and internationally and that have some constructive role in the struggle against hunger.

**Ms Sophia NYAMUDEZA (Zimbabwe)**

The Africa group supports the statement that has been made by Senegal on this issue. The Africa group supports the right to food and would like to see the realization of this issue. We support the creation of the Intergovernmental Working Group and support the proposal that has been put forward by Venezuela. We feel that the determination of guidelines to support the progressive realization of the Right to Food is an important one and that the elaboration of guidelines is urgent and should be done in a time bound manner. We feel that the longer we take the further we are away from implementation of this right which has been established in the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

We also feel that membership of the group should be open to all Members of FAO and all members of the UN. It is also important that other organizations participate in the CFS. They should also be allowed to participate in this Group, that is to say international organizations, regional organization and also NGOs. Our preference is to have the Group that is not subordinate to the CFS and we support the proposal that has been put forward by Germany to support the work of this Intergovernmental Working Group. We hope that these views, together with those made by other delegations, will provide the way forward on this issue.

**Ms Lan HOANG (Canada)**

Canada supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; however, we believe that work needs to be done to ensure its appropriate definition and implementation. We believe in using the existing instruments to ensure these objectives, for instance, references to the right to adequate food can be found in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. General comment 12 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has also done work in interpreting this right.

In short, Canada believes that, Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food should be formulated to implement existing standards rather than creating new obligations. It is our general view, on most issues regarding economic, social and cultural rights, that there is more value added in strengthening existing mechanisms in order to prevent duplication and to focus on implementation. In this context the Voluntary Guidelines should not create new obligations but rather focus on ways for states to progressively realize the right to adequate food in their own countries. We hope that the formulation of Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food will provide value added on the progressive realization of this right. This Inter-governmental Working Group could be a positive initiative to help States in the progressing realization of their citizens' right to food.

Turning to the procedure that will govern the work of the Inter-governmental Working Group, Canada believes that each delegation and observer group should be permitted to intervene on its own behalf rather than through regional spokespersons.

**KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

In the capacity of the Republic of Korean delegation, I have several comments on this agenda. I am focusing on the establishment of the Working Group. The point is how we harmonize, fulfill

effectiveness and present this together. We support the established working group as a subsidiary body of the CFS, we do not believe that this necessarily hurts the independence of the working group. Secondly, on the proposal of designating two spokespersons from each region, we are concerned that this system may not work smoothly. Particularly given the political delicacy of the subject, it is not easy to have a common reasonable position or consensus on this matter.

We are not familiar with this kind of new exercise in FAO. To select two spokespersons is another task to be tackled; this also does not reflect equally the reasonable balance when we look at the number of the countries in each region.

We may want to consider limiting the number of participants to a certain degree, in order to get more action out of the meeting, if there so many stakeholders who wish to participate.

We are very flexible on the matter of giving floor to stake holders for decision making meetings, but we have to consider how we can guarantee the representativeness among various stakeholders.

Finally concerning the calendar, may I propose to hold the working group's sessions in connection with CFS or other relevant technical committees. This would enable cost saving measures for Member countries and increase expert attendances.

**Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)**

La délégation gabonaise tient ici, à réitérer son plein soutien au droit de chacun d'avoir accès à une nourriture saine et nutritive et à l'établissement d'un Groupe de travail intergouvernemental dans les conditions décrites au paragraphe 2 du document CL 123/22. En ce qui concerne le projet de décision du Conseil tel qu'il nous apparaît à l'Annexe 1, nous appuyons les propositions d'amendements faites par la délégation du Venezuela au nom du GRULAC, et souhaiterions pouvoir examiner plus longuement les autres propositions d'amendements.

Enfin, nous faisons nôtres la déclaration du Sénégal ainsi que celle de la délégation du Zimbabwe.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

While Australia supports the principle of the right to food, our over-arching development principles are focused on poverty reduction and as such we have not adopted a rights based approach to development. However, our development policy and programmes are nevertheless consistent with practical outcomes accorded to a rights based approach. Indeed, Australia considers that it's a needs based approach which seeks to support those with the greatest need, is more effective than a rights based approach.

In this regard, Australia considers that the concept of the right to food is already acknowledged in the 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and we would prefer to see the international community strengthen the current mechanisms and institutions for achieving food security. However, having said this, if Council agrees to the establishment of a Inter-governmental Working Group, it would be important to have workable arrangements. We consider the proposed arrangements are perhaps too prescriptive in terms of both the setting of the type and number of meetings, and the process for initiation of guidelines.

In particular, we consider that there should be adequate scope for exchange of views in the IGWG, before moving to development of specific guidelines. Australia also emphasises that the guidelines are voluntary and should not create new obligations. We would also note that this work, if agreed, is to be funded through extra budgetary means and consider this appropriate.

**Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINO (Cuba)**

Para nuestro país el tratamiento de este tema constituye un aspecto de primordial importancia: el derecho a la alimentación y que ésta sea adecuada. Por tal razón, desde cuando este tema fue abordado en la CMA: *cad*, mi delegación estuvo a favor del mandato que la Cumbre ha dado a este Consejo. El mandato es muy claro, y mi delegación quiere hacer énfasis en esto: el Consejo debe nombrar o designar un Grupo de Trabajo Intergubernamental que en el término de dos años



emita las líneas directrices para llegar a un consenso con respecto a la necesidad de nuestros países de poder contar con alimentos adecuados.

En este sentido, somos partidarios de que se prolonguen los plazos; coincido con aquellas delegaciones que han expresado su apoyo al hecho de respetar el calendario que se plantea en el Anexo 1 del documento que se nos ha propuesto. Estamos de acuerdo con este calendario, con las reuniones establecidas y por el contrario, lo que solicitamos es que lleguemos a conclusiones que nos permitan iniciar los trabajos lo antes posible.

Mi delegación aprovecha la ocasión para expresar también su criterio sobre la no coincidencia con aquellas delegaciones que han planteado que sobre este tema hay grandes diferencias. Donde las hay es precisamente en el acceso a los alimentos, y en aquellos países donde el alimento no llega a tiempo; hay muchos niños que mueren en el mundo por falta de alimentos, ahí sí hay diferencias. Durante la CMA hubo consenso generalizado, un criterio unánime de que la FAO abordara este tema inmediatamente.

**Ms Margaret SLETTEVOLD (Observer for Norway)**

Just a small addition, with reference to the Nordic statement on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group as requested in paragraph 10, of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later*. I would on behalf of Norway announce our wish to take an active part in the work that lies ahead, defining voluntary guidelines on the right to food.

Norway took an active part in the preparation of the June Summit, there is a great interest in Norway, not only at a political level, but also in academic circles as well as NGOs, for the subject of the right to food. Norway thus hopes to be in a position to work constructively in the development of the voluntary guidelines.

We will also consider support for facilitating this work financially.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je passerai la parole à la Représentante du Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les droits de l'homme.

Je voudrais, à ce propos, présenter mes excuses; ce matin, j'ai parlé du Haut Commissariat des Réfugiés, c'était une erreur.

**Ms Maria Luisa SILVA (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)**

On behalf of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, let me congratulate you on the way you are conducting this session of the Council. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, would also like to express its appreciation to FAO's experience in addressing the mandate of the World Food Summit: *five years later* on the issue of the voluntary guidelines to progressively realize the right to adequate food.

The 1996 Rome Summit in its Plan of Action, invited the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake, in collaboration with others, a better definition of the rights related to food in Article 11, of the International Government on Economic Social Cultural Rights. That task was completed successfully, the scope of the right is now refined through a process that involved a wide range of stakeholders.

The World Food Summit: *five years later* held in Rome last June, represented an important step forward. Heads of State and Government representatives, recognized for the first time that human rights provide a strategy for the realization of the Summit subjunctives as well as a powerful tool for monitoring compliance with the World Food Summit objectives and Plan of Action.

The Rome Declaration also identified implementation of the right to adequate food as the real challenge to secure the realization of the right for the millions vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger, and it decided that guidelines were needed to facilitate Member Nations' task.

The goal of the new process is then to start to make existing standards of the right to adequate food, more operative. Therefore, the legal basis for the guidelines should be existing in international human rights law. In particular, Article 11 of the International Covenant of the Economic Social and Cultural Rights and its authoritative interpretation, adopted by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, which best captures the scope of the right to adequate food and the obligations that it places on States.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights believes that the participation of the widest range of stakeholders is key to the successful completion of the guidelines as it was for the better definition of the right. The benefits of the widest possible participation of civil society are well documented by the experience of recent intergovernmental processes in human rights as well as in other fora.

The mandate of the World Food Summit is very clear in this regard, in particular it is essential that the voice of those suffering or threatened by hunger and malnutrition are heard. It is their experience and the experience of those more directly working with them, the best guidance to identify practical remedies to their situation.

The task of the Intergovernmental Working Group will be of significant relevance and complexity, the progress achieved in more than 50 years of setting human rights standards, should be properly reflected. Successful experiences in applying, monitoring and promoting human rights at the national and the International level should be adapted creatively into a framework that facilitates implementation of States obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate food.

Implementation of human rights is essential to ensure sustainable access of peoples to food. It is only when access to adequate food is recognized as an effective entitlement, that the human right to adequate food can be realized by all individuals in society in a sustainable way. This is the message that the Human Rights Bodies have systematically expressed through the comments and observations and the one that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would endeavour to transmit to the work of an Inter-governmental Working Group.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights considers of fundamental importance to maintain the communication between the United Nations Human Rights system in Geneva and the Inter-governmental Working Group, and will devote all its possible efforts to this task. Relevant bodies as recognized by the World Food Summit Declaration, but also the Commission on Human Rights and relevant special procedures, such as the special reporter on the right to adequate food, are among the stake holders of this process.

As part of the activities to ensure the support of the United Nations Human Rights System to the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group, our office will organize a consultative meeting at the beginning of the year 2003, with the aim of gathering the contribution and the views of the Human Rights System.

Our office will also work closely together with the FAO to ensure the best possible services to the Intergovernmental Working Group.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Maintenant je passerai la parole au Représentant du Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique (ROPPA) a nom du "International NGO-CSO Planning Committee".

### **Mdiagou FALL (Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest)**

Permettez-nous d'abord de vous remercier, au nom du Groupe du Comité international de planification, pour nous avoir donné la parole ainsi que l'opportunité de nous exprimer à cette auguste assemblée.

Le Comité international de planification n'est pas un organe très officiel mais un petit outil de travail dont les ONG et les acteurs de la société civile se sont dotés pour se concerter et

harmoniser leur position et leur point de vue. Le Comité international de planification des acteurs de la société civile dispose d'une tradition assez lointaine de participation aux événements organisés par la FAO. C'est dans ce sens que nous avons pris part à différentes manifestations, dont notamment le Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*. Au fil du temps, ce partenariat s'est construit et a atteint des niveaux plus ou moins satisfaisants, même si nous considérons qu'il reste encore des pas à franchir pour améliorer ce partenariat.

Nous sommes ici pour une réunion de suivi des recommandations du Sommet et des dispositions que les acteurs de la société civile ont pris pendant ce Sommet. Des points aussi intéressants que le droit à l'alimentation, l'accès à l'eau et à la terre, la souveraineté alimentaire, le "dumping" et les subventions seront au centre de nos discussions.

Nous souhaiterions, si votre temps vous le permet, de nous donner la possibilité à la fin de votre séance pour partager avec vous les résultats de notre travail, lequel travail va commencer à partir de demain.

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

On behalf of the Secretariat I would first of all like to thank the Council members and Observers for the many constructive comments and suggestions regarding the implementation of this work programme and the aim to make it as effective, practical and constructive as possible.

We have noted quite a number of proposed amendments to Annex 1, which we need to reconcile because it requires some time to reflect upon them, concerning the question of the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group being a subsidiary body of the CFS, versus a kind of independent body, the mode of participation of stakeholders, the method of work, representation through spokespersons, timing and involvement of other Agencies, relationship, if any, between the size of regions and the number of spokespersons the sequencing of the debate followed by the drafting and negotiation of text. I believe that we need some time and we have a proposal for your proceedings, but I would like to ask you first to give the floor to Mr Pucci, maybe he can make the proposal how to come to grips with all these proposals and work them into Annex 1.

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

From a legal point of view I have only one main point to clarify, concerning the proposal presented by Venezuela and supported by a number of delegations. It was mentioned that the Inter-governmental Working Group should not be a subsidiary body of the Committee on World Food Security, but an independent one.

I want to explain why the Secretariat made this proposal. We thought that it was in the spirit of operative paragraph 10 of the Declaration that this Inter-governmental Working Group should be open not only to Member Nations of FAO but also to Members of the United Nations. Under our Basic Texts we do not have many choices. Either the Council establishes a body under Article VI of the Constitution and these bodies are open only to Members of FAO, or it establishes the group as a Subsidiary Body of CFS which, by definition, is open to all Members of FAO and Members of the United Nations.

There were only two exceptions to the general principle that bodies set up under Article VI of the FAO Constitution are open only to Member of FAO, and, these are the Interim Commission for the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Commission on Genetic Resources acting as Interim Committee of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. This was possible because the Conference, itself, adopted a Resolution to that effect. The Conference as the supreme body of FAO decided that in these two particular cases, that also States which are non Members of FAO but Members of the United Nations could participate in the bodies established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution. The Council does not have the power to take such decision. Therefore, if you want to establish the Inter-governmental Working Group and if you also want to include States which are not Members of FAO but which are Members of the United Nations, the only choice you have is to establish this as a subsidiary body of the CFS.

Let me also clarify what 'subsidiary' means in terms of our Basic Texts. Basically, it only means that any body which is subsidiary to another one should report to this main body. The report remains the report of the subsidiary body. Even if the parent body disagrees with it, the report is always the report of the subsidiary body. The CFS may express different opinions but cannot change the report of its subsidiary body.

Finally, I don't want to interpret the Council but I think that there is a general consensus on various points. There is consensus that the Bureau should be elected by the intergovernmental group itself, that each delegation or each Member should have the right to speak and so we should not have spokespersons, that the Inter-governmental Working Group may establish its own methods of work provided that this is consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the CFS and the General Rules of the Organization, and that in establishing its own subsidiary bodies, the Inter-governmental Working Group may decide on a restricted membership.

So my proposal, if you allow me, would be to try to accommodate all the views expressed and to present a new draft Annex 1 in which, in track mode, we could highlight the changes and the various options expressed during this debate.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

J'allais justement vous demander d'essayer de réunir toutes les propositions qui ont été faites avant celle du GRULAC, l'Union européenne, les Etats-Unis et d'autres pays qui sont intervenus au cours de la session de ce matin et de cet après-midi, d'essayer de voir quels sont les points de convergence et les points de différence, et essayer de nous fournir un autre texte et, à ce moment là, peut-être que les différents représentants des régions pourraient se réunir d'une manière informelle pour arriver à un texte définitif que nous pourrions adopter peut-être demain dans l'après-midi. Si le Conseil est d'accord, je propose cette procédure si personne n'y voit d'inconvénient. M. Kuching et M. de Haen, vous êtes priés de travailler sur cette question. Nous quittons provisoirement le point 5.1 et nous passons à la suite de l'ordre du jour.

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

##### **9. Programme Implementation Report 2000-2001 (C 2003/8)**

##### **9. Rapport sur l'exécution du programme 2000-2001 (C 2003/8)**

##### **9. Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2000-2001 (C 2003/8)**

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Point 9 de l'ordre du jour intitulé "Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2000-2001". Les documents relatifs à ce point sont les documents C 2003/8, CL 123/12 et CL 123/15. Le document CL 123/8 fournit le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la quatre vingt dix-septième session du Comité du Programme et de la quatre vingt dix-neuvième session du Comité financier de mai 2002. Les documents CL 123/12 et CL 123/15 contiennent respectivement le Rapport de la quatre vingt-huitième session du Comité du Programme, et le Rapport de la centième session du Comité financier tenu en septembre 2002. J'aimerais demander à M. Molina Reyes, Président du Comité financier, et à M. Berteling, Président du Comité du Programme, de présenter les conclusions des comités qu'ils président sur l'exécution du Programme 2000-2001. J'inviterais également Monsieur Wade, Directeur du Bureau du Programme, du budget, de l'évaluation, à introduire ce point. Je vais d'abord donner la parole à M. Molina Reyes, puis à M. Berteling et enfin à M. Wade. M. Reyes. Vous avez la parole.

#### **Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Como esta es la primera vez que hago uso de la palabra ante este honorable Consejo en calidad de Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, permítame agradecer la confianza depositada en mi persona y

en mi país para guiar los trabajos del Comité de Finanzas, Comité que como ustedes saben tiene una gran responsabilidad en ayudar a las deliberaciones de este Consejo, en virtud de las facultades reglamentarias comprendidas, tanto de la contribución de la Organización, específicamente en el Artículo 5, párrafo 6, como en el reglamento general dentro del Artículo 27 y que, en síntesis, están dirigidos a ayudar en las deliberaciones sobre la administración financiera de la Organización a este órgano ejecutivo de la Organización que está representado por ustedes.

El Comité ha tenido una ardua labor que sólo ha podido ser completada por el eficiente y dedicado desempeño de todos sus miembros a los cuales estoy especialmente agradecido.

Por el momento solo me referiría al tema de la Agenda bajo análisis y dejaré para más adelante, bajo el tema 13, algunos comentarios más detallados cuando deba presentar los informes de los distintos períodos de sesiones que tuvo el Comité y que preparamos con la ayuda siempre diligente de la Secretaría.

En cuanto al Informe de la Ejecución del Programa 2000-2001 presentado por el Director General, el Comité examinó dicho documento en su 100° período de sesiones celebrado en el mes de septiembre del presente año. Sobre este particular ustedes encontrarán las conclusiones a las cuales arribó el Comité y que están contenidas en el documento CL 123/15 párrafos 5 al 14.

De manera resumida puedo señalar que el Comité expresó su satisfacción por ese informe acogiendo positivamente las mejoras introducidas en su presentación, puesto que es un documento central de la rendición de cuentas que realiza el Director General sobre la ejecución del programa en el pasado bienio.

Tomamos nota que los gastos de la Organización para el bienio en análisis habían sido inferiores al nivel autorizado, expresando su satisfacción pues no habían sido necesarias transferencias entre capítulos derivados en gran medida por la variación positiva de los gastos de personal. El Comité tomó nota de las economías efectivas, de los costos derivados de la descentralización y se nos informó que, sobre este tema, había programado una evaluación durante el próximo año.

El Comité hizo varias sugerencias para mejorar la presentación futura del documento y refrendó el informe sobre la ejecución del programa preparado por el Director General remitiendo este informe a este Consejo y por su intermedio al órgano superior de gobierno que es la Conferencia.

Con esta breve presentación, que espero haya sido de utilidad a este Consejo, quedo a vuestra disposición para responder requerimientos adicionales sobre este tema de nuestra agenda.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

The Programme Committee considered only seven weeks ago the last version of the old format of the Programme Implementation Report. Results of this consideration can be found in paragraphs 45 to 50 of the relevant Report, that is document CL 123/12, as the Chairman already indicated.

The Committee appreciated the comprehensive information contained in the Report. Reading it will help a lot of newcomers to this Organization in understanding what FAO is all about, much more than most have thought. Although detailed information on delivery of outputs is given, it is impossible either for the Secretariat or for the Member Nations to consider the impacts of these outputs and therefore, the effectiveness of the Organization.

That is the reason why it is the last version of the old format. We have agreed in FAO to work on the basis of a new system of planning, programming and evaluation but that was not yet in place for the period covered by the present report, for the years 2000 and 2001. And then, measuring impact is difficult, if not impossible. It was clear that the Programme Committee is looking forward to the first version of the new format because that should inform us about the real impact of the work of the Organization.

The Programme Committee went into some specific details that could be judged from the present format, such as geographical distribution and gender of professional staff. It is concluded that FAO has a long way to go to reach the target of 35 percent by the end of next year - that is 40 months from now - of Professional staff of the Secretariat being women (35 percent).

Let us also consider the permanent issue of adequate language balance. The Committee took some more time to consider the rapid expansion of emergency-related activities and the relative stagnation in that biennium of the non-emergency field programme. Updated information we received at the meeting, however, shows that there seems to be a gradual reversal of earlier declines.

I believe that these were the more relevant issues from the PC's consideration of the report at this time.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

It is worth clarifying that this Report is one of two accountability documents which are presented eventually to the Conference. This one is the Programme Implementation Report, the other is the Programme Evaluation Report which you receive at a different session.

I think it is perhaps useful to make the distinction between these two reports which serve somewhat different purposes and this is important, in particular, in relation to some comments made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee on the question of impact.

The Programme Implementation Report, as it is currently designed, is first of all comprehensive. It covers all programmes. It is not selective. Secondly, it is quantitative dealing with resource utilization and the measurement of outputs produced - not impact as the Chairman of the Programme Committee pointed out - and thirdly, it addresses a time-scale of one biennium. Hence it is a direct response in terms of accountability reporting against the Programme of Work and Budget for the preceding biennium.

The other document, which is the Programme Evaluation Report, is instead selective. For example the last edition only covered two programmes and three thematic issues. It is qualitative in its analysis. It attempts to look at the outcomes and the effectiveness of those programmes. It also tries to look at impact of the work FAO does the at the Country level, which is one of the hardest things to measure.

And then finally, the Programme Evaluation Report tends to examine a much longer period. It usually looks at three or four biennia and can be seen more as a response to the outcomes planned in the Medium-Term Plan. So, I make this point to try and get expectations at the right level.

As regards the issue of comprehensiveness, we have continued the practice of summarizing key outputs in the document itself but we provide a great deal of data on the fate of all outputs originally planned in the Programme of Work and Budget on the FAO Website at [www.fao.org/pir](http://www.fao.org/pir), for Programme Implementation Report.

There you will find every output that was planned and what happened to it, whether it was produced, postponed or cancelled and any new outputs that were added to the Programme.

Overall, I think we can say that the results were good, particularly given the constraints faced. As mentioned by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the net budgetary result was favourable in that there was a net surplus of US\$ 11.6 million. This was entirely due to the favourable staff costs partially offset by lower than expected income. It was fortuitous in that it allowed the Director-General to set aside an amount sufficient to cover the advance from the Working Capital Fund that the Conference had authorized to cover redeployment and separation costs.

On the quantitative production side, we had to cancel 145 outputs out of 2 580 and we managed to make up for more than this number through additions to the Programme. In the end, we delivered three percent more than what was actually planned.

We continued to make progress in reducing the cost of supporting the field programme. That is in terms of administrative and operational support in 2000 to 2001, which fell to an all time low of 8.4 percent of delivery, that is, down from 14.1 percent in 1996 to 1997 and 10.6 percent in 1998-1999. However, I have to say that much of this improvement is due to increases in field programme delivery and particularly for emergency work, which almost doubled from the

previous biennium. Emergency work, generally speaking, is cheaper to deliver than technical assistance.

Several achievements were made and they are recognized for their contribution to the international system and to development, and they are succinctly covered in the Executive Summary.

Finally, as mentioned by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, this is the last version of the Report in this current format. We expect to go to the September 2003 meeting of the Programme Committee with proposals for a new form of programme implementation reporting which should better reflect the comprehensive introduction of the new programme model in the Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007 and for the first time in the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003.

I would just comment that what we would be able to include in the Programme Implementation Report, in its new format, will be something short of impact of all of FAO's activities. So, I just like to get your expectations at a reasonable level.

The Director-General looks forward to hearing of comments from members on the report.

**Carl-Josef WEIERS (Germany)**

I would like you to ask Denmark to speak on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer from Denmark)**

The European Community and its 15 Member States appreciate the comprehensive information contained in the Programme Implementation Report in front of us, including the information provided in Annex 2 on Geographical Representation and Gender of Professional Staff.

We note the continuing decentralization process with a decision to place operational responsibility in the hands of the FAO Representative for the implementation of national projects in those countries with an FAO Country Office.

As already expressed in the Programme Committee and by the Chair in his reporting, we stress also the importance of further improvements in the gender balance according to the target of 35 percent of professional staff of the Secretariat being women by the end of the current biennium.

At the meeting in September the Programme Committee observed that the delivery of activities under each programme had on the whole been satisfactory. We look forward to the new format of the Programme Implementation Report. In this regard, the contents of the Medium Term Plan and the Programme Implementation Report should be better coordinated and synchronized in order to make the follow-up easier.

We would also like to request the inclusion in the MTP of precise and effectively measurable indicators for achieving objectives and specification of the means of verification.

Future Programme Implementation Report, therefore should report back against these, delivering much more detailed and precise information on achievements against intended outcomes.

In this connection, we would like to endorse the recommendations of the Finance and Programme Committees, regarding what issues should be addressed in the planned overall of the Programme Implementation Report including among other things, more information on progress, implementing recommendations from evaluations, critical analysis of constraints and difficulties, as well as achievements.

**GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all, we would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for providing a high quality report.

We are pleased to note that the FAO Programme Implementation Report 2000 to 2001 provides a comprehensive review and summary of the principle work and programme implementation over the past two years in a detailed and a factual manner. Thus, serving as a reference for FAO

Member Nations and the management to study and review FAO's work and programme implementation over the past two years.

During the Eighty-eighth Session of the Programme Committee from 9 to 13 September, China together with other Members of the Programme Committee examined this report. We held the view that over the past two years FAO has successfully conducted a great deal of work in accordance with the adopted Programme of Work and achieved certain results. Particularly noteworthy is that we have observed over the past two years, the Special Programme for Food Security has further advanced and expanded, covering more projects and more countries and receiving extra-budgetary funding. This will make a positive contribution to improving food security in a large number of developing countries, particularly the Low-Income, Food Deficit Countries, enhancing their agricultural production, as well as attaining the goals set by the World Food Summit.

Furthermore, we have observed that in paragraph 501 and paragraph 506, the number of TC projects for the biennium 2000 to 2001 also shows a reverse of the downward trend for almost a decade and a share of the Asia and Pacific region in the TC programme has also re-increased to a certain extent, which is a correct response to the still grim food security situation in the region. We are pleased about that.

Here, I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Director-General, as well as FAO Secretariat under his leadership, for completing the programme and achieving the results and propose that the Council adopt the Programme Implementation Report 2000 and 2001.

**Anton KOHLER (Suisse)**

La Suisse apprécie les informations détaillées figurant dans le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme, en particulier l'utilisation de tableaux et graphiques pour faciliter l'examen des données de base. Nous apprécions l'introduction dans le Plan à moyen terme 2004-09 d'indicateurs de réalisation des objectifs et de moyens de les vérifier. Et nous espérons que ces indicateurs permettront aux futurs rapports sur l'exécution du Programme de mieux rendre compte des résultats d'une part, par rapport aux objectifs prévus, et d'autre part, par rapport à leurs effets sur les bénéficiaires, ou ce qu'on appelle aussi les gains d'efficience.

Nous attendons que la première évaluation se basant sur ce type d'indicateurs puisse avoir lieu au plus tard en 2004, ce qui aura permis d'utiliser ce système au moins pendant deux années. A notre avis, il ne faudrait pas perdre de vue que l'évaluation de l'impact des activités de la FAO sur le terrain devrait également prendre une place au moins aussi importante, si ce n'est plus, car il ne s'agit pas seulement d'évaluer si les objectifs ont été réalisés et leurs effets, mais aussi de voir leur impact, c'est-à-dire de voir si les activités entreprises ont fait une différence, si elles ont contribué ou pas à réduire la pauvreté dans les pays, grâce à une meilleure participation de la population et à une ownership renforcée, tout en tenant compte de la sexospécificité. Une telle évaluation devrait se faire dans une démarche participative afin que les personnes concernées puissent apprendre de leurs erreurs afin d'améliorer leur situation.

Et j'arrive ainsi à mon deuxième point. L'approche micro-crédit de la FAO met l'accent sur l'allocation de crédit dans les régions rurales de pays en développement. Ceci est une composante importante mais insuffisante, car il manque l'autre composante qu'est la mobilisation de l'épargne. Ces deux composantes doivent obtenir autant d'attention l'une que l'autre, car sans épargne, il n'est pas possible de distribuer du crédit sans faire appel à des sources extérieures. Dans le cadre de la coopération au développement, nous avons suffisamment d'exemples de projets de crédit financés par des dons qui ont en grande partie échoué. Nous recommandons donc tout particulièrement à la FAO de travailler ensemble avec le FIDA dans ce domaine de crédit-épargne, car ce dernier en a une longue expérience.

C'est avec satisfaction que nous apprenons que le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire a réussi à mobiliser 240 millions de dollars sous forme de financements extrabudgétaires. Ces financements ont permis une rapide expansion. Nous apprécions également l'aspect le plus innovateur de ce programme qui est, à notre avis, la coopération Sud-sud avec 300 experts sur le



terrain. Nous sommes d'avis qu'il s'agit maintenant de consolider les niveaux de production atteints et de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles, en particulier les institutions d'épargne et de crédit pour les ruraux pauvres et de s'attaquer à des problèmes qui créent des goulots d'étranglement, tels que ceux liés à la commercialisation et à l'apport d'intrants. La Suisse est prête à y faire une contribution dans un ou deux pays.

**Shoji SATO (Japan)**

I would like to express gratitude to the Secretariat for providing the Programme Implementation Report. We appreciate the contents of FAO's activities, including the field projects, financed by voluntary contributions analyzed. We also appreciate the accurate information on their outcome, trend of relevant indicators and others included. However, we have insufficiency here. Analysis and FAO's response to cross cutting issues, its coordination with other relevant international organizations and NGOs and improvements in FAO management section are not fully addressed.

I would like to point out that those necessities were stressed in the Strategic Framework. The issues were raised during the course of discussions of the previous Council Session. Activities in the Liaison Offices, Regional Offices and Country Offices should also be included in the report.

We understand that this Report is at the interim stage and we call for inclusion of all necessary information in it until next year's Conference.

We will propose a small amendment. We will submit later to the Secretariat an amendment regarding Table 2.5.3 – Indicative Donors Support to the SPFS.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

Like others, I would like to commend the Secretariat for the quality of the documents and we look forward to having even greater improvement in the presentation of information which will facilitate the analysis that must take place in our capitals on the impact of these programmes. We thank Mr Wade for his allusion to the partner document for the Programme Implementation Report. We will look at it in combination with the Programme Evaluation Reports, as well as for the projections for the future contained in the next document that is on the agenda, the Medium Term Plan.

We support the suggestions that have been made by other delegations, including the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the European Community, for presentation of the information indicators that would allow us to analyze results in relationship to plans and outcomes as they were planned, so that we can see the actual impact of many programmes conducted by the FAO.

Finally, I would just briefly like to take this opportunity to comment on the International Plant Protection Convention. I believe this is mentioned in paragraph 156 and we were concerned that there was a shortcoming in the funding for the activities on this programme and only two standards per year were produced. We say this again, in the future, we would like to see a minimum of four standards per year. We do not believe that two standards really meets the core responsibility of the Organization to provide the Members both, developed and developing countries, with the necessary action needed to prevent the spread and introduction of pests that need to be controlled. We believe that the production of four standards a year would help developing countries build their capacity and strengthen protection infrastructure, as well as to avoid disputes. We also believe that the role of developing countries is crucial in this issue.

**Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

The Africa Group appreciates the information contained in the Report. It is a good accounting too, for all Members in the Organization.

We note the improvement in the presentation of the information in terms of both quantitative terms and terms skill. We look forward to the new format of the document in future. For monitoring progress it is important that in future the reports include indicators of delivery and the impacts of programmes.

We support the need to ensure gender balance in FAO's structure - I think our Asia colleagues already alluded to that. We emphasize the importance of the Special Programme for Food Security as it is a sustainable way to improve food security, especially at the household and National levels. However, the Africa Group is concerned about the continued decline in the non-emergency extra-budgetary resources and requests our developed partners to address this issue.

Lastly, the Group would want to emphasize the importance of increased cooperation among the three Rome based UN agencies, that is, the FAO, WFP and IFAD in addressing emergency situations and forecasting food security in poverty alleviation.

**Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)**

The Report itself is rich with valuable information presented in tables, charts and brief narratives. It gives the Membership a comprehensive view of the implementation process both for the regular and field programmes. The two new additions namely, Geographic Representation and Gender Balance of Professional Staff and the Geographic Distribution of the professional staff, deserve appreciation from Membership.

However, the fact remains that the PIR is basically an accountability report and one should not expect from this report an in-depth analysis of the impact of what FAO has done. For that as the Director of Programme and Evaluation said we have a different report which is the Programme Evaluation Report.

The Report of the Programme Committee refers to the overall of the PIR in view of the FAO new programming model. However, this is most likely to be a gradual process. What incremental improvement from one PIR to the next.

Now I wish to make three specific observations. First, the slight increase in the percentage of professional staff time devoted to TSS in Table 2.6, page 17 is a good development, particularly by the professional staff of the regional offices. Second, in Table 2.8 the rising contribution of the Regular Programme to total support cost is a disturbing trend. Third, we highly appreciate the sharp rise in donor support for the Special Programme for Food Security. Most welcomed is the contribution from unilateral Trust Funds in Latin America, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Colombia and in Africa, from Nigeria and South Africa. Among the international financing institutions there has been a sharp increase in support from the Islamic Development Bank but, unfortunately, nothing from the Asian Development Bank and very little from the World Bank.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

Two views were expressed about bringing impact into this report. The range of views came from Switzerland, who is seeking very considerable consideration of impact of all of FAO's activities to Afghanistan, who knows the practicality of doing that in this sort of report, and refers to the fact that the Programme Evaluation Report is more targeted towards that particular purpose.

I think that we all agree that trying to see what the effect is of FAO's work and demonstrating the effect of FAO's work, in terms of impact, is an objective which we share.

Regarding some of the comments from the Distinguished Delegate of Japan, yes, we recognize the absence of information about how the strategies for cross-organizational issues are being addressed. Certainly, we see that as being a separate section in the new Programme Implementation Report. This will include areas such as improving the management process.

We have, however, in this report addressed both Liaison and Country Officers. Maybe not in sufficient detail for your interest, but Liaison Officers are under paragraph 128 and Country Officers in paragraphs 466 to 483.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois qu'il n'y a pas d'autres commentaires. Nous avons donc conclu le point 9 de l'ordre du jour et nous passons au point 10.

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

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Le point 10 intitulé: "Plan à moyen terme 2004/2009". Les documents relatifs à ce point portent la référence CL 123/7, CL 123/9, CL 123/12 et CL 123/15.

Le document CL 123/7 contient le Plan 2004/2009; le document CL 123/9 contient le rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la quatre vingt-huitième session du Comité du Programme et de la centième session du Comité financier; enfin, les documents CL 123/12 et CL 123/15 portent respectivement sur le Rapport de la quatre vingt- huitième session du Comité du Programme et sur le Rapport de la centième session du Comité financier tenu en septembre 2002.

Je voudrais inviter à nouveau Monsieur Molina Reyes, Président du Comité financier, Monsieur Berteling, Président du Comité du Programme, présenter les vues des Comités qui président telles que contenues dans le rapport de leurs sessions. Monsieur Wade pourra également introduire ce point.

**10. Medium Term Plan 2004-2009** (CL 123/7; CL 123/9 paras 4-10; CL 123/12 paras 4-44; CL 123/15 paras 15-22)

**10. Plan à moyen terme 2004-2009** (CL 123/7; CL 123/9 paragraphes 4-10; CL 123/12 paragraphes 4-44; CL 123/15 paragraphes 15-22)

**10. Plan a Plazo Medio 2004-2009** (CL 123/7; CL 123/9 párrafos 4-10; CL 123/12 párrafos 4-44; CL 123/15 párrafos 15-22)

#### **Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

En relación al análisis de este tema, el Comité de Finanzas examinó el Plan a Plazo Medio 2004-2009 y acogió con satisfacción dicho documento. Lo considera un documento valioso y mejor que el anterior. Sobre este particular, las deliberaciones del Comité están comprendidas en los párrafos 15 al 22 del documento CL 123/15.

Valoró la cobertura amplia que la Secretaría había brindado a las estrategias destinadas a las cuestiones interinstitucionales. Similarmente destacó la importancia del Plan en el contexto de los resultados alcanzados en diversos foros internacionales, entre ellos la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, así como la Conferencia de Monterrey sobre el Financiamiento para el Desarrollo y la Cumbre de Johannesburgo.

Entre las mejoras del documento, el Comité destacó la información adicional sobre los posibles fondos adicionales voluntarios contenidos en el Plan, puesto que ha proporcionado un cuadro más amplio sobre los eventuales recursos disponibles para la ejecución del programa.

El Comité se informó sobre las ventajas potenciales que representaría el concepto de presupuestación de capital para el financiamiento de los gastos de capital en el período 2004-2009, entre ellas las inversiones focalizadas en mejoramientos del sistema informático, como Oracle, FAOSTAT y amortización del pasivo de la cobertura médica después del servicio. Sobre este particular el Comité solicitó a la Secretaría mayor información para estar en condiciones de evaluar las ventajas de este enfoque.

El Comité observó que las cifras contenidas en el documento consideraban un incremento del presupuesto. Si bien la Secretaría indicó que éstas sean sólo indicativas, algunos miembros del Comité señalaron que era necesario que este documento debería también haber considerado un escenario más parecido a los presupuestos aprobados en años anteriores. Sin embargo, otros miembros opinaron que era necesario mostrar una tendencia al crecimiento como está comprendido ya en el Plan a Plazo Medio 2004-2009 bajo análisis.

Quedo a disposición del Consejo para responder a cualquier pregunta adicional.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

The Programme Committee, the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee considered, less than seven weeks ago, the new Draft Medium Term Plan. The results can be found in paragraphs 4 to 44 of the Programme Committee Report, Document 12 and in paragraphs 4 to 10 of the Report of the Joint Meeting, document CL 123/9.

The Programme Committee considered some parts in conjunction with the regular examination of some of the major programmes of the Organization. In this case, Major Programmes 2.3 Fisheries and Major Programme 2.5 Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme thrusts.

The Committee has recognized, and I stress this point – although my neighbour will certainly do that as well – the indicative non-binding character of the resource projections included in the plan.

For this, I would like to refer you to paragraph 6 of document CL 123/9. The basic conclusion of the consideration by the Programme Committee and by the Joint Meeting was undoubtedly that the present format, as has been stressed already by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, is a clear improvement compared to earlier Medium Term Plans. This seems to be a consequence of earlier decisions on planning programming and evaluation and that these have been good for the Organization, including its Member Nations.

I would like to call your attention to some of the examples for this improvement. I repeat the first point from my neighbour: an explicit list of opportunities for extra-budgetary support for the various programmes, which makes it a much better tool to see what the Organization really is trying to achieve; secondly, a better articulation of the rationale for the proposed programme entities; thirdly, expanded information on strategies to address cross-organizational issues; and fourthly, the development of the priorities areas for inter-disciplinary action, defy us.

We were also informed and received a clear picture of that by being shown the consequences. There are a lot of useful and important details that are already available on the Medium Term Plan on FAO's Website.

Some Members also recognized some disadvantages with the present format. It was difficult to aggregate information on a regional basis. The Secretariat promised to look into this problem with a view to going forward with some additional information in the future. Second, a much more complicated question, the Medium Term Plan document should, according to some Members, be as self-explanatory as possible, which is in contrast with the demand to keep the document within a reasonable size and with the request not to be too repetitive with successive versions. If we really would include everything, I am afraid, nobody would touch the document.

However, it was widely recognized that a Medium Term Plan is not a vehicle to provide a detailed budgetary proposal. Generally, the Committee felt that the Draft Medium Term Plan was proof of the progress made by the Organization on strategic planning and results-based budgeting principles.

There is one other related issue that was widely discussed by the Programme Committee and the Joint Meetings in relation to the Medium Term Plan: priority-setting. We could discuss this in the Council under the present item but also tomorrow on the basis of the Programme Committee Report. It certainly elicits attention by the Council. A logical conclusion of the strategic planning and results based budgeting principles is the issue of priority setting. Neither FAO nor most, if not all UN agencies, have a good system of priority setting. On the other hand, none of these agencies, and perhaps really by definition, is able to implement all of the tasks allocated to them. Priority setting is a must. It happens, the question is how and who should do that?

We have had a very useful but yet inclusive discussion on these issues. At the conclusion of the Programme Committee, at its next session, we will review arrangements for priority setting in FAO, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat, with a view to identifying a

more satisfactory approach. If you want to read the precise formulation, it is in paragraph 8 of document CL 123/9.

That, in my opinion, will not be the end of the discussion. It is not easy and also has to be in line with the financial resources available to the Organization. On the other hand, we are always faced with more plans than resources and it is not easy for the Director-General, the Conference, Council or Programme Committee to find a way to establish the priorities.

The Programme Committee made specific comments and suggestions on various actions of the Medium Term Plan. By definition, I, as Chairman of the Programme Committee, consider all of these relevant and important but I do not think, in view of the time, that I should read them out. You have all been able to read them. I would suggest adopting a statement in the Report of the Council that the Director-General is requested to take those comments into account – those from the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and from the Joint Meeting – in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

This is the second Medium Term Plan which bases itself upon the content and planning framework laid down in the Strategic Framework approved by the Conference in November 1999.

Members will recall that the Council itself is the primary recipient of the Medium Term Plan and that it is submitted to it for decision. Under the Planning Framework approved by the Conference in November 1999, as part of the Strategic Framework, the Council reviews the Medium Term Plan with a view to providing guidance on programme priorities and projected resource requirements. This guidance will, of course, be one of the key inputs to the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005, which you will be considering, at least in summary form, at your next session.

I would also like to draw the attention of Members to the requirement that the Medium Term Plan be forwarded to the technical committees of the Council – COAG, COFI and COFO – for their review of the proposed programme priorities in their respective areas of technical competence. The Director-General will, therefore, be taking into account not only the general guidance of the Council but also the technical advice of these key committees.

Both the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee referred to the issue of extra-budgetary resources. This is one major change which derives from a request of the Programme Committee at its May 2002 session. It was that we include information on those FAO activities which are expected to be funded from extra-budgetary resources, relating such activities to the programme priorities in the medium-term.

We have responded to this request within the context of the Medium Term Plan in two ways: firstly, as explained in paragraph 8, a greater effort has been made to identify the extent of Other Income – as we refer to it – which will directly support the implementation of the Programme of Work in this period. However, units were asked to only include such resources here they were already funded or reasonably assured of funding. Such amounts are identified separately in the resource tables in Part II of the document; secondly, as explained in paragraphs 41 and 42, units were also asked to identify opportunities for extra-budgetary support under specific programme entities; that is, where such additional resources could extend the impact of those entities. Here units were not constrained by the availability of resources. The output of the exercise is shown in paragraph 45, under Table 4, which lists a selection of the key areas where extra-budgetary support would benefit the Organization's normative and operational programmes.

The last version of this document – the Medium Term Plan 2002-2007 – was well received by the Council at its Hundred and Nineteenth Session. However, the Council also made a number of suggestions for future enhancements and I would like to explain how we have responded to those.

On the question of indicators and objectives, the Council welcomed the efforts made to provide indicators at that time to facilitate evaluation of proposed activities and looked forward to sharper

formulations in the future. This is, in fact, the primary area of improvement to which I would like to draw your attention.

The Secretariat recognized this was an area of weakness in the previous version and, furthermore, understood that the weakness in the definition of indicators pointed to difficulties in defining the objective of each entity. That was quite fundamental.

To respond to these concerns, we took a number of steps:

- first, we developed materials on programme entity formulation as a basis for training courses for both PBE staff and for about ten percent of the technical staff of the Organization, who, in turn, were expected to pass on their newly acquired knowledge to those colleagues directly involved in the formulation process;
- second, we incorporated the definitions and methodologies developed for training purposes into the Programme Planning and Implementation Monitoring System (PIRES), such that each time a new entity is developed in the system, the formulator is faced with a series of structured questions which guide him/her through the process in a logical sequence. For those Members who are interested in what we have done, we have programmed a demonstration of this system in the Iran Room on 18 November 2002. This will show how the system helps the user develop a programme entity as well as the richness of the data collected in this manner – a point to which the Chairman of the Programme Committee referred;
- third, we carried out an extensive appraisal process, wherein we reviewed each entity to see whether the guidelines had been applied. Where it was not clear that they had been, PBE Officers – Officers of my office – met with departments to enhance any areas that might have needed further refinement.

The second area that the Council asked us to make improvements was on concerns strategies to address cross-organizational issues. The Council had asked that the next plan give due attention to the strategy concerning Ensuring Excellence and that you will see has been done in paragraphs 793 to 803. However, I might add, that the detailed actions proposed under each of these strategies is now presented in much greater depth.

On the question of regional breakdowns, which was mentioned by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and by some Members in the last report of the Council, they indicated that they would have wished to have seen a regional breakdown in the Medium Term Plan. I have to indicate that this has not proved possible, in part because the data is not collected at a sufficiently low level of detail for this purpose and in part because Regional Offices contribute to the majority of the major outputs shown in the document. Hence the fragmentation of the Medium Term Plan would be significant if each regional output had to be described.

However, I would like to emphasize that this plan, while being global in concept and presentation, is not only a centrally produced top-down view of what needs to be done. As far back as December 2001, the Regional Representatives were requested to identify new or important concerns related to the technical areas of FAO's programmes that needed to be addressed in the Medium Term Plan. These concerns were sent to the relevant technical departments so that they could take them into account in their development of the Medium Term Plan, a process which involves continuing and active dialogue between technical officers in Headquarters and their respective outposted officers in the region.

Having said that, the Secretariat appreciates that it needs to respond to the interests of regions by producing enough data which will allow them to appreciate which regional priorities have been attended to. This has been recognized in the Programme of Work and Budget 2002-2003, which includes tables showing resource allocations by region and a new section entitled "Regional Dimensions", which outlines the planned activities for each region.

At the last Council, in considering a Medium Term Plan, some Members sought data on the intended beneficiaries of the programme. While we have not been able to find a way to summarize such information, data on beneficiaries is collected at two levels: first of all, at the level of programme entity, we identify the intended end user or secondary beneficiary; and then secondly, at the level of major output the primary users, or primary beneficiaries, of each output are identified.

The former – that is the secondary beneficiaries or end beneficiaries – are included in the Medium Term Plan document under the Rationale for the programme entity, under the sub-heading "Intended End Beneficiaries and Benefits".

This is meant to be a rolling Medium Term Plan. The document you have before you is not really a rolling Medium Term Plan, as is required under the planning framework. Instead, it is a complete restatement of all existing and new projects proposed for the medium-term, commencing 2004-2005. We felt this approach was necessary as the more stringent methodology meant that, in many cases, the rationale, objectives and the indicators have had to be restated in what we believe is a much more satisfactory manner.

This approach has, of course, made the document very lengthy. However, assuming the Council agrees, we will – for the next Medium Term Plan – revert more to the rolling nature originally envisaged. That is, the next Medium Term Plan will trim down the amount of detail shown in the document for existing entities but would still provide this greater level of detail for any new or significantly revised entities. This should reduce the size of the document quite considerably.

Another area where the Committees and the Council sought improvement was in Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action – or PAIAs as they are known.

Here the Committees asked for further refinement with a view to sharper focus. You will note that instead of listing divisional contributions – the details of which are, in any case, available on the web site – we have chosen to demonstrate the departmental involvement in the PAIAs with a simple pie diagram. More importantly, for each PAIA we state its objective and the priorities for the medium-term under review. We believe that we have sharpened the focus as requested by the Committees and this has since been confirmed by the Programme Committee in its report, as mentioned by the Chairman.

The Council's emphasis, however, was on the need to put in place monitoring procedures and to ensure accountability. The response to this has been to take a number of steps: firstly, the development of systems support in PIREs, which identifies all the links between divisional programmes and the PAIAs; second, putting in place procedures for work planning and implementation monitoring, including annual reporting to the Deputy Director-General for each PAIA; and third, inclusion of PAIAs in the revised regime for auto-evaluation.

We hope, by these means, to have met that requirement but I have to say that these are fairly long-term efforts and it is a little too early to judge how effective they may have been.

I am sorry if I have been rather lengthy in this introduction. My purpose has been to demonstrate that the Director-General and the Secretariat have been responsive to the concerns of the Membership and, as a result, we have improved upon what we already see as being a much improved document. We believe that you have before you a clear and accountable proposal which reflects the highest priorities of the Membership. We recognize that the increase in resources needed to implement this programme will be problematic for some members but I recall that they imply nothing more than Zero Real Growth over the last ten years.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

We appreciate the thrust of the Mid Term Plan and also the quality of the document. Our Government wishes to draw attention to the following areas: strengthen food security information systems and especially to build partnerships in developing countries; assess the impact of climate change on food security and its implications on sustainable food production, with a view to bringing adaptation to the centre-stage together with mitigation; build capacity in developing

countries to participate effectively in agriculture trade negotiations; monitor developments in the field of biotechnology and strengthen national capacities in risk management and biosafety issues; assess the contribution of farm animal genetic resources to food security; realize the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and implement an equitable multilateral system; provide practical advice to developing countries on forest economics and improve the quality and accessibility of forest information; improve the capacity of developing countries to comply with international food safety standards; convene regional meetings on food safety regulators and food safety issues; implement effectively the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and initiate a global Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme, to be coordinated and implemented through an independent Commission to be created for this purpose.

### **Shoji SATO (Japan)**

I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009. The Medium Term Plan is comprehensive and well-organized. In the draft Medium Term Plan and resource projections, in particular, it is our understanding that the figures of resources are merely indicative and for information only and, of course, not for decision of the Council.

Japan's basic position towards international organizations is to make its utmost contribution as a major donor for the attainment of the objectives of these organizations. In doing so Japan attaches particular importance to the budgetary disciplines since Japan considers that the international organizations, including FAO, should make continuous efforts in streamlining and improving efficiencies to ensure maximum use of their limited regular budgets.

Japan strongly urges the Secretariat to submit scenarios, including a Zero Nominal Growth option at the next sessions of the Council and the upcoming meeting of the Conference, to ensure the views and intentions of Member Nations being duly reflected in the discussions on the next biennial budget.

Yesterday, I explained that the Japanese Government has decided on the emergency food aid of approximately US\$ 12 million for the southern African region. This is a part of our food aid package in the amount of approximately US\$ 30 million. The food aid is for Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola. Also, this morning the Japanese Cabinet has approved the US\$ 136 million aid in grants to Afghanistan.

During the past ten years Japan has provided official development assistance amounting to approximately US\$ 120 billion, one-fifth of the entire ODA provided by DAC Members.

Japan attaches great importance to the assistance in the agricultural sector. As mentioned in the FAO publication "*The State of Food and Agriculture 2002*", Japan provided approximately US\$ 1.6 billion in bilateral assistance for this sector in 1999 and US\$ 1.3 billion in 2000. Japan's large share in the total official development aid in the world is reflected in these figures.

Two years ago, the Council Secretariat asked us how they could possibly propose a Medium-Term Plan which proposes a decline in resources. We need budgetary discipline - budgetary discipline of the administrative budget of the international organization; we need efficiency savings. We need every penny, we need money; and we need not to spend here in Rome for administrative purposes. We have to spend in developing countries to save the hungry and poor.

### **Anton KOHLER (Suisse)**

La Suisse apprécie les améliorations apportées au Plan à moyen terme 2004-09 par rapport au précédent Plan, en particulier le fait qu'il soit basé sur le Cadre stratégique 2000-2015, comme nous l'avions alors demandé et sur le Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*.

Nous apprenons que les indicateurs ont été définis aussi bien au niveau de l'objectif que du résultat et ceci avec des variables tant quantitatives que qualitatives qui peuvent être



objectivement vérifiées. Nous soutenons cette démarche et sommes tout particulièrement intéressés à l'utilisation des indicateurs qualitatifs.

Nous partageons l'idée que l'innovation est un corollaire de l'apprentissage et que l'une et l'autre ont besoin d'une culture institutionnelle propice et d'un personnel engagé qui est récompensé par une reconnaissance et des incitations. Nous sommes cependant conscients que la mise en œuvre d'un tel système n'est pas aisée, mais nous savons également par expérience que dans un tel système, il n'y a pas beaucoup de chance que l'institution puisse devenir innovante. Nous aimerions donc savoir ce que la FAO a déjà entrepris à ce stade pour mieux impliquer son personnel dans un processus d'innovation et d'apprentissage.

Nous notons que les montants figurant dans le Plan à moyen terme sont considérés comme indicatifs et non contraignants, et nous soutenons qu'un plan sur six ans fasse ressortir une tendance à la croissance afin de permettre à la FAO d'accomplir son mandat efficacement.

### ***Continues in English***

Switzerland wishes to make reference to the information document titled "*Report on the World Summit on Sustainable Development*" as well as to the briefing that the Director-General of FAO gave to Permanent Representatives on 17 September on FAO's contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture, Biodiversity (WEHAB) framework clearly have significant implications for FAO's Medium Term Plan, if real progress is to be achieved on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration Goals.

The international partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, jointly initiated by FAO, UNEP and Switzerland, as well as the SARD Initiative from FAO have been successfully launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Many countries and all major relevant organizations and institutions, have joined these partnerships and are informally committed to contribute to the upcoming concretization process.

Out of its own experience, Switzerland, a mountainous country, is strongly engaged in sustainable development in the mountain regions and supports any initiative aiming at that goal.

In this respect, in September 2001, Switzerland organized and hosted an International Conference for Sustainable Mountain Development in Interlaken, Switzerland, in order to initiate and set up the agenda and the topics for the Year of International Mountains 2002. During this Conference the idea for the creation of the international partnership for sustainable development in mountain regions resulted.

Furthermore, in collaboration with FAO, Switzerland hosted in June 2002 the International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) in Mountain Regions. This Conference produced the Adelboden Declaration followed by a Plan of Action and helped to contribute to the development of the SARD initiative.

As a follow-up to the Johannesburg Conference, Switzerland requests FAO to: firstly, continue to facilitate the concretization of the design and work plan of the Mountain Partnership Initiative and of the SARD Initiative; secondly to establish an effective mechanism in FAO to coordinate the pilot activities to develop the Medium Term Plan with key stakeholders and to mobilize political and financial resources for these two initiatives; and, thirdly, to clarify the linkages, synergies and mechanisms between the Mountain Partnership Initiative and the SARD Initiative.

The implementation of the Swiss proposal would represent an important step towards the effective implementation of Chapter 13 and 14 related to Mountain and SARD of Agenda 21 over the next five years. Important for the next steps of the Mountain and the SARD initiatives will be the definition of indicators for the expected results and impact on which assessment of progress can be made.

In this context, Switzerland also recognizes the importance of water which is closely linked to both initiatives.

Switzerland suggests that an initial progress report be provided at the FAO Conference in 2003 and subsequently at the COAG on SARD in 2004.

**Dato' Abi Musa Asa'ari MOHAMED NOR (Malaysia)**

Malaysia commends FAO's efforts in preparing the new Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2004 to 2009 and welcomes the improvements made in the presentation format of the MTP. The tables on resources presented now give detail and new information on estimates on other income and additional voluntary contributions that directly support the implementation of the programmes. The indicative list of possible activities that could be funded from extra-budgetary resources gives Member Nations a clear idea on what could be funded from extra-budgetary resources.

We are happy about the improvements made on the content and resource estimates of Technical Services (TS) and we do not have any problem accepting the structural changes made to the programme entity titles, the numbering, timeframes and extensions proposed.

Above all, we welcome the move towards implementing the result-based management approach - particularly in giving stronger focus on users of FAO products and services. This is clearly identified in the write-up of the rationale, objective and major outputs under each programme entity. The rationale identifies the problems to be addressed, then proposes FAO contributions to solve the problems and finally identifies the intended beneficiaries and benefits. This information is very useful to members and can help them identify and relate the relevant and suitable FAO programmes that they need which could assist them in resolving their food security problems.

In addressing the substance of the proposed MTP, we welcomed the fact that the programmes have been formulated to be in line with the objectives of the Strategic Framework 2000 to 2015 and, at the same time, responded satisfactorily to express priorities of the membership.

However, we would like to highlight several proposals which we hope will be given high priority. These are: implementing of activities related to important regulatory instruments, which include accelerating the standard setting processes, developing information systems; increasing the number of technical consultations within/at Regional levels; and ensuring sufficient participation of developing countries in the standard setting and agreement formulation processes.

These regulatory instruments include, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedures for Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR); development and formulation of internationally agreed food standards; ensuring adequate participation of developing countries in the activities of both the ITPGR and the development of food standards; strengthening of FAO's capacity to disseminate and exchange information with other institutions and developing practices and information tools to assist developing countries to improve their information management system and enabling them to plan an active role in accessing; analysing and sharing of agricultural information; placing emphasis on small-scale fisheries development – including development of inland fisheries, capacity building on fish safety and quality, promotion of better utilization, safety and marketing of products and ensuring accessibility of information on improved small-scale handling and preservation technologies; emphasizing commercialization by small-scale farms, urban food security needs, provision of commercial services, including post-harvest processing and marketing and support to small-and medium-scale agri-business; intensifying activities relating to enhancing the food quality and safety throughout the food chain, including capacity-building and risk analysis methodologies for compliance with food safety standards; providing substantial support to Members in the context of multilateral trade negotiations and international agreements; and stressing participatory approaches to ensure sustainable rural and agricultural development.

Of particular interest to Malaysia is the programme on Agricultural Applications and Biotechnology. The science of biotechnology has advanced very rapidly over the years. Malaysia is well aware of its potential benefits, especially the genetically-modified crops. Risk assessment is the procedure used to determine how safe a GM crop or food might be. However, the expertise

in risk assessment and management of GMOs in the environment both on short-term and long-term basis is generally lacking in Malaysia. Therefore, there is a strong need to have adequate trained manpower in risk assessment and management of GMOs. In addition, there is also the need to increase capacity in developing infrastructures to handle GMOs, such as up-to-date laboratories for monitoring and detection of GM plant or plant products of food at points of import. Thus, Malaysia supports the programme for capacity building for work on modern biotechnology.

Finally, coming back to the structure of the MTP, Malaysia feels that, in addition to allocating resources by major programmes, it should also attempt to allocate resources by target groups, that is, the undernourished people, children and women and by regions. This will give a more focused approach to the plan and with a built-in monitoring system; the success of the plan in achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit can thus be fully evaluated.

**Gudmundur B. HELGASON (Iceland)**

Iceland speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland Norway and Sweden. This Medium Term Plan is the second one based on the new programme model endorsed in the strategic framework. We welcome it and commend the Secretariat for all its improvements compared with previous versions, among them, coverage of strategies to address cross-organizational issues and improved information on opportunities for extra-budgetary contributions.

In addition to the strategic framework 2000/2015, this Medium Term Plan must be examined in the light of recent international events such as the Millennium Summit, the Monterrey Conference, the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the Johannesburg Summit. We support the emphasis that is given in the Medium Term Plan to the outcome of these events. We are concerned that the Millennium Development Goals are not adequately reflected and would like to note that the recent adoption of the Johannesburg Summit Plan of Action, in relation to FAO's mandate, will require some further adjustments in the Programme of Work.

It goes without saying that the resource projections in this Medium Term Plan are to be considered as indicative and non-binding for the members. Regarding programmes and priorities, the Nordic countries support many of the high priority areas that are allocated more resources in the plan, among them fisheries, forestry, plant genetic resources, phytosanitary measures and food safety and quality.

Here we would like to highlight the important work on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture, with reference to the outcome of the first meeting of the interim committee of the treaty, held in Rome earlier this month, and the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We reiterate the importance of adequate resources for implementing the Gender and Development Plan of Action and for addressing the implication for food security of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

We fully support that major programmes 2.3 and 2.4, Forestry and Fisheries, should receive relatively preferential treatment in resource allocation. This is now clearly acknowledged with full support from the Programme Committee.

However, on the basis of past experiences, the Nordic Countries remain concerned that the priorities of reallocation among major programmes set by Members, may turn out to be ignored if we end up with Zero Nominal Growth in the budget. Zero Nominal Growth does not necessarily mean status quo. The Medium Term Plan proposes substantial increase in regular programme resources for the Special Programme for Food Security, due to expected increase in level of extra-budgetary support for that programme. This needs further clarification as to what resources are available today, and what reactions were given, if any, to recommendations from some members in the Programme Committee to explore other options for meeting part of the incremental management costs.

Further findings of the recent evaluation of the SPFS must be adequately reflected in the Plan. We note that in the Medium Term Plan the integrated production systems are recognized as an important approach in achieving food security. We support this approach, however, we would like FAO to have given broader involvement in developing integrated production systems and not rely solely on the SPFS.

In the Medium Term Plan, the concept of capital budgeting is introduced for consideration, the concept is vaguely described with reference to a former decision of the Conference. We appreciate being introduced to this concept in ample time to be able to give it thorough consideration.

Further information on the concept of capital budgeting is needed primarily for the Finance Committee before Members can establish a firm position. Chapter 3 strategies to address cross-organizational issues has been considerably improved. We welcome especially the Chapter on ensuring excellencies, laying down *inter-alia* a strategy for human resources management, learning and innovation in the Organization.

Actions related to human resources are also described under the strategy, continuing to improve the management process. This strategy looks both comprehensive and professionally crafted. We support this fully and welcome especially the wide range of training activities that are planned and look forward to seeing this further elaborated in the SPWB next year.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

My delegation welcomes the recommendation from the Committees regarding the need for adequate resources for the IPCC and the Codex Alimentarius. We endorse this conclusion. We also would like to highlight that Forestry is a vital sector for Brazil. Thus, we support the proposal that this sector receive adequate funding in the future implementation of the Medium Term Plan.

**David INGHAM (Australia)**

Australia welcomes the Medium Term Plan for the period 2004 to 2009. Australia wishes to make a number of comments about the Plan, the planning process in the assumptions underlining the Plan. Before doing so though, Australia would like to acknowledge the significant progress that FAO has made in recent years with the MTP, and second, in making a number of improvements in this version of the Plan. In the spirit of seeking to ensure continual improvement in the document, Australia offers the following comments.

Australia believes that the framing of the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009, around a Zero Real Growth Budget for the next three biennia is unrealistic as recent funding levels for the FAO have generally been Zero Normal Growth (ZNG). Australia believes ZNG should also be used for the PWB. Australia's concern is that by adopting this unrealistic assumption, as to future funding of the Medium Term Plan, as currently drafted, it will not be able to be delivered.

Rather than asking the Council to consider a plan that will almost inevitably need to be significantly recast in the future, Australia believes that it would be much more preferable to use a more realistic assumption on funding as a basis for the MTP. An assumption that reflects the experience over the past three or four biennia, such as ZNG should in Australia's view have been the basis for the MTP.

The Medium Term Plan could then have been prepared on this ZNG assumption with an attachment that would indicate changes to the Medium Term Plan which could have been made on the basis of a more favourable funding outcome that was assumed. For example, if the Medium Term Plan is based on ZNG then, the attachment might contain details of extra funding for existing programmes and new programmes which might be funded if ZRG was available. Such alternate scenarios could have been provided to enable better understanding of the implications of different budget levels.

Australia, believes that the Medium Term Plan should primarily represent FAO's response to the expressed priorities of FAO Members, indicated on the various Governing Bodies. In this context

Australia believes that the planning process which lead up to the finalization of the Medium Term Plan should be re-examined with a view to ensuring that the views of the Members can be taken into account successfully through the process and as early as possible in the process. Given this view Australia is pleased that the decision is taken at the most recent Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees for the Programme Committee to review arrangements for priority-setting in FAO at its next session on the basis of the document to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Australia urges the Secretariat to examine the range of Agencies and government planning practices to find ways of involving stakeholders in the planning process and to produce meaningful documents that will allow Members to take this issue forward. This will enable Members to assess high and low priority programmes and to take appropriate actions.

Australia also suggests that the structure of the Medium Term Plan could be examined so as to determine whether an alternative structure could be found, which would facilitate Members being better able to assess its contents and identify gaps and overlaps in the coverage of the Plan. One possible way of organizing the projects and programmes which might be investigated, would be along the lines of the five major corporate strategies. These are more or less outcomes of projects and programmes aimed at achieving concrete results.

Time does not permit a detailed discussion of the programmes Australia considers to be of high priority and those of lower priority. We will follow up the following brief comments with some more detailed comments which we will direct to the Secretariat.

Australia believes that the following are the areas where FAO urgently needs to direct resources. On Fisheries, Australia is a strong supporter of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme in FAO. We would note, however, that there is no real focus on IUU Fishing in Illegal Activities that remain the real problems for world fisheries. This issue needs to be addressed. We welcome a strong focus in the Medium Term Plan on strengthening regional fisheries management bodies and on aquaculture and consider that greater efforts are needed in these areas also.

While we welcome the increase in resources to the IPPC and Codex programmes in the Medium Term Plan, more still needs to be done. Council is aware of the critical funding situation of the IPPC and we would emphasize the need for increased funds in the 2004 to 2005 PWB, commissioned with the work programme agreed by the ICPM. This would entail the IPPC budget being provided with an additional US\$2 million by the next biennium. This immediate increase in funds will be used for setting four standards per annum in support for information exchange and technical programmes.

Australia strongly supports FAO continuing to provide the necessary resources to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as it is a critical area of activity. The importance of the work of Codex to the international community and the international trading environment in particular, continues to grow. Australia believes that it is inevitable that an increased proportion of FAO funding will need to be provided for Codex to fulfill this important role.

On a related issue, Australia would like the Council to know the outcome of the current FAO/WHO review of Codex, with a report due in November 2002. This will almost certainly have implications for the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009, and the resources allocated to the programmes related to the joint food standards programme. These outcomes/recommendations, will need to be taken into consideration before the plan is finalized.

Australia would like to seek clarification from the Council as to what arrangements are in place to ensure that the implementation and recommendations from the evaluation can be progressed in a timely manner, without prejudice from budgetary constraints.

In relation to both IPPC and Codex, we would also call for the role of preferential protection of funding for both in the final budget for next biennium and the future biennia covered by the Medium Term Plan. Other areas of high priority for which Australia sees merit are increasing

funding are forestry and animal health programmes related to disease and capacity-building in the trade area, and also plant genetic resources.

As I indicated earlier, Australia will be sending to the Secretariat more detailed comments on privatization within programmes.

**Ms Christin MAIER (Germany)**

I would like to allow Denmark to speak on behalf of the European Community and its fifteen Member States.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Denmark)**

The European Community and its fifteen Member States recognize the important responsibility that FAO has in timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This second version of the MTP is a clear improvement, including the provision of a more explicit list of opportunities for extra-budgetary support, a more clear presentation of the rationale for the proposed programme entities and the greatly expanded Part III covering the Strategies to Address Cross-organizational Issues.

The discussion of cross-organizations strategies in Part III deals with issues that are fundamentally important to FAO's ability to contribute effectively to the international system in the Twenty-first century. This is especially true of human resources management, which is a common thread in several of the Strategies of interdisciplinary, and of partnerships. We should be glad to hear how the Secretariat proposes to develop action plans to implement the strategies and to report progress to the membership.

We are satisfied to observe that the proposals, in general, reflect the substantive priorities of members as expressed by them in various fora. They seem to be responsive to the outcome of recent key international events, such as the Monterrey Conference, the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the Johannesburg Summit. We are also satisfied that the proposed MTP continues to adhere to the Strategic Framework 2000-2015.

The European Community and its fifteen Member States also welcome the proposed increase in technical programmes favouring work on forestry and fisheries which we expect will result in an increased share of total regular resources to these two areas in the next draft Programme of Work and Budget. We also note, with satisfaction, the attention in the Plan for important work on the International Treaty on Plan Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Plant Protection Convention, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Codex and standards for genetically-modified organisms and pesticide use. Regarding these programmes, we are particularly concerned that adequate funding is allocated to this important normative work within the regular budget.

We welcome the proposal by the Secretariat to make a significant and steadily-increasing allocation of resources to the problem of HIV/AIDS in developing countries where this epidemic is having a dramatic effect on food security and rural development - as was pointed out in the recent report on Southern Africa by the special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Mr Jim Morris, on this matter.

We shall want to satisfy ourselves that the planned provision for the administrative infrastructure of the Organization is adequate for the purpose, and to review the proposals for FAO country representation in the light of the conclusions of the forthcoming evaluation of FAO's decentralization programme.

The Plan appropriately recognizes the various needs for FAO staff training. The training in gender issues should be added as an integral part of the training programme. This training is vital for attainment of the goals of FAO's Gender and Development Plan of Action 2002-2007. The value of evaluation depends on implementation of its recommendations. It is of vital importance that the findings of the evaluation of the SPFS, decentralization and evaluation of the work of Codex are reflected in the Plan.

We also welcome the further development of joint work under the priority areas for interdisciplinary actions (PAIA). We also stress the need for partnerships and coordination with all concerned organizations on the basis of the spirit of cooperation that prevailed at the WSSD in Johannesburg and the partnerships concluded.

We are very concerned that the full implementation of the MTP with the present indicative resources projections in the first biennium of the Plan alone, would demand an increase of 8.4 percent in the appropriation compared to the PWB 2002-2003. Over the life of the Plan, the increase in real terms is 15.6 percent. We recall our request at the Conference in 2001 for a study on the scope for further efficiency gains in FAO.

We have carefully studied the reflections of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee at their separate and joint meetings in September 2002, and especially noted that the Programme Committee has decided to review arrangements for priority-settings in FAO at its next session. We will also look forward to and await the advice from the Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the specific activities falling under their respective mandates before formulating our precise guidance to the Secretariat for the preparation of the budget for 2004-2005.

However, we will now, once again, urge the Secretariat to present a paper on the scope for further efficiency gains in FAO as soon as possible, and to include alternative budget scenarios in the proposal for PWB for 2004-2005. This is to inform Members about the impact of lower allocations and to enable Members to make well-founded decisions on the budget.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

I would like to associate the United States with the comments that have been made already by the delegate from Japan, the delegate from Australia, and the comments made by the Danish Representative on behalf of the European Community.

I appreciate the comments made by Mr Wade that reminded this body of the responsiveness of the Secretariat to the Membership and the changes in the planning process. Others have also recalled that this document is related to the strategic framework and other documents which have vastly improved the transparency of the Organization's planning process and have given us a better idea of how to look toward the future.

However, I join with those who state that although it is acknowledged in the document that these figures are indicative I have to wonder if it would not be more appropriate to call this the Medium Term proposal as opposed to the Medium Term Plan, because plans have a way of taking on a life of their own and they perhaps give an impression of a reality which has been noted, but may not exist.

As a Member of the Finance Committee I took part in the discussion in the Joint Session of the Finance and Programme Committees. One of the major topics was not only the level of the budget that is proposed in this document as it was proposed in the last Medium Term Plan, but also the difficulties it creates for the Membership in priority-setting. I look forward to the further examination of that process in the Programme Committee. It does seem that although the inclusion of the extra-budgetary funding helps us appreciate the full impact, it is almost half. I would note those extra-budgetary contributions amount to a sum almost equal to the budget from Assessed Contributions.

We do have a much better idea of the full range of activities undertaken by the Organization but since this Body, the Council and Governing Bodies of the Organization including the Conference really look more at the Assessed Contributions, I have to wonder without other scenarios, is not the programming of the Organization imbalanced.

Like others, I already mentioned we support expanding the activities of the IPPC and my colleagues have mentioned some of the normative activities, the standard-setting, the activities of the Codex Alimentarius which we also strongly support and I would note that in the document very substantial increases are projected – I believe it was seventeen percent for the Technical

Cooperation Programme which again, if the resources to fund a higher programme level overall are not forthcoming, I think that particular distribution is not realistic.

Finally, I would say that we are interested in effective spending efficiencies. We think the Organization has achieved a great deal in improving efficiencies and we to look forward to working with FAO in the future. We do continue to support a Zero Nominal Growth budget. When the last budget was approved we did not block the consensus but I would note that we abstained on a Zero Real Growth. Our policy at that time was and continues to be the appropriate level to plan for the future, would be a Zero Nominal Growth budget.

That would be more similar to the past as has been noted.

**GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009 prepared in a rolling fashion and this plan is based on the previous Medium Term Plan and under the guidance of the Organization's Strategic Framework 2000 to 2015 and, in accordance with the reiterated objectives set forth in the World Food Summit: *five years later* as well as the comments made by the FAO Governing Body.

We are pleased to note that the resources will be increased for the Technical Cooperation Programme throughout the Medium Term Plan period. It is expected that it would increase from the present level of 14.6 percent to 17 percent by the end of the planned period. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat to take into account the priority needs of the Member Nations and of the developing countries in particular when drawing up the Plan.

We have also noticed that the Plan asks for an increase of resources and we also notice the Director-General's appeal in this regard.

However, it should be emphasized that the Medium Term Plan is a framework document for providing guidance. All the resources forecast in the document are indicative in nature. At any rate the Medium Term Plan should not substitute the biennium Programme of Work and Budget.

I would hereby suggest that the Council endorses, in principle, the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009.

**Paul MURPHY (Canada)**

The Canadian delegation has examined the Medium Term Plan with interest. We are pleased with the general thrust of the document. The programming proposed would respond to members' reconfirmed commitments under the World Food Summit Plan of Action and should have a positive impact on agriculture in developing countries.

We would also like to commend the adoption of results-based performance measurement linked clearly to the strategic framework. Continuing work on this front is important, especially as it concerns monitoring and programme enhancement.

We would like to emphasize that the financial projections are indicative only. They do not commit the Members to achieving the level of contributions projected in the Plan. In this context, it is strongly suggested that the Secretariat prepare Zero Nominal Growth and Zero Real Growth budget scenarios for analytical and priority-setting purposes.

Canada would make the following specific suggestions: under the programme of Nutrition, Food Quality and Safety, we think that the Plan requires targets that relate specifically to expected reductions in undernourishment as well, and nutrition is an area where inter-agency cooperation is essential given the respective mandates of FAO, WHO, UNICEF and WFP. Canada asks that the MTP provide details on how FAO will work with these and other Agencies on nutrition issues.

With respect to paragraph 321 on page 98, the Plan should clarify that the WTO does not enforce standards *per se* within the SPS and TBT agreements. Standards are developed by international standard setting bodies such as the Codex Commission and these are referenced in international agreements. The WTO uses these as benchmarks in its dispute resolution process.



With respect to Fisheries and Forestry, Canada and other Member Nations have long advocated allocating additional resources to both forestry and fisheries. Canada is pleased to note that the MTP proposes increases of 14.6 and 11 percent, respectively, for these programmes.

With respect to the International Plant Protection Convention, the current level of resources provided to the Secretariat is insufficient to maintain a minimum level of standards development, information exchange programme and technical assistance initiatives related to the implementation of the IPPC. Canada agrees that in line with the high priority accorded by members for the implementation of the IPPC, substantial additional resources should be provided to the IPPC Secretariat.

Through its strategic planning process, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures has set a modest target for the development or revision of four standards per year. In addition to the activities related to information exchange and technical assistance. Canada agrees that the importance of phyto-sanitary standards is growing and that four standards per year is a feasible minimum target.

Counting on *ad hoc* contributions like the ones made by Canada and others in recent years, is not sustainable nor desirable and a permanent budget increase is appropriate. The ICPM, through its working group on strategic planning, has made concrete recommendations for a budget increase of US\$ 2 million for the next biennium. This would be used for standard-setting, support for information exchange and technical assistance, and allow for the appointment of a full time Secretary. Canada supports these recommendations, as well as the significant increase in resources proposed in the MTP for the IPPC.

Finally, with respect to Plant Genetic Resources, the Medium Term Plan describes FAO's work in Genetic Resources. This was also reported in detail at the meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources some weeks ago. Canada agrees with their report welcoming the innovative work carried out by FAO and various aspects of agricultural biodiversity. Canada considers that conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources should continue to be a priority for FAO. Our delegation was disappointed that FAO's funding allocations in this area appear to have decreased since the 1997-1998 biennium. Canada therefore supports the increases for this area proposed in the Medium Term Plan.

On June 10 this year, Canada signed and ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the first developed country to do so. This Treaty will contribute to Canada's goals, both domestic and international, for sustainable development meeting the need to breed innovative crop varieties in support of food security while conserving genetic resources for future generations. In addition, research in technological development at the genetic level is an expanding and competitive area and access to these genetic resources will have to foster innovation.

In this context allow us to draw your attention to the Crops Programme 2.1.2, entity 212P4 Technical Support to the International PGR Treaty. A major output of this entity is a facilitating mechanism which already appeared in the previous Medium Term Plan and is funded under the current Programme of Work and Budget. Our delegation stresses the priority this mechanism needs to give to developing proposals concerning the funding strategy of the Treaty for consideration by its Governing Body as recommended by the Commission on Genetic Resources.

**Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

The Medium Term Plan is an important document as it highlights the programme for the next few years. The Medium Term Plan also indicates the demands on FAO by its Members to do more and hence the need to increase resources for the Organization to meet those demands.

The Africa region supports the increase in the provisions for Technical Programmes of the Organization, but wishes that the increase be more significant. The region also supports increase in TCP resources as called for by the Conference Resolution 9/89 and increasing resources for FAO's Country Offices. The programme proposals in the Medium Term Plan fit in with the

outcome of the recent key international conferences and are guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2000 to 2015. However, they need to highlight principles in priority-setting.

It is important that FAO's thrust focuses and puts more emphasis on operational programmes. More resources need to be channelled through FAO towards the field operations which impact directly on the status of household food security.

Secondly, the budgets provided, only on pages 4 to 7 of the Medium Term Plan document, do not adequately reflect the importance of field operations in improving production and food security. Further in the document there is an analysis of the proportion of the resources allocated to technical programmes, which reflects that only seven and nine percent is going towards sustainable development and special programmes and field operations respectively.

With regard to priority areas for inter-disciplinary action that is on page 37 of the main document. Mention is made to target producer organizations and related networks on policy analysis and improved support services. It is important to note that the involvement of the public institutions responsible for agricultural and related policy implementation is critical for effective policy advice, implementation and adoption.

**Miguel BARRERO SÁNCHEZ (Perú)**

Al igual que la Delegación de Suiza, mi delegación desea reiterar su apoyo a la Alianza Internacional, Acuerdo Tipo DOS sobre Ecosistemas de Montaña adoptada en Johannesburgo. Por la relevancia humana, por la dimensión social y económica, mi país considera que el tema del Desarrollo Sostenible en zonas de montaña debe fortalecerse y seguir adquiriendo presencia propia en la Agenda Internacional. Por sus actividades la FAO tiene un papel primordial en este asunto y es por esa razón que mi delegación apoya también el establecimiento de un punto focal o de un mecanismo efectivo en la FAO que se encargue de darle seguimiento operativo a las diversas iniciativas que se han realizado durante el Año Internacional, especialmente en el área de la cooperación internacional en esta materia. Ello permitirá brindarle continuidad a la movilización política y financiera para apoyar esta Asociación Internacional para el desarrollo sostenible en zonas de montaña. Tiene también una real implicancia en el plan a plazo medio en el contexto del seguimiento a las responsabilidades de la FAO, en el marco de la Agenda 21 del Plan de Acción de Johannesburgo y los objetivos de la Declaración del Milenio.

Mi delegación reitera también la importancia que se le asigna al Programa de Pesca y a que éste reciba un trato preferencial en la asignación de recursos. Este es un tema de permanente preocupación de mi región y de mi país y estamos orientados al fortalecimiento del Programa sobre recursos pesqueros y acuicultura, al tema de la explotación y utilización de los recursos pesqueros, prioritariamente la inocuidad de estos productos y el fomento al comercio internacional, así como a la coordinación y seguimiento de la aplicación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Sur le plan général, je n'ai rien à ajouter à ce qui a été dit par le délégué du Danemark au nom de l'Union européenne, mais j'ai écouté avec intérêt les remarques qui ont été faites par les délégués de la Suisse et du Pérou, en ce qui concerne les questions de la montagne et je désire assurer à ces deux délégations, aussi bien qu'à celles des autres pays qui portent de l'intérêt pour ces problèmes, que nous partageons la préoccupation qui est exprimée d'assurer quelques suites au besoin de coordination sur les aspects du développement durable pour ces régions.

Je me réserve de vous demander brièvement la parole, Monsieur le Président, demain à l'occasion du point de l'ordre du jour "Questions diverses" lorsque il sera possible d'examiner le document soumis pour information par le Secrétariat sur l'Année internationale de la montagne.

**Pavel SKODA (Czech Republic)**

The Czech Republic would like to commend the Secretariat for the improved document on the Medium Term Plan. We would like to express our full support to the contents of the

comprehensive President's statement of the European Community and its fifteen Member States pronounced by Denmark.

Focusing on the important normative activities of FAO we wish to highlight the concern expressed already by many speakers on this item and also under item 9, it is the concern of adequate funding of the work of the International Plant Protection Secretariat. As we already stated earlier, the Czech Republic supports all efforts to secure adequate funding of IPPC within the FAO regular budget.

**Sra Ileana RIVERA DE ANGIOTTI (Guatemala)**

Guatemala aprecia la presentación del Plan a Plazo Medio y aprueba la propuesta de incremento de fondos extrapresupuestarios para el programa del PESA, fundamental para el desarrollo sostenible de muchos Países Miembros. Resaltamos también la importancia del rol de los programas del Codex y de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF), cuyos estándares sustentan la base de las reglas internacionales de comercio. Por lo tanto, recomendamos un aumento para el próximo bienio 2004-2005 para el CIPF como recomendado por la Convención Interina de Medidas Fitosanitarias, con el objeto de acelerar el programa de trabajo del mismo, consistente en producir cuatro estándares por año, mantener el incremento de intercambio de información y la asistencia técnica.

**Sra. Erika Jacqueline CUÉLLAR CHÁVEZ (Bolivia)**

En principio, deseo adherir a todas las delegaciones que me antecedieron y agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación de los informes, cuyas recomendaciones son aprobadas por mi país. Asimismo, haciendo referencia a la solicitud presentada a la Secretaría por la delegación de Suiza y respaldada por las delegaciones de Perú e Italia, Bolivia, como Miembro del Grupo de Orientación del Año Internacional de las Montañas, ha venido apoyando y alentando las actividades programadas para el mismo. En ese sentido, y con el objetivo de poder concretar los compromisos alcanzados y consolidar una cooperación internacional para el desarrollo sostenible de las regiones montañosas del mundo, a la luz de las diferentes declaraciones y/o recomendaciones que han sido aprobadas para este fin, mi delegación respalda esta solicitud para que el Consejo pida a la FAO continuar facilitando la elaboración del Plan de Trabajo así como crear un mecanismo efectivo en la Organización, con el objetivo de establecer un punto focal para reforzar las actividades de los comités nacionales, facilitar el intercambio de información sobre cuestiones relativas a las montañas y llevar adelante las iniciativas de asociación endosadas en la Cumbre de Johannesburgo y otras. Asimismo, hacemos un llamado a la comunidad de donantes a respaldar la implementación de estas iniciativas.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

C'est réconfortant de trouver après vous nos collègues du Chili et des Pays-Bas, Présidents respectivement des Comités financier et Programme. Permettez-nous d'abord, au nom de notre délégation, d'appuyer la déclaration que la Représentante du Zimbabwe a faite au nom du Groupe africain, en particulier s'agissant de l'accent non mis sur les opérations de terrain et les programmes spéciaux. Après cela, permettez-nous également, au nom des Pays les Moins Avancés, de demander que nous puissions être cohérents. En effet, hier déjà, le Haut Représentant du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies a dit qu'il était convaincu que la plupart des Organisations internationales reflétaient dans leurs différents programmes de travail le Programme d'action de Bruxelles pour les Pays les Moins Avancés pour la décennie 2001-2010. Or, le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO couvre la période 2004-2009. C'est donc normal que nous puissions nous attendre en tant que Pays Moins Avancés que l'engagement 4 du Programme d'action de Bruxelles, notamment les sections E et G puissent être reflétées au niveau de ce Plan à moyen terme, et qu'en examinant les stratégies destinées à répondre aux besoins des membres, nous puissions tenir compte des Pays les Moins Avancés qui sont essentiellement dépendants de l'agriculture pour leur subsistance.

Ceci dit, permettez-moi avant de terminer, par souci de cohérence, d'appuyer ce que certains ont dit ici au cours de notre débat sur ce point du Plan à moyen terme, qu'en réalité normalement le

Plan à moyen terme ne devrait pas donner lieu à discussion au niveau du budget. Cette discussion devrait intervenir lors du processus d'établissement du PTB 2004-2005. En tout état de cause, il me semble que les membres que nous sommes devons être conséquents avec nous-mêmes, on ne peut pas toujours demander plus et vouloir en même temps ne pas fournir les ressources requises.

**Thomas W. MAEMBE (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

In addition to the statement given by the African Group I would like to take this opportunity to make some observations on the Medium Term Plan 2004 to 2009.

First, I wish to commend the Secretariat for a clear presentation of the document. We have noted the background to which they have based the formulation of this Medium Term Plan. This is clearly spelt out in the Strategy Framework as narrated in the Summary Form on page one of the document, and is also based on the urgency of assisting Members in meeting their recently-reconfirmed commitments under the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Yesterday, the Director-General reminded us of the task ahead of us of halving the undernourished by the year 2015. The results are not encouraging and I am therefore inviting all players for additional and concerted efforts. With the exception of the current biennium, there has been a decrease of resources to FAO since the year 1993. It is important that this trend is reversed. The move to increase resources planned for various programmes in the MTP is welcome.

The Special Programme for Food Security in the United Republic of Tanzania and in many developing countries has demonstrated clearly how to assist resource poor farmers attain food security and improve their family incomes; how this programme should be covered with the promotion of appropriate farm power technologies, sustainable use of water resources for agriculture, cutting pre-and post-harvest losses, enhanced and timely migratory pest control, and the agro-processing.

I would, therefore, like to call upon all development partners to increase assistance to the programme.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of aquaculture in the inland small-scale fisheries, which is contributing to increase the protein food supply, food security, employment, fish trade and income to rural communities, we call on FAO and all development partners to provide the additional fundings for the promotion of fish farming and small-scale fisheries. We would add to that the fish safety and quality assurance taken to support developing countries, is given special budgetary allocation as it is an important area of intervention in promoting international fish trade.

We are of the view that the MTP should emphasize the following areas: capacity-building through training; technology transfer; extent of information and encouraging technical cooperation among developing countries; in the forestry programmes specifically, effective watershed management; forestry hydrology application and other related practices for sustainable use of water resources; mountain forests in upland areas management; development of alternative sources of energy to relieve the intensive harvesting of forests for fuelwood.

Finally, the need for FAO to increase resources and that the TC programmes ensure timely release of funds. Technical and financial assistance is required for realization of the mentioned areas.

Finally, regarding the capital budget, we would appreciate clarification from the Secretariat as to how improved capital budget would empower FAO to discharge more efficiently its responsibility of helping developing countries attain sustainable food security and reduced poverty.

**António Arturo PLAZA JIMÉNEZ (Chile)**

Quisiéramos señalar que nos parece muy interesante lo manifestado en el documento a Plazo Medio 2004-2009. Sin embargo, nos gustaría tener mayores antecedentes respecto a cómo la Organización pretende conciliar el incremento de costo que conlleva esta propuesta para la Organización con la política de crecimiento cero existente.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brasil)**

Esta vez hablo en nombre de los países del GRULAC. Durante el período del Plan a Plazo Medio 2004-2009, se prevé una considerable renovación del personal como consecuencia de las jubilaciones, lo que supondrá la necesidad de sustituir a un gran número de funcionarios que dejen sus puestos. Tenemos en cuenta la recomendación de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas en su período de sesiones celebrada en septiembre del presente año, donde solicitaron que en la política de contratación se prestara atención a la necesidad de tener debidamente en cuenta la representación regional y el equilibrio de género, ambos por grado. Esa recomendación está en el párrafo 4 del documento CL 123/9, que señala igualmente la necesidad de abordar de manera más explícita los aspectos regionales en el Plan, posición que cuenta con el apoyo del GRULAC.

Si bien sabemos que existe una tabla de puntuación que pondera los puestos, muchas veces la representación en los puestos de decisión no está equilibrada entre las diferentes regiones. Razón por la que nuestra región solicita se tenga en cuenta en las contrataciones futuras no sólo la representación geográfica equitativa en cuanto al número de profesionales por región, sino también al cargo que éstos ocupan dentro de la Organización, a fin de que el equilibrio de género y la representación geográfica equitativa puedan asegurarse también por rango.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)**

My delegation would like to express our appreciation for the high quality document. My comments are very brief on MTP 2004 to 2009.

We support the increase of TCP. We also support the priority of organic agriculture, biotechnology application in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. In addition, we also support the IPPC, technical support to the IPTR as well as food quality and safety throughout the food chain.

Lastly, the budget for MTP is indicative by nature.

**Gudmundur B. HELGASON (Iceland)**

Having now had the benefit of hearing subsequent interventions my delegation would, on behalf of the Nordic Countries, wish to voice its support to the statement made by Denmark earlier on behalf on the European Community and its Member States.

**Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)**

La délégation gabonaise tient à féliciter et à remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour l'excellent document qui nous est soumis ainsi que Monsieur Wade pour sa présentation très claire. Nous remercions également les Présidents des Comités financier et du Programme. Nous faisons nôtre la déclaration faite par la délégation du Zimbabwe au nom du Groupe africain et souhaitons souligner quelques points.

Cette version du Plan à moyen terme qui constitue une nette amélioration par rapport aux versions du passé a dûment tenu compte des résultats des récentes grandes conférences, mais aussi comme l'ont rappelé plusieurs délégations, a essayé de répondre aux besoins prioritaires des Pays Membres et en particulier des pays en développement. C'est dans cette optique que le Plan fait apparaître une tendance à la croissance qui devrait se traduire par une augmentation réelle du budget si nous voulons que la FAO puisse accomplir son mandat efficacement. A cet égard, nous appuyons notamment l'augmentation proposée pour le PCT, pour les programmes techniques des Pêches et des Forêts ainsi que l'augmentation des ressources extrabudgétaires allouées au PSSA. Nous appuyons également les propositions relatives au secteur des Ressources humaines et du renforcement de l'interdisciplinarité.

En conclusion, nous recommandons un appui de principe à ce Plan de la part de notre Conseil.

**Simon DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)**

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Medium Term Plan as a core document of this Organization, and it has much to commend it including, not least, the clear

linkages to the Strategic Framework, the results-orientated approach and a programme framework of rational objectives, indicators and major outputs.

We would note however, that the highly optimistic reach for resources in the plan is frankly not that helpful to our delegation. Like others, our preferred option would be to look at what can be done with current funding levels and then, perhaps, consider possible options at increased levels.

New Zealand believes that it would also be a better document if it contained some sort of prioritization on the use of FAO's significant resources.

On specifics, New Zealand would limit its focus to one area and that is the International Plant Protection Convention. New Zealand believes that for developing countries the IPPC through the standard setting process offers very real assistance in enabling developing countries access to wealthy markets. The importance of this was recently highlighted very eloquently by the Trade Minister of Uganda, the Honourable Edward Rugumayo. In discussing the Ugandan agricultural reform process and the damage done by OECD agricultural subsidies and the highly protectionist policies of rich countries, he said "...the situation is patently unfair to Uganda and other developing countries who are suffering in similar fashion...". Standard setting is also an area where the Cairns group, with its majority developing country membership, believes real progress can be made.

We believe that, through transparent standard setting, like that done by the IPPC, and of course Codex Alimentarius, will assist developing countries overcome at least some of these access issues.

It is for this reason that we would want to bring the Council's attention to the severe funding constraints of the IPPC. It cannot help developing countries unless it has the funds thus, like others, we emphasize the need for increased funding. This would entail the IPPC budget being provided with an additional US\$ 2 million for the next biennium. Funding that also needs to be secured in future years. That is two million dollars from a turnover of US\$ 645 million.

This would enable the IPPC to make 4 standards per year. It sounds like tedious work and frankly it is but the IPPC science based transparent standards are crucial for economies that want to export agricultural goods.

I would urge Members of this Organization to take a long hard look at the case of the IPPC. We think they have a very strong case to make, a case that was explicitly recognized by our political masters in the World Food Summit: *five years later* Declaration.

Finally, while I have the floor, can I echo the comments made on fisheries work? As co-Chair of the Southwest Pacific Region, fisheries plays a crucial role in the Southwest Pacific. FAO is an authoritative fisheries voice and any further work that it can do on subsidies, IUU and other illegal fisheries activities would benefit us all.

**Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Observer for Austria)**

Austria fully supports the intervention made by Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its fifteen Member States.

In addition, Austria thanks the Swiss delegation for the statement concerning the international partnership for sustainable development in mountain regions.

We also support the statement given by Peru and Italy, in this context, concerning follow-up activities for the International Year of the Mountains within the Medium Term Plan.

**Abdul Razak AYAZI (Observer for Afghanistan)**

Because of the late hour I will give my statement to the Secretariat for the record.

I take this opportunity to express the gratitude on behalf of the people and the Government of Afghanistan to the people and the Government of Japan for allocating a fresh amount of US\$ 136 million as aid to my country. Japan, as well as other bilateral donors, have been generous in

assisting my country, which is in great need of international aid to recover from the 25 years of losses in conflict.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

I perhaps should have asked for attention on paragraph 14 of document CL 123/12, which is on the IPPC. The reason is not only because many delegations refer to this particular issue of funding of IPPC activities in the period of the Medium Term Plan, but it is also, I think, the only particular paragraph where a sentence refers to the present biennium. The sentence is in the middle of paragraph 14 - the fourth line - in the English text: "... The Committee noted, however, that any deficit of resources in the current biennium would need to be handled within existing budgetary authority and welcomed the Secretariat's clear assurance that every effort would be made to do this ...", which we felt was a very clear promise. Also, the fact of the four standards per annum that has been referred to by many delegations during the debate is mentioned later in paragraph 14.

For the rest, I believe no specific questions were posed to the Programme Committee Members or the Chairman.

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

It has always been the custom in past years to give the floor to observers after the Council members have spoken and we very much hope that it is going to be the custom this year and in future years. We hope that Observers will be able to continue to take the floor after Council Members.

Being a Member of the Programme Committee I would like to say that I am very pleased to see both Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committee with us. I hope that we will be able to see each other in May and September of next year.

During the Programme Committee Meeting and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, we discussed priorities which are key issues. It is true that we abide by what has happened in the past but we also try to make forecasts about what is going to happen over the next few years. This is the case for very important meetings, for example on animal production and on livestock rearing. An important meeting on meat production and organic meat production was also held at the end of August. These proceeded in parallel to discussions on GMOs.

I just wanted to emphasize here the need to stimulate organic food production and support those countries that invest in organic agricultural production and invest in products that might help us achieve our objectives in our fight against hunger and poverty.

Another comment I would like to make, within the context of the consultation that occurred here in FAO, is the fight against cattle fever. We often think that this only exists in South Sudan, in a border region in Somalia and one other region. During this consultation it appeared that there were serological markers for this illness in some regions of China and Mongolia. These are extremely serious comments and perhaps we need to devote more of our budget to fight this pathology. This is something that we very much wish. Due to our experience in the 1990s in Africa border problems we had with Somalia and the Central Africa Republic and all of this helped us to eradicate this pathology. We very much hope that we will be able to eradicate it altogether by 2010. There is presently a world project on this. We very much hope that something can be done within the EMPRES project. We hope all of these transboundary diseases can be wiped out.

We are also concerned about the projects on forests and the livestock rearing areas. We hope that more will be done when we review the Programme of Work and Budget in future sessions.

As far as the period 2004-2009 is concerned, if we support all of these programmes, including the partnership programme between donor countries and African countries and NEPAD, and the food aid programme. We think that we will be able to meet some of our objectives.

Once again, I would like to turn to Mr Wade and his team and address him our sincere vote of thanks.

**Abdul Razak Ayazi (Observer for Afghanistan)<sup>1</sup>**

My intervention will be limited to selected aspects of the Medium-Term Plan 2004-2009. I shall be very brief with respect to Part II because its substance is more pertinent in the context of the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium and which be the subject of intensive discussion in the next Council session.

The first thing that strikes the reader is expansion in the size of the document, from 172 pages in the Medium-Term Plan 2002-2007 to 259 pages in the Medium-Term Plan 2004-2009, an increase in size of 50 percent. No one could blame the Secretariat for this increase, because the Director-General has been continuously advised to provide more information, to indicate the linkages between the Medium-Term Plan and the FAO Strategic Framework of 2000-2015, to expand the scope of the analysis for each Major Programme, to deepen the output section, to sharpen the priorities, to come up with more appropriate indicators of performance measuring, and to widen the section on cross-organizational issues. The expansion in the size of the document is in response to the comments of the Hundred and Nineteenth Session of Council on the 2002-2007 Medium-Term Plan. In this connection, the Eighty-eighth Session of the Programme Committee in September 2002 reflected on the size of the document and its report said "Moreover, a document of ever-growing size was somewhat contrary to the spirit of the rolling plan, the prime focus of which should be on explaining changes from one version to the next". This comment of the Programme Committee is highly pertinent and needs to be given serious consideration by the Secretariat.

In Part I (Broad Strategic Orientation), two new aspects constitute additional improvement. One is the stress on staff training (paragraphs 23-30) and two, the selected indication of extra-budgetary resources to complement and support Regular Programme resources (Table 4 on pages 12 to 16). With good justification, the document states that it could not with any degree of confidence extrapolate extra-budgetary resources of the Field Programme for the period covered. This is understandable. Yet, would it not be possible to give a fairly reliable indication of the potential size of the Field Programme for the first leg of the Medium-Term Plan, that is 2004-2005? It would appear that many of the programme entities shown in table 4, for which extra-budgetary funds are considered desirable, do have field implication. To give one example, Programme Entity 2.1.2P2 entitled as "Pesticide Management" would have strong field implications because it deals with the disposal of obsolete and unwanted pesticides stock, probably mainly in the developing member countries.

Table 7 on page 25 shows the distribution of the technical programmes resources by strategic objectives for the two Medium-Term Plans (2002-2007 and 2004-2009). The percentage changes are considerable for Corporate Objectives C and D, the former declining by 27 percent and the latter rising by 47 percent. The shifts are attributed to better review of corporate objectives by the technical divisions. This may be so. Yet the reduction in resource allocation for Corporate Objective C has implications for developing countries because its focus is on technology transfer, intensification of production system on sustainable basis, diversification in production system, gaining efficiency in resource utilization, physical or financial, through research and knowledge dissemination and building the institutional base. The Secretariat should be congratulated for improvements in the presentation of PAIAs in the 2004-2009 Medium-Term Plan in comparison to the 2002-2007 version, including the graphic presentation of contribution by Major Programmes to each PAIA.

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*1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request  
Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal  
Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa*



With respect to Part II, the Secretariat deserves high marks for introducing improvements in the representation of the rationale, objectives, indicators and outputs for each Programme Entity and the additional information made available on the FAO's Website.

Part III of the document, Strategies to Address Cross-Organizational Issues, is far more analytical and better packaged than the 2002-2007 version. A new section, Ensuring Excellence, has been added and the role of the inter-departmental committees and the participation of other UN Agencies, NGOs, regional, inter-regional and country involvement and other activities related to cross-organizational issues are clearly and convincingly presented. The Secretariat deserves praise for these improvements.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

First of all, on behalf of the Secretariat and all the people that worked on this Plan, in particular in the technical units throughout the Organization, I thank you sincerely for the complimentary remarks concerning the Plan. A lot of work has gone into it and I think that people sometimes feel that the time spent on these things is not necessarily worth it but when you appreciate it in that way I think it helps for future efforts too.

Concerning the various issues raised, I have not had time to organize my thoughts very well but I will try to address the important ones as best I can.

On the question of priorities and priority setting, starting at the end, I note the fact that many people feel that the priorities that are shown in this document generally reflect the concerns of Members and reflect the outcome of the recent major conferences concerning our mandate. One gets the feeling that while there may be an issue about the priority-setting process. It is not the outcome that is so much the problem, it is the process that is the problem.

I was a little bit surprised by the remark from the Chairman of the Programme Committee who said that we do not have a priority-setting process. I think that is true, maybe in the explicit form that you might like to see one - but internally there is a rather explicit process which is there and which we explained to the Programme Committee in the Joint Meeting. It may be worth briefly explaining it to Members.

We approach it from the top down and bottom up at the same time and get the two to meet in the middle. On the top down determination of priorities, the primary influence come from Member Nations. At the broad level of budgetary chapters we listen to what you have to say. You generally argue that we should minimize the non-technical chapters (Chapters 1 and 5). TCP (Chapter 4) has always sought support and, in fact, is subject to a Conference Resolution which asks the Director-General to try to increase it to 17 percent of the budget, which is what the Medium Term Plan does, of course.

Chapters 2 and 3.1, being the Technical Programmes of the Organization, receive the highest priority, with particular reference to the Major Programmes dealing with Forestry and Fisheries and individual programmes based on the reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Technical Committees, the Council and the Conference and regional priorities, through the reports of the Regional Conferences. In chapter 3, some priorities, such as the FAORs, which suffer very serious resource constraints, but are well supported by many developing countries, are the sort of things that we have to reflect upon.

To turn those sorts of generalities into something more specific and to get to the technical programme priorities, we follow the practice of reviewing all of the relevant Governing Body reports for the last two years and analyzing the requests in terms of the degree of support. We have five categories that we classify each of these under:

- general priorities, which are supported by a broad spectrum of Members, including both developing and developed countries, are our first category. Those would include things like Codex, IPPC and Gender-Mainstreaming. These are all areas which have general agreement amongst the Membership that they should have high priority;

- the second category are high priority areas supported by developing countries. An obvious example of that is TCP;
- the third category consists of high-priority areas supported by the majority of developed countries and not necessarily developing countries. Recent examples have included the modernization of FAOSTAT;
- the fourth category, involves priorities underlined by Members from a specific region, which do not fall into the first three categories. Recent examples we saw were PACTEC from Africa or the International Year of Rice from Asia at the last Conference;
- and the fifth category is supported by one or more countries, but not explicitly by any one regional group.

That analysis is then reviewed by the Senior Management Meeting, which consists of the Director-General or the Deputy Director-General in the Chair and all of the Assistant Directors-General. They correct the listing for any obvious missing areas or for any misinterpretations by the people who have done the analysis, and they come up as an approved basis for an internal policy guideline, which is given out as part as the process for preparing this Medium Term Plan and subsequently the budget, because the process is dynamic.

That is where the top down process – your influence – comes into it and that is presumably why the document, in its result, reflects very much the priorities that you seek.

From the bottom up we have an extensive appraisal process which requires that every entity, which is proposed by a programme manager and then by his division, is subject to appraisal against a series of criteria. Those criteria were originally established by the Council in 1996-97 but have been expanded and improved upon within the Secretariat for internal use since that time. I will not go through the detail of them because each of the seven criteria has an individual series of options which they can choose in terms of how well an entity meets the criteria. There are sub-questions within each of these questions. The seven are:

- relevance to the strategic objectives of the Organization;
- an expressed priority of a broad spectrum of the Membership or of a specific group, such as Least Developed Countries;
- FAO's comparative advantage;
- the quality of programme design;
- the extent to which achievements can be measured through indicators;
- the probable cost efficiency; and
- the likelihood of achieving the desired major output outcomes and the programme entity objectives.

What we do then is we take the proposals from the bottom up and reconcile them with the priorities that have been established from the top down to produce the sort of document you have. The point we are making is that there is an internal process which I believe functions quite well and, in terms of the result, I think, it can be seen that it functions quite well.

Where the problem lies is that the Programme Committee has the primary responsibility for determining or advising on priorities on your behalf, as established by the General Rules of the Organization. What we have not been able to do is to find a convenient way in which such a massive complexity can be crystallized into something manageable for a committee to handle in a matter of two or three days. That is something that we will address in the paper to the next Session of the Committee.

What we have heard today is, I think, a stress on certain priorities across the Membership but I note one growing trend and that is the demand for additional resources to support global public goods. In particular, I refer to IPPC. I refer to the hint that the Codex evaluation will recommend additional resource requirements, which it certainly will. I refer to the request from the Interim Commission for the International Treaty on Plants Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which is also seeking additional resources. These are not small amounts. All of them are seeking millions of dollars as additional biennial increases.

I am concerned that one of the pressures that you, as a Membership, place upon us, is to try and maintain the balance between normative and operational activities. The requests here are normally for the normative side of the equation. I am not very clear what normative work you would expect to see reduced so as to fund these additions. Perhaps some effort has to be put into clarifying where Members feel that our normative work is, in fact, of lower priority than those areas that you are suggesting be increased. Alternatively, you are proposing a change in the balance and I wonder whether the Membership at large would agree with that.

There have been a lot of comments on substantive individual priorities and I will not attempt to address those but the Secretariat has taken good note of them. There are only two that I would refer to. One is on IPPC itself. I just wish to confirm what the Chairman of the Programme Committee quoted from the Programme Committee Report and that is that we are committed to making every effort to try to assist and solve the problem during the current biennium and, of course, to making sure that this programme gets the priority it needs in the next budget, obviously within the constraints of total resource availability.

On the question of the whole business of mountain development and the widespread support for what is happening, I confirm that the Secretariat and the Organization is being fully responsive to the calls for an effective follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the International Year of Mountains. We support the partnership on sustainable mountain development. Today, our delegation is at the Mountain Summit and will continue the negotiation around the partnership and the facility to support it.

Turning to the level of the budget and scenarios in the Medium-Term Plan, I will not go through the issue of whether there should be scenarios in the Medium-Term Plan. I do not think, on the whole, that was pressed so much as the need for scenarios in the budget. It is recognized that the Medium Term Plan is not about setting the level of the budget. It is providing you, the Membership, with the Director-General's view of what is needed to respond to the demand that you are placing upon the institution. It is not specifically restrained by resources. It offers a level – which I would put it to you – is not outrageous. It is an average of 2.25 percent per annum over the Medium-Term plan period. Given the sort of demands that you have expressed, even today, it is questionable as to whether you can seriously expect the institution to be able to absorb all of these things within, for example, Zero Nominal Growth. I remind Members that Zero Nominal Growth is a reduction in the budget. It is not holding it at the same level. It is decreasing it. So you want to decrease it and add more to your own preferred priorities. I think we have to be a little bit realistic about what is possible and what is not.

The comment was made that we should look at further efficiency savings. I confirm that the SBWB will specifically address efficiency savings.

I question a little bit the remark by the distinguished delegate of Japan that excessive staff in Headquarters versus work in the field is something that we should be concerned about. Of course, we need to be concerned about excessive administrative costs but staff in Headquarters are generally not administrative. They are the people running IPPC, the people running Codex and the people who are running the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The location of staff in Headquarters is not, I think, a question of whether they are being utilized for the priorities of the institution, but rather a reference to the fact that they are attending to global interests rather than country-level interests.

Several delegates suggested that we should be looking at budget history to determine what level we should be proposing in the Medium Term Plan or what level we should be proposing in the Programme of Work and Budget. On a slightly light-hearted note, I note that there was a recent report that determined quite categorically that those investors that looked at past performance as a means of measuring future trends are the people who lost the most money. So, I would like to bet on not backing past trends and hope that we can have a more optimistic view of what the future might provide.

I think, and I am at some risk because I have moved rather quickly through this, I have covered the major questions but if someone would like to come back to me I would not be in the slightest bit offended because I am sure I have missed something.

**Miguel BARRETO SÁNCHEZ (Perú)**

No es mi intención ofender al señor Wade pero, lo que nosotros queríamos saber era cuál era su opinión y la de la FAO en relación al tema que planteó Suiza y que fue respaldado, me parece, por cuatro o cinco delegaciones con respecto al desarrollo sostenible en zonas de montaña en el marco del Plan.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

I tried, maybe in a rather vague way because I am not totally familiar with the subject matter, to indicate that FAO sees itself as having an obligation in this particular area given Agenda 21, (Chapter 13). We are required to support the process and, as you know, we are the lead agency in the International Year of the Mountains. What will come out of that process, which is currently underway, I am not quite clear and I think we have to wait for the outcome, but certainly it is clear that the Medium Term Plan may well have to be adapted to reflect that outcome. I am not sure that I can say more at this present stage but if it will help I will ask the Forestry Department to contact you and see whether we can clarify this a bit further.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

A very quick question addressed to Mr Wade. He made reference to the comments made by Members with respect to balancing the normative and the field operation activities. One would want to know whether there is a set standard, a definite percentage level or a ratio between the two, established by FAO?

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

The reality is that the identification of normative *vis-à-vis* operational within the Programme of Work and Budget is in fact very difficult. It is quite easy at the highest level to start saying that Chapter 2 is largely normative, Chapter 4, TCP, is largely operational, but when you get down into Chapter 2 you find that, for example, you may on the one hand have Codex Alimentarius as standard-setting but then you have work on capacity-building for Member Nations to be able to handle the standards, which is more operational. So we do not have any easy way to calculate it and we have not attempted to do so because we suspect it would be very divisive. What we, however, try and do is, when we are looking at the overall picture of the Medium Term Plan, to maintain in our minds the fact that there is meant to be some sort of balance. The general guidance from Council and the Conference has been that that balance should be maintained at its current level; it should not be changed dramatically. I think that is what we have tried to do. My comment was just forewarning that the growth in demand for global public goods is tending to potentially upset the balance.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Merci Monsieur Wade. Y a t'il d'autres questions ou des précisions? Je crois que nous avons terminé avec le point 10 de l'ordre du jour et avec la séance d'aujourd'hui.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

*The meeting rose at 18.35 hours*

*La séance est levée à 18 h 35*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.35 horas.*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Twenty-third Session Cent vingt-troisième session 123º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 28 October - 1 November 2002 Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002 Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002</b></p>
<p><b>FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>30 October 2002</b></p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours  
Mr Pavel Skoda,  
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00  
sous la présidence de M. Pavel Skoda,  
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Pavel Skoda,  
Vice Presidente del Consejo

#### **IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

(continued)

#### **IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**

#### **IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

#### **11. Reports of the Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee (May 2002 and September 2002) (CL 123/8; CL 123/9)**

#### **11. Rapports des réunions conjointes du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (mai 2002 et septembre 2002) (CL 123/8; CL 123/9)**

#### **11. Informes de las reuniones conjuntas de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas (mayo de 2002 y septiembre de 2002) (CL 123/8; CL 123/9)**

##### *11.1 Savings and Efficiencies in Governance*

##### *11.1 Économies et gains d'efficience en matière de gouvernance*

##### *11.1 Economías y eficacia en el ejercicio de gobierno*

##### *11.2 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports*

##### *11.2 Autres questions découlant des rapports*

##### *11.2 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes*

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Fifth Meeting of the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Council open.

We will begin our day of work by examining Item 11 of our Agenda, entitled Reports of the Joint Meetings of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

Sub-item 11.1 concerns Savings and Efficiencies in Governance, while Sub-item 11.2 covers Other Matters Arising out of the Report.

The documents relating to Item 11 and its Sub-items are CL 123/8 and CL 123/9.

These contain, respectively, the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Eighty-seventh Session of the Programme Committee and the Ninety-ninth Session of the Finance Committee and the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundredth Session of the Finance Committee.

I invite Mr Molina Reyes, who chaired the Joint Meeting of May 2002 and Mr Berteling, who chaired the Meeting of September 2002, to introduce this Item. Mr Wade, Director of the Office Programme, Budget and Evaluation, may also introduce the Item if he so wishes.

#### **Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Tuve el honor de presidir la sesión conjunta de ambos Comités realizada en el pasado mes de mayo. El resultado de nuestras deliberaciones se encuentra contenido en el documento CL 123/8. En términos breves, señalo los tres temas incorporados en ese documento.

El primero de ellos se refería a la propuesta de reforma del Debate General de la Conferencia; el Presidente del Comité de Programas se referirá más detalle a esta materia, debido a que fue propuesto a la sesión del mes de septiembre.

El otro tema fue el análisis del documento referido a la actualización de las nuevas disposiciones para aumentar la presencia de FAO en los países, en armonía con la decisión adoptada por el 119º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Se recordó que la Secretaría realizaría un informe sobre la evaluación en el 2002-2003 sobre la Descentralización del programa y de los servicios de la FAO, que probablemente se presentaría en septiembre de 2003 al Comité del Programa. Sobre

este particular se discutieron diversas opciones de cómo ampliar la red de la FAO en los Países Miembros, expresando sus opiniones que en lo esencial daban cuenta que no existía un criterio uniforme, dadas las desigualdades por la coexistencia de distintas categorías de Representaciones de la FAO en cuanto a su financiamiento.

El tercer tema fue la aplicación de un nuevo sistema de presentación de informes por parte de la Dependencia Común de Inspección de Naciones Unidas (DCI). Se puso en relieve la importancia de los informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección y la responsabilidad que tienen ambos comités en el examen de dichos informes. Se aprobó sin modificaciones la propuesta del nuevo sistema de presentación de informes que, de manera sintética, busca facilitar el examen, aplicación y seguimiento de las recomendaciones de la Dependencia Común de Inspección de Naciones Unidas.

Quedo a disposición de este honorable Consejo.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

Indeed, as you said, I had the honour of chairing the autumn Session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, which devoted most of its time to the Medium Term Plan and the question of priority-setting.

There are two other issues which I should report.

In spring and in autumn, the Joint Meeting discussed the proposed Reform of the General Debate at the Conference. At the last Meeting, it did that in some detail, also based on the experience in the World Food Summit: *five years later*. We had a paper in front of us outlining the various possibilities in theory, about the solution on the General Debate. Our discussions are reflected in paragraphs 11 and 12 of document CL 123/9.

The Joint Meeting asked the Secretariat to study the consequences of our deliberations in the context of arrangements of future Conferences, and come with a concrete proposal to the next Session. Therefore, I believe the Council does not need to take action at this stage, but to take note of the relevant part of the Report. Nevertheless, of course, comments are very welcome.

The other item was, in fact, already in implementation – the decision you had just heard from Mr Molina, the Chairman of the Finance Committee – on JIU Reports. We discussed the Report on *Enhancing Governance Oversight Role: Structure, Working Methods and Practices on Handling Oversight Reports*. You will find our comments in paragraphs 13 to 15 of the same document.

While the Joint Meeting generally endorsed the comments from the Director-General, it felt that it might have to come back next year for one of the issues: the frequency and duration of Sessions after having discussed the issue of priority-setting. Here, again, in our opinion, the Council could take note of these parts of the Report. I am also ready to answer any questions, if necessary.

**GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Chinese delegation has studied this Report and the Report of the Joint Meeting. We have recognized this and have made the following comments.

The question of governance, efficiencies and economy is of great importance. Our delegation very much appreciates the prudent and pragmatic approach that the two Committees have taken on the subject. We also take note of the proposals made for future Conferences.

First, the General Debate at the Plenary, at the present time, is, and will continue to be, irreplaceable. The idea of organizing Roundtables at the same time as the General Debate seems, to us, would only work if careful attention were paid to the participation of Ministers at the Conference and the efficiency of the work of the Conference and other issues of practical concerns, having to do with the way the Conference takes place.

Second, is reinforcing the country presence of FAO. We very much appreciate the detailed document that the Secretariat has presented on this subject. We note the fact that among the

countries that would like to participate in this governance issue, there is definitely a cost issue and there is a crying need for the technical assistance that is provided by FAO. We certainly understand FAO's position on the subject and the practice of sending high-level technical officials to those countries that do not yet have a Country Office, is something of great importance.

We have also noted that there have been new developments that have derived from this practice – new achievements. We are very much in favour of the ongoing study of the process in the future so that the Council can keep an eye on the progress of how it works.

It is our view that as long as there is not an increase in the budget, the number of Country Offices should be increased in order to ensure that FAO can provide effective technical assistance to these countries and to guarantee a proper geographic balance among the number of country offices.

**Ms Sigrídur Ásdís SNÆVARR (Iceland)**

Iceland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

In context of the Medium Term Plan, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees discussed the issue of priority-setting of FAO activities. It is well known that there are diverse views on this issue. This was confirmed by the discussions within the Joint Meeting of the Committees.

We welcome this report with its recommendations. Furthermore, we can support its endorsement by the Council, with the following comments.

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees considered priority-setting to be a political process and that the Programme Committee and the substantive committees of the Council had a key role to play in supporting this political process. Furthermore, priority-setting in FAO is complex, in view of the many analytical dimensions involved. We can agree that this is political in nature, especially when we talk about the general criteria, which must be set by the Members. However, when we address the programme level, with its interrelated complexities, we must be able to rely on the Secretariat to identify the real priority options that the Members need to address.

With regard to the decision of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to further review the arrangements for priority-setting in FAO, based on a document prepared by the Secretariat, we would like to note that we have nothing against the Programme Committee also assigning some work to an expert group, bringing more facts and figures to the table for discussion. We have full trust in the Secretariat to prepare a useful paper, however, we recognize that defining the criteria could also be a political issue and, therefore, should not be solely brought to us by the Secretariat.

Allow me to reiterate our positions on the process of deciding the budget of this Organization. First, the budget level must be seen in relation through the content of the programmes, which could result in an increase, or a decrease, in the budget level. Second, the focus of FAO's work should derive from its comparative advantage and that comparative advantage should be used to strengthen the Organization in terms of resources and capacity. Third, when discussing the budget level, we need to see alternative scenarios for budget levels. Fourth, the decision on the budget level should be based on consensus, with true dialogue on the various priority options.

To support the Organization in fulfilling its mandate, both Members and the Secretariat should be able to indicate where increases and reductions could be made, at any given budget level. To enable such indication, detailed advance information, providing alternative scenarios on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget must be submitted to the respective substantive committees – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. This is important, in order for them to perform the central function of reviewing the work programme of the Organization.

We note that such prior review has been requested by many Members and groups of Members. Among them are a group in the Hundred and Twenty-first Session of the Council.



**Hideki MORONUKI (Japan)**

With regard to the Reports of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, Japan has two specific comments as follows.

Firstly, Japan believes that one of the key factors to the success of this Organization, in the future, is successful decentralization under which substantial decisions and actions could be made at the Regional level. Therefore, my delegation would like to recommend FAO's Secretariat to further pursue the effective and efficient decentralization. In this connection, if it turns out that the FAO Representation network could solve a critical role. We may need to consider an enhancement of the network.

However, having said that, Japan has to reiterate for the sake of sound financial management of this Organization, that the costs necessary for such an enhancement of the FAO Representation network should be met by the Regular Budget. Such an enhancement should not cause any substantial increase over the total budget of this Organization. In this regard, we would further recommend effective savings and rationalization of the Organization.

Second, in relation to the preparation of the Medium Term Plan, Japan strongly supports the transparent priority-setting. In this regard, my delegation highly welcomes the decision at the Joint Meeting that the review on this important issue should be at the next Session of the Programme Committee.

**Essam Mahgoub ZAWIA (Libya) (Original language Arabic)**

I should like to express my thanks to Mr Molina, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Berteling, Programme Committee Chairman, for having submitted their Reports concerning the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees in May and September.

My intervention will concentrate on two points: the first is consolidating the efforts of FAO at the Council level and the second is concerning the proposed Reform regarding the General Debate. With regard to the first point, namely, consolidating FAO's efforts at the country level, my delegation appreciates the importance of FAO's continued consolidation of its efforts in applying the measures aimed at decentralization, which started some time ago.

We have previously emphasized an important point, namely, the importance of entrusting the task of the selection of experts to chair those Country Offices on the basis of a high level of qualification and expertise and a broad knowledge of sustainable development elements and the effects on the environment, as well as the points and items of special significance which are of concern to the international community at present. This will certainly help the Country Offices to provide significant services to the beneficiary countries and will further enable them to rise to the level of the significant tasks entrusted to them.

On the other hand, in order to facilitate the activities and work of these Offices, we should like to ask FAO to provide them with the necessary facilities. Through its efforts, it should facilitate the flow of technology, information and expertise present at Headquarters so that such expertise may be easily accessible and reach developing countries. The process of exchanging this knowledge from FAO Headquarters to the field, and taking the feedback and results from the field, is indeed a process which deeply supports the activities of FAO and its legislative matters in general.

Similarly, my delegation supports the observations and remarks made by donor countries which emphasize the importance of the presence of FAO at the country level. This indeed will contribute to further coordination between the Organization and assistance extended by donor countries in the realization and implementation of the sought targets.

We have become acquainted with the literature concerning the proposed reform with regard to the General Debate and we believe that the method adopted for the reform is indeed a sound methodology. We certainly support it, and look forward to the results during the next session.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

I would like to comment on the proposed Reform of the General Debate at Conference in the document CL 123/9.

My delegation notes that during the General Debate at the FAO Conference only seven minutes was given to the Heads of the Delegations. That is often not enough, and there are not many attendants in the conference room.

I certainly share the view that the General Debate must be reviewed in order to make it more fruitful. Once my Minister said "I spent 11 hours to get to Rome and spoke only seven minutes". In this connection, I believe it might be worth having other ongoing activities for Ministers during the FAO Conference. Otherwise, the number of Ministers attending the FAO Conference will be reduced.

May I also suggest to the Secretariat to study the arrangements of the General Debate in other organizations and submit it to the May 2003 Session as indicated in para 12?

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Berteling for the excellent job he did in chairing the Programme Committee during this last Session in September and at the Joint Meeting of the two Committees. I think, in the Programme Committee, a lot of useful work was done. I would like to just comment on four issues having to do with the more general issue of priority-setting.

First, in the Report of the Programme Committee I would like to refer to paragraph 14 related to the IPPC. I would like to quote just two sentences from that paragraph because I think that they are important: "...The Committees urged that high priority be maintained for work on IPPC, including for developing the information system and ensuring sufficient participation of developing countries. It appreciated the proposed substantial increase in resources in the Medium Term Plan and emphasized in the Medium Term to maintain a sustainable programme on setting four standards per annum, maintain information exchange and provide support to technical assistance". I think that is an example of priority-setting by the Programme Committee and we expect, of course, that the Secretariat will take into full account that that is a consensus view of the Programme Committee and does indeed establish a priority for the Organization.

I would like to turn to paragraph 28, in the section on Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries. In paragraph 28 again I quote: "...The Committee recommended that the relative preferential treatment for resource allocations to Major Programme 2.3 Fisheries be preserved in the Programme of Work and Budget, particularly to support responsible conservation and management of capture fisheries (both in marine and inland environment) and the development of environmentally-sound aquaculture". Again, it is very useful that the Committee was able to reach a consensus on what could be a difficult issue. We no doubt expect to see its recommendations implemented fully by the Secretariat in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget.

I turn to paragraph 29 which is on Major Programme 2.4 Forestry. There the Committee and again I quote: "...welcomed the substantial increase in funding proposed, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of total resources. The Committee recommended that the relative preferential treatment for resource allocations to Major Programme 2.4 Forestry be preserved in the Programme of Work and Budget". Again, the Committee, I think, reached consensus on an important priority-setting exercise and we will look to see that implemented in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Finally, I would like to refer to the general issues of priority-settings which were covered during the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. I think they are useful. They are a frank but useful discussion on those issues which are properly summarized in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Report of the Joint Committees.

In that respect, I would like to associate my delegation entirely with the intervention that was made by Iceland on behalf of the Nordic Countries. In fact, I think for these purposes, if I may impose upon the Nordic Countries, I would like Canada to be considered a Nordic country. I believe we have a similar climatic and geographical situation; we more or less qualify.

Therefore, rather than take up the time of the Committee with making a long intervention to the same effect I would like, if possible, that the statement of the Nordic Countries be considered as being adopted in full by Canada this morning.

**Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

We join our colleagues who spoke earlier on appreciating the work of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. We want to make a few comments. First on the item covering new arrangements for enhancing FAO presence at the country level, we do appreciate the outposting of Technical Officers to the Sub-regional Offices. This has resulted in more interaction in the implementation of programmes. We request that FAO Country Offices, which are currently in place, be given the necessary resources to quickly respond to emergencies and that they be adequately equipped to carry out the relevant analysis, which we appropriately advise the Head Office. It is also important that the FAO Representatives fully participate in the UN development assistance framework to ensure that information exchange be at the country level.

We have already commented, during yesterday's session, on the Medium Term Plan and I would like to re-emphasize the importance for effective prioritization in budgeting to ensure that operational programmes are well-funded.

We also would like to make a comment on the proposed reform of the General Debate at Conferences. The Africa Group feels that it is essential, as has been recommended by the Committee, that the Secretariat works out proposals which take into account the comments which were made by the Committees. In particular, there is a need to take into account the special circumstances of each conference session, the timing, the space availability, the incremental costs and the attendance by Ministers. The latter is important, as the idea is to ensure sharing of ideas and information by Member Nations.

**Ms Mwatima A. JUMA (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

In response, we want to recognize what Zimbabwe has said on behalf of the African countries.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Joint Programme and Finance Committee for the commendable work they have done and presented to us at this meeting. We welcome this report, the many observations made on the running of the affairs of the Conference. In June 2002 the WFS: *fy/l* was concurrently accompanied by Roundtables, and several side events with the new innovation.

The Roundtables provided for exchange of ideas and lessons learnt from the implementation of programmes in the Member Nations. They also provided for Member Nations to share ideas across programmes and thematic issues. We therefore, support the Joint Committees proposals to the effect that Roundtables should continue to be convened concurrently with the General Debate. We are looking forward to the Secretariat's study on more effective arrangements for implementing the proposed option.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

Thank you Mr Chairman and congratulations on taking the chair this morning and presiding over our discussions. We are delighted to see you here.

The United States has already commented, yesterday, on our position on the Medium Term Plan. This morning, I would just like to limit my remarks to the two issues of the Reform of the General Debate and the discussion that has arisen on the FAO Country Representatives.

On the Reform of the General Debate, we had a good discussion in the Joint Committee, in which I participated. Again, I would like to call the attention of the Members of the Council to realistic

considerations. While I applaud the effort to reactivate this forum and make it more lively, I think the reality is that the Heads of our Delegations, if they travel 11 hours only to speak seven minutes, they are not going to give up that forum. And, it is unfortunate that that forum is not well attended. Perhaps if we put television cameras in the Council rooms and televised it, we would have a better participation.

I would urge people to, as much as possible, offer spontaneous comments as opposed to set piece kind of statements, to listen to their colleagues and make the discussion as interactive as possible. Certainly, whenever there is a speaker or an issue of interest people will attend. I would say that, for us, we find the long journey to come to Rome – while it is valuable in itself to come to Rome – an opportunity to exchange views outside the Council meetings. We enjoy the occasion to have bilateral or meetings in small groups. Therefore, we continue to believe that it is worthwhile.

The problem with having the Roundtables is that they seem to be settling into the same mold and, that is, that members of the Roundtables have a tendency to regard it like other UN fora and not recognize it as an effort to be more interactive. There is a tendency to come, deliver your statement, and then disappear and allow someone of a lower rank to take the chair.

Therefore, perhaps we need to do more work on making the Roundtable debates more interactive. However, the problem for most delegations is going to continue to be that we have, in some ways, doubled the burden on the Chairman of our delegation in that now they must participate in a plenary session and in a Roundtable. If their time is limited and they do not want to remain until the reports of the Round-Table are given to the Plenary. Then that places a lot of demand on participation in the early Roundtables. So, we have compressed the time, we have compressed the demand and I do not think we have yet gotten to the point we want to be of having a meaningful exchange of ideas.

Let me go on to the FAO Country Representatives. There is a proposal in the Medium Term Plan to increase this programme and, again, we do not think that it is realistic to expect a large increase. We do applaud the efforts of the countries that value this programme sufficiently to offer, for example, to provide offices, etc. for the FAO Country Representatives. However, we would like to also express some concern that, in acceding to the request of countries that are willing to absorb some of the administrative costs, we may stray from more objective criteria as to where this limited valuable resource should be placed. We would stress that these representatives belong in the Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries - those countries that are most in need of their services and their advice.

Secondly, we would like to stress that these positions should be very competitive and we call on FAO to continue to strive for excellence and to select people who are well-qualified, who can provide the kind of advice and expertise in agriculture and in food that is needed by these countries.

Finally, my third point would be to join with Zimbabwe and others who would encourage the FAO Country Representatives to be a vital and active part of the coordination efforts with other UN Agencies in preparing, for example, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework Agreement (UNDAF) that are part of coordination efforts in these countries.

**Kwaku Owusu BAAH (Ghana)**

My delegation wishes to begin by congratulating you on your election to the chair this morning. Our intervention will be a very brief one.

My delegation wishes to comment specifically on the issue of decentralization of the Organization. We agree with the position of Japan, and support the decentralization process backed up by the Organization.

My delegation believes that it is only when decision making is decentralized, that the Organization can operate more efficiently and effectively. We believe that it is only when the Organization operates efficiently, resources will be prudently utilized. In this regard, Ghana wishes to aid the Organization to hasten the pace of decentralization. But by so doing the

Organization should take into consideration and ensure that the staff sent to countries to represent them, are staff that can contribute positively to the developmental force of those countries.

We believe that the process of decentralization by the Organization can be achieved at no extra cost to the Organization as long as the Organizations tries to utilize its resources prudently.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

As a Member of the Joint Finance and Programme Committee Session, I would also just like to make a few comments here. Firstly, to thank Ambassador Berteling for his very effective Chairmanship and which lead to some very constructive outcomes during the Session.

We have already made a number of comments in relation to the Medium Term Plan, but would again just wish to indicate our view on the overall budget assumptions of the MTP and priority setting processes, because I think there were some important discussions on that in the Committees.

Firstly, as we have already said, the Real Growth Budget assumptions built into the MTP is unrealistic given the lower final budgets that have been adopted in recent years. We would therefore underscore the emphasis that was drawn in the Committees on the need for the provision of alternative scenarios for Members to assess the likely impact of lower budget level outcome, and that assumed in the MTP.

In relation to priority-setting, we would also wish to emphasise that we see this as one of the most significant issues to be addressed in FAO Programme Planning and Budget process. In recognition of this, the Joint Session had a very extensive and fruitful discussion on priority-setting, and Australia considers that the current arrangements do not allow for effective privatization of FAO programming in line with Members' wishes. I would also just like to reiterate the point we made earlier, that we very much welcome the decision of the Joint Session, in relation to the review of arrangements by the Programme Committee for priority setting in FAO at its next Session, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Australia would urge the Secretariat to examine a range of agencies in government planning practices to find ways of involving stakeholders in the planning process, and to produce a meaningful document that will allow Members to take this issue forward.

Finally, I would just like to make one other comment in relation to the IPPC. My Canadian colleague has already drawn the full attention of Council to the important consensus conclusion of the Programme Committee on the priority of funding for the IPPC, so I will not make more of this here. I would, however, like to note that the Joint Session also echoed those comments of the Programme Committee in underlining the importance of work on an adequate resources for the IPPC.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

En primer lugar, quiero manifestar el aprecio de mi delegación a los señores Molina y Berteling por el extraordinario trabajo que están realizando en los Comités y, desde luego, el reconocimiento y agradecimiento a todos los Miembros de estos importantes Comités.

En relación con la reunión de mayo, queremos expresar nuestro aprecio y así como, nuestro apoyo a las modalidades propuestas para mejorar el sistema de presentación de los informes sobre las recomendaciones de la dependencia común de inspección.

Otro tema, ya en la reunión de septiembre, se refirió a la priorización y aquí también mi delegación considera que es un tema fundamental que debe estudiarse a fondo. En ese sentido la labor del Comité del Programa es fundamental, deben seguir considerándose las aspiraciones y necesidades de los países beneficiarios, desde luego, de todos los países de la Organización. Ayer se mencionaban ya algunos temas en los que mi delegación está totalmente de acuerdo como es la inocuidad de alimentos, la pesca y la biodiversidad.

En relación con la propuesta de reforma del Debate General de la Conferencia, también estamos de acuerdo con lo señalado en el párrafo 12, en el sentido de que no es posible suprimir el debate general en la Plenaria; pero esta parte de la Conferencia debe activarse y debe, desde luego, como han dicho otras delegaciones, hacerse atractivo para los jefes de delegación. También debe seguir estudiándose la conveniencia de realizar las Mesas Redondas y desde luego saber con claridad cuál es la utilidad que éstas tienen para las labores generales de la Conferencia.

**Bernardo GUTIÉRREZ ZULUAGA BOTERO (Observador de Colombia)**

Hablo en calidad de observador. Quisiera felicitar al Sr Berteling y al Sr Molina por la conducción del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas y de la Reunión Conjunta y por el Informe presentado. Los temas que se debatieron ampliamente en el Comité del Programa y en el Comité de Finanzas en relación con la priorización en la Organización, están llegando a un punto del debate sobre la prioridad principal de la Organización, que es la negociación de la prioridad de los Estados Miembros y de los requerimientos de los mismos. Estos últimos no son iguales y hay una brecha enorme entre los países desarrollados y los países en vías de desarrollo y en este sentido, como bien se señalaba en el día de ayer, hay un mandato en la Organización, un llamado a un equilibrio entre las operaciones, el trabajo en el campo y las labores de normatividad y de información.

Indudablemente, la FAO es un centro de información por excelencia, desarrolla un trabajo de normatividad muy importante en el marco de esa negociación, en los requerimientos de los países, pero es necesario, a mi juicio, que este debate conlleve a realzar la importancia de esta Organización como un foro de negociación, la cual tiene que continuar y este es uno de los escenarios donde se debe realizar. No creo que haya contradicción entre señalar, por parte de delegaciones como la de mi país, los requerimientos para el apoyo al desarrollo del trabajo de la Comisión Interina de Medidas Fitosanitarias, y decir que es necesario también el desarrollo de los programas de la Organización.

En esto tienen mucha responsabilidad los gobiernos nacionales, para que los programas lleguen a los requerimientos de las prioridades nacionales, después de haber cada uno aquí expresado esos requerimientos y esas prioridades.

En este marco, las reformas que se han venido realizando en la Organización, la descentralización, el planteamiento a la Reforma y del Debate General tendrían que ir en esa dirección, hacia una negociación que concilie estos intereses y que contribuya realmente a los objetivos de la Organización. Es un debate que se está estructurando y a través del cual la Organización, y todos, obtendremos el objetivo de erradicar el hambre, de superar la pobreza y de cumplir con el fin de que en el mundo el hambre no sea uno de los principales elementos de las injusticias sociales y, por consiguiente, de la grave problemática social que hoy se vive.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

I would like to congratulate Mr Berteling, we are glad to have you back Sir, we thought you had actually gone, we are happy to have you with us again, and Mr Reyes for a report that is very easy to read and understand.

I think most of the issues that ought to have been addressed have been addressed. One does not need to start repeating them. The one point that I would like to make is with respect to the decentralization process that has been embarked upon already by the management of FAO itself. I am fully in support of the views that have been expressed on the floor, as to the need and desirability of decentralization.

However, I am a little worried about the seeming contradiction, about resource allocation with care not to dip too much into the Regular Budget of FAO, and yet we do accept the reality that we need to decentralize.

My plea, is that my country is one of those in the forefront of endorsing the decentralization principle. Having said this, it is very significant that while it would appear that this House has accepted this as a way forward. It is also saying that FAO must find its way of containing

expenses within the regular budget without necessarily asking for a little more, I find that a little worrying.

I would like to remind this membership, as one of the speakers mentioned yesterday, that FAO has been operating on a Zero Nominal Budget for nearly eight years, I think it is only this year that they have got a Zero Growth Budget, which means next to nothing.

At this point, I would like to plead with the Membership, which should accept the realities that, if we are going to go for this decentralization, it will involve some costs, and that the increase in the budget may become inevitable. I find it difficult to begin to see where they will again dip in the cutting and cutting in order to be able to decentralize and also be able to manager within the present setting of the funds they have.

Another point, is a simple one. In paragraph 6 the Committees requested the Secretariat to submit statistical information on Representatives Offices and their share of total cost pai. My question is paid by whom? Paragraph 7 requests the information to be submitted, would this be to the Committees? Or the Paragraphs 6 and 7 are not supposed to be related. Maybe I need some elementary clarification there.

My third comment, is on the reform of the Organization Conference Sessions. I sympathize with the position expressed by the distinguished delegate of the US on this matter. I have thought through the issue and found that either way we are just going around and around and there appears not to be anything cleared up that will lead us to make any headway. Clearly, I endorse the position of the Africa Group that the General Debate should continue. Maybe one way forward would be to be very specific on the topic for the Roundtables, so that it is either one topic discussion, and the Heads of Delegations are not compelled to be there if they are not interested. If they feel that they want to contribute, so be it. But the way it is and when I saw it here and at IFAD. I agree entirely with the delegate of the US. It is becoming another routine. We leave these pictures and go out. I am not sure that we will be able to get Ministers to answer questions and for how long at each of these sessions, but maybe we should explore that. I am not saying that I have a solution, I am not even saying I have a verbal suggestion. I accept my limitation on this, but I still feel that the Roundtables maybe useful if a very specific topic is suggested for discussion. Rather than just give them a general topic to resolve mobilization. Everyone goes there to give his own country statement, and goes back.

**Patrick K. LUKHELE (Observer for Swaziland)**

First of all I would like to congratulate you for chairing the session this morning. My delegation welcomes the documentation and the verbal introductions given by the Chairmen of the two Committees.

Allow me, to comment on only one issue, and that is the FAO Country Representation. My delegation concurs with the Joint Committees observations, that the presence of fully and partly funded representations causes problems for some of our countries. The issue I am discussing is contained under paragraph 6 of document 123/8. Moreover the administrative contributions expected from those developing countries requiring such an office, such my country, are very high.

My delegation appreciates the commendable work of the Sub-Regional Office in Harare, in Zimbabwe, and the Country Office in Mozambique, which also services Swaziland.

I would like to associate my delegation's sentiments with the comments made by Zimbabwe and some of my colleagues from the Africa Region.

**CHAIRMAN**

As I see no more requests for the Floor, I would like to thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for your contribution to the debate on item 11. It is my understanding that the Council wishes to endorse both Reports under discussion.

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

**Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Quisiera hacer una breve intervención para referirme a uno de los aspectos que fue tocado por varias delegaciones y que se refiere a la presencia de la FAO en distintos países. Ciertamente este es un tema complejo y que, naturalmente, tiene que ver con la sensibilidad de cada uno de los Países Miembros. Como bien dice el informe, la reunión conjunta que me tocó presidir no ha aclarado cuáles deberían ser los criterios o cómo abordar de manera sustantiva los requerimientos de los distintos países sobre este problema.

Por ello el párrafo 6 y 7 expresa, como muy bien señalaba el distinguido Representante de Nigeria, que en septiembre de 2003, en el contexto de la próxima evaluación del proceso de descentralización de la FAO, pudieran entregarse mayores antecedentes estadísticos, como ha sido solicitado por varios Miembros de la reunión del Comité Conjunto, Finanzas y Programa. Creo que sobre este particular, con toda seguridad, el Director de la Oficina de Programa de Presupuesto y de Evaluación podrá entregarnos mayores detalles sobre la oportunidad y los términos de referencia de ese trabajo. Esto es, por lo menos, para intentar responder a las inquietudes que, de manera específica, se habían hecho en términos de aclaración del documento en lo que respecta a la sesión que yo presidí y que se refería a la distribución de las Representaciones de la FAO en los distintos países.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

First of all, one additional word on decentralization.

One delegation asked for a quicker decentralization. One of the difficulties is that the system has to be in place, not only the financial system but also others. Sometimes to go faster than what is happening may harm the Organization. There has to be a balance on what is possible from an infrastructural point of view. I believe there is a general agreement, at least, in the Programme and in Finance Committee have a long way to go on decentralization, but the *tempo*, the speediness, depends on the infrastructure that is available.

On Priority Settings, a number of things have been added which I think will be useful for the preparation of the meeting of the Programme Committee next May. I will not go into those details. It is true indeed, at least, that on some of the occasions we have established issues which do have priority. The problem is that we hardly ever find an agreement on what is therefore definitely not a priority. That is the problem. For me and for the intergovernmental organs, not perhaps for individual delegations, it is difficult, and it is also difficult for the Secretariat.

A few words on the General Debate. As I indicated, we have had a full discussion on it in the Joint Meetings. It is only reflected in a very few paragraphs. What has been said here has been basically said also in the Joint Meetings and I expect that to be taken into account in the paper that will be presented to the Programme Committee in May. Indeed there was a general agreement that the present General Debate cannot stop; whether it can be improved is something we have to look into. It is difficult. The problem is that even with the seven minutes per speaker, it takes days and the main Plenary Hall, is not filled. That is not a very good idea. That is why the idea of Roundtables came up. At Roundtables, if the ministers come, deliver their statements and leave; it is not a Roundtable anymore. That has happened. That is why, alternatives of shorter Roundtables with less participants per session is an alternative. We have to look into these. These are exactly the kind of points that were made and, unfortunately, so far the Joint Meetings were in the same position as what Mr Lombin of Nigeria just said. We see the problems, but we do not have the solution yet. So we are all looking to the Secretariat to come with a good proposal.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation)**

There were a couple of issues on which some comment from the Secretariat would seem to be required. First, on the issue of priority-setting and the related issue of scenarios. I would like to



talk a little bit first of all about the dimensions of priority setting. It was referred to in the Programme Committee report, but of course it does not come across as to what the complexity really is.

When we say priorities, we have to consider a number of dimensions. For a start there is the strategic framework, there is the priority between the five corporate strategies and between the twelve strategic objectives.

Then there is the programme dimension to which Iceland referred, which simply put seems to be priorities between, for example, one Major Programme, Agriculture 2.1 and another, Forestry 2.4. You can see that it is at that level that you often give us advice.

However, one has to recognize that is more complex than that. It goes down through the various levels. Is the priority for Crops, 2.1.2, which is within Agriculture, less or more than the priority for Forest Products and Economics, 2.4.2 within 2.4? Do you really want to reduce our IPPC in favour of our work on Forest Products? It goes down further, if you look at the entity 212P1, the Secretariat of IPPC which is in 2.1.2 under Agriculture and you compare it to 241A5 which is Forest Plantations and Trees Outside Forests, are you clearly saying that the latter is more important than IPPC? That is what you are implying when you say absolutely that 2.4 must get more priority than 2.1. So we have to be aware of this complexity.

But that is just the normative side of our technical work. There is also the relationship between the normative work and operational work. Even with something like IPPC its effective implementation may require substantial capacity building at country level. So you again have to bear this dimension in mind in your priority setting. In addition, we have the comparison between technical work and non-technical work. Do we give less priority to our Division of Financial Services and give more priority to Forestry Department? In fact, we have done that in recent years and now have a report from one of the top accounting firms, KPMG, indicating that we have overdone the reduction of staff in our Financial Services Division. So the case would be to say that “no”; Financial Services, at a certain level, are more important than Forestry.

Then, I think the very much relevant priority setting issue is the extent of decentralization. Do we keep the resources at the Centre or do we decentralize to the regions. This is the geographical dimension of priority setting. How much do we take down to country level? Ghana and Nigeria brought up the issue of decentralization. Do we need to go farther than we have now? At the moment we have thirty-three percent of our professional staffing capacity in the decentralized offices. Should we increase that and increase the capacity to deliver services at the country level, or should we be reinforcing the headquarters capacity to the benefit of normative products?

The resources aspect of priority setting is, in a certain sense, the dimension of funding sources: do we give priority to the funding sources of assessed contributions for certain sorts of work versus extra-budgetary sources of contribution? You can see that that becomes important particularly in the normative areas of work.

There is the issue of time. When you are setting priorities are you talking about the next year, the next biennium, are you talking about the Strategic Framework – that will extend to fifteen years.

The reason I dwell on the subject is to bring us back to scenarios because we risk being rather too simplistic about our approach to solving the problem. There is only one real reason for scenarios and that is to assist setting in priorities, but in fact, it may not be the best way of doing it and it may be a very expensive way of doing it.

To develop for you a proper scenario covering a different resource level in our Budget, particularly for the Technical Programmes of the Budget, we need not only to do a top-down view of it, which is to indicate the sort of level of resources which we might allocate to each Programme and to each Programme entity, but we also have, to make it realistic, to do a bottom-up exercise which in effect involves every technical officer in the Organization.

It certainly involves every Programme Manager. Each programme manager will have to re-design their entities or defend the continued existence of their entities to meet the resource constraint that

is established on the new scenario. In each case they will have to re-apply the seven criteria we referred to which are designed to assist us in identifying whether the particular entity concerned meets the criteria of the Council established for the purposes of priority-setting.

Those were the criteria I read out last night, and if you want me to repeat them, I will, but otherwise I won't as they will be in the Verbatim Records.

That will involve negotiations at Divisional level, at Departmental level, and then across the Organization under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Director-General or the Director-General. So a scenario is a very expensive process which may well be appropriate, and may well be important. But we should recognize it has a very substantive cost which detracts from the time that technical staff have, to carry out their work.

The Secretariat's experience so far is that scenarios have not helped us in receiving information from you about what your substantive priorities are. If you care to look at the Verbatim Records for Commission II, the last Conference, where you considered two scenarios, I do not recall one single instance where the scenario was used to help you to identify a priority. You either talked about one total level or another total level, but you did not talk about the priorities selected within the two scenarios. So, the consequence is that we went through a lot of work to develop these scenarios, but I do not know whether you or we got a great deal of value out of that process.

It is clear that priority-setting instruments come in different forms. Canada pointed out what in fact is the main mechanism for Members who generate information about their present priorities. It pointed out that the Programme Committee had emphasized IPPC, Forestry and Fisheries in particular ways, and they had done so unanimously. That is excellent because it means that they fall into the first category of priorities that I referred to last night; that is, areas which have the broad support of the Membership. And of course the Secretariat takes notice, in fact, takes that as a direction to do something about resource allocations for those areas. I think you have seen that in the Medium Term Plan and that you would see that in the budget proposals. Generally, the issue is not whether the document refers to your priorities; it is whether the balance is right.

Ambassador Berteling, however, makes the very important point that what we never get consensus on, is what should be reduced.

What you talked about in terms of priorities yesterday evening is worth about US\$ 10 million - just talking about IPPC, Codex, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - but no one indicated where you agreed where that US\$ 10 million should come from. So, this is the big weakness in the current structure because you effectively leave it to the Secretariat to try and resolve and reconcile those differences. And that means that you are not party to that process in an effective way.

Mr Chairman, Iceland made the comment about the fact that the Governing Bodies have to be involved in the Council and the Committees and, of course, we agree with that.

I just want to remind you that the criteria we are using for the internal assessment come from the Council and are not something the Secretariat invented on its own. It was a Working Group of the Council after the Conference in 1995 that produced a current set of criteria that are applied. Those are the ones I read out last night.

One final point on the decentralization issue, Mr Chairman. I confirm that we are currently developing the Terms of Reference for the major evaluation on decentralization. Our timing is not quite as was stated in the May Session of the Joint Meeting. We cannot make it by September 2003. We will complete it in 2003, but it means it will almost certainly go to the subsequent Session of the Programme Committee. We will be responding in this evaluation to the requests for additional information but the evaluation itself will, of course, be concentrating on whether decentralization has met the objectives established for it in the first instance.

As you will recall at the Hundred and Sixth Session of the Council the whole issue of decentralization was proposed by the Director-General. It is in response to the objectives established at that time that the evaluation will primarily concentrate its efforts.

**CHAIRMAN**

As I see no other questions, if the Council is in agreement we are able to conclude the discussion of item 11. So that brings us to the end of item 11 and we can immediately follow and start with the item 12.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

**12. Reports of the Eighty-seventh (Rome, May 2002) and Eighty-eighth (Rome, September 2002) Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 123/11; CL 123/12)**

**12. Rapports de la quatre-vingt septième session (Rome, mai 2002) et de la quatre-vingt huitième session (Rome, septembre 2002) du Comité du programme (CL 123/11; CL 123/12)**

**12. Informes del 87º (Roma, mayo de 2002) y 88º (Roma, septiembre de 2002) períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa (CL 123/11; CL 123/12)**

**CHAIRMAN**

Item 12 of our Agenda concerns the Reports of the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Sessions of the Programme Committee. These reports are to be found in documents CL 123/11 and CL 123/12, respectively.

At this moment I would like to give the Floor to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Berteling, to present the reports of the Committee.

**Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

As usual, the Programme Committee had two sessions this year. The documents CL 123/11 concerned our spring session and document CL 123/12 concerned the autumn session.

In my opinion, both sessions have been extremely useful and have proved once more the importance of such small committees to discuss the main programmatic aspects of this Organization, especially when the Members of this Committee are prepared to look at the activities of the Organization, not only from their national or regional perspectives, but much more from the global perspective in the interests of the Organizations and its Member Nations. Of course, there are differences of opinion regularly, that is only healthy, but we managed on all aspects to come to common conclusions and recommendations. I believe this is extremely useful for the Council and ultimately also for the Conference. I therefore would like to pay tribute for this to all Members of the Programme Committee, but also to the Members of the Secretariat, with whom we have had excellent, frank and open exchange of views. Again, that is much easier, I believe in a smaller group than in a large Council or Conference but it has effectively taken place.

The Programme Committee has as its main task in fact the programme cycle from its substantive point of view: Strategic Planning: The Strategic Framework; The Mid Term Planning, and we discussed that yesterday; the programme side of the Programme of Work and Budget; the Programme Implementation Report, also discussed yesterday; Evaluation and priority-setting.

Also this year, in fact many of these tasks, the programmatic activities were at the threshold of what the Programme Committee tried to achieve.

A biennial item on the agenda is the *Review of Programmes*. This year, the Programme Committee managed to go into detail on three Major Programmes: 2.2 Food and Agricultural Policy and Development which you will find in document (CL 123/11, paragraphs 6 to 20), 2.3, Fisheries document (CL 123/12, paragraphs 24 to 28); 2.5 Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts (CL 123/12, paragraphs 32 to 38), and this major programme, if I recall well, was established as a separate major programme ten years ago after the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development.

The review of programmes, in the autumn session was combined with the consideration of the Medium Term Plan, and it gives the possibility to have a more detailed look at the programme activities, comparing it with other activities of the Organization, and sometimes even with activities of other Organizations. It gives also the possibility to the relevant staff to give more details about new developments in their field of competence.

It may not always lead to detailed recommendations, but it does lead to a better understanding of the broad activities of the Organization and it helps in the exchange between staff and members on the relevant priorities in the Organization. I believe that this item is useful for the work of the Programme Committee, for the intergovernmental control of this Organization, but also, vice versa, to explain to the Membership the real importance of many of the specific programme activities. I expect Members of this Council to judge the specific comments and to request the Director-General to take the comments into account, while preparing the next Programme of Work and Budget. I have only outlined the paragraphs. As I expected they have already been read to you.

Another main item is Evaluation. Let me say at the outset that evaluation has grown enormously in this Organization. I do not mean in number of staff or number of reports, but in status of evaluation as a management tool. In my opinion, evaluation has got a position, where its reports can be critical, sometimes very critical, not to put down the Organization but to help the Organization in learning from its experience. Management does not seem anymore to be afraid of critical evaluations but is prepared to use them as tools for further improvements. When we discussed one of the major programmes, 3.1 on policy analysis, which we had a few years ago, I might say a very critical analysis of the situation. It's clear in the opinion of the Members of the Programme Committee that those comments were seriously taken into consideration and have since been followed up. We are asking that of others as well, but I will come back to a few of those later.

The Programme Committee established a year ago, in September 2001, a programme for evaluation, which was approved by the Council.

As a consequence, we considered this year a number of evaluations: the External Evaluation of the Special Programme for Food Security; the Evaluation of the Animal Health Component of Programme 2.1.3; the Evaluation of the EMPRES Programme – Desert Locus; and the Evaluation of Strategy A.3 "Preparedness for, and Effective and Sustainable Response to, Food and Agricultural Emergencies".

We also got updates on some other finished or ongoing evaluations. As I said: the Evaluation on Policy Assistance, but also a progress report on the ongoing Evaluation of Joint WHO/FAO activities of Codex Alimentarius and other FAO and WHO work on Food Standards.

All these evaluation reports were important. They were very interesting, they have been very seriously discussed, and I encourage you to read them. I believe, you will find them interesting and please read our comments too. You will find these evaluations worthwhile as they provide an analysis on the specific issues of what really is achieved. We are talking about what the Organization should do. The evaluation reports give an analysis of whether you have been successful in trying to organize it and very often it is a bit different but that is why evaluation reports are so useful. I am not going to go into all evaluation reports now, there is no time I believe to do that, but the disadvantage is that they tend to be forgotten.

I think three merit specific attention at this stage. First of all, the SPFS. You will find our comments in paragraphs 21 to 28 of document CL 123/11. Rereading the report I must say that it is not easy to read it if you have not read the evaluation report. The Special Programme has been at the centre of attention for many years in positive and in critical ways. We finally had a full-fledged external evaluation with the whole process of comments; first the evaluation report then also comments by others and a management response.

At the beginning of that particular meeting I was not very sure how we would deal with it, but in the course of the discussions it became very clear that management realized that many of the

points of criticism, were recommendations for improvement and that they were all prepared to take them into account in the future work of the Organization. Whether that is happening or not, that of course has to be seen. That is why we have asked for an update next year, for a follow up report on progress made in implementing the Special Programme of Food Security, and indeed as paragraph 28 says "...and in introducing the many positive changes that management has referred to in its responses to the report".

We have really welcomed this as a very important evaluation and the kind of discussions concerning this programme led us towards a specific direction. I think that is why it has been very useful for all of us.

The second point that I would like to spend a few words on is the evaluation of the Emergency Assistance. The Thematic Evaluation as planned by the Programme Committee and Secretariat was the first of its kind. Also this report was considered to be informative and a very useful assessment of the strength and weaknesses of FAO's activities.

You will recall that FAO's activities in field have grown very substantially. This Report did not include reference to the Food for All programme in Iraq, but still it has grown substantially. This led to a number of very relevant and important recommendations.

The Committee underlined the relevance and usefulness of the Strategy A.3, which, of course, was originally adopted when we adopted the Strategic Framework of the Organization. The interesting thing is that we never really spoke in any of the intergovernmental organs on FAO's activities in this field. So this was perhaps the first time we officially discussed it in an intergovernmental organ, I don't mean in any official informal very useful meetings that do take place regularly. Here again, we have also asked for follow up report but also we have asked the Secretariat, to prepare a concise paper covering the main issues and lessons on its emergency and rehabilitation activities. This could then be a basis for a discussion next year at an intergovernmental level, first by the Programme Committee, which also gives you the possibility to discuss the reports to be issued here next year.

I wish to say a few words as far as evaluations are concerned, on the FAO/WHO Joint Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and other FAO/WHO work on Food Standards. This was a very unusual situation that we discussed an evaluation that is not finished. The Programme Committee is normally not involved in drafting terms of reference, and if we did so it would delay the whole process enormously. I believe there is no reason why we should be involved in that process in general terms. However, the result is some times useful to see and in this particular case we partially saw it through WHO. We found, as Programme Committee, that a number of the issues were not taken care of sufficiently, and consequently discussed them in both the spring and autumn sessions. In the autumn session we stated our appreciation for the actions taken by FAO and WHO, not only to take note, but implement the recommendations, to have a more consultative approach with Member Nations including questionnaires, an improved balance with all its dimensions both in the Membership of the Expert Panel and in the Evaluation team that is busy. By busy I mean it has to be finished due by the final report which has to be issued by the end of this year as Codex is going to discuss as well as the WHO board which is already in January. So it is an exceptional situation and I think a very good one where the Programme Committee could assist in getting a better basis for evaluation than we would have had otherwise. Of course evaluation between to different Organizations is more complicated any way.

On the programming cycle, we did not discuss the Programme of Work and Budget, that is for the Programme Committee next year but there were a few issues of importance. We had our very first discussion on indicators – indicators on how to assess progress, you will find thus in the document CL 120/11 of the spring session, it is still very new and very much in development. I can say that the in the framework of the FAO/Netherlands Partnership Programme, where we would also like to see specific progress. The Netherlands learned about the procedures that were followed and we felt that it should also discussed in the Programme Committee. It has not developed far enough but it is a very interesting way of how are we going to measure impact.

Indicators are being developed and we are exchanging information with the aim to improve the quality of the activities of the Organization.

Another aspect in a programming cycle was, and I refer to paragraphs 42 to 44, the Feasibility of the Developing Preliminary Information on the Programme of Work Proposal to COAG, COFI and COFO of document CL 123/11. It was a bit of a heated debate a year ago whether this is possible or not, there are advantages and disadvantages, but Members of the Council requested that three Committees should have the possibility to look into the draft Programme of Work and Budget which by then is not yet ready. Together with the Secretariat we found a solution which we feel is worth trying. We will go beyond that point at the moment but we have agreed and it is now up to you to agree with, however, the Committee decreed that the proposal be implemented in 2003 on a trial basis so that costs and benefits for everybody could be evaluated in 2004.

When we discussed this we also realized that the formulation of the functions of the three Committees were quite different without having any clarity what the reason was. So, we also suggested them to consider the harmonization of the functions of the three Committees in the context of the standing item of the Joint Meetings Agenda on Savings and Efficiencies in Governance.

One minor point, but I do not believe it is a minor point at all is the very last paragraph of CL 123/11: FAO's Image. Many of us do speak about it. Many of us realize if you are back in capitals or in other places that FAO's name as an Organization is very often unclear. That is partly perhaps true because this Organization has a very broad mandate. On the other hand, we have to sell the product, FAO has to sell it, the Member States have to sell it as well. I have given regularly the example to people in New York, some times they do decide on things that are important for the UN and Specialized Agencies have hardly any knowledge of what is happening, this is true in Washington and in other places. It seems to be improving but FAO should do a lot; we have discussed this issue a couple of times in the last couple years. We, as the Programme Committee, certainly do that further on the basis of an evaluation on the Thematic Evaluation on the strategy for communicating FAO's messages. But in the meantime, I believe that Member Nations and Secretariat should continue to give attention to this.

My final comment relates to paragraph 53 of the document CL 123/11 of the autumn session. I have drawn the attention of the Committee that I intend to resign as Chairman. You gave me as Council a year ago a mandate to be the Chair of the Programme Committee for two years and I, at that time, was absolutely happy with that decision, I was glad to do that, I believe it was an interesting job and it was my intention to fulfil that. In the meantime, my authorities have called me to the Hague with a completely new function for me, which makes it impossible to perform that job further. I did indeed come back in September after finishing my work here in Rome. This is the last occasion in the capacity as Chairman of the Programme Committee to present the Report to the Council. As I indicated at the beginning of this statement, the importance that I see of the Programme Committee, I very much like this job and it is with some sadness, that I say goodbye to all of you and I hope the best for this Organization. I am of course ready to answer any questions on the Programme Committee.

**Paolo VICENTINI (Italie)**

Je vous demande de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué du Danemark au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSON (Observer for Denmark)**

The European Community and its fifteen Member States have taken note, with great interest, of the activities of the Programme Committee in 2002. We have already addressed the important issue of the draft Medium Term Plan, 2004 to 2009. We will now address a number of other issues.

We find that the Programme Committee plays a crucial role in this Organization in the evaluation process of the programmes of FAO. Last year, it approved an ambitious schedule of evaluation

reports for the next couple of years. This year, we have seen the first examples. Of course, many of us were looking forward, with great interest, to the results of the External Evaluation of the Special Programme for Food Security.

We would like to pay a tribute to the evaluation team for its excellent work and to the whole process to come to this evaluation and the management response. The evaluation team has, rightly so, been critical, but in a constructive way. Management has responded to this constructive criticism professionally. This made it possible for the Programme Committee to judge the results. The European Community and its fifteen Member States welcome the recommendations of the Programme Committee in paragraphs 22 to 28 of document CL 123/11 and we are looking forward, next spring, to see the follow-up report on the accepted recommendations.

The Programme Committee also considered a number of other evaluation reports: on Animal Health; the EMPRES Programme; FAO's training activities; and on FAO's preparedness for an Effective and Sustainable Response to Food and Agricultural Emergencies. It also contributed to the setting up of the evaluation of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and of other FAO/WHO work on Food Standards.

We are generally pleased with the results of the work of the Programme Committee and are particularly looking forward to the results of the last evaluation, which will be discussed in a special session of the Codex Alimentarius early next year.

One final comment on evaluation. FAO has made significant progress over the last years in its professional attitude towards evaluation. Criticism is not any more shunned, but it is more and more used as a management tool to improve the quality of its programmes. However, further developments are necessary and we believe that one logical step is to make the evaluation service more autonomous in the Organization.

The Programme Committee also considered the Programme Implementation Report, which was still based on the old programme system. A serious judgement was, therefore, difficult, certainly on impact.

Finally, we would like to stress once more the importance of finding a solution to the setting of priorities. We are in the final phases of the implementation of a good planning and programming mechanism, with a long-term FAO Strategic Framework, Medium Term Plans, Programme of Work and Budgets, implementation and evaluation reports. A final phase might be the development of a proper system of priority setting, which is necessary and independent from available budget resources.

**Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)**

Allow me to thank Mr Berteling for presenting this report. Also allow me to recognize, at this moment, the remarkable job done by Mr Berteling in Chairing the Programme Committee. His balanced and constructive approach played a decisive role in the smooth functioning of the Programme Committee.

The Programme Committee, by the way, always completed its work much earlier than the Finance Committee. That is also a tribute to his leadership ability.

We are actually very sad to see Mr Berteling leave. We understand the responsibilities placed on him but we are genuinely sad to see him leave.

We have noted both of the reports of the Programme Committee and we are pleased with the work of the Programme Committee. We endorse the reports. At this point in time we only wish to comment on one issue that is, the External Evaluation of the Special Programme of Food Security.

We are pleased to note that the Programme Committee found this Evaluation fully independent, thorough and objective and that there was a positive response by the senior management to draw upon the Evaluation in reinforcing the SPFS.

Some findings of the Evaluation are extremely important. The Evaluation found that there was a role for SPFS in overcoming food security. It emphasized the importance of national ownership as key to full impact, together with broader stakeholder participation. It emphasized the importance of flexibility in design and highlighted monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

We have also noted the progress made by the Secretariat in implementing the recommendation – the progress is contained in CL 123/INF/21. We welcome the preparation of the revised concept note, the technical support group, the technical support teams and other steps that the Secretariat has taken and is in the process of taking to enhance partnerships.

We believe that SPFS should be a demand-based programme for all countries where food security remains an issue. We also believe that South-South Cooperation plays an important role in the execution of SPFS and all efforts must be made to increase the efficiency of this window of opportunity.

### **Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)**

First of all, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his very illuminating Reports. They are very helpful for all of us and give us the opportunity to go into the kind of precise detail that the Committee goes into to see the work that is being done there.

Cyprus welcomes the External Evaluation of the Special Committee for Food Security, which is of great importance for FAO and its Member Nations.

The evaluation team found that the SPFS, as it currently exists, has a number of positive characteristics or strengths, not always shared by other donors and FAO supported programmes. They deserve recognition and they can be usefully built on in designing and implementing future SPFS related initiatives.

However, the evaluation team, having evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the SPFS, recommends that FAO and its partners should consider an alternative future approach for the SPFS, which would involve the following: firstly, FAO should prioritize countries for the SPFS related initiatives. SPFS should give greater priority to household food – in the design of the SPFS there are six specific areas that the evaluation team believes should receive greater explicit attention, since they impact, not only on, the way strategies for household food security are developed, but also on the potential degree sustainability and multiplier impact of SPFS related activities. There should be one explicit consideration of seasonality, counter seasonal strategies focusing on increasing food production at different times of the year, increasing the capacity of local community household grain storage, increasing household income purchasing power, including credit, and through diversification activities; secondly, more explicit consideration on the environmental issues and ensuring congruency between production and the ecological sustainability; thirdly, more explicit attention to gender equality; fourth, more explicit attention to linkages and cooperative arrangements, not only with donor agencies but also with other developmental agencies, like NGOs and farmer organizations – this is well illustrated by the case of Senegal; fifth, more explicit attention to measure micro-level institutional and policy issues; and sixth, acceptance of a longer time period – for example, five years – for achieving impact.

My delegation believes that the Secretariat should pay special attention to the alternative future approach, which the evaluation team recommends, and we must trust that it will develop the three complimentary strategies suggested by the evaluation team, which are: firstly, increasing the effort devoted to food security mapping in order to facilitate the identification of food insecure areas; secondly, introducing systematic, simple and efficient monitoring systems to improve management and developed levels and independent evaluation at the project level; and thirdly, after carefully accessing the true needs of each country, in terms of the level of expertise needed and matching those needs with available technical and human resources of the other countries in the south, introduce South-South Cooperation programmes that use small numbers of technicians with adequate language skills to give hands-on training and mentor local experts and technicians.



Finally, we would certainly like to support the recommendation of the Committee, which recommended the commitment to use the recommendations of the evaluation team to strengthen the SPFS and its approach. It requested a follow-up report at its May 2003 Session, on progress made in implementing the SPFS and in introducing the many positive changes that management had referred to in its responses to the Report.

**Hideki MORONUKI (Japan)**

First of all, my delegation would like to commend the hard work done by Members of the Programme Committee and especially the excellent job done by the Chairman, Mr Berteling.

My delegation wishes to highlight the important function of the SPFS, which could contribute to food security and thus eradication of hunger and malnutrition, as one of the objectivities of the World Food Summit.

Nevertheless, Japan believes that, as was pointed out in document CL 123/11, there are several points to be addressed about SPFS, especially from the viewpoint of efficient and effective realization of objectives of the programme.

For the success of SPFS problems we need: positive participation of farmers; considerable involvement of government and other stakeholders; and suitable technical inputs by FAO are all indispensable. Therefore, my delegation further expects FAO's careful and skilful management of projects and welcome further improvement of management systems in the future.

In this regard, my delegation highly appreciates the preparation of the Comprehensive Follow-up Report on SPFS in the May 2003 Session of the Programme Committee.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

En primer lugar, reiteramos nuestro aprecio por el trabajo del Embajador Berteling. En relación con la evaluación externa del Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria, el examen puso de relieve la función potencial que podía tener el PESA para superar la inseguridad alimentaria; con este propósito se acordó fortalecer y aplicar las recomendaciones del equipo de evaluación, entre ellas la muy atinada de ampliar la Cooperación Sur-Sur. Mi delegación brinda su apoyo a estas propuestas y concuerda con otras delegaciones en que el PESA debe responder a las demandas y a los requerimientos de los países. En México hemos fortalecido nuestra Cooperación Sur-Sur con el Plan Puebla-Panamá que abarca todo el Istmo centroamericano y, deseamos aquí expresar nuestro aprecio por el trabajo que la FAO viene realizando en México a través del PESA.

Ha habido una propuesta para incrementar la independencia de la función de evaluación. Mi delegación cree que debe actuarse con prudencia para saber con claridad el impacto que puede tener una mayor autonomía de esta función en el proceso de aprendizaje derivado de las evaluaciones.

Por otra parte, el Comité examinó el programa sobre información y convino en que debía darse prioridad para mejorar los datos y meta-datos de la FAOSTAT. Apoyamos esta conclusión pero consideramos que deben tomarse en cuenta los avances firmes derivados de la segunda consulta sobre información de la gestión agraria realizada hace un par de meses.

También son adecuadas las propuestas para perfeccionar el SICIAV y en este sentido apoyamos lo señalada por el Delegado de Chipre. Mi delegación instá a que se continúen realizando progresos en materia de paridad de idiomas oficiales, indispensable para esta Organización.

En relación con el tema 2.2.4 Agricultura, Seguridad Alimentaria y Política Comercial, se destaca el señalamiento del Comité para fortalecer la capacidad nacional, especialmente en los países en desarrollo, para una mejor participación en la ronda de negociaciones de la OMC. Como se ha dicho ya en el día de ayer, ésta debe ser una prioridad de la FAO.

Otro tema a destacar es la observación hecha por el Comité sobre la necesidad de que el informe de evaluación conjunta FAO/OMS del Codex Alimentarius sea finalizado en el 2002 para que

pueda ser considerado en la formulación del Presupuesto 2004-2005. Confiamos entonces en que se finalice antes de que concluya este año.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

First of all, allow me to commend you and your Committee for a job well done. We feel that you did a sterling job and that the recommendations you have brought to this house are worth of our consideration and they do address some of the pressing issues that we face in the developing world. We will be sorry to see you go but we know that you have another boss to report to. We accept this, but would like to really underscore the pleasure we had working with you on this Committee.

I wish to underscore a few points that affect my region. Document CL 123/11, paragraph 8. We appreciate the need to give priority to FAOSTAT, in particular, the need for technical assistance at the National level to improve statistical capacity. We feel this will help us in identifying some of the causes and needs of the individual countries. At the same time, it will help us come up with focalized programmes and allow us to do our planning effectively.

We welcome the integration of FIVIMS in the country-based programmes noting that the need to develop at the National level calls for greater ownership and application of information tools. You will appreciate that some of the information tools or the infrastructural backbones we have in our developing world are not as yet, up to date. Therefore, we do appreciate the attention being given to this area.

We welcome the need to enhance the effectiveness of information products but wish to note that this should also be reviewed with the idea that the FAO continues to help us to address the limitations that individual countries experience at this point in time.

In paragraph 16, the need for in-depth analysis to respond to developing countries' requirements for the next round of the WTO negotiations of agriculture is very important to us. This is with particular regard to trade policies impacting negatively on low-income countries that are dependent on agricultural exports. In Africa almost all of us are in this category.

In paragraph 22, the Special Programme for Food Security has succeeded where national ownership has taken root. We urge FAO to continue to work on this objective to assist us all to build this kind of ownership, applying this flexible design approach that responds to individual country needs. We have already alluded to the importance of continuing to improve prominence of the SPFS. In particular, we welcome policy assistance as suggested by the Committee and feel that this should be backed by exchange programmes at the regional level or improved networking on our information databases, so that we can benefit effectively from each others' experiences.

In paragraph 24, primary household food security is paramount and we accept this. Initially this is the responsibility of each household but we wish to acknowledge the vital role that is played by the area in which that household finds itself. For example, a peasant farmer that is in a dry area who has no access to irrigation facilities is not in the same category, as a peasant farmer who is a wet area where he can grow crops of his own. Therefore, we feel that as we design programmes to respond to household food security we should also take this into consideration in order to be able to respond to the needs of the more vulnerable farmers.

The contribution to sustainable development in agriculture is reflected in document CL 123/12. We welcome the importance of the participatory approaches involving all stakeholders, particularly the local communities because, at the end of the day, these are the people responsible for food security for themselves.

The national food reserve only comes in during emergencies and we would like to build a situation where the individual communities are the ones who are responsible for the immediate food security. However, it is important to stress that the relevant public institutions are equally important. We need to ensure that they, alongside the local civil community, work to strengthen the role of the local communities.

We emphasize the support that the Africa Group, with its limitations of resources, has tried to give to the Special Programme for Food Security and, to this extent, we would like to continue to appeal to our partners to help us along as we try to expand the Special Programme for Food Security to other communities now that we have passed through the stage of experimenting on the programme.

Paragraph 17. We invite our partners to demonstrate their commitment to food security in technical assistance, trade policies and in implementing the recommendations that we all identified in the recently-concluded Committee on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

Australia, as a Member of the Programme Committee, would just like to make a few brief comments on this item. We have already recalled that the Programme Committee had an extensive debate on the issue of priority-setting. Therefore, I am not going to say anything further on this other than that we consider the discussion served well as a basis for the Committee's further consideration of priority-setting at our next session.

I would also like to support the Chair of the Programme Committee's comments on the importance of evaluation and particularly the Programme Committee's role in this area. This is an essential role and one that is integral to an effective programme planning and management process in FAO. As the Chair of the Committee also said, it was a positive reflection of the evaluation process that the Organization is able to seriously address all areas, even those, that may be sensitive to the membership of the Organization's activities and programmes.

We would also, still on evaluation like to indicate a related issue. While we recognize the progress there has been to date on indicators, we would like to emphasize that further work on indicators is needed as we also see this as an integral aspect of the effective performance management and evaluation system of FAO.

I would now turn just to a couple of brief comments in relation to programme areas that were focused on as part of both the May and September Programme Committee sessions. Firstly, we wish to strongly endorse the consensus conclusion on the Programme Committee on IPPC funding. Still on standard sitting work we would also like to note and welcome the Eighty-seventh Programme Committee's conclusion that Codex and Codex-related activities, including the scientific expert bodies that provided advice to Codex, JECFA and JMPR, be adequately funded.

Finally, we welcome the Programme Committee's conclusions on Fisheries and Forestry and, in particular, the Committee's recommendations on the relative preferential treatment of resource allocations in these sectors.

**Ms. Mwatima A. JUMA (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

Firstly, we would like to associate ourselves with the comment made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group. From the outset I would like to say that the work of the Eighty-seventh Session of the Programme Committee is quite commendable. We also highly appreciate the work done by the External Evaluation experts, however, we wish to add the following comments.

Regarding the SPFS, issues raised in the reports are quite pertinent and necessary for consideration as we plan to upscale the programme. In a nutshell, the pilot phase of the SPFS in the United Republic of Tanzania has provided us with invaluable lessons for helping our farmers attain household food security and improved income. The participatory group formed by the beneficiaries through the Programme ensure programme ownership by participating farmers. We also commend the Programme for being people-centred, focusing on resource-poor farmers and women.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania plans to upscale the lessons learned under the SPFS, through the Agriculture Sector Development Programme, which is the umbrella programme for the development of the agriculture sector. Furthermore, for increased impact of the

SPFS, we see that greater emphasis on livestock activities be considered as this will ensure farmers' access to animal protein and increase family incomes.

The transboundary nature of locusts and the capability to destroy crops on a massive scale call for international community to give top priority to the control of locusts. Therefore, we also stress that extra-budgetary resources are essential for the control of not only the desert locust but also the red locusts that have breeding areas in the United Republic of Tanzania but pose a threat to other African countries.

**Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)**

La délégation gabonaise remercie M. Berteling pour la présentation très claire des deux rapports du Comité du Programme qu'il a présidé jusqu'à présent de façon excellente, et nous lui souhaitons le meilleur succès dans la suite de sa carrière. Nous félicitons et remercions les membres du Comité du Programme pour le travail accompli et la qualité des rapports que nous appuyons. Nous faisons nôtre l'intervention de la délégation du Zimbabwe sur ce point et voudrions souligner certains aspects concernant le point 4.a du Rapport de la session de mai 2002 "Évaluation externe du PSSA". Nous appuyons particulièrement les conclusions du Comité du Programme sur l'Évaluation externe du PSSA et nous félicitons avec les membres de ce Comité le succès de cette démarche, dans la mesure où comme nous l'a dit son Président, les critiques faites ont été traitées par la direction de la FAO comme des recommandations permettant d'améliorer ce programme très important pour les pays en développement. A cet égard, nous voudrions appuyer particulièrement certaines conclusions du Comité du Programme, à savoir, l'importance et l'impact directe du PSSA sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, la nécessité d'un meilleur équilibre homme/femme dans le PSSA, l'enrichissement que constitue la coopération Sud-Sud pour la coopération technique, ainsi que l'intérêt de solliciter davantage les compétences nationales.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

Let me congratulate Mr Berteling once again. Those of us who have had the opportunity of working with you have enjoyed it thoroughly. We are glad that your country has acknowledged this by calling you back home - and I knew that this would happen; the way things were going. I want to assure you that we will be expecting your inputs, indirectly, from home to FAO, IFAD and WFP.

I have found the Report very interesting and encouraging in most of the aspects covered. I do not want to spend time repeating the recommendations that have been given by many delegates. First, I fully associate myself with the statement presented by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group. Second, I want to associate myself with the statement issued by my good friend, Bashir Khan from Pakistan, with respect to the Special Programme on Food Security in his presentation.

Paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 capture the essentials of the comments one would want to make. The Committee acted in an independent and objective manner. It came out with conclusions that were quite encouraging, some obviously critical but constructive. It stated in paragraph 22 that the potential of this programme lies in it being owned nationally and indeed, extending that further, owned by the participants themselves.

Paragraph 33 talks about the question of monitoring and evaluation. I have had the singular privilege of seeing this programme operated in China and two or three Latin American countries. I have also had the privilege of reading the External Review report, briefly, two days before this meeting. I am glad to say that the comments from the Programme Committee do reflect, virtually entirely, what one could have thought would be a reasonable conclusion of the evaluation.

I am particularly glad that the External Review Report came out the way it did because at one time I noticed that this issue was becoming a little thorny in the Council - at least during the last year or so that I have been here. One is happy that the conclusions that have now been drawn by

the Programme Committee confirm: the Programme is relevant; that it is working; that it is beneficial to the participants; and that it has a potential.

I have noted some comments in paragraph 26 that, while saying that the South-South Cooperation was important and useful, it made a statement that would tend to give the impression as though the engagement of national expertise may not be as important. It says "Other Members of the Committee also noted that there was a need to relate the South-South Cooperation closely to the specific needs and absorptive capacity of host countries and that greater engagement of national expertise could also be important". It just cannot be "could also be important"; the engagement of the national expertise anchor the sustainability of this programme. While we do not want this Council to be left with the impression that the South-South Cooperation is the anchor and the engagement of the nationals becomes subsidiary. I hold a contrary view. I do not think that was what was intended to be conveyed there but I hope it is not.

Finally, there was a comment about strengthening the monitoring and evaluation function. I am glad that the SPFS appears to be bringing in this matter to the fore. Quite frankly I hold the view, and support the position that the Programme should be monitored quite closely. I think the evaluation of that Programme will be the ultimate hallmark of its success.

Secondly, the question of demand-driven nature of the Programme should please be strengthened, I read in paragraph 25 of this submission, as though there are some countries that may not qualify for the so-called LIFDCs which are the primary targets of this Programme. Since there are other countries who may not necessarily qualify under this description but who are nevertheless interested, there is the need to take cognizance of the demand driven nature of the Programme and I think this point has been emphasized. Therefore, the national ownership, the fact that it should be demand-driven, the fact that it is a process that is likely to enhance the domestic food security of the participants are important factors.

I am encouraged and I want to thank sincerely Mr Berteling again. I am particularly interested in the Programme because my country is involved in it and one would want to know where we are going. This document has become the reference point.

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan)**

I would like to thank the Secretariat and Mr Berteling. I am also a Member of the Programme Committee. During the Spring session, when Mr Berteling submitted his withdrawal, the Group of 77 asked us to try to get Mr Berteling to stay especially since he always directed the activities of the Programme Committee in a brilliant way. Unfortunately, we could not stop him and on behalf of the Group of 77, we would like to congratulate him and thank him for all his efforts. He never spared himself even in the autumn and spring sessions of the Programme Committee. We would also like to pay homage to the way he managed everything. We are convinced he will always be in contact with FAO, and he will continue to allow us to benefit from his experience.

On behalf of the Group of 77, we would like to give him heartfelt thanks for the efforts he has made, and wish him great success in his future activities.

**Kwaku Owusa BAAH (Ghana)**

My delegation wishes to congratulate Mr Berteling, Chairman of the Programme Committee, and his team for a job well done.

We also take note of his resignation as Chairman of the Committee due to his reassignment. We find his withdrawal from Rome as a big blow. However, we would like to wish him well at his new assignment.

My delegation wishes to associate with the previous speakers, in asserting the report of the Programme Committee. Ghana wishes to acknowledge the progress and impact made by the pilot phase of the special programme on food security in our country. However, in order that certain critical activities do not come to a standstill, we wish to appeal for the programme's extension into a second phase.

Allow me to comment on the subject of South-South Cooperation experience in Ghana. As far as the SPFS goes, Ghana lacked the necessary infrastructure to take in the large numbers of experts that came into the country with the SPFS. This therefore caused a dislocation with regard to the provision of housing and other amenities for the experts. It is our view that the issue of South-South Cooperation may have to be revisited and be made a demand-driven exercise, so that countries will have to request before such experts are sent into those countries.

We wish to suggest, further that as much as possible, local expertise be considered as an option in future SPFS programmes.

#### **CHAIRMAN**

I think we have heard a lot of valuable comments and we have heard the endorsement of the Council of both reports and now it is the time for Mr Berteling to take the floor to present his comments in the light of the discussions.

#### **Jan BERTELING (Chairman of the Programme Committee)**

I thank the Members of the Council and the Observers first of all for the very nice words they have used in speaking about me as Chairman. I thank you for that. As I said earlier, I have enjoyed doing the work I have done, and I realize that I was able to do that in the first place because of the other Committee members, and I really thank you for the way we were able to cooperate with all former colleagues here in Rome, and their staff, which made it possible to work in this way. So thank you.

I think a number of comments were very useful and important. The Report gave a very brief summary of the special programme so let us start with that, and I am happy that at least a few members mentioned a number of the issues contained in the report, because it means they realize that a lot still has to be done. It was indeed a good report, we were pleased with how it was taken up by Management and we are looking forward to the Progress Report of the Programme Committee next year, but a number of points have to be changed and a number of things really have to be followed up.

I think that most details regard what has to be done, and it is sometimes interesting especially to see where some of the Representatives give emphasis. For example, on the issue of national donorship, I absolutely agree with what the Ambassador of Zimbabwe said, it is essential, it has not been always the case, and that is why it is specifically mentioned.

The same is true with the direct involvement of the households, I believe that it is very true what Ghana has just said, and indeed it might be useful to look into South-South Cooperation and how it is done, that it should be demand driven. This was not always the case, but that does not mean that South South Cooperation is good or bad. I think it is good but it has to be demand driven.

Nigeria drew attention to paragraph 6, saying that national expertise could also be important, and in his opinion was more important than South-South Cooperation as such. This is basically the same point, but phrased a bit differently.

These are all points that we did indeed discuss, and that is why they are in this Report, which has to be tackled in the first place by the Secretariat. In the second place when the countries concerned are the countries that are assisted through this special programme, only then can it become an effective programme almost everywhere.

There are problems in a number of countries and that is not uncommon. If there were no problems you could even question the relevance of it. That is part of development, but we have to work together on improving it and that is what I believe will happen.

So, I think that these comments have been very useful. I have not heard other specific questions. I noted that a number of other issues that I or others have brought up, have been mentioned in support of what is there, and I basically agree with these comments and hope that the Programme Committee, will continue to consider those issues.

So, Mr Chairman thank you very much and I thank through you also the Membership, the Council and also the staff for the cooperation.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation)**

I will just respond very briefly because I do not really believe there are questions in the interventions made.

Two points: one is on the comments on the independence of evaluation. I just wish to advise the Council that there will be a paper going to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Independence and Location of Evaluation, in part, as a response of the Council's previous comments on this issue and also in response to a comment made by the External Auditor. So that will go to the next session of the Joint Meeting.

The other point is that I would like to say, on behalf of the Secretariat, that we also would like to thank Mr Berteling for his very positive contribution to the work of the Committee.

**CHAIRMAN**

Just before concluding the Item 12 of our Agenda, I would like to express my thanks to Ambassador Berteling and I believe that the whole Council wishes to do so too. I wish you well in your new responsibilities.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 30*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas*





# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
SESTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**30 October 2002**

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours  
Mr Wilfred Ngirwa,  
Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred Ngirwa,  
Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Wilfred Ngirwa,  
Vice Presidente del Consejo

#### **IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

(continued)

#### **IV. QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME, AU BUDGET, AUX FINANCES ET À L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**

#### **IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

**13. Reports of the Ninety-eighth (Rome, January 2002), Ninety-ninth (Rome, May 2002) and Hundredth (Rome, September 2002) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 123/13; CL 123/14; CL 123/15)**

**13. Rapports de la quatre-vingt dix-huitième session (Rome, janvier 2002), de la quatre-vingt dix-neuvième session (Rome, mai 2002) et de la centième session (Rome, septembre 2002) du Comité financier (CL 123/13; CL 123/14; CL 123/15)**

**13. Informes del 98º (Roma, enero de 2002), 99º (Roma, mayo de 2002) y 100º (Roma, septiembre de 2002) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (CL 123/13; CL 123/14; CL 123/15)**

*13.1 Status of Contributions 2002 (CL 123/LIM/1)*

*13.1 Situation des contributions 2002 (CL 123/LIM/1)*

*13.1 Estado de las cuotas de 2002 (CL 123/LIM/1)*

*13.2 Budgetary Performance 2000-2001*

*13.2 Exécution du budget 2000-2001*

*13.2 Ejecución del presupuesto de 2000-2001*

*13.3 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports*

*13.3 Autres questions découlant des rapports*

*13.3 Otros asuntos planteados en los informe*

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the sixth meeting of the Hundred and Twenty-third Session of the Council open.

We shall begin with item 13 of our Agenda entitled Reports of the Ninety-eighth, Ninety-ninth, Hundredth and the Hundred and First Sessions of the Finance Committee. We have three sub-items on our Agenda. Sub-item 13.1 on the Status of Contributions Year 2002, sub-item 13.2 on the Budgetary Performance for 2000 to 2001 and Sub-item 13.3 on Other Matters Arising out of the Reports of the Finance Committee.

Documents relating to item 13 are CL 123/13, CL 123/14, CL 123/15 and CL 123/23. These contain the reports of the Ninety-eighth, Ninety-ninth, Hundredth and Hundred and First Sessions of the Finance Committee. Document CL 123/LIM/1, which details the Status of the Contributions in 2002 and which is presented to the Council for information, was drafted by the Secretariat to update the information provided in the reports of the Hundredth Session of the Finance Committee. Thus, as of 28 October 2002, the Organization had received 289 million US Dollars as contributions for the year 2002 which is higher than the contributions received by the same time of year in the last five years.

On the other hand, 67 Member Nations, over 36 percent of the Membership of the Organization, have not made any payment towards the year 2002 assessment. In addition, 65 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding from the year 2001 and previous years. I should like to stress that the issues requiring the attention of the Council are listed in the table given at the beginning of the Reports of the Finance Committee.

In particular, under sub-item 13.3 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports, the Council will be asked to approve a Draft Resolution on Audited Accounts for the year 2000 to 2001 and to

forward this draft to the Conference. The Resolution is given in paragraph 44 of document CL 123/15. It might also wish to approve the revised version of Staff Regulation 301.3.35 on Eligibility for Education Grant given in paragraph 67 of document CL 123/15.

Mr Molina Reyes, Chairman of the Finance Committee, will now present the Report of the Sessions of the Finance Committee. Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General of Administration and Finance Department, may also introduce this item if he so wishes.

**Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Me complace estar aquí con ustedes para presentar los Informes de los cuatro períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas que se han celebrado en el año 2002. Dichos informes, como usted bien lo ha señalado, se presentan al Consejo en los documentos CL 123/13, CL 123/14, CL 123/15, CL 123/23. En nuestro 98° período de sesiones celebrado en el mes de enero, el Comité eligió por unanimidad al señor Anthony Beatty, Representante del Reino Unido, como Vicepresidente de nuestro Comité para el año 2002. Observen que nuestros 98° y 101° períodos de sesiones constituyeron un período extraordinario de sesiones, que se convocaron para tratar exclusivamente cuestiones relativas al Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Nuestros informes sobre estas cuestiones ya han sido presentados a la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para su examen. Los programas de nuestros dos períodos de sesiones ordinarios cubrieron un amplio abanico de asuntos presupuestarios, financieros, administrativos, que se referían y afectan a la situación general de la Organización. Además de examinar la situación financiera de la Organización, el Comité también examinó cuestiones referentes a la supervisión, incluidos el Informe Anual del Inspector General y el Informe del Auditor Externo. Como es habitual, en dichos períodos de sesiones también se celebraron reuniones conjuntas con el Comité del Programa.

En la presente introducción desearía poner de relieve los puntos de interés general para el Consejo y/o de aquellos que requieren la adopción de sesiones como muy bien ha señalado el Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Respecto al estado de las cuotas de 2002, en los dos períodos de sesiones ordinarios celebrados este año, el Comité manifestó su preocupación por el empeoramiento de la situación financiera de la Organización, tanto por lo que respecta a la liquidez como al déficit del Fondo General. El Comité reconoció que los atrasos en la recepción de las cuotas podrían obligar a la Organización a recurrir a préstamos bancarios, pero manifestó su esperanza de que se lograra evitar los préstamos externos. Sobre este particular, como también ha señalado el Presidente Independiente del Consejo en el documento CL 103/LIM/1, párrafo 7, pueden ver ustedes que esta situación ha mejorado sensiblemente.

Entre los principales factores que contribuían a la débil situación financiera de la Organización, cabe destacar los atrasos en el pago de las cuotas, las pérdidas registradas en las inversiones a largo plazo, el adeudo de determinados gastos para los cuales no se había previsto financiación, tales como la amortización del pasivo a la asistencia médica después de la separación del servicio.

Tras examinar las graves consecuencias de la situación financiera para la Organización, el Comité, en primer lugar, hizo un nuevo llamamiento a los Estados Miembros con atrasos para que reconocieran los problemas de liquidez que afrontaba la Organización y pidió que las cuotas y los atrasos se liquidaran tan pronto como fuera posible. Subrayó la importancia del pago de las cuotas y de los atrasos como tema de debate en la reunión de los grupos regionales. Recomendó que el Comité General de la Conferencia siguiera analizando los criterios para la aplicación del Artículo 3.4 de la Constitución referente a la pérdida del derecho de voto.

Las deliberaciones sobre la situación financiera de la Organización figuran de forma detallada en el CL 123/14, párrafos 15 al 40, CL 123/15, párrafos 34 al 40. Además en el documento adicional, CL 123/LIM/1, se presenta una actualización del estado de las cuotas que, como he mencionado a la fecha de este informe, es mejor y corresponde a un 89,32 por ciento de pagado respecto al total.

En cuanto a la ejecución del presupuesto de 2000-2001, de conformidad con el Artículo 4.6 del Reglamento Financiero, el Comité examinó el 35º Informe Anual del Director General sobre la ejecución del presupuesto y las transferencias en el programa y el presupuesto, que se adjunta como Anexo 1 al documento CL 123/14.

En el informe se resumía la ejecución financiera efectiva del programa ordinario con respecto a las consignaciones presupuestarias para el 2000-2001, y se daba cuenta de un gasto neto global inferior en 11,8 millones de dólares a la consignación de 650 millones de dólares. El Comité observó que en 2000-2001 no se requirieron transferencias presupuestarias entre capítulos y concluyó que el Director General había administrado prudentemente las consignaciones. El Comité refrendó ese Informe para su transmisión al Consejo. El Comité dedicó un tiempo considerable a este tema y sus consideraciones se detallan en el documento CL 123/14, párrafos 4 al 14.

En cuanto a otros temas planteados en los informes, quisiera llamar la atención del Consejo sobre aquellas cuestiones relativas a la gestión de recursos humanos. El Comité acogió con satisfacción el informe sobre cuestiones relativas a la gestión de recursos humanos, y observó que era necesario declarar los calendarios, establecer bases de referencias y perfeccionar los indicadores con el objeto de evaluar de forma más eficaz los progresos en relación con la gestión de los recursos humanos. El Comité, reconociendo que el Personal es el activo más importante de la Organización, propuso que la cuestión se examinara de manera periódica. Nuestro informe detallado sobre este particular figura en el documento CL 123/14, párrafos 52 al 58.

Otro tema que llamo a la atención del distinguido Consejo, es el Informe parcial sobre el proyecto Oracle. El Comité ha reconocido que el proyecto Oracle tiene una relación directa con los objetivos estratégicos de la FAO en el ámbito de las cuestiones intersectoriales y, por consiguiente, examinó este asunto en sus dos períodos de sesiones ordinarios. Tomó nota del éxito de la actualización del sistema financiero Oracle a la versión 11.i; sin embargo, manifestó su preocupación por las repercusiones que la falta de recursos podría tener sobre el proyecto. Si bien es necesario avanzar con la fase 2, ello requerirá importantes recursos financieros. Según los cálculos, para completar esta fase se necesitarían alrededor de 27 millones de dólares. El Comité consideró que era necesario informar el Consejo, ya que en caso que no se recibieran las cuotas atrasadas habría que postergar el proyecto relativo a la fase 2. Sobre este particular los documentos CL 123/14, párrafos 65 al 74, y CL 123/15, párrafos 77 al 90, incluyen más información detallada sobre esta importante cuestión.

Cuestiones relativas a la moneda funcional y protección del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto contra las fluctuaciones de los tipos de cambio. El Comité expresó su aprecio por la respuesta que había dado la Organización en su compromiso anterior de obtener asesoramiento de expertos externos sobre este complejo tema, y acogió con satisfacción el amplio e instructivo informe. El Comité tomó nota de la conclusión del experto externo según la cual actualmente la moneda funcional apropiada para la FAO era el dólar de Estados Unidos.

El Comité recordó que había acuerdos generales en cuanto a la necesidad de proteger lo más posible el Programa de Labores aprobado, contra los efectos de la fluctuación de los tipos de cambio. Tomó nota de la recomendación del experto externo, que era favorable a un sistema de cuotas en dos monedas, y de la opinión análoga expresada por el Auditor Externo. El Comité observó que la cuestión era compleja, reconociendo, al mismo tiempo, la necesidad de que la Conferencia llegara a una decisión al respecto en el marco del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 2004-2005. Decidió, no obstante, que necesitaba más información antes de llegar a una conclusión sobre este asunto y formular una recomendación al Consejo. Sobre este particular el Comité volverá a examinar esta cuestión junto con la información adicional solicitada en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2003, con el fin de lograr la ratificación de la propuesta concreta para el Consejo, antes de la eventual decisión de la Conferencia en noviembre de 2003. Nuestro informe pormenorizado sobre este asunto, figura en el documento CL 123/15, párrafos 23 al 30.

Cuentas Comprobadas de la FAO 2000-2001. De conformidad con el Artículo 27.7 (1) del Reglamento General, el Comité examinó las Cuentas Comprobadas de la FAO para el bienio

2000-2001 y manifestó su satisfacción por el dictamen sin reserva emitido por el auditorio. En respuesta a un largo elenco de preguntas y observaciones formuladas por el Comité, el Director y el Auditor Externo de la Secretaría, se proporcionarán explicaciones y aclaraciones pormenorizadas sobre las valiosas recomendaciones del Auditor Externo. Los pormenores de este interesante debate figuran en el documento CL 123/15, párrafos 41 al 45.

El Comité señaló que, en consecuencia con la práctica anterior, se presentaría en su período de sesiones de mayo de 2003 un Informe sobre la aplicación de las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo de modo tal de incluir todas aquellas observaciones y recomendaciones formuladas también en períodos anteriores.

El Comité recomendó que el Consejo remitiera a la Conferencia para su aprobación las cuentas comprobadas relativas al bienio 2000-2001. El correspondiente proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia figura en el documento CL 123/15, párrafo 44, como fuera enunciado por el Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Derecho al Subsidio de Educación, nuevo párrafo 301.3.35 en el estatuto del Personal. El Comité examinó la justificación de la ampliación del pago del Subsidio de Educación hasta el final del año académico sin superar un año académico completo, en el caso que un funcionario falleciera durante el año académico. El Comité acordó que se presentara al Consejo para su aprobación un nuevo párrafo del estatuto del Personal, cuyo tema figura en el párrafo 67 del documento CL 123/15. Señaló que la aprobación de dicha disposición alinearía la FAO con la práctica ya adoptada por las Naciones Unidas. En consecuencia sugiero al Comité la aprobación de esta modificación.

Informe sobre la gestión de las inversiones a largo plazo. El Comité tomó nota de la composición y el objetivo de la cartera de inversiones a largo plazo a la luz de las difíciles condiciones del mercado y las pérdidas obtenidas. El Comité tomó nota de que la Secretaría tenía intención de realizar un examen importante de los objetivos de la cartera de inversiones a largo plazo y la asignación apropiada del activo en apoyo a sus objetivos. El Comité pidió que se realizara una actualización sobre la inversión a largo plazo en su sesión de mayo de 2003.

Entre otras cosas, el examen se ocuparía de la división de la parte de las acciones de la cartera a largo plazo entre un inversor de valor y uno del crecimiento, y los niveles apropiados de referencia para la supervisión de la cartera. El Comité tomó nota de la preocupación de la Secretaría porque el producto de la cartera a largo plazo, aunque ésta estuviera bien administrada, sería insuficiente para cubrir todo el pasivo relativo al personal, especialmente teniendo en cuenta el costo creciente del seguro médico después de la separación del servicio. Quiero contarles que al 31 de diciembre del año 2001 el pasivo no registrado y no financiado para la asistencia médica después de la separación del servicio ascendía a 104 millones de dólares.

En conclusión, en términos generales los períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas fueron muy fructíferos y, en particular, considero que fue posible tratar una serie de cuestiones cruciales en sus aspectos financieros y presupuestarios a la que se ve enfrentada la Organización.

En nombre de los miembros del Comité quisiera expresar nuestro aprecio a la Directora del Auditor Externo saliente, la señora Michelle Guduvier, que representó al Court des Comptes de Francia, Auditor Externo, que ha sido un excelente y abnegado trabajo que nos ha permitido obtener información muy valiosa de apoyo para el Comité. De igual manera, quisiera también darle la bienvenida al nuevo Auditor Externo que es el Auditor General de la India. De igual forma quisiera expresar nuestro aprecio a la Secretaría por la asistencia prestada a nuestras deliberaciones y nuestra gratitud a los Estados Miembros de la FAO por brindarnos esta oportunidad de contribuir a la importante labor de la Organización. La labor del Comité ha ido incrementándose, nuevos temas han surgido, nuevos requerimientos del apoyo del Comité de alguna manera enriquecen la labor del Comité de Finanzas.

Quedo a disposición de usted y, por cierto, de este honorable Consejo para proporcionar mayores explicaciones o comentarios que pueda desear de nuestros informes.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

The United States is a Member of the Finance Committee and I am sure that many of you when faced with the quantity of documents that were prepared for the meeting of the Finance Committee had the same horrified reaction that I did.

The Finance Committee is important but it is overburdened. We are, however, endowed with a very genial Chairman, our colleagues, as well as the help that was provided by the Secretariat and by the External Auditor. I would like to add my words of appreciation to all those who helped us plow through the very important issues that were raised. There are many issues, and I will try to be brief, but I did want to comment on the issues that were reported by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

First of all, the weak financial situation of the Organization. I would like to express appreciation to the Secretariat for promptly updating the documents to reflect recent payments including that of US\$ 65 million from the United States. I would like to say it remains our goal to pay our arrears to the Organization in full by the end of this calendar year, and I am encouraged by the progress that has been achieved in Washington in completing the necessary documentation for this process. I hope to have even more concrete news soon, although I am not empowered to say anymore right now. I understand that 89 percent of the amounts due to the Organization have been paid which is very encouraging.

Nonetheless, there are still issues confronting the Organization in the order as they were presented. Let me comment on the management of human resources. The strength of the Organization is its people and we applaud the efforts to increase training and orientation for the staff as they strive for excellence. We are also very interested in plans to enhance the geographic diversity and gender diversity to take advantage of the full range of resources that are available to such an incredibly diverse and rich Organization such as FAO. We look forward to hearing more from the Human Resource Management staff on plans to improve the representation geographically and gender-wise of the staff.

On the Oracle project, we are very pleased that it is back on track, that it is making good progress and that many of the difficulties have been ironed out. We hope that as the Organization strengthens financially it will be able to proceed with the extension of this very important modernization project to other areas in the Organization, such as payroll and financial management.

On the split assessment issue that was raised, we appreciate the great deal of work that was done by the Secretariat and by the external consultant who provided a report. I noticed from the translation that it is difficult to capture this technology. The functional currency which is used in the Organization is the US dollar. I believe it was translated as the most appropriate currency which perhaps anticipates a conclusion, it is *de facto* the functional currency. However, what has been suggested is that Members of the Organization be given the option to pay their assessments either in US dollars or in other currencies. This would most likely go in Euros since the expenditures of the Organization are divided between payments in US dollars and in other currencies, including the Euro predominantly for salaries since Headquarters is in the Euro Zone.

I am sure people will think that we do not support such a split assessment system because it would mean that we would not pay a full assessment in US dollars. We have no such nationalistic attachment, but that is not the reason for not supporting a split currency assessment.

We do not support the proposal because we feel our experience has shown us that this system is extremely troublesome and potentially costly. We will look forward to examining it in great detail with Mr Wade who has explained it very clearly in a briefing session to Members of the Organization based on the very sophisticated presentation - we said Powerpoint because he used the slides to show this proposal. I think that what stands out in that proposal is a possible foreign exchange risk posed to the Organization in the next biennium. I think that is based on certain assumptions which may or may not come true. As an economist myself, I am quite enamoured of making assumptions, but they are just assumptions and they are not facts.

Therefore, I really think we need to look hard at a system that would require every single Member of the Organization to pay indeed in two currencies. Although this might facilitate planning and reduce foreign exchange risks for the FAO, it would impose, we believe, a burden on the Members of the Organization. We do not have a problem if Members would choose to pay their assessments in other than US dollars but I believe that the proposal that is favoured by the Secretariat is that every Member would pay a fixed percentage in one currency and the balance in another currency. We have tried this in the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, and I believe in Unesco they use a similar system and it is extremely difficult to administer.

Let me comment on the great work done by the External Auditor, and welcome the new External Auditor. The External Auditor provided in its long-term detailed recommendations on many parts of the Organization and the Secretariat to its great credit has also responded very quickly with an action plan indicating its acceptance of the largest part of these recommendations and quick action in some cases to implement the recommendations made.

However, I know that this Secretariat would be glad to explain the reasons for certain delays that they have experienced in the past due to staff shortages etc. but I believe the problems experienced, for example, in the Treasury operation of the Organization have exacerbated investment losses and we all know that this is not an easy international environment in which to operate.

However, I think realistic targets were set for the investment manager, and I should hasten to add that their offices were located in the World Trade Center. If my recollection is correct, they lost 84 of their personnel when that building collapsed due to terrorist attacks, therefore, I am not blaming that Organization. I do believe that the investment strategy that they have followed is not appropriate to the kind of market we have for investments right now. The Secretariat could have moved more quickly to divide the portfolio and therefore reduce the risk to the investment portfolio and should move since we cannot undo the past we should move very quickly now.

Another recommendation for the auditors is for an external committee of sages and advisory committee on investments to meet more often and they had not met very frequently, and they have now proposed to meet annually. I think market conditions are changing very rapidly. I think we need all the help we can get and I would urge the Secretariat not to delay, to seek advice, to reduce the losses that have occurred in that investment portfolio.

Secondly, as our Chairman mentioned, the proceeds from investment had been earmarked to cover After Service Medical Costs. This means for the people that retire from the FAO as they age and may get ill like all of us do. Even when you age people say that it is better than the alternative of getting ill, it is not your favourite alternative but it is unavoidable perhaps, it seems to be sure. I note that going back to the personnel management issues I think 70 percent of staff of the FAO is reaching retirement age. We believe that if you make some assumptions and projection to the future that these after service medical costs will rise, and the problem with earmarking a volatile source of income from the investment portfolio for what, I believe, will be an increasing cost, it is somewhat difficult. I think we need an assured means of financing that out of the Regular Budget if necessary.

I agree with the action that was taken on continuing education for staff members who might die while they are serving with FAO in the line of duty. As I have already mentioned that I do appreciate the work and how difficult it is for the Secretariat to respond to our many questions and with the help of the External Auditor who looks into these matters in a more profound way, then we might be able to.

I would say however the Finance Committee is being asked, more and more often, to take on additional tasks and we would not have been able to complete our work if the WFP documents had not been considered in a separate session which lasted two days. The WFP picked up the additional costs that resulted from having a Special Session. There are disadvantages to a Special Session because people like our dear Chairman had to come from afar and may not be able to leave their duties in Capital. We need to remember what the central purpose of the Finance

Committee is, and that is to look out for FAO's interest and we are being asked to look at Audited Accounts for other important projects and we are not being given any additional time for these duties. Therefore, it could affect the quality as well as the quantity of work that we are being asked to do.

Therefore, I would ask the indulgence of the Membership to consider alternatives for giving the Committee time to do its job because it is important work and it is important to this Organization's future.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je désire vous demander la parole au nom du délégué du Danemark et au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

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

The reports of the Ninety-ninth and Hundred and tenth Sessions of the Finance Committee show that the financial position of the Organization continues to weaken. We view this with particular concern and fully endorse the conclusions of the Committee recorded in paragraph 27 of the Report of the Ninety-ninth Session. It is vital that Member States pay their assessed contributions promptly and in full. It is unacceptable that FAO should face the prospect of borrowing money because of delays in payments of Assessed Contributions. We reiterate, as we said at the Hundred and twenty-first Session of the Council last November, that the rules relating to loss of voting rights for Members in arrears should be strictly applied.

We have studied carefully the report of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements for 2000 to 2001 and we are satisfied to note the unqualified certificate. At the same time, we are very concerned by the judgements in the long-term report, notably relating to internal control and study of fraud. We note that the Secretariat agrees with criticisms and has produced an outline for an action to remedy deficiencies identified. We should like to know whether the outline has now developed into a full plan and what timetable is envisaged for the implementation of the plan.

The European Community and its fifteen Member States are glad to see that the Finance Committee has embarked on discussion of its programme of work for 2002 to 2003 with the new External Auditor. We support the principle that the Finance Committee should be fully involved in the selection of specific areas of work for examination and we welcome the Committee's decision to discuss next May the issue of separate reports on such examinations.

We look forward to the Committee's recommendations next year on functional currency and protection of the Programme of Work against exchange rate fluctuations. The European Community and its fifteen Member States are ready to play full part in discussion of those important issues.

We are grateful for the detailed and comprehensive reports from the Committee and note with satisfaction the important contribution made by the outgoing External Auditor to the Committee's deliberations and we look forward to similarly close and constructive relationship between the Committee and the new External Auditor.

Finally, we note – once more – our concern that the Committee is not being allowed sufficient time to transact its business.

**Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)**

Let me first express my thanks to the Chairman and the Members of the Finance Committee for the quality of the reports that have been presented to us. The reports are, indeed, comprehensive and very informative. They highlight the large range of important matters that the Committee has examined.

In the Report of the One Hundredth Session of the Finance Committee, the weakening financial position of the Organization underlines the following important points to the attention of the



Committee: firstly, the deficit has deteriorated during the reporting period; secondly, contributions received from 1 January 2002 to 6 September 2002 were higher than those received in recent years due to the World Food Summit: *five years later*; thirdly, in spite of the higher level of receipt of contributions, the Organization, would still face a serious liquidity shortage from October, which might require a source for external borrowing in November, should the expected contribution of the Major Contributors be delayed; four, the Special Reserve Account balance was almost depleted and could not be replenished; and five, the Secretariat addressing ways of improving the rate of TCP expenditure.

We support the view of the Committee that it should give, as a matter of routine, some attention to the way the financial situation of the Organization is evolving over the remainder of the biennium.

For the 2000-2001 biennium, as we are informed in paragraph 42 of the document CL 123/15, the Committee examined the FAO Audited Accounts, noting that the External Auditor had issued a qualified opinion, summarizing the main conclusions, which indicate a worsening financial position of the Organization.

It is not my intention to repeat the main conclusions of the External Auditor, but I wish to place on record that my delegation has duly noted them and we expect that the Secretariat will attend to them promptly.

The delegation of Cyprus supports the adoption of the Draft Resolution, presented in paragraph 44 of the document CL 123/15 and its submission to the Conference.

The External Auditor has also identified a wide-ranging and serious criticism of the internal control arrangements in FAO. We welcome the positive response of the Secretariat and its preparedness to outline an action plan, which accepts virtually all of the criticisms and sets out a timetable for addressing them.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

I would like to compliment the Finance Committee for the very detailed Report and we recommend its adoption, but I would like to make a few observations.

Which is the technical assistance on FIVIMS and WAICENT to developing countries that should be enhanced? Developing countries should be funded for the studies, which could provide elaborate information on food supply and demand and market analysis for the long-term global outlook.

FAO's collaborative partnership on forest with UN conventions on biological diversity, climate change and convention to combat desertification should be strengthened.

In the case of SPFS Programmes, remuneration to technicians and experts needs to be enhanced because on many occasions they work in very difficult environments.

**Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

We appreciate the quality reports of the Finance Committee and would like to make the following few comments.

Firstly, on the report CL 123/13, and with particular reference to the report of the WFP innovation to improve the information system, we support this activity. This will bring improvement in the monitoring of projects, resulting in greater efficiency and effectively managing the pledges and contributions.

On the Item on Balances of Projects closed of the same Report, we would want to urge WFP to pursue, with donor partners, the scope of using balances for such projects in identified need areas, which currently do not have adequate financial support. This, we hope, will ensure that the funding, which would have been contributed by donor partners, is put to good use.

On budgetary matters, from the document CL 123/14, with particular reference to the Item on Underspending, the African Region appreciates the proposal, which has been put forward to review the authority given to Regional and Sub-regional Offices as we believe that this will have

a positive impact on giving these offices more authority to commit their allotments. We urge that the rules to ensure the programme implementation are not jeopardized by the Organization's approval requirements.

We also want to make a brief comment on the financial Audit of the 2000-2001 biennium, with special reference to the Report on Investments. Earlier, I have heard colleagues make some comments on this and we reemphasize the point made earlier, regarding the need for the Secretariat to revisit the long-term investment portfolio, with a view to ensure that positive returns are received from such investments.

Notwithstanding the comments we have made, we want to congratulate the Secretariat and, in particular, the Director-General for managing appropriations in a prudent manner.

**Antônio Arturo PLAZA JIMÉNEZ (Chile)**

Desearíamos tratar dos temas, uno vinculado con inversiones y otro vinculado con los manejos de monedas o tipo de cambios.

En materia de inversiones, si la Organización reconoce dificultades en el pago de las contribuciones y en experimentar los mercados internacionales, creemos que es necesario que en las políticas de inversión se diversifiquen sus riesgos expandiendo por ello otros mercados y otros instrumentos donde se invierta, siempre bajo políticas conservadoras realistas que defiendan el patrimonio de la Organización. Nuestro país contribuiría con la Organización en esta materia si así fuera pertinente.

En cuanto al manejo de monedas, el incremento que ha experimentado el Dólar norteamericano y recientemente el Euro en nuestra región, ejerce grandes presiones con respecto a los pagos que tienen nuestros países con la Organización, pero al mismo tiempo propondría algunas ventajas a la Organización cuando ejecuta sus proyectos, debido a que gran parte de los costos en la ejecución de éstos son enfrentados en monedas nacionales. Sería interesante ver que los posibles ahorros por tipo de cambio que se producen pudieran ser utilizados para potenciar la gestión de la región, para realizar más proyectos.

Por lo anterior, me gustaría que la Secretaría pudiera indagar más esta posibilidad e informarnos.

**Rolf GERBER (Suisse)**

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier le Président du Comité financier de son Rapport fort détaillé, cela me permet de limiter mon intervention à deux points. Ma délégation souhaite soulever un point important du Rapport de la centième session du Comité financier, document CL 123/15. Nous constatons que le Conseil, cette fois-ci, n'a été informé que d'une manière indirecte du Rapport aux comptes de la France sur les comptes vérifiés de la FAO pour l'exercice 2000-2001. Ce rapport sera débattu plus en détail lors de la prochaine Conférence. Il est vrai que ce Rapport, fort intéressant, est en soi assez critique. Ceci dit, nous souhaiterons connaître les intentions du Directeur général en ce qui concerne l'engagement d'un nouvel Inspecteur général et notamment la date d'entrée en fonction de ce dernier. De plus, il nous apparaît important que les pays Membres soient informés d'une manière transparente de la façon dont la FAO entend tenir compte et mettre en œuvre les Recommandations contenues dans le Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes. La Suisse estime qu'il est d'une importance primordiale que l'Inspectorat interne de la FAO exerce son activité d'une manière donnant satisfaction aux pays Membres.

Ma délégation voudrait ajouter un élément supplémentaire concernant le document CL 123/LIM/1. Ma délégation a constaté avec satisfaction que les paiements des contributions ordinaires au 28 octobre 2002 ont augmenté par rapport à l'année dernière. J'espère que le reliquat de 34,6 millions de dollars soit payé dans les meilleurs délais. La FAO sera reconnaissante parce que la base financière est très mince.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his clear and excellent Report.

The issue I would like to address is that of the status of contributions for 2002.

Canada recognizes the very difficult circumstances that some Member Nations are facing. Nonetheless, we point out that just as we are asking FAO to set priorities, Member Countries must also decide whether FAO is a priority for them. It seemed clear to Canada, at the World Food Summit: *five years later* and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, that agriculture and food are indeed priorities for most countries.

The Secretariat has advised, at the One Hundredth Session of the Finance Committee, of the real possibility of a serious liquidity shortage in October this year. Canada believes that if Member Countries truly consider that FAO is a priority, they will take the necessary steps to allocate resources to this priority.

**Ms Mwatima A. JUMA (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

First, I would like to join hands on what has been presented by Zimbabwe, on behalf of the African countries.

I would also like to join all the others who have raised their concern on the issue of the payment in the 2002. There has been an increase in the number of Member Nations, who have paid in full, compared to previous years but we still noted with concern that there are still a large number of countries who have arrears and we requested that they have to pay to the Organization.

As we recall, we have requested the Organization to implement various programmes, which cannot be fulfilled without financial resources, and yet we recognize that there are so many of the areas that we need to pay for that matter.

On behalf of my delegation, I commend those who have fulfilled their obligations and we urge those Members with arrears to pay their dues promptly.

On the issue of the setting up of the split assessment, we would like to make a choice for the Member Nations to pay the currency of their own choice, either in US dollars or in Euro in support of what the United States of America has been talking about on the issue of paperwork and deciding to do the two currencies at the same time. We would like to take this stand of the Committee of choosing only one currency of its choice for each country for the payment.

**KIM KYEONG-KIU (Korea, Republic of)**

I would like to comment on document CL 123/15. This is paragraph 35. The last bullet concerns ways of improving TCP expenditure.

In the Council held last year, my delegation pointed out and expressed high concern about the rate of TCP expenditure in the Organization against this budget scheme.

I am pleased to hear that the Secretariat addressed ways of improving the rate in the Finance Committee. I would like to ask the Secretariat to report briefly to the Council on the latest expenditure rate of TCP, together with ways of improving it.

The expenditure rate of TCP, unfortunately, has a two-sided coin. For achieving independence efficiently and time-relevance of costs, the budget allocated to TCP should be disposed of in the current biennium as much as it is possibly allowed. The budget period for TCP projects only should be extended to the next biennium.

The other side of the coin is the impact on cash flow of the Organization. As we see in the first bullet of paragraph 42, the thorough disbursements of TCP funds might mitigate the bad cash flow position of FAO.

My argument is that the Organization should not fall into a situation in which it has to delay the disbursement of TCP because of the cash flow difficulty, and I would like to hear from the Secretariat if there is any possibility of that happening.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

My comments, apart from commending the report, are extremely brief; I do not intend repeating what others have said.

First, let me commend the FAO management on the outline of paragraphs 29 to 39 of CL 123/14. I note that the small savings that the Organization was able to make were directed to technical programmes that are very encouraging. We look forward this more and more as we go along. I also note that a substantial part of the savings came from the General Service; I hope that it was not to the detriment of the Organization itself. Having said that, I join those who have expressed concern about the fact that even with the pledges that were given last year, the Organization's status of funding still appeared to be on the decline. I do share the concern expressed by Canada, United Republic of Tanzania and other countries about people honouring their pledges.

In this regard, I would like to mention that my country, Nigeria, is one of those who are being told "you are still owing a substantial amount, close to a million dollars". As I mentioned to Mr Wade either yesterday or today, the entire monies from all the arrears have now been paid, it is now with the Central Bank. It is a matter of administrative transfer now to your account, so at least you are sure to receive US\$ 700.000 maybe this month.

In conclusion, the resolution contained in document CL 123/15 in paragraph 44 of that document, I would like to extend our endorsement and request that it goes to the Conference as per the request of Management.

**CHAIRMAN**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your contribution to this debate. It is my understanding that the Council endorses the Reports. It is agreed, I thank you very much.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**Humberto O. MOLINA REYES (Presidente del Comité de Finanzas)**

Quisiera dirigirme a ustedes sobre algunos comentarios de carácter general, que han sido dirigidos ya sea al propio Comité de Finanzas como a mi persona, puesto que gran parte de las inquietudes han sido dirigidas a la propia Secretaría.

El primer comentario que quisiera hacer es que aquí hay una cuestión de equilibrio para fortalecer en la posición financiera de la Organización y eso tiene que ver, por una parte, como se ha señalado, con el nivel de pago de las contribuciones; por otra parte, con el nivel de ingresos derivados de las inversiones de largo plazo y por último con los compromisos que tiene la Organización por el pago; por ejemploS en las cuestiones médicas del personal separado de la Organización. Por ello, es que tiene lógica, que en el Programa de Plazo Medio 2004-2009 que se analizó en la mañana, haya sido considerado como una posibilidad de financiamiento dentro de lo que se llama Presupuesto de Capital, 14,1 millones por cada bienio hasta el 2009, porque es evidente que la debilidad financiera de la Organización va a continuar mientras no podamos contemplar esos recursos, que es una obligación que tiene la Organización con los funcionarios que han entregado sus mejores años profesionales. Creo que ese es un elemento que deberá ser analizado y abordado, como muy bien se ha señalado de manera definitiva en el futuro.

Al mencionar estos tres elementos como sustantivo de la mayor fortaleza financiera de la Organización, una de las preocupaciones del propio Comité de Finanzas ha sido sobre el ritmo del nivel de los ingresos que podemos obtener de las inversiones de largo plazo, y en eso la Secretaría está haciendo esfuerzos para mejorar los mecanismos y poder detectar las variaciones que tiene este mundo moderno. La realidad financiera internacional nos va afectar nuevamente el próximo bienio, puesto que ustedes ven que en todos los países, cada una de sus propias economías han ido ajustando los pronósticos de crecimiento, por lo tanto la única forma de alcanzar una cierta

fortaleza en el presupuesto de la Organización es un compromiso serio con ella para el pago de las contribuciones. Entendemos las dificultades que pueden existir pero como Estados Miembros exigimos a la Organización que realice ciertas actividades prioritarias para nuestros países, aunque naturalmente debemos dar la misma prioridad al pago de las contribuciones. No hay otra forma de cómo se puede lograr un equilibrio y una fortaleza presupuestaria de la Organización.

Quisiera también decir dos palabras respecto a las recomendaciones del auditor externo. Gastamos mucho tiempo en analizar las distintas observaciones y recomendaciones que entregó el auditor externo y siempre las vimos desde un punto de vista positivo, porque obviamente toda la Organización puede mejorar su método de trabajo, disminuir sus riesgos, y por supuesto poder mejorar la entrega que hace a los objetivos del mandato de la Organización, por ello el propio Comité vio con gran beneplácito como la Secretaría entregó un Plan de Trabajo para ir absorbiendo esas distintas recomendaciones.

Quisiera agradecer el trabajo de cada uno de los Miembros del Comité de Finanza porque es de una gran complejidad.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)**

Some Members have noted that the External Auditors certificate was an unqualified one, I would just like to add to this that this unqualified certificate has been achieved despite the changeover to a new information management system, ongoing reorganization and decentralization and it has confirmed the underlying integrity of the accounts of the Organization.

There were one or two questions on the section of the Audit report internal controls, perhaps I could give some clarification and then I will pass the floor to my colleague who may have some comments to add on the investment area.

One of the questions was the recruitment and new appointment of the Inspector General. This position was advertised, we have received the applications, they are being evaluated, the next step is for the interviews to take place and then, in accordance procedure, the Director-General will be consulting the Finance Committee at its May Session, following which the appointment would be made. So, the process is moving along.

On the question of the implementation of the recommendations, as has been noted, we had submitted immediately an outline of how we plan to go about implementing the recommendations. Most of the recommendations have been implemented. There are some, for example, the one dealing with the Office of the Inspector General and the Evaluation Service, combining the two. This is going to be a document for the Finance Committee to consider in May, following that consideration, the decisions would be taken forward.

There is another one on the creation of the Audit Committee which the Organization has accepted. We are contacting other organizations in the UN System to see how their Audit Committees are composed and how they function so that we could choose an appropriate model for FAO.

We undertook to provide the Finance Committee in May with a full report on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor. They are progressing well and we hope to make that report to the Finance Committee in May.

With your permission, if I could pass the floor to Mr Nelson for him to react to some of the comments on the investments.

**Nicholas NELSON (Director, Finance Division)**

Yes, I did identify three general questions connected with investments which I should like to comment on. The distinguished delegate of the United States had a number of comments regarding investments. I would like to reassure Council, that we are taking action on several fronts on the long-term investment side including putting into application the principal advice of our outside Advisory Committee on Investments to conduct an in-depth asset study to determine the best ratio of our long-term holdings.

I would also like to confirm that investment performance since this summer is monitored on a daily basis with both. A long-term portfolio and a short-term portfolio. I would agree with the delegate's comment that FAO should seek, with the concurrence of Member Nations, a more reasonable and secure source to fund the growing After-Service Medical Care liability.

A comment from the distinguished delegate of Zimbabwe remarked that there is a need for the Secretariat to review the FAO long-term holdings to ensure positive returns. I should like to reassure you that the holdings themselves are securities of high quality and safety, but still their values are tied to market movements well beyond the control of any individual or individual entity. Of course our long-term objective is to see the values of the securities do rise.

The distinguished delegate of Chile spoke about the possibility of diversifying investments. One should note that these are, in fact, assets accumulated over 30 years of investment time and their object is to pay staff-related liabilities and I confirm that the holdings themselves are widely diversified, in terms of geographic allocation, currency holdings and the type of investment, as you know stocks, bonds and cash holdings.

The last comment was from the distinguished delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania, who spoke about a preference for a free choice of currency for membership making their contributions. I felt I needed to remark that having a free choice to pay assessments would, in fact, for the Secretariat represent more of a burden, because you must realize that the Secretariat would then end up coping with the unknown currency inflow; in addition to the uncertainty of the timing of the receipt which is already a challenge in terms of management of our liquidity.

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of item 13.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

#### **CHAIRMAN**

We now turn to Item 14 of our agenda entitled "Comparative Study of Staff Recruitment and Geographical Distribution Practices in the United Nations System". The document dealing with this item is CL 123/18. Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General for Finance, will introduce this item.

#### **14. Comparative Study of Staff Recruitment and Geographic Distribution Practices in the United Nations System (CL 123/18)**

#### **14. Étude comparative des usages en vigueur au sein du système des Nations Unies en matière de recrutement du personnel et de répartition géographique (CL 123/18)**

#### **14. Estudio comparativo de las prácticas de contratación de personal y distribución geográfica en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas (CL 123/18)**

#### **Kahlid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)**

This document CL 123/18 is being submitted to the Council in response to a request from the Conference, in fact in November 2001 during the review by the Conference of the Programme Implementation Report for 1998 to 1999. It noted the different recruitment practices amongst UN Agencies, in particular, in regard to geographic distribution and requested that a Comparative Study of FAO and UN practices, in this regard, be submitted to this Session of the Council.

In FAO, the Conference and Council have recognized the need to recruit staff on as wide a geographic basis as possible. For this reason a system to ensure equitable geographic distribution was approved by the Council. It is based on one factor, the contribution percentage of each Member State. On the other hand, the UN and some of the other Agencies have a methodology based on three factors: Membership, population and contribution. This issue was the subject of a JIU study in 1996, it is noted that no significant changes have occurred since that time. Copies of the JIU report are available for delegations at the Documents Desk.

The issue today before the Council is whether to consider the amendment of the current methodology for determining equitable geographic distribution. Any change would, of course, require further review and careful determination of the essential factors in order to ensure general acceptance. Depending on the Council's decision, the Secretariat is prepared to go forward with whatever the instruction is given.

**Masaharu SATO (Japan)**

First of all, I wish to thank the Secretariat for its elaboration of concise and interesting document CL 123/18. Japan fully supports the idea that due regard be given to recruiting professional staff on a wide as possible geographical basis.

This issue of staff recruitment and geographic distribution could be regarded as another example of standard-setting. The whole purpose of this trial is to achieve a more equitable system. And actually, such efforts have been made by the United Nations General Assembly in 1962, and since then several international organizations have adopted the so-called UN System.

For the big donors like Japan, the present FAO system, which uses only contribution factor, is more beneficial, but we do not oppose to a different system, if it is more equitable by using additional factors. Japan does respect and seeks a fair and equitable system.

In this connection, please allow me to touch up on some other aspects of this problem. My delegation would like to point out that there is a serious imbalance of geographical representation among regions. By my calculation, based on the data from the Secretariat, current regional representation of the Asia Region is much lower than the desirable level. This is in spite of its larger size of population and its relatively-high financial contributions to this Organization.

Therefore, when the Secretariat prepares a detailed proposal, I wish to ask the Secretariat to also conduct a study on the regional comparison of the actual number of Professional staff, region by region.

Second, my delegation would like to point out also that in some countries, including Japan, under-representation of staff is a very serious issue. In the case of Japan, our annual contribution is almost 20 percent whereas the share of Professional staff is only 2 percent. There are growing voices within Japan, including Congressmen, who question whether Japan's financial contribution to this Organization is really appropriate, when only a small number of Japanese staff are recruited.

On our side, we are making a big effort to improve the situation. Therefore we strongly urge the Secretariat to conduct a survey on the cause of under-representation and hence elaborate and implement effective measures to alleviate the representation status of under-represented countries.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je désire vous demander la parole pour le délégué du Danemark au nom de la Communauté européenne.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

The European Community and its 15 Member States, welcome the comparative study on staff recruitment practices of FAO, and the United Nations with a focus on geographic distribution aspects as we see it in document CL 123/18.

We note that FAO is the only one of the larger Specialized Agencies that continues to use a system based solely on one factor, the contribution percentage. As a matter of principle, we believe that FAO should consider to adopt methodologies similar to that of the UN itself.

It is evident as stated in document CL 123/18 paragraph 15, that any such a change would require careful review and determination of the essential factors in order to ensure general acceptance, in particular the determination of the number and type of posts to be covered by the geographic distribution system and of the upper and lower limits of the desirable range would be necessary.

We would also have to consider the consequences of a change, for instance, what would happen to nationals of those countries who are over-represented?

We therefore support that the Secretariat, before Council in June 2003, prepares a detailed proposal to amend the UN geographic distribution methodology in FAO.

**GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Chinese delegation has taken note of the papers prepared by the Secretariat for the meeting and has carefully studied the Joint Inspection Unit report on the comparison of methods of calculating adequately geographic distribution within the UN Common System.

At the same time, we have taken note of the suggestion made by the Japanese delegation, and we fully understand the desire of the Secretariat for a more equitable recruitment of FAO staff, as well as the demand of a great number of developing countries for participating FAO activities in an equal and comprehensive manner. However, it should be pointed out that the document provided by the Secretariat CL 123/18, fails to offer transparent methods of calculations as well as typical national cases. It is hard for Member Nations to see the links and judge.

At the same time, it should be pointed out, that the method used by FAO since 1957 particularly, the weighted system as well as the provision that each Member Nation should, so far as practicable, be represented by at least one Professional appointment, has a very reasonable rationale. We hope the Secretariat will provide detailed methods of calculating on the UN methods so that Member Nations will make pointed judgement.

We would not like to see again what happened during the Thirtieth session of the Conference in 1999, namely, the Conference adopted the Assessed Contributions based on the UN Scale for 2000 to 2001, while at the same time quite a number of developing countries did not have a clear idea of the impact of such a Scale on their contributions. Later on, they discovered that there was a great increase in their Assessed Contributions entailing increased financial burdens to them. Therefore, we hope that the Secretariat will present a comprehensive and a transparent comparative study, as well as the method of calculation of a new approach so as to help Member Nations to take a decision.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

I am glad that the issue of staff recruitment and geographical distribution has been tabled at this meeting. A discussion on this issue is long overdue and is extremely revealing. It is indeed surprising that an Organization of the nature of FAO should have a geographical distribution policy for its professional staff, but rather it is based solely on the percentage of the countries financial contribution to the Regular Programme of the Organization.

FAO appears to be the only member of the UN System to have retained such an outdated policy. An Organization like FAO whose targets are set towards agricultural development in the most needy parts of the world, should have a geographical distribution policy for its Professional staff that is based on criteria of quality, equity and transparency.

The staff profile of the Organization, we feel, should reflect not only advances in knowledge and technology in the field of agriculture and related sectors, but should also be representative of the developmental experience and equally consistent across different regions.

As pointed out by the delegate of Japan, geographical representation of the Professional staff of FAO is seriously excluding the Asian Region, which has less than 8 percent representation, which is much less than its 2 percent share. Looking at the population of the Asian Region, as well as its wealth of experience in the field of agriculture, the region deserves a higher level of recognition in FAO.

Some of the most remarkable success as in global agricultural development have been recorded in recent years in Asia. Surely, this fact deserves to be reflected in the Professional profile of FAO. We would, therefore, recommend a comprehensive review and amendment of the geographical



distribution methodology relating to the recruitment and representation of Professional staff in the Organization.

To this end, we propose that the Secretariat prepares a detailed proposal taking into account the experience of other UN Agencies as well as the characteristic needs of FAO, and present the same for consideration for the Council's next Session.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

The United States supports the proposal for review of the staffing policy and the system for creating targets according to geographical representation. As I said in my earlier statement, this kind of issues have come before the Finance Committee and we believe that the Organization should assure itself of having the staff which represents the highest standards of excellence, efficiency, competence and integrity.

But we do think it is important that the Organization represent the geographic diversity and wealth of its Membership. I mean wealth in the sense of diversity not in the sense of its contributions. Like Japan, the United States is favoured by the current system, but we have no objection to looking at the system and giving additional weight to other factors, if that is what is desired by the Membership.

I hate to volunteer the Finance Committee for additional efforts, having recently complained about how overworked we are, but I note that in the proposal, as I understand it, this study would go to the Council for decision. I would simply like to confirm, perhaps this is a question to the Secretariat, that this study should go through the Finance Committee. This is one of the issues central to the mandate of the Finance Committee and would like reassurance on that point.

I believe that might take care of the matter as raised by the distinguished delegate of China about making sure that as this system is reviewed and goes through the processes of the Governing Bodies of this Organization; that all Members would have do opportunity to be informed of any revisions and their implications.

Like the European Community, we would like to look at the consequences of any change in the system and would note that the system is only as meaningful as the Organization chooses to make it. So much would depend on the implementation of such a system and not merely on the system itself.

**KIM KYEONG-KIU (Korea, Republic of)**

I would like to thank you for the very comprehensive explanation on the geographical distribution of staff recruitment. I have two things, the first one is that as the document numerates very well, what criteria we judge the geographical balance or imbalance. This is a matter of fairness, which is not easy to have common acceptance.

In this regard, the document compares the practice of FAO and the United Nations. The second point is how we achieve or carry out geographical balance, which we set up. This is practically met and in a sense much more important. Let me say a little more about the later.

For example, the Republic of Korea, is one of the Member Nations which have been seriously under-represented. According to the current FAO practice, we should have 19 P5 staff members for satisfying the balance, but we have only 3 staff now. This is not a simply a matter of fairness; we have highly-qualified manpower which has accumulated during the rapid development process of eradicating hunger and poverty in the country.

My point is that we should give far more importance on how to achieve the geographical balance, which is a very critical issue, particularly, for the international organizations which are run by membership. I am sure that we could do this without giving any serious negative impacts on the system.

Having said this, I would like to ask the Council Members to agree with my proposal that the Secretariat prepare a document about how to achieve the geographic balance for our next session,

including the determination of the number and types of posts to be covered by the geographic balance. Of course, a comparative study of other UN Agencies should also be included.

Lastly, my delegation fully supports the Japanese suggestion on this point.

**Ms Elsa M. BAYANI (Philippines)**

We express our appreciation for a very concise document. Based on our reading of the document and discussion with our colleagues, FAO with due respect, seems to be the last UN Body that has adjusted its recruitment and employment policies. Consequently, my Government agrees with the succinct analysis made by the Secretariat in paragraph 14.

We therefore support the recommendation under paragraph 15, that the Secretariat prepare a more detailed proposal for our review in the future. Hopefully, a realistic change will be realized, particularly for the Asian Region, and FAO's recruitment practices will become more equitable and fairer.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

I am very pleased to see this agenda being discussed at this FAO Council. I have noted the concern expressed by my colleague from Japan. I support the Secretariat conducting a study on the regional comparison of geographical distribution.

My delegation would also like the Secretariat to expand its mandate to input my government's concerns as well. May I request that the Secretariat study the unequal treatment of citizens as to where FAO Offices are located? I refer, in particular, to the Thai Professional staff who are not allowed to work at the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok. If I understand correctly, this is a FAO rule applied to Professional staff. The Secretariat may like to provide more information on this particular rule.

I also have noticed that this rule is not equally applied to all FAO Offices. I also note that this rule does not exist within other UN Organizations. I am hopeful that the Secretariat will be kind enough to explore the concern of my Government. If this rule is different from other UN Organizations, I would appreciate FAO to review this unequal practice.

**Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

We do welcome the Comparative Study on Staff Recruitment and practices which has been presented before us and would like to reiterate the point made in earlier sessions that we do advocate for equitable and fair distribution to Professional staff on our geographical distribution system.

However, we would like to point out that the necessity of a more comprehensive analysis and recommendation on this matter, taking into account the rationale behind the current system so that if it is changed, we may have an adequate basis for it.

**Ms Mwatima A. JUMA (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

We are in support with the comments which have just been delivered by Zimbabwe as part of a comment from the Africa Region.

Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to thank the Secretariat for preparing and placing before us the document CL 123/18, which has analysed the existing situation within FAO regarding staff recruitment and geographical distribution in comparison to other UN System organizations, as is contained in paragraph 12 of the document.

We are of the view that FAO should adopt the system of Professional staff recruitment and geographic distribution practices as applied in the other UN System organizations. We endorse that the Secretariat initiate the process of preparing a more detailed proposal for consideration by the Council.

**Gabriel Ganyir LOMBIN (Observer for Nigeria)**

My comment is more of an endorsement of the position that has been taken by a number of countries already, notably the ones in Africa.

I want to publicly acknowledge Nigeria's gratitude to countries which are actually the major beneficiaries of the present scheme and who, nevertheless, have gone out of their way to quickly endorse the new proposal that is about to be produced, notably, Japan, the United States, China, and maybe India.

You will recall that one of the knotty issues that came when the new Scale of Contributions was tabled at this Council last year. These were some of the points that some of us raised. For instance, Nigeria's contribution in Africa is probably only second to South Africa, if at all. And yet, when it comes to the question of this type of thing, you find that we are far behind - on the question of one country, one vote - the sovereignty issue.

There is, therefore, the element of equity that is still lacking somewhere. Of course, one is not pretending that we are all equal when it comes to sovereignty. This is a matter of resources: to simply say, the richer will get more. It sounds - with all due respect - a little bit crude, but that is what we found here.

We were assured last year that this paper was coming. It has come very quickly and, as the major donors have stated, we look forward to seeing a document that will take cognizance of elements like population.

**CHAIRMAN**

Following the debate, it would therefore appear that the Council overwhelmingly considers it appropriate to review the applied methodology, in order ensure a fair geographical representation in the Organization.

I now give the floor to Ms Mayanja, so that she can answer the queries raised during the debate and add her comments.

**Ms R. MAYANJA (Director, Human Resources Management Division)**

I would like, first of all, to thank the Members of the Council for the input they have provided. We have taken note of all the comments that have been made. It has been indeed a very rich discussion and we very much appreciate it, especially on a subject which is so complex and quite sensitive.

We will undertake the study as has been requested by most of the speakers and we would be guided by the Council on how the Council wishes to deal with that study.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

Yes, I wanted to reiterate my question. Thank you for giving me the floor. I am not sure. Perhaps the Legal Counsel could help us with the issue.

I asked for assurance that if such a study were to be done, that it would go through the Finance Committee before being presented to the Council.

We are asking the Secretariat to undertake a study on hiring practices in other UN Agencies with regard to geographical distribution and how such targets are set, and to prepare a proposal for the Council's consideration.

I believe that such a proposal would have to go through the Finance Committee before being presented to the Council. That would be my understanding, and I would like confirmation that that would be the procedure from the Legal Counsel.

## LEGAL COUNSEL

Rule XXVII, paragraph 7 of the General Rules of the Organization, which relates to the functions of the Finance Committee provides that “the Finance Committee should assist the Council in exercising control over the financial administration of the Organization and shall have in particular the following functions (...): (r) to consider proposals of the Director-General and the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission on the scale of salaries and conditions of employment of the staff and proposals of the Director-General on the general structure of the administrative and technical services of the Organization”.

This is the only rule which is relevant in this context.

I have not checked what the practice was, because I have had no time to check when the Conference and Council discussed the matter in the past.

My conclusion would be that, in order to avoid any doubt, and if the Council so decides, the Finance Committee could be entrusted to look at this issue.

### **Sra. Irene PESSÔA DE LIMA CÂMARA (Brazil)**

Como primer punto, deseo, en nombre del GRULAC, reiterar la posición que ya expresamos ayer cuando debatimos el documento CL 123/9, en el sentido de que la representación regional, en el contexto de las prácticas de contratación de personal, sea debidamente considerada y, en ese marco, insistimos para que sea tomado en debida consideración el equilibrio regional en la distribución en los grados más elevados.

Como segundo punto, debo hacer una declaración en nombre del GRULAC sobre un punto que ya está cerrado, que es el punto 13, el Estado de Cuotas y pido su autorización para hacer mi declaración.

El tema de las cuotas es de gran sensibilidad para los países de América Latina y Caribe. Como consecuencia de la aplicación por la FAO de la escala adoptada por Naciones Unidas, las cuotas de muchos países de la Región aumentaron en niveles considerables y muchos países enfrentan grandes dificultades en pagar sus contribuciones financieras a la Organización. Deseamos recordar que en el texto de la Resolución 55/5 de las Naciones Unidas se recomienda sean estudiados los impactos de los aumentos de las Cuotas sobre los distintos países y entendemos que también en la FAO sea necesario realizar esta evaluación. Esperamos así que en las próximas reuniones donde se aborde el tema de las Cuotas, la Secretaría pueda presentar elementos que permitan a los Estados Miembros tomar una decisión responsable y realista en la próxima Conferencia.

Como tercer punto, desearía pedirle que pase la palabra a Colombia que desearía hacer también una declaración.

### **Bernardo GUTIÉRREZ ZULUAGA BOTERO (Observador de Colombia)**

Quería hacer un anuncio muy importante para Colombia pero también para toda la comunidad internacional. Acabamos de firmar el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y la próxima semana dicho instrumento entrará en consideración del Congreso de Colombia para su ratificación.

## CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much. We have now finished the item 14, and at the same time, our work for today.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

*The meeting rose at 16.50 hours*  
*La séance est levée à 16h50*  
*Se levanta la sesión a las 16.50 horas*



# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October – 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**31 October 2002**

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding  
La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil  
Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**  
**III. ACTIVITÉS DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)**  
**III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)**

**6. World Food Programme**  
**6. Programme alimentaire mondial**  
**6. Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la septième séance de la cent vingt-troisième session du Conseil. Nous allons examiner ce matin le point 6 de notre ordre du jour, relatif au Programme alimentaire mondial.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'accueillir chaleureusement Monsieur Morris, Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, qui assiste pour la première fois aux travaux du Conseil. Monsieur Morris souhaite-t-il s'adresser au Conseil?

**James T. MORRIS (Executive Director, World Food Programme)**

On behalf of my colleagues at the World Food Programme I thank you for the opportunity to be with you this morning to officially give you our report for the year 2001. The work in 2001 was led ably by my predecessor, Catherine Bertini, who really did quite an extraordinary job of leading the World Food Programme. As you receive our report for 2001, please note that I bring you Catherine's greetings. She is now teaching at a major university, and life is good for her.

What I want to do is to simply give you a quick overview of the work of the World Food Programme and the challenges, I think, we face today. Essentially our challenges are enormous, our Board has approved a work programme for us that exceeds US\$ 2.7 billion. I suspect it could be much more than that. The resources we have available to work with this year will be something in the neighbourhood of US\$ 1.7 billion. People who are expert in natural disasters would tell you that it has been a long time since the world faced as many serious challenges of human suffering as we do right now.

I must tell you that I am absolutely overwhelmed with what we face, especially in Africa but elsewhere as well. You all are aware of the issues in southern Africa, the six countries of Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland and some of the tough challenges in those six countries go across the borders and affect other countries in the area.

Our latest assessment suggests that 14.5 million people are at risk of starvation as a result of drought, tough weather situations and incredible challenges with the complication of HIV/AIDS. Somehow we all have to find a way for the world to fully understand how serious the HIV/AIDS issue is. In these six countries there are 4.6 million orphans, 60 percent of the children are orphaned because their parents have died of HIV/AIDS. There are tough issues related to governance in these six countries and these are places in the world that are already very poor and have tough issues of nutrition.

In the last few weeks, I think, the world has started to focus on the fact that the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea, could once again face a devastating series of problems as a result of the drought. As many as 14 million people could be at risk of starvation in Ethiopia and as many as two million people at risk in Eritrea, namely, two-thirds of the population of the country. There have been no spring rains, the fall rains were late and the crop production in Eritrea could be 20 percent of what it was last year. In Ethiopia they depend on rainfed agriculture and water is key to the success of the pastoral activities of their raising animals. Therefore, we are facing a crisis in the Horn of Africa, comparable to what we have in southern Africa.

The World Food Programme today is feeding 2.9 million people in the Sudan and nearly two million people in Angola. We are facing huge challenges in the west part of the Sahel, especially



Mauritania, but five or six countries that could be another several million people at risk. Then, there are challenges in West Africa, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, etc. Therefore, huge challenges in and all across Africa.

There is some good news, I think, on the horizon in Afghanistan. The refugees have returned at a much faster pace than anyone expected and that will lead to an enhanced productivity within the agricultural sector and probably less demands from around the world.

The needs in Palestine and the territories are going straight up, the needs in Central America – El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras – are substantial by and large weather driven. In those four countries there are pockets of very serious child malnutrition.

I am terribly worried about our work in North Korea. We have been feeding 6.4 million people in North Korea. The last two months of this year we will at least cut our work in half in North Korea and we may need to cut it in half again. We have stopped feeding many millions of children. This is a very serious resourcing issue for us. I am heading off on a trip to South Korea, China and Japan to present the case for our work in North Korea.

The World Food Programme has the largest presence, by far, of any UN Agency or any agency for that matter, in North Korea. The world has a huge investment in the presence of WFP in North Korea and I must tell you in all I am terribly concerned that this could be lost. I will try to vigorously make the case but there are many millions of children and vulnerable women who will not be fed in North Korea because we do not have the resources to do our work.

I am heavily focused on strengthening our communications, on resourcing, and trying to bring new countries into our donor base. I am very grateful to Peru, Russia, India, Kenya, South Africa, Oman, Algeria, Viet Nam and Cuba for a their generous help during our work this year - more or less on a first time basis. I continue to be incredibly grateful for the extraordinary generosity. As you know, all of our work depends on voluntary contributions from governments. Furthermore, the United States, the European Community, the United Kingdom, Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Swiss, the Belgians, Korea, Canada, Australia, France, Ireland and Italy are very generous to us and we depend on them for our ability to do our work.

We have 36 countries that participate on our Board. Our Board is heavily engaged in leading our work, the quality of our discussion and the thought that goes into thinking through how WFP can strengthen its work and how we can continue to be a trust-deserving organization. The governance process works very well and we are very grateful.

We spend a lot of time thinking through our financial issues. It is our intention to decrease our indirect support cost rate next year from 7.8 percent to 7 percent and we will try to reduce our PSA budget by about 10 percent. However, in the middle of all this we are going through a major strategic planning process and a major financial planning process. For the years 2004 and 2005 we will do a zero based budget.

A top priority is the implementation of a results-based management programme which will include both our work in evaluation and monitoring but trying dramatically to improve the way we communicate with our donors as to what their investment in WFP produces, both in terms of a financial reporting approach and in terms of outcomes. This is at the top of our list of priorities.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan asked me if I would serve as his Special Envoy for Southern Africa, and I have been heavily focused on issues in the six countries. I am incredibly grateful to UNICEF, OCHA, FAO, WHO and to SADC for their support. We have now set up our operation in Johannesburg and all of the UN Agencies have a presence there and we are working, I think, quite effectively together.

You should know that the partnership between WFP and FAO is strong. Jacques Diouf has been more than kind and generous to me. I am new on the job and he has been there when I needed him, and for that I am grateful.

FAO and WFP jointly do the assessments to determine the severity of issues in the countries where we work. Last year we fed about 80 million people in 83 different countries. The partnership with FAO, especially in southern Africa, is strong and we are frequently asked: "what are you going to do so that the next time a drought comes along we are better prepared?". This obviously begs the question of investment in the future, investment in development and the role of FAO in helping countries to think through their agricultural policy and agricultural strategy, is absolutely critical. I can tell you that there are places where FAO has helped think through crop diversification, the planning of more drought-resistant agricultural products, irrigation conservation farming where the payoff has been enormous.

WFP has a new Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR. Last year we fed 12 million refugees in 30 countries and our work with UNHCR continues to go very well. I gave a talk, a few weeks ago, in Brussels at the European Community and at the conclusion of the talk someone stood up and said: "Jim, does anybody take the Millennium Development Goals seriously?" I said "Well, all I can speak for is WFP and myself and we do take the Millennium Development Goals seriously". The notion of cutting hunger and poverty in half, are seriously making progress on HIV/AIDS, infant mortality and maternal and child health, water and sanitation. I have to tell you that food is at the base of progress in each of these areas.

Day after day when we were in southern Africa people said: "Food is the most important drug in the fight against HIV/AIDS". How WFP does its work, how FAO does its work and how we cooperate with all of our partners across the board will be the major issue in whether the UN is able to make some progress on these issues of the Millennium Development Goals.

In fact, it is the basis of any opportunity for world peace. It is the basis of hope and opportunity for hundreds of millions of children around the world who do not have much hope and opportunity in their lives right now. We have the resources, we have the wherewithal, we have the technology and I think we have the humankind commitment to do this. However, it will take the tremendous political will and the emotional engagement of each of you, on behalf of WFP and FAO and all of the other things you care about, to make progress. We have not made much progress in the last ten years but we need to make progress for all sorts of reasons you understand better than I.

Therefore, I bring you good news in that WFP is functioning well. We essentially have 8 600 employees, 8 000 of them are located all around the world and about 600 here in Rome. The need for us to take the level of our work from here to here is enormous and there are lots of people that are depending on us and we will give it everything we have but we will need your help and for that I am grateful.

## **LE PRÉSIDENT**

J'aimerais à présent donner la parole à M. Jury, Chef du Service des politiques au Programme alimentaire mondial, afin qu'il introduise le sous-point 6.1 intitulé "Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM relatif aux activités entreprises en 2002". Le document relatif à ce sous-point porte la référence CL 123/3.

*6.1 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2001 (CL 123/3)*

*6.1 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM relatif aux activités entreprises en 2001 (CL 123/3)*

*6.1 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades de 2001 (CL 123/3)*

## **Allan JURY (WFP staff)**

The 2001 Annual Report summarizes an extraordinary year for WFP. The Organization delivered the greatest volume of food aid in its history – approximately 4.2 million tonnes. It was able to do so as a result of a record level of donor support, contributing approximately US\$ 1.9 billion in cash and commodities.

Emergency operations, again, comprised the majority of the Programme's operational expenditures in 2001. The crisis in Afghanistan that led to WFP launching one of its largest relief operations in its history is highlighted in this report, as are several other very important, but less publicized, humanitarian operations. On the development side, support for the Global Campaign for School Feeding resulted in a slight increase in available development resources for the first time in several years. The longer term trend for food aid for development nonetheless remains worrisome, as the programme has noted in previous annual reports. I am sad to report, the 2002 preliminary figures suggest that momentary flip upward in development resources in 2001 does not reverse this dramatically declining trend.

The structure of the Annual Report, as many of you are aware, is based on General Assembly Resolutions and ECOSOC guidance that requires that "each Executive Board will submit an annual report on its programmes and activities" to ECOSOC and in our case also to the FAO Council. The narrative portion of the report consists of two sections. Section I is a summary review of the major activities of WFP in 2001; and Section II follows a common format established by the UN Development Group for annual reports to ECOSOC of the UN funds and programmes. This common format puts particular emphasis on reporting on the programme's contributions to interagency cooperation, major international summits and conferences, and common UN system goals as set forth in General Assembly resolutions on the Triennial Policy Review of Operational Activities.

The structure and content of this year's report has been changed to respond to two significant concerns raised by our Executive Board during its consideration of our previous report. First, several Board members requested that WFP provide more substantive detail in Section II on its involvement in interagency processes. We have tried to strengthen those items in that section and respond to that concern, and received favourable comments on that effort when we presented this report to our own Executive Board in May of this year.

The Board also had questions about the number and types of recommendations included in the Annual Report. The ECOSOC resolution does require that the reports include recommendations on "cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis" which can be considered by ECOSOC when it reviews the annual reports of UN funds and programmes. Therefore, WFP continues to include a limited number of recommendations in this report. I call your attention to those in paragraphs 151 and 154 of the Annual Report. This report and its recommendations were approved by our Executive Board in May for transmission to ECOSOC and to you here, at the Council.

Last week our Executive Board made the comments that the nature of this process, which essentially transmits to you the report of our Executive Director as our Annual Report, does not fully convey the richness and important contributions that our own Executive Board has made. We wish to acknowledge that, as Mr Morris has already has. The Executive Board is a vital contributor to the success of the Organization. The Annexes do include the summary, the decisions and some of the work of our Executive Board, but I think it is fair to say that it does not fully capture the richness of the discussion, which many of you have been present to see.

We certainly feel that the work of the Organization in our Report needs to be seen in a context of both what the Secretariat has done, as well as the vital contributions of our Board, and then debate on important issues facing the Programme.

**J.N.L. SRIVASTAVA (India)**

At the outset, I wish to express on behalf of my Government our deep appreciation of the wonderful work being undertaken by the World Food Programme in meeting the challenge to end hunger and suffering.

During the past year World Food Programme operations in emergency situations have brought relief to millions and have helped to mitigate the suffering of disaster-affected people. The annual report of the WFP brings out the extent of duties of the Organization.

My Government particularly commends the thrust towards bringing women to the centre of WFP's operations. Moreover, the success that WFP has demonstrated in the School Feeding Programme, and Food for Training and Literacy Programme, provide excellent models for the application in other situations.

I would like to draw your attention to two areas of concern for us.

Firstly, we are disappointed at the decrease in the emphasis on WFP's developmental activities. We believe that WFP's developmental programmes address the issue of creeping hunger, thereby reducing the impact of national calamities and disasters. By withdrawing from developmental activities the coping capacity of needy populations would be further reduced making them even more vulnerable. Moreover, WFP's developmental operations provide models for replication and serve as a catalyst for change in agricultural and rural development.

Secondly, as the scope of WFP's operations expands, the Organization will need to attract more resources. Non-traditional donors will have to be encouraged and contributions from non-traditional sources will have to be facilitated.

We hope WFP will make concerted efforts in this direction, so that the donor base of the Organization may be expanded and the maximum possible resources will be mobilized for these activities.

**Yoshimoto KINOSHITA (Japan)**

I would like to thank Mr Morris, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for his useful introduction, of the challenges which WFP is facing.

My intervention will be very brief because the fruitful and in-depth debate on food aid policy has already been made during the WFP Executive Board meetings, which were chaired, in the constructive and efficient manner, by its former President, Ms Finskas, the Permanent Representative of Finland, and I believe, that we should avoid any duplicated work.

The Japanese Delegation would also like to express our esteem and appreciation for the achievement of Ms Bertini, the former Executive Director, for the development and enlargement of WFP's activities in the past 10 years.

As a major achievement in 2001, the Japanese Delegation would like to underline one point: that WFP has actively made efforts for its own decentralized structure and the coordination with the other international agencies aiming at the reform for better management and the effective and efficient operations. As a result, the international community compliments WFP, since WFP has shown its capacity to save the lives of 77 million hungry poor people in the world and respond promptly to humanitarian crisis including last year's Afghanistan Regional Emergency Operation.

Japan hopes your continuous initiative will enable WFP to fulfill its role of assisting a seamless transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development assistance efficiently and effectively. We also welcome your visit to Tokyo this month for launching the 2003 CAP appeal. As you know, Japan is a strong supporter of WFP, the third largest contributor, and also a member of the Executive board. Japan hopes to continue to work on the road for the hungry poor people with WFP.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Mon pays est très favorablement impressionné par l'activité qui a été déployée par le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) dans les six mois qui se sont écoulés depuis sa prise de fonction et prise en charge du Programme.

Nous avons apprécié, en particulier, les efforts qui ont été déployés visant à voir la Communauté internationale et tous ses principaux et différents acteurs, de plus en plus engagés pour soutenir l'action de cette Agence des Nations Unies qui opère sur le fond dramatique de l'émergence, et qui se trouve toujours en première ligne dans les situations difficiles que nous tous connaissons.

En tant que Membre de l'Union européenne, je ne peux que me féliciter et me réjouir de l'état des rapports entre le Programme et l'Union européenne, qui a paru évident à l'occasion du dernier Conseil d'administration du Programme et je suis sûr que ces rapports pourront se renforcer ultérieurement dans l'avenir.

En tant que pays hôte de l'Organisation, je désire assurer au Directeur exécutif du Programme que nous allons garantir tout notre soutien à cette Organisation en tant que pays hôte, et que, en tant que pays Membre, au même titre que les autres pays Membres, nous ferons tout effort possible pour accroître notre soutien.

**Mrs Rachel Refilohape NTS'INYI (Lesotho)**

Our delegation takes note of the clear documented work of WFP for the year 2001 and applauds its Executive Board and Secretariat for a job well done.

Please allow my delegation to note the efforts of WFP in reaching close to 80 million beneficiaries who needed emergency food assistance due to either to natural disasters, protectorate crisis, sudden conflicts or of extreme poverty. A word of thanks also goes to the general donors who provided a record level of contribution of US\$ 1.9 billion, particularly the US, Republic of Korea, Italy, Germany and others, because it is a general support that enabled WFP to timelessly save lives and alleviate suffering.

We however, register our deep concern for the serious under funding by donors for WFP's development programmes. The Global Campaign for School Feeding launched by WFP to help the world's poorest children to gain education, is one sure and effective way of breaking the cycle of hunger and misery. Again thanks to the generous support over the years to this initiative. We would appeal therefore, to other donors to consider that under funding WFP's development programmes greatly hampers its ability and its support of the UN poverty reduction efforts.

We also support WFP's appeal to have its donor base broadened, and are happy to note from the Executive Director's words this morning that the base is somewhat broadening. It is gratifying to our delegation, to see WFP's efforts to form partnerships with other UN Agencies, Unesco, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, in an effort to support the education of the most impoverished nations.

We noted with appreciation, the efforts of WFP in enhancing organizational capacity in having made the two major change initiatives: the full decentralization of the Rome-based regional bureau, and introduction of WINGS.

The six decentralized regional bureaus will indeed enable decision-making to be closer to the field and thus allow greater involvement of the Country Directors and all the staff within the Regional Bureau. WFP's efforts to greater transparency and accountability to donors, as well as access for managers to information, is now possible with WINGS, by linking WFP's core business support services at Headquarters and all Country Offices. This is a commendable innovation in designing new processes and procedures for financial management.

We note with appreciation that WFP's results-based management is now in place to enable internal planning and provide a reporting mechanism to monitor and report the performance of its staff. Our intervention cannot be complete without a pat on WFP's back for its continued effort to meet the General Assembly's goal on gender balancing and staffing. That is a commendable work done by WFP on this issue. We can only encourage it and hope it will work even harder to close the gender gap at higher professional levels, where there are fewer women in management positions, i.e. positions of Country Directors and others in the P-5 to D-2 levels.

**Timothy LAVELLE (United States of America)**

The United States was indeed pleased to join the consensus of the WFP Executive Board in approving the 2001 Annual Report for forwarding to the UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, and to the FAO Council.

Along with the Executive Board's decision and recommendations for 2001, we strongly urge their endorsement. The United States remains deeply disturbed by the continuing violence perpetrated against UN and non-governmental organization personnel, and voice our support to strengthening the UN's efforts to extend protection to humanitarian personnel.

We fully endorse the position taken by former Executive Director, Ms Catherine Bertini, in her appearance before the UN Security Council, in February 2000, that "...host countries must be responsible for the security of humanitarian workers and must act to punish the perpetrators of crimes against humanitarian workers". It worried about Afghanistan. By 2001, Afghanistan had been torn apart by 20 years of conflict, compounded by three consecutive years of drought that decimated the wheat crop and most of the cattle and sheep. Despite the massive obstacles including the 2001 Afghan winter, widespread famine in Afghanistan was averted.

This was due in no small measure to the exemplary efforts of World Food Programme, which carried out the primary food distributions throughout the country, and to the Non-governmental Organizations that in partnership with the World Food Programme, carried out the deliveries from the interior warehouses, to the remote villages and to the cities. From 11 September 2001 through April 2002, WFP delivered nearly 350 thousand metric tonnes of food within Afghanistan at an unprecedented rate averaging nearly one thousand five hundred tonnes per day, to assist some 6.6 million people at risk. In this regard we note the assistance provided by the Government of Pakistan in providing a borrowing authority from its grain reserves, while food aid shipments were on the high seas.

WFP assisted in 2001 a total of 57 million victims of natural and manmade disasters, delivering a total of 3.5 million metric tonnes. Yet as highlighted by the 2001 UN Consolidated Appeals, called the CAP, humanitarian assistance needs continue to grow. The overall value of the 19 UN appeals for 2002 is over US\$ 3.6 billion. The United States calls on WFP's traditional donors and new donors as well to provide the necessary level of resources to ensure an adequate level of emergency funding for World Food Programme.

More than 90 percent of contributions to WFP in the year 2001, came from just 10 donors. While noting the recent very generous donations of the Government of India for Afghanistan and the Republic of South Africa with the southern Africa drought emergency, we strongly encourage the World Food Programme to intensify its efforts in this area, including the tapping of private sector resources.

The United States is prepared to explore how we might deepen our cooperative efforts with other donors, in order to achieve further coherence in our combined responses.

A word about school feeding, which several delegations have already commented on. WFP was able to reach approximately three million more children in 2001, and is now assisting through school feeding activities over 15 million children in 57 countries. We are delighted to have contributed to support for this wonderful initiative. We call on other donors to support WFP's efforts to expand its school feeding interventions throughout the developing world.

**Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)**

We are delighted to have Mr Morris among us. Let me assure Mr Morris that we will never tire of listening to him plead the case of WFP in its fight against hunger and poverty.

This report pertains to the work done by WFP in 2001, and the business concluded by the WFP Executive Board in the same year.

Allow me first to compliment Ms Catherine Bertini for a remarkable tenure she had in WFP for a decade and for the achievements that were made in 2001. Allow me also to place on record the outstanding contribution made by Ms Ulla-Maija Finskas-Aho, President of the Executive Board for this duration, particularly for focusing and enhancing the inter-agency collaboration and furthering the work of improving governance in WFP.

Let me first look at the Executive Board business. We congratulate the Board for improving its management of business by introducing a discussion on current and future strategic issues which was led by the Executive Director. This has certainly helped in elevating the level of discussion at the Board bringing about an open dialogue between the Executive Director and the Membership. We fully support this measure.

Second, the Board undertook challenging policy level debates on school-feeding initiatives, implementation of enabling development policy, working with NGOs, reaching people in situations of displacement, and WFP's role in the follow-up to the Millennium Summit.

In many cases, the Board was able to conclude the debate. In others, progress was made in moving towards a consensus. It is important to note that the Board, in general, has been deeply concerned with declining resources for the development programme category and its impact on the character and structure of the Organization. We share this viewpoint and urge WFP and its donors to take stock of the situation as early as possible.

In terms of management issues, the Board discussed the strengthening of management capacity, staff safety, security, WINGS, decentralization and harmonization. We note that considerable progress is being made on all these matters of importance. We support the views expressed in the Board for improving geographical and developing country representation among the professional staff of WFP and the need for a review of the decentralization exercise.

On budgeting and finance, besides routine work, the Board furthered the dialogue on cash balances and its management in WFP. We see this discussion bearing fruit and leading to increased corporate responsibility in managing finances. On the programme side, the Board approved sixteen country programmes and several development projects in PRROs in light of evaluation and country strategies where these were relevant and exhaustive.

We believe, that as a result of the harmonization exercise, the examination would be simplified without sacrificing the quality and quantity of information necessary for decision-making. We support the harmonization effort in the UN System. Having said that, we again note that many of the programmes approved by the Board would continue to suffer from lack of resources.

On the performance side, WFP assisted 77 million people and as many of my colleagues here today have stated, we particularly laud its operations in Afghanistan which were extremely timely, despite the complexity of the situation. Emergencies continue to increase, and WFP would soon need to look at its own structures for coping with the demands of being in emergency business.

As several of my colleagues have also spoken, the WFP would also need to look at ways and means of broadening the donor base. These are two important strategic issues that WFP is faced with today.

Finally, let me compliment the entire staff of WFP for its contribution in bringing some improvement in the life of at least eighty million people in the year 2001.

**Adisak SREESUNPAGIT (Thailand)**

The 2001 Annual Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities is a very comprehensive one. I thank those who prepared this report.

My comments would focus only on enhancing organizational capacity on paragraphs 25 to 27 of page 9.

My delegation welcomes decentralization of the Rome-based bureaus. As indicated, the final stage of decentralization was completed by September 2001. Bangkok is selected as one of the regional bureaus. I thank World Food Programme for the choice of Bangkok. My Government has assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to be World Food Programme's counterpart. I can assure World Food Programme that the Ministry of Agriculture is committed to be a good counterpart in terms of financing and facilitating the work of World Food Programme in Thailand.

According to paragraph 26, we also welcome the delegation of decision-making from Rome to the bureau. In the case of the Bangkok region, I would urge World Food Programme Regional office to strengthen the link with other UN Agencies and NGOs, both in Bangkok and in the region. In addition, the close link with the Ministry of Agriculture should also be strengthened.

My delegation is pleased to note that field procurement officers have been delegated authority to procure and purchase food and non-food items. More importantly, the food was purchased in developing countries, mainly from suppliers in Africa totalling US\$ 166 million. It would be appreciated if the Secretariat could provide us with a list of countries that have supplied food to Asian recipient countries. I raise this point, as I am not certain, whether the food purchased in Africa would be cheaper for other regions too.

In closing, Thailand endorses this report.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

Allow me to join the previous speakers in commending the work of WFP and indeed the work of the Executive Director, for steering the programmes with imagination and being able to bring food to many people that are going through food crisis in various parts of the world.

More importantly, we are encouraged by the efforts to re-engineer the work of WFP and in this vein we commend both the Executive Director and our Executive Board for focusing into the future with such imagination. We would also want to thank our donors for the work they have done in trying to enable WFP to implement its mandate.

On behalf of the African Continent we would like to thank the donor community and WFP for helping us to overcome the crisis that we are facing in the Horn of Africa, in the Southern African region and in many other parts where there are pockets of hunger. The details of the support we have been given are listed in pages 48-49 of the Annual Report.

We appreciate the increase in the multilateral contributions made in the year 2001 and hope this trend will be maintained in future in view of the new programmes that the WFP is considering. We are concerned however that there is underfunding of WFP developmental activities. We see these activities as crucial in complementing our efforts to achieve food security. The developmental function is an important element to complement our emergency activities to ensure the sustainable recovery of those persons who will be in crisis. Additionally, we are concerned with the limited funding for the non-food items under the humanitarian appeals.

The Africa Group fully supports the School Feeding Programme, which assists by feeding the vulnerable school children who would otherwise be kept out of school due to poverty and hunger. We see education as an important aspect in addressing and breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger. Hence, we attach great importance to the School Feeding Programme.

We would also like to underline the importance of WFP contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit objectives. We encourage interagency collaboration of WFP and other Agencies on the ground, particularly in the coordination of field activities and contingency planning in order to reduce duplication of effort. We feel that this will ensure there is balance in the implementation of the different types of relief programmes and the type of services we have on the ground.

We appreciate efforts being made by the WFP in collaboration with Governments in the region in mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS on our food security efforts. Furthermore, we support WFP's emphasis on targeting women as beneficiaries and its efforts to empower them in their developmental programmes.

We wish to emphasize the need to achieve gender balance in WFP structures in line with the UN policy on gender balance.

On non-governmental organizations, we would like to continue to encourage WFP to help strengthen their relationship with the local NGOs and to help build on their capacity so that their delivery is well integrated into the local structures.



We thank the Executive Director for his visit to the region in southern Africa, early September, during which he was able to witness the nature of the food requirements that were on the ground and to be able to insert this into the humanitarian emergencies. That he has continued to acquaint himself with the situation in many of the trouble spots in the world, is in itself a demonstration that WFP is aiming at clearly focusing on the requirements of the respective areas and coming up with the world targeted interventions that would be sustainable. We are already seeing some of the results in the many areas where there are food crises.

We welcome the close links that the Executive Director is maintaining with major donors of the Programme and, most importantly, we commend the efforts of making each one of us realize how we can become donors in our own way. We are already realizing the benefits of the broader base judging by the new donors that have come on board in the current financial year.

With that I wish to indicate that the Group of 77, including the Africa Group, support the report.

**Roberto SEMINARIO PORTOCARRERO (Perú)**

En primer término, deseamos darle las gracias al Director Ejecutivo del PMA, el Sr Morris, por el importante informe que nos ha presentado. Sin duda, la presencia del PMA en 86 países alimentando a más de 80 millones de personas cada año, hace que sea una Organización humanitaria de gran envergadura. Deseamos y le pedimos al Sr Morris que siga adelante con sus iniciativas. Al manifestar nuestro apoyo al Informe del Programa Mundial de Alimentos deseamos reiterar, en este foro, tal como lo hicimos oportunamente en la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA, nuestra preocupación por la disminución de recursos para proyectos de asistencia alimentaria para el desarrollo; la labor que cumple el PMA en esta materia es muy importante por el impacto que tiene la seguridad en las poblaciones beneficiadas y las ventajas que reporta para su desarrollo social. Reiteramos nuestro interés en que los recursos para el desarrollo se incrementen paulatinamente con miras a que el PMA pueda seguir teniendo un rol activo y decisivo de apoyo a las poblaciones más necesitadas. Nos gustaría que lo dicho se viera reflejado en el Informe.

Por otro lado, mi delegación desea reiterar la importancia que se le asigna a la coordinación entre el PMA y la FAO en el terreno. En este campo, hay avances interesantes que incluso pueden ser aprovechados, por ejemplo, conocemos algunos casos, particularmente en la zona costera de África Occidental, donde están previstas evaluaciones conjuntas regionales sobre la seguridad alimentaria, la selección de beneficiarios y el análisis de la vulnerabilidad. Esta doble estrategia que combina el fomento de la pequeña agricultura y la creación de redes de seguridad alimentaria requieren de una mayor difusión sobre sus términos de referencia, luego de lo cual será muy útil que se amplíe a otros países.

**Sra. Erika Jacqueline CUÉLLAR CHÁVEZ (Bolivia)**

Si bien es cierto lo dicho por la Representación de Japón, que se debería evitar repetir lo ya dicho, considero que en muchas ocasiones es importante reconocer y recordar prioridades, y es así que mi delegación, al mismo tiempo de agradecer la presentación de este Informe, desea felicitar al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por todos los logros alcanzados durante el año 2001.

Particularmente, en la movilización de recursos en concepto de contribuciones que, como muy bien se menciona en el Informe, es una cifra record, sin precedentes, en la historia del Programa que ha permitido cubrir más del 80 por ciento de las necesidades para los proyectos en este año. Sin embargo, vemos con preocupación que, si bien, se registró un ligero incremento en los recursos obtenidos para las actividades de desarrollo con respecto al año 2000, se observa que la asistencia del Programa para estas actividades se ha reducido a la mitad desde 1994. Por consiguiente, hacemos nuestra la mención que dice que los esfuerzos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para contribuir a reducir a la mitad la proporción de personas que padecen hambre para el año 2015 se ven obstaculizadas por el bajo nivel de recursos recibidos para intervenciones destinadas a afrontar el hambre crónica.

Para Bolivia, la ayuda alimentaria como habilitadora para el desarrollo de las personas que viven en la inseguridad alimentaria es muy significativa, los resultados que se vienen alcanzando en la

implementación de proyectos en este ámbito han permitido beneficiar, sólo en la gestión 2001, a 800 000 personas y mejorar sus condiciones de vida con la creación de activos a través de alimentos por trabajo. Los mismos que están contribuyendo a romper el círculo de pobreza, principalmente de las personas que viven en el área rural, mejorando su producción y salvaguardando de esta manera sus economías. Por todo lo mencionado, mi delegación considera que los fondos destinados a las actividades de desarrollo deberían ser priorizados por el Programa, teniendo presente que los resultados de estas actividades contribuyen en gran manera a reducir los índices de desnutrición y desempleo. Además de mejorar y aumentar la capacidad económica de las poblaciones vulnerables y de ser un elemento muy importante y duradero para evitar situaciones de conflicto causadas por la desesperación de hambre y de extrema pobreza, pero sin desmedro de las otras operaciones, sobre todo, aquéllas de urgencia.

**David INGHAM (Australia)**

Australia welcomes the World Food Programme Annual Report and notices that WFP continues to demonstrate strong performance, good governance, clear direction and to attract significant donors support. Last year's donors support was the highest in WFP's history. WFP received a record level of contributions of US\$1.9 billion and provided 4.2 million tonnes of food aid in 2001.

Australia supports the continued focus on reforms centred around setting strategic priorities and tools, and improving programming systems and policies, especially the introduction of new financial systems leading to greater transparency and accountability.

Australia encourages the move towards greater harmonization and coordination with other UN Agencies. We look forward to outcomes base reporting which will be addressed in the 2003 Strategic Plan.

An issue, which WFP faces, is obtaining both the funds and the skills to enable these improvements to be introduced. WFP needs to devise a systematic and strategic approach to address this issue.

Australia supports full decentralization of operations enabling decision-making to be made closer to the field.

**Mme Marièm Mint MOHAMMED (Mauritanie)**

Je voudrais saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte aujourd'hui pour exprimer toute la gratitude de mon pays à l'endroit du PAM qui, depuis les années 60 n'a cessé d'accompagner avec efficacité les efforts entrepris par mon Gouvernement afin d'améliorer la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle des populations ainsi que l'accès à l'éducation de base.

Comme vous le savez, la Mauritanie est un pays sahélo-sahélien structurellement déficitaire sur le plan céréalière et victime, malheureusement, de sécheresses cycliques qui mettent à rude épreuve l'approvisionnement alimentaire des populations rurales. C'est dire l'importance du PAM pour les pays PMA, surtout pour son appui à la production agricole par le biais de microprojets, la réduction du taux de malnutrition par des actions spécifiques ciblant les groupes vulnérables et l'encouragement de la fréquentation scolaire en milieu rural, en particulier pour les filles. Cela contribuera à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de nos populations rurales.

Permettez-moi d'attirer l'attention du PAM et de ses donateurs généreux que la Mauritanie fait face actuellement à une crise alimentaire extrêmement grave suite à un hivernage désastreux cette année, les cultures pluviales sont définitivement compromises et la majorité des barrages sont restés à sec. Sur le plan pastoral les pâturages sont nettement déficitaires cette année et on enregistre une forte mortalité au niveau du cheptel. Les populations affectées par ce bilan dramatique sont estimées actuellement à un million de personnes dont la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle déjà difficile, se dégrade rapidement. Face à cette situation le Gouvernement mauritanien a lancé en août un appel à l'aide internationale. Malheureusement, à ce jour les réponses à cet appel restent encore assez modestes et en tout cas insuffisantes pour écarter le spectre de la famine qui s'annonce.

C'est pourquoi je saisis aujourd'hui l'occasion pour sensibiliser le Conseil ainsi que tous les donateurs du PAM et de la FAO, sur la gravité de cette situation et la nécessité d'une réaction urgente et appropriée.

**Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)**

Apreciamos y apoyamos el Informe que nos presentan y, desde luego, agradecemos la presentación realizada por el Sr Morris, excelente como siempre. El Informe resalta un momento de transición del Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA). La Directora Ejecutiva, Sra Catherine Bertini, se ha hecho acreedora del elogio de la comunidad internacional por sus diez años de labor al frente del Programa. Ayudó a construir unos sólidos cimientos en los que pueda apoyarse su sucesor, al afrontar la tarea de dirigir los esfuerzos del PMA para erradicar el hambre en el mundo. Nuestro aprecio y reconocimiento a la excelente labor del Sr Morris en estos meses de intenso trabajo.

Si bien, como ya se dijo, 2001 fue el año en el que el Programa entregó la mayor cantidad de alimentos en su historia y fue el año en que se realizaron las más numerosas operaciones, gran parte de esta ayuda se concentró en un único país. Desde luego, entendemos la situación singular que motivó esta concentración. En 2001 el PMA avanzó en una campaña ambiciosa para contribuir a promover la educación para todos los niños mediante Programas de Alimentación Escolar. También en 2001, impulsó dos importantes iniciativas de cambio interno, la descentralización de las operaciones y el Sistema Mundial y Red de Información del PMA. Resalta también el extraordinario avance en materia de género, pero hay que proseguir en este esfuerzo.

Deseamos expresar nuestro apoyo al llamado realizado por el Representante de los Estados Unidos de América para ampliar los esfuerzos para la protección del personal internacional. Esta es una preocupación que creo todos debemos compartir.

El Informe indica que la asistencia del PMA al desarrollo se ha reducido a la mitad desde 1994. La propia Secretaría del Programa señala que la tendencia de los recursos para el desarrollo es preocupante. Basta analizar simplemente el Anexo 3 del Informe donde se puede ver y constatar que los recursos al desarrollo por parte del PMA en 1998 representaban el 21 por ciento del total. Sin embargo, para 2001 representaban sólo el 13 por ciento. Preocupante es también la situación para América Latina, donde casi la mitad de los países recibieron menos del 50 por ciento de sus necesidades presupuestadas por el PMA para los proyectos de desarrollo en el 2001.

Mi delegación insiste en la utilidad de las operaciones a favor del desarrollo aplicadas por el PMA, ya que se trata de una parte de su mandato, un mandato dado por la comunidad internacional, y ésta es una buena base para alcanzar los objetivos del milenio sobre el desarrollo. Destaca también que el enfoque multilateral permite que las operaciones del PMA se realicen con mayor flexibilidad, previsibilidad y eficacia, como se señala en las recomendaciones que con este Informe se presentaron al ECOSOC.

Varias delegaciones han expresado su preocupación por la disminución de los recursos para el desarrollo. Mi delegación confía que dicha preocupación quede claramente reflejada en el Informe de este período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Destaco sólo las dos primeras declaraciones hechas por la India y Lesotho que expresan claramente que ésta es una preocupación que no se concentra en una única región.

Por otro lado, quisiera expresar la voluntad del Gobierno de México para contribuir, en la medida de sus posibilidades, al logro de los objetivos del Programa. De acuerdo con la experiencia adquirida, el Gobierno de México podría proporcionar apoyo técnico en la operación, evaluación y seguimiento de programas como desayunos escolares, oportunidades y otros, en los cuales ha desarrollado experiencias exitosas.

Mención especial merece la rápida intervención de la Oficina Regional del PMA al comenzar la sequía en América Central. El PMA brindó de una manera eficiente a más de medio millón de

personas en las zonas desfavorecidas de Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala y El Salvador, un apoyo que mucho apreciamos, derivado sobretodo por catástrofes naturales.

Finalmente, la delegación de México expresa la importancia de que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en el ámbito de su competencia y de su doble mandato contribuya a lograr el objetivo de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996 de reducir a la mitad el número de personas con hambre en el mundo para el 2015. El mismo objetivo que fue refrendado en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: *cinco años después*, celebrado en junio de este año.

**Grishon Kithome NZUVA (Kenya)**

I would like to support the sentiments expressed by the Delegation of Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group.

Allow me, on behalf of my delegation to commend the excellent job which WFP continues to do in saving lives of the vulnerable communities around the world. My country was one of the beneficiaries of the year 2001 WFP interventions. This was because of the impact of the 3-year consecutive drought in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

There was however a good performance of rains in the year 2001, which reduced the number of people needing food relief but the problem still persists in the arid and semi-arid regions. The school feeding programme has also assisted in school enrolment in the arid and semi-arid areas.

We do not take pride in receiving food aid. Indeed the main cause of food shortage in my country, and indeed in many African countries is drought related. It is for this reason that my country, as a follow up to the World Food Summit, has initiated special programmes for food security, focusing on water harnessing for agricultural production.

It is our hope that the current efforts by FAO, to reduce the number of malnourished people, will further reduce this chronic dependency on food aid.

**António Arturo PLAZA JIMÉNEZ (Chile)**

Chile aprueba el Informe presentado sobre el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA). Para nuestro país las actividades que está realizando el PMA son muy importantes y de gran interés. Deseamos felicitar todos los esfuerzos que la pasada administración de la Señora Bertini realizó para modernizar la Organización, pero, sobretodo, deseamos resaltar lo que en tan poco y breve tiempo la actual administración está realizando para que la Organización cumpla aún mejor con su mandato y hacerlo en forma eficiente.

Estamos especialmente inspirados por el enfoque que el Sr Morris le ha dado a la Organización donde, de acuerdo a sus propias palabras, "no existen ni pequeños donantes ni grandes donantes sino un grupo de contribuyentes interesados en un buen fin".

Asimismo, estamos muy motivados por las acciones vinculadas con la incorporación de donantes no tradicionales que pueden ayudar a la Organización. En este sentido, nuestro país se siente muy interesado en colaborar con el PMA en el desarrollo de un programa de cooperación interregional que ayude al Programa de Alimentación Escolar a consolidarse en la región a través de la participación de donantes no tradicionales. Al respecto, deseo destacar que mi Gobierno está muy motivado con el trabajo que se ha venido realizando en esta materia y el cual, esperamos, se materialice en el desarrollo de la Conferencia Regional en nuestro país a finales del año 2003 y permita el lanzamiento de una nueva estrategia para que el Programa de Alimentación Escolar pueda fortalecerse en la región a través de un programa sustentable que permita combatir el hambre y la pobreza.

Por último, deseamos reiterar el interés de nuestro país de seguir colaborando y contribuyendo con el PMA, de acuerdo a nuestras posibilidades, como lo hizo el presente año, cuando contribuimos con las actividades de emergencia que se están realizando en Afganistán.

**Alfredo Néstor PUIG PINO (Cuba)**

Hay un viejo refrán que dice que lo que abunda no daña y por este motivo intentamos, con nuestra intervención, ante todo abundar en los reconocimientos que las diferentes delegaciones han hecho a la labor realizada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA). No sólo durante el año 2001, y por más de diez años durante el mandato de la Sra Bertini, sino también por el empeño que ha puesto, y que hemos comprobado, el Sr Morris por mantener la labor realizada por el PMA y continuar su empeño en esta batalla contra el hambre. Reconocemos esta labor, razón por la cual nuestra delegación se sumó al consenso de la Junta Ejecutiva cuando aprobó su Informe correspondiente al año anterior.

En este mismo sentido, nuestra delegación desea ratificar su apoyo a la labor realizada por el PMA y tiene la intención de mantener sus contribuciones en la misma medida en que sus modestas posibilidades así lo permitan. Nos sentimos honrados en tener la posibilidad de participar en tan noble empeño. De la misma forma, queremos agradecer por esta vía a los donantes que han expresado su apoyo a esta labor y por las promesas de contribuciones que han hecho para los próximos períodos. Nos sentimos complacidos por ello.

Creo que son conocidos los indicadores que nuestro país presenta al mundo en el campo de la salud. Son indicadores que pueden compararse al nivel de los de muchos países desarrollados. Estos niveles han sido alcanzados indudablemente gracias a la voluntad política de nuestro Gobierno, a la combinación de equidad alimentaria y seguridad alimentaria a todos los niveles de la población, pero además avalado por un sistema de salud que centra su principio en un sistema de atención primaria, es decir en la prevención, y digo esto porque nuestro sistema de salud es a Cuba, lo que pudiéramos decir que es el PMA al mundo, un sistema que está encaminado, diseñado para contribuir al bienestar de la humanidad. Y cuando nos referíamos a nuestro sistema de salud y a nuestra atención primaria, lo hacíamos porque pensábamos que, con relación al PMA, así debían ser las labores vinculadas al apoyo a los proyectos de desarrollo. Nuestro sistema de salud también está preparado para las emergencias, pero concentra su trabajo y su labor en la prevención. Es por ello que mi delegación, aprovechando esta oportunidad, se suma a las intervenciones de aquellas delegaciones que se han pronunciado con la preocupación por la disminución de los recursos que actualmente se dedican a las labores de desarrollo. En este sentido, queremos aprovechar la ocasión para instar al PMA y a los donantes que no abandonen esta línea. Pienso que debemos continuar en la prevención, eso es desarrollo.

**Mrs Anuciata P. NJOMBE (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

I would like to add to what the delegate of Zimbabwe has said on behalf of the Africa Region, with regard to the work of WFP.

From the outset, I would like to congratulate the WFP Executive Board for presenting a comprehensive report of the activities carried out in 2001. I also wish to acknowledge the work done by WFP, which is the world's largest humanitarian Organization. In the same token, I cannot continue without mentioning the support offered through WFP by some Member Nations, whose generous donations have helped save the lives of many people in situations of drought emergencies, conflict and other food related disasters. These include the United States of America, the European Commission, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Spain, Iceland and others.

We also wish to pay tribute to the fallen staff of WFP, and other United Nations Organizations, who were working in difficult and, at times, precarious situations, and which in some cases, cost them their lives.

We have observed that donor support appears to be increasing to reach US\$ 1.9 billion – as was the case in 2001, compared to 2000 – which is an increase of approximately 12 percent and is the highest in history. This was able to meet some 83 percent of WFP's requirements for food assistance.

This definitely calls for increased efforts by the regional and international community to seek ways for ending conflicts in areas which have been affected and continue to suffer. This will be a key towards reducing the conflicts themselves, as well as provide a secure environment for people to carry out their economic activities and thereby, become independent from food handouts.

Drought and natural disasters currently affecting the southern African region threaten the lives of more than 13 million people. Reports show that similar situations of drought are affecting the Horn of Africa.

We thank WFP and the international community for their assistance to countries severely affected. Nevertheless, the pace of the response, so far, needs to be accelerated. Drought-related emergencies require concerted efforts for new strategies to be adopted, so as to reduce the effects of such occurrences.

In order to come out of some of the situations leading to sustainable food security for most of the countries prone to drought and natural disasters, development funding should increasingly be given priority. We note that WFP is facing serious under-funding for its development programme. The Organization's development assistance is only half of what it was in 1994, even though funding in 2001 reached some US\$ 270 million, with a slight improvement over 2000. We need to consider increasing efforts towards interventions addressing chronic hunger and contribute towards the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of hungry people by 2015.

**Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGIOTTI (Guatemala)**

Mi delegación saluda y da la bienvenida al Sr Morris a este Consejo. Agradece y felicita calurosamente por la labor y dedicación a la Sra K. Bertini en estos últimos diez años.

Queremos agradecer el informe presentado y el cual apoyamos. Asimismo agradecemos públicamente a la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA por la aprobación en su segundo Período Ordinario de Sesiones del Programa del País Guatemala.

Agradecemos también la operación prolongada de socorro y recuperación para el área centroamericana mencionada en la declaración de México y que convalidamos plenamente.

Apoyamos la declaración del Grupo Africano recalando la importancia de los programas de desarrollo, ya que estos son el verdadero instrumento para llegar a cambiar la situación alarmante de los países en desarrollo.

Felicitamos, apoyamos al PMA en su encomiable labor.

**Sra. Irene PESSÔA DE LIMA CÂMARA (Brazil)**

Desearía dar las gracias al Sr Morris por el dinamismo, la dedicación y el empeño con que dirige los trabajos del PMA.

Deseo congratular al PMA por el inestimable trabajo de ayuda humanitaria que presta a los pueblos más necesitados, llevando alivio a unos 80 millones de personas en este planeta, ayuda que en muchos casos representa los propios elementos de sobrevivencia de estas personas.

Saludo en especial la introducción y el éxito del Programa de Alimentación Escolar que además de garantizar alimentación mínima necesaria a 15 millones de niños en 57 países sirve como estímulo para que estos niños vayan a la escuela y se preparen para una vida mejor.

Deseo manifestar la preocupación, ya expresada por algunos países en desarrollo, por el posible declino de los recursos destinados a los programas de desarrollo. Defendemos la idea de que anticipar y solucionar un problema es una mejor actitud que esperar que se presente el problema. En ese sentido, creemos firmemente que invertir en proyectos de desarrollo es una forma de prevenir futuras y graves crisis de emergencia. Insistimos para que el Programa vea con mayor sensibilidad esa cuestión y en cumplimiento a su doble mandato haga mayores esfuerzos para orientar recursos a los proyectos en desarrollo.

Mi Gobierno aprueba el informe con las detalladas informaciones en que constituye el documento CL 123/3.

**James T. MORRIS (Executive Director, World Food Programme)**

First let me thank all of you for your support, generosity, your kind comments about my predecessor – I will share them with her later today – and for your good comments about the staff of WFP.

I am grateful that many of you mentioned our work in School Feeding and that most of you have mentioned the need for us to emphasize our work in development. My own view is that, maybe our work in School Feeding may be the single best investment we can make in development, especially for young girls, but for young girls and boys both. For less than 20 cents a day, US\$ 40 a year, we can feed a child through school. That becomes an incentive for the child to come to school. A hungry child has no chance to learn. A child who has good nourishment can learn. A child who comes to school is fed, and the opportunity for significant health intervention is there.

So many children are victimized by worms and a worm in a child will consume about half the nutritional value of what the child is eating. For less than 30 cents a year, we can treat worms in a child. For a very small amount of money we can bring a child to school, begin the learning process and have significant impact on the child's health.

A person's productivity throughout their life – either as an individual, a parent, a farm worker, a business person or a teacher – is directly related to the amount of education they have. This very modest investment in bringing a child to school changes the whole productivity trend of a person's life. If you do it enough times, you change communities, and you change countries.

I visited a school in the Doma, in the United Republic of Tanzania. In 1999 we had 400 children attending this school. The School Feeding Programme was started and in 2002 there are now 800 children in the school. In 1999, eight percent of the children were going on to secondary school and four years after School Feeding, 22 percent are going on to secondary school. The impact is enormous.

If we are talking about meeting the Millennium Development Goal of cutting hunger in half – 800 million hungry people in the world and at least 300 million hungry school-aged children – by feeding children through school we have the potential to dramatically cut that number in a very substantial way.

Goals change childbearing habits. They delay childbirth or give birth to children from 13 years of age to 20 years of age. They have a whole different set of expectations for their own children if they have education. It is the single most important investment, I believe, that WFP is pursuing.

I am grateful for your comments about donors. We are working very hard to diversify our donor base. It is my hope and dream that we will get to a point where every single member of the United Nations will be a financial supporter to the World Food Programme. If there is one thing the world ought to be able to agree on is that people around the world ought not to be hungry, especially children. Clearly, we all have the responsibility for feeding people at home first, but we all have responsibility for people beyond our borders.

We have had people and countries help us in very unusual ways. Norway, through the Red Cross, gave us 250 trucks as a gift for our work in southern Africa. The United Kingdom and Canada gave us money to rebuild the rail line from Nacala in Mozambique to northern Malawi. They gave us money to lease eight locomotives. It has dramatic impact on the way we are able to do our work. The European Union has increased its support by 30 percent this year.

We are heavily focused on private sector fund-raising, and we will soon announce a new partnership with a Dutch company that has 140 000 employees. Their goal is, for each of their 140 000 employees, to support feeding a school child for one year. My hope, when I see you or someone in my job sees you a few years from now, is that we will have 15 or 20 companies around the world that will have that same kind of commitment.

I appreciated the comment on support for non-food items. It is critical. We have done a pretty good job of raising the resources in southern Africa for food, but we still have a long way to go.

The health issues, the need for medicine, the need of response to HIV/AIDS, the water issue, irrigation, wells, the need for dollars to keep kids in school where tuition is not available, the need for support for agriculture inputs for seed and fertilizer for planting are incredibly important. I am grateful for that comment.

In regard to the comment about local purchases and regional purchases, we are absolutely committed to doing that and I must say that the food that we have purchased in Africa will be used in Africa. We would not transport that to the Far East.

I appreciate the comment on staff security. Our people are at great risk. In fact, you should know that more people have lost their lives doing humanitarian service within the United Nations than have lost their lives doing peacekeeping work.

We are absolutely committed to gender equity. Our Board adopted a new policy on that at our meeting last week.

I failed to mention that we have recruited a new Deputy Executive Director for WFP. She is a marvellous lady by the name of Sheila Sisulu, who comes from South Africa. She was appointed to be the Ambassador from South Africa, to the United States, by Nelson Mandela. On 1 February 2003 she will be joining us as our Deputy Executive Director. She is a terrific addition to our staff.

We are absolutely committed to cooperating with NGOs and other UN Agencies.

Our work in decentralization has started and we still have a long way to go. WINGS is important to our ability to be decentralized so that every one of our 80 plus offices has access to good financial information.

On the whole subject of development – where does an emergency response begin, where does development begin and where does the interim work begin – we are trying to think through it: a hungry person is a hungry person. We look at how we can do our work in the context of being focused on responding to hunger, but with a focus on nutrition, so that we respond to hunger and we enhance education and health. One of the lessons we learned on our recent trip through southern Africa was that we need to change our food basket, especially where the HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are enormous. We need to enhance the caloric value of the food basket and need to have more protein involved. We are focusing on the safety net food security issues and the notion of a seamless transition, trying to get away from thinking about, in these very distinct categories, when, in fact, they are not realistic.

We are grateful for your support and I promise you that we will work hard to expand the donor base. We will be at every one of your doorsteps asking for support. Regarding the comment about no large donors and no small donors, everybody needs to be a part of this. What a magnificent statement to make: the world comes together through the World Food Programme. But, it is also FAO, UNICEF and WHO. If we all take these Millennium Development Goals seriously and we can make some progress.

**Allan JURY (WFP staff)**

I think that Mr Morris covered most of the questions and comments. I would just like to thank other delegations for other comments they made with regards to the efforts in 2001, particularly the praise for the Afghanistan effort.

We noted the calls by many delegations for greater interagency cooperation. I think we tried to explain that better in the 2001 Annual Report and we are committed to programme harmonization this year.

Our work in the CAP, UNDG and our joint efforts with FAO and IFAD at the Monterrey Financing for Development Conference and at the Anti-Hunger Programme, here at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, is our testimony to our continued efforts to strengthen the partnership elements.



With regard to Thailand's request for more detailed information on local procurement, Mr Morris partially answered that with regard to Africa. We will work with you bilaterally to get you statistical information on local procurement. Mr Yanga, my colleague, will ensure that we follow-up on that.

I think that pretty much covers all the points raised by the major delegations out there.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons conclu le point 6.1 de l'ordre du jour.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Nous passons au point 6.2 "Election de six Membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM", pour la période allant du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2003 au 31 décembre 2005. Le document qui se rapporte à ce point est le document CL 123/4-Rev.1.

Je laisse la parole au Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil, Madame Gardner, qui va vous présenter les candidatures.

Madame la Secrétaire générale, vous avez la parole.

*6.2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board (CL 123/4-Rev.1)*

*6.2 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM:*

*pour décision (CL 123/4-Rev.1)*

*6.2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA: para decisión (CL 123/4-Rev.1)*

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

In accordance with Resolution 6/99 of the Thirtieth Session of the Conference of FAO, the Council is required to elect six members of the WFP Executive Board from among FAO Member Nations for a term of office of three years from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005. I will just call out the candidatures as presented.

List A – there is one candidate for one post and that is Libya.

List B – there is one candidate, Indonesia, for one post.

List C – we have one candidate for one post that is Peru.

List D – there are two candidates, Belgium and Ireland, for two posts.

List E – there is one candidate, Slovakia, for one post.

We have six candidates for six seats to be filled.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Merci, Madame Gardner pour ces explications. Le Conseil souhaite-t-il élire par consentement général les six candidats suivants aux six sièges vacants: Libye pour la liste A, Indonésie pour la liste B, Pérou pour la liste C, Belgique et Irlande pour la liste D et Slovaquie pour la liste E?

Je félicite donc les pays qui ont été élus par notre Session. Nous avons donc terminé avec le point 6. On va lever la séance pendant cinq minutes, le temps de saluer Monsieur Morris.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Asi se acuerda*

*The meeting was suspended from 11.35 to 11.45 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 11.35 à 11 h 45*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 11.35 a las 11.45 horas*

## LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Nous avons décidé lundi après-midi que nous allions reprendre nos travaux sur ce point 7 intitulé: "Révision du texte du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides" et je rappelle que ce point est soumis au Conseil pour décision et que les documents pertinents portent la référence CL 123/19, CL 123/19/Sup.1 et CL 123/LIM/4.

### **7. Revision of the Text of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (CL 123/19) (continued)**

### **7. Révision du texte du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (CL 123/19) (suite)**

### **7. Revisión del texto del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas (CL 123/19) (continuación)**

## LE PRÉSIDENT

D'après quelques consultations et quelques communications qui m'ont été faites dans les couloirs d'une manière informelle, il semblerait qu'il y ait un accord entre certaines délégations pour supprimer les paragraphes 6.1.7 et 6.1.8, auquel cas il y aurait certaines délégations qui accepteraient ce principe. Je voudrais savoir si toutes les délégations acceptent cette proposition, cette idée qui a circulé d'une manière informelle ou bien si certaines délégations voudraient faire des déclarations supplémentaires. Donc je passerai la parole aux délégations qui le souhaitent.

### **Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

My delegation will not block consensus adoption of a revised Code of Conduct that has deleted 6.17 and 6.18. However, we would like to make clear that we consider this an unfortunate event given the fact that the industry, which has a huge and critical responsibility in terms of implementing the Code, has expressed its difficulties with this outcome. We have to remember that a code is only as meaningful as its implementation. Implementation of the Code involves many partners but I am sure you would all agree that industry is probably one of the most important.

We would encourage FAO to take all steps to continue discussing with industry the possibility of industries' possible participation in the Code, and we would welcome information from the FAO on steps that it has taken in this regard at future sessions of the Council.

We would also note that the Guidelines, which are effectively a users' manual for using the Code, have very good explanatory language on data protection and we would hope to continue to see that language in future guidelines, when they are revised, to take into consideration the revisions to the Code.

### **Thierry PREVOT (France)**

Monsieur le Président, pourriez vous donner la parole au délégué du Danemark, qui interviendra au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres?

### **Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)**

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its fifteen Member States. For the record, the EU can support the consensus on the Code of Conduct. However, I have to remark that regarding the draft Resolution we will have to study the text carefully before its approval.

### **Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

El GRULAC, Grupo de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe, desea hacer expresa mención a la especial consideración que sus gobiernos tienen hacia la industria, como protagonista indiscutida del desarrollo de los países y como impulsora de la innovación tecnológica.

En la presente oportunidad los gobiernos no han podido incorporar al texto del Código de Conducta las sucesivas propuestas formuladas por la delegación Norteamericana a instancias de

las industrias presentada en los debates sobre el presente tema por *Crop Life Internacional*. Dichas propuestas tenían por objeto plasmar en el mencionado Código una protección mayor en materia de propiedad intelectual que la acordada por el Acuerdo TRIPS por la Organización Mundial del Comercio, que rige la materia. En efecto, la protección de los datos de prueba u otros no divulgados que se someten a los gobiernos u organismos oficiales está expresamente regulada por el artículo 39.3 del TRIPS. Aprobar un texto que modifica dicha protección en un foro no competente para ello, como es la FAO, es inconsistente con el Acuerdo de Marrakech y con el propio Acuerdo TRIPS. En consecuencia, se ha acordado dejar sentada esta disposición para que la decisión de no incorporar las propuestas de la industria sea interpretada en el sentido positivo que esta tiene, o sea la determinación de afirmar la intangibilidad de los acuerdos de la OMC, afirmar que la OMC es el único organismo competente para reformar, interpretar o modificar dichos acuerdos y que, en definitiva, con esta decisión se refuerza el interés general incluso el de la industria en toda su extensión ya que resguarda la seguridad jurídica necesaria para una conducción ordenada y transparente del comercio internacional.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres commentaires? Donc, si je comprends bien nous avons un consensus sur le texte supprimant les paragraphes 6.1.7 et 6.1.8. Nous avons donc ce consensus sur ce texte et quant à la résolution comme l'a demandé le délégué du Danemark aux représentations de l'Union européenne on verra plus tard et il y aura des négociations complémentaires probablement au sein du Comité de rédaction.

#### **Guntram FREIHERR VON SCHENCK (Germany)**

My Government is delighted with the revision of the text of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which was agreed upon. The EU has supported this Resolution. We want to make clear that from our point of view nothing in this Code shall affect the rights and obligations of public and private entities and the relevant agreements: EC, TRIPS.

#### **Mrs Nehal HEGAZY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to inform you of the position of my Government. We agree with the consensus and this in full respect for a spirit of consensus. This is why we did not speak against the Consensus and we are very pleased this consensus has been achieved.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je voudrais remercier toutes les délégations qui ont fait preuve de compréhension et d'esprit de consensus justement pour arriver aussi rapidement à un accord. Je voudrais qu'on applaudisse justement l'adoption de ce Code de conduite.

#### **Niek VAN DER GRAAFF (FAO Staff)**

As the Secretariat, we are very happy that this Code is indeed adopted now, however there is one small remark I would like to make. The delegate from Switzerland, at an earlier stage, noted that some language was missing in document CL 123/19 Annex 2, concerning the text of the Code. However, this is in a part, which was already agreed by Conference, we will make that correction.

#### **Ms Barbara DINHAM (Observer for Pesticide Action Network International)**

We represent around 600 public interest groups in 90 countries that are working to eliminate the hazards of pesticide use in those countries and globally. We very much welcome the decision of this Council meeting to adopt the new Code of Conduct. Research over the last years has shown that many of the pesticide problems in developing countries are continuing and, with the increased emphasis on investment in agriculture, we feel that the Code of Conduct is a very urgent and important partnership in looking at agricultural development in developing countries.

We congratulate governments for all the efforts that have been put in to finalizing this Code this week. We look forward to working with you, with industry, with food industries and with all parties to eliminate the health and environmental hazards of pesticides.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Donc, nous avons conclu notre point 7 de l'ordre du jour.

*It was so decided*

*Il en est ainsi décidé*

*Así se acuerda*

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous passons au point 5.1: "Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*. Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental demandé au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*."

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION** (continued)**II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**

(continuación)

*5.1 Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group requested in para 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1)*  
(continued)

*5.1 Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, demandée au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1)*  
(suite)

*5.1 Establecimiento del Grupo Intergubernamental de Trabajo solicitado en el párrafo 10 de la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación: cinco años después (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1)* (continuación)

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous allons traiter de l'établissement de ce Groupe de travail. Le Secrétariat a préparé le document CL 123/22-Add.1, à la suite de la demande que nous lui avons fait, d'essayer de mettre ensemble toutes les remarques et les propositions faites par différentes délégations et Groupes régionaux. Ce document a été distribué hier et j'espère que tout le monde aura eu l'occasion de le consulter et de l'analyser.

**Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

I would like to suggest that we postpone this discussion of this issue because GRULAC, is going to meet at 12:30 this afternoon to discuss exactly this point. I suggest that we can move forward and the issue of the establishment of the Working Group could be discussed later on in the afternoon.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je pense que si les autres délégations, les autres groupes n'y voient pas d'inconvénient, on analysera ce point cet après-midi, cela laissera le temps aux groupes régionaux de se consulter sur ce point particulièrement sensible.

*The meeting rose at 12.15 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 15*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas*

# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October - 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**31 October 2002**

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.40 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 15.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION** (continued)  
**II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)  
**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**  
 (continuación)

*5.1 Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group requested in para 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later* (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1)  
 (continued)

*5.1 Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, demandée au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après* (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1)  
 (suite)

*5.1 Establecimiento del Grupo Intergubernamental de Trabajo solicitado en el párrafo 10 de la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación: cinco años después* (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1) (continuación)

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je suis désolé du retard mais cela nous a permis d'avancer nos travaux sur certains points. Je vais donc reprendre la séance et on passe au point 5.1 "Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental" demandé au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*. Je rappelle que le document qui se réfère à ce point est le document CL 123/22-Add.1. C'est un document qui a été distribué hier et ce document a été élaboré par le Secrétariat en tenant compte des observations qui ont été faites mardi après-midi par différentes organisations et groupes régionaux. J'imagine que tout le monde a pris connaissance de ce document et je voudrais savoir s'il y a des observations, si les délégations souhaitent prendre la parole pour faire des observations sur ce document qui nous a été fourni par le Secrétariat.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué du Danemark au nom de la Communauté européenne et ses 15 Etats Membres.

**Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)**

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its fifteen Member States. We thank the FAO Secretariat for the good work put into Document CL 123/22- Add.1.

The EU fully supports the draft council decision for the Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG).

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for their work in putting together what really was a wide range of comments on this issue.

I would like to suggest some additional minor changes to the document that will make sure that the Working Group gets off to a good start. I think it is our job as Council, in a sense the parents of this sub-group, to try to make sure that it starts its life with as clear as possible mandate, with clear terms of reference, and clear working methods.

I think also it is important for us to empower this body as much as possible. We would like to make sure that it's a member-driven process, and as a Working Group, to have an opportunity to set its own agenda, to set its own calendar, and to have an opportunity to discuss its own programme of work. So, as we had stated in our earlier intervention, we feel that a number of these items are best left up to the Working Group itself to work out at its first session.

We actually have some textual suggestions and, I don't want to try your patience here with presenting them from the floor, but I would just like to note that I think that it may be necessary to keep working on this, perhaps in a smaller body, perhaps in the Drafting Committee, or here. I am

certainly happy to do it here if necessary to make sure that this Working Group gets off to a good start.

**Ms Sigrídur Ásdís SNÆVARR (Iceland)**

Iceland, on behalf of the Nordic countries, would like to thank the Secretariat for this new and amended Draft Decision on establishing the IGWG.

We recognize that due account has been taken of the point we raised in our earlier discussions. We therefore support the draft decisions as has been amended.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Y a-t-il d'autres commentaires? Je peux donc résumer ce qui s'est passé jusqu'à maintenant. Nous avons l'Union européenne qui appuie le document tel qu'il a été présenté, tel qu'il a été rédigé par le Secrétariat et l'Islande également appuie ce document. En revanche, les Etats-Unis estiment que ce document n'est pas suffisant, qu'il mériterait une élaboration ultérieure.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

I am speaking on behalf of the GRULAC countries.

We believe that there are some possible improvements in the text. It is not an unacceptable text, but it could be improved. However, if there is a decision to adopt it with a consensus decision, GRULAC would not block it. We note however that we have doubts on whether, the best solution to tackle possible amendments would be to send it to the Drafting Committee. We have doubts whether the Drafting Committee has the mandate to work on amendments of this very important decision.

**KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

We also thank the Secretariat for accommodating all of the important elements proposed by Council members.

In relation to the Japanese colleague's intervention, if we look at paragraph 8, concerning the calendar, we still have several brackets that need to be dealt with. I am unsure on how to proceed with this matter.

One thing that I would like to remind all of the Council members is that during our discussion last time, my delegation proposed to hold a Working Group in connection with CFS or other relevant committees.

The Twenty-ninth CFS will be held during the period 12 to 16 May next year. I would like to ask the Secretariat what kind of difficulties we may encounter if we hold the Working Group in May.

As I mentioned before, this would save costs for membership, we could encourage members to attend, as well as the experts attending the CFS.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

For us in Africa and in the G-77, we see the establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group as the realization of the deliberations we made during the WFS. We would accept the draft if there were consensus from all other groups, even though there are some areas that we would prefer to see highlighted.

For instance, we see the role of FAO being central in this assignment and not to be subordinated to other UN agencies, which would rather work with them as partners. In that vein I would like to align myself with the earlier comments made by our colleagues from the GRULAC.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Nous avons quelques questions qui ont été posées par le Brésil au nom du GRULAC à savoir si le Comité de rédaction était habilité à porter les modifications au texte. Le Japon souhaiterait savoir quand le Groupe devrait être créé et quand devrait avoir lieu la première réunion. Donc je demanderais au Secrétariat de répondre.

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

A question was raised by Brazil whether the Drafting Committee has the power to discuss the text.

Normally this is not the function of a Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee has to draft the report on the basis of the discussions, which have been held in the Council itself.

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

I wish to refer to the interventions by the distinguished delegates of Japan and the Republic of Korea. Both refer to paragraph 8.

There are square brackets. The first is on the timing of the First Session where we were not sure what the Council wanted, March-April, or close to the CFS in May.

We did not consider time that is needed for the May reporting from the Intergovernmental Working Group to the CFS, as foreseen in Article 10 of the Declaration of the Summit.

We could also have an oral report to the CFS. So, if you wish, it could be March, April or May, but the brackets were inserted as you have to decide on one of these months.

Regarding the other brackets. We apologize. We did not realize that they were in the original text. Please delete them. As far as the Secretariat is concerned, they are not necessary.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons donc la réponse du Secrétariat aux différentes questions et dans ce qui reste en suspens et que nous avons quelques appuis au document tel qu'il est, certain le GRULAC accepte la proposition mais voudrait voir quelques modifications mais si possible et les Etats Unis estime que le document n'est pas tout à fait prêt et souhaiterait une négociation supplémentaire ou un effort supplémentaire pour arriver a une rédaction plus satisfaisante. Donc nous en sommes là. Je voudrais poser la question quand même au GRULAC est ce que le GRULAC se satisferait du document tel qu'il est?

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

As I have said before, if there is a consensus to adopt this text as it is, we would not block it. That is basically our position.

If a process is open to present amendments, we do have a number of amendments which we believe, would improve the text because we notice it has some points which we believe are unclear and we would prefer to have them clarified although it is not, let us say unacceptable in general.

But, as I said, if there is a consensus from this room to adopt it as it is, the GRULAC will not block it.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je vous remercie donc il ne nous reste plus que les Etats-Unis, nous aurions un consensus sauf les Etats-Unis qui propose un travail supplémentaire. Madame la délégué des Etats-Unis est ce que vous vous joignez au consensus ou vous préférez que.

**Mrs Lucy TAMLYN (United States of America)**

I wanted to stress that it is not the goal of my delegation to block this process or slow it down. We simply seek some additional clarity in this document which we feel would be to the benefit of the Working Group they were trying to set up.

Let me give you a small example.

In paragraph 13 of the text that we have "... the FAO Secretariat, in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, shall draft an agenda, terms of reference ..." Now, if I am not mistaken, paragraph 1 and 2 of this text are the Terms of Reference. I find that a bit



confusing because I do not know who is responsible for the Terms of Reference. Is it the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the FAO Secretariat or is it the FAO Council, acting on its own authority?

I also have a question about what it means to set up a Working Group consistent with the CFS Rules of Procedure but, which also feels that it needs to clarify that only Members have the right to make decisions.

I feel that this might lead to some questions about exactly what Rules of Procedure are being used. Are these the CFS Rules of Procedure? Is the Working Group devising its own Rules of Procedure?

I do not think that these are complicated questions. We frequently do set up Working Groups or expert groups. I think they can be quickly resolved, but I do feel that bringing additional clarity to this document will make sure that the Working Group, rather than having to waste its time looking at procedural issues, will be able to proceed as directly as possible to do its important work.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Il y a cette proposition des Etats-Unis, qui estime que le document n'est pas clair et manque de précision. Peut-être alors serait-il utile qu'un Groupe restreint se réunisse avec le Bureau juridique de la FAO pour améliorer le texte?

Est-ce que cela convient à toutes les délégations?

Alors, dans ce cas, il serait peut-être souhaitable qu'un Groupe restreint se réunisse avec des Représentants des régions? On y reviendra donc plus tard et j'espère donc pouvoir l'adopter ce soir. Est-ce que cette proposition est agréée à toutes les délégations?

Donc, en attendant que ce travail soit effectué, je propose de passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le point 15. "Rapports de la soixante-treizième session et de la soixante-quatorzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques". Les documents relatifs à ce point portent la référence CL 123/5 et CL 123/16. Monsieur Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques va présenter les Rapports du Comité. Je suggère qu'il présente tout d'abord le Rapport de la soixante-treizième session du Comité, tenu en juin 2002.

## **V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

### **V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES**

### **V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS**

#### **15. Reports of the Seventy-third (June 2002) and Seventy-fourth (October 2002) Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 123/5; CL 123/16)**

#### **15. Rapport de la soixante-treizième session (juin 2002) et de la soixante-quatorzième session (octobre 2002) du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 123/5; CL 123/16)**

#### **15. Informes del 73º (junio de 2002) y 74º (octubre de 2002) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CL 123/5; CL 123/16)**

#### **Francis MONTANARO MIFSUD (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

Before I present my Summary Report of the proceedings of the two sessions of the CCLM which have been held since the last session of the Council, I should like to avail myself of the opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the support and cooperation I have received from colleagues on the CCLM, which have naturally facilitated my task and ensured that our work could be carried out in an efficient and business like manner.

I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the support and, in particular the Legal Office, which services this Committee, for the excellent documentation which we have always received and

which has been characterized both by thoroughness and lucidity. Needless to say, this has greatly facilitated our tasks.

At the Seventy-third session of the CCLM, held in June, the CCLM had two issues to consider. One concerning an arbitration award between a commercial contractor and FAO and the other issue was the furnishing of information on cases involving the immunity of FAO.

Concerning the arbitration award. The arbitration proceedings were held to adjudicated dispute which arose between FAO and the commercial contractor following the termination by FAO of the relevant contract. The CCLM considered that the arbitration was carried out, in this case, in accordance with the arbitration rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato* appointed an arbitrator for FAO and also represented the Organization in the proceedings.

Our Committee noted that in its final award of 4 December 2001 the Arbitration Tribunal confirmed the correctness of the approach taken by the Organization. In fact the arbitration tribunal held that FAO had legal grounds to terminate the contract provided that it indemnified the contractor for lost gain and for general expenditure sustained. It excluded in particular the payment of any damages for the termination of the contract on the part of the Organization. The CCLM concluded that arbitration had been carried out in accordance with the applicable contractual provisions.

The second item concerning information of cases involving the immunity of FAO. The CCLM noted that the Organization's position in relation to requests for information from States and national authorities on FAO staff and data on a personal nature had evolved over time. At first the Organization's position was very restrictive, in line with the overall approach to the matter taken by the UN and other Organizations of the UN System, and was considered that such information was covered by the immunities of the Organization.

Subsequently, this position has evolved. In view of the fact that Organizations are required to cooperate, at all times, with the appropriate authorities of Member Nations to facilitate the proper and administration of justice; secure the observance of police regulations; and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with privileges and facilities accorded to staff.

The Committee noted the current practice of FAO of disclosing information concerning staff members in response to requests from Nations or national authorities, such as national courts. For instance, information relevant to child and spouse support payments and other family obligations. The Committee endorsed the current FAO's practice and welcomed the proposal that future instances of provision of information to states and nationals authorities that would involve the immunity of the Organization by reported regularly to the CCLM.

These were the main business dealt with at the first session of the CCLM.

At the Seventy-fourth Session of the CCLM held on the 2 and 3 October 2002, four issues were considered: the question of the composition of the Programme and Finance Committees; the question of the Membership in the Codex Alimentarius Commission of Regional Economic Integration Organizations; the question of privacy protection regarding the release of individual information on staff members; and also an issue regarding the provision of written information on the activities of the Organization to opposition parties in Member Nations. This was a point that had been addressed at the previous session but was only concluded at this second session.

Regarding the composition of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Council will recall that it raised this question at its November 2001 Session "Members of the Asia and Pacific regions proposed that the existing formulae for the representation of different regions on the Programme and Finance Committees be reviewed. The proposal was supported by Members from other regions...".

The CCLM took note of document CCLM 74/2 which you will note is produced in full as an attachment to its report for the complete information of the Council. You will note that this contains a full history relevant to the existing text and how it came to be.

The CCLM was of the view that the document was a very complete and comprehensive one, setting the factual process leading to the present text of the relevant rules of the general rules of the Organization on the composition of the Programme and Finance Committee, including Conference Resolution 11/87. The CCLM concluded the whole question was essentially of a political nature. While expressing its readiness to consider the matter again in future as required, it could do so only on the basis of options, orientations and guidance provided by the Council itself.

The next point concerns the Membership and the Codex Alimentarius Commission of Regional Economic Integration Organizations in particular the European Community. The CCLM noted that as a Member Organization of FAO and in line with arrangements reached became a member of FAO in 1991. The European Community is entitled to participate in Bodies operated jointly with other organizations of the UN System, such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission which is a joint FAO/WHO Body without prejudice or necessary amendments to the rules of procedure of the Bodies in question.

In the course of the years 2000 and 2001, a set of amendments to the rules of the Codex Alimentarius Commission were developed and the CCLM noted that they were in line with provisions of the FAO Constitution of the General Rules of the Organization.

The CCLM examined the specific questions that had been referred to by the Director-General on the basis of observations made by the Codex Committee on general principles at its Seventeenth Session in Paris. These referred to three issues: the proposed possibility for Member States to develop or support the position of the Member Organization in areas of the exclusive competence of the member organization. The second point concerned the exercise of voting rights or the manner of exercising voting rights. The third, concerned the participation of the member organization and the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The CCLM noted that the proposal that Member Nations should be able to develop or support the position of the member organization in areas of its exclusive competence - that is, the exclusive competence of the member organization - had to be seen in the context of the highly technical and specialized nature of the work carried out by the Codex and its Subsidiary Bodies. In particular, the Member Nations would not be developing or presenting their own country positions but merely developing and supporting, from a scientific or technical point of view, the position of the member organization as already presented by its representative. The CCLM concluded that seen in this light the proposal was compatible with the provisions governing the status of a Member Organization within FAO.

As to the issue of Voting Rights, the CCLM noted that in FAO, a Member Organization may exercise on matters within its competence in a particular meeting a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States that are entitled to vote in the meeting. The CCLM noted that in FAO's practice provided that any necessary formalities such as submission of credentials or registration had been complied with, it is not required that each of the individual Member Nations actually be present in the meeting room at the time the vote is taken, in order for the Member Organization to be able to exercise its Voting Rights with respect to that of individual Member Nations.

Having considered the particular technical nature of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its work, as well as the proposed possibility for Member Nations to develop or support the position of the member organization in areas within the Member Organization's competence, the CCLM concluded that the requirements that each of the Members of the Member Organization be present at the time a vote is taken, in order for the Member Organization to vote on their behalf was consistent with relevant provisions of the FAO Constitution.

In view of the above, the CCLM considered this would not set a precedent for other Bodies of FAO in respect of the regular practice which I have already described followed by FAO since 1991.

As regards the issue of the participation of the member organization and Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the CCLM, while providing detailed guidance on the

matter, considered that the actual decision on the question raised should be taken by the Codex Committee on general principles and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The next subject was the privacy protection, release of individual information on staff members, which is broader than the one that was considered and which I have described in the Seventy-third Session regarding furnishing of information to national authorities. At its Ninety-fifth session the Finance Committee had "agreed that the matter should be referred to the CCLM and suggested that the European Commission and Privacy Guidelines Directive 95/46/EC of 24 October 1995 could serve as a point of reference...". The CCLM considered the document, analysing the issue of release of individual information on staff members including the right to privacy of staff members, when using FAO's communication facilities and the disclosure of information regarding visitors official web site to national authorities of FAO staff members.

The CCLM noted that the document - to which I would refer to if you are interested because it is a very complex one but it is available - in addition to taking into account relevant European Union directives as a point of reference, gave an overview of the UN and OECD guidelines on the protection of privacy. The CCLM expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat and considered the document an excellent basis for the preparation of FAO guidelines on this issue. The CCLM also asked the Secretariat to keep it regularly informed, given the innovative and rapidly evolving character of the legal aspects relating to the protection of privacy.

Finally, the CCLM considered the document concerning the provision of written information on the activities of the Organization to opposition parties in member nations. The matter had been submitted by the Director-General to the CCLM in connection with a particular request for information.

Regarding the general issue of provision of information to opposition parties, the CCLM recommended that FAO should follow the UN practice in this regard as follows. First, the Organization should in principle provide to an opposition party upon request, only such information as is in the public domain or information that by its nature should be so considered. The Organization should not release information of a restricted nature either because of its actual content or because it was provided to the Organization with limitations imposed on its release or on the understanding that it should not be released. The Organization should exercise its discretion in assessing any particular request for information in the light of the above.

The CCLM recognized that the primary responsibility for development activities in Member Nations lay with Governments and the relationship between FAO and the particular country is carried out necessarily through its government.

Consequently, should the request for information by an opposition party be directly linked to a specific decision-making process committing, the authorities of the country that request for information would need to be made by or channeled through the Government. However, there was a case which was at the origin of the issue which has to be distinguished from the general issue of provision of information on the Organization's activities to opposition parties in Member Nations.

The CCLM recognized that this was a special case which was the subject of a number of UN Resolutions and the respect of which a Special Envoy of the Secretary General was appointed. Consequently, the CCLM called for an ad hoc approach and recommended that the Organization follow the applicable UN Resolutions and proceed in accordance with the course of action taken by the United Nations in this case.

That concludes my summary report.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué du Danemark, au nom de la Communauté européenne et ses 15 Etats Membres.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

Let me just state, for the sake of the record, that the European Community and its fifteen Member States endorse the Report of the June and October 2002 Sessions on the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters.

**Shoji SATO (Japan)**

On behalf of the Asia Group, I want to make a statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters and its Members for their work.

I wish to refer to paragraph 4 of document CL 123/16, regarding the Composition of Programme and Finance Committees. We highly appreciate and congratulate the FAO Secretariat for having prepared and submitted, to the Seventy-fourth Session of the CCLM, the excellent document CCLM 74/2. This document has been duly attached to the document CL 123/16 as Appendix A.

At the Hundredth and Twenty-second Session of the Council, the Japanese Representative raised the issue on the difficulties which the Member Countries of the Asia Group have been facing for a long time in their representations on the Programme and Finance Committees. At that Council, he proposed that the existing formulae for the representations of different regions on the Programme and Finance Committees be reviewed.

The proposal made by Japan was supported by several countries. We were particularly encouraged by a Member Nation outside the Asia Region in supporting us by saying, "in terms of population, in terms of diversity of interests and numbers of countries, the Asia Region is under-represented in the key institutions of this Body and that representation needs to be adjusted in order to make account of Asia's legitimate interests".

This issue was discussed at the Seventy-fourth Session of the CCLM this month, as was described in the document CL 123/16. It was concluded that, "the whole question was essentially of a political nature". It continued to say, "while expressing its readiness to consider the matter again, in future, as required, the CCLM could do so only on the basis of options, orientations and guidance provided by the Council itself". The Asia Group believes that, for securing the principle of just and equitable representation of all regions, the Council has to provide its guidance to the CCLM.

It is clearly mentioned in the operative paragraph 3 of the Conference Resolution 11/87, that the Members of the Council should bear in mind the importance of securing equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region, when electing the Chairman and Members of the two Committees.

The Asia Group believes that the current system affords neither an appropriate and realistic representation nor allows equitable rotation within the regions. Therefore, there is a need to have another look at the situation and develop a system, which is more representative and equitable and corresponds to the ground realities.

We would, therefore, propose that this issue be further considered by the CCLM, on the basis of a new paper developed by the Secretariat, subsequent to written proposals received by, either the regional groups or individual Member Nations. We hope that the CCLM would be able to consider this new paper at the next meeting.

**Michael CONSTANTINIDES (Cyprus)**

The delegation of Cyprus endorses the Reports of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, as presented in the documents CL 123/5 and CL 123/16.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to Ambassador Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Permanent Representative of Malta, for his work in this Committee,

as well as in all matters relating to the activities of FAO. His long experience with the work of FAO, associated with his calm character, made him a valuable person to whom we all looked for assistance in difficult times. Now that his term of office comes to an end, I wish him health, happiness and good luck to whatever he will do in the future. I want to assure him that, in FAO, he leaves only friends.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Avant de passer la parole au représentant du Zimbabwe, je voudrais préciser que le Groupe de travail que nous avons composé tout à l'heure, doit se réunir dans la salle de Malaisie. Il va commencer ses travaux tout de suite. Je passe la parole à la Représentante du Zimbabwe.

#### **Ms N. ZITSANZA (Zimbabwe)**

On behalf of the Africa Group I would like to endorse the Reports on Constitutional and Legal Matters as presented in the two documents, CL 123/5 and CL 123/16.

#### **Murray COBBAN (Australia)**

Firstly, let me also join other colleagues in thanking the Chairman of the Committee for its work and also for the Reports, which have been presented today.

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the comments made by our colleague from Japan. As I think we all know, the issue that he has raised has been studied for many years. The Report of the CCLM, itself, recognizes the complications involved. As the CCLM, itself, indicated and our Japanese colleague himself recalled, this is largely a political issue and will require further guidance by the Council.

We understand the importance that the Members within the Asian Group attach to the issue. The proposal that it be studied further can go back to the CCLM, in our view, although we do not believe that the words we have just heard are, in themselves, a basis providing the sort of guidance likely to resolve the issue.

Furthermore, I think that as the CCLM does not represent all of the regions. We would consider fundamental that any subsequent guidance provided by the CCLM would require those regions, which may be affected by any such proposals, to provide their agreement.

#### **KIM KYEONG-KYU (Korea, Republic of)**

In relation to the CCLM Report, we strongly support the statement made by Japan, as one of the Asia Group Members. It was supported by consensus among Asia Group Members and we believe this statement is very concrete.

We would just like to reiterate the importance and urgency of this matter. I would like to request the Council to recognize and take relevant action, as the Japanese proposal states.

#### **Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)**

Deseamos felicitar, en verdad, el trabajo realizado por el Comité y sumarme a quienes han planteado una aprobación de ambos informes. No quiero desaprovechar la ocasión para exaltar el trabajo realizado por el Presidente del Comité el Excmo. Sr Embajador F. Montanaro Mifsud, a quien me permito rendir homenaje porque conozco que su medida y su sabiduría han sido importantísimos en el éxito alcanzado por el Comité en ambos períodos de sesiones.

Finalmente, quisiera hacer simplemente una observación, creo que lo jurídico está agotado y simple. Sencillamente se abre un espacio de discusión política importante indicado por Japón en cuanto a la composición señalada.

#### **Adnan BASHIR KHAN (Pakistan)**

Let me also place on record our appreciation for the wonderful work done by Ambassador Mifsud and the wonderful relationship he has maintained with his colleagues, all across the board, during his tenure here. We wish him the best in his future.

We also wish to place on record our strong support for what has been stated by Japan, on behalf of the Asia Group. I think one reason why the Asia Group choose to send the matter back to the CCLM was to keep the issue within the context of the established forums of FAO. In view of the comments we have heard from our colleague from Australia, the other option could be for this Council to establish a Working Group, with representation from all regions, to consider this issue in its political context.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brasil)**

Hago aquí mi intervención en nombre de los países del GRULAC. Nosotros tomamos nota de la propuesta hecha por Japón en representación de los países de la región de Asia. Reconocemos que es un asunto de gran complejidad y que afecta realmente a todas las regiones. No nos oponemos a que el tema vuelva al Comité de Asuntos Legales. Hemos escuchado la propuesta hecha por Pakistán, entendemos que es una propuesta interesante, en la medida que involucraría las diversas regiones interesadas en ese tema. En este punto, también reconocemos la importancia de lo dicho por la delegación de Australia en cuanto a que todas las regiones afectadas por la propuesta sean de alguna forma involucradas en el proceso de consulta y decisión a ese respecto.

**TANG SHENGYAO (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Chinese Delegation would, first of all, like to thank the Secretariat for the work done for the two Sessions of the CCLM.

The Chinese delegation suggests that the Council adopts the Reports of the two Sessions of the CCLM.

Regarding the composition of the Programme and Finance Committees, we have noted the concern voiced by Japan about Asia having limited representation in these two Committees. We believe that to enable the Membership of these two Committees to truly reflect the principle of equitable geographic distribution, we should give full consideration to regional characteristics.

According to FAO's grouping of regions, Asia currently has 22 Member Nations, with a population of 3.22 billion in an area of 23.58 million square kilometres. It is the region with the largest population and area, of which six countries have a population of over 100 million.

Mr de Haen's introduction shows that, in Asia, the number of undernourished people has reached as many as 500 million, accounting for 60 percent the world's total.

Moreover, we have also noted that within the region, the composition of countries is also complicated. There are industrialized countries belonging to OECD, while most developing countries belonging to the Group of 77. How to enable the Asian Members in the Programme and Finance Committees to represent the interests of half of the world's population and how to strike a balance of interests between developed and developing countries, within the Asia Region, have now become real issues. Therefore, the Council should give full consideration to the concern expressed by various Asian countries about the composition of these two Committees. In particular, we are concerned about Asia's underrepresentation in these two Committees and the adoption of appropriate actions to study this issue with a view to finding the most desirable solution acceptable to all.

**Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)**

On behalf of my Government allow me to state at the outset that we fully support and endorse the reports of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Committees on Constitutional and Legal Matters. We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support to Japan, speaking on behalf of the Asia Group, in its desire to review the representation of the Asia Region in the Programme and Finance Committees of FAO.

We do believe that the representation in these Committees should be fair and balanced and should reflect reality. When these numbers were debated years ago, realities were different. Today, things have changed and in the future things will even be radically different. We do not believe that the current representation is an infallible and immutable law. While we realize that the process will

take a long time, we believe that negotiations should start somewhere and we are convinced that this is as good a time for discussing the representation on the Programme and Finance Committees.

After hearing Australia and Brazil's views, I would also like to support the call made earlier by Pakistan and China to create a study group or a working group or whatever group, to study and review the representation in the Programme and Finance Committees.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

In this capacity, I am speaking on behalf of Ambassador Nouri who is not present as the Acting Chairperson of the G-77. The concern that has been raised by our colleagues in the Asia and Pacific Group is noted and we feel that the change that is being proposed is of interest to many of us. If we are going to review this topic, we have to do it in a comprehensive manner so that we do not do it in a piecemeal fashion. To that extent we go along with the suggestion that if we must start negotiations, let us have a careful study of how we want to embark on this subject and not just approach it in a haphazard manner.

**Simon DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)**

Like others, I would like to note the appreciation of the work of the Chair and the Members of CCLM. New Zealand would like to comment on the issue raised by Japan regarding regional representation. We recognize that the CCLM has indicated that this issue was a political one and it could only consider the matter further on the basis of options, orientations and guidance provided by Council. While we understand the importance of this issue to Japan and others, Japan's proposal which we have only just heard really provides no further agreed basis for guidance to CCLM. Certainly, we have not come prepared today to engage in any substantive discussion, given that the CCLM report itself does not provide any basis to do so. We regret this, in fact, as we had hoped to engage with our Japanese colleagues on this issue earlier, while we realize this is an Asia Group proposal, it is nevertheless a proposal that will affect every region in FAO.

We would also note that the issue has been studied over many years and the Report of the CCLM recognizes that it is a very complicated issue. The issue touches on the Basic Texts of this Organization and I would endorse the comments just made by the distinguished colleague from Zimbabwe, that it is not something that we think should be approached piecemeal. We believe that CCLM is the constitutional and legal body for this.

Having said all of that and despite the fact it will use up further scarce FAO resources, New Zealand could agree to this issue going back to CCLM. However, I would just like to reiterate the comments made by Brazil and also my Australian colleagues. Currently, the CCLM does not represent all regions and we would consider it fundamental that any subsequent guidance provided by CCLM require that all regions that may be affected by any such proposals provide their agreement.

**Timbul SITUMORANG (Observer for Indonesia)**

Like other colleagues, the Indonesian delegation would like to congratulate the CCLM for the Report. As for the composition of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Indonesian delegation wishes to confirm that Indonesia, as one of the Asia and Pacific countries, shares the legitimate concerns of the Japanese delegation and strongly supports the proposal to review the composition of the two Committees. The Indonesian delegation believes that equitable representation in the two Committees will not only render good to FAO but also within the region itself.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Alors, nous avons ici le rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ) et une déclaration du Japon, appuyée par certaines délégations et avec des observations d'autres délégations.



Je voudrais demander à Monsieur Pucci de nous dire ce que l'on peut faire sur cette question. Il y a plusieurs propositions qui ont été faites: création d'un groupe d'étude, d'un groupe qui débattrait de la question en dehors du CQCJ, d'autres disent que cela doit rester dans le CQCJ.

#### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is composed of seven members which, in principle, should represent the seven regions. However, in any case the CCLM already made it clear that this is a political issue, so the CCLM, as a technical body, needs guidance from the Council.

Mr Chairman, at the previous session of the Council, you made some proposals like "les Groupes régionaux, ou le Présidents des Groupes régionaux pourraient en parler". You put the accent on the need for discussion among the regional groups. Now, how to structure this, whether this should be done through an official working group or informal discussions so that some proposals and guidance be given to the CCLM as it requested, is a matter for the Council to decide. All the various regional groups may have informal discussions among themselves so that concrete proposals to study the matter could be given by the Council to the CCLM in June next year.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Lorsque les Groupes régionaux en parlent entre eux, est-ce qu'il faut que ce soit une structure formelle, un groupe de travail constitué par le Conseil ou bien cela peut être informel?

#### **CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE**

Ma suggestion était un groupe informel. Néanmoins, il appartient au Conseil de décider ou, ce qui serait mieux pour le moment, d'avoir des discussions informelles. L'on pourrait ainsi voir si des indications peuvent être données au CCLM lors de la prochaine session du Conseil.

#### **Murray COBBAN (Australia)**

I must say that I find myself being in the position of having more confidence in the CCLM than the Secretariat does but I think they are the group that perhaps should take this forward.

I would hate to burden this Organization with yet another Working Group, informal or formal. As I indicated before, we believe that the CCLM is the right place to take this issue further, albeit there will need to be some consultation with whatever recommendations they make.

#### **Acisclo VALLADARES MOLINA (Guatemala)**

Yo creo que se tienen que diferenciar dos situaciones, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos es un órgano del Consejo que dice lo que es en materia jurídica, no formula nuevo derecho; esto es algo que pertenece al mundo de la oportunidad y de la conveniencia que es el mundo político. Por eso el Comité podría hacer una labor de índole jurídica sobre el tema pero ya con instrucciones políticas dadas por el Consejo. Esa es la diferencia. Si esto se remite nuevamente al Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales sin un mandato de índole político, no van a poder avanzar.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

A la dernière Session, j'avais demandé à ce que les Présidents des régions se consultent entre eux pour essayer d'arriver à une proposition de solution pour cette question. Je crois qu'il va falloir poursuivre les consultations entre les Groupes régionaux, ayant bien à l'esprit qu'il s'agira effectivement, en ultime recours, d'une décision politique qui sera conféré ensuite au CQCJ de formuler d'un point de vue juridique et technique.

Donc, je crois que les Consultations devraient être poursuivies et peut-être que les Groupes régionaux pourraient nous faire un rapport au prochain Conseil pour nous dire quels ont été les résultats de ces consultations. Est-ce que vous approuvez cette procédure?

Je ne vois pas d'opposition. On continue donc avec cette procédure et j'espère que nous aurons une réponse au mois de juin, ou du moins un rapport sur les consultations qui ont été entreprises par les régions.

Je crois que nous en avons terminé avec le point 15 mais avant d'en terminer vraiment avec le point 15, je voudrais dire deux mots à l'attention de l'Ambassadeur Mifsud.

Je suis arrivé à Rome, il y a trois ans, et j'en suis reparti. L'Ambassadeur Mifsud est toujours là et j'ai rencontré l'Ambassadeur Mifsud et tout le monde m'a dit que c'est l'un des pilier de cette Organisation, et probablement une des personne de référence, à qui l'on s'adressait toujours pour essayer de trouver une solution. Effectivement, pendant mon expérience de deux ans et demi, cela a été le cas et je crois que tous ceux qui ont travaillé avec lui ont eu l'occasion d'apprécier cette sagesse, cette expérience, et les qualités professionnelles de l'Ambassadeur. Je crois que nous allons tous regretter sa présence ici. Je crois que vous êtes resté de longues années ici. Restez encore quelque temps, revenez avec nous, revenez parmi nous, faites nous profiter de votre expérience. En tous cas, je voudrais vous souhaiter au nom du Conseil et en mon nom personnel, tous nos vœux de bonheur, de succès dans tout ce que vous entreprendrez et vous serez toujours le bienvenu parmi nous. Je vous remercie pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour notre Organisation.

**Francis MONTANARO MIFSUD (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)**

I would like to thank you for your kind words which certainly go beyond my merits. I would like to express my gratitude for the cordiality and support that I have always found here, I must say I have very much enjoyed my mission here. A friend from Cyprus says that I am always calm, that is not always the case but perhaps it is 80 percent of the time. I have been here very long and probably it would be good that I vacate my position. I shall be around in that I shall continue to reside in Rome. From time to time I hope to come and meet old friends here, and I have many I see now.

**16. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)**

**16. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)**

**16. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos (continuación)**

*16.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions (CL 123/LIM/2) (continued)*

*16.1 Invitation d'États non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO (CL 123/LIM/2) (suite)*

*16.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO (CL 123/LIM/2) (continuación)*

*16.2 Applications for Membership in the Organization (CL 123/17) (continued)*

*16.2 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (CL 123/17) (suite)*

*16.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (CL 123/17) (continuación)*

*16.3 The Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General, Article VII.1 of the Constitution of FAO (CL 123/INF/20)*

*16.3 Nombre et durée des mandats du Directeur général, Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO (CL 123/INF/20)*

*16.3 Número y duración de los mandatos del Director General, Artículo VII.1 de la Constitución de la FAO (CL 123/INF/20)*

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous allons maintenant passer au sous-point 16.2 de l'ordre du jour «Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation».

Le Directeur général vient de recevoir une demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation de Timor Est et contenu du fait que le Conseil est en session, il est proposé de l'examiner. Le document qui se réfère à cette demande porte la référence CL 123/17-Sup.1. Nous

prenons acte de cette demande et la transmettons à la Conférence, qui examinera cette question lors de sa trente-deuxième session en novembre 2003.

En attendant la décision de la Conférence concernant cette demande d'admission et en application de l'Article 25.11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et des paragraphes B.1, B.2 et B.5 des Principes régissant l'octroi du Statut d'observateur aux nations, le Conseil est appelé à autoriser le Directeur général à inviter Timor-Leste à participer en qualité d'observateur aux prochaines sessions du Conseil ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation pouvant l'intéresser.

Est-ce que le Conseil souhaite autoriser Timor-Leste à participer à ses sessions et à des réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation?

Je vois qu'il n'y a pas d'observation, donc il est décidé que Timor-Leste pourra participer aux sessions du Conseil et aux réunions régionales et techniques de l'Organisation qui l'intéresse.

Nous passons au point 16.3 de l'ordre du jour. Il s'agit du nombre et de la durée des mandats du Directeur général, Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

### **CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE**

Les Membres du Conseil qui ont demandé l'insertion de ce point à l'ordre du jour de la présente session, ont également demandé que soit préparé un document d'information, en particulier, une mise à jour des documents du Conseil CL 116/INF/5, notamment pour ce qui est de l'Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO et des dispositions similaires en vigueur dans d'autres agences des Nations Unies en tenant compte des résolutions pertinentes prises par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Le Secrétariat a donc préparé le document CL 123/INF/20 intitulé « Nombre et durée des mandats du Directeur général, Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO ».

Selon les termes mêmes de la demande formulée par les Membres du Conseil, ce document est une mise à jour du document précédent qui avait été préparé en 1999 pour la cent seizième session du Conseil ; il s'intitulait alors « Arrangement pour la nomination du Directeur général ». Il en reprend le format.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur l'Annexe de ce document. Cette Annexe est structurée en deux parties: partie 1 et partie 2. La partie 1 donne des informations générales sur les procédures de nomination des chefs d'administration des autres agences du système des Nations Unies. La partie 2 fournit des précisions sur le nombre et la durée du mandat desdits chefs d'administration des autres agences du système des Nations Unies.

Enfin, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour corriger une erreur qui s'est glissée dans le document dans la partie 2 de l'Annexe relative à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). En effet, dans le deuxième paragraphe relatif à la durée du mandat du Directeur général de l'UNESCO, il est indiqué qu'avant l'adoption de l'amendement, la durée du mandat du Directeur général était de six ans non renouvelable. De fait, il faut lire que la durée du mandat était de six ans renouvelable une seule fois. Cela se trouve à la page 16 du document de la version française.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Au cours de ces trois jours nous avons eu des consultations à titre informel avec les différents présidents de Groupes, les présidents du Groupe des 77, de l'OCDE et d'autres et en début d'après-midi, nous sommes arrivés à un accord sur un texte que le Conseil pourrait adopter. J'ai demandé au Secrétariat de faire distribuer ce texte dans toutes les langues et j'espère que tout le monde l'a devant lui. Je vais donc lire le texte sur lequel nous sommes arrivés à un accord. Il s'agit du texte en anglais.

*"Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General of FAO*

*First: the Council – with reference to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/241 – asks the Independent Chair of the Council together with a regional representative group of "Friends of*

*the Chair" to deal in a transparent and participatory manner with the question of the number and length of terms of office of the Director-General of FAO (cf. Article VII.I of the Constitution of FAO), keeping in mind the transitional provisions such as: a) the date of entry into force of an amended Article VII.I of the Constitution of FAO; and b) the rights and obligations of the incumbent. The "Friends of the Chair" will be expected to consult, as necessary, with their respective groups, noting that many Members wish to have adequate time to consult on this matter with their capitals and/or the regional organizations to which they belong.*

*Second: meeting of the "Friends of the Chair" will be called by the Independent Chair of the Council or his designate, as deemed necessary, or upon request of at least two of the Members of the "Friends of the Chair", bearing in mind the objective to work out a consensus in order for the FAO Secretariat to prepare a detailed proposal well before the next Council in June 2003 for their review on changing article VII.I of the Constitution of FAO, with a view to adopting a decision at the FAO Conference at its Thirty-second Session in November-December 2003. A decision by the Council in June 2003 with a recommendation to the Conference will have to be submitted to the Seventy-sixth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in October 2003 before it goes to the Conference, through the Council immediately preceding the Conference.*

*Third: at an early date after the closure of this Council there will be a briefing open to all Members of the FAO on the experience of term limits in UN Organizations based upon updated information from the FAO Secretariat. In addition, the Members of FAO will receive interim reports from the Independent Chair of the Council on progress achieved."*

This is the end of the document we agreed upon.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

In the text I have, in which my group based its decision to accept, there was also paragraph 4 which begins with the revision of Article VII.1, etc. I did not remember you reading this out. Could you confirm whether this paragraph is part of the agreed text?

**Murray COBBAN (Australia)**

I am not sure if there is problem or not, but I thought we had agreed on a package in the meeting. I am not just quite sure, I just need a moment to reflect on whether the explanation you have just given us is consistent with the discussion that we had.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je vais suspendre la séance quelques minutes. Je voudrais que les personnes qui étaient présentes à la réunion du Groupe à 2 heures reviennent avec moi à la Salle du Gabon.

*The meeting was suspended from 17.20 to 17.35 hours*

*La séance est suspendue de 17.20 à 17 h 35*

*Se suspende la sesión de las 17.20 a las 17.35 horas*

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

On reprend les travaux. Après consultation très rapide, nous avons convenu qu'on maintiendrait le paragraphe 4 et je lis le paragraphe 4.

*"Text in English*

*Four. The revision of Article VII.1 of the Constitution of FAO in this regard which may be adopted by the Conference in November-December 2003 would be applied from the Thirty-third Session of the Conference in 2005."*

On va vous distribuer le texte complet, en anglais et traduit. Ce texte a été approuvé par les Présidents de régions, le Groupe des 77, l'OCDE et le Président de l'Union européenne. Si tout le monde a vu ce texte, on pourrait peut-être l'approuver. Etant donné que ce texte, même si vous ne l'avez pas lu, a été visionné et approuvé par les Présidents des groupes, le Président du G-77 et le

Président de l'OCDE, est-ce que on peut l'approuver sans que tout le monde l'ait devant lui? Très bien. Nous déclarons ce texte comme approuvé.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

## **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons convenu qu'il n'y aurait pas de félicitations mutuelles mais je voudrais quand même féliciter les gens avec qui j'ai travaillé pendant quatre jours pour arriver à ce consensus. Je vous remercie tous. Maintenant cela n'empêche pas d'ouvrir le débat et d'écouter les commentaires que les délégations souhaiteraient faire sur cette question, en particulier du Nombre de mandats et de la Durée des mandats du Directeur général. J'ouvre donc le débat et ceux qui veulent intervenir sont les bienvenus.

### **Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

Los países del GRULAC adoptaron apoyaron el proyecto pero esperamos que sea traducido en español. Espero además que esta flexibilidad de los países de la Región en aceptar un texto, aunque que no esté en su lengua, sea considerado por el Consejo.

#### *Sigue en inglés*

Brazil firmly supports the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/241 aimed at strengthening of the United Nations System.

We recognize the importance of paragraph 69 of the Resolution's Annex which encourages the UN Specialized Agencies to consider uniform term and term limits for the Executive Heads.

Brazil deems, therefore, appropriate that this issue be also debated in FAO. We appreciate the opportunity provided in this Session to discuss the possibility of re-introducing term limits for the Director-General of this Organization, which would contribute to harmonize its rules with those followed by the rest of the UN family.

Brazil notes, however, that this is a complex matter with important political implications and we acknowledge also that its inclusion in the Agenda of this Council Session did not allow enough time for its in-depth consideration by a number of delegations. We understand, in this connection, the need of those delegations to further consult their governments on this issue.

Brazil praises the work, which has been conducted in FAO by the Director-General, particularly with regard to issues of special interest of developing countries. My delegation understands that the exercise we are going to engage in, should not affect the fulfillment of his mission, nor should we prejudice at this point in time any aspect related to the incumbent's future.

Brazil fully supports the consultation process which will be carried out by the Independent Chairman of the Council and see it as a transparent, efficient and inclusive way to tackle this matter. We trust his ability and impartiality to conduct this process, and Brazil is ready to offer its contribution to help him achieving a balanced proposal, which can be accepted by all members of this Organization.

Brazil believes that, as in many other difficult issues, previously discussed in FAO, we will be able to find a consensus solution for this important matter.

### **Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole au délégué du Danemark, au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres.

### **Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

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

We are very pleased to be able to have this discussion on the Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General of FAO with the Membership here in the Council today.

The EU requested a discussion on this matter in order to take up an important aspect of the United Nations General Assembly Reform Programme.

The UN General Assembly Resolution 51/241 from 1997 recommended the introduction of term limits within the United Nations and encouraged the Specialized Agencies to follow the same Guidelines. The Resolution advises to apply uniform terms of office of four years, renewable once, throughout the UN System. And this Resolution was, endorsed unanimously.

At this, the UN Secretary General himself has acted in favour of Term Limits. The Secretary General has appointed Heads of Funds and Programmes in general, only for two terms.

FAO is one of the last Organizations in the United Nations family without term limits as we can see from the background document prepared by the Secretariat, the CL 123/INF/20. We thank the Secretariat for providing us with this useful background document.

Also here, we see that term limits were applied in FAO until 1977, when they were abolished. With initiating this discussion here today, we hope to reintroduce Term Limits in FAO and thereby bring FAO in line with the majority of the UN Agencies. The EU believes that the right time to introduce this change would be the Conference in November 2003. We would like to have an open discussion within the Membership on the Number and Length of Terms of Office.

The EU has a position which stems from the General Assembly Resolution 51/241. The EU Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs decided in 1998 to support the UN Secretary-General's Reform Programme. The EU has since then pursued the matter in different relevant UN Organizations.

Always in the case of FAO, the EU would like to follow the General Assembly Guidelines and the Terms of Office of four years, renewable once. Such a limit on the number terms, should preferably take effect as from 2005, but we are however aware of the many different options on the number and lengths of terms and of date of entry into effect. It is the intention of the EU to aim for the broadest possible consensus and we look forward for a constructive and open discussion and on all options.

The European Community and its 15 Member States welcome the decision just made by the Council to Establish a Group of Friends of the Independent Chair of the Council to bring this matter forward. We pledge our full support to this process and will work actually and constructively to reach a broad consensus. We hope that when we come to this agenda item on the June Council 2003, it is in order to decide upon a specific proposal from the Secretariat reflecting exactly such a broad consensus.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Je ne suis pas chargé au niveau du Groupe africain de donner la position de notre groupe. Je voulais juste vous demander compte tenu de notre sensibilité francophone, en consultation avec le Secrétariat, quand est-ce que vous pensez que nous pourrions disposer du texte en français de ce que l'on vient de d'adopter?

**Murray COBBAN (Australia)**

As a number of delegations before me, I believe that this is a significant issue, particularly in the light of UN Resolution 51/241 and we are very pleased to see it on the Council Agenda here today for discussion.

I believe that working on this agreed text will enable FAO to take its proper place in the process of UN Reform. I would support the comments made by the delegate of the European Union on the pattern which is already established within the vast majority of UN Agencies - that 2 by 4 terms.

We recognize that this is a complex issue with a range of points of view that have to be effected in, but we would hope that everyone can move as expeditiously as possible towards having a resolution which would bring FAO back into the mainstream of the UN Reform process.

We would hope also Mr Chairman, as you mentioned, that the spirit of the Group that worked under your able leadership, over the last few days, would be carried forward in a process of the Friends of the Chair and we, like others, pledge ourselves to support that work towards an early conclusion.

**Gudmundur B. HELGASON (Iceland)**

Iceland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic Countries with many others, have for a long time been active and strong supporters of the United Nations Reform Process. Consequently, we very much welcome the decision that has just been adopted by Council and this opportunity to discuss the issue of the Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General of FAO. For this discussion the Secretariat has also prepared a very useful document.

For the Nordic Countries, the starting point for this discussion of introducing Term Limits for FAO is the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/241 of 1997, thus making this discussion a part of the United Nations Reform Process. The fact that this Resolution was unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly should also serve to simplify our work.

In order to be as brief as possible and to the point, and having had the benefit of listening to the statement made earlier by Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States, we simply wish to state that we fully support the EU statement and will work constructively towards a consensus on this very important issue, at the earliest possible date.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

I take the floor on behalf of the Group of 77, in the absence of our Substantive Chairperson, Ambassador Nouri.

The G-77 has agreed to discuss the Agenda item 'Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General of FAO as proposed by the European Union.

This is against the background that there is a genuine desire to bring the FAO in line with other UN Bodies in that the reform is not in any way going to be used as a ploy to target the incumbent Director-General. One of our colleagues has had an opportunity since, before we broke for summer, to deliberate on the substance of the proposal in their region.

In the G-77 we are somewhat constrained. We cannot enter into substance because we only saw the recent indication just about a fortnight before this Council. Many of our delegations have, therefore, not had adequate time to consult with their Capitals and/or the Regional Organization to which they belong.

As such, we cannot be drawn into discussing the substance of the topic at this stage; therefore, we are willing to contribute to the shaping of the modalities of how we would like to handle this issue. We support that an Independent Chairperson of the Council should put together a Group of Friends, composed of Regional Representatives to consider the issues involved in a transparent and participatory manner, to formulate a proposal for submission to Council when it has reached consensus, and to meet whenever the Independent Chair or the members of the Group see the need to do so.

The Group of 77 supports the need for a briefing from the Secretariat on the experiences of other Organizations on this matter. We suggest that at the same time, the Independent Chairperson would also submit his first report on his consultations with the Friends of the Chair to all the members. We feel that this continual briefing will assist our members to be informed on the

substance, so as to be able to continue consulting with their capitals and give feedback to the Group of the Friends of the Chair.

When the Chairman has obtained the necessary consensus, in our view, we would expect a report to be circulated to the Capitals before the issue comes out for discussion in Council. We feel that the implementation should not prejudice the rights and obligations of any candidate.

We hope that with this, we may assist in the forward movement of this programme.

**Costa Ricky MAHALU (Tanzania, United Republic of)**

I am taking this Floor, on behalf of the Africa Group.

We would like to state that the Africa Group does, in principle, accept the concept of reviewing the Number and Terms of Office of the Director-General of FAO. It is not opposed to the exercise of reviewing their lengths or those terms.

There are appropriate reforms covering a number of Organizations within the United Nations system. It is with respect to this stand that the Africa Group considers it appropriate and supports the introduction of item 16.3 as proposed by the European Union to come up for initial discussion at this Council.

Item 16.3 is a very serious motion. Its conclusion will amend the current contents of Article VII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. It will therefore set a new practice. The seriousness of this item deserves the keen attention and full comprehension of the requested new practice by the FAO Member Nations.

In fact, any change or changes in the FAO Constitution must be preceded by full comprehension of the need for a change by the Members of the Organization. Item 16.3 needs to be fully explained to our capitals. Most of the African delegations would like to brief and/or consult their capitals as well as their regional and subregional organizations, on the aims of this item. The capitals, as well as the regional and subregional organizations have the right to know the reason behind the requested changes. It is therefore important that we be given some time – adequate time in fact – so that our capitals are fully consulted on this subject.

The Group believes that the sponsors of this motion have already exhausted all channels of consultation in their capitals and they now have full power to engage themselves into a detailed debate of their motion. The Africa Group needs the time between now and the next Council to consult our Capitals.

We support the idea of the proposal that the Independent Chairman of the Council establish a restricted group to be known as the Friends of the Chair. We propose that the Group be comprised of two persons from each FAO Region. This group would examine and debate the proposed changes in a transparent and a participatory manner with a view to formulating a draft proposal for submission to the Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session of the Council in June next year.

The position from the African capitals on the subject will be communicated to the Friends of the Chair through their Regional Representatives in the respective groups. Before submitting the draft proposal to the Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session of the Council, the draft should be circulated to our capitals for their comments. The timetable anticipated by FAO group is that by the time the Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Council convenes, the draft proposal by the Friends of the Chair will be ready for submission at that Session on the basis of the outcome of the Council during the Hundred and Twenty-fourth FAO Council and recommendation for adoption by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-second Session in November-December 2003.

The amended Article, that is Article VII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Statute will become operative from the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference in November 2005.

In conclusion, the Africa Group believe that while debating this item by a restricted group and at the next Council Session the General Principles of Law recognized by Sovereign States will be



observed. A new practice under an amended Article VII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution is likely to emerge from November 2005.

Item 16.3 intends to change a practice but not to outline qualifications for candidates nominated by the regional groups to contest for the Office of the Director-General. This should mean that the incoming Director-General would have the same rights and obligations as any other candidate, and let the democratic process, so cherished by the United Nations Organization, take its course.

**Tony P. HALL (United States of America)**

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for recognizing me and I just want to say, as a former politician who was elected twelve times as a US Congressman for twenty-four years, when anybody talks about term limits, I always get a little bit nervous.

However over time, I have come to see the wisdom of requiring term limits for positions that are terribly complex; positions that have a diverse number of people and employees, and a variety of issues - a President, a Prime Minister of a country, a Governor of a State, a Head of a large business or working group, a Head of an international organization.

We need term limits. I think that it is best for everybody concerned. It brings freshness, it brings a new direction it is good for the employees. It is good for the issues, and it is good for the people that are getting the help.

At present, most UN Agencies have term limits, and the most common arrangement is two terms at about four years. It is generally accepted that in order to achieve and be creative, together with effective leadership, there should be an upper limit on the term of office of the Executive Head.

In the case of UN Bodies, Member Nations need to be able to exercise accountability at reasonable intervals. The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution 51/241 in 1997 which recommends the introduction of Term Limits within the UN, and it encourages the Specialized Agencies to consider doing likewise.

We support the creation of this Working Group with the Terms of Reference that have been circulated to this Council to look at this question, and report back to the next Council in June 2003.

**Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)**

First of all, I would like to say that I am speaking on behalf of my country and also expressing the views of the Near East Group. This is in the wake of the meeting we had with the Group of G77. I would like to stress if I could the importance of this issue now before us, whether within the ambit of UN Resolution 51/241, or as a way to improve the work in FAO, or in any other Specialized Agency in the UN system.

In principle, we agree with the text submitted for consideration today and approved by the summary. I would just like to home in on a few points.

Firstly, I have already mentioned the importance of this issue as has numerous preceding speakers who also flagged the same point.

Secondly, we agree with the idea of setting up a Group of Friends of the Chair as this would provide us with the necessary flexibility to be able to submit proposals, ideas and suggestions which could then be considered at the next session of the Council.

Thirdly, I would venture to say, and I trust and hope that I will be clear on this, that the G77 believes it is necessary for us to give a sufficient timeframe. This is also true for some countries which did not have the necessary time to study this whole issue in-depth. We should not only be looking at the number and duration of the Director-General's terms of office but also the amendment to be made to the Constitution. We feel that it is necessary to study this point in-depth from all view points, and especially consider the legal and juridical implications of the amendment.

I would like to stress the importance of the documents that were prepared for us by the Secretariat and also the importance of the papers and documents that will be prepared on the basis of the agreement we reach today. Let me also stress the flexibility which should characterize the reports which will be circulated by the Independent Chairman of Council and Members of the Friends of the Chair. The reports will enable us to give the proper dimensions that this problem merits. The process will ensure that the necessary light is shed upon all the aspects of this issue, providing Member Nations with the possibility to express a well-informed opinion.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman for the excellent way in which he is guiding our proceedings and particularly the meeting which thanks to the cooperation among all colleagues and delegates, made it possible to reach this agreement in a relatively short period of time.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

This is an issue to which Canada attaches great importance. We believe that the manner in which the Council and Conference addresses this matter will have major implications for the credibility and the reputation of FAO and its Governing Bodies *vis-à-vis* its Member Governments, the public and other organizations and agencies of the UN System.

The excellent paper prepared by the Secretariat on this subject CL 123/INF/20 shows clearly how the rest of the UN family has responded to these challenges. A perusal of Part II of the Annex A to the document discloses several facts that are highly relevant to our work here.

First, the length of terms of executive heads in the UN and its Specialized Agencies varies considerably. While four-or five-year terms are most common, three and six-year terms are also found.

Second, of the thirteen Specialized Agencies listed in the Secretariat paper, nine have a limit of two terms, of the remaining four agencies; three the World Bank, the IMF, and the ILO are currently examining the issue of term limits. In the case of the Bank and the Fund, separate but parallel Working Groups have recommended that "the Bank President, Fund Managing Director normally should not be expected to serve more than two terms...".

Third, in Resolution 51/241 of 1997 the United Nations General Assembly introduced uniform terms of four years renewable once - in other words, a two-term limit for the Executive Heads of programmes, funds and other Bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Although, the Secretariat paper is sided on this point, it is our understanding that the Secretary General has consistently applied this norm in all the executive appointments he has made without any exceptions.

Fourth, in any Specialized Agency in which limits on the number of terms have been introduced in recent years, that limitation has been implied to the incumbent Executive Head. In no case has the incumbent been, so to speak, indefinitely grandfathered.

The terms of this debate and the resolution of this matter have the potential to either strengthen or harm this Organization to which the poor and hungry of the world look for sustenance and support. The key issue is striking the right balance between continuity and change in the leadership of the Organization.

It is widely recognized in both the public and private sectors that getting the balance right can have a decisive impact on the overall health of the Organizations and their capacity to successfully fulfil their missions.

As we know from the practical work of the FAO in other development organizations failure to achieve the right balance in national governments is a significant cause of instability and under-development. FAO must get the balance right, both for its own sake and in order to set a good example to its constituents.

The General Assembly unanimously concluded that in the case of a member of the UN family this balance is best struck by limiting the Executive Heads of Programmes, Funds and other Bodies to maximum of two terms. Thus, the leaders of these important organizations have ample time to

implement their programmes while ensuring that the Organizations will be regularly refreshed and renewed through new leadership.

Canada believes that the principles and practices applied by our Sister Organizations in the UN family should be applied to FAO. We look forward to working with other delegations and friends to see how we can best do that here. The consensus adoption of the resolution today is a promising start to our work.

**Miguel BARRETO SÁNCHEZ (Perú)**

No voy a explayarme en el uso de la palabra porque ya lo ha hecho Brasil cuando habló a nombre del GRULAC y Zimbabwe cuando lo hizo a nombre del Grupo de los 77. De acuerdo al documento que hemos aprobado, el paso siguiente le corresponde a usted, por lo cual me atrevería a solicitarle si usted nos pudiera comentar cómo ha pensado conformar este grupo representativo de una manera transparente y participativa, específicamente en lo que se refiere al número de Miembros y a la medición de la representatividad regional. Probablemente esto sería a través de consultas con los presidentes de los grupos regionales, o que los grupos regionales elijan a sus propios representantes. Esta es mi pregunta y, además, teniendo en cuenta sus múltiples obligaciones, cuándo piensa usted que se convocaría la primera reunión de este Grupo de Trabajo?

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je crois qu'avec l'intervention du Pérou nous avons terminé avec les demandes d'intervention.

En fait, je dois répondre à la question posée par Monsieur le délégué du Pérou, à savoir comment nous allons procéder. Nous avons eu quelques échanges d'idées tout à l'heure avant de venir en séance avec les Présidents des régions, et nous avons pensé que le Groupe de travail qui a préparé justement ce texte que nous avons adopté, pourrait constituer le Groupe des amis du Président. Il y a eu d'autres propositions qui ont été faites, il me semble que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie, au nom de l'Afrique, a proposé que le Groupe des amis du Président soit constitué de deux représentants de chaque région. C'est une option et je suis parfaitement ouvert à celle-ci. C'est très bien si tout le monde accepte cette formule, je suis tout à fait d'accord. Quant aux réunions, la première réunion pourrait avoir lieu déjà pour la mise en place du Groupe, avant la clôture de ce Conseil. Comme cela, nous pourrions établir le mode de travail de ce Groupe, notamment, quand il se réunira, par qui il sera présidé; comme vous le savez, je ne vis pas à Rome, j'habite à Washington, et ce Groupe pourrait se réunir de toute façon en mon absence.

Nous avons évoqué la possibilité de faire présider ce Groupe par deux co-Présidents provenant de l'OCDE et du Groupe des 77 dans ses réunions intermédiaires. Moi-même je suis tout à fait disposé à revenir ici, une fois tous les trois mois ou tous les deux mois pour faire le point de la situation. Mais peut-être qu'une fois tous les trois mois sera suffisant et nous établirons cela dans cette première réunion que je propose de faire avant la clôture du Conseil.

Voilà un peu mes réflexions à ce sujet, je ne sais pas si vous avez des observations ou d'autres suggestions. Je suis, bien entendu, tout à fait ouvert à toutes les suggestions et j'attends que les délégations demandent la parole.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Enfin, je voudrais vous demander moi aussi, ce que j'ai pu comprendre, c'est qu'il y aura un briefing ouvert à tous les Membres. Je voudrais d'abord savoir quand ce briefing aura lieu, avant que ce Groupe des amis ne commence, ou bien juste après qu'il commence, si le Secrétariat sera en mesure de d'actualiser la mise à jour du document CL 123/INF/20 pour nous informer des solutions qu'ont retenu les organisations qui étaient en train d'étudier la question, parce que je crois que dans le document CL 123/INF/20 on nous dit que certaines organisations étudient la question. Également, le Secrétariat pourrait nous dire en quoi consiste cette Recommandation des Nations Unies qui n'a pas été suivie depuis cinq ans par cinq organisations internationales. Je crois

qu'autant de questions juridiques et procédurales sur lesquelles nous souhaiterions avoir des éclaircissements de façon à éclairer notre propre capital.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Si j'ai bien compris, la procédure que j'ai proposée, agréée au Conseil. S'agissant de la question posée par Monsieur le délégué du Sénégal, il me semble que justement cela sera une des questions que le Groupe du travail ou le Groupe des amis du Président abordera et probablement il sollicitera le Secrétariat pour que des réponses soient données à un certain nombre de questions, notamment celles que vous avez posées vous-même.

**Medi MOUNGUI (Cameroun)**

Avec tout le respect que je vous dois parce que vous étiez déjà en train de conclure sur ce point, en disant que c'est peut être votre suggestion qui passe. Je ne sais pas, je voudrais avoir des informations beaucoup plus précises sur la composition des Membres du Groupe des amis du Président avant de pouvoir me décider.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Il me semble que nous avons dit que c'était une proposition de l'Afrique et qu'il y aurait deux représentants par région. Donc, chaque région devra décider qui sera son représentant, qui pourrait être le Président et le Vice-président de la région par exemple.

**Medi MOUNGUI (Cameroun)**

Je comprends donc maintenant, car auparavant il y avait sur la table deux propositions, qu'il y a la vôtre et celle de notre Représentant, l'Ambassadeur de la République Unie de Tanzanie. Donc vous avez dit que c'est votre proposition qui passait et c'est pourquoi j'étais un peu confus. A ce sujet, je pense, nous continuons toujours à soutenir ce que notre Représentant a dit, nous restons donc à l'écoute de connaître la composition définitive de ce Groupe.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Donc, ce dont nous avons parlé tout à l'heure, c'est qu'à la réunion de cet après-midi, nous avons imaginé que ce serait le même Groupe qui adopterait le texte. Ce Groupe est constitué des Présidents des régions, le Président du Groupe des 77, le Président de l'OCDE et il y avait également le Président de l'Union européenne. Ceci étant, il y a eu la proposition du Groupe africain, à voir deux représentants par région. On peut donc aménager les deux propositions ou les deux idées, avoir deux représentants par région, ce sera à chaque région de décider qui sera son représentant, un représentant des personnes qui étaient là (Groupe des 77, OCDE et Union européenne). J'avais proposé également, que ces réunions de ces groupes, lors de mon absence, seraient co-présidées par un membre du Groupe des 77 et un membre de l'OCDE. C'est comme ça que je vois, mais on peut continuer à travailler là-dessus en attendant que la traduction du document arrive. Est-ce que cette proposition vous agréée?

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brazil)**

We have to take into account, for some regions certainly, that two representatives is more than enough but for some regions it is not the case. You had proposed, at first, to have three representatives. I think, maybe, this would be a more balanced number, except, of course, in regions that do have three representatives and would be represented by two or less.

In the case of my region, we would very much like to be represented by at least three representatives. If my colleagues from Africa would agree with that, we could stick to your regional proposal.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Vous proposez trois membres par région. Est-ce que cette proposition agréée au Conseil? Donc, ce sera trois représentants par région.

Pour les régions qui ont plus que trois membres par région, ce sera trois représentants par région, et les autres ce sera deux par représentants par région. Si la proposition c'est trois représentants par région, le G-77, l'OCDE et l'Union européenne et les réunions intermédiaires seront co-présidées par le Groupe 77 et l'OCDE.

**Medi MOUNGUI (Cameroun)**

Excusez-moi d'y revenir, ce sont toujours des éléments de précision. Est-ce que vous avez déjà une date d'ici à samedi? Vous voulez avoir les noms des représentants des régions pour que les régions se retrouvent?

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Effectivement, j'aimerais bien que nous fassions notre première réunion demain dans l'après-midi ou en fin d'après-midi, peut-être que ce serait une première solution, ou bien samedi matin. Cela dépend! Alors demain, en début d'après-midi. Est-ce que l'on pourrait avoir quelques personnes demain et est-ce que les régions pourraient déjà désigner des représentants d'ici demain en début d'après-midi?

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

I understand the concern of other delegations to get some specificity about the composition of your friends. Is there not a problem relative to names inasmuch as this group will be constituted essentially, although not, by any means, solely, of regional chairs and vice-chairs? In most cases they do change on 1 January. I guess, perhaps, the principle issue is to have some understanding as to your intention, and the intention of the Council. Does constancy relate to personality or more to regions? I think, insofar, if there is a general issue, this is the more important one.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

J'ai dit en début de semaine que tout le Conseil et tous les Membres de l'Organisation sont mes amis et d'ailleurs ce Groupe est ouvert et à un certain moment il sera ouvert.

Par exemple une formule que l'on pourrait suggérer c'est la troïka, le principe de la troïka, c'est-à-dire l'actuel Président, l'ancien Président, le futur Président, quelque chose de similaire. Ainsi, ceux qui seront en charge l'année prochaine participeront à la première réunion, ceux qui sont en charge maintenant continueront à participer l'année prochaine, et ceux qui seront en charge l'année d'après seront en charge, donc je pense que le principe de la troïka pourrait marcher.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

I think that the European Community and its Member States are of the opinion that we should not try to decide whom the Regional Representative should be. I think we should leave it to the regional groups to decide that. I think they are used to do such things. There might be different skills and different availabilities and now it concerns term limits. I think the regional groups should find out about that themselves and come back to you – I do not know whether if it should be tomorrow because we do not have a Council Meeting but we have one on Saturday – maybe on Saturday we should come to you.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

L'option de la troïka était une option ouverte, c'était une proposition qui pouvait simplifier les choses. Ceci étant, est-ce que vous préférez que la première réunion des amis ait lieu samedi? Si oui, cela donnera plus de temps aux groupes régionaux.

**Simon DRAPER (Observer for New Zealand)**

Like others, I recognize that some Members here would like specificity, here and now, but I would really like to associate myself with the intervention of my colleague from the European Union. I think, in many ways, starting to dabble in the detail now is, perhaps, something that a number of us had hoped to avoid. I do believe that it is, perhaps, a decision that is better made within each region. I would just like to endorse the comments of the European Union on this issue.

## LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que les régions souhaitent avoir plus de temps et préféreraient qu'on les réunisse samedi matin? Oui. Alors, dans ce cas, la première réunion aura lieu le samedi matin. Nous sommes tous d'accord? Est-ce que le document a été distribué, ou pas encore?

Si vous le permettez, nous pourrions poursuivre nos travaux.

Je crois que le Groupe de travail pour l'établissement du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental a bien travaillé et je crois qu'il est arrivé à un consensus.

## II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

### II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

### II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

*5.1 Establishment of the Intergovernmental Working Group requested in para 10 of the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1) (continued)*

*5.1 Création du Groupe de travail intergouvernemental, demandée au paragraphe 10 de la Déclaration du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1) (suite)*

*5.1 Establecimiento del Grupo Intergubernamental de Trabajo solicitado en el párrafo 10 de la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después (CL 123/22; CL 123/22-Add.1) (continuación)*

## LE PRÉSIDENT

Donc, nous revenons au point 5.1 étant donné que le travail a été accompli et je demanderai à Monsieur Pucci de nous présenter le consensus sur lequel nous sommes arrivés.

### Margret VIDAR (FAO Staff)

The Working Group convened, discussed and went through the Secretariat Draft paragraph by paragraph and came to a conclusion, which I would like to present to you, with every amendment that was made along with the clarification of why it was made.

In paragraph 5 of Annex 1, which you received yesterday, there will be a footnote inserted after the word "subsidiary", stating...*this does not refer to informal or procedural mechanisms such as Friends of the Chair Meeting.*

It was felt that, otherwise, any smaller break of meeting could be taken to constitute a subsidiary body of the IGWG and, clearly, that was not the intention of the Secretariat when drafting it. We still need to maintain certain mechanisms to arrive at the consensus, especially in procedural matters.

There will also be a footnote after the word "fully", in paragraph 5. That footnote will say...*i.e. without having to wait until all Members have spoken.*

The Working Group felt that this could, otherwise, give rise to misunderstandings that "fully participate" would mean "participate also in decisions", which clearly is only for the Members of the Group. However, the notion of "participate fully" is more than "participate" and it is meant to include that stakeholders will take part in a dynamic and interactive dialogue with Members in the discussions.

In paragraph 6 there is an amendment. The word "provided" is deleted and replaced with the words "ensuring that". The sentence will thus read...*the IGWG may decide the modalities to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of proceedings, ensuring that stakeholders can participate in a transparent and active way.*

In paragraph 8, the brackets will be deleted so that all the words in brackets, currently, will be there in clear text. In the first line, it will say...*the meeting could take place in March or April*. Thus, leaving it to the Director-General to consult further on an appropriate date during that time.

In paragraph 13, the words, in the second line, "in consultation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights", is replaced by the words...*bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 12, above*.

This amendment was made so as not to give the impression that the FAO Secretariat would exclude other Agencies, than the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was never the intention. Furthermore, to make sure that it is understood that FAO, and FAO's leading role in this Working Group, is assured.

The sentence will read...*in preparation for the first session of the IGWG the FAO Secretariat, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 12 above, shall draft an agenda*.

I will now come to the next amendment, which is deletion – where I stopped – of the words "terms of reference". It was deleted, as the Working Group considered that terms of reference were already in the other provisions of these decisions. Therefore, there was no need for further terms of reference. From a legal point of view, the Legal Office agreed to that analysis and accordingly it is deleted.

We also deleted the word "adoption" in the fourth line and replaced it with "consideration". Of course, it is for the IGWG, itself, to adopt, after it has discussed a draft and considered the proposals, or not to do so.

If you allow me, I will resume the sentence...*shall draft an agenda and the work plan for consideration by the IGWG*.

In paragraph 14, the word "analytical" will be replaced by the word "synthesis". The sentence will read...*in order to facilitate discussions the FAO Secretariat shall prepare a synthesis report based on the discussions and submissions of the first session*. And then, unchanged to the end.

The words "analytical report" was felt to be confusing and might give rise to more interpretation by the FAO Secretariat than there was any reason for. The intention really was to summarize the different views and organize them in such a way that the IGWG would have a good overview of the synergies, divergences and the convergences that had arrived during and before the first Session.

This concludes my report of the work of the Working Group. I would like to thank everyone who participated for their excellent cooperation and spirit of problem-solving.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous avons ce texte et je crois que nous pourrions l'adopter.

#### **Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)**

Pendant que le Secrétariat est encore là, Mme Vidar est-ce qu'on peut savoir ce que sont devenues les phrases entre crochets?

#### **Margret VIDAR (FAO Staff)**

The words that were in brackets in paragraph 8 are no longer in brackets, they are there in clear. The only amendment is that instead of a slash we have March or April as a question of English.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Avant de passer au point 17, je crois que le texte que nous avons adopté concernant le mandat du Directeur général de la FAO est en train d'être distribué dans toutes les langues.

**VI. OTHER MATTERS**  
**VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES**  
**VI. OTROS ASUNTOS**

- 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2003-2004 (CL 123/6)*  
*17. Calendrier 2003-2004 des sessions des organes directeurs et des autres réunions principales de la FAO (CL 123/6)*  
*17. Calendario para 2003-2004 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO (CL 123/6)*

Nous passons donc au point 17 "Calendrier 2003-2004 des sessions des organes directeurs des autres réunions principales de la FAO". Le document pertinent porte la cote CL 123/26-Rev.1. Ce calendrier a été préparé en tenant compte des dates des sessions des organes directeurs de l'IFAD et du PAM afin d'éviter tout chevauchement.

Le calendrier pour 2003 est soumis au Conseil pour approbation et le calendrier pour 2004 pour information seulement. Le calendrier 2004 est sujet à des changements. Je crois d'ailleurs comprendre que les dates de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe sont en discussion avec les autorités françaises, et qu'il est probable que la Conférence se tiendra en mai 2004 et non en juillet, comme cela est indiqué dans le document que vous avez devant vous.

Concernant le calendrier pour 2003, vous êtes priés de confirmer que le Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial se réunira du 3 au 7 février 2003, comme cela est indiqué dans le document CL 123/6-Rev.1.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, on pourrait adopter le calendrier pour l'année 2003 tel qu'il est présenté dans le document CL 123/6-Rév.1. Y a-t-il des précisions, des objections? Pas d'objections. Donc, on peut considérer que le calendrier pour l'année 2003 est adopté. Nous avons ainsi terminé avec le point 17.

*Adopted*  
*Adopté*  
*Aprobado*

- 18. Any Other Matters*  
*18. Autres questions*  
*18. Otros asuntos*

Nous passons au point 18. Il s'agit du point intitulé "Autres questions". Le Conseil est tout d'abord appelé à nommer le Premier président suppléant du Comité de recours en application de l'article 301.111 du Statut du personnel de la FAO. Vous trouverez dans le document CL 123/LIM/3 le texte de cet article du Statut du personnel ainsi que l'actuelle proposition dudit Comité.

Vous y observerez que dans sa cent dix-neuvième session de novembre 2000, le Conseil a nommé à la Présidence du Comité son Excellence Francis Montanaro Mifsud, Ambassadeur de la République de Malte auprès de la FAO. En cette même session ont été respectivement nommés Premier suppléant et Second suppléant Son Excellence Don Julius Cesar Lupinaci, Ambassadeur de la République orientale de l'Uruguay auprès du Saint siège et Représentant permanent auprès de la FAO, et M. Denis Cangy, Consul de Maurice à Rome.

A l'issue de sa mission auprès du Saint siège et de la FAO, l'Ambassadeur Don Julius Cesar Lupinaci a présenté sa démission en juillet 2002. La charge de Premier président suppléant est donc vacante.

**Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)**

The delegation of The Philippines would like to nominate His Excellency Ambassador Widodo Sutiyo of Indonesia as First Alternate Chairman of the Appeals Committee. Ambassador Sutiyo is a career diplomat and his present rank within the Foreign Service of Indonesia is of the highest level. He is a very distinguished linguist with a command of English and French, the two working



languages of the Appeals Committee and of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization. Moreover, he has been very familiar with the FAO since 1960. My delegation has no doubt that the Appeals Committee will benefit from Ambassador Sutiyo's deep experience.

**Claude CHÉREAU (France)**

Je voudrais simplement indiquer que ma délégation soutient la proposition qui vient d'être faite par la délégation des Philippines.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Je propose donc que Son Excellence M. Widodo Sutio soit élu par acclamation. Félicitations M. Sutio. M. le Représentant de l'Indonésie.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Timbul SITUMORANG (Observer for Indonesia)**

On behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia I would like to express our sincere gratitude to FAO and all its Members, especially my dear colleagues present in this Session for kindly laying their trust in one of the highly qualified citizens of Indonesia to carry out this important duty. Let us hope that Ambassador Sutiyo will conduct his duty as brilliantly and as fruitfully as he has always done.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to speak briefly upon an important world gathering in Canada, the Twelfth World Forestry Congress which will be held from 21 to 28 September 2003 in Quebec City, under the auspices of FAO. The Ministries of Natural Resources of Canada and of Quebec are acting together as the host institutions for the Congress and are collaborating with FAO in staging this gathering.

This is the largest and most important international forum for key players to discuss forest management policies, practices, issues and challenges. Heads of forestry departments and other representatives of more than 180 United Nations and FAO Member Nations as well as major environmental NGOs are expected to attend the Congress. The gathering is centred on a week of activities in Quebec City starting on 21 September 2003 during the fall equinox, the most beautiful season in Canada.

Quebec City is a major forestry centre and its historical centre has been recognized as a World Heritage Site by Unesco. An estimated 5 000 delegates from over 180 countries will come together at the Congress which is held once every six years and is being staged in Canada for the first time. The Congress will look at innovative ways to address current and emerging priorities, including those of a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary nature. It aims to create a vision for the future based on a harmonious relationship between forests and people.

The Congress reinforces the importance of forestry to everyone at both the national and International levels. To provide maximum opportunity for participants to express their views, discussions will be held in small groups and conclusions will be presented during the plenary sessions. Participation in the Congress will also be possible through a discussion forum on the internet.

The World Forestry Congress is open to all individuals with an interest in forests and forestry, whatever their country of origin, position or financial circumstances. To ensure access for as many participants as possible and to ensure a balanced representation of developed and developing countries. The Congress will set up various processes to facilitate attendance, including a sponsorship programme in collaboration with various international development agencies, discounted rates for students, assistance for travel and accommodation for selected

participants, low and moderate rates for lodging. Additional information about the Congress can be found in the booklets, which are in plentiful supply, outside this room.

Canada is looking forward to welcoming the Members of this Council and all Members of FAO at the Twelfth World Forestry Congress in Quebec.

### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Est-ce que les délégations ont des remarques au sujet des documents qui ont été soumis sous le point 18 de l'ordre du jour? Nous passons à un autre point. Il ne s'agit pas d'un autre point de l'ordre du jour mais toujours dans le point 18. Comme je l'ai indiqué en début de session, il a été demandé qu'une déclaration soit prononcée par le Représentant des associations du personnel de l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire l'Association du personnel de terrain, l'Association du personnel du cadre organique et l'Union du personnel des services généraux. Je donne immédiatement la parole à Mme Fernanda Guerrieri, Présidente de l'association du personnel de terrain qui a été désignée par les associations du personnel pour s'adresser au Conseil à leur nom.

### **Ms Fernanda GUERRIERI (Chairperson, Field Staff Association)**

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman and thank you to all the delegates. The FAO/WFP Personnel, and expertise is the Organization's capital. It is my pleasure to read the address which has been prepared by the three Staff Associations.

It is an honour and a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the three Staff representative bodies of FAO and WFP - the Field Staff Association, the Association of Professional Staff and the Union of General Service Staff.

The chair of a UN Staff Association has always been a vantage point from which to examine the work of our Organization and the manner with which the problems of human resources are dealt. In this context I am happy to be able to say that a number of staff/management working groups are functioning and there is an appreciable level of openness and consultation. Concrete results, however, are sometimes slow and hard to come by.

There is certainly scope for further improvement in several areas. The principle one still remains security, although it can be said that enormous efforts have been, and continue to be, made to make our place of work safer. There are still some concerns. We know that we live in an unsettled world and recent incidents prove that the risk of further tragedies like the one of 11 September has not been obliterated. This Organization, along with others in the UN System, has had to put into place even stricter security measures to safeguard its staff, both at Headquarters and in the Field. In the majority of cases, we can count on the collaboration of host governments; however, the shortcomings reported in the past have not been wholly resolved. As you know, the UN's position is that the prime responsibility for staff security lies with the host governments, which should take all measures necessary to ensure the safety of UN staff. Therefore, we take the opportunity of this forum to appeal to Member Nations to take the necessary measures to ensure that adequate security is put in place. At the same time, we encourage the UN itself to intervene with Member Nations in an effort to improve respective security measures. Of course, we are conscious this does not come without cost, but in these times it is of paramount importance if we are to work for you, our Member Nations, effectively.

The importance of the Organization's emergency programmes was recognized earlier this year by the transformation of the Service for Special Relief Operations into the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division. The new Division has been given the overall responsibility for the emergency field programme, for the linkage between emergency and rehabilitation activities and for the humanitarian policies of FAO. It is not an over-statement to say that many of the staff working on such programmes, directly in the afflicted areas or on missions, are in an extremely vulnerable position. Let us prove to them in particular that the Organization cares about them and about their safety.

Another area for improvement which is at the top of the Staff Representatives' agenda is increasing transparency in procedures leading up to recruitment and promotion. It is a fact that the

Organization continues to keep persons working on successive short-term contracts. Apart from the bad reflection this has on FAO and WFP as an employer, it means that there is a section of the professional and general service staff whose interests cannot be properly represented and protected by respective Staff Associations.

It is now widely recognized that the existence of a credible and effective performance appraisal system is an absolute precondition for any merit-based human resources policy. The staff representatives consider the current system in FAO as being a long way from satisfactory and should be thoroughly reviewed. It is felt strongly that, after a reasonable amount of time spent in a job, some form of recognition, for continuously satisfactory performance, should be one of the primary considerations in such a review. Attempts at constructing a fair performance appraisal system had faltered in the past, which was a disappointment, since a lot of joint efforts went into the development of an acceptable system. However, we have been assured by Management that a draft proposal on performance management is underway and will soon be presented to staff representatives for discussion. This is good news, indeed, and shows that Management too attaches great importance to the development of a new system.

The Professional Staff Associations welcome the new staff secondment scheme. This scheme has been introduced in one of the Organization's departments, which represents an innovative instrument in FAO. It is hoped the experience will prove positive, allowing it to be applied more broadly in the house.

Of equal importance, and perhaps an unpleasant subject to some, there continue to be reports by some of our members of harassment in the work place. Proper legislative tools to address such issues in a concrete manner are required. There needs to be a radical change of the corporate culture of the Organization whereby managers, supervisors, subordinates, colleagues, are all trained as to what behaviour is acceptable in an international organization, which values human dignity and respect. Formulation of a valid harassment policy is another urgent matter on the Staff Associations' agenda and a policy document is presently under development by Management, with active consultation and input from the staff representatives. Hopefully will be finalized shortly.

Lastly, FAO staff members take pride in their work as international civil servants serving to the best of their ability the Member Nations. This year, however, before and during the World Food Summit, the Organization and its staff were subject to unjustified criticism in the press. No one doubts that constructive criticism is useful and one should not be defensive in front of requests to improve. However, it is another matter when the criticism is misleading and little more than insults. Under national legal systems, citizens are protected by libel laws. These do not extend to international civil servants. Without prejudice to an open and free national press, the staff hopes that future articles will do justice to the quality of the work carried out by the Organization and particularly the dedication of its staff.

As can be seen, valid improvements in communication between us, the staff representatives, and management have indeed been made. We thank Management for giving us the opportunity, through this address, to inform you, the Member Nations, of our main concerns, and of our commitment to making our Organization work even better.

On behalf of the staff and its representative bodies, I wish to also thank the Director-General of FAO and you, distinguished delegates, for giving us the opportunity to address the Council today.

**Flávio Celio GOLDMAN (Brasil)**

No sé si me estoy adelantando pero entiendo que hay un punto pendiente. En la sesión de esta mañana hemos adoptado el texto del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, pero entiendo que queda pendiente la aprobación de una resolución y vamos a verla más tarde.

El otro punto es también de información, sólo para señalar que sería importante que antes de cerrar esta sesión, la Secretaría anunciara exactamente el horario y el local de reunión de los Amigos del Presidente del sábado.

**Alejandro RODRÍGUEZ VALENCIA (Perú)**

En el contexto del tema 18, Otros Asuntos, quisiera hacer una declaración sobre la Nota Informativa relativa al Año Internacional de las Montañas. ¿Podría hacerla en este momento?

En el marco de la importancia que mi país le asigna al desarrollo sostenible en las zonas de montaña, especialmente por la heterogeneidad fisiográfica, la inestabilidad climática, la diversidad biológica y cultural y la misma fragilidad de dicho ecosistema, es nuestra prioridad establecer una estrategia que permita una administración sostenible de las montañas y de sus recursos. En ese marco, quisiéramos promover la generación de estrategias múltiples de adaptación al ambiente respetando la diversidad.

En este proceso de gestión y de intercambio de experiencias, el Grupo de Trabajo nacional organizó, en el marco del Año Internacional de las Montañas, el segundo Taller Internacional de Ecosistemas de Montaña, Las Montañas Tropicales al 2020, Agua, Vida y Producción, realizado en la Ciudad de Huaraz entre los días 12 y 14 de junio pasado. Se reunieron más de 400 especialistas de 25 países, y fue una ocasión en la cual se aprobó la Declaración de Huaraz sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible en Zonas de Montaña, la cual está orientada a establecer propuestas concretas con énfasis en las poblaciones que habitan dichos ecosistemas.

Mi país reitera su voluntad de seguir trabajando en esta materia y hace un llamado a la FAO para que siga colaborando en todas las iniciativas, especialmente las que fomenten el establecimiento de un punto focal o un mecanismo efectivo, a fin de colaborar activamente en las iniciativas vinculadas al desarrollo sostenible en zonas de montaña.

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

C'était une journée chargée d'événements et je demande à vous et aux collègues un peu de patience. Après le délégué du Pérou, j'aimerais revenir un moment, comme je vous l'avais promis, sur la question de la montagne. Je désire le faire pour remercier le Secrétariat pour le Rapport qu'il a présenté sur L'année internationale qui a été soumis pour information au Conseil, mais aussi pour l'activité que le Secrétariat a déployée en tant qu'Agence chef de file des Nations Unies pour cette année.

Mon pays a apprécié l'opportunité qui a été donnée aux Pays membres de débattre des problèmes du développement durable des régions de la montagne dans le contexte du Sommet du mois de juin. L'Italie a participé activement aux initiatives en cette matière et soutient les propositions contenues au dernier paragraphe du document qui nous a été soumis.

Nous avons eu des contacts suivis avec des autres membres du groupe d'orientation qui sont représentés à Rome et nous avons eu, en vue de la Conférence de Bichkek et des consultations en cours en ce moment à New York. Par conséquent, nous apprécions la disponibilité manifestée avant-hier par le Secrétariat à l'occasion de la discussion du Plan à moyen terme, qui nous a assuré qu'à l'avenir ne manquera pas l'assistance du Secrétariat, même pour ce qui concerne les problèmes du développement durable des régions de montagne.

Nous avons pris note avec énormément de plaisir du fait que le Secrétariat nous indiquait d'avoir, pour ainsi dire, un sentiment d'obligation qui découle de l'Agenda 21 de Rio, du rôle que la FAO a eu en tant qu'Agence chef de file pour l'Année internationale de la montagne et pour les attentes de nombre significatif des Pays membres de la FAO. Mon pays a l'intention d'étudier d'une façon approfondie les résultats de Bichkek et des consultations qui ont eu lieu à New York, afin d'identifier les modalités appropriées pour soutenir les activités que nous souhaitons, en ce domaine, puissent se poursuivre à l'avenir.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Ce matin, nous avons adopté le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous avons devant nous, il me semble qu'il y a une résolution qui a été distribuée ou une proposition d'un projet de résolution concernant ce point. Est-ce que toutes les délégations ont devant elles ce projet de résolution? Il s'agit du document CL 123/LIM/4. Cette résolution en principe doit être adoptée par le Conseil et cela doit se faire ici et non pas en Comité de rédaction. Est-ce qu'il y a des observations sur cette résolution, sur le projet tel qu'il nous a été présenté?

**Raffaele BERLENGHI (Italie)**

Je dois donner la parole au délégué du Danemark au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses quinze Etats Membres.

**Søren SKAFTE (Observer for Denmark)**

As stated earlier, we had a reservation towards the Resolution. We are under the impression that the Secretariat should be presenting these points to the Drafting Committee which has done the work on this Resolution. Therefore, we are not ready to adopt the Resolution right now.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Donc cette Résolution n'agrée pas l'Union européenne en les temps et devrait donc être rediscutée et je me demande si elle ne pas être discutée en Comité de rédaction. Nous attendons le Représentant du Service juridique pour nous donner des éclaircissements à ce sujet. Je demanderai à ce que Monsieur Pucci vienne tout de suite pour nous expliquer où nous pouvons discuter de cette résolution.

Monsieur Pucci, nous avons une proposition résolution sur l'adoption du Code de conduite pour l'utilisation des pesticides, ce projet tel qu'il est n'agrée pas l'Union européenne et certaines délégations. Où doit-il être discuté? Est-ce qu'il peut être discuté en Comité de rédaction. A votre avis, où doit-il être discuté si ce n'est pas en plénière?

**CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE**

Comme pour la constitution du Groupe intergouvernemental, ça peut être un groupe informel. La Résolution est un aspect formel; elle est requise parce que le Code de conduite a lui-même été approuvé par la Conférence par résolution. C'est la pratique normale pour la Conférence: les amendements sont aussi approuvés par résolution. C'est vraiment un aspect formel. De fait, étant donné que ce Code doit être diffusé, il est plus facile au Secrétariat de s'appuyer sur une résolution à titre de référence. Néanmoins, la Résolution peut être très simple et comporter seulement trois ou quatre paragraphes exposant que le Code a été approuvé puis amendé. Et voilà comment le Code est approuvé par le Conseil. Ce peut donc être une résolution ayant trois ou quatre paragraphes, si le Conseil est de cet avis. Comment en discuter ? Peut-être une petite réunion avec les délégations intéressées.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Ce qu'il y a, c'est que cette proposition de résolution a six paragraphes. Alors, je propose qu'il y ait un groupe qui se réunisse pour rédiger une Résolution qui convienne à tout le monde, peut être avec l'appui du Service juridique et si cela pourrait se faire maintenant, ce serait très bien et on pourrait éventuellement l'adopter avec le Rapport.

Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres points ou d'autres interventions? Il me semble que nous avons conclu nos travaux sur tous les points qui figuraient à l'ordre du jour. Le Comité de rédaction devra se réunir immédiatement après la session dans la salle du Mexique.

Nous pourrions peut être adopter le rapport demain en fin d'après-midi si le Comité de rédaction a terminé son travail. On se retrouvera demain à 18 heures pour l'adoption du Rapport. Il n'y aura pas de session demain.

**Blair HANKEY (Canada)**

In view of the fact that we are not going to meet until 6 o'clock tomorrow evening, for the report, is there any possibility of having this initial meeting of the "Friends of the Chair" tomorrow afternoon or morning, rather than on Saturday?

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Tout à l'heure j'avais suggéré demain et puis certaines délégations avaient demandé à ce que ce soit le samedi pour avoir davantage de temps pour présenter les noms.

**Jørgen MÆRSK PEDERSEN (Observer for Denmark)**

In that situation, we do not mind having a meeting in the Group tomorrow. Consequently, when this meeting finishes, the European Regional Group will go to the German Room to appoint our representatives, and we will be ready tomorrow at any time you may want.

**Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)**

GRULAC is going to meet after this session ends, so we will be ready tomorrow morning or tomorrow in the afternoon to give names for that purpose and to participate in the meeting.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

I would just like to indicate that Australia is not adverse to having the "Friends of the Chair" on Saturday, and not adverse to working on a Saturday, but we would also note the problem of being in two places at once. As member of the Drafting Committee, tomorrow could cause difficulty for Australia in terms of participation in both. Should it be possible to accommodate both in the same day without an overlap in the timing, we would be happy to do it tomorrow as well.

**Ms Carolee HEILEMAN (United States of America)**

I would just like to convene a meeting of the North America Group to discuss the third Member from our Committee.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

I would like to request that the Africa Group remain behind, soon after this meeting. The G-77 Coordinators meet tomorrow just before the meeting, after consulting in their Groups.

**Masaharu SATO (Japan)**

As far as the Asia Group is concerned, we are also convening a meeting immediately after this session, so we will be ready for the "Friends of the Chair" meeting, should it take place tomorrow.

**Brett HUGHES (Australia)**

The Drafting Committee may be able to finish its work but given the current pace that we have been moving, I am not quite sure that would be done by 16.00 hrs. I will also need to consult with my region here, to make sure of its availability for this as well, but perhaps a little later in the afternoon?

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Est-ce que tout le monde agrée? En principe rendez-vous demain à 16 heures sauf pour les Membres du Comité de rédaction qui doivent aller tout de suite travailler et les Membres des différents groupes régionaux qui doivent régler le problème de leur représentation. Nous avons eu une session de travail excellente. Je remercie tous ceux qui ont aidé au consensus et je crois que nous avons très bien travaillé.

**Mrs Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)**

In that case, may I request the G-77 Coordinators meet at 15.00 hrs in the G-77 Room so as to agree on our representation.

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Si le Groupe des 77 est d'accord. Pas d'observations? Alors donc rendez-vous demain à 16 heures à la salle de Malaisie pour mes amis et moi-même. La séance est levée.

*The meeting rose at 19.25 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19h25*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.25 horas*





# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Twenty-third Session  
Cent vingt-troisième session  
123º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 28 October - 1 November 2002  
Rome, 28 octobre - 1 novembre 2002  
Roma, 28 de octubre - 1 de noviembre de 2002**

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**1 November 2002**

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 21.05 hours  
Mr Aziz Mekouar,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 21 h 05  
sous la présidence de M. Aziz Mekouar,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 21.05 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr Aziz Mekouar,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames, Messieurs, bonsoir. Je voudrais, avant de passer à l'adoption du rapport, passer la parole à M. l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis qui souhaiterait faire une communication.

**Tony P. HALL (United States of America)**

I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for recognizing me. I am very pleased and very happy to announce that at 6 p.m. tonight, on behalf of the United States, I signed the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We signed this Treaty to signal our strong interest in and support of the Treaty's primary goal: promoting global food security through the conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources. I understand that this signing is kind of a reversal from what was said just about a year ago, but we have seen the wisdom of the Treaty, and we are very glad to sign it.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**LE PRÉSIDENT**

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, je ne peux que me féliciter de la signature du Traité par les Etats-Unis: c'est une excellente nouvelle et comme vous dites, cela change de la position de l'année dernière. La réaction du Conseil montre que tout le monde est content du fait que vous joignez tous les autres pays qui ont signé auparavant.

Avant de passer à l'adoption du rapport, je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue à M. le Directeur général. Soyez le bienvenu parmi nous, Monsieur le Directeur général. Nous allons procéder à l'adoption du Rapport de la session. Je vais demander aux Membres du Conseil de s'assurer qu'ils ont bien les différentes parties du rapport. Il y a dix-sept parties qui portent les références: de CL 123/REP/1 jusqu'à CL 123/REP/17. Je vais demander à M. Winnick des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction, de présenter le rapport.

**DRAFT REPORT - PARTS 1 - 17 (CL 123/REP/1-17)**

**LES PROJETS DE RAPPORT – PARTIES 1 - 17 (CL 123/REP/1-17)**

**LOS PROYECTOS DE INFORME, PARTES 1 - 17 (CL 123/REP/1-17)**

**Seth D. WINNICK (Chairman Drafting Committee)**

The Drafting Committee has succeeded, in placing before you a fully agreed report for this Hundred and Twenty-third session of the FAO Council.

The Committee met for approximately six hours on Wednesday evening, likewise Thursday evening and all day today.

I would like to start by thanking the Committee. We had on the Committee for this session representatives of Australia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Egypt, France, the European Community, Iceland, India, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United States. Despite the fact that we are here, more or less on time, and more or less on budget, I can assure you that the work of the Committee was anything but straightforward.

I would hope that everybody understands that their Regional Group Representatives are tough, high qualified negotiators, but they are also people who are deeply committed to this Organization. It was possible, with a lot of good work and a lot of good effort by many delegates,

to come to closure on all of these Reports, even while we tackled some very difficult issues - issues that in some cases have been negotiated at very high level for months and even years.

We also had outstanding support from the Secretariat, both in terms of preparing, distributing papers, providing technical advice, helping during the meetings and, of course, in terms of interpretation and conference services.

I believe that the Report is ready for adoption. I think it is possible to adopt this Report *en bloc* and to allow everyone to still make dinner tonight.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Le rapport de la cent vingt-troisième session est donc adopté. Je vais demander à Monsieur le Directeur général de s'adresser au Conseil.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

#### **LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL**

On m'a appris une chose dans la tradition africaine, c'est « lorsqu'on s'apprête à aller manger, il fait bref ». Je voudrais donc vous remercier tous pour l'excellent travail qui a été fait ici, et surtout pour toutes les actions qui ont été menées en vue d'avoir une organisation cohérente, une organisation où il y a des bras ouverts, où les questions se discutent de manière à arriver à des solutions qui permettent à votre Secrétariat de pouvoir atteindre les objectifs que vous avez fixés; et je voudrais naturellement vous remercier pour le personnel et pour moi-même de nous avoir permis d'avoir notre samedi libre et de pouvoir aller voir nos familles. Encore une fois, toute ma gratitude pour l'excellent travail qui a été fait. Nous sommes à votre disposition pour bénéficier de vos conseils, de vos avis dans la mise en œuvre des décisions que vous avez prises ici.

#### **LE PRÉSIDENT**

Vous avez vraiment été très bref. Je serai bref moi aussi. Je voudrais d'abord remercier tous les Membres du Conseil, mais vraiment tous les Membres, pour le travail qui a été effectué pendant ces cinq jours et non pas six. Tout le monde a fait preuve d'énormément de compréhension et le travail a été excellent. Nous avons tout adopté, nous n'avons pas eu de conflits, nous n'avons pas eu de problèmes. Je remercie le Secrétariat pour le travail qu'il a effectué, je remercie les interprètes bien entendu et la cent vingt-troisième session du Conseil est ajournée et à très bientôt.

*The meeting rose at 21.15 hours*

*La séance est levée à 21 h 15*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 21.15 horas*