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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session - Cent cinquante-troisième session -
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November - 4 December 2015
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 30 novembre - 4 décembre 2015
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 30 de noviembre - 4 de diciembre de 2015
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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**ADOPTION OF REPORT
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

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

30 November 2015

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.43 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.43
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today.

Before continuing with our meeting I would like to invite the Council to observe one minute of silence to express our heartfelt condolences to all those who have been affected by violent acts of terror perpetrated against innocent people.

These acts of terrorism have deeply shaken the international community as a whole in recent weeks, and I believe it is fitting that we turn our thoughts to the victims and the bereaved at the start of this session of Council.

I therefore request the Council to stand for one minute of silence as a mark of respect.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

CHAIRPERSON

Before proceeding, I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement. Mr Gagnon, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I also wish to draw the attention of the meeting to the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States which is contained in information document CL 153/INF/3. This document is available online and at the documents desk. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentleman, as you know, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, COP21, opens in Paris today. The Director-General is attending this crucial UN Conference along with other heads of United Nations bodies, and hence is not able to join us this morning.

The Director-General will, however, address the Council on Wednesday morning here in Rome.

Mr Graziano recorded a video statement for this opening meeting of Council before his departure, and this will now be screened.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Video statement)

Mister Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Members of the Council, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is an honour to welcome you to another session of the FAO Council.

Unfortunately, I cannot greet you in person as I am in Paris for the opening of the United Nations Climate Conference, COP 21.

FAO will use every opportunity to bring food security and nutrition to the centre of the debate on climate change. FAO has a high-profile participation in COP 21. Today, I will participate in the High Level Climate Resilience Dialogue, convened by the UN Secretary-General. The FAO delegation will be following the main negotiations and will be actively involved in over 60 side events. Between myself, the Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources and the Director of NRC, we will speak at over 20 events.

As Director-General of FAO, I will join President François Hollande of France, and many world leaders, to show solidarity against terrorism. We are gathering to demonstrate that the action of a few

extremists will not divert us from our Sustainable Development Goals of seeking a better future for all. We want to show the world that the hope for a better future will prevail.

The same hope we expressed just two months ago in New York, when the 17 SDGs were unanimously approved. And only hope for a better future can overcome the fear we feel today.

I will be back in Rome on Wednesday, when I will refer more in detail to the agenda of the Council.

Members of the Council, I am pleased to confirm that we have now identified the USD 2.7 million in savings requested by the Conference by changing the cost sharing of medical insurance premiums. It has not been an easy process. And I have to warn you that we cannot continue in this way while you are asking us to do more with less.

Let me also mention important issues you have before you this week. Two items in particular are crucial for FAO to continue effectively implementing the work we have started together over the last four years.

First, the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. This is exactly what they are: adjustments. Adjustments to be able to deliver in the most effective way possible the programmes approved by our Conference, within the budget approved by the Conference.

It is time to move forward to implement the recommendations made by the Conference and by the Programme and Finance Committees. There are no proposals to change the strategic direction of FAO, nor the priorities of the Programme of Work approved by member countries by consensus.

Second, the review of the Decentralized Offices Network. We all recognize that the coverage of FAO's offices needs to be updated. Our proposal is for this to be discussed further in the Regional Conferences early next year, and for the Council decision next year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will remember that the session of Council last March was a historic moment. For the first time at FAO, members of the Council achieved consensus on the budget level before the Conference. And it was that consensus that paved the way for the Conference to approve unanimously the Programme of Work and Budget in June.

As you all know, patience and flexibility on all sides are required to build consensus. But once we achieve this, it is easier to move forward together. Consensus takes a long time to build, at least three years in our case. But it can be broken in a few minutes. So, each one of us has the responsibility to preserve the consensus we have built together so far.

From my side, I have to say that the Secretariat has been working with transparency to explain the adjustments to the PWB, and the measures needed to continue the process of reorganizing FAO to really become a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground, as I am used to saying.

Excellencies, we have come a long way together since 2012. We have re-built trust among the Members, and between the Members and the Secretariat. A key element of this trust is mutual respect and the understanding of the different roles and responsibilities of management and governance.

The guidance provided by Members and the Governing Bodies is very important for FAO and for me. But it is equally important for Members to resist crossing the red line from guidance into management, or worse still, into micro-management.

The Organization has changed significantly over the past four years. The adjustments to the PWB are a step further along this process. FAO needs to be prepared to help its member countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as part of our common 2030 agenda.

As I said when you first elected me in 2011, I will be able to do nothing, unless we do it together. You reelected me a few months ago to continue our work together. I count on your support.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during the next days, and I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank the Director-General for his video message, and look forward to his address to the Council in person on his return from COP21 in Paris.

I would now like to remind delegates that they can ask for the floor by pressing the red button located by the microphone. The button will flash until the delegate has spoken. The order of speakers will be automatically recorded and displayed on the screen above the podium.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give the Council a brief report on the documentation for this session.

SECRETARY- GENERAL

The documentation for this session of Council includes 17 main documents, three of which are Conference documents. Fourteen documents were available on the Council webpage before or by the deadline.

The remaining three documents are reports of Council Committees which took place on or after 2 November, the deadline for despatch of Council documents, and were published early the following week.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

(CL 153/1; CL 153/INF/1 Rev.1; CL 153/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item on the agenda is the *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable* as set out in documents CL 153/1, CL 153/INF/1 Rev.1 and CL 153/INF/3.

Document CL 153/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 30 September 2015 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session.

Since our 152nd Session in July 2015, no invitations have been issued to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-item 10.1 *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions* and sub-item 10.2 *Applications for Membership in the Organization* can be removed from the Agenda.

Furthermore, under item 19, *Any Other Matters*, following a request from the Republic of Korea, I propose that a sub-item 19.1 be added regarding the Proposal to establish a *World Fisheries University*, which will be for information.

Finally, I should like to propose the addition of sub-item 19.2, *Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*, as one seat has become vacant due to the resignation of a member.

Is Council in agreement with these proposed amendments?

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

Thank you. I would like to ask you to give the floor to the Netherlands, who will speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I would like to make a proposal to add sub-item 19.4 under *Any Other Matters* about *Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*. And it would be for discussion. Or could it be for decision?

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to express our support for the proposal voiced by the Representative of the Netherlands, supported by the European Union.

In the context of the International Year of Soils now coming to an end in 2015 and the forthcoming celebration of World Soil Day, we would like to draw additional attention of the Council to the issue of sustainable management of this unique natural resource.

Over the last two years, a sufficient critical mass of recommendations has been accumulated from the technical bodies of FAO on this issue for it to be more thoroughly examined in the Council. In particular, at the Second and Third Plenary Assemblies of the Global Soils Partnership, as well as in the course of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, there was discussion of a proposal on the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on the Sustainable Management of Soil Resources recommended for transmission to the Council.

In this regard, our delegation proposes the introduction under item 19, *Any Other Matters*, of a sub-item about *Sustainable Soil Management*.

We would also request that a concept note be introduced on sustainable management of soil resources, the web link for which is contained in document CL 153/INF/4 of the current session on the Council website.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russia. What is the request? Do you want it to be under *Any Other Matters*?

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

That is exactly it. Yes.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We support the European Union for their proposal to add a sub-item on *Collaboration among Rome-based Agencies*. Iran attaches great importance to such collaboration considering the significant mandate related to agriculture which affects the fight against hunger.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

Brazil seconds Russia in its proposal to discuss the concept note on Sustainable Management of Soils under item 19, *Any Other Matters*. This would allow Member Nations to proceed in line with the will and deliberations taken at the Third Plenary Session of the Global Soil Partnership held last June.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, we support the proposal made by the Russian Federation. What he is saying is that the *Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Management of Soil Resources* will move from Agenda item 17 to item 19. So under item 19 the Council will be requested to debate the issue of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Management of Soil Resources* and to reach a decision on its preparation, including the roadmap for the preparation.

Another important item I would like to ask is whether the proposal of the Republic of Korea, as well as the proposal of the Netherlands, will be treated as items for decision, for consideration or for information?

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina toma la palabra solamente para sostener la iniciativa de incluir en *Asuntos varios* el tema de suelos como lo pronunció la Federación Rusa. Nosotros entendemos que es un tema fundamental. Hemos sido miembros del comité directivo del Año Internacional de los Suelos y creemos que es la ocasión para debatirlo.

Mr Khaled EL Taweel (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We support the proposal from the Russian Federation with respect to the sub-item on soils. We have worked over the course of a year in coordinating the work on the soils issue. It is a very important matter and we really must study this now in full.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'avoir donné la parole. Je m'exprime au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique appuie la proposition de la Fédération russe concernant le point sur la gestion durable des sols et nous pensons que c'est un point fondamental. Le Groupe Afrique appuie également la proposition des Pays-Bas sur le thème concernant la collaboration entre les institutions ayant leur siège à Rome.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Iceland supports the recommendation made by Russia to discuss the soils under *Any Other Matters*, as well as the *Collaboration among Rome-based Agencies*, as suggested by the Netherlands.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We will add new sub-items under item 19, *Any Other Matters*, one in regard to *Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies* and another one on *Sustainable Management of Soils*. To reply to Mr Ayazi of Afghanistan, the item on the *Proposed FAO World Fisheries University* is presented to Council for information only.

Thank you, the Agenda is adopted as amended.

With respect to the Provisional Timetable, you have before you document CL 153/INF/1 Rev.1. I should like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 2 December. This should enable the Committee to finish its work in good time on Thursday, and so allow the Report to be adopted on Friday afternoon.

Furthermore, in order to allow Members to attend the FAO Awards Ceremony and the 70th Anniversary Celebration, which is scheduled to take place in the Green Room at 17:00 hours today, our afternoon meeting will close at 17:00 hours.

Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 10, meet with the approval of the Council?

Thank you, the Timetable is approved.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the proposal contained in my pre-session letter of 9 November 2015, in which I proposed that comments on sections of the Programme, Finance and Joint Meeting Reports which refer to Agenda item 3 *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17* and item 7 *Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network* be discussed under those specific items rather than under the reports of the relevant Council Committees.

I take it that the Council approves this approach.

Ladies and gentlemen, before we continue with the Agenda, and in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a short video presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

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

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 2, *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: His Excellency Crisantos Obama Ondo of Equatorial Guinea, Mr Yousef Jhail of Kuwait, Her Excellency Gerda Verburg of the Netherlands.

If there are no objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mr Matthew Worrell from Australia as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Iceland, Iraq, Madagascar, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, San Marino, Thailand, Zimbabwe.

Are there any objections?

Thank you, it is so decided.

May I suggest that, in line with our consolidated method of work, Council Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

Similarly, the quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace.

I should also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management.

Furthermore, I would also like to request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting, a copy of the text be provided to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The relevant email address for the submission of electronic versions of statements will be projected on the screen behind me, and is also given in the Order of the Day. Timely submission of texts facilitates the work of the verbatim reporters and ensures greater accuracy.

Following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session. The Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at past sessions of Council.

Finally, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting on time. Please ensure that you are here in the Red Room at the times indicated in the Order of the Day.

Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17**Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2016-2017****Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2016-17**

(CL 153/3; CL 153/3 Information Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 3, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*. Please ensure that you have document CL 153/3 in front of you, as well as the reports of the relevant Programme and Finance Committees and the Joint Meeting, which are to be found in documents CL 153/6, CL 153/7 and CL 153/8.

In addition, the Secretariat has made available on the Council webpage five Information Notes related to different aspects of document CL 153/3.

I will now give the floor to Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to present the document.

Mr Haight, you have the floor.

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

Mr Chairperson, Members of the Council, distinguished representatives, in approving the budgetary appropriations for 2016-17, the Conference requested the Director-General to prepare adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees and approval by the Council at this session. You have before you the reports the Committees on the adjustments, which will be presented by the respective Chairs. I would like to highlight the main elements of the adjustments and provide some clarifications.

Let me re-emphasize what the Director-General said this morning: the adjustments are part of the ongoing effort to ensure full and effective delivery of the Programme of Work approved by the Conference. The adjustments build on the new and more efficient ways of working put in place over the past four years. They provide a solid basis for measuring the concrete results of FAO's work – globally and at country level. And they provide flexibility for FAO to help Members achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030.

The first element of the adjustments are measures to achieve further efficiency gains and savings. These are straight-forward: the USD 2.7 million in required further savings have been found from measures to reduce the unit cost of staff. As announced by the Director-General this morning, the measures, to be put in place from January 2016, rebalance the cost share of the staff medical insurance premiums and thus reduce the cost to the Organization. The implementation of the measures will be reported to the Finance Committee next year. These staff cost savings are reflected in column 3 of Table 2 and have no impact on the Programme of Work.

The second element of the adjustments comprises the updated results frameworks for the Strategic and Functional Objectives that guide internal work planning, programme delivery and monitoring. There are three sets of improvements in the formulation of the results frameworks.

First, the 50 output-level targets presented in Annex 6 – which FAO is fully accountable for delivering – have been derived primarily from country priorities including those expressed in the Country Programming Frameworks. The output indicators and targets will provide the basis for FAO accountability reporting to the Governing Bodies in the Mid-Term Review 2016 and the Programme Implementation Report 2016-17.

Second, the level and alignment of estimated voluntary contributions supporting the Programme of Work, including achievement of output targets, has been updated based on a review of projects and taking into account resource mobilization prospects particularly at country level.

Third, climate change has been included as a cross-cutting theme – in view of its growing threat to achieving FAO's Strategic Objectives. It joins gender, governance and nutrition as priorities to be addressed in delivering the Strategic Objective programmes, guided by the responsible technical units.

Information Note 3 elaborates on FAO's normative and standard-setting work and how this work is carried out as part of FAO's core functions. Normative and standard-setting instruments, and statistics, data and information, are at the core of FAO's work. In the PWB these are classified as Corporate Technical Activities and programmed as contributions to the five Strategic Objectives and Objective 6 on technical quality, knowledge and services. This core work is put into practice by, and benefits from, programmatic activities supporting policy dialogue, capacity development, technical advice and support, partnerships, advocacy and communications.

The third element of the adjustments concerns measures to strengthen programme delivery through internal management arrangements and rationalized headquarters structure. These measures build on the innovations put in place during the current biennium: the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan, and the matrix management approach for delivering results under the multi-disciplinary Strategic Objectives. And they position the Organization to help Members achieve the SDGs.

The Strategic Objective programmes give shape to the drive to achieve concrete and measurable results. Full-time Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs) and their small teams design, plan, organize and monitor the programmes. The SPLs and their teams will not be responsible for delivery of the planned activities, which will remain with the delivery managers assigned in technical departments and decentralized offices.

Housing the SPLs and their teams within the Technical Cooperation Department aims to better align resource mobilization, South-South Cooperation and investment to deliver the Strategic Objective programmes. Since the SPL responsibilities relate mainly to programming, the TC Department will be renamed as the "Technical Cooperation and Programme Management Department" to better reflect this function.

Questions have been raised as to whether these arrangements affect the technical capacity of the Organization, particularly at headquarters. Information Note 2 elaborates on the Strategic Objective team composition. Besides the fact that the Strategic Objective team members will carry out similar responsibilities as per present arrangements, the number of professional staff seconded to the teams is small: 28 out of 809 professional staff at headquarters – that is 3.5 percent – of which only 16 are technical staff.

Concerning the technical departments, the aim is to empower and hold accountable the Assistant Directors-General as heads of the departments. To be effective leaders, they must closely interact with the units they supervise to deliver high-quality results in the SO programmes and corporate technical activities. They must be able to work in a horizontal manner within and outside their departments, with a minimum of vertical bureaucracy.

In the case of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the ADG will work with one Director and two Deputy Directors as a team to manage the seven units of the Department, each headed by a Senior Officer.

In the case of the Forestry Department, the ADG will work with one Director and two Deputy Directors – the second one to be added early next year. In addition, the head of the large unit on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, funded from voluntary contributions, will be recruited at the D1 Director level.

This is what we mean by "de-layering".

Finally, over the past few weeks the SPLs have met with each and every technical division and regional office to plan and agree the output targets to be delivered and resources to be applied for each Strategic Objective programme and the cross-cutting themes in 2016-17. These interactions are helping to strengthen the technical teamwork across the Organization necessary to generate quality results.

This collaborative work-planning process has also identified the specific skill mix requirements and skill gaps in technical divisions and decentralized offices. This will allow for re-profiling and fine-tuning of vacant posts to be filled, while maintaining a vacancy rate of 10 to 15 percent to provide

flexibility to meet emerging requirements, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let me turn to antimicrobial resistance. Conference Resolution 4/2015 requests FAO to ensure that all relevant parts of the Organization, at headquarters, regional and country levels, are actively engaged and coordinated in promoting work on combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), within the parameters of the FAO Strategic Objectives. As explained in Information Note no. 4, an interdepartmental working group on AMR has prepared a five-year action plan with resource requirements for FAO on AMR, embedded mainly in the SO programmes on food systems (SO4) and resilience (SO5). From 2016, five full-time equivalents of FAO professional staff time will be dedicated to AMR-related work under the SO programmes, and this needs to be complemented by voluntary contributions mobilized for fully delivering the Action Plan.

As the Director-General said in his opening remarks this morning, we continue the drive to make FAO more efficient and effective as a knowledge-based Organization with its feet on the ground. The adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 are a step further along this process. In considering the adjustments, the Council is requested to: take note that the guidance and decisions of Conference have been implemented; take note of the updated results frameworks (Annex 5) and output targets and indicators for the Strategic Objectives (Annex 6); approve revised organizational structure (Annex 1) and budgeted post establishment (Annex 2); approve revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 2; and take note of updated estimates of extra-budgetary resources (Table 3) and encourage Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Haight. I will now give the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee to report on the discussions held on this item at the last session of the Committee. Ambassador Tomasi you have the floor.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Le Comité du Programme de la FAO s'est réuni au Siège de notre Organisation à Rome du 2 au 6 novembre pour tenir sa 118^{ème} session. Tous les membres du Comité, élus en juin dernier, étaient présents et ont participé dans une ambiance très constructive aux travaux du Comité. Toutes les conclusions et recommandations du Comité ont été adoptées par consensus, ce dont je me félicite.

Une journée entière a été consacrée à l'examen du document CL 153/3 relatif aux ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2016 2017, objet du point 3 de l'ordre du jour du Conseil. Cette journée de travail a été complétée par une demi-journée d'échanges sur ce même sujet, dans le cadre de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, en présence du Directeur général. Par ailleurs, suite aux questions et demandes de clarification soulevées par les deux Comités et la Réunion conjointe, le Secrétariat a publié cinq notes d'information complémentaires. Enfin, une réunion informelle de préparation du Conseil a été organisée sous la présidence du Président indépendant du Conseil le jeudi 19 novembre.

S'agissant du point 3 de notre ordre du jour, le Comité a principalement examiné les questions suivantes.

D'abord, le cadre de résultats: en application de la résolution adoptée par la Conférence en juin dernier, qui invitait le Secrétariat à continuer à renforcer le cadre de suivi et d'établissement de rapports axés sur les résultats, le Comité a examiné les propositions du Secrétariat relatives aux cibles associées aux produits, les résultats quantifiables et l'allocation des ressources du budget régulier ajusté telle que présentée au tableau 2 du document.

Le Comité a d'abord approuvé les cibles et indicateurs présentés dans l'annexe 6 du document CL 153/3; il a soutenu la proposition de faire de la lutte contre le changement climatique un thème transversal au titre de l'objectif stratégique 6; il a noté que l'allocation des ressources ajustées, figurant au tableau 2, était cohérente avec les priorités établies par la Conférence; il a souligné enfin la nécessité de renforcer le Programme de coopération technique et s'est réjoui à ce propos de la

mobilisation de deux millions de dollars au profit du fonds fiduciaire pour les petits États insulaires en développement, et a encouragé, donc je vous encourage, les membres et partenaires de la FAO à mobiliser d'autres contributions volontaires sur ce sujet. Voilà pour le cadre de résultats.

S'agissant plus particulièrement des activités relatives aux antimicrobiens, le Comité a insisté sur l'importance de ces activités et d'une mise en œuvre pleine et entière de la résolution 4/2015 de la Conférence; il a demandé au Secrétariat de lui présenter à sa prochaine session en avril 2016, un plan d'activités actualisé pour la période 2016-2017, ainsi qu'une estimation des ressources nécessaires et des ressources disponibles conformément au Programme de travail et budget approuvé par la Conférence.

Sur la question des objectifs de développement durable adoptés par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en septembre dernier, le Comité s'est réjoui de l'alignement du cadre stratégique de la FAO et de ces objectifs, et a considéré que l'élaboration du Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021 serait une opportunité de renforcer encore cette cohérence.

S'agissant maintenant des arrangements de gestion interne visant à améliorer l'exécution du Programme et des propositions visant à rationaliser la structure organisationnelle du Siège, compte tenu des explications supplémentaires apportées par le Secrétariat et le Directeur général au cours de la réunion, le Comité du Programme a accueilli favorablement ces arrangements de gestion interne et a recommandé au Conseil d'approuver les propositions du Secrétariat concernant la rationalisation et la réorganisation de la structure organisationnelle. Le Comité a toutefois souligné l'importance de préserver l'intégrité des capacités techniques au Siège de la FAO.

Enfin, le Comité a encouragé le Secrétariat à poursuivre ses efforts de décentralisation et de renforcement des capacités des bureaux décentralisés.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Excellency. I would like to invite Mr Mehboob, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to report on discussions on this item in the Finance Committee. Mr Mehboob, you have the floor.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present the outcome of the discussions of the 160th Session of the Finance Committee on the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 as set out in document CL 153/3.

The Committee welcomed the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, noting that they reflected the guidance and decisions of the 39th Session of the Conference.

The Committee expressed satisfaction that the required budgetary savings of USD 2.7 million would be achieved through reductions in staff costs and that the implementation of measures to achieve the savings would be reported to the Finance Committee during the biennium.

The Committee emphasized the importance of strengthening the Technical Cooperation Programme and welcomed the USD 2 million mobilized so far towards the Small Island Developing States Trust Fund and encouraged more voluntary contributions from Members and resource partners.

The Committee noted the updated estimates of extrabudgetary resources presented in Table 3 of CL 153/3 and encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work.

The Committee welcomed the proposed rationalization and streamlining of the organizational structure at headquarters while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the technical capacity of FAO at headquarters, and submitted it to the Council for agreement.

The Committee recommended that the Council approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as reflected in Table 2 of document CL 153/3.

The Committee noted that additional budgetary transfers could arise as a result of work planning, as well as from using the most efficient and effective modalities of implementation during the biennium, and recalled that within chapter transfers and transfers from one chapter to another required

to implement the Programme of Work and Budget during the biennium would be handled in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Mehboob. I now pass the floor once again to Ambassador Tomasi as he chaired the Joint Meeting held on 4 November to report on the discussions on this item at that meeting.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe de la 118^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et de la 160^{ème} session du Comité financier s'est tenue au Siège de l'Organisation à Rome le mercredi 4 novembre 2015. La session du matin a été consacrée à l'examen des ajustements au Programme de travail et budget pour 2016-2017, en présence du Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva.

Vous trouverez les conclusions relatives à cette question au paragraphe 4 du document CL 153/8.

Les principales conclusions sont les suivantes: la Réunion conjointe a favorablement accueilli le document CL 153/3, considérant qu'il répondait aux décisions de la Conférence de juin 2015.

Sur l'allocation des crédits budgétaires, la Réunion conjointe a exprimé sa satisfaction de voir que les 2,7 millions de dollars d'économies à réaliser sur la durée du Programme de travail seront réalisées à travers une réduction des coûts de personnel, en notant que le Comité financier recevra des informations complémentaires à ce sujet pendant le biennium; elle a souligné l'importance de renforcer le Programme de coopération technique et a favorablement accueilli le fait que deux millions de dollars ont déjà été mobilisés pour le fonds fiduciaire en appui aux petits États insulaires en développement.

S'agissant de la gestion par les résultats, la Réunion conjointe a favorablement accueilli l'alignement du Cadre stratégique et des objectifs, et elle a noté que la préparation du Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021 serait une opportunité de renforcer la cohérence du Cadre stratégique et des objectifs de développement durable. Elle a aussi exprimé sa satisfaction au sujet de l'actualisation du cadre de résultats et a notamment soutenu l'insertion de la lutte contre le changement climatique comme un thème transversal dans l'objectif stratégique 6.

S'agissant enfin des arrangements de gestion interne, la Réunion conjointe s'est félicitée des éclaircissements supplémentaires apportés pendant la session et elle a exprimé son appréciation pour l'accent mis sur le renforcement de la mise en œuvre du Programme de travail, y compris la nomination de leaders et d'équipes pour chacun des objectifs; elle a aussi encouragé le Secrétariat à consolider les efforts de décentralisation et à renforcer les capacités des bureaux décentralisés, tout en maintenant la capacité technique des services du Siège.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

We thank the Secretariat for this document as well as the five Information Notes on this item. The document reflects the decisions of the 39th Session of the Conference, which requested the Director-General to find further efficiency savings of USD 2.7 million, while at the same time stressing the importance of protecting the Programme of Work of the Organization. In this respect, we note that these savings will be achieved through reduction in staff costs, namely, by cost sharing of the medical insurance premiums and the decisions of the ICSC and the General Assembly with respect to the compensation package for professional staff.

Whilst on the question of savings, it would be appropriate to refer to paragraph 8 of the document which highlights the savings of USD 108.2 million achieved in the previous two biennia mainly from staff costs and the resulting abolition of 235 posts. In this regard, whilst we would agree that the reduction of costs is a legitimate objective of every organization, we must also emphasize that in view of FAO's critical role in the follow up of ICN2, the implementation of Agenda 2030, as well as its possible involvement with the climate change strategy following the outcome of the Conference in Paris, we need to bear in mind that a constant squeeze on FAO's resources will make it difficult for the Organization to meet all the challenges that lie ahead.

We are in agreement with the measures being taken for efficiency gains and work planning and monitoring. We welcome the progress made in the development of the results-based monitoring and reporting framework, targets and indicators. We note that the Secretariat is also taking action to strengthen programme delivery through other measures such as the enhancement of internal management arrangements, rationalization of the organizational structure at headquarters as well as a review of the Decentralized Offices Network.

In this connection, we may recall that there have been considerable discussions during the sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees and subsequently, regarding a possible decline in the technical capacity of the Organization through a shift in posts and staff from technical divisions to decentralized offices or to other non-technical duties. In this respect, we would refer to Information Note 2 where the Secretariat is providing clarifications that address the concerns expressed by some Members. These clarifications include *inter alia*: the recognition that that technical staff at headquarters and decentralized offices perform similar functions and work on FAO's knowledge products in the same way with quality control ensured through the Technical Networks; the mobility policy involves shifting of people and not posts; and the evolution of budgeted posts by location and category shows no change among Professional and General Service staff.

As regards the proposal for the creation of the Strategic Objective Programme Leaders (SPLs) and their placement in TC Department, this will ensure a clear chain of reporting under the oversight and coordination of the ADG, TC Department. In this way the SPL teams will be more focused and results based. This will also facilitate closer inter-action and alignment of resource mobilization and South-South Cooperation. The Secretariat is also providing an assurance that the SPLs will be responsible for the conceptual development of programmes including their planning and design in collaboration with technical departments and regional offices, and will not be responsible for delivery of the planned activities, which will remain the responsibility of the technical departments.

In view of these considerations and the analysis provided in Information Note 2, we can accept the Secretariat's assurance that there would not be any negative impact on the technical capacity of the Organization. Consequently, we endorse the proposed rationalization and streamlining of the headquarters organizational structure and the draft decisions as set out in paragraphs 80 to 82 of document CL 153/3.

Finally, we draw attention to Information Note 4 which provides clarifications on FAO's role and its Action Plan on AMR. In this connection we would emphasize that FAO's work in this area should be strictly in accordance with Conference Resolution 4/2015.

With these comments, we also endorse the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is making this intervention on behalf of the Near East Group and it consists of six observations. But before that, we wish to acknowledge with appreciation the five Information Notes produced by the Secretariat prior to this session of the Council.

Observation one: Unidentified efficiency gains and savings of USD 2.67 million. The Director-General has stated on several occasions that he will implement this decision of the Conference by appropriate means without damaging the technical work as specified in the PWB 2016-17. It is understood that the required efficiency savings will include reductions in staff costs, either by adjusting the cost-share arrangement for medical insurance or from the outcome of the ICSC Review, or both. In any case, the sum of USD 2.67 million is only one-third of one percent of net appropriation. So the target can be and will be met. As shown in Table 1, the efficiency gains and savings will have no effect on the number of D, P and GS posts at headquarters and decentralized offices. It is neutral with respect to technical capacity.

Observation two: Based on the last column of Table 2, page 19, we welcome the small increase in net appropriation for the first five budget chapters which cover the Strategic Objectives. Taken together, the increase amounts to USD 456 000. Equally appreciated is the four percent increase in net appropriation for Chapter 8, Outreach (amounting to USD 3 million) and the one percent increase for Chapter 6, Technical Quality, Knowledge and Services (amounting to USD 595 000).

Observation three: Measures to strengthen programme delivery through enhanced internal management arrangements and review of the Decentralized Offices Network. The Council will be addressing the Decentralized Offices Network tomorrow under Agenda item 7. So the Near East Group will not touch on it under Agenda item 3.

The reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting give a favourable response to enhanced internal management arrangements and we welcome their responses. The Near East Group wishes to underscore three aspects. One is that retaining the technical capacity of the Organization applies to both headquarters and the decentralized offices and the document to be discussed under Agenda item 7 shows that the technical capacity of decentralized offices require strengthening.

The second aspect is the abolition of AGS Division and the transfer of its resources to ESN, ESP and ESA. The Near East Group supports this proposal because it has made it possible to transfer resources to areas of high priority.

The third aspect is the transfer of the Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs) to TC and placing them under the supervision of the ADG/TC. The Near East Group supports this change for the following four reasons.

One, it would reduce the reporting line to the Director-General from five to one which means that only the ADG/TC will be reporting to the Director-General on the implementation of all five Strategic Objectives.

Two, given the inter-linkages between the five Strategic Objectives, it is imperative to maintain a holistic view of the five Strategic Objectives and to report to the Director-General not only on the progress of each Strategic Objective but also on the gains obtained from the synergy between the five Strategic Objectives. As Senior Coordinator of the five Strategic Objectives, the ADG/TC would make the retention of such a holistic view possible.

Three, the proposed arrangement will provide direct linkage between the outputs and outcomes of the five Strategic Objectives and other segments of TC department, namely resource mobilization for technical cooperation, investment promotion through the work of TCI and other partners, South-South Cooperation, FAO-sponsored sub-regional, regional and global initiatives and other country-focused interventions.

Four, as shown in Information Note 2, the transfer of the 28 professional staff to TC department will not affect the technical capabilities of the other technical departments because the 28 officers are planners, programmers, management specialists and persons engaged in monitoring and evaluation. What will happen is the pooling of planners and programmers under one roof. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of FAO's work, such pooling will be a step in the right direction.

That said, the Near East Group still wishes to stress that care is needed not to weaken the continuity of communication between planners of normative work related to the five Strategic Objectives (that is the SPLs and their teams) and the implementers of the normative activities (that is the Technical Departments). This communication is of utmost importance for results-based management.

Among other internal management arrangements, the Near East Group wishes to highlight the following: Annex 2, pages 24 to 28, shows no shifts in D posts for decentralized offices. The number remains at 54 D posts, most of them being the FAORs. For headquarters, the total number of D posts also remains the same, 71 D posts. But there are shifts between departments, with TC gaining 4 additional D posts. The Near East Group assumes that the reduction of one D post each in the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Corporate Services is intended to fund replacements for the D posts vacated in the technical divisions resulting from the transfer of SPLs to TC Department.

Observation four: Cross-cutting issues. The Near East Group appreciates the opinion expressed by the Joint Meeting on adding climate change to the list of cross-cutting issues. This matter can be further reviewed after COP21, the Paris Climate Conference. The Near East Group is pleased that Information Note 2 mentions that it is planned to assign additional technical staff on climate change in the regional offices.

The Near East Group also appreciates the paragraph of the Joint Meeting on the alignment of the Strategic Objectives with the SDGs. In this connection, it may be useful if the three Rome-based agencies can arrange an informal consultation for Members early next year on the SDGs relevant to the mandates of FAO, WFP and IFAD, preferably soon after the global indicators of SDGs are finalized.

Observation five: In section III of document CL 153/3, the Near East Group appreciates the importance given to Objective 6, which ensures the quality of FAO's work and also attends to cross-cutting issues, including their monitoring.

In this connection, the Near East Group wishes to stress the importance of the work on statistics. The FAO Statistics Division, apart from taking major responsibility for the indicators of the outcomes of the five Strategic Objectives, is expected to play the lead role in the five global indicators related to SDG 2, SDG 12 and SDG 14 for which FAO will be mainly responsible and in nine other global indicators related to SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 15 in which FAO shares responsibility with other UN agencies, particularly WHO and UNEP. Statistical work for indicators related to SDG 2 also calls for closer collaboration between the statistical units of the Rome-based agencies and we understand that this collaboration is moving forward.

The measurement of SDG 2 indicators will be more demanding on developing countries with weak statistical infrastructure and hence the importance of building capacity for improved and reliable statistics in developing countries. In this connection, we are pleased that Information Note 2 gives assurance of future support to the decentralized offices in the field of statistics. However, extra-budgetary resources will be required to build statistical capacity in many developing countries to be able to track the outcomes of the SDGs, especially SDG 2.

Observation six: As shown in Web Annex 6, FAO is accountable for the measurement of the 48 outputs of the five Strategic Objectives and the 49 output indicators and will be reporting on them annually to the Governing Bodies.

The monitoring of the 17 outcomes of the five Strategic Objectives and their related 34 outcome indicators, which are to be reported to the Governing Bodies once in a biennium through the PIR, is far more complex because outcomes are produced at the country level in which FAO may assist but is not in the driving seat. For implementation purposes, outputs could be planned but to plan outcomes before the output is produced and disseminated is fraught with risks. There is also the question of sequence between outputs and outcomes. The output produced and disseminated in 2016 may lead to outcomes two or three years later, provided complementary actions are taken.

Paragraphs 41 to 43 of document CL 153/3 do not clearly state as to who has the prime responsibility for monitoring outcomes of the Strategic Objectives. However, as outcomes are generated at the country level, it is implied that the FAO country office will monitor them according to targets included in Web Annex 5. Whether the country offices are equipped to perform this function remains an open question and document CL 153/3 does not take a position on it. Nor does the report of the Joint Meeting.

With these observations the Near East Group endorses the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*.

Thank you Chair for allowing the Near East Group to speak on Agenda item 3 and the Group may seek your indulgence to intervene again pending on how the debate goes.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

First of all, I wish to thank the Secretariat for preparation of the comprehensive document regarding Agenda item 3, *Adjustments to the PWB 2016-17* and the five Information Notes on this issue.

Let me start my statement with quotation of a paragraph cited in the Information Note 3 at Annex 1, reflecting the core functions of FAO:

“Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate. FAO as a knowledge-based

organization needs to be at the forefront of knowledge and technology in all the areas of its mandate and be a source and organizational instrument to support countries in the utilization of available knowledge and technologies for development purposes”.

The document reflects the decisions taken during the 39th Session of the FAO Conference for saving USD 2.7 million.

In this regard, the Director-General has clearly stated on a few occasions his intention for implementation of this decision through appropriate measures without upsetting the technical areas covered in the Programme of Work and Budget of 2016-17. We do acknowledge his intention and appreciating his hard work.

As mentioned by Pakistan, we note that savings could be achieved through reduction of staff costs, such as cost-sharing arrangements for medical insurance and from the outcome of the ICSC review.

However, as the changes are within distribution of posts in the headquarters’ departments, it is important to ensure that it will not result in loss of FAO technical leadership and credibility to the Member Nations.

The integrity of technical departments at headquarters could easily be eroded with loss of posts. This refers to divisions within Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry Departments and Economic and Social Development.

Referring to Information Note 2, assurance is required that the Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs) in the TC department will not be a factor of weakness for a long lasting consolidated cooperation of the TC units of the previously mentioned divisions, due to the importance of all technical work under supervision of the five Strategic Objectives.

Referring to Information Note 3, annex 2, the normative work of the Organization required to be sufficiently guaranteed at country level in both of the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 as well as the Programme and the Budgetary Transfers in the 2014-15 biennium. Sufficient care is also required to avoid any discontinuity.

The balance between managerial, technical and operational functions with a bias to the technical work of the Organization should be seen within the revised FAO organizational structure. With the approved SDGs’, Members Nations will be calling on specialized technical capacity building of the Organization. Technical level and quality of work of headquarters should not be declined in decentralization, while strengthening the technical capacity at regional level.

In many developing countries, the main limiting factors for food production are: no access of farmers to high-yielding, drought-tolerant varieties of cultivars; simple, but it is the actual problem, low-germinating and poor-performing seed; very low water-use efficiency, sometimes 20 percent of the water in spite of serious water scarcity in drought-affected regions; low fertile soil with poor organic material content; no access of farmers to suitable agro-industry machinery, in particular for small land-holders.

These are the actual food production problems which farmers are facing. These are their prime needs, in particular in the Near East and Africa. They do need technical assistance from FAO to produce more and to fight hunger.

Therefore, Iran is recommending FAO to strengthen its technical capacity in the said areas, again, simple but it is the fact, it is the real problem. Without FAO’s technical assistance, using different mechanisms including such as South-South and North-South cooperation, it would be very difficult for drought-affected countries to achieve the expected Zero Hunger goal by 2030.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

As to the adjustments to the PWB 2016-17, we would like to point out two issues, one on the revised organizational structure, and the other on AMR.

Firstly, allow us to repeat our concern over the proposed revised organizational structure, which might generate negative impacts on FAO’s technical capacity, such as fisheries and forestry, in particular at

headquarters. We are not yet fully convinced by the Secretariat's explanation that the integrity of FAO's technical capacity would be maintained under this new organizational structure, which plans to reduce D2 positions in the technical departments and create the SO management teams under the Technical Cooperation Department.

We understand that the Secretariat's justifications in addressing our concern are as follows.

First, the SO management teams will be equipped with technical officers and thus their technical capacity. The teams will closely coordinate with the technical departments.

Second, under the new organizational structure, the SO management teams will take care of planning and monitoring so that the management of the technical departments will have less work in these areas. Consequently, the remaining management staff in the technical departments can handle their work and they can concentrate more on delivery.

However, it is uncertain that coordination between the newly established SO management teams and the technical departments would be facilitated efficiently and effectively; and the management of the technical departments could face an additional burden for coordination with the SO management teams instead of being released from their previous workload.

In conclusion, the proposed revised organizational structure needs to be carefully reviewed or reconsidered, as we believe that the technical capacity is FAO's comparative advantage within the UN system and its erosion would be in no one's interest.

Secondly, as regards AMR, to ensure a consistency between the CODEX Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance and the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, Japan proposes an amendment to the text on page 7 of document CL 153/3 Information Note 4, under the Focus Area 3, Output 3.1.2.

The current text is: "Assist Countries in the development of policies to phase out the use of AMs as growth promoters."

We recommend to add "in the absence of risk analysis" at the very end of this sentence. The whole sentence would be: "Assist Countries in the development of policies to phase out the use of AMs as growth promoters in the absence of risk analysis".

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation du Congo tient à féliciter Monsieur Haight et les deux Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier pour nous avoir présenté ce rapport.

La délégation du Congo intervient au titre de ce point au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Suite à une analyse approfondie du document, aux explications du Directeur général lors de la Réunion conjointe des Comités financier et du Programme, aux cinq notes d'information produites par le Secrétariat, et aux explications fournies par les Membres du Secrétariat au cours de la Réunion conjointe, le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement ces ajustements, et note avec satisfaction que le document élaboré par le Secrétariat est en cohérence avec les indications et décisions formulées par la Conférence.

Notre Groupe exprime sa satisfaction quant à ce que nous avons entendu ce matin depuis Paris, que le Secrétariat a déjà dégagé deux millions d'économies budgétaires.

Nous demandons au Secrétariat de fournir au Conseil, par le biais du Comité financier, les informations nécessaires et utiles sur la mise en œuvre de cette mesure.

Le Groupe Afrique exprime sa satisfaction quant à l'intégration des objectifs de développement durable au Cadre stratégique de l'Organisation et nous encourageons le Secrétariat à renforcer cette cohérence dans l'élaboration du Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021.

Dans le but de bien mener la réalisation du Programme de travail approuvé par la Conférence, le Groupe Afrique prend note des versions actualisées du cadre de résultats, des indicateurs et cibles, au

niveau des produits, pour les objectifs stratégiques. Nous attendons avec intérêt d'examiner les progrès qui seront accomplis au cours de l'exercice biennal 2016-2017.

Compte tenu des menaces que les changements climatiques font peser sur la sécurité alimentaire, nous soutenons l'idée que la question du changement climatique soit traitée comme un thème transversal de l'objectif 6. Pour cette raison, nous appuyons fortement la volonté et la nécessité que la FAO mette en œuvre une stratégie et un plan d'action à l'échelle de l'Organisation sur le changement climatique. Nous pensons que ces outils seront une option essentielle pour apporter d'éventuelles solutions à la problématique sur les changements climatiques.

Dans l'optique d'assurer une amélioration de l'exécution du Programme de travail, le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement les arrangements de gestion interne, qui comprennent notamment la nomination de chefs d'équipe responsables des objectifs stratégiques. Notre Groupe approuve la proposition visant à rationaliser et à réorganiser la structure organisationnelle du Siège afin de mieux répondre aux priorités des pays membres. Cependant, nous soulignons la nécessité de préserver l'intégrité des capacités techniques de la FAO. Nous pensons que les capacités techniques du Siège et celles des réseaux décentralisés devraient travailler en synergie de manière à réaliser les objectifs que l'Organisation s'est assignés.

Conformément à la résolution 4/2015 de la Conférence, relative à la résistance aux antimicrobiens, le Groupe Afrique appuie le paragraphe 5 et il se félicite des initiatives déjà prises par le Secrétariat pour sa mise en œuvre. Dans le souci de mieux informer le Conseil sur l'application de la résolution, le Groupe Afrique demande au Secrétariat de lui présenter à sa prochaine session, par le biais du Comité du Programme, une mise à jour sur les activités en cours et prévues pour l'exercice biennal 2016-2017, ainsi qu'une estimation des ressources nécessaires y afférentes, conformément au Programme de travail et budget approuvé. Le Groupe Afrique remercie sincèrement le Secrétariat pour avoir fourni aux Membres la note d'information numéro 4 et encourage tous les pays membres à mettre à disposition de l'Organisation davantage de ressources pour l'application de cette résolution.

Nous saluons les efforts consentis et les progrès accomplis par le Secrétariat sur la décentralisation.

Pour l'exercice biennal 2016-2017, et conformément aux décisions de la Conférence, le Groupe Afrique encourage le Directeur général à poursuivre ses efforts de décentralisation, ainsi que le renforcement des capacités des bureaux décentralisés.

Le Programme de coopération technique est essentiel pour les pays en développement dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et, conformément aux indications de la Conférence, le Groupe Afrique insiste sur la nécessité de renforcer ce Programme. Nous saluons la mobilisation à ce jour de deux millions de dollars au profit du Fonds fiduciaire pour les petits États insulaires en développement. Le Groupe Afrique encourage les pays membres et les partenaires à fournir davantage de ressources pour la mise en œuvre de ce Programme.

Le Groupe Afrique prend note des estimations actualisées de ressources extrabudgétaires résumées dans le tableau 3. Nous encourageons les États Membres à verser des contributions volontaires en vue de faciliter la réalisation des objectifs stratégiques ainsi que l'exécution du Programme de travail.

Nous notons que d'autres virements budgétaires seront effectués au cours de l'exercice biennal du fait de la poursuite de l'établissement des plans de travail et de la mise en œuvre de modalités d'application les plus efficaces et les plus efficaces. Bien que ces virements seront traités conformément aux dispositions de l'article 4.5 du Règlement financier, le Groupe Afrique invite le Secrétariat à tenir le Conseil informé d'éventuels virements, par le biais du Comité financier.

Pour terminer, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, nous tenons à féliciter le Directeur général pour sa transparence et à lui réitérer toute notre confiance et notre soutien pour sa brillante action et son dévouement envers l'Organisation en vue d'améliorer les conditions d'existence des populations les plus vulnérables.

Sur ces mots, le Groupe Afrique approuve les ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2016-2017.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

Thank you. I would like to ask you to give the floor to the Netherlands, who will speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino, as well as the candidate countries to the EU, align themselves with this statement.

We thank the Secretariat for document CL 153/3 on the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*. We are also grateful for the five additional notes distributed in response to some questions raised during the Committee's meeting, and for the informal seminar.

We agree with the objective of improving the efficiency of the Organisation, in particular its capacity to deliver on its Strategic Objectives and its PWB 2016-17. We would like to highlight some elements that are of crucial importance for the EU.

We recall that the Conference, at its 39th Session, decided that future efficiency gains and savings of USD 2.7 million should be achieved.

We note the initial alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals and welcome the proposal of the Secretariat to further elaborate the implications of the SDGs for FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. The preparation of the Medium-Term Plan for 2018-21 will be an opportunity to achieve further coherence.

We welcome the fact that climate change has been added to governance, gender and nutrition as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6. We particularly appreciate the fact that climate change is referred to as a "work area of the highest priority for FAO over the next four years". In this respect, we consider it important that all the recommendations of the evaluation report on FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation are promptly implemented and that a strategic vision is developed. However, we remain to be fully convinced that the work on climate change is underpinned by an effective division of labour among different departments involved as well as by sufficient staff and budget allocations to live up to this high ambition. We would be grateful for further clarifications in this regard.

We note the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as presented in document CL 153/3. As major donors of CGIAR, the EU and its Member States are concerned that the reprogramming of the FAO's biennial contribution to the Independent Science and Partnership Council could be read as an unwelcome distancing of the FAO from the CGIAR. As regards Annex 4, which outlines resources by chapter and region, we would like to recall that the final decision for regional initiatives belongs to the Regional Conferences.

At its 39th Session, the Conference unanimously adopted Resolution 4/2015 on Antimicrobial Resistance. Through this Resolution, the FAO is requested to carry out additional tasks which were not covered by the PWB. We consider it more than appropriate, including in terms of institutional credibility, that a reasonable amount from the net appropriations under the PWB will be allocated for the implementation of Resolution 4/2015. In this regard, we support the request of the Programme Committee to receive, at its next meeting, an action plan to address this issue, including an assessment of the financial needs and how these will be met.

We acknowledge the need for continuous adjustments to keep pace with ongoing change and the need to update the Organization to boost the implementation of the Strategic Framework adopted by the Conference. The proposed revised organizational structure and budgeted post establishment bring about substantial changes. In this regard, we would like to reiterate that the mainstreaming of the Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the Organization, as appropriate, should be continued. Document CL 153/3 does not provide a full picture of the implications of the proposed changes. In particular, Annex 2 does not comprise sufficient information on *de facto* available staff resources.

In this regard, the additional set of information provided after the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee sessions was much appreciated. Although this information did not yet fully dispel our concerns, we are ready to support the new structure. We would nonetheless like to have a report presented at the 155th Session of the Council in 2016, so as to allow the Council to take stock of the functioning of the new structure and its impact on the technical divisions, including Fisheries and Forestry, and to assess whether the new structure has the expected impact on the implementation of the Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The challenge of maintaining or strengthening technical capacity of FAO, in particular regarding its function as a knowledge organization, is a major concern for a large set of Members from various regions and diverse levels of development. Several factors, such as the change of priorities in the MTP, budgetary constraints, institutional reforms and a lack of capabilities highlighted in evaluation reports dealing with specific sectors and themes could impact the technical capacity of FAO. In this context, it is of paramount importance in the first place to keep a critical mass of expertise within FAO headquarters in order to retain FAO's comparative advantage as a knowledge organization. In this regard, convincing action is needed. We urge the Secretariat to consider the maintenance of technical capacity at headquarters as a guiding principle for planning staff allocation, and would highly appreciate receiving a full set of information on this.

We consider it important to carry out an in-depth analysis to assess the current situation and the way of maintaining and improving the technical capacity of FAO, paying particular attention to headquarters.

On this issue, and on the issue of the structural reforms, we propose to have an independent assessment, the outcome of which would be presented at the next Conference in 2017.

We look forward to engaging constructively on these issues.

Mr Sackchai SRIBOONSUE (Thailand)

Thailand thanks the Secretariat for preparing a concise document for the adjustments to PWB 2016-17 as well as providing the Information Notes 1 to 5 to clarify issues addressed by Member Nations.

We note with appreciation the assurance by the Director-General that further savings of USD 2.7 million will be achieved, and we look forward to the identification of exact implementation measures to achieve the savings within the biennium.

We welcome the updated results frameworks and the output targets and indicators for the Strategic Objectives. We would like to emphasize that the output indicators should focus on products and services provided by FAO.

We note the outcome indicators related to the FAO contribution to climate change being developed in Annex 5, page 15, indicators of 6.6.A and 6.6.B. We would suggest that the indicators should extend to "Number of countries supported by FAO that report progress in mainstreaming climate change in food security and agriculture policies" as well, and not just "...mainstreaming food security and agriculture into climate change policies and processes" as indicated in 6.6.A.

We appreciate efforts by the Director-General taking action to strengthen programme delivery, especially the enhancement of internal management arrangements. We trust that the technical capacity of the Organization will be maintained as explained in Information Note 2.

We concur with the proposed Organization structure. With regard to the reorganization of the Fishery and Forestry Departments, we certify with the explanation in paragraphs 57 and 58 related to the "streamline management" of these departments which will improve the delivery of the Programme of Work of the Organization.

In conclusion, we approve the *Adjustments to Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*.

Mr Joon-seog KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Secretariat for its tireless efforts made for the PWB adjustment.

The Director-General has been pushing for restructuring of FAO to better serve the five Strategic Objectives, which I understand is a challenging and complex task.

We believe such efforts will help freshen up the atmosphere at FAO and ensure optimal delivery of projects being operated around the world.

Many international organizations, including the UN and its agencies, are also seeking changes through organizational restructuring, and it is timely and appropriate for FAO to make similar attempts for transformation. Korea views that FAO Members should encourage and support such endeavour.

However, we have noticed that the focus of streamlining lies mainly within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FI) and the Forestry Department (FO).

As a country which fully experienced the importance of fisheries and aquaculture and wishing to contribute to the development of the sectors, Korea would like to express concerns on these unbalanced changes.

As you are aware, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, for example, are different in nature. Fisheries are more oriented towards harvesting activities, while aquaculture focuses more on producing fishery resources.

That is why we think that FAO should possess world-class technical knowledge, expertise and human resources both in fisheries and aquaculture so that the Organization can back up fisheries and aquaculture development and human resource development in the least developing countries.

With this recognition, Korea made a proposal to establish the FAO World Fisheries University to nurture professionals in fisheries and aquaculture. We expect that the WFU will prepare talented people from developing countries to lay a firm foundation for fisheries and aquaculture development in their countries.

In summary, Korea supports the proposed adjustment to PWB 2016-17 in general, but a more careful and prudent approach is required.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

You may have noticed that in the long list of speakers there are many Asian countries because sometimes in the Asia Group there are different views on the fact that we are many developing countries and only a few of us are OECD countries.

So this time around, it was an occasion when we could not really come to a consensus on the statement. Therefore, you have so many individual statements. That said, I am going to make my statement extremely brief, because many of us from the same group are speaking on this item.

Let me start by congratulating the management on finding the USD 2.7 million savings as requested by the Conference.

India is a member of the Programme Committee and aligns itself completely with the statement made by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee in recommending the approval of the proposals made in document CL 153/3. This is the fourth occasion for us to be discussing the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget.

Concerns were raised in the earlier meetings on the proposals contained in the document and we thank the Management for the Information Notes and the informal seminar. This helped clarify issues and questions raised, especially on the proposed organizational structure, technical capacity, as well as provisions on AMR.

On the whole, the same concerns are being raised again. I have yet not heard any new questions and I really doubt that any new explanation will be coming forth from the Management other than what has already been provided.

We feel that the concerns voiced have been acknowledged and at this stage we are happy to accept the clarifications provided and recommend to approve and endorse the draft decisions as set out in paragraphs 80 to 82 of document CL 153/3.

That said, ‘the proof of the pudding is in its eating’. So going forward, we will be keenly watching how effective these changes will be implemented in ensuring an effective and efficient delivery of FAO’s main activities.

Mr August PERENGKUAN (Indonesia)

Indonesia goes along with the statement by Pakistan, which is supported by many countries of the Asia region.

We appreciate the Programme and Finance Committees which, at their last sessions on 2-6 November 2015 and their Joint Meeting on 4 November 2015, endorsed and recommended for consideration by the Council the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17.

Indonesia concurs with other Members as well as the Finance and Programme Committees’ conclusions that the adjustment of the PWB has reflected the decision of the Conference, which *inter alia* required the Director-General to undertake efficiency gains and savings in particular through reduction in staff costs. In this case, we underscore the importance of efforts by the FAO Management to contain staff costs during the biennium. Yet, efforts to reduce staff costs in several areas of programmatic de-emphasis, in our view, should not hamper delivery of service by the FAO in implementing its programmes to which Member Nations, particularly developing countries, attach their interests.

We also welcome the rationalization and streamlining of the headquarters organizational structure as proposed by the Director-General. This should be achieved in harmony with the effort FAO is doing in enhancing capacity and internal control at its decentralized offices. Nevertheless, all of these attempts should ensure that technical capacities and strengths at the headquarters to achieve the programme of work is maintained.

Indonesia also welcomes that the adjustment to the PWB takes into account the recent development of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the coming months, governments and other actors in the international community will be considering how best to reflect the SDGs in their development policies and programmes. In this process, the role of FAO in setting norms for monitoring, and supporting Member States, of the implementation of SDGs’ goals and targets are of very much importance. The place of capacity building as part of the “means of implementation” as mandated by the 2030 Agenda is therefore essential, of which FAO has a significant role to play.

Moreover, Indonesia would like to highlight the importance of climate change as a work area of the highest priority for FAO over the next four years. We also acknowledge FAO’s efforts to incorporate climate change strategy and action plan as a theme cutting across all five Strategic Objectives and integrating regional and country priorities, due to the fact that global climate change poses increasing threats to food security and nutrition.

Having said, Indonesia supports the endorsement of the *Adjustments to the PWB for 2016-17*.

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the detailed documentation on this agenda item, including the five Information Notes.

Russia supports the adjustments proposed by the Director-General to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17. We feel that they are fully consistent with the guidance of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. They take account of the Conference’s recommendations to search for additional sources of savings through enhancing efficiency and streamlining staff costs. We expect the Secretariat to continue in the future to inform Member Nations regarding changes to the cost-sharing arrangements on medical insurance for staff. It is important for the revision of administrative service costs for translation not to have a negative impact on the quality of the documentation in all FAO languages, including Russian.

Russia supports the policy of enhancing internal management to the Organization, as well as the proposed changes in the Secretariat's structure. This also relates to the transfer of Strategic Programme leaders and their support teams to the Technical Cooperation Department.

Here, we would propose that the Secretariat again reflect on the appropriateness of cutting two D2 level posts in the Fisheries and Forestry Department. In the statements of a number of our colleagues, that concern was already expressed as well on this matter. We are convinced that the divisional heads are not a superfluous management layer, but they are leading technical experts. This is especially relevant to the Forestry Department where the remaining D2 officer is supposed to run 12 units at the same time.

Such a situation in conjunction with a cut in the funding of the Department threatens to impact the quality of the FAO's work on this important field, so over the course of time it may also affect the role of the Organization in the international forestry's architecture. We also expect FAO to continue working in the rural area after the disbanding of the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division (AGS).

We approve the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter. We would also like to inform the Council of Russia's decision to make a voluntary contribution to FAO amounting to USD 6 million with a view to fostering food security and nutrition in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

In conclusion, I would like to address the issue of combating antimicrobial resistance. We consider it of great importance to FAO's activities on this pressing issue in accordance with the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition of FAO and WHO as well as the relevant resolution of the FAO Conference.

We are convinced that it is necessary to establish coordinated work among FAO, WHO and OIE on this matter in the context of the 'One World One Health' concept.

In this regard, how one resolves the complex points in question pertaining to this problem is demonstrated by the good example of the Republic of Korea who brought up the creation of an international Fisheries and Aquaculture University.

If this issue is of global significance, then we should not only request services and funds from FAO, but we also need to provide our own resources.

In this respect, we are considering the idea of making a voluntary contribution to FAO for these purposes in 2016. We hope that our example will be followed by our partners to ensure that there will be a solution to this problem. We are also ready to involve in this work experts with the required specialization from the leading scientific research institutes for our country. They have a relevant experience in this area.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We welcome FAO's efforts to strengthen leadership in achieving the Strategic Objectives. Furthermore, we appreciate the developments that have been taking place in recent years in the management of the organization, focusing on results-based planning, management and monitoring and clear focus on delivering on the five Strategic Objectives. The revised Organization structure now introduced to the Membership is a step in that process.

However, taking into account that it is for this Council to approve the revised structure, we the Members of FAO should have been informed much earlier. Informal consultations between Membership and Management is a well known and established practice in the UN and many UN agencies. They should be common practice in this Organization as well. We stand ready to work with the Management to establish such tradition in FAO. Unnecessary friction and concerns because of a lack of dialogue can be avoided for very little cost.

Further, these changes have led us and many others to ask the question: Will this deteriorate the technical capacity and the normative work of the Organization in the HQ? We have received some clarifications and some positive assurances from the Secretariat and we are thankful for that. At the same time it has only reminded us about what makes this Organization relevant; that is, its technical capacity and the normative mandate.

With the Agenda 2030 in mind we, the Members and the Secretariat, have no other option than call for and work towards even stronger technical capacity to deliver on our objectives, and we are particularly concerned about the technical capacity of fishery and forestry. We support all suggestions in this regard, and here I can refer to the ideas just raised by the EU, suggesting that we should in the near future revisit this issue and take stock of the functioning of the new structure and its impacts on the technical units and their capacity to deliver quality.

In paragraph 51(e) of the document in front of us, there is a description of the relationships between the SPLs and the technical departments with a view to maintain technical quality. We would appreciate to get some further elaboration on this point.

The Nordic countries were surprised not to see any adjustments in the PWB for new work on Antimicrobial Resistance after the 39th Session of the Conference adopted Resolution 4/2015. This is an exceptionally important area of work and we recommend this Council meeting will endorse a request to the Management to find within the existing budget further resources for this work. We remain convinced that FAO should be in the forefront together with other relevant organizations assisting Member States tackling the growing problem of resistance to antibiotics.

Having said that, we can go along with the new revised organizational structure and revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as presented in the document.

We take note of the revised budgeted post establishment with some concern. In this regard we like to have further clarification how the Management plans to continue its work on the implementation of the VGGT on a country level by moving the Tenure Division, with all its resources dedicated to advocacy of the VGGT, to the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

In 2013 the Conference endorsed FAO's Policy on Gender Equality and with that in mind when discussing these adjustments to the PWB we would like to better understand and get clarification on how gender as cross-cutting issue is reflected in the new structure and how much financial resources go to implementing the policy.

We take note of the information note provided on the workforce planning and flexibility in vacancy rates and the explanations therein. The high vacancy rate shown is of great concern for us and cannot stay like that any longer without hurting the in-house technical capacity.

Finally, we welcome that climate change, as a work area cutting across the Strategic Objective programmes, will be a high priority work in FAO. We look forward to see Management's first draft for a corporate climate change strategy and action plan. With reference to our earlier point on dialogue with Member States, we highly recommend to the Management, when preparing that strategy, to organize with Member States informal dialogue to get their views and inputs.

Mr Nasrul Haqin BIN MOHD NASIR (Malaysia)

Malaysia welcomes the proposed *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17* as well as the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the updated results framework.

We would like to follow others in thanking the Secretariat for the document and also the five Information Notes explaining in depth each proposed adjustments. We acknowledge the proposed savings amounted to USD 2.7 million complying with the decision of the 39th Session of the Conference, which is recommended by sharing the cost of the medical insurance premiums and on the compensation package for professional staff.

We agreed on the measures being taken for efficiency gains and work planning and monitoring. We welcome the progress made in the development of the results-based monitoring and reporting framework, targets and indicators.

We wish to emphasize that FAO should continue enhancing and strengthening its technical capacity and knowledge to help all Member Nations. Therefore, we request FAO to give high priority to the importance of the technical capacity especially in a complete food system as well as the food safety throughout this restructuring process. With the assurance that this proposal should improve the organizational deliveries to Member Nations, we therefore support the proposal to rationalize and streamline the structure in line with the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees on this item.

Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Realizo esta intervención a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

Acogemos con beneplácito el documento Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2016-17 (CL 153/3), el cual refleja planamente la orientación y las decisiones de la Conferencia adoptadas en junio último, así como el informe al respecto que nos presentó el Comité del Programa.

La voluminosa información que nos ha sido brindada adicionalmente, en la reunión informal que se realizó el 19 de noviembre, así como el diálogo pro más de dos hora que tuvo el Director General con los Miembros de los Comités de Finanzas y Programa en la Reunión Conjunta de esos Comités, atestan la transparencia en la gestión y su contribución a la buena gobernanza de la Organización.

Dado que la Asamblea General adoptó, en octubre, la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, es con gran agrado que constatamos la alineación natural del Marco Estratégico de la FAO con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Habrá seguramente oportunidad para buscar aún más coherencia durante el año 2016 en la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio 2018-21. Señalamos nuestra particular satisfacción con el marco de resultados actualizados, y la inclusión del cambio climático como tema transversal en el Marco Estratégico.

El GRULAC apoya las medidas de gestión adoptadas por el Director General para mejorar la ejecución del programa, incluyendo la definición de líderes y equipos estratégicos. Los ajustes propuestos en la estructura orgánica de la FAO seguramente aumentarán la eficacia y sinergias a la vez que resguardan la capacidad técnica de la FAO para apoyar la ejecución de los objetivos estratégicos. No identificamos cambios sustanciales a la sede de la estructura. Al contrario, creemos que mediante la racionalización y la eliminación de la superposición de las capacidades podrá la FAO mejorar la capacidad técnica y de conocimiento de la Organización. Estos ajustes son decisiones de gestión para que la secretaría pueda producir los resultados solicitados, una vez aprobado el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto revisado. Por ende, el GRULAC está en condiciones de aprobar la estructura organizativa revisada constante del Anexo 1.

El GRULAC expresa su satisfacción de que los ahorros presupuestarios requeridos por la Conferencia, de 2,7 millones de dolares, se logren a través de reducciones en los gastos de personal. Creemos que el trabajo realizado por la FAO en la Resistencia a los Antimicrobianos (RAM) debe ser financiado con recursos extrapresupuestarios, como se acordó en la Conferencia de 2015. Sin embargo, el plan de acción que nos ha sido presentado por medio de la Nota informativa 4 demuestra que recursos humanos y financieros significativos ya están comprometidos en base al presupuesto regular.

Instamos a la Secretaría que continúe los esfuerzos de descentralización en el transcurso del bienio 2016-17. Es necesario que la Organización se haga cada vez más presente en el terreno, de modo que los Objetivos Estratégicos que nos propusimos se realicen en todos nuestros países, alcanzando los sectores más marginalizados y sin dejar a nadie desatendido.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (San Marino)

This is a very special occasion for my country today and for my delegation to intervene for the first time ever as a Council Member. I wish also to stress our willingness to cooperate in a positive and open way with the Secretariat and with the other Council Members.

In this spirit I would like first of all to thank the Secretariat for the document submitted for this item which reflects the decisions taken by the Conference. We welcome the action taken by management on the redistribution of resources aligned to the new priorities of the PWB 2016-17, efficiency gains and savings, as confirmed by the Director-General this morning.

We welcome the internal management arrangement at headquarters and in the field which take into account areas of emphasis and de-emphasis of the PWB 2016-17, reinforcing the organizational accountability for delivering results.

We recognize in those major structural changes the establishment of new Strategic Programme leaders and teams in the TC Department. We therefore welcome future assessment by Management on the reform undertaken and welcome the further clarification Mr Haight has given us this morning.

We welcome the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the recently adopted Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and stress the importance for FAO to reinforce the coherence with SDGs during the process of preparation of the Medium-Term Plan 2018-21.

While supporting the proposed rationalization and streamlining of the organizational structure, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of safeguarding technical capacity at headquarters and its comparative advantages as a knowledge organization and would like to thank Management for the further clarifications at the last informal seminar.

On the issue of human resources policies, we would like to stress the importance to continue with a transparent social dialogue among Management and staff, bearing in mind that building a climate of trust and cooperation is of vital importance. We stress the importance of further mainstreaming gender in FAO's work as a cross-cutting issue and would like it to be reflected in all Strategic Objectives.

We support the timely introduction of climate change as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6 and look forward at the presentation of FAO on its strategy following the participation at the Paris Conference and hoping in a more proactive participation of FAO at the next COP22.

We emphasize the importance of Conference Resolution 4/2015 and recognize the previous work led by FAO on this issue. We therefore thank the Secretariat for preparing a five-year Action Plan of Work and would appreciate more clarification on actions envisaged, resources available from the core budget, and on the resources needed.

Sr. Elias ELSORI (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La Delegación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela se suma a la intervención realizada por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Agradecemos la exhaustiva presentación realizada por el Director de la Oficina de Estrategia, Planificación y Gestión de Recursos, y los Presidentes de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas. Así como, la elaboración de las Notas Informativas colocadas a disposición de los miembros con mayor información sobre los ajustes al PTP.

Consideramos que la disponibilidad de estos documentos en un tiempo tan corto posterior a las reuniones de los Comités de Finanzas y Programa, demuestra una vez más el compromiso del personal de la FAO y del Director General, en brindar información actualizada y muy útil para los miembros en un contexto de trabajo basado en el apoyo mutuo y la plena transparencia.

En coincidencia con los Miembros del Comité del Programa y Finanzas respaldamos la propuesta del marco de resultados actualizado (incluida en el Anexo 5) y de las metas y los indicadores de las realizaciones con respecto a cada objetivo estratégico (destacadas en el Anexo 6), creemos que este enfoque es clave para incrementar los esfuerzos para medir el rendimiento institucional en el cumplimiento del PTP. Las propuestas realizadas por el Director General permitirán una implementación adecuada de los cambios adoptados por los miembros.

En la parte programática tomamos nota de la recomendación del Comité del Programa, relativa a la introducción dentro del mandato de la Organización del cambio climático como tema transversal comprendido en el Objetivo Estratégico 6, sin menoscabo de la labor de otros foros internacionales vinculados al cambio climático.

También acogemos con beneplácito la armonización del Marco Estratégico de la FAO con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, proceso que se profundizará en la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio para 2018-2021.

En este aspecto queremos reiterar el compromiso del Gobierno Bolivariano con la implementación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, los cuales han sido incorporados al Plan de la Patria y su implementación está siendo debatida mediante una consulta nacional con el pueblo y las diferentes organizaciones sociales

Respaldamos que el Consejo apruebe las propuestas de racionalización y simplificación de la estructura orgánica de la sede. La propuesta presentada fortalece las capacidades técnicas de la sede al colocar al personal bajo una nueva estructura que permite acercar al terreno los conocimientos técnicos de la FAO.

Es importante recordar que la Evaluación Externa Independiente de la FAO en el año 2007 calificó a la FAO como una organización basada en conocimientos que debía incrementar sus esfuerzos para que estos pudieran apoyar la labor de los gobiernos para atender situaciones de alta inseguridad alimentaria, creemos que la propuesta presentada por la Secretaría busca un enfoque de dos vías, la simplificación de las líneas de rendición de informes y a la vez consolidar el trabajo de las unidades técnicas de la FAO para facilitar el apoyo institucional al cumplimiento de los Objetivos Estratégicos.

Los cambios de estructura y de los Equipos de los Objetivos Estratégicos permitirán avanzar en la implementación del presupuesto, y a la vez apoyar la gestión del Director General que hemos elegido por 177 votos en la pasada Conferencia.

El año 2016 representa la primera etapa de la ejecución del PTP, deseamos el mayor de los éxitos a la Administración y a todos los miembros, nos complace el fortalecimiento del diálogo claro y franco que nos ha permitido alcanzar consensos importantes en la Conferencia y en el Consejo para llegar a alcanzar los objetivos estratégicos que nos hemos planteado.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

México recibe con agrado el documento CL 153/3, el cual refleja las decisiones de la Conferencia, entre ellas, la armonización del Marco Estratégico de la FAO con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Consideramos importante el enfoque de las cinco vertientes presentadas allí para la determinación de aumentos de eficiencia y ahorros en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2016-17 lo cual debe seguir siendo una prioridad de la Organización en cuanto al aprovechamiento eficaz de los recursos. Asuntos como la planificación y seguimiento del trabajo; las medidas para reforzar la ejecución de los programas; los ajustes resultantes de la estructura orgánica y la plantilla presupuestada por capítulos son elementos importantes para lograr eficiencias.

Tomamos nota de que la Administración reiteró su intención de lograr ahorros adicionales de 2.7 millones de dólares por eficiencia, como lo solicitó la Conferencia así como otros ahorros: 5 millones de dólares en ahorros por gastos en tecnologías de la información y 9.2 millones de dólares por ahorros en 13 esferas que requieren menor atención programática.

Los ahorros de 2.7 millones de dólares que se encuentren podrían ser transferidos a las áreas donde se ha determinado brindar mayor atención en el PTP 2016-17.

Agradecemos y tomamos nota de las cinco Notas Informativas preparadas por la Administración en apoyo a sus propuestas. Los argumentos presentados allí son claros.

Recordemos que el Comité del Programa ya recomendó al Consejo que aprobara las propuestas de racionalización presentadas por el Director General y el Comité de Finanzas, por su parte, dio la bienvenida a esas propuestas y las remitió al Consejo para su aprobación

En ese sentido, apoyamos las medidas que la Organización está adoptando respecto al establecimiento de mecanismos mejorados de gestión interna de los programas relativos a los objetivos estratégicos, la rendición de cuentas y la supervisión, las propuestas de racionalización y simplificación de la estructura de la sede, los vínculos con la sede y las oficinas descentralizadas y un sistema de

seguimiento de la ejecución y los resultados de los programas, que caen ya sea bajo la autoridad del Director General o de este Consejo.

Sobre los recursos para el Programa de Antimicrobianos, la Nota Informativa 4 es clara en el sentido de que será con recursos extra-presupuestarios, sin que esto menoscabe su importancia.

Sobre la cuestión de la movilización del personal y una posible disminución de la capacidad técnica como consecuencia de la transferencia de personas, hacemos un llamado a la Administración a planificar estos cambios de manera muy cuidadosa, de tal manera que representen un reforzamiento de las capacidades de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

We still have eight delegations who wish to speak on this item. This brings us to the end of the morning's meeting. Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY- GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to invite Members to visit the themed booth in the Atrium. The booth serves to launch and display the following new FAO publications: *Sustainable Financing for Forest and Landscape Restoration*; *The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security*; *FAO Support to Investment – Celebrating 50 years of partnerships*.

The booth can be visited in the Atrium during the course of this week.

Furthermore, a special event to commemorate FAO's 70th Anniversary in conjunction with the conferral of the FAO Awards will be held in the Green Room this afternoon at 17:00 hours, immediately following the close of the plenary meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. Council will resume at 14.30 sharp to continue item 3.

The meeting rose at 12:36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

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

30 November 2015

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 3. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 (continued)
Point 3. Ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2016-2017 (suite)
Tema 3. Ajustes al Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2016-17 (continuación)
(CL 153/3; CL 153/3 Information Notes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the second meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

We shall continue with item 3, *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*. I will now give the floor to the first speaker on the list.

Sr Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina respalda y hace suya la intervención del GRULAC sobre este tema, acogiendo con beneplácito el documento Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2016-2017, documento CL 153/3, que sigue la orientación de las decisiones adoptadas por la Conferencia. Acogemos con beneplácito la identificación que ha mencionado el Director General sobre los ahorros de 2,7 millones de dólares requeridos por la Conferencia.

La Argentina desea resaltar la importancia de la labor de la FAO en materia de Resistencia a los Antimicrobianos. En este sentido, valoramos la nota informativa número 4, que presenta de manera clara y exhaustiva el rol de la FAO en la materia, así como el Plan de Acción de la Organización y la necesidad de recursos para llevarlo a cabo, entre otras cuestiones.

Destacamos el valor de aplicar plenamente la resolución 4/2015 de la Conferencia, dado que ha quedado claro la importancia de este asunto y el rol que debe tener la FAO en la materia. Para ello, será fundamental el compromiso de los Estados Miembros para que la Organización cuente con los recursos necesarios para poder llevar a cabo las actividades planeadas a tal efecto.

La Argentina también acoge con satisfacción las medidas propuestas para racionalizar los conocimientos técnicos y la capacidad en la sede, con los consiguientes ajustes en la estructura orgánica de la misma, tal como se presenta en el organigrama contenido en el Anexo 1 del documento citado. Estamos convencidos de que dichas medidas, en conjunción con la mejora de las disposiciones de gestión de programas, garantizarán la utilización óptima de los conocimientos técnicos de la Organización, manteniendo al mismo tiempo la integridad de la capacidad técnica general en la sede, así como los distintos departamentos técnicos. Esto permitirá velar por la ejecución óptima del Programa de Trabajo, tal como lo solicitó la Conferencia, a la vez que potenciar a la Organización en su labor en torno a los Objetivos Estratégicos.

En función de lo anterior, la Argentina agradece la información adicional provista por la administración sobre este tema en las diversas notas informativas, solicitando al Consejo la aprobación de esta estructura, teniendo también en cuenta como positivo el cambio de nombre de TC que se nos ha indicado.

En cuanto a evaluar el funcionamiento de la nueva estructura, valoramos como importante la propuesta realizada por la distinguida Embajadora de los Países Bajos. Sin embargo, entendemos que el momento de realizar ese examen para tener la posibilidad de hacer un análisis coherente y con los tiempos adecuados, debería ser en el año 2017 durante el examen de Medio Término. Ese sería un buen momento para realizar la mencionada evaluación sobre los impactos de la nueva estructura. Eventualmente, y posterior al middle-term review, podríamos realizar un análisis más profundizado todavía del funcionamiento de la estructura antes de la próxima conferencia de 2017.

Por último, apoyamos los esfuerzos de descentralización de la Organización porque creemos que es fundamental que una organización como ésta, que brinda conocimiento, esté en el terreno justamente para ayudar a la difusión del mismo.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would also like to thank the Secretariat for the document CL 153/3 on the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17* as well as the five additional Information Notes. In this

consolidation phase of FAO's reform, Canada appreciates the efforts of the Director-General and Senior Management to find effective ways for the Organization to do better with less through greater strategic prioritization, planning and monitoring, better alignment with the Strategic Framework, more streamlined processes and structures, and moving towards greater transparency, accountability and results-based management. We also welcome efforts to ensure that FAO as a knowledge organization works less in silos by promoting cross-sectoral approaches and synergies at the strategic and operational levels, including through internal management arrangements.

Over the past weeks, we have heard clarifications from Senior Management that the proposed changes are an evolution, not a revolution, in the implementation of Conference decisions since 2013. We have also heard concerns expressed by several Member States regarding the erosion of the technical capacity of the Organization and the possible negative impact on the capacity of technical departments, in particular the de-layering measures in the Fisheries and Forestry Departments. We note today the additional information provided on the additional D level resource in the Fisheries and Forestry Departments respectively.

Nevertheless, like others, Canada continues to have serious concerns that the proposed changes will affect the ability of these critical departments to deliver their respective mandates, including contributing in the implementation of the SDGs. For Forestry, this includes fulfilling its role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests which brings together the key global forest-related organizations. We welcome reassurances made by the Director-General and Senior Management to Member States, including in the information notes, that measures to strengthen programme delivery at global, regional and national levels set out in the adjustments will in fact protect and enhance FAO's normative work. For Canada, it is essential that any proposed organizational structure not only retain but also strengthen FAO's technical and policy capacity, especially in light of emerging initiatives that will require FAO's support in this area.

As Senior Management has pointed out, we are learning by doing. Some lessons can already be drawn from the process of consideration of the adjustments over the past month. Communication is of paramount importance. Early engagement in consultation with FAO staff and Member States, including through informal briefings, about the rationale underlying the proposed changes and implications for FAO's core work is key. So is regular dialogue with Member States to take stock, validate a new approach and make additional adjustments if required. In this regard, we support the proposal made by the European Union to consider this issue again at the 155th Session of the Council. Inputs from the various upcoming Technical Committees on FAO's technical capacity would be useful. We also support the European Union's proposal for an independent external evaluation on FAO's technical capacity by the next 2017 Conference. FAO should indeed be a knowledge organization with its feet on the ground, but also with a strong brain to ensure good norms, science and data, as well as long arms to embrace partnerships. Any proposed adjustments should support FAO as an integral body that can move in an agile manner.

In her introduction to the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, Ms Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that antimicrobial resistance threatens the very core of modern medicine and the sustainability of an effective global public health response to the enduring threat from infectious diseases. Without harmonized and immediate action on a global scale, the world is heading towards a post-antibiotic era in which common infections could once again kill. Five months ago our own Conference passed a resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and stressed the importance of the work on antimicrobial resistance in the implementation of the Programme of Work 2016-17. We know that this issue was the subject of much debate at the Programme Committee and Finance Committee and we welcome the additional information on FAO's important work in this area that has been presented to Council. Conference instructed FAO to actively support work in this area. Canada urges this Council to send a strong message to our partners, a message that says that FAO is in this fight, by agreeing to designate additional resources to the battle against AMR from the regular budget.

Lastly, two additional points. On climate change, we welcome the elevation of this issue as a cross-cutting theme that permeates FAO's work and we look forward to the corporate strategy to be

developed. We also fully support the recommendations of the evaluation on FAO's contribution to climate change, namely that it be positioned as a facilitator of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral harmonization, and that it is well-positioned in the most relevant global climate change forums, as well as integrating capacity development and gender and increasing partnerships.

Finally, on the gender issue, we would like to stress the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout the five Strategic Objectives and would encourage to systematically integrate all the cross-cutting themes of climate change, nutrition, and gender in the strategic monitoring internal arrangement that is being established with the SPLs.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos por la presentación del documento con la propuesta de ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2016-2017. El Ecuador se suma a la declaración realizada por Nicaragua en representación del GRULAC y quiere realizar los siguientes comentarios.

Tomamos nota con satisfacción del cumplimiento de la orientación y las recomendaciones de la Conferencia respecto al Programa de Trabajo y al Presupuesto (PTP), y del hecho de que se continúen aplicando de manera sistemática los principios de la gestión basada en resultados.

El PTP y el Plan a Plazo Medio (PPM) se ejecutarán en el contexto de la implementación de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, y vemos con satisfacción que el Marco Estratégico Revisado está en línea con dicha Agenda. No obstante cuando los Estados empiecen a tomar acciones hacia el cumplimiento de la Agenda puede ser que las necesidades, las prioridades y las metas de los países cambien y, en consecuencia, también el apoyo que la FAO deba dar a los países.

Respaldamos que el tema del cambio climático sea esfera de trabajo transversal y una de la más importante en la labor de la FAO, ya que además será una de las áreas de mayor demanda de apoyo de los Estados. En ese sentido, nos complace que la Administración esté preparando una estrategia y un plan de acción institucionales sobre cambio climático y en los que sean tomados en cuenta fundamentalmente las prioridades nacionales y regionales.

Apoyamos la propuesta de la Administración respecto a los cambios en la estructura orgánica de la FAO, ya que a nuestro criterio son ajustes que van hacia la racionalización de la gestión sin que afecten la capacidad técnica de la Organización y, además, son necesarios en el contexto de los nuevos temas priorizados y dentro de la situación presupuestaria y búsqueda de la eficiencia.

Apreciamos las notas informativas adicionales con respecto a esta propuesta, así como la realización del seminario informal. Seminarios que han sido habitualmente organizados por la administración. No obstante, es importante señalar que estos eventos informales no deben reemplazar o disminuir las competencias que tienen los Comités del Programa, y de Finanzas para el análisis y la presentación de recomendaciones sobre estos temas del Consejo. En ese sentido, el Ecuador respalda las recomendaciones contenidas en el Informe del Comité del Programa sobre este tema.

En cuanto a lo manifestado esta mañana por la Unión Europea, o sea respecto a que se presente un Informe al Consejo en 2016 para evaluar el impacto de los ajustes de la estructura interna, queremos señalar que nuestro criterio, lo que corresponde evaluar a los Estados Miembros, son los resultados. Estos resultados, así como la propia evolución en la estructura orgánica, pueden ser hechos a través del marco de seguimiento de resultados 2016 y 2017 y en el examen a medio término. Es decir, existen los mecanismos para el seguimiento y la evaluación, y esos mecanismos deberían ser usados. Esto mismo se aplica para la propuesta de una evaluación en cuanto a las capacidades técnicas de la Organización.

El Ecuador apoya igualmente la recomendaciones contenidas en el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta, en cuanto a la importancia de continuar reforzando el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, así como la consolidación de la Descentralización y el reforzamiento de las capacidades de las oficinas descentralizadas, conforme a la recomendación de la Conferencia, ya que sólo así se conseguirán los resultados en el terreno. A nuestro criterio, el reforzamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas constituye a su vez el reforzamiento de las capacidades de la sede.

Apreciamos la nota informativa sobre la labor y las medidas tomadas por la FAO en materia de Resistencia a los Antimicrobianos, tema que es de mucha importancia y esperamos recibir mayor

información sobre los avances a través del Comité de Agricultura, conforme lo establece la Resolución 4/2015 de la Conferencia. Los recursos para un mayor desarrollo en esta labor por parte de la FAO deberían ser provistos a través de fondos extra-presupuestarios.

Con estos comentarios el Ecuador respalda la propuesta de Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2016-2017.

Ms Natalie BROWN (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for the additional information and clarification provided on organizational restructuring in the various Information Notes. We also thank the Secretariat for the information session hosted by Deputy Director-General Gustafson on 19 November which played an important role in addressing outstanding concerns that arose during the November meetings of the Finance and Programme Committees about insufficient consultation with Member Nations regarding the new organigramme and structural changes, many of which are underway. Overall, we encourage the budget-neutral approach in the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget, while maintaining technical capacity at headquarters to ensure delivery of FAO's programme of work.

The United States takes note of the internal management arrangements as well as the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, is concerned that the extent of the structural changes presented in the adjustments to the PWB which we fear may compromise the integrity and enhancement of technical capacity at FAO Headquarters and overall programme delivery of FAO core activities. We believe that greater clarity on the underlying vision driving the changes is needed and that feedback on the process be provided to Member Nations to ensure the adjustments are implemented efficiently and smoothly and in accordance with the Independent External Evaluation.

We echo the recommendations of the External Auditors to implement improved communications with FAO staff during this period of major organizational change. Similar dialogue with Member Nations should be done in a timely manner as well.

We share some of the concerns already expressed about the proposed structural changes, particularly with regard to Fisheries and Forestry, and welcome the request of the EU Member States for an independent assessment. We would also encourage that the relevant Governing Bodies, COFI and COFO, review these changes and report back to this body.

Concerning AMR, we thank the Secretariat for Information Note 4 of document CL 153/3 on FAO's work on Antimicrobial Resistance. We would like to echo some of the points raised by our colleagues on the need for greater clarity as to the resources currently allocated to AMR.

Finally, it is our understanding that the planning for the HQ staffing rationalization process is almost complete. We would welcome updates on the timeline for that process, as well as an indication on when additional vacancies would be announced. An update to the spring Finance Committee and Council would be beneficial. The high vacancy rate at the senior level at which hiring decisions, including positions other than at the D level, call into question whether FAO is appropriately staffed to deliver the programme of work.

We also support Canada's recommendation on gender policies.

Mr Niu DUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat and the Chairperson for having provided us with the report on the Programme of Work 2016-17 which has taken up most of the recommendations made by the regional and specialized bodies.

In light of the current situation, the report proposed re-distributing USD 14-odd million in order to strengthen the eight areas to be of emphasis, such as resource mobilization and South-South Cooperation, the GS system and smart agriculture. At the same time, a lot of work has been done in terms of re-allocations with regard to areas of de-emphasis. We would like to support the adjustment aimed at strengthening Strategic Objective 1. We believe that a timely and comprehensive good quality analysis on assessment of nutrition and food security, will be important so that we might take

good decisions in these fields. We therefore suggest that FAO should cooperate more with stakeholders when it comes to sharing information and data.

We also support the adjustment made to Strategic Objective 6. We believe that including climate change assessments in the Strategic Framework will contribute to strengthening the consistency and quality of FAO's work in the field of climate change. It will also be a major contribution to the national, regional, and global architecture in the fight against climate change. We expect further proactive actions from FAO when it comes to devising policies and contributing to the fight against climate change. We would also like FAO play a leadership role in high level policy and technical dialogue when it comes to climate change.

With regard to the revised organizational structure, we welcome this revised structure which has been done in accordance with the adjustments to the Strategic Objectives. We also welcome the rationalization of the headquarters structure, whilst at the same time safeguarding full and improved technical capacities at headquarters.

When it comes to efficiency gains and savings, China would like to support and welcome FAO's spirit which is geared towards adopting extra measures aimed at achieving efficiency gains and savings. Moreover, we have also noted that in the 2016-17 Programme of Work there is little extra budgetary contribution and we think this is something that needs to be taken into account so that we can better assist developing countries. We therefore hope that the Secretariat will help strengthen the mobilization of resources.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize the fact that in this Programme of Work, regarding the Monitoring Framework, the report underscored the fact that climate change will be an area of top priority for the next four years. China is fully in agreement. At the same time, we would like to suggest that FAO provides its technical expertise and actively coordinates with stakeholders in order to hash out a consensus so as to build concrete actions. This Council meeting is taking place at the same time as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21). The COP21 is considered to be a turning point in the fight against climate change at the global level. FAO must therefore set great store by and take active part in the discussions and related actions here so as to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change.

China is a country pursuing responsible development and gives great importance to climate change. We have done so for many years. On 30 June 2015, China officially published its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDCs) aimed at strengthening measures to rein in climate change. These INDCs clarified our objectives in the field of climate change with an outlook to 2030. It has clarified the fact that CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions in terms of GDP units will have to be reduced considerably compared with 2005 levels. They will have to be reduced to 60 percent. These objectives are ambitious and they are based on scientific evidence. When it comes to climate, we believe that we must uphold the convention and its related principles. The process and the final outcomes must also comply with the idea of shared but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the principle of equity, in order to strengthen the proper and efficient implementation of the objectives set forth in the convention. By setting out climate action initiatives, FAO needs to take this on board.

To conclude, the Chinese Delegation would like to encourage and support the Council to adopt this report.

Mr Antonio Otávio SA RICARTE (Brazil)

I will start by thanking Mr Haight for his very detailed introduction, as well as the two Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees for briefing us on the conclusions of the meetings that we had earlier this month.

Brazil of course associates itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Nicaragua on behalf of GRULAC. At this stage, I only wish to add a couple of comments after listening carefully to the debate on this item.

First, Brazil congratulates the Secretariat for the enormous efforts to find or to cut deeper into expenses in order to be able to save an additional USD 2.7 million as mandated by the Conference.

It is important to highlight the warning that we heard from the Director-General that further budget cuts will impact on performance and the capacity to implement the Programme of Work.

Second, like China and Ecuador, Brazil believes that sufficient time should be given in order to assess the results of the management measures taken by the Director-General to make the Organization more fit to deliver the Programme of Work. The Session of the Council just before the next Conference would be a more appropriate moment to take stock of the results and appraise the wisdom of the structural design decided by the Director-General.

Finally one last comment, the new title to be used by Mr Laurent Thomas from now on better reflects his accrued responsibilities so congratulations to him.

Mr Abreha Gebrai ASSEFA (Ethiopia)

We align ourselves with the statement made by Congo on behalf of the Africa Group. We have a brief comment and a request to make. The brief comment relates to the relationship between the Strategic Programme leaders and the technical units. We understand that the New Strategic Framework expresses the impact to be achieved in countries, regions, and globally over a long-term time frame and adopt other metrics such as for the delivery of the Programme of Work.

We feel it envisions the impact on livelihoods by organizing the expertise of the technical unit around a common objective. If we could use a metaphor, the Strategic Programme represents a conductor in an orchestra while the technical unit represents each musical instrument. We would like to submit a request which is that it will be very useful if the Secretariat could organize an informal seminar after this Council Session in which Strategic Programme leaders and the technical unit could make presentations to the Permanent Representatives to clarify their tasks and relationships.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

First, we would just like to thank Boyd and the team for the documents that we have before us. Australia welcomes the efforts of the Director-General in preparing this adjusted Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to thank the Organization for preparing the five information notes that we recently received and the informal briefing that Members also received following the recent Finance and Programme Committees.

Australia appreciates the efforts being made to continue to achieve savings and efficiencies across the Organization while continuing to deliver on an ambitious Programme of Work. As India said earlier in his intervention, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and I think that is where we are at with some of these proposed structural changes that are embodied in the adjustments to the PWB.

I think I have heard a number of concerns being raised by the European Union, the Nordic countries, Canada, US, and some concerns expressed by some Asian countries, Japan and Korea. And we also have some similar concerns and uncertainties around the potential impact of these changes.

Nonetheless, we are prepared to support the Director-General in pushing forward with changes.

Obviously for us, as we have stressed on numerous occasions, it is about results, impact, outcomes. That is what Australia would like to see, improvement in those from FAO's operations.

So we recognize that we have to give the Director-General the opportunity to make strategic decisions and to pursue those but equally we require as a Member of the Governing Body to have results-based information available to us and in a timely manner so that we can assess whether or not the strategic directions he is taking are the correct ones.

In terms of specific proposals that have been put forward by Members of the Council today, we would agree in seeking not to derail the Director-General's efforts but rather to give us reassurance that the Director-General is on the right path. We also would support the proposals put forward by a number of Council Members, specifically in terms of the structural changes for this Council to receive a report back. I think the proposal was the end of next year or maybe early 2017, about what the impact and implications or results have been from those changes.

In terms of the technical capacity of the Organization, Australia has constantly reinforced or emphasized the critical importance of FAO's comparative advantage in that space and we do not want

that to be eroded and we have some concerns that, at this stage, we are a little bit unclear about the level of technical capacity of the Organization, particularly at headquarters. So we would fully support the proposal that the European Union tabled, supported by a number of other countries and regions for an Independent External Evaluation of the technical capacity of FAO, particularly here at headquarters, and for that report to be available well in time for the FAO Conference in 2017 to consider the outcomes and recommendations from that review.

On other issues related to Antimicrobial Resistance, we note and thank the Secretariat for the additional information that has been provided on that. Obviously there are still some concerns by Members that FAO is not giving it a high enough priority, not devoting enough resources to it. Clearly, there is a strong need for voluntary contributions from donors and I think that is accepted and acknowledged by all. I think the critical question to know is whether FAO is giving it appropriate internal resources. For us, we are still very uncertain what is the case.

We note though that the Programme Committee will receive a report, an action plan that will specifically outline the resources required and that are allocated by the Organization. So that is a bare minimum for us. We are still seeking assurance that the Organization is giving this appropriate authority to place FAO on an equal footing with the other IOs that are obviously clearly working in this same space as well.

The other issue, and being a member of the Finance Committee, I can also speak with some concern as to the high vacancy rate and that generated a lot of discussion and comment in the Finance Committee and in the Joint Committee and for us, we understand the Director-General is saying that he needs some flexibility. He needs to maintain a vacancy rate both for Professional officers, technical staff, as well as for General Service staff of a level which we would normally think would be as too high for an Organization. We would be seeking further information from the Organization Management as to why it is deemed necessary to have a ten to fifteen percent vacancy rate to provide that sort of flexibility.

But we note with greater concern though that the current vacancy rates actually far exceeds those levels and we would request some urgent consideration and action by Management to address this issue and for a report back to the spring 2016 Governing Body meetings outlining what actions have been taken by Management.

We have noted the information they provided about the re-profiling exercise. We do not fully agree that that would be a sufficient reason to have a 22 percent vacancy rate. We have heard about re-profiling for the last three years since we had a new Strategic Framework in and from our recollection from the information that is being provided to the Finance Committee, the vacancy rate continues to go up and is now up over, I think, five hundred and something staff in the technical space. So we are quite concerned about that and I know that Management has recognized this as an issue but we want more than just recognition. We want action taken because clearly these vacancy rates are centrally linked to the technical capacity and the ability of this Organization to deliver on its mandate. So that is a strong issue, a strong priority for us that we are seeking urgent action on.

Another matter is governance. We heard this morning from the Director-General about this red line that we keep hearing about and that is a good thing. There is a red line. There is some distinction between the responsibility of Management and the responsibility of the Members. We take our responsibility very seriously and would expect that Management would also take their responsibility seriously.

A key concern for us in the recent Governing Body meetings has been the late provision of information to those governing committees. We do not think that that is satisfactory or adequate. Clearly those documents that were available and should have been made available well in advance of the meetings and from our perspective, that needs to be addressed so that Members can fulfil their responsibilities and obligations in providing appropriately informed guidance to the Organization.

I will not speak any longer, but just to say that we support the Organization going forward in improving its efficiency and effectiveness. There are some concerns and I think there have been some proposals put on the table to try to address those while still supporting the Director-General's efforts.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia as one of the founding Members of this Organization is pleased to say that gender is a cross-cutting issue very close to the heart of its President as the first democratically elected female President on the continent of Africa. In that regard, I wish to read a statement on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is a trailblazer for gender equality and therefore it is incumbent on me to read a cross-regional statement held by Council Members.

I am honoured to hold this cross-regional statement stressing the crucial role of FAO's work on gender equality and women's empowerment on behalf of the following Council Members: Mexico, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, United States, San Marino, Iceland, India, Spain, Canada, Italy, South Africa, Liberia, Hungary, Venezuela, Guinea, Japan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, France, Morocco, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Czech Republic and the European Union.

FAO is best positioned to take a leading role in supporting women in the area of agriculture and rural development. In a world where women, especially rural women, have less access than men to productive resources, services, inputs and opportunities, this work is of immense importance for many for progress in agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty and hunger. Simply by giving women the same opportunities as men, millions of people, both women and men, could be lifted out of food insecurity.

For this reason, FAO's policy on gender equality endorsed in 2013 is imperative. This policy gives excellent guidance on how to reach FAO's gender equality goals and objectives. The policy is also instrumental in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. We are pleased to see that a lot of important work is being done by the staff from headquarters to the country offices in order to close the gender gap and eliminate discrimination against women.

We would, nevertheless, like to get a more thorough insight into the work and FAO's results on the important issue, particularly on how gender is prioritized in all of its areas of work and at all levels.

At the Conference in 2013, it was agreed that FAO should report regularly to the Conference on its implementation of the gender policy and of UN-SWAP standards. After two years, we would like to request an update on measures the Organization has taken so far in this regard.

We suggest this Council take a clear decision on including this in the Programme of Work for this biennium. The decision should contain the following elements.

First, we request to receive a report for review on the implementation of FAO's gender strategy as soon as possible. A Conference Report of 2013 includes a decision on regular reporting on the implementation, paragraph 68, including elements such as gender-specific targets, baselines, indicators and gender disaggregated data in the Programme of Work. The regular reporting should be supplemented by independent evaluations every three to five years as recommended by the UN-SWAP.

Second, it would be useful to learn how the cross-cutting issue of gender is reflected in the new organization of strategic teams in the Technical Cooperation Department and how gender is mainstreamed in all Strategic Objectives.

Third, we would like the Management to provide a tracking of how much financial resources that go to enhance gender equality and give information on the budget provided for mainstreaming gender as a cross-cutting issue in FAO's Strategic Framework. This would be in line with Recommendation 7 of the Independent Review of FAO's Governance endorsed by the Conference in June this year.

By adopting Resolution 7/2015, the Conference agreed that the MYPOW should factor in coverage of cross-cutting issues to be tracked over time.

We suggest that gender is appropriately included in reports submitted to the Council and is on the agenda at least once every year for the way forward.

Gender equality and women's rights are crucial ingredients in the fight against poverty and hunger. In the end, achieving gender equality and empowering women is not only the right thing to do, it is also a smart thing to do. We appreciate that the Management sees gender equality as an essential means to achieve FAO's mandate and the Sustainable Development Goals and we look forward to learning more about the Organization's important work in this regard.

M. Roland RAVATOMANGA (Madagascar)

Je vais être très bref, mais juste pour dire au nom du Groupe Afrique, comme l'a déjà annoncé notre représentant du Congo, que les résultats obtenus jusqu'ici par la FAO confirment que nous avançons bien dans la bonne direction.

Bien sûr, il y a eu quelques remarques importantes de la part de certains pays, mais cela ne devrait pas être un blocage ou des freins pour avancer dans les réformes déjà engagées. En tant que Membres du Conseil, nous soutenons les réformes engagées par M. le Directeur général de la FAO.

Pareillement, comme l'a soulevé le Kenya, et comme vient de le réaffirmer et confirmer encore le représentant du Libéria, nous soutenons les efforts de la FAO dans le combat contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens. Bref, les réformes sont en bonne voie, avançons. Ce n'est pas le moment de trop tergiverser.

M. Mongui MEDI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole à un moment où le débat a suffisamment avancé pour soutenir la déclaration du Congo faite ce matin au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le document du Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2016-2017.

Nous apprécions les efforts du Secrétariat, efforts de planification mais également dans la production de ce rapport. Nous voulons aussi remercier les deux présidents—le Président du Comité du Programme et le Président du Comité financier—pour le compte-rendu qu'ils nous ont fait de leurs délibérations. Nous rappelons que la Conférence avait déjà approuvé le PTB 2016-2017, mais avait donné un mandat au Secrétariat d'y apporter des ajustements. Le document devant nous maintenant répond à cette préoccupation de la Conférence et tient compte également des orientations qu'elle avait données. À cet égard, nous tirons notre chapeau au Directeur général pour les 2,7 millions de dollars d'économies, de gains d'efficacité et d'économies supplémentaires qu'il a déjà trouvés. Je sais que ce n'est pas souvent évident et il a pu déjà nous donner la preuve qu'il a bien trouvé ces 2,7 millions de dollars.

Pour ce qui concerne la structure organisationnelle proposée par le Secrétariat, nous souhaitons rappeler une chose, que nous devons garder à l'esprit de manière permanente, c'est que nous sommes des organes de gouvernance; nous prenons certaines décisions stratégiques tandis que d'autres décisions stratégiques sont prises par le Directeur général et son équipe. C'est donc à lui, par exemple, qu'il revient de faire une proposition de structure organisationnelle. Cela rentre dans ses prérogatives. En faisant cette proposition, il doit tenir compte et prend certainement en considération les possibilités que cette structure organisationnelle lui donne de remplir son mandat et de produire les résultats escomptés.

Notre devoir à nous, Membres, est de l'accompagner. Mais nous devons nous assurer qu'en assumant cette responsabilité d'accompagnement, nous gardons également la responsabilité de contrôle et de reddition, qui est, elle, dévolue aux Membres. Ceci dit, nous soutenons entièrement la structure proposée puisqu'elle n'implique aucune augmentation budgétaire.

Une question que je voudrais remettre sur la table est celle du timing pour que nous exercions notre rôle de contrôle et de reddition, parce qu'il est demandé que nous puissions avoir une idée sur les expériences acquises pendant la mise en œuvre de cette structure organisationnelle. Nous pensons que le meilleur timing pour commencer à y réfléchir serait au printemps 2017. Pourquoi cette date? Parce que nous savons qu'il faut attendre d'avoir complété les Conférences régionales en 2016, au premier semestre, pour que les premiers résultats de ces Conférences régionales puissent être présentés au Conseil. À ce niveau, il serait impossible que les sujets dont nous allons discuter au cours des Conférences régionales puissent être débattus de manière conclusive. Ensuite, nous pourrions prendre

le bénéfice des réunions du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier du premier trimestre 2017 pour examiner davantage ces questions.

C'est ainsi que nous verrions le timing qui nous conduit vers la Conférence de 2017, car il serait vraiment difficile de respecter les délais de 2016 tels que nous sommes en train de les envisager.

Sr. Francisco MBA OLO BAHAMONDE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Guinea Ecuatorial interviene suscribiendo la declaración realizada por Congo en nombre del Grupo Africano. Queremos expresar nuestro aprecio por las excelentes discusiones habidas desde esta mañana y el espíritu de consenso que se vislumbra.

Creemos importante reconocer que el documento de referencia refleja totalmente las decisiones y las peticiones formuladas durante el 39.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de 2015 de la FAO, y por lo tanto, los esfuerzos de la Dirección son dignos de reconocer. Apreciamos los ahorros por un valor de 2,7 millones de dólares que se van a identificar en el curso de la Ejecución del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto PTP 2016-2017 y pensamos que la propuesta de racionalizar la estructura de la FAO entra en coherencia con la necesidad de aumentar el empeño de la institución para alcanzar los Objetivos Estratégicos.

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial aprecia sinceramente que el Director General de la FAO esté tomando medidas para reforzar la realización de programas, como la mejora de la disposición de gestión interna, la racionalización de la estructura orgánica en la sede y el examen de la Red de las Oficinas Descentralizadas. La madre de la ciencia me recomienda y me dice que como es natural agradecer al Señor Boyd Haight y su equipo por los documentos presentados, igualmente agradecemos a los Presidentes del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas por sus Informes. Animamos y les animamos que continúen en esa dirección con rumbo fijo para conseguir los objetivos propuestos.

Mr Lupino LAZARO (Observer for Philippines)

I will be making two statements on this item: one cross-regional, similar to our distinguished Delegate from Liberia, and one national statement. The cross-regional statement will be short but the list of supporting countries will be long, so please bear with me.

It is an honour to state on behalf of the following Observers of the Council – Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, Sudan, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

We endorse the clear points of the cross-regional statement made by Council Members. We would like to stress the importance of taking a decision on including gender equality and women's empowerment in the Programme of Work for the next biennium. We expect that the recommendation to include gender as an annual standing item at Council meetings will be taken forward. We also look forward to receiving a report by Management on the follow-up of the gender policy, particularly on the implementation of the Organization's Strategic Objectives. We expect sufficient human and financial resources be allocated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and look forward to FAO's update on this matter.

Lastly, as a sort of a public service announcement for Council Members and Observers who still want to sign the statement, please contact Norway and we will forward the final list to the Chair. Thank you.

If you would allow me, as for a national statement viewpoint, the Philippines joins other Delegations in thanking the Secretariat for the documents on the adjustments to the Programme of Work 2016-17 and for the useful Information Notes.

We align ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan and those who emphasized that the document is reflective of the guidance and decisions taken at the 39th Session of the Conference. We only wish to highlight a few points.

Firstly, we concur with the internal Management arrangements envisaged to improve FAO's delivery of Programme, including the establishment of Strategic Programme leaders and teams; the alignment

of resource mobilization, South-South Cooperation; and investment with the Strategic Objective Programmes.

Secondly, we endorse the proposed changes to the organizational structure at headquarters as well as on the budgetary transfer and post establishment, noting that this will maintain the integrity and effectiveness of this institution's technical capacity, especially at the country level. We believe that this would achieve a balance in the Director-General's workload.

Thirdly, while we support the mainstreaming of AMR into FAO's work and appreciate the initiatives contained in Information Note 4, we understand the need for further discussion on funding sources. We, therefore, encourage further voluntary contributions.

Besides, if there was a proposed allocation from the Regular Budget in the next biennia, we believe that this should go through the appropriate review process and consideration by the concerned Governing and Technical Committees, including the COAG, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council.

Finally, we approve the decisions taken and recommended in document CL 153/3 and the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees on this item as well.

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

I sincerely thank all of the Members of the Council for your very considered comments on the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. Indeed, we strive to consult and interact with you on changes that are made in our Programme of Work and I am sure that this will continue through the normal governance processes that we have ahead of us in the coming years.

I would like to make a few comments on the observations that have been made. The first relates to the technical capacity and organizational structure of the Organization. I want to recall, it is in Information Note 2, paragraph 8, that the Director-General has abolished 235 positions in the first four years of his mandate and from that created 63 new technical positions. So just on the numbers alone, technical capacity of the Organization has been increased.

We will endeavour to report back to you on the implementation of the recent changes through the normal Governing Body monitoring reports, that is the Mid-Term Review of 2016 as well as the Programme Implementation Report for 2016-17. This combined with other initiatives that are ongoing, in particular the review of the Decentralized Offices Network, the considerations of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees, as well as the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan for 2018-21, should all be able to come together in your deliberations in 2017, including an independent evaluation of technical capacity.

In terms of the Organization's structure, there have been many comments about the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the Forestry Department. Many of you know that I myself come from an aquaculture background. I have some sympathy for comments that are made about fisheries versus aquaculture. But in any case, what is important in managing technical departments is that we let the technical professionals get on with their jobs. In matrix management they should be able to work in multi-disciplinary teams to bring their expertise to the objectives that you have set for the Organization. That is why we have proposed to merge the two Divisions within Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the two Divisions within the Forestry Department.

The Departments are still there, they have a high visibility outside the Organization, but they also allow for more interaction among the policy, the resource, the production, and the economic specialists who are within those sectors and as they work with the Strategic Programme leaders and their management teams.

And I said in my remarks and I will re-emphasize, we have had intensive meetings over the past several weeks between the Strategic Programme teams and the technical divisions to hammer out what the technical officers will provide in terms of inputs to the work plans of the Strategic Objectives. These will be made concrete in formal agreements, what we call service agreements, between the programmes and the technical departments so that we not only know what results they are going to produce and the inputs they are going to provide but then can monitor that on a regular basis, about

every six months. This should help us to cut down on what was a fairly large amount of *ad hoc* teamwork that has occurred over the last two years, bring more order to the process and allow the technical department staff to get on with their technical work contributing to the programmes.

If I can reply to the Delegate from Afghanistan on outcome monitoring. This is a corporate responsibility, monitoring at the outcome level. We are now in the process of doing the first reporting on outcomes after 2014-15. It is a process that is led by the Chief Statistician of FAO working through the Strategic Objective teams and with my own office. So it is not a job for the FAO representatives.

If I can turn to one other specific question that was asked by Iceland on the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure and their move from the Climate, Tenure and Energy Divisions to the Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division. This will enable us to help countries implement the guidelines at national level. A lot of work was done over the past several years to develop the Guidelines as a policy instrument, to get them approved through the Committee on World Food Security and the Council, and it is now the time to implement. The Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division is in the best position to raise awareness, to enter into partnerships with countries and to make the Guidelines more tangible at country level.

If I can turn to gender. This has come up now just at the end of the interventions. I only want to recall that FAO has fairly consistently been planning, budgeting and reporting on gender contributing to our Programme of Work. It is in the Programme of Work 2016-17, where USD 21.8 million is allocated to work on gender. Of that, USD 3.8 million is non-staff resources and USD 17.9 million is for staff time. We have reported on our work in the Mid-Term Review 2014, which was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees earlier this year, and it is also in the QCPR, Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Report, that was reviewed by the Conference in 2015 including FAO's report on the UN-SWAP indicators. We will continue to report on our implementation of the gender policy and gender as a cross-cutting theme through the mandated reporting documents, the Mid-Term Review, the Programme Implementation Report and the QCPR, which are reviewed on a regular basis by the Governing Bodies.

Finally, on the Sustainable Development Goals, we note the support for integrating them in the Programme of Work, and in particular in the development of the Medium Term Plan for 2018-21, which process will take place during the course of next year.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Je vais peut-être faire des commentaires sur quatre points: le cadre de résultats, les antimicrobiens, la question d'égalité entre les sexes, et les questions de conditions de travail des Comités.

Sur le cadre de travail, plusieurs d'entre vous, notamment l'Afghanistan et la Thaïlande, à propos du changement climatique, ont bien posé, je crois, des questions de méthodologie.

Mais d'abord je voudrais dire que quand j'ai pris mes fonctions ici, j'ai été très favorablement impressionné par les outils dont dispose la FAO en termes de management par les résultats. Je crois qu'il faut vraiment féliciter Boyd Haight et toute son équipe, et le Comité du Programme précédent, notamment sa Présidente, l'ancienne Ambassadrice de Suède Cécilia Nordin van Gansberghe, parce qu'un gros travail a été fait pour mettre en place des outils, avec ce Cadre stratégique à un horizon de dix ans, le Plan à moyen terme à un horizon de quatre ans, et le Programme de travail et budget, avec tout le travail fait pour identifier des indicateurs et des objectifs cibles.

Mais il me semble qu'effectivement il y a deux questions, très bien posées par la Thaïlande et l'Afghanistan notamment, qui concernent d'abord les indicateurs. Nous avons souvent des indicateurs qui touchent les processus globaux et d'autres qui touchent le niveau national et comment certaines recommandations et directives de la FAO sont intégrées dans les politiques nationales des pays. C'est souvent cela qui sert d'indicateur de résultats, mais je me demande si cela reflète tout à fait le travail fait par la FAO, si l'on peut vraiment mesurer la performance de la FAO à travers ce type d'indicateurs parce qu'il y a toujours la question de l'appropriation. Pour que des directives soient prises en compte par les politiques nationales, il faut qu'il y ait une volonté au niveau national, une volonté politique; il faut qu'il y ait des capacités techniques, car cela ne résulte pas que de l'action de la FAO.

Puis il y a la question du timing, qui a été soulevée, je crois, par l'Afghanistan. Il est vrai qu'essayer de mesurer des indicateurs de résultats sur un horizon de deux ans, c'est très court quand on parle de sécurité alimentaire, de nutrition, de changement climatique. Donc il me semble que peut-être, il faudrait travailler au Comité du Programme pour affiner un peu ces indicateurs et réfléchir à cette question du timing. Il me semble que le Programme de travail et budget sert d'abord à définir un ensemble de moyens qui doivent être mis en œuvre pour atteindre des objectifs. Il est donc important de suivre ce qu'on appelle les produits, comment la FAO a engagé les actions, a mis en œuvre les produits correspondant au budget.

Ensuite, il y a vraiment les indicateurs de résultats. Quels sont les résultats, les impacts? Il me semble là qu'un horizon de trois ou quatre ans est plus raisonnable, car il correspond au Plan à moyen terme et au mandat, aussi, du Directeur général. Je pense qu'effectivement, dans une logique de management par les résultats, il faut évaluer la performance du management sur les résultats et donc sur cet horizon de quatre ans. C'est là un travail que nous allons engager au Comité du Programme.

Sur les antimicrobiens, je voudrais juste souligner que dans une Organisation qui compte 194 États Membres, le consensus est toujours un miracle, c'est en quelque sorte arriver à construire un miracle. Donc il faut toujours partir des points de consensus, et je crois que sur cette question, nous avons un point de consensus fort, car nous avons une Conférence qui a adopté une résolution à l'unanimité. Disons que cette question était une question importante et qu'un certain nombre d'actions devaient être engagées par notre Organisation. Ce qui compte maintenant c'est délivrer ces actions.

Ainsi par rapport aux questions soulevées par le Japon notamment, je voulais rappeler qu'une des conclusions importantes du Comité du Programme a été de demander au Secrétariat de préparer pour le mois d'avril prochain un plan d'activités qu'il entend mener sur la durée du Programme de travail et budget, et que nous avons tout un travail à faire sur les objectifs et l'identification des produits et des résultats qui pourraient être atteints. Il faut aussi voir comment ce travail s'articulera avec le travail de l'OMS et de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale.

Nous avons également demandé des informations sur le coût de financement de ce plan et sur les modalités de financement. Il faut je crois faire ce travail de façon pragmatique pour construire un consensus et être en mesure à la fin 2016, et surtout à la fin du programme, de voir quels sont les résultats atteints en la matière.

Sur la question de l'équité des sexes, ce qui me frappe, pour parler très franchement ici, ce sont certaines préoccupations qui reviennent de façon récurrente au sein du Conseil. Il y en a deux évoquées ici, sur les capacités techniques et sur la question de l'équité des sexes. Je crois qu'il faut entendre ces préoccupations et les traiter. Il ne faut pas laisser ces sujets nuire à la confiance entre le Conseil et le Secrétariat. Je crois qu'il faut travailler sur cette question d'équité des sexes, mais il faut faire un travail substantiel. Je ne suis pas sûr que de demander toujours plus de rapports solutionnera le problème. Cela alourdit surtout le fardeau bureaucratique pour le Secrétariat, mais il nous faut aller au fond de ce débat et je pense que le Comité peut aider au moins le Conseil à avoir un diagnostic partagé sur la situation. Après, ce sera au Conseil d'élaborer ses conclusions.

Là aussi, au sein du Comité du Programme, j'aimerais, en dehors du travail courant sur la planification budgétaire et les rapports d'évaluation, qu'à chaque session nous prenions un thème et allions au fond de la discussion avec le Secrétariat sur ce thème. Nous aurons en avril, donc, une discussion sur le changement climatique et les modalités de réalisation de la stratégie. Je pense que nous pourrions très bien en novembre avoir une discussion de fond sur les questions d'équité des sexes. Pour reprendre ce que disait le Libéria, comment sont-elles intégrées dans l'activité de l'Organisation? Quels sont les moyens humains et financiers qui sont mobilisés dans les différents départements? Quels sont les résultats que l'on peut identifier? Et effectivement, compte tenu de la sensibilité de cette question, je pense qu'elle mérite de faire l'objet d'un rapport spécifique au Conseil, en dehors des rapports qui seront faits sur l'ensemble des objectifs stratégiques et des indicateurs dans le cadre de résultats.

Maintenant, le dernier point porte sur les questions soulevées par le collègue australien sur les conditions de travail des Comités. Je ferais deux remarques là-dessus. Une première, sur le fait qu'on a une marge de progression importante, pour parler diplomatiquement, et sans faire de révolutions, mais juste des évolutions, il me semble qu'on peut améliorer les choses. Nous aurons lundi, avec notre

Président, les Présidents des Comités et le Secrétariat, une réunion de travail pour tirer les leçons des dernières réunions et voir comment améliorer la production des documents, la division du travail entre les Comités et la Réunion conjointe, ainsi que la présentation des documents pour mieux spécifier ce qui relève du Comité du Programme et ce qui relève du Comité financier.

Je crois toutefois honnêtement que tout cela ne répondra pas à la vraie question qui a été posée dans ce débat, notamment sur la réforme de la structure organisationnelle, qui était, au-delà du travail que les Comités peuvent faire et des informations qui peuvent être présentées dans le document; qu'il y avait un besoin de dialogue entre les États Membres et le Secrétariat sur ces questions.

Je pense que la session informelle qui s'est tenue dans cette salle même, et la salle était quasiment pleine comme aujourd'hui, montrait bien qu'il y avait un besoin de dialogue pour permettre à chacun de s'exprimer et poser des questions, et d'avoir des clarifications. Donc je pense qu'à côté du travail des Comités, il serait effectivement sage d'envisager que périodiquement, quand il y a un sujet un peu lourd et complexe à aborder au Conseil, il puisse y avoir en amont une session informelle du Conseil, juste pour permettre aux délégués de préparer dans les meilleures conditions possibles les débats au Conseil. Je pense que ce serait de nature aussi à favoriser l'élaboration de consensus lors de la session formelle du Conseil.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General Operations)

First of all, just to echo what Boyd Haight said, we appreciate these very constructive comments, the overall tone of the entire discussion, and in particular now in the summing up.

Notably, we certainly value the endorsement of the item and the adjustments to the Programme of Work, but also the recurrent concerns, as Ambassador Tomasi put them forward, that we have listened to very carefully and we are eager to work with you on those.

Those will be including gender, AMR, technical capacity at headquarters, decentralization, that came up quite frequently, vacancy rates, and others issues.

I am sure that we will continue to make progress on this and we shall contribute to the dialogue as you have requested beyond again as Ambassador Tomasi mentioned. Besides, let us say we will provide more reporting on this, but in a constructive dialogue as we move forward.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems we have come to the end of this agenda item and, after spending almost four hours, it is not going to be that easy to make a conclusion but I think it will be possible.

I want to thank first of all Ambassador Tomasi and Mr Mehboob for being able to present what was discussed in their respective committees, as well as Management and, in particular, Mr Haight for being able to introduce the item very briefly.

I also want to congratulate the Members. I have observed constructive and sincere discussions regarding the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. Expressions and observations on present issues have been made clear and well-focused. My consultations with many of you in the near past has given me an understanding that Members need to see FAO implementing the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 by January 2016. That was the spirit of the reform of FAO, changing the programming cycle.

It is time now to move into implementation as many resources and time have gone into planning and putting up management structures whereby Members have always been discussing, debating and not taking up, say, other important issues. It is important but I think enough time has been dedicated to this aspect.

The views, observations and concerns raised by Council should be taken into consideration during the implementation to achieve efficient and effective delivery of the programme. Let the coming biennium be devoted to discussing strategic issues which you have mentioned in various interventions.

My conclusions for item 3, *Adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*, are as follows:

The Council endorsed the reports of the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and their Joint Meeting in respect of the *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17*.

The Council:

- a) welcomed the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, noting they reflected fully the decisions and guidance of the 39th Session of the Conference;
- b) appreciated the additional information provided by the Secretariat in the form of five Information Notes, as well as an informal briefing to all Rome-based Permanent Representatives;
- c) appreciated the identification by Management of the required budgetary savings through reductions in staff costs without affecting the Programme of Work;
- d) welcomed the updated results framework for the Strategic and Functional Objectives;
- e) welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework with Sustainable Development Goals, noting that further coherence would be reviewed in preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21;
- f) noted the cross-regional statement on gender equity and women's empowerment delivered by Members, welcomed FAO's policy in this regard, and looked forward to continued attention to mainstreaming of gender across FAO's activities and reporting thereof through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms, notably the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 in the spring of 2016, the Mid-Term Review in the spring of 2017, and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be considered at the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017;
- g) stressed the importance of the due attention to the cross-cutting themes, including gender, nutrition and governance, and looked forward to regular and systematic reporting on implementation of these priorities, including gender, in the Mid-Term Review and Programme Implementation Reports;
- h) supported the addition of climate change as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6;
- i) welcomed the internal management arrangements for enhanced programme delivery, including the establishment of Strategic Programme leaders and teams;
- j) noted the proposed renaming of the Technical Cooperation Department as the "Technical Cooperation and Programme Management Department" to better reflect its functions and responsibilities;
- k) approved the rationalization and streamlining of headquarters' organizational structure, while maintaining the integrity of the technical capacity of the Organization;
- l) looked forward to reviewing at its session in spring 2017 within the context of the Mid-Term Review 2016 the impact of Management arrangements and adjustments to headquarters' structure on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, as well as their impact on the technical departments;
- m) requested an independent evaluation of the technical capacity of the Organization be presented to the Conference in 2017;
- n) supported efforts toward consolidation of decentralization, strengthening the decentralized capacities on a region-specific basis, while maintaining the technical capacities at headquarters to achieve the Programme of Work;
- o) stressed the importance of FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance, and underlined the importance of fully implementing Conference Resolution 4/2015. It supported the request of the Programme Committee for an update to be presented to the Committee's next session on ongoing and planned activities for the 2016-17 biennium, as well as on estimated resource requirements and availability in line with the approved Programme of Work and Budget;
- p) noted that an update on the work-planning process, including skills analysis and vacancy management to optimally deliver the Programme of Work, would be submitted to the Finance Committee;

- q) noted the updated estimates of extra-budgetary resources presented in Table 3 of the document and encouraged Members to provide voluntary contributions to facilitate achievement of the Strategic Objectives and implementation of the integrated Programme of Work;
- r) approved the revised organizational structure presented in Annex 1 and the budgeted post establishment presented in Annex 2 of the document emphasizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of the technical capacity of FAO at headquarters; and
- s) approved the revised distribution of the net appropriation by budgetary chapter as presented in Table 2 of the document.

Thank you. That is my exhaustive summary which I hope has taken in all of your concerns.

Mr Mongui MÉDI (Cameroon)

Thank you for that exhaustive summary. I think it is great but I have two concerns. I know this will go to the Drafting Committee but before it goes there I would like to have a better understanding of what we call here 'integrity of the staff'.

The term that we used to have here was 'critical mass'. It has evolved today to 'integrity'. I do not understand that word. I would advise very strongly the members of the Drafting Committee to look into that word because personally I do not understand it.

The second concern regards point 'm' of your summary, where you mentioned the independent evaluation of technical capacity. I am always very careful when we come to evaluation, where it is difficult to do quantity evaluation where you have a shot of quantity data. And here we need to have a good conversation on this issue before it can be put into a report because I would need to understand what is behind that, what is evaluation of technical capacity and independent evaluation of technical capacity? Especially in an institution like FAO which is changing every day and the capacity might change every single day. So at one point in time you have a photograph of a capacity and next day you will have a different photograph. So what do we intend to achieve here?

These are questions that I would like to have a better understanding of before this point of your summary goes to the Drafting Committee.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

En general estamos de acuerdo con su resumen. El único tema al cuál queremos referirnos es lo que ya ha mencionó Camerún, o sea, el de la Evaluación Independiente con respecto a las capacidades de la sede.

Esto es un tema del que no ha habido mayor debate y profundización sobre la propuesta, que fue mencionada, además de que la información fue presentada apenas el día de hoy. Por lo tanto, no ha habido mayor debate como dijo. Al respecto algunos países, como es el caso de Ecuador, señalaban de que no estaban de acuerdo con la propuesta sino que debería utilizarse los medios y los mecanismos que existen para el monitoreo y las evaluaciones al respecto. Con lo cual me parece prematuro expresar el apoyo a dicha Evaluación Independiente, además de los costos que implica tener otra evaluación independiente, nos parece que pasamos de evaluaciones en evaluaciones y no vamos a la implementación del Programa de Trabajo y a obtener los resultados; que es lo que a nosotros nos interesa. Con lo cual, como dijo, se necesita más información y mayor debate, no creo que estamos en condiciones de aprobar esta propuesta en este momento.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, your summary is excellent. The only question that bothers Cameroon and Ecuador also bothers me and that is the independent evaluation of the technical capacity, sometimes referred to as technical competence of the staff.

This is first of all a very complex issue to study, involving I do not know how many regular staff, around one thousand and also the staff in the field programme. The second issue is the reason why are we taking this evaluation. It has to be for a purpose and the way I interpret it is that this evaluation is to prepare a better Medium-Term Plan.

Now the Medium-Term Plan – Mr Haight can correct me – will have to start working in October next year. So the Medium-Term Plan will be prepared for 2017 when the Conference meets. And now we say this independent evaluation should be taken in 2017 which means that the inputs of this evaluation will not feed into the Medium-Term Plan. So this is one issue.

But is it also possible to look at another alternative? When the Management is preparing its next Medium-Term Plan they should take an internal assessment of the staff capacity. That may be feasible for Management but independent evaluation takes time. It has to be seen and approved by the Governing Bodies before it is put into action. It is a very long process which could take three or four years. So I quite agree with Cameroon and Ecuador that 2017 may not be the right time.

Mr Nadeem RYAZ (Pakistan)

We also share the concerns which have been expressed by Cameroon, Ecuador and Afghanistan regarding the decision at this stage regarding an independent evaluation. We would also like to hear from the Secretariat the possible costs of this exercise and how it would plan to pay for it. Like the other three Members, we are not ready at this stage to take a decision on this issue.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I would like to kindly request you to pass the floor to the Netherlands.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

On behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, let me applaud you for the summary of this discussion which was a very rich discussion. But at a certain moment you started to speed up reading out your summary so probably we have missed something. It was under point 'm' where it focused on the independent evaluation of the technical expertise.

We have requested an assessment and thinking also of an independent assessment, considering the issues that were raised by Cameroon, Ecuador, Afghanistan and others, it is of crucial importance to have it during the Mid-Term of these four time periods, also for the Director-General to have an assessment on how the new technical structure, the capacity, the critical mass of expertise at headquarters is going.

So we are open to have a reformulation of this, not to make it too heavy but to have it 'independent' and an 'assessment' and not focused only on the technical expertise but also on the critical mass of expertise in general within FAO headquarters. That is our first suggestion.

The second suggestion is on AMR. Also there we may have misunderstood you a bit, but we underscored that in our view it would be a good suggestion that a reasonable amount from the net appropriation under the PWB will be allocated for the implementation of the AMR. Also in order to attract a lot of voluntary contributions which, I cannot underscore enough, is also crucial.

So please take also this into account under point (o) of your conclusions.

M. Rui Orlando XAVIER (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président, je tenais à vous féliciter pour la capacité de synthèse sur les conclusions de ces points complexes, mais j'en viens à la question soulevée par le Cameroun qui est soutenu par les autres pays.

Ma question est une question d'ordre pratique, sur l'évaluation indépendante. Nous approuvons maintenant la question de la structure. Nous n'avons pas beaucoup d'informations. Il faut passer à la mise en œuvre. Est-ce que nous aurons en 2016 des éléments, des statistiques, des informations nécessaires pour faire une évaluation indépendante? Je pense qu'il serait plus raisonnable de demander à la Direction des rapports périodiques présentant les difficultés principales et ce qui est fait pour les surmonter.

Cela veut dire que nous devons jouer un rôle et aider la direction à mettre en œuvre ce nouvel organigramme et non pas commencer déjà par une évaluation indépendante. Il n'y aura pas d'éléments en 2016 et pas d'éléments suffisants pour 2017 pour effectuer cette évaluation. Nous pourrions demander l'évaluation indépendante ultérieurement.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÀ RICARTE (Brazil)

As others who have preceded me, I also have misgivings about the proposed independent evaluation on the technical capacity of the Secretariat. If I understood correctly, you had read in your summary that this evaluation would be submitted to the Conference in 2017. Of course, it will have to be undertaken prior to the Conference, which means basically there would be a short period of time for the new structure to be effective in order to start evaluating it.

It seems that the timing that we are facing is one of putting into action something and at the same time already assessing its results, which is at least to say premature. Moreover, it seems that we already have some mechanism which would perform a similar function, which is the external auditor which has the role of permanent overseeing of the functioning of the Organization.

I believe that what has been the subject of evaluation of such a proposal that would go ahead would be the change in technical capacity and not the technical capacity as a whole of the Organization because, from what I heard of those who asked for it, their preoccupation is not with the amount of technical capacity that the Organization has but whether that will be diminished by the new structure.

It would be difficult for an outsider, an independent evaluator, to assess that in such a short period of time, let us say one year or just a little more. It would be difficult not only to measure but also to report on. It would be troublesome to have such a report submitted to the Conference before being examined and discussed by the Programme Committee and the Council itself. So I share the preoccupation that has been expressed by Cameroon followed by several others that this proposal is not to be accommodated as an outcome of this debate.

Moreover, on the issue of AMR, I heard that some Members have expressed the wish to have resources allocated to the subjects from the regular budget, but I also heard several, if not to say the majority of Delegations, who have expressed unwillingness to go along that way. So it would be lopsided if this proposal to allocate resources from the regular budget would be found in the conclusions of the meeting.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to focus on two points. We would first like to thank you for your very thorough work in coming up with this long summary which does reflect our discussions.

The first point we would like to mention is about reducing two D2 posts in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. We thank Mr Haight for his explanations about this measure and we welcome the decision to introduce in the Forestry Department a D1 post. At the same time, as other countries have said, this does not alleviate fully our concerns on this particular matter. As regards the budgetary cuts in the Forestry Department over these two years – and do correct me if I am mistaken – I believe that USD 500,000 were cut from this division compared with the previous biennium. I think there are now USD 25 million, if I am not mistaken, that is at stake.

In light of this, cutting a leadership post, a D2 post, is very concerning. We do not have any desire to intervene or interfere with the Management's work. That is why we just suggested to Management that they should maybe reconsider the measure. If this cannot be reflected in the Chairperson's conclusions, we would be grateful if it could be reflected that the Council underscored the importance of the FAO's work in the fields of forestry and in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, because I think that a whole range of Delegations underscored that. I will provide my speech to the Secretariat for consideration by the Chairperson.

The second point I would like to raise, if I may, is that of AMR in the field of agriculture. We welcomed the summary that you have made as regards this particular point. We believe that you succeeded and very elegantly reflected the consensus which was achieved during the Conference and we support your summary as you read it out.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Our Delegation supports the issue raised by Brazil and Afghanistan. I am happy with the points which you included in your good summary. But in my statement this morning I addressed a few issues,

which is the basic needs of farmers in drought-affected countries. There are so many problems in production in drought-affected areas. As we mentioned this morning, water-use efficiency is so low, and I said if you revamped the farmer indoors area to produce food, at least in the drought conditions, they should have access to drought-tolerant cultivar or varieties.

This is the mandate of FAO and there are different mechanism to help them. If you ask a farmer, they will immediately say that they do not have quality seed. That is their need.

I do support all the points made by our good colleague regarding all the different issues. But please note that if you ask a farmer he will tell you that the key problem is access to high drought-tolerant cultivar to produce. They cannot feed their families. They have to sell their properties because they have not access to drought-tolerant cultivars or seeds. This is agriculture. If you want to produce food, if you want to fight against hunger, there are huge areas of people facing this problem and we should think about it. If you want to include this point in the report, that is fine. Otherwise, I want, on behalf of the Asian farmers, to raise the problem. It is, if you like, my own problem as a farmer. I have not got access to drought-tolerant cultivars and seeds and I have a problem with low-water efficiency despite the drought which already we are facing.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Solamente queríamos expresar lo que ya ha dicho con mucha claridad el Dr. Ayazi de Afganistán y ha sido respaldado por otras delegaciones. Yo creo que la resolución de la Conferencia, cuando aprobó el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto es bastante clara, en las materias que se le delegaron a esta sesión del Consejo, entre las cuales pues no está la discusión de una evaluación independiente, que es una propuesta que ha señalado un Grupo Regional el día de hoy, que podemos discutirla informalmente en otros foros y en otros espacios.

También mi Delegación desea traer a colación que cuando en la FAO se hizo una Evaluación Externa Independiente en la década pasada, la misma fue autorizada por la Conferencia. Creo que los que tienen un poco de tiempo aquí en la FAO, quizás el Señor Haight recuerda todas las reuniones y todo el procedimiento que hicimos en aquella ocasión, dista, es muy diferente de lo que se nos propone hoy.

El proceso que se pretende seguir hoy con el resumen que el Presidente ha propuesto, en general, lo apoyamos y estamos de acuerdo con todas las conclusiones, pero, al mismo tiempo, pienso que este tema de la Evaluación Independiente, por ser algo que no estaba en la agenda y ser una propuesta que pudiera decir sorpresiva, la pudiera calificar como sorpresiva, y no estamos en condiciones de apoyar esa parte, al igual que los países que se han pronunciado al respecto.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I would like to come back on two points: one is what a number of previous speakers have spoken about, that is the part of your summary that relates to the request for an independent evaluation of the technical capacity. I would like to underline how important that issue is for a number of countries and regions in this room. I think I heard from three regions and countries in another region raising this as a major issue and wanting some assurance and some better information so that we are better informed on this issue. We would like to be better informed so that we can provide informed guidance on this issue so that we do not continue to discuss issues when we really need a few more hard facts. I think countries have shown flexibility in the past when it has come to these types of reviews we are seeing.

We are seeing a review that was supposed to be an independent review of the Decentralized Offices. We are seeing that Management has undertaken that review with some external consultation. Now Members in the Programme and Finance Committees considered that in a balanced way and said that they were satisfied with the product and they were comfortable in it proceeding to Council for consideration despite that it was not an independent review as requested.

I am a little bit concerned that we are raising all sorts of technical issues as to why something should not be done to try to provide the necessary information for Members to make informed decisions. I think it is no surprise this issue has come up. It was one of the dominant issues at the Finance and Programme Committee that was raised in relation not only to the structural changes put forward as

part of the Programme of Work and Budget adjustments, but also some of the other information that was provided about the very high vacancy rates for professional technical officers at headquarters.

I think Cameroon already raised the issue about critical mass. It really is a question about critical mass of the technical capacity at headquarters, particularly to undertake some of the normative public good type work that this Organization has a comparative advantage. Everyone has supported and continues to support the strengthening of the decentralized offices. At the same time, though, I guess I would like to see a change in the Organization rather than having language around while maintaining the technical capacity at headquarters, I think it is really an issue about not only maintaining but continuing to improve the technical capacity at headquarters. The capacity at headquarters is centrally linked with what FAO can deliver in the decentralized offices. So I think that is really the issue that a number of regions and individual Members are raising saying that we would like better information, independent information, about the capacity of this Organization at headquarters to undertake its core functions. That is all that is being requested; nothing more than that. So I would like to see whether we can move forward and come up with some sort of language that could mean that there would be this necessary provision of information for Governing Bodies such as this Council to be in a more informed position on this issue.

The other matter has to do with point 'p' of your summary that dealt with the issue of the high vacancy rates, on which I had made a comment, as well as a number of other regions and countries. I think you referred to skills and vacancy to be submitted to the Finance Committee. I am fine with that as the operative language, although I would like a slight strengthening of that. So I would propose that at the start of that point we include some additional language to say "requested Management to undertake action to address the high vacancy rate" and then continued on with your sentence, "and noted that an update on skills and vacancies is to be submitted to the upcoming Finance Committee".

CHAIRPERSON

I hope that this does not create any problems to anybody, so it will be taken as improved by Australia.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for your excellent summary which we agree to accept for the bulletin on independent evaluation. Our understanding is that regular evaluation of the FAO performance is important but too many evaluations are not good for the health of the Organization. We believe that at the current stage, the Mid-Term Review supported by external auditor evaluation as was suggested by Brazil are the right forums for the evaluation process which shall focus exclusively on the effects of the proposed adjustments on the technical capacity of the Organization and include technical capacities at Headquarters as well as in Decentralized Offices. Any independent evaluation at this stage will raise questions about the timeframe, the cost involved, as well as the coverage as it would have to evaluate technical capacities both at headquarters and decentralized offices.

As for the AMR, and very briefly we are not in a position to support any changes in your summary, any changes that are not in line with the Conference Resolution in this regard which is the supreme guidance for these discussions.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

We have expressed our concern over the proposal conditions of restructuring and possible decline of technical capacity, especially at headquarters, and urged its careful review. We are still in the same position though, in the view of the discussion by other Council Members, we would try our best to support your summary. And in this connection, we appreciate that the summary included the same language which is indicated in the Programme and Finance Committees' reports. We emphasize that the Council should invite the Secretariat to draw due attention to the consequences of rationalization and streamlining of the headquarters organizational structure, in particular on the technical capacity of FAO, including Fisheries and Forestry, and to take necessary actions to recover such capacity if it should have been eroded. For this purpose, we need more information. Therefore, we would propose that at least the Council invites the Secretariat to monitor and assess the degree of the integrity of the technical capacity of FAO, especially at its Headquarters, collecting and analyzing feedback from both inside and outside of FAO and report back to the Council, hopefully and possibly in a year's time at its 155th Session of the FAO Council for review and discussion.

As for AMR, we have listened to the discussions and the possible allocation of the regular budget to AMR-related activities. Provided that the total budget for the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 is unchanged or within the budget approved by the Conference, some budget allocation to AMR implies additional adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. In this connection, we would appreciate if the Secretariat could provide us with such information for review before reaching any conclusion at the Council.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would have recent comments on three issues and it is a bit difficult. I am trying to go through this very dense summary and I praise your efforts in coming up with these conclusions because sometimes the elements are a bit scattered throughout. So, one first issue is on gender. I am not sure if it is captured in point (f) that what we want as well is not just through the main Council documents, either the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Mid-Term Review, or the Programme Implementation Report, some reporting on gender mainstreaming, but we would at this point need a report on how FAO is implementing its strategy. That includes mainstreaming, but that also includes how it is doing it in the context of the UN-SWAP. The cross-regional statement made it clear that it is something that was asked by the Conference in 2013 and that is overdue. So we would welcome at the earliest opportunity to receive such a report. It can be through an informal seminar if it is not with the document, but it is always good to have something as a reference. And in addition, the cross-regional statement was saying that we would welcome these reports to come regularly at the Governing Body once a year or at least every Conference. So I am not sure that (f) is capturing this well. I have not been able to note all the language about this. But I think that the cross-regional statement was well supported by Council Members and observers.

The second issue is about the whole issue of an external evaluation on technical capacity. As many have noted, the concerns not only relate to the organizational structure but there are various moving parts right now which are shifts from staff from the technical divisions at headquarters to decentralized offices or to non-technical duties, this creation of Strategic Objective Management Teams, the mobility policy, Decentralization of headquarter posts that are not yet announced and effective high vacancy rates. So I think having some kind of assessment that would give us a picture of where we are going would be very important, especially since we are in the context of approving some adjustments and organizational structures. We very much support this idea. It does not have to be in the format. We can be a bit more flexible. But there were a lot of concerns expressed, especially for two technical departments.

That leads me to a third issue about the organizational structure. I am not sure if it is captured in point (l) separately from (r), but there were many expressions of an interest in coming back to this and take stock and see how it is going. I think it should be linked with any approval of the organizational structure that we would have an opportunity to receive some kind of findings of how it is going and to be able to consider any further adjustments if required. And lastly, I fully agree with a previous intervention that we would like to see not only maintaining technical capacity but measures should strengthen technical capacity as well as programme delivery. I see that this is mentioned in three or four places while maintaining the integrity of the technical capacity. I think it is worth saying that we stress the importance of strengthening technical capacity. That can explain why we are asking for an evaluation and as well can address some concerns, especially for Forestry and Fishery Departments with regard to the organizational structure.

Sr Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Delegación Argentina, habiendo escuchado el debate y las distintas posiciones, quiere afirmar que entendemos que el resumen que Usted ha hecho es lo suficientemente balanceado en uno u otros lugares como para poder aceptarlo.

CHAIRPERSON

When I listen very carefully, I note that you are going back to where we started, re-opening up what you already debated in different *fora*, what questions you already asked, clarifications you had wanted, and in the technical committees you had come to a consensus on these issues. I know the Council is a

different setting as it approves the technical committees' new consideration. But I would caution you not to go back and start a new debate which is not concluding on this agenda item.

As for my start, I said I think I have exhaustively included all your concerns. Nevertheless, we are here to listen to one another and what I gather is that the issue which has been raised that did not need anything to change, what I have in my conclusions regarding the terms on integrity and the critical mass. I think that what I have is what will remain there. Sometimes we use 'critical mass'. Sometimes we use 'integrity'. So this is a matter of nomenclature.

On the request for an independent evaluation of the technical capacity of the Organization, I see that there is recognition of the importance of technical capacity but the fact of being an independent evaluation is not supported by the ones who think it is not appropriate at this time because of the costs involved, the timing and so forth.

But I hope this can as well be assessed, taking in consideration point (l) of my summary which I read again: "looked forward to reviewing at its session in spring 2017 within the context of the Mid-Term Review 2016 the impact of management arrangements and adjustments to headquarter's structure on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, as well as their impact on the technical departments, including the technical capacities" I could add that. I think that will take care of this issue in a manner that it is undertaken within the established mechanism.

On AMR, my summary reflected the consensus which was achieved in the Programme Committee and more so. I chaired the discussion on the resolution on AMR, so I take very seriously the outcome of the discussions in the Programme Committee and their decision which they have taken to be one for which all of you can go by with. Otherwise there will be a debate but you all know there has already been a debate on this issue regarding the resources. So I believe with what I have in the formulation everybody is contented.

Reconsidering of measures taken to remove two D2 positions – one from Fisheries and one from the Forestry Departments – this is close to the issue which was discussed on the weakening of technical capacity and so forth. I think this we still have to see. We cannot say anything now. In the Mid-Term Review, if it is reviewed, that is the situation, then there should be a reconsideration. This is my sincere thought on this issue.

Regarding the technical issues on the drought-tolerant cultivars, I think this is an issue that was discussed about. I think it can go under COAG. It does not deserve to go into my summary. Otherwise it is noted, it is recorded in the verbatim records but I would suggest that this can still be taken up by relevant technical committees.

I thought I had much regard and consideration on the issue of gender because these reports, I do not think they exclude the implementation of gender strategy. Let me ask Mr Haight.

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

The standing accountability documents reported at various levels of results. For example the Mid-Term Review is at the level of outputs which can include more in the future on the contribution of the work under the objectives to gender issues and *vice versa*. The Programme Implementation Report focuses more on outcomes and can also address more strategic issues including implementation of the gender policy, recalling that the Programme Implementation Report also has a standing section on the recruitment of women as well as men in the staff of the Organization.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Could we just have clarity on what your proposal is dealing with the technical co-op? You had it in point (l). So you are proposing to maintain as that was worded and then just totally delete point (m) about a review of technical co-op because I understood you already had reference there to the impact on technical departments?

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read it: (l) looked forward to reviewing at its session in spring 2017 within the context of the Mid-Term Review 2016 the impact of management arrangements and adjustments to headquarters'

structure on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, as well as their impact on technical departments including their technical capacities.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I would like to ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

Mr Chairperson, thank you very much for your attempts to reach consensus. We are fully ready on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States to build a consensus here. But we really need to have clear conclusions where we can build on and where everybody can have the same explanation so that we know what kind of decision the Council takes.

So for this reason, let me try to explain what we requested and what was mentioned under point (m). You called it an independent evaluation on the technical restructuring of FAO. What we would like to see is to have something as a Conference in hand also for the Director-General and the Management to see whether the technical reconstruction, but also the critical mass at Headquarters and throughout the whole organization, whether it is there and I am convinced that it is in the interest of the Director-General to have such an assessment. We do not need to have an external evaluation. We need to have an assessment in order to be convinced that FAO is strengthening its position and has the impact we want to see FAO to have. So now it is pulled back or it is pushed back in the normal, in the business as usual without highlighting the crucial importance of this topic.

And the topic was raised not only by people who now are a little bit afraid of having a full external evaluation. They as well need to have FAO in its full strength and even stronger in both capacities. So what is the problem here? We invite the Secretariat to come forward with a concrete proposal how to build this assessment in a very cost-effective way but it is a win/win both for the Organization, the Director-General, as well as for the Member Nations. We want to see impact for the good.

The second point is on the AMR. We really had the impression that it was the preparedness and the management to invest a bit also under the Programme of Work and Budget in order to accelerate voluntary contributions. Are we totally wrong in these perceptions? We had clear impressions and clear signals. So please let us be clear and, I can assure you, we will all be very constructive because we like to see this Council to be a success but we also, because of the future of FAO and the Director-General in his second term, want to be successful.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We need a very clear consensus statement on point (m), independent evaluation for capacity development. Otherwise if we do not have a consensus text now, the ball will go to the Drafting Committee and we will have an enormous problem there. So to avoid that, I think if you can kindly read the amended language for point (m)?

However, I have a proposal to make on that and I will read it for you. I would say “as an essential input to the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan, the Council urges the Director-General to undertake an assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization both at headquarters and decentralized offices.”

Mr Jón Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I think everybody has raised the issues that I am concerned about as well. But if I listened to on the AMR, there may be a way out if you add to the summary on AMR just a fact that it was highlighted on one side that the work should be done by voluntary resources and, on the other hand, the work should be more or some resources within the Programme of Work and Budget should be added.

So if we add to that a short addition highlighting the importance of core and voluntary resources to ensure effective implementation, we are just highlighting what members of the Council have been doing here today. I do not have the exact language you read originally but by adding this, highlighting the importance of core and voluntary resources to ensure effective implementation, and it should be added somewhere in the text.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I wish to ask you again to pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

Thank you for the very constructive proposal of Afghanistan. I think we are coming closer to our consensus and I think we are almost there. I have two suggestions to improve his proposal, namely that the Council do not urge 'the Director-General' but 'the management of FAO' to undertake an independent assessment on the technical capacity of the Organization both at headquarters and at decentralized offices.

And I think the timing, the preparation of the next MTP, is also an excellent proposal so we applaud the very constructive proposal of Afghanistan with only two little amendments.

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

I think when I responded, I had indicated that we would welcome the independent evaluation or independent assessment of technical capacity and in fact Management could support and live with the wording that was originally provided by you, Mr Chairperson, as a balanced wording that allows the Organization to carry out an assessment or an evaluation in time for the 2017 Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Taking the wisdom of Afghanistan and the agreement which is given by the Netherlands I will read as follows: "(m) requested an independent evaluation of the technical capacity of the Organization be presented to Conference in 2017 as an essential input to the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan. The Council urged the management of FAO to undertake an assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization both at headquarters and in decentralized offices."

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Mr Haight, according to Information Note 4 presented to us already, FAO is doing so much in terms of resource provision for AMR. If you look at item 4, paragraph 9 where you talk about action plan, focused areas of work, as well as item 7, resource requirements, I am reading that FAO staff will be used to be able to handle the AMR as an issue. In particular, five full-time professional staff will be dedicated to AMR.

Further to that, FAO is also supporting national lab to monitor AMR. And on item 4, we talk about the action plan, improved awareness and advocacy, develop capacity for serving, strengthen governance related. Now all these activities that FAO is already doing have a cost, and if more activities are planned, they will cost money. Mr Haight, can you give us an idea, an estimate idea of what is the cost of all the activities discussed?

CHAIRPERSON

Let us first finish on this point (m) and then we will move on to AMR.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I am again asking to pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

CHAIRPERSON

As the Netherlands agreed that we are moving very close to a consensus with a proposal made by Afghanistan, they are now likely to get improvement on that formulation.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

Of course, Mr Chairperson, you can count on us. We would only like to add to the final proposal you just read out the word 'independent' before the word 'assessment', and then we are there. We are happy and listening to Mr Haight. I think the Management also welcomed this suggestion already before you read out your first summary. So then it would read: "the Council urged the Management of FAO to undertake an independent assessment of the technical capacity both at headquarters, etc. in order to prepare the MTP." So only the addition of independent and then we are there.

CHAIRPERSON

I will read it for the last time. I think there is a meeting of minds in the consensus. Let me read it so that there will not be any debate in the Drafting Committee. “The Council urged Management of FAO to undertake an independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization, both at headquarters and in the decentralized offices.” I think this is acceptable. I take it point (m) is agreed.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Mr Chairperson, I think I am comfortable with what you are reading out there. All I am suggesting is to give that some context by adding some words at the start of the sentence. So those words would read, “the Council, noting the importance of maintaining and improving the technical capacity of the Organization, requested...” and then the rest of the sentence that you read out. Just so it gives some context to the issue. It is the Council noting how critically important the issue of the technical capacity of this Organization is and therefore it is requesting this review. That is all I am proposing.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

We highly appreciate your consensus-seeking, but I am afraid I still need to ask for the floor for the Netherlands again.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

We applaud the suggestion of Australia. But in one of your earlier proposals you said: “as an essential input to the preparation of the next MTP, the Council urges the Management of FAO...” and then we agreed. So we have also to have a timeframe for it. And I thought listening to Mr Haight this was also embraced by the Management. So please read it out, otherwise we are creating confusion in the Drafting Committee and we would like to avoid this as much as possible.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nosotros, si bien apoyamos el tema de las evaluaciones porque son útiles para mejorar la eficiencia en este caso de la FAO, sin embargo no vemos la oportunidad de la evaluación. Los cambios son recientes, se están haciendo ajustes ahora en este Consejo. Se necesita un periodo de tiempo mínimo prudencial para tener una evaluación realmente útil y eficiente. No vemos, nosotros, las utilidades de tener en este momento la oportunidad de una evaluación.

De todas maneras, con el ánimo obviamente de un espíritu flexible para llegar a un consenso, nosotros apoyábamos la propuesta original suya, incluso también la que planteó Afganistán. El hecho ahora de incluir el tema de una Evaluación Independiente con los costos que esto implica, sumado a lo que mencioné, el tema de la oportunidad de si realmente va a ser útil una Evaluación Independiente con el poco tiempo que tienen los cambios que se están implementando, nosotros preferiríamos quizá en un futuro esta Evaluación Independiente, pero por ahora se puede mantener la evaluación en los términos que presentó Afganistán y con los insumos del examen de medio plazo. Pero, como le digo, del tema independiente y la oportunidad de esta evaluación no estamos muy convencidos.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Just to help you in your drafting, Management feels comfortable with the original wording that you read out. I would like to point out that the Medium-Term Plan does not have any resource requirements in it. It is a programmatic document. It is a priority-setting document. And once that is agreed, then we have a basis for feeding into the technical requirements, which could dovetail with an independent evaluation of the technical capacity to be considered by the Conference in 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

I think you have listened to the technical aspects on this issue. Do you agree? What I note is that the formulation which was proposed by Afghanistan and with corrections or additions made by the Netherlands are well noted and agreed by many. So I continue to ask everybody to agree to my summary, otherwise adding and adding, we shall be doing a drafting exercise in here.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I was suggesting we add the words at the end “to be presented to the FAO Conference in 2017”. I think that what was in your original version. Management has said it is comfortable in that and they have also said that it is not linked to the MTP as such. So I would propose just simply the inclusion of those extra words at the end of what you read out ‘to be presented’ or ‘to be considered at the FAO Conference in 2017’.

CHAIRPERSON

I had said I was reading the last time but I am in the hands of the Members. But you should also agree with my suggestion, otherwise reopening the issue will continue.

“The Council urged management of FAO to undertake an independent assessment on the technical capacity on the Organization both at headquarters and in the decentralized offices to be presented to Conference in 2017.”

This gives two years, so it is not immediate. I note that everybody is in agreement.

Now let us go to antimicrobial resistance. Let me read it again: “(o) The Council stressed the importance of FAO’s work on antimicrobial resistance, and underlined the importance of fully implementing Conference Resolution 4/2015. It supported the request of the Programme Committee for an update to be presented to the Committee’s next session on ongoing and planned activities for the 2016-17 biennium, as well as on estimated resources requirements and availability in line with the approved Programme of Work and Budget, highlighting the importance of core and voluntary resources to ensure effective implementation.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I do not want to hold up the discussion. Just to come back on gender, in light of the explanations that we were given on point f) could we add, if it is not there yet, when you say “looked forward to gender mainstreaming” and say as well “implementation of FAO’s policy on gender equality including with respect to UN-SWAP as was requested by the Conference in 2013”. So it would be implementation of FAO policy on gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

CHAIRPERSON (applause)

Thank you. Nobody is against that proposal.

Thank you, dear Members and observers. I want to thank you for this constructive engagement. I think this is the way we should be working. Despite that this item has taken us a long time but it deserved this lengthy discussion bearing of its importance because by agreeing on these adjustments, we are telling FAO Secretariat and FAO staff that by January then they start the implementation, but bearing in mind the observations, the reservations, the concerns that have been raised and to come up with a mid-term review and to show that they have been able to deliver on every account on the trust you have given to Management in terms that they have given you the assurance that they are going to deliver. I thank so much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The special event marking the 70th Anniversary of FAO and the FAO Award Ceremony will be starting shortly in the Green Room. You are all welcome to attend. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

The meeting is adjourned until tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 17:52 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 52

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.52

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre- 4 de diciembre de 2015**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

1 December 2015

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee and 160th Session of the Finance Committee (4 November 2015)

Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent dix-huitième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixantième session) (4 novembre 2015)

Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 118.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 160.º período de sesiones (4 de noviembre de 2015)

(CL 153/8)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Third Meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

We will start with item 4 of the agenda, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee and the 160th Session of the Finance Committee (4 November 2015)*. Please ensure that you have document CL 153/8 before you.

As our discussions on item 3 are concluded, and comments on item 7, *Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network* will be made when this item is taken later this morning, our discussions now will focus on the *FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations*.

I now invite His Excellency Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, who also chaired the Joint Meeting, to introduce the Report.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe de la 118^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et de la 160^{ème} session du Comité financier s'est tenue au Siège de l'Organisation à Rome le mercredi 4 novembre 2015. Nous avons trois sujets inscrits à l'ordre du jour: le premier concernait la question des ajustements au Programme de travail et budget, que nous avons étudiée hier au titre du point 3 de notre ordre du jour; la seconde concernait la revue indépendante du réseau des bureaux décentralisés que nous examinerons plus tard au titre du point 7 de notre ordre du jour; et la troisième concernait les deux rapports intérimaires sur la stratégie de la FAO en matière de partenariats avec le secteur privé d'une part, et avec les organisations de la société civile d'autre part.

Donc conformément aux directives de notre Président, mon rapport ici portera exclusivement sur ce troisième point.

Les principales conclusions de la Réunion conjointe ont été les suivantes.

Les participants à la Réunion conjointe ont d'abord salué le travail réalisé par le Secrétariat.

Ils se sont notamment félicités pour le travail effectué par le Secrétariat qui a parachevé 40 nouveaux accords avec le secteur privé et avec les organisations non-gouvernementales (ONG) depuis le dernier rapport de novembre 2014.

Ils ont aussi apprécié le fait que les risques pour l'Organisation aient été évalués avec la diligence souhaitée et que la neutralité de la FAO soit respectée dans le choix des partenaires.

Ils se sont enfin félicités que les partenariats noués avec le secteur privé comme avec les ONG soient cohérents avec les priorités de l'Organisation, et notamment qu'ils favorisent la mise en œuvre de plusieurs objectifs stratégiques. Les participants ont notamment souligné l'importance des partenariats noués pour la mise en œuvre des directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers ou des directives volontaires pour la concrétisation du droit à une alimentation adéquate, et les partenariats noués pour la mise en œuvre des principes pour un investissement responsable.

Mais les participants ont aussi souligné plusieurs points. Le premier, c'est l'importance de ces partenariats pour non seulement la réalisation des objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation mais aussi pour accroître sa visibilité.

Ils ont aussi souligné l'importance des considérations de parité homme-femme que ces partenariats peuvent aider à promouvoir.

Ils ont enfin insisté sur l'importance du respect des équilibres régionaux dans l'établissement de ces partenariats.

Enfin ils ont exprimé le souhait de continuer à recevoir des rapports intérimaires annuels sur la mise en œuvre de ces partenariats, comprenant notamment des informations sur la diversité et la répartition géographique de ces partenariats.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la presentación del informe de la Reunión Conjunta. Al respecto, el Ecuador respalda las conclusiones y recomendaciones contenidas en dicho informe y quiere realizar los siguientes comentarios en cuanto a los informes sobre los progresos en la implementación de todas las estrategias.

Apreciamos el que se hayan presentado a la Reunión Conjunta, informes específicos y separados de cada estrategia, lo que ha permitido evidenciar de mejor manera el trabajo de la FAO con asociados importantes como lo son esas Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado, los cuales tienen características y potencialidades específicas y diferenciadas.

Del informe, respecto a las Asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil, se desprenden las potencialidades que existe en la colaboración con esas organizaciones, entre ellas la obtención del respaldo a las iniciativas de la FAO dirigidas a erradicar la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición; el desarrollo de actividades de sensibilización, y el intercambio de conocimientos y desarrollo de capacidades.

Especialmente queremos resaltar el trabajo con *Vía Campesina* para documentar y difundir conocimientos sobre agroecología desde las escuelas de agricultores, entre otras actividades que se tiene con esa organización. Igualmente, nos complacen las asociaciones establecidas con otras organizaciones de pequeños agricultores y organizaciones rurales, y alentamos a continuar promoviéndose ese tipo de alianzas vinculadas con las asociaciones de agricultores familiares, movimientos sociales y cooperativas que son el objetivo central de la labor de la FAO.

Por otro lado, la colaboración con las entidades del Sector Privado que están comprometidas en la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria y con los derechos de los agricultores es importante en el trabajo de la FAO para alcanzar sus objetivos y el potencial de esa colaboración se evidencia en el informe.

Finalmente, quisiéramos señalar la importancia de generar mayor conocimiento, sensibilización y un mayor involucramiento del Sector Privado en cuanto a la aplicación de las Directrices Voluntarias de la tenencia de la tierra, de las Directrices de la pesca a pequeña escala, las Directrices del derecho a la alimentación y los Principios de las inversiones responsables en agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios. Esos son instrumentos voluntarios que están basados en un enfoque de derechos humanos y dirigidos especialmente a atender las necesidades de las personas y grupos más vulnerables.

Mr Gardijita BUDI (Indonesia)

First, I would like that Indonesia joins Ecuador in congratulating the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their Report of the Joint Meeting held on 4 November 2015, for their hard work on adjustments of the Programme and Finance work 2016-17, especially on budgetary savings of USD 2.7 million and also on the Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network. Deliberations on the adjustments to the Programme of Work have been held under the agenda items that we discussed yesterday and the letter will be delivered later under Agenda Item 7.

Indonesia also welcomes the Joint Committee's findings as regards Progress Report on FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Private Sectors as well as the Civil Society Organizations. Particular attention needs to be given to the work of the FAO to disseminate and foster the implementations of various international instruments FAO had produced since the last five years, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries, and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security, RAI, the Principles of Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems, as well as CFS-FFA, the Framework of Actions for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

Having said that, Indonesia supports the endorsements of the Joint Committee's findings and recommendations.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Representative and Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the presentation of the Joint Meeting's report. We welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to fully implement FAO's strategy to establish partnerships with business and with civil society organizations. We closely follow this and we also warmly welcome the work done by Madame Villarreal, and we see that she is up on the podium, and we really support her work. We studied the report of the Joint Meeting very carefully and we believe that 40 partnerships over a short period is a very clear indication of the achievements that have been made, and we are particularly glad to see that 12 partnerships were established with organizations representing academia. We attach great importance to developing FAO's relationships with scientific and research organizations and academia. We are satisfied with the fact that FAO's relations with the Moscow State University are being developed.

In this respect, if I may, there is a question I would like to raise. We underscored the information about the fact that work done by FAO within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines to establish relations with academia would be interesting, but is there a document which sets forth the strategic guidance for developing these relations? During the 150th Session of the Council, we already raised the question about the strategy for developing FAO's partnerships with the academia community. Has there been any progress in this field? That would be my question.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

Could I kindly request you to pass the floor to the Netherlands to read the statement on behalf of the European Union?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino aligns itself, as well as the candidate country, Serbia.

We welcome the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee and the 160th Session of the Finance Committee. We would like to emphasise the following points in relation to this report.

As regards the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, we have already given our detailed views on this issue under Agenda Item 3. We would nonetheless stress that it is important that the FAO should retain, particularly at headquarters, competent and committed professional staff who are focused on delivering results. In crucial technical areas, a critical mass of substantive competence must be safeguarded at headquarters. And staff capacity could even be strengthened in new priority areas, such as climate change and nutrition.

The alignment of FAO's Strategic Framework and Mid-Term Plan for 2018-21 with the Sustainable Development Goals puts the FAO, in the field of agriculture, food security and nutrition, in a central position to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We would also highlight the importance of close and coordinated collaboration between FAO, WFP and IFAD in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas coming under their mandate where they have a comparative advantage, particularly food security, nutrition, agriculture, rural poverty reduction, climate change, fisheries, forestry and sustainable resource management, ensuring gender mainstreaming in all their activities. In this respect, strengthening co-operation in the field is of crucial importance. We call for strengthened collaboration between UN bodies and other strategic partners, including the private sector and civil society, in order to maximise synergies to deliver results in the most effective way.

We have been closely following Management's efforts to consolidate FAO's decentralisation process. We welcome the principles and criteria proposed by the Secretariat on the decentralisation process. We noted with appreciation the review of the decentralised offices network and we will support efforts of the management team to update the historic legacy of that network in order to meet shifting global

needs. In particular, overall, we are satisfied with the good results concerning the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. We will further elaborate on this topic under Agenda Item 7.

We commend the FAO for the progress achieved in building partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organisations. We appreciate the due diligence process followed by the Secretariat to avoid conflicts of interests and to ensure neutrality in approaching partners. There should also be full compliance with the guidelines and principles approved by the Committee on World Food Security, particularly the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI).

With respect to these points, we support the approval of the report of the Joint Meeting.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina desea agradecer la presentación que ha realizado el Presidente del Comité del Programa sobre este punto. Acogemos con beneplácito la labor desarrollada por la Señora Marcela Villarreal y su equipo respecto al trabajo que realiza con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y con el Sector Privado. Creemos que este es un campo promisorio para el futuro trabajo de la Organización.

En segundo lugar, y por ser un tema que está íntimamente relacionado con la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de coordinación, y teniendo en cuenta la superposición de temas que se produjo en la Reunión Conjunta, en relación con temas también abordados en el comité del programa y en el comité de finanzas, solicitamos a los respectivos Presidentes de ambos Comités a fin de que a través de la Secretaría se realicen los análisis y ajustes necesarios para maximizar y hacer más eficientes el trabajo de los Órganos Rectores.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Cette intervention est faite par l'Angola et la Guinée équatoriale au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Tout d'abord nous voulons féliciter le Secrétariat pour la préparation du document et Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de France, qui a brillamment conduit la Réunion conjointe des Comités du Programme et financier et qui nous a permis d'avoir un document de consensus sur toutes les questions sensibles de l'ordre du jour.

Les deux questions qui ont mérité un examen plus approfondi ont porté sur des ajustements du programme et du budget pour 2016 et 2017 et que nous avons eu l'opportunité d'analyser hier, en particulier en ce qui concerne les modifications de l'organigramme de l'Organisation et de l'équilibre qui doit exister entre le travail normatif et le travail du terrain, et entre le processus de décentralisation et le besoin de garder la capacité technique du siège de la FAO afin de continuer à être une Organisation de référence dans le monde entier.

Le rapport établit bien ces équilibres. Nous tenons à féliciter la Direction de la FAO pour la préparation des notes d'informations et pour avoir organisé une réunion d'information pour les Représentants permanents, qui a permis de préciser les propositions soumises par les délégations, de lever des doutes et surtout de renforcer le dialogue nécessaire entre la Direction et les États Membres.

Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour la préparation du rapport intermédiaire sur la stratégie de la FAO en matière de partenariats avec les organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé. En général nous sommes d'accord avec les conclusions du rapport. Nous tenons à souligner l'importance de chercher l'équilibre entre les régions dans la création de partenariats. Il est important pour l'Organisation de mettre en oeuvre la stratégie de mobilisation des ressources afin qu'elle puisse obtenir les fonds extrabudgétaires nécessaires à la pleine réalisation du Programme de travail.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, l'Angola et la Guinée équatoriale, au nom du Groupe Afrique, approuvent les propositions contenues dans le rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et souhaitent que ce Conseil approuve également ces importantes recommandations. Nous espérons recevoir des rapports périodiques sur la mise en oeuvre du programme et connaître les principales difficultés rencontrées et les suggestions pour les surmonter.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Thank you, firstly, to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for his report. I guess we would just like to underline the importance of FAO continuing the good work it is doing in terms of partnerships with civil society and private sector. As the Director-General has stressed on a number of occasions, FAO has to do this in partnership with others if we are going to achieve the Strategic Objectives. We think FAO is putting a lot of effort into this and we would encourage FAO to continue building strong partnerships and working relationships with the private sector and civil society and academia and we look forward to continued annual progress reports on the work that is underway.

I note on Friday, as part of our information update, there will be an update on the International Year of Pulses for next year and we note that the private sector is very strongly engaged in leading that effort. I think this will be a pilot year with showing such strong engagement and leadership of the private sector. We think it is a model that could be replicated in the future, so we would lend our support to that. And lastly, just to say that we would align our comments as well with EU's comments made in their statement about the importance of maintaining the critical mass of technical capacity expertise at headquarters.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Quiero felicitar al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la excelente presentación de este Informe Conjunto, sobre todo también extendiendo los agradecimientos también al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por la forma que llevó efectivamente dirigiendo nuestros trabajos.

Intervengo suscribiendo en que toda la develación hecha por Angola, en nombre del Grupo Africano, y por lo tanto voy a ser muy breve en señalar efectivamente la necesidad de que este Consejo haga suya las importantes conclusiones y recomendaciones de este importante Informe.

Creo que ayer logramos importantes avances para los debates fructíferos sobre las medidas de Ajuste del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto, cuyo tema de fondo, como indicamos ayer, es la necesidad de reforzar la Organización para lograr los Objetivos Estratégicos, armonizar el Marco Estratégico con los objetivos necesarios sostenibles y con las oportunidades de aumentar la coherencia y la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio 2018-2021.

Felicitamos a la Organización por los avances en el establecimiento de las asociaciones con el Sector Privado y la Sociedad Civil para hacer que efectivamente se está dando pasos positivos en este punto. Pero queremos alentar los esfuerzos necesarios para estrechar vínculos más estrechos con asociaciones ubicadas en los países del tercer mundo. Queremos en ese sentido reconocer la importancia como ya lo dijo brevemente y con más detalles nuestro colega de Angola. Valoramos el trabajo normativo de la Organización y suscribimos la necesidad de mantener la más acrítica de la sede para promover este debido trabajo que es muy importante para la Organización. Y por tanto habría que felicitar a la administración, a la dirección, por el trabajo que emprende en este sentido.

Pero queremos insistir sobre la importancia de reforzar la capacidad técnica de las oficinas descentralizadas; única forma real para que esta institución pueda crear diferencia sobre el terreno, sobre todo atacando muy de cerca a los problemas que afectan los países, los problemas del hambre y la malnutrición que afectan los países. La única forma para poder atacar a esos problemas es estando cerca de donde existen esos problemas, por tanto seguimos insistiendo en la necesidad de que esta institución aumente sus esfuerzos en estar mucho más cerca de tales problemas, y por lo tanto el problema de descentralización llega a ser una de las prioridades más ocurrentes que siguen existiendo.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would like to join others as well in thanking France for his able leadership and chairing of the Joint Meeting which had a very dense agenda as well as for his report today on the discussions.

We would like to echo as others in underlining the critical importance of partnerships and note that the Office of Partnerships has additional staff and resources so we look forward to further implementation of these partnership strategies and results in the coming years.

Also to echo and support comments that were made about retaining a critical competent mass of staff to tackle the challenges ahead and build on FAO's comparative advantage so that it could be as

relevant as possible. And lastly we would like to note that the Joint Meeting reiterated that the proper functioning of the Governing Bodies is impeded by the late submission of documents and we think it is important for this Council to request that documents be submitted in a timely manner, at least two weeks in advance, and we would encourage as well the practice of when it is complex and challenging issues, to holding informal briefings even before the consideration in the Governing Bodies.

Mr Lupino LAZARO (Philippines)

We also wish to join earlier speakers in thanking the Chairperson of the Programme Committee as well as the Chair of the Finance Committee for the presentations and facilitation of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. Our intervention would focus on the partnerships that were also highlighted by some Members and we wish to stress that such partnerships become more critical and a requirement, especially with the recent adoption of the Agenda 2030 SDGs which are perceived to be closely aligned with the implementation of FAO's Strategic Objectives.

With reference to the partnerships with the private sector, we appreciate the formalization of 16 agreements with the private sector in support of Strategic Objectives and this is a most welcome development as well as the agreements reached with the CSOs and academia. We also are encouraged with the number of initiatives in collaboration with and support to small-holders, family farmers, and organizations such as the FAO Agrinatura innovations in Asia and other developing countries. These are the kinds of concrete initiatives that we would encourage to continue in sustaining partnership with the private sector.

With regard to the partnership with the civil society, FAO recognizes the CSO's crucial role in ensuring food security, nutrition, and poverty reduction at global, regional and national levels. CSOs are actively involved in various areas of the institution's work such as policy, advocacy, knowledge sharing, and capacity building.

It is useful to see in the report that illustrations on ongoing partnerships with CSOs in various Strategic Objectives are being made.

May I add that one evidence of the effective collaboration between FAO and CSOs is in the area of advocacy and communication, that is the successful conduct of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming, a campaign initiated by the World Rural Forum who incidentally as we are aware was one of the recipients of the Jacques Diouf Award last night.

The sustainability of such partnership is attributable in part to the support and coordination of FAO through the concerned offices such as the OPC and even up to the Director-General and in linking CSOs to other concerned stakeholders and other international institutions. With these remarks, we also endorse the report of the Joint Meeting.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

Thanks very much to the Members for the endorsement of the strategies for partnering with the private sector and civil society. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the support throughout this endeavor from all of you from all of the Membership because you have been crucial for us to be able to attain the results that we are actually proud about.

Many of the partnerships have been either proposed or developed by you and for this I would like to express my thanks. I would also like to announce that actually, in ten minutes from now, we will be signing a new partnership and this is with Google. This partnership with Google will actually be signed in Paris in COP21. The Director-General will be signing it in just a few minutes. It has taken us a very long time.

When we talk about partnerships and we are able to demonstrate to you that we have signed quite a substantive number of partnerships, sometimes it is not clear the work that leads to that signing. When we sign an MoU it is not just by signing an MoU. It is creating a relationship and it takes time to build a relationship. This one with Google, it has taken us a long time, more than our medium time. We usually take about eight to nine months to create the relationship that we will take to a partnership, just like a baby. A baby is born after nine months. But with Google it took us substantially more time. Sometimes it is a long process and we are very happy that it is going to happen now very, very soon.

We support the statement, in terms of what is ahead of us with the SDGs, very much. The SDGs, it is basically in their DNA. They are about partnerships. Without partnerships none of the SDGs will be attained. So on this one, we really want to work with you even more intensely to ensure that all of the partnerships that we can bring towards achieving FAO's objectives are there and very specifically those partnerships with the countries in the south.

We take note of this. We will be reporting back to you in terms of all of the different, regional aspects of the partnerships. We do have numerous partnerships with countries of the south but of course we want to intensify these and we will be counting on you to attain that.

We also received a question which is about: do we have an actual document for the partnering with academia and research organizations. Yes, we do actually. We have a document. It is an internal document that we have done in consultation with the technical divisions and with the regional offices and because it is basically the same structure as the formal documents that you well know regarding partnering with the private sector and civil society, it is basically an internal document. It is for our internal guidance and, of course, we are happy to share that internal document with all of you who may wish to see it.

I think those are the points that were raised. I just would like to finalize by once again expressing our gratitude to you and reassuring you that the work that is going to be very much more integrated with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure and all of the CFS-produced guidelines is, of course, going to be made easier by the new structure that we are going to start to put in place next year, so thank you very much.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Monsieur le Président, merci à tous pour vos commentaires.

Sur la question des stratégies, je crois qu'effectivement il faut féliciter le Secrétariat pour le travail accompli, et notamment Madame Villarreal et son équipe parce qu'il faut se souvenir quand même que ces stratégies ont été adoptées en 2013 et que le nombre d'accords de partenariat signés à la suite de l'adoption de ces stratégies est effectivement tout à fait impressionnant. Le défi maintenant va être à mon avis pour le Secrétariat de faire vivre ces partenariats parce qu'il faut les signer, mais après il faut entretenir la flamme. C'est comme dans une relation amoureuse.

La deuxième chose aussi je crois dont il faut se féliciter, c'est l'alignement de ces accords de partenariat avec les priorités de la FAO. Je crois que notamment l'Équateur a très bien montré que ces accords peuvent aider à promouvoir certains thèmes de l'agriculture familiale, l'agroécologie, et d'autres avec les petits agriculteurs, mais aussi avec le secteur privé, la mise en place des directives volontaires sur les principes d'investissement responsable ou la gouvernance dans le domaine foncier. On voit bien donc comment ces accords peuvent donner un effet démultiplicateur à l'action de notre Organisation en mobilisant les acteurs non-étatiques.

Sur la question de la Russie, c'est un sujet qui avait été effectivement évoqué pendant nos discussions, il s'agit de la question des accords de partenariat, spécifiquement dans le domaine de la recherche et des instituts universitaires. Peut-être que cela mériterait effectivement, à l'intérieur du rapport, une présentation particulière parce qu'il y a là un enjeu; et je pensais notamment, par rapport à nos débats d'hier sur la question des capacités techniques, qu'il y a certainement un travail à faire pour maintenir ou développer les capacités techniques de la FAO, mais il faut aussi avoir conscience qu'à un moment on va arriver à un plafond... Quel plafond budgétaire? La FAO ne pourra pas recruter de façon exponentielle des experts dans tous les domaines et il faut peut-être voir comment, à travers des accords de partenariat, elle peut aussi mobiliser une expertise technique pour l'aider soit à concevoir ses politiques, soit à les mettre en oeuvre, soit à monitorer et évaluer ses programmes.

Et puis, dernier point, plusieurs d'entre vous ont aussi fait part de leurs inquiétudes sur certaines difficultés de fonctionnement des Comités et les délais. Comme je l'ai dit hier, je pense qu'effectivement il faut traiter les difficultés, traiter les problèmes parce que sinon cela crée au mieux de l'incompréhension, au pire de la méfiance. Nous avons donc prévu, comme je le disais, une réunion lundi avec les Présidents des Comités et les Secrétariats pour voir comment améliorer la préparation et

le management des Comités, et notamment cette question des délais de présentation des documents. Il me semble qu'il ne doit pas être trop difficile de trouver des solutions à toutes ces questions.

Sr. Elias ELSORI (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Queremos felicitar por la presentación del Informe y el trabajo realizado por la Directora Marcela Villarreal, creemos que ha sido muy importante.

Sin embargo, queremos señalar lo siguiente. Sobre las estrategias para las asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil, Venezuela celebra todas aquellas iniciativas de la FAO para lograr los mayores progresos en la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Sin embargo, reitera la necesidad de tomar en cuenta la importancia de no asumir compromisos que impliquen riesgos sobre el carácter intergubernamental de la Organización.

CHAIRPERSON

Now let me conclude on this agenda item. These are the conclusions on item 4, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee and the 160th Session of the Finance Committee*, which took place on 4 November 2015.

1. The Council (a) endorsed the report of the Joint Meeting; (b) commended the progress made in implementation of the strategies for partnerships with civil society organizations, including family farmers and academia; and with the private sector, noting its potential in supporting implementation of international instruments such as voluntary guidelines; (c) invited the Organization to continue efforts in building partnerships with non-state actors at all levels.

2. The Council noted the planned consultation between the Chairpersons of the Finance and Programme Committees and the ICC with the aim of improving working methods of the two committees in their Joint Meeting, including the time of delivery of meeting documents.

Thank you. This item is concluded.

Item 5. Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee (2-6 November 2015)

Point 5. Rapport de la cent dix-huitième session du Comité du Programme (2-6 novembre 2015)

Tema 5. Informe del 118.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (2-6 de noviembre de 2015)
(CL 153/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with Item 5, *Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee*. The document before Council is CL 153/6.

As we have concluded our discussions on item 3, the remaining sections for discussion are those related to evaluations.

I invite Ambassador Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report.

Ambassador Tomasi, you have the floor.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La 118^{ème} session du Comité du Programme s'est tenue au Siège de notre Organisation du 2 au 6 novembre 2015.

Effectivement, en dehors des questions touchant le Programme de travail et budget, que nous avons examiné hier, elle était essentiellement consacrée à l'examen de rapports d'évaluation.

Je veux quand même d'abord souligner que le Comité a élu à l'unanimité l'Ambassadeur d'Argentine, Claudio Javier Rozencwaig, Vice-Président du Comité du Programme pour toute la durée du mandat de ce Comité, c'est-à-dire jusqu'en juillet 2017. Je voudrais féliciter l'Ambassadeur d'Argentine et lui dire tout le plaisir que j'aurai à travailler étroitement avec lui.

Le Comité a ensuite examiné le rapport d'évaluation sur la contribution de la FAO aux connaissances relatives à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation.

Sur ce sujet, le Comité a noté les conclusions positives de l'évaluation concernant la pertinence et la réputation des produits et des services de la FAO axés sur les connaissances.

Il a exprimé son soutien aux deux recommandations du rapport et s'est félicité du fait que la Direction avait d'ores et déjà pris des mesures pour donner suite à ces recommandations.

Ces deux recommandations portent essentiellement d'une part sur un effort additionnel à faire pour assurer une meilleure utilisation des connaissances par les utilisateurs potentiels, et d'autre part pour assurer la qualité des produits et services produits par l'Organisation.

Le Comité a par ailleurs souligné l'importance de mieux répondre aux attentes des utilisateurs par un meilleur effort pour cibler la demande, ce qui pouvait notamment être fait à travers une meilleure association des utilisateurs à la conception même des produits et services.

Il a aussi invité le Secrétariat à renforcer sa politique de diffusion, notamment au moyen des nouvelles technologies de l'information.

Il a aussi souligné la nécessité de renforcer le rôle des bureaux décentralisés et des partenariats pour une meilleure production et dissémination des produits et services sur la connaissance.

Le Comité a par ailleurs souligné la nécessité d'une meilleure analyse des besoins et d'un suivi renforcé de l'utilisation des produits et services en matière de connaissance.

Enfin, le Comité a souligné l'importance de la prise en compte des équilibres géographiques et linguistiques pour une meilleure diffusion de cette connaissance.

Voilà pour le rapport sur la connaissance.

Mais le Comité a aussi examiné un rapport d'évaluation de la contribution de la FAO à la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le Comité a approuvé toutes les conclusions de l'évaluation et les six recommandations du rapport qui soulignent notamment: 1) le besoin d'élaborer une stratégie pour l'Organisation en matière de lutte contre le changement climatique; 2) la nécessité de renforcer les capacités du personnel dans ce domaine; 3) le besoin de renforcer l'engagement des bureaux-pays en matière de changement climatique; 4) la nécessité de clarifier son rôle, le rôle de la FAO, et d'améliorer la communication sur l'initiative « Climate-smart agriculture », particulièrement la position en matière d'atténuation et la capacité de contribution pour fournir des leçons fondées sur l'expérience; 5) la nécessité de mieux positionner la FAO dans les principales instances mondiales sur le changement climatique et améliorer l'apport de connaissances à l'appui du processus UNCC (Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification); 6) le besoin de renforcer la prise en compte des questions climatiques dans les programmes de renforcement des capacités et dans toutes les activités de l'Organisation touchant aux ressources naturelles; enfin, comme je le disais, le besoin aussi de renforcer les partenariats en matière de changement climatique.

Le Comité a par ailleurs souligné l'importance de l'élaboration d'une stratégie climat et a insisté sur la nécessité, notamment, de mieux définir le rôle et les missions de l'Organisation en matière d'adaptation comme d'atténuation, compte tenu de ses avantages comparatifs. Cette stratégie doit aussi, selon le Comité, préciser le rôle et clarifier les responsabilités des différents services de la FAO en matière de lutte contre le changement climatique au niveau du Siège, au niveau régional comme au niveau local, et renforcer la coordination des activités contribuant à cette lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le Comité a aussi invité le Secrétariat à lui présenter à sa session d'avril 2016 une feuille de route pour la préparation de cette stratégie, ainsi qu'une première note fixant le cadre conceptuel de celle-ci.

Le Comité a également confirmé son accord pour intégrer le changement climatique dans l'objectif stratégique 6, et il a souligné le besoin de préciser les ressources allouées ainsi que les cibles et les indicateurs en la matière.

Le Comité s'est enfin déclaré favorable à l'engagement de la FAO dans les travaux de la COP 21 à Paris.

S'agissant enfin des évaluations, il a souligné l'importance du choix des pays cibles pour réaliser les évaluations, et notamment l'importance d'un équilibre géographique.

Enfin, dernier point important de notre ordre du jour, le Comité a aussi examiné l'état d'avancement de l'évaluation indépendante de la fonction d'évaluation.

Sur ce point, le Comité a essentiellement pris note du lancement de cette évaluation dont il avait examiné le mandat à sa 117^{ème} session.

Il a toutefois rappelé l'importance de veiller à l'indépendance de l'évaluation et à ce titre, il a prévu que le Président et le Vice-président du Comité seraient consultés sur la sélection de l'équipe d'évaluation et du groupe d'expert chargé de sa supervision.

Enfin, le Comité a approuvé la feuille de route élaborée pour la réalisation de cette évaluation et a demandé à ce que le Comité puisse examiner lors d'une réunion informelle à programmer début 2016 la note conceptuelle sur cette évaluation. Le rapport final doit être soumis au Comité à sa session de novembre 2016.

Mr Osamu KUBOTA (Japan)

I would like to pass the floor to the Philippines who will deliver the statement on behalf of Asia Group.

Mr Lupino LAZARO (Philippines)

As mentioned by our coordinator, the Philippines is making this statement on behalf of the Asia Group. At the outset, we wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Programme Committee for the report. We also join the Programme Committee Chair in congratulating the Argentinian Ambassador on the vice-chairmanship of the Committee.

Following the ICC's instruction, our comments are limited to matters discussed in the Programme Committee other than the "Adjustments to the PWB".

Two very important evaluations were discussed in the Committee, one is "Evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation" and the other is "Evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture."

With regard to the evaluation which is FAO's contribution to climate change, the Asia group first welcomes the timing of the evaluation which was conducted just before the COP21. We also welcome that the management has accepted all six recommendations in the evaluation; in particular, we are happy to note that the Management has consented to develop a strategy for climate change.

When developing the climate change strategy, the Asia Group would like to request the Management to take into account the following three points:

First, as indicated in the report of the Programme Committee, FAO should be well aware of its comparative advantage. Climate change is a global and cross-cutting issue and thus not only FAO but many UN agencies and other organizations are involved in the work of climate change. In order to collaborate effectively with other agencies, to avoid unnecessary duplication and to strengthen FAO's relevance, FAO should focus its resources on its comparative advantage.

Second, in relation to mitigation and adaptation works regarding agriculture and food security, as we are aware, there are two aspects of the work for climate change, mitigation and adaptation and we consider that both aspects are important when FAO is tackling this issue. Third is a timeframe issue. As climate change is an issue that occurs in a long time frame, FAO should well consider this fact when evaluating the programme.

As for the evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge, the Asia Group thinks this evaluation has enormous importance since FAO is a knowledge-based organization and thus production and dissemination of publications, databases, networks and learning resources are at the centre of FAO's work. We note that there are positive findings of the evaluation regarding relevance, reputation and appreciation of FAO's knowledge products. We would like, in particular, to emphasize the high

reputation of FAO's statistical work. Since data is essential to monitor the SDGs achievement, we believe that FAO can be more incisive in this area.

We are concerned about the evaluation finding that some of the knowledge products did not reach to where most needed. As is in the discussion of the Programme Committee, the Secretariat should consider placing more importance on dissemination and outreach by including the use of new technologies.

Asia Group also takes note of the Programme Committee's endorsement of the revision of the evaluation work plan for 2015-18. We are especially looking forward to the evaluations of Strategic Objectives from the view point of knowing the effect of the reform of the Organization.

With these comments the Asia Group endorses the Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan intervenes on behalf of the Near East Group on this agenda item. The Near East Group expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee for presenting to the Council a concise and focused report. We also wish to thank Rakesh and Sylvia for their assistance to the work of the Programme Committee.

We wish to make two observations. Observation one: The Near East Group appreciates the conclusions of the Programme Committee on the two evaluation reports and is pleased that the recommendations of the two evaluations have been accepted by Management. The evaluations have included both positive achievements as well as constraints, the latter providing the justification for some recommendations. The Near East Group is pleased to note that based on the recommendation on the evaluation report, FAO will prepare a comprehensive strategy on climate change. Such a strategy would be timely as climate change is now a cross-cutting issue in the work of the Organization and what may come out of the Paris Conference.

Considering that climate change cuts across the work of several UN and non-UN agencies, we expect that in the preparation of the comprehensive strategy special attention will be given to the following points: 1) the comparative advantage of FAO *vis-a-vis* other UN organizations; 2) alignment with the outcome of the Paris Conference on Climate; 3) promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to climate adaptation and mitigation; 4) making room for special climate change initiatives adapted to different ecosystems; 5) placing more emphasis on outreach and capacity development; 6) integrating climate adaptation in the design of field projects and programmes; 7) enhanced partnerships with stakeholders, including CSOs and the private sector; and 8) special emphasis on South-South Cooperation.

Observation two: Paragraph 8 of the Programme Committee report refers to the independent evaluation of the evaluation function. Item 'c' of the paragraph says that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee be consulted on the selection of the evaluation team and the expert panel. Point 'd' says that the inception report be discussed at an informal meeting of the Programme Committee. The Near East Group is supportive of this suggestion.

However, as the proposed evaluation could have broader implications on the Charter of Evaluation in FAO, we feel that a more inclusive approach may be a better option. This inclusive approach will involve the creation of an informal working group led by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and one Member of the Committee from each region, as well as a representative of Management from the Evaluation Committee. This informal working group will advise on the selection of the evaluation team and the panel of experts, comment on the inception report, and be briefed periodically by the evaluation team leader on the progress of evaluation, including a frank exchange of views on the recommendations of the evaluation team before they are finalized. This informal working group will by no means limit the independence of the evaluation team.

The arrangement that I just described was practiced in the peer review of the Evaluation Office of WFP with satisfactory results.

With these observations the Near East Group endorses the Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos la presentación del informe del 118º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa cuyas recomendaciones las respaldamos y queremos realizar los siguientes comentarios.

El Comité conoció en su reunión dos importantes evaluaciones en temas centrales del trabajo de la FAO: su contribución a los conocimientos en materia de agricultura y su contribución al cambio climático en cuanto a la agricultura y a la seguridad alimentaria.

En la evaluación de la contribución de la Organización a los conocimientos sobre alimentación y agricultura, que es un tema fundamental de la FAO, reconoce la importancia y la positiva labor que la Organización ha realizado en este campo, sin embargo, la evaluación identifica aspectos donde existen debilidades y que deberían mejorarse. Entre esas debilidades está la divulgación y difusión de los productos y servicios de la FAO, así como en cuanto a la preparación y diseño de esos productos para lo cual deberían tener mayor participación los usuarios, particularmente de los gobiernos, a fin de que estas herramientas sean más oportunas y eficaces, es decir adecuadas a los contextos nacionales.

En cuanto a la evaluación sobre la contribución de la FAO al cambio climático, vemos que este informe demuestra y corrobora la importancia de que la FAO dé prioridad a este tema. La FAO tiene ventajas comparativas así como muchas potencialidades para desarrollar una mejor labor de apoyo a los Estados en materia de cambio climático en lo que respecta a los sectores agrícolas y la seguridad alimentaria. Pero, lamentablemente, como menciona la evaluación, en el período evaluado no ha sabido aprovechar esas ventajas comparativas y su actuación. Confiamos en que con la priorización dada a este tema y las acciones que ha empezado a tomar la Organización se podrá atender adecuadamente este tema.

La evaluación analiza también el rol de la FAO en cuanto a la Alianza Mundial sobre Agricultura Climáticamente Inteligente. Al respecto, compartimos las preocupaciones del informe de evaluación en cuanto a la participación activa de la FAO en esa Alianza ya que no está claro el enfoque respecto a la mitigación y del propio concepto de agricultura climáticamente inteligente, como se pudo desprender de los debates de los Miembros durante la primera reunión que hospedó la FAO el año pasado, y se corre el riesgo, como dice el informe, de poner en riesgo la neutralidad de la Organización. Esta Alianza, cuyo número de Estados Miembros es todavía muy bajo, ha recibido un especial impulso y apoyo de parte de la Organización en detrimento, a nuestro criterio, de otros enfoques como el de la Agroecología y que debería recibir mayor atención por parte de la FAO.

Los retos de la FAO en los dos temas motivo de las evaluaciones mencionadas son muy grandes en un contexto mundial marcado por la adopción de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y por la situación presupuestaria de la Organización; como se menciona en la evaluación de la contribución de la FAO sobre conocimientos, hay actividades que no se aplican por limitaciones financieras. Este es quizás el mayor reto de la Organización, atender más temas emergentes en un contexto en el que al mismo tiempo se exigen mayores ahorros presupuestarios; este es un aspecto en el que debería reflexionar si no se quiere afectar la capacidad de la FAO.

Con estos comentarios, respaldamos las recomendaciones del informe del Comité del Programa, resaltando particularmente la relativa a la importancia de la función que cumplen en estos dos ámbitos las oficinas descentralizadas y la necesidad de su fortalecimiento.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Nous tenons d'abord à remercier et à féliciter l'Ambassadeur de la France, Président du Comité du Programme, pour sa présidence éclairée durant la 118^{ème} session du Comité. La synthèse qu'il vient de nous présenter reflète fidèlement les conclusions auxquelles le Comité est parvenu; je lui exprime mon appréciation pour ce laborieux travail.

Nous tenons également à féliciter et remercier M. Rakesh Muthoo, Secrétaire du Comité du Programme, et toute son équipe du Secrétariat pour la bonne rédaction de ce rapport.

Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le rapport du Comité et note que ses travaux étaient centrés sur des questions de planification des programmes et d'évaluation.

Il se félicite de l'élection de l'Ambassadeur de l'Argentine à la vice-présidence du Comité du Programme, et lui transmet tous ses souhaits pour le laborieux travail à accomplir.

Monsieur le Président, comme vous l'avez dit, nous n'allons pas reprendre les questions sur les ajustements qui ont été traitées hier, mais nous voulons intervenir sur les évaluations.

Au titre de l'«évaluation de la contribution de la FAO aux connaissances relatives à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture», nous soulignons l'intérêt de cette évaluation eu égard à la pertinence et à la réputation des produits et services de la FAO axés sur les connaissances. Nous soulignons également le rôle du réseau de bureaux décentralisés dans la production et la diffusion de ces produits, ainsi que l'apport des connaissances sur le terrain – car encore malheureusement beaucoup de ces produits ne parviennent pas à ceux qui devraient justement en prendre connaissance.

Nous invitons le Secrétariat à prendre des mesures visant à donner suite aux différentes conclusions de cette étude.

Concernant l'«évaluation de la contribution de la FAO à l'atténuation du changement climatique et à l'adaptation à ses effets», et connaissant les menaces que le changement climatique pose à la sécurité alimentaire dans nos pays, le Groupe Afrique accorde une importance capitale à la stratégie de la FAO qui sera élaborée sur cette question. Le Groupe Afrique appuie fidèlement les différents points qui ont été énoncés par le Groupe Proche-Orient, par l'entremise de l'Afghanistan, sur l'élaboration de cette stratégie, notamment les avantages comparatifs de la FAO, l'alignement notamment aux conclusions de la COP 21, le renforcement des capacités, les partenariats et la coopération sud-sud.

Nous attendons avec beaucoup d'intérêt d'examiner cette stratégie au cours de sessions informelles et du Conseil par le biais du Comité du Programme. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite que le changement climatique soit intégré comme un thème transversal au titre de l'objectif 6 et nous attendons que les besoins en ressources, les indicateurs et les cibles soient bien définis.

En ce qui concerne le «rapport sur la suite donnée à l'Évaluation du Bureau régional et des bureaux sous-régionaux de la FAO pour l'Afrique», le Groupe Afrique a pris note des conclusions de ce rapport, et se félicite des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations.

Enfin, s'agissant des «informations actualisées sur l'état d'avancement de l'évaluation indépendante de la fonction d'évaluation», nous soulignons l'importance de cette évaluation et nous approuvons le plan des actions à mener jusqu'à ce que le rapport d'évaluation final soit présenté au Comité du Programme et au Conseil à la période indiquée.

Monsieur le Président, avec tous ces commentaires le Groupe Afrique approuve le Rapport de la 118^{ème} session du Comité du Programme, et souhaite que le Conseil également approuve ces importantes recommandations.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee for the very important work that they carry out in the interest of our Organization.

As regards the evaluation of the FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture, we would like to draw the Council's attention to point 5(g) of the report of the last session of the Programme Committee in which the role of the linguistic balance of FAO's products is underscored.

In connection with this, we would like to emphasize the importance of the translation of FAO's products into all of the Organization's languages, including the Russian language. This would help disseminate knowledge and enhance the quality of the knowledge products. It would also meet the needs and expectations of a whole range of audiences. We would warmly welcome the fact that this could be reflected in the Council's conclusions on this particular item.

We also agree with the importance of climate change and of making this a cross-cutting issue in Goal 6 of the FAO Strategic Framework. We would also like to underscore that the preparation in

accordance with the strategy requires from the Organization in the frame of its mandate competencies and skills to make the most of its comparative advantages and expertise.

Ms Ágnes DÜS (Hungary)

I would like to kindly ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States with the alignment of San Marino.

We commend the work of the Programme Committee at its 118th Session and welcome the conclusions and recommendations to the Council and we congratulate the Ambassador of Argentina with his election as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. We would like to emphasize the following points.

We welcome the evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and support all six recommendations. Considering the conclusions of the evaluation report and the fact that climate change has been established by the Conference as a new cross-cutting theme for the PWB 2016-17, we look forward to the establishment of a FAO strategy on climate change, both on adaptation and mitigation issues with regards to agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food security, consistent with its comparative advantages at global, regional and national levels. We commend the FAO for its participation in COP21 in Paris, and particularly in the 'Lima-Paris Action Day' focusing on agriculture, and encourage the FAO to follow on this way towards COP22 in Morocco.

We welcome the evaluation of FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture. We take note of the positive findings regarding relevance, reputation and appreciation of FAO's knowledge products and services. We underline the importance to keep the high quality of its knowledge work and encourage the FAO to effectively apply quality assurance frameworks. We also encourage the FAO to continue to improve the effective impact on users, including through a better consultation with users at early stages of product development and greater language balance.

We emphasize the importance of the independent evaluation of the evaluation function and welcome the Programme Committee actions in this regard.

With these considerations, we support the approval of the report of the Programme Committee.

Mr Sackchai SRIBOONSUE (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia Group.

We will focus our intervention on the evaluation of FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM).

We welcome the findings and recommendations of the evaluation of FAO's CCAM, particularly Recommendation 1 "*Develop a clear and consolidated strategy of FAO's work on climate change and climate-related disaster risk reduction and enhance the staff capacity on climate change.*"

We concur that FAO should focus its resources on its comparative advantage. We appreciate that existing work of FAO covers both adaptation and mitigation. In our view, the product and services provided by FAO related to climate change should reflect their contributions to the Strategic Objectives 1 to 5 of the Organization. Recognizing that FAO has substantial quality analytical tools and data, FAO can position itself as a lead organization in climate change-related food security and agriculture. Building on existing capacity, FAO can extend technical assistance to countries on areas such as data collection and estimation of greenhouse gas sources and sink, agricultural market outlook that includes climate scenarios, as well as assist countries to integrate mitigation and adaptation in agriculture and food security policies.

We look forward to seeing the Organization's strategy related to climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as the roadmap for developing the strategy.

Mme Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

J'aimerais remercier l'Ambassadeur Serge Tomasi de la France pour sa présidence du Comité du Programme et son rapport aujourd'hui. J'aimerais tout particulièrement exprimer mon appréciation pour votre engagement à trouver des solutions qui permettraient aux organes directeurs, comme le Comité du Programme, de tenir des discussions plus approfondies sur des enjeux importants auxquels fait face la FAO. Et je crois que vous avez, entre autres, suggéré d'ajouter à l'agenda du Comité du Programme un thème, une session qui pourrait porter sur un thème, ce que nous saluons, et, en général, nous encourageons toute opportunité qui pourrait permettre un dialogue, parfois même informel, entre le Secrétariat et les Membres sur des enjeux émergents.

Continúa en Español

Quisiera también dar todas mis felicidades al Embajador de Argentina por sus elecciones como Vice Presidente y desearle todo lo mejor en sus funciones.

Continues in English

Two points that we would like to emphasize about the Programme Committee report is on the evaluation of climate change. I would like to join others in looking forward to the strategy of climate change that is upcoming and to encourage that strategy to draw from the recommendations that came from the evaluation. Many have emphasized that it should focus on comparative advantage and the recommendations give useful guidance on what such comparative advantage is for FAO today in a very crowded operational field in the area of climate change and we particularly would stress the importance of recommendations on the importance of FAO positioning itself in the global climate change forum and in this regard we support the active involvement of Director-General in COP21 and we would also support the active participation of FAO in the preparation of COP22.

Another recommendation that we feel is important is that the strategy integrate gender as it was highlighted and its partnerships.

The last point would be about the paper on common critical issues that was requested by the Programme Committee. It was provided with this paper that was on common critical issues identified in the evaluations of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices. Although the Committee report indicates that the Committee took note of the paper, the paper itself does not appear on the FAO website and is therefore not readily available to Council Members.

Canada is of the view that this paper highlights some important commonality, in particular around gender issues, and we ask that it be added as an information document for this Council session.

With respect to gender, as well as some other important areas, the paper indicates that the issues identified continue to be addressed by the Organization. We would ask that a furthermore detailed report on how these issues are addressed be presented to a future Programme Committee and Council sessions.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

En primer lugar, quiero agradecer la excelente presentación del Embajador de Francia en su calidad de Presidente del Comité del Programa y mi Delegación aboga obviamente por la aprobación del Informe. Acogemos con beneplácito la introducción del cambio climático como tema transversal comprendido en el Objetivo 6. En cuanto a la contribución de la FAO, hay conocimiento sobre alimentación y agricultura; subrayamos la importancia de la función de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas en la producción y la difusión de productos del conocimiento, especialmente para la Argentina en lo relativo a llevar los conocimientos al terreno. Nuevamente, surge aquí la importancia de que una organización que brinda conocimiento esté más cerca de los usuarios de ese conocimiento.

En cuanto a la contribución de la FAO, a la adaptación al cambio climático y la mitigación del mismo, subrayamos que será muy importante conocer en el próximo periodo del comité la estrategia futura de la Organización sobre el cambio climático. Esperamos con ansias el primer documento sobre esta cuestión.

Mr Masahiro IGARASHI (Director, Office of Evaluation)

I first would like to thank all of the delegations who have picked up issues from our Evaluation Report and the Programme Committee Members in particular for putting our Evaluation Report to good use and coming up with some of the key recommendations that will move things forward.

I also thank some of the ideas that were presented in terms of the independent evaluation regulation functions and I will be in your hands in following whatever you wish to proceed and do for that arrangement.

Thirdly, on the common critical issues, this was the paper that was presented to explain how we arrived at the paper that was presented at the Committee Session and, therefore, maybe we can use the current framework evaluation report as the basis on which to move the discussion forward. That is what I feel or otherwise it would be a little confusing conceptually.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Peut-être juste trois petites remarques sur le suivi des recommandations, qui était notamment soulevé par le Canada. Je crois que c'est bien sûr essentiel, car ce n'est pas tout d'avoir des évaluations et des recommandations, il faut que ces recommandations soient mises en œuvre. Je crois qu'il est de tradition que le Secrétariat rapporte au Comité la façon dont les recommandations ont été mises en œuvre. Sur ces deux rapports donc, il me semble assez important que dans quelques temps nous ayons un point d'étape sur la mise en œuvre de ces recommandations puisqu'il y a quand même dans les deux rapports des points assez critiques.

La deuxième remarque, par rapport à la proposition qui a été faite par le Proche-Orient à travers la déclaration de l'Afghanistan, porte sur les modalités de suivi de l'évaluation indépendante de la fonction d'évaluation. Je n'ai pas de difficulté avec ce qui est proposé. Très tôt, le Directeur de l'évaluation avait attiré mon attention sur le fait qu'il fallait réfléchir à un processus qui permette d'assurer l'indépendance de cette évaluation puisqu'elle porte sur le département en charge des évaluations. Ainsi lors de la réunion du Comité, nous avons imaginé un système assez léger, qui consistait essentiellement dans l'implication du Président et du Vice-président du Comité pour veiller à ce que les procédures, notamment de sélection des consultants chargés de cette évaluation, respectent je dirais les règles de l'art, et qu'ensuite le Comité soit consulté à des points d'étape importants. Là je crois comprendre que la proposition viserait surtout à associer des membres du Comité et des membres du Comité de l'évaluation, qui est un comité interne, pour créer un groupe *ad hoc* de suivi de cette évaluation. Si le Conseil en est d'accord, je pense que c'est tout à fait possible.

Et la troisième remarque que je voulais faire concerne le commentaire du collègue russe concernant la traduction. Bien sûr, en tant que Français, je partage tout à fait cette idée. Les Nations Unies, comme j'ai eu à le dire, est quand même l'endroit où se fait le dialogue entre les pays, entre les nations, entre les civilisations. Dans le monde que nous traversons cela me paraît essentiel: la qualité de l'interprétation et de la traduction est consubstantielle à l'idée même de dialogue. Je crois qu'il faut aussi veiller à maintenir une masse critique en matière de capacité d'interprétation et de traduction, car c'est par la traduction que les idées peuvent circuler. Il me paraît donc vraiment important effectivement de veiller à ce que les produits sur la connaissance de la FAO puissent être traduits au moins dans toutes les langues officielles de notre Organisation.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems we have come to the end of the discussion on the consideration of this agenda item and I would like to make my conclusions but before I do so I want to also congratulate the Ambassador of Argentina for being elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Programme Committee. I do not envy you in this position. I hope you will be of help to the Committee and to the Chairperson.

Let me read out my conclusions on item 5, *Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee*.

1. The Council endorsed the *Report of the 118th Session of the Programme Committee*, and (a) welcomed the evaluation and Management response relating to FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture and looked forward to reviewing progress on actions taken to address the

recommendations and findings of the evaluation, notably as regards greater dissemination and outreach of knowledge products in the relevant languages;

(b) welcomed the evaluation and Management response relating to FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and highlighted the importance of the Organization's work in this regard within the context of its comparative advantages. The Council looked forward to reviewing at a future session the Committee's recommendations on a strategy for FAO's work on climate change, as well as progress on actions taken to address the recommendations of the evaluation;

(c) took note of the progress and the roadmap proposed for the independent evaluation of the evaluation function, and looked forward to receiving the Programme Committee's views on the final report at the 155th Session of the Council in December 2016; and

(d) endorsed the revised evaluation work plan for 2015-18.

That is the end of my conclusions.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

En general estamos de acuerdo con las conclusiones que nos presenta. Solamente que sí consideramos importante resaltar del Informe del comité relativo al fortalecimiento de las oficinas descentralizadas, por cuanto es un elemento fundamental justamente para el tema de la divulgación así como para solamente en el tema del cambio climático.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Thank you Mr Chairperson for your excellent summary to which we fully align ourselves.

Concerning the issue of languages, we fully agree that knowledge and information products should be translated in all of the relevant languages. However, following what was said by His Excellency Serge Tomasi, we think that at least FAO should try to present those materials and documents in all FAO languages. Therefore, the idea of all FAO languages will be very dear to us in this paragraph.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

También me sumo al Ecuador, sobre todo en agradecer su resumen, y compartir la misma inquietud que presentó el Ecuador hace un poco en el sentido de que estamos en una faz de efectivamente necesitar un inciso que haga referencia a la necesidad de reforzar la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas porque efectivamente aquí se está hablando de un nuevo objetivo transversal, que efectivamente también hemos subrayado muchas delegaciones, Ecuador, Congo, Argentina y otras más.

Subrayar la importancia de que este nuevo trabajo produjera los conocimientos, manejo de información y tenga que efectivamente llevar un esfuerzo más en la necesidad de reforzar la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas. Me gustaría efectivamente que en el resumen conste un inciso que haga referencia explícita sobre la necesidad de reforzar las capacidades de las oficinas descentralizadas de este campo.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Monsieur le président pour ne pas trop garder la parole, j'appuie ce que la Guinée Equatoriale a dit, nous avons intérêt à souligner la question de renforcement des capacités de bureaux décentralisés.

CHAIRPERSON

To go back to the call by Russian Federation, we can make a change there on point 'a' as follows: "welcomed the evaluation and management response relating to FAO's contribution on knowledge on food and agriculture and looked forward to reviewing progress on actions taken to address the recommendations and findings of the evaluation, notably as regards greater dissemination and outreach of knowledge products in the FAO languages."

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

If we said: "in all FAO languages" we would be most happy.

CHAIRPERSON

In does not make any difference. “In all FAO languages.” Do everybody agree? Thank you.

Now we pass to new point ‘b’: “stressed the role of FAO’s Decentralized Offices Network in its work relating to both climate change and knowledge on food and agriculture”.

I see satisfaction so we have concluded on this agenda item. Thank you.

Item 6. Reports of the 158th (11-13 May 2015), 159th (26-27 October 2015) and 160th (2-6 November 2015) Sessions of the Finance Committee

Point 6. Rapport des cent cinquante-huitième (11-13 mai 2015), cent cinquante-neuvième (26-27 octobre 2015) et cent soixantième (2-6 novembre 2015) sessions du Comité financier

Tema 6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 158.º (11-13 de mayo de 2015), 159.º (26 y 27 de octubre de 2015) y 160.º (2-6 de noviembre de 2015) del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 153/4; CL 153/5; CL 153/7)

Item 6.1 Audited Accounts – FAO 2014

Point 6.1 Comptes vérifiés – FAO 2014

Tema 6.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2014

(C 2017/5 A; C 2017/5 B)

Item 6.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears

Point 6.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés

Tema 6.2 Estado de las contribuciones y los atrasos

(CL 153/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 6, *Reports of the 158th (11-13 May 2015), 159th (26-27 October 2015) and 160th (2-6 November 2015) Sessions of the Finance Committee*.

This item has two sub-items namely: 6.1 *Audited Accounts – FAO 2014* and 6.2 *Status of Contributions and Arrears*.

The documents before Council are CL 153/4, CL 153/5, CL 153/7, C 2017/5 A, C 2017/5 B and CL 153/LIM/2.

I draw your attention to document CL 153/LIM/2, regarding the *Status of Assessments and Arrears*. This document sets out the status of assessments and arrears as at 23 November 2015.

Member Nations currently owe to FAO over USD 175 million for 2015 and prior years, which complicates FAO’s liquidity management.

As of 23 November 2015, 30 percent of 2015 assessed contributions still needed to be settled. Forty-three Member Nations still had arrears outstanding from 2014 and previous years and eight owed arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their right to vote at the next Session of the Conference in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution.

I now invite Mr Khalid Mehboob, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce this item.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present the Reports of the 158th, 159th and 160th Sessions of the Finance Committee. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 153/4, CL 153/5 and CL 153/7. In addition, document CL 153/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the status of contributions and arrears as at 23 November 2015.

While the 160th Session dealt with FAO issues, the 158th and 159th Sessions were special sessions convened to deal with WFP matters. Our reports on WFP matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration. As agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you salient highlights of the report of the 160th Meeting of the Finance Committee, except for those matters as referring to adjustments to the Programme of Work and

Budget 2016-17 which were covered separately under item 3 of the agenda of this session of the Council.

The first item is Monitoring Financial Position. In reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee welcomed the improved liquidity position of the Organization. Recognizing that ongoing cash flow health was dependent on the timely payment of assessed contributions, the Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions. The Committee welcomed and encouraged the intensified efforts by the Secretariat to encourage payment of contributions.

The Committee examined the FAO audited accounts for 2014; the first set of accounts for FAO prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The Committee welcomed the issuance of the External Auditor's unqualified opinion and expressed appreciation for the quality of the Long Form Report. Noting the comments and clarifications provided by the External Auditor and the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that the Council submit to the Conference for adoption the audited accounts for 2014 and accordingly agreed to submit to the Council the Draft Resolution presented in Paragraph 9 of CL 153/7 for forwarding to the Conference.

The Committee considered an update on the latest UN System discussion on the funding gap for After Service Medical Coverage Liabilities and on options being explored by FAO to contain the costs of these liabilities. The Committee emphasized the importance of adopting a common approach to this issue. And recalling its previous discussions and the guidance of the Conference at its 39th Session, encouraged the Secretariat to continue its participation in the UN Common Systems search for an optimum and practicable solution to the matters of After Service Medical Coverage liabilities as well as to continue its efforts to explore options to contain the costs of the current medical insurance plan.

Budgetary matters. The Committee has reviewed the report on 'Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2014-15 Biennium' which provided an update on the forecasted budgetary performance against the 2014-15 net appropriation and the use of the 2012-13 unspent balance. The Committee approved the forecasted budgetary chapter transfer in favour of Chapter 3 in addition to the previously endorsed transfers to Chapters 2, 5, 8 and 10, arising from the implementation of the Programme of Work; took note of the use of the 2012-13 unspent balance and looked forward to receiving the final 2014-15 budgetary performance report at its May 2016 session.

The Committee reviewed the 'Annual Report on Support Costs Expenditures and Recoveries' covering the period from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015 and noted that all trust fund projects opened during the period under review had been charged at rates which fell within the approved policy on support costs currently in force.

Human Resources Management. The Committee reviewed progress on initiatives to improve human resources management in the Organization. The Committee commended the Secretariat on the progress made on human resources initiatives and encouraged its ongoing efforts to bring improvements to human resources management in the Organization.

The Committee reviewed 'Recommendations and Decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly (including Changes in the Salary Scales and Allowances)'. Recalling its previous discussions and the guidance of the Conference at its 39th Session, the Committee reiterated the importance of efforts to contain the staff costs of the Organization and requested that the Secretariat report to the Committee at its next regular session on resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly related to conditions of service of staff and their possible implications for FAO.

Oversight issues. The Committee has reviewed an updated 'Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations'. The Committee noted with concern the slow pace of implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor and urged the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to implement the outstanding recommendations, emphasizing the importance of addressing recommendations related to the strengthening of internal control, in particular in decentralized offices, including through finalization of the internal control framework.

Overall, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization. On behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

This statement is presented by Egypt on behalf of the Near East Group. First, I would like to express to the Independent Chairperson of the Council our deep appreciation for the efforts that you have exerted before the meetings of this Council and during the meetings to reach consensus on the amendments on the Programme of Work and Budget which was finalized yesterday by reaching an agreement that we find to be balanced and gives the Organization the necessary mandate to achieve its Strategic Objectives with the required efficiency.

Regarding this item, we would like to thank first Mr Khalid Mehboob for his wise leadership of the meetings, chairing of the meetings. We would also like to thank Ms Natalie Brown from the United States for being elected Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

We would like to stress the following points. First, regarding the liquidity of the Organization, the Near East Group welcomes the improvement in the liquidity position of the Organization due to the timely payment of assessed contributions, but we would also like to stress the importance of timely payment of assessed contributions by all Members so that arrears will not reflect on the achievement of the Strategic Objectives of the Organization. We also encourage the Organization to look for means to ensure that these assessed contributions are paid in due time.

We also stress the importance of the reports of the External Auditor and the vital recommendations they provide. We urge the Organization to expedite the implementation of these recommendations and to give more attention to recommendations related to internal control enhancements or those recommendations that are not being implemented in a timely manner and to give more attention to recommendations related to the technical support and internal control enhancement both in headquarters and at regional offices because this has an impact on the achievement of the work of the regional offices especially in the Near East office.

Third, we flag the importance of the ASMC challenge which is a great challenge at the level of the UN System. We encourage the FAO to continue its efforts to find a solution at the level of the UN System and also to consider options for decreasing the cost of medical insurance in a creative manner.

Four, the Group would like to stress the importance of consolidating and strengthening TCP programmes and to ensure that FAO will fully implement the TCP programmes and TCP appropriation as approved. We also stress the need to develop a vision to implement the Conference decision last June for a TCP appropriation at a level not less than 14 percent in the coming budget.

Five, in terms of human resources, we commend the improvement in the human resources initiatives but we stress the importance of devoting more efforts to ensure wider geographical representation in the structure of the Organization, keeping in mind that the Near East Group is the least represented in the professional vacancies of the FAO.

With these comments, we approve the reports of the Finance Committee.

Mr Osamu KUBOTA (Japan)

Japan is making this statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

We thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his presentation.

We would like to make a few brief comments on some of the issues referred to in the report of the 160th Session of the Finance Committee.

We welcome the intensive efforts by the Secretariat to encourage timely payments of assessed contributions which in fact have resulted in the improved rate of collection of contributions.

We are pleased to note that FAO has for the first time produced its accounts prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). We also note with satisfaction that the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion on the Financial Statements of the Organization.

We would like to highlight one recommendation for specific attention, namely, the External Auditor's recommendation on strengthening the internal control framework both at headquarters and the decentralized offices and in particular the preparation of a statement of internal control to be appended to the annual Financial Statements. In this connection, we draw attention to the External Auditor's report which describes Management's responsibility for "designing, implementing and maintaining internal control". This being so, it is important, and it is also accepted practice, that Management issue such a statement to form part of the Financial Statements package. Consequently, we agree with the External Auditor's recommendation for a mechanism to be put in place for responsible officers of the Organization to provide an assurance to the Director-General on the functioning of internal controls within their respective areas of responsibility and for the Director-General in turn to issue a statement of internal control to be appended to the Financial Statements.

We may add that WFP has such a mechanism in place which enables the Executive Director to prepare such a statement. Such a statement, apart from providing an assurance to the Director-General, would also be of comfort to the Governing Bodies.

In conclusion, we share the Finance Committee's concern at the slow pace of implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations.

With these comments the Asia Group endorses the reports of the Finance Committee.

Sr. Crisantos Obama ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

El Señor Presidente de la Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial, juntamente con la Delegación de Angola, toman la palabra sobre este punto de orden del día en nombre del Grupo Africano. El Grupo Africano aprovecha el tiempo para felicitar sinceramente a la Secretaría por la presentación de estos tres informes de las sesiones, los cuales reflejan la clarividencia del marco del trabajo realizado por el Comité de Finanzas, de acuerdo con los Textos Fundamentales de esta Organización. Aprovechamos en el felicitar a su Excelencia, Kalid Mehboob por la excelente presentación y a la Señora Natalie Brown de Estados Unidos por su elección como Vice Presidenta.

El Grupo Africano cree que estos Informes reflejan una debida orientación al Consejo y en especial, queremos que este Consejo tome debida nota sobre los asuntos de la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en su período de sesiones anual de mayo del 2015. Las opiniones y recomendaciones formuladas por el Comité de Finanzas con respecto a los asuntos sometidos al examen de la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en su segundo período de sesiones de noviembre 2015.

El Grupo Africano solicita asimismo al Consejo que haga suyas las recomendaciones del Comité sobre el pago anual de las cuotas asignadas sobre las cuentas de 2014 comprobadas y sobre los Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2016-2017. Y alentamos a la Secretaría a proseguir los debidos esfuerzos en los demás asuntos de su incumbencia, así como las iniciativas encaminadas a mejorar la eficiencia y eficacia de la Organización para cumplir con los Objetivos Estratégicos y garantizar así mayor asistencia a los Estados Miembros, y en África precisamente, los Estados Miembros necesitan mayor asistencia de la FAO para hacer frente de manera eficaz a los problemas del hambre y malnutrición.

Con respecto a los documentos C 2017/5 A, C 2017/5 B y CL 153/LIM/2, el Grupo Africano está satisfecho que la comprobación de la cuenta se haya realizado con arreglo a las normas internacionales de contabilidad para hacer todo público y el reglamento financiero de la FAO. Subrayamos la importancia de las recomendaciones formuladas por el auditor externo y alentamos a la dirección a adoptar las medidas necesarias para su implementación.

Precisamente el Grupo Africano quiere subrayar la necesidad de prestar mayor atención a la recomendaciones ligadas a la gestión de los recursos humanos y en concreto, las recomendaciones 3, 4, 7, 9 y 10 que hacen referencia a las cuestiones de gobernanza y gestión del cambio en materia de

recursos humanos, la gestión de rendimiento así como el perfeccionamiento y capacitación del personal. El Grupo Africano destaca la importancia de la aplicación de las medidas estratégicas y de gestión de recursos humanos en coherencia con los Objetivos Estratégicos. Y sobre esta materia en particular el Grupo Africano apreciaría los esfuerzos por vincular las necesidades de aprendizaje y de conocimiento con las necesidades de la Organización y de los Estados Miembros.

El Grupo Africano acoge con mucha satisfacción la conclusión del Comisario de las cuentas comprobadas, que reconoce que los estados financieros reflejan una imagen fiel de la situación financiera de la FAO para el ejercicio de 2014, descartando problemas mayores que pudiesen cuestionar la validez de estos estados financieros.

El Grupo Africano quiere subrayar la necesidad de proseguir con el reforzamiento del seguimiento de los proyectos de la cooperación técnica, el examen del proceso de elaboración de los informes finales de los proyectos, aumentando la colaboración con las oficinas descentralizadas para garantizar cada vez más la disponibilidad de información sobre la gestión del programa en el campo. Esfuerzos que deben dirigirse igualmente en el análisis y tratamiento de las cuestiones de género, así como la gestión de riesgos, procurando integrarlos en todos los procesos de decisiones y de trabajo de la FAO, incluyendo reforzamiento de la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas.

Finalmente, con respecto al estado de las cuentas corrientes y los atrasos, el Grupo Africano aprecia el esfuerzo de los Estados Miembros que han logrado abonar sus cuentas, sus cuotas, al 23 de noviembre de 2015. Y queremos expresar reconocimiento especial a los Estados Africanos por sus esfuerzos de corresponder con sus obligaciones financieras con la FAO, a la vez que animamos a todos los Estados Miembros de esta institución a proseguir con los esfuerzos de sanear sus compromisos con la Organización, con el fin de lograr su dinamismo.

Con estos comentarios el Grupo Africano aprueba este Informe.

Ms Natalie BROWN (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, and thank you, Khalid, for the summary as well as your leadership. As a member of the Finance Committee, the United States endorses this report as well as the recommendation put forward by Japan.

We applaud FAO for managing within its means and taking a prudent, responsible approach to ensuring the proper financial and governance oversight.

We congratulate Management for identifying the requested USD 2.7 million in savings, and further applaud and encourage FAO's continued leadership in identifying a UN system-wide solution to the ever-growing staff liabilities. We echo the Director-General in asking that all FAO Members participate in United Nations Fifth Committee deliberations on this matter.

On all of these issues, FAO, and we by extension, are fortunate to have such a strong team leading efforts and commend the work of Boyd, Monika, Aiman and their colleagues.

Yesterday, we discussed at length the Programme of Work and Budget so, for the sake of time, I will not repeat any of the important issues already raised. However, I would like to reiterate the critical need for early and frequent consultation before any major organizational changes and the timely provision of documents.

Finally, as expressed yesterday, the United States appreciates the additional information session held by the Secretariat on 19 November and welcomes the information notes. We hope this level of communication and engagement with Members continues in order to ensure productive dialogue at Governing Body meetings.

Ms Àgnes DÛS (Hungary)

I kindly ask you again to pass the floor to the Netherlands.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States with the alignment of San Marino.

We commend the work of the Finance Committee at its 160th Session and welcome the conclusion and advice to the Council as contained in the report on this session. We congratulate Ms Natalie Brown on her election as Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee. We would like to limit our comments to a few points in this report.

Looking at the FAO's Financial Position, we note with satisfaction that the Organisation's liquidity position has improved, mainly due to timely payments by most of the Member States. We endorse the Committee's appeal to Members to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions, and encourage the Secretariat to continue exploring measures to encourage this.

We endorse the Committee's conclusions regarding the Audited Accounts – FAO 2014 and the Programme and Budget Transfers in the 2014-15 biennium.

We appreciate the Committee's conclusions on Funding of after Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) Liabilities and see the need to further review the options for addressing these liabilities. We see the need for the organizations of the United Nations System to adopt a common approach on this issue, and therefore encourage the FAO to continue its active participation in the UN After-Service Health Insurance Working Group. In the meantime, we encourage FAO to continue its efforts to contain the costs of the current medical insurance plan.

Referring to the FAO's support cost policy, we are looking forward to the implementation of the new FAO cost recovery policy starting from 1 January 2016.

While acknowledging the ongoing efforts to improve human resources management, we are deeply concerned about the persistently high vacancy rates, particularly among professional staff, which have increased even further over the past year. Hiring consultants while delaying the filling of vacant posts through post freezing and slow recruitment procedures implies the risk of depletion of institutional memory, efficiency losses and undue pressures on remaining professional staff, which is highly detrimental to a knowledge organization such as FAO. We expect the vacant posts to be filled without further delay and ask the Secretariat to present a progress report on this matter at the next Council session.

In this context we would also underline the fact that the delegation of authority in decisions on the appointment of staff could be more frequent. Based on the decision taken by the special Conference in 2008, the appointment of Professional staff falls within the competence of ADGs and Heads of Independent Offices. We would like this practice to be restored.

In addition, we support the Committee's reiterated request for comprehensive information on delegation of authority to be provided for the next Finance Committee session.

Lastly, we deplore the late submission of several important documents for the Finance Committee session, some of which were made available only during the last session of the Finance Committee. Accordingly, we fully support the Committee's request for submission of all documents at least two weeks prior to each session.

In this context, we generally see room for improvement regarding communication on governance relevant issues. Timely comprehensive information and consultation, both at internal and external levels, is needed to take informed decisions. Also, it helps to build and maintain trust and ownership. The informal briefing on the adjustments to the PWB held on 19 November 2015 was a most welcome step in the right direction.

Mr Mohamad Nazrain NORDIN (Malaysia)

Malaysia wishes to join all Members of the Council in welcoming the reports of the Finance Committee.

We acknowledged the Management support and commitment towards full compliance of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in the Financial Statement of the Organization. It improves the quality of general purpose financial reporting, leading to better informed assessments of the resource allocation decisions made, thereby increasing quality, comparability and most importantly it improves transparency, accountability and governance. We further acknowledged

the commitment and appreciated the professionalism of Management, in particular the Finance team, in ensuring progressive implementation of the standards.

We acknowledged that FAO has taken sufficient steps in risk management. Analysis on risk assessments have been undertaken to ensure compliance and to minimize the risk, especially when it involved decentralized offices operation all over the world. The report of external audit has rightly highlighted the risk management assessment that has been conducted throughout the year. However, risk management is a continuous process. Therefore, policies outlining a clear indication on detection of risk factor, strengthening of internal control, systematic tasks delegation, together with a set of good governance, must be in place to safeguard its assets and to avoid mismanagement.

From the report, we also comprehend that FAO has a huge amount of investment which is preserved in its trust fund. It is essential to ensure a proper and structured approach of fund management adapted in accordance with the governance and approved policy. 'Risk and return' are all that matters in investment. Therefore, establishing an investment policy is vital to advocate 'balanced risk and return equations'. The main objectives of the trust fund must be upheld. Apart from being focused on this objective, it is equally important to ensure that the investment is monitored thoroughly. This would ensure adequate control and governance are being adapted.

Adding to the points mentioned above, our opinion is also in line with the Report of the 160th Session of the Finance Committee and we look forward to an updated progress report at its regular session in 2016. Malaysia endorses the reports of the Finance Committee.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

First of all I would like to thank the Chair of the Finance Committee for his presentation of the Committee's deliberations. Congratulations to Ms Natalie Brown on her election as the Vice Chairperson of the Committee and to thank the Secretariat of the Committee and the other leaders in the FAO corporate services area for their dedication and hard work on these important financial, human resources and other administrative issues.

We can say that Australia agrees with the Finance Committee's recommendations dealing with issues of timely and full payment of assessed contributions and on the audited accounts for 2014. Just to draw your attention to one issue that the Asia Group raised with some support from others about the oversight. I think Japan on behalf of Asia referred to the issue that was flagged by the Finance Committee as flagged to it by the External Auditor about their view on the slow pace of the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations. I think this is something that Management should give greater attention to.

In relation to that issue of oversight is the issue of receiving the External Auditor's report in a timely fashion so that the Finance Committee can actually make informed decisions and provide informed guidance and again, this was a key document that was provided only one week before the Committee's deliberations and I think in the Committee's discussions at the time, we were deeply concerned about this, particularly given that the External Auditor had said that they had finished their work in August and provided the report to the Secretariat in early September.

I think that is deeply worrying that such a report that gives an external independent insight into the Organization and its health and provides some recommendations and guidance to the Organization is not provided to Members well in advance when we know it is available. So I think that is something that should be considered.

With regard to human resources, there has been some good progress made and the Committee has acknowledged that but, again, flag our concern about the high vacancy rates and the need for urgent attention to address that, particularly as it relates to affecting the technical capacity of this Organization.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Let me thank all of those who made comments and also the Chair of the Committee for such a good report and we are pleased of course to hear the acknowledgement from you where we had made progress, particularly with regard to the IPSAS progress which is an important milestone for us along

with the other areas that you have highlighted. We have also listened very carefully of course to those areas of criticism and on delivery of documents and on the high vacancy rate. In particular on that one, I am quite confident that by the next session, we will be able to show significant progress.

Some of the other issues I think I probably will not wade into. I think there are some technical matters that I think would be better to consult with those who are more expert on that, particularly with regard to the statement in the signing of accounts and internal control but we will certainly get back to you on that. But on the areas that I do have more, let us say knowledge of or more influence or control over, I am quite confident that you will see progress by the next time we meet.

Mr Kalid MEHOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Just a general comment on behalf of the Committee because some Members, particularly Japan, raised a detailed question on internal control which is important and relevant because an adequate and efficient system of internal control contributes to the orderly operations of the Organization.

In this connection, I should like to inform the Council that FAO is developing an internal control framework which will be submitted, along with the issues raised here today, to the Finance Committee at its spring session.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to make my conclusions on this agenda item but before I do so, I would also like to congratulate Ms Natalie Brown for being elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

On item 6, *Reports of the 158th, 159th and 160th Sessions of the Finance Committee*, my conclusions are as follows.

1. The Council endorsed the *Reports of the 158th, 159th and 160th sessions of the Finance Committee*, and on the financial position:

- (a) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions;
- (b) welcomed the External Auditor's issuance of an unqualified opinion on the Organization's Accounts for 2014, the first set of Accounts for FAO prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
- (c) recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2014 presented in paragraph 9 of document CL 153/7;

On budgetary matters:

(d) noted that the Finance Committee had approved the forecasted budgetary chapter transfer in favour of Chapter 3 in addition to the previously endorsed transfers to Chapters 2, 5, 8 and 10 arising from implementation of the 2014-15 Programme of Work;

On human resource matters:

(e) noted the Finance Committee's recognition of the progress made in human resources initiatives to improve human resources management in the Organization and its encouragement to the Secretariat in these ongoing efforts;

(f) supported the Finance Committee's request that particular attention be given to the issue of vacancy rates;

(g) supported the Finance Committee's reiteration of the importance of containment of staff costs of the Organization;

On oversight matters:

(h) stressed the importance, as emphasized by the Finance Committee and conveyed in the Long Form Report of the External Auditor, to strengthen the internal control framework at headquarters and decentralized offices, and supported the recommendation of the External Auditor on the preparation of a statement of internal control to be appended to the annual financial statements;

(i) encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in accelerating the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations;

On other matters:

(j) endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate, as well as initiatives to improve its own methods of work.

Ms Àgnes DÛS (Hungary)

Could I request to please pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

We would like to see two things added and also little additions. The first is the restoration of the practice of appointments of Professional staff within the authorities of the ADGs and the Heads of Independent offices. It is in accordance with a decision made by the Conference. I think this is important.

Secondly, I think it is worthwhile to also encourage the Secretariat to interact in an open and transparent way and in particular to send the information provided in due time before or at least two weeks before the governing body meetings.

I think it is important for all Member Nations and for the Organization to mention it here. We took note of the promise of the Deputy Director-General to improve the filling of vacancies and to decrease the percentage of vacancies and to report about it. We would really like to see these two things reflected in the final report of the Council.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

We would like to add two points. The first one was under point 'd' where we note the progress in the implementation initiatives of the human resources as was mentioned by the Near East. We would like to make reference to the importance of a wider geographical representation in FAO.

The second issue was also mentioned in the Near East Group statement with regard to enhancing and strengthening the TCP programme and ensuring the full implementation of the TCP.

CHAIRPERSON

I will turn to the Netherlands, please. May I ask you to elaborate on this issue of appointment? Where is it in the Basic Texts?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

It is the decision of the special Conference in 2008 and it is based on the recommendations that were made in the evaluation in 2007.

CHAIRPERSON

May I call on the Legal Counsel because I would like to have his recommendation which might not be in line with what was agreed. I know that in the reform there was an issue of this nature but I do not know how it was framed in the IPA.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I am trying to find my way in my papers and I am also relying on my memory on this matter.

In 2008 indeed the Conference approved the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal and at that time the Conference requested that the Basic Text be amended in order to allow and to invite the Director-General to affect increased delegations of authority in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

As a matter of fact, the CCLM, the Council and the Conference eventually approved an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization which I can read before the Council. I am referring to Rule XXXVIII, paragraph 5 which states as follows: "The Director-General may delegate authority and responsibility conferred upon him by this Rule to other officers of the Organization in accordance with the agreed principle of delegation of authority to the lowest appropriate levels. The Director-

General shall remain accountable to the Conference and Council for the direction of the work of the Organization, in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 4 of the Constitution.”

So there has been an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization along these lines allowing the Director-General to delegate authority to lower levels. But there has never been, as far as I know, any specific decision of the Conference prescribing that the Director-General should delegate authority to appoint staff to heads of department.

We can be extremely formal on that. There was no specific decision imposing on the Director-General an obligation to delegate authority. For a while, the former Director-General delegated this authority but this was a specific delegation of authority that was made by the former Director-General with a very substantial number of exceptions. But we are not aware of any decision of the Conference taken in the context of the reform prescribing that the Director-General should delegate that authority.

I have not looked into the details. But of course we could elaborate the matter as required.

Ms Ágnes DÜS (Hungary)

Could I ask to please pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

We appreciate your support in trying to find the sources where the decisions are made. I have the honour to let you know that there is an information note presented at the Joint Meeting of the 106th Programme Committee and the 138th Finance Committee in March 2011.

It is in the Administrative Manual of the Organization and it is written there. The reason why we would like to see this is to support the improvement of filling vacancies and to decrease the delay of posts so as to prevent an overload of work for the Director-General. We see this as an opportunity. It is Section 119 entitled Delegation of Authority effective on 1 July 2015, point 7 and 7(a), selection and appointment of and regular programme professional staff.

We do not like to go too deep in the details but we would like to encourage FAO to live up to decisions that are made in a Conference and to improve the way of working.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Teniendo en cuenta los aspectos jurídicos que esta cuestión implica, la Delegación Argentina entiende que debería ser objeto de un estudio mucho más profundizado, teniendo en cuenta que la distinguida Delegada de los Países Bajos trae a colación una serie de normas y por otro lado el Doctor Tavares nos ha ilustrado acerca de que no hay un imperativo obligatorio o un imperativo categórico acerca de esta decisión que habría tomado la Conferencia en su momento.

Por ende, nosotros entendemos que debería quizá analizarse con mucha más profundidad porque, de lo que entendemos de las normas legales que hemos en este momento rápidamente visto, creemos que las normas legales tienen que ser un poco más analizadas en profundidad y no con esta rapidez, pero de lo que hemos visto, no existiría un imperativo categórico, sino que lo que existiría de las normas es la posibilidad de que el Director General pudiera hacer esto. En este caso, obviamente, si no hay un imperativo categórico ni una reglamentación sobre esta decisión, lo que entendemos jurídicamente que se quiso decir en ese momento es que el Director General puede delegar autoridad y delegación de autoridad en esta circunstancia. Pero teniendo en cuenta la profundidad de la cuestión, entendemos que esto excede en este momento a una discusión de la sala.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nos llama la atención que nuevamente se presenten temas nuevos. No ha sido un tema discutido en el Comité de Finanzas, y una propuesta como la que hace la Unión Europea, necesita obviamente más análisis. No consideramos oportuno presentar una propuesta a estas alturas de las intervenciones y no podríamos aceptar nosotros la inclusión de dicha propuesta.

A nuestro criterio, y como se ha mencionado por el Consejero Jurídico, esto es una facultad que tiene el Director General. No consideramos pertinente al momento emitir un mandato o imponer al Director General cierta gestión. Esto consideramos que es facultad del Director y, como dije, una propuesta

como la que se ha presentado, necesita un mayor análisis. No podríamos tomar ninguna decisión en este momento.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Quiero intervenir en esta oportunidad para sumar mi voz a lo que han dicho mis colegas de Argentina y Ecuador. Este es un tema bastante sensible, no hay claridad al respecto, y veo muy difícil que en esta sesión se pueda llegar a un acuerdo. Por lo tanto, como dije anteriormente, me sumo a lo señalado presentemente por mis colegas y creo que este es un tema que debe ser analizado en profundidad en una ocasión a definir.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Just to concur with my colleagues from Argentina, Ecuador and Chile on this.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am just taking the floor to clarify a procedural issue. This is the report of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee did not discuss this issue. In fact, the report under the section of Human Resources Management, the only reference to delegation of authorities reiterated its request for information on the delegation of authority. So the issue was not discussed, so I do not see how you can place it under the Report of the Finance Committee. I am only referring to the procedural issue. Why is it being inserted in the Report of the Finance Committee when this discussion never took place? All the Finance Committee is doing is ask for information on the delegation of authority.

Ms Ágnes DÜS (Hungary)

Could I ask to please pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

To prevent further confusion here, first of all, I was in the Finance Committee as an observer at the moment it was brought up. It was brought up in the Finance Committee so probably it did not reach the final report. That is fine with me. That is what we accept. But I cannot accept the denial of having had this as a topic in the Finance Committee. But to prevent further discussion and further back and forth, my proposal is to have a look into this topic as a Secretariat and come forward with a proposal also for the report after lunch break. It gives time for us to share our information and to also show where and when it is brought up in the Finance Committee and to look into this indeed sensitive but also very important topic. That is my first suggestion.

My final suggestion would be to add something on the procedures and the timely dissemination of documents and the organization of informal briefings, etc., in the final part of the report and then we can agree upon the report I think quite easily after the lunch break. This is my suggestion to you, Mr Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

It is a good suggestion. But if we can finish it now, why not? We can see what divides Members on this issue, as it is being proposed, it needs really a better understanding. I would not rule out that I cannot – because if I say that we come back to it after lunch, then we will be in the same setting unless you agree that I call my Friends of the Chair on this issue. Otherwise if we come back in this setting, it means we continue debating on the same thing. But sincerely let me say that you debate on this issue and you will never come to a compromise.

The best thing is for all the Members to agree that the issue which you raised is very important – why we are raising this, that you are worried if reconsidering. If you address the issue of reconsidering our report, then I think that would be more important.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Just a point that I wish to clarify from a legal viewpoint. The Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization refer to the Director-General as the appointing authority in FAO. The appointing authority is the Director-General. It is the Director-General who, in accordance with the procedures

that may be established, has authority to appoint staff. The manner in which delegations of authority are organized, structured and approved is a matter for the Director-General. It is not a matter for the Governing Bodies.

This point must be very clearly stated here.

The delegation of authority is a matter for the Director-General and if we have had a particular delegation of authority which entrusted authority on other officials for appointment, this remains a matter for the Director-General. A section of the Manual was mentioned in the debates, but this is a section whose amendment is entirely within the authority of the Director-General.

Of course he will consult staff bodies when proceeding to changes but this point is not even a matter for the staff bodies because it is a matter which has to do with the manner in which the Director-General decides to exercise his authority. It is not a matter for Members either.

This point must be very clearly stated here and it is not what is set out in the General Rules. So I think that this element of information may be of interest at least as far as the legal position in this particular situation.

CHAIRPERSON

We will have to come back on this issue after the break. So during lunch break, continue discussing this issue. Maybe you will come up with a good formulation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are reminded of the need to register for Council if they wish to be included in the list of participants of this session. The Provisional List of Participants will be available tomorrow morning at the Documents Desk and delegates are invited to check that their names and titles are accurate. Any corrections or amendments should be submitted to the Documents Desk for inclusion in the final list.

I also wish to remind delegates of the lunch hosted by the Republic of Korea starting at 12:45 in the Flag Hall on the ground floor of Building B.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12:45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre- 4 de diciembre de 2015**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

1 December 2015

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.38 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 38
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.38
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- Item 6. Reports of the 158th (11-13 May 2015), 159th (26-27 October 2015) and 160th (2-6 November 2015) Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)**
- Point 6. Rapport des 158^{ème} (11-13 mai 2015), 159^{ème} (26-27 octobre 2015) et 160^{ème} (2-6 novembre 2015) sessions du Comité financier (suite)**
- Tema 6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 158.º (11-13 de mayo de 2015), 159.º (26 y 27 de octubre de 2015) y 160.º (2-6 de noviembre de 2015) del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)**
(CL 153/4; CL 153/5; CL 153/7)

Item 6.1 Audited Accounts – FAO 2014
Point 6.1 Comptes vérifiés – FAO 2014
Tema 6.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2014
 (C 2017/5 A; C 2017/5 B)

Item 6.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears
Point 6.2 Situation des contributions et des arriérés
Tema 6.2 Estado de las contribuciones y los atrasos
 (CL 153/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We still have about six agenda items to conclude this afternoon, so I hope we make good progress. We will continue with item 6 which we had before we did break for lunch.

I would like to inform you that I have been informed by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union that, to allow more time to look into the issue that they raised, their request for inclusion of a reference to delegation of authority in the report is withdrawn. In view of this, I assume that those who wanted to take the floor will reconsider their request. I hope I am allowed to read my conclusions on item 6.

1. The Council endorsed the reports of the 158th, 159th and 160th Sessions of the Finance Committee, and,

On the financial position:

- (a) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions;
- (b) welcomed the External Auditor's issuance of an unqualified opinion on the Organization's Accounts for 2014, the first set of Accounts for FAO prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
- (c) recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference on the FAO Audited Accounts 2014 presented in paragraph 9 of document CL 153/7;
- (d) supported the Finance Committee in encouraging the Secretariat to continue to maintain the TCP expenditure rate at a level that ensured the full implementation of the TCP appropriation, as approved by the Conference;
- (e) noted that the Finance Committee had approved the forecasted budgetary chapter transfer in favour of Chapter 3 in addition to the previously endorsed transfers to Chapters 2, 5, 8 and 10 arising from implementation of the 2014-15 Programme of Work;

On human resources matters:

- (f) noted the Finance Committee's recognition of the progress made on human resources initiatives to improve human resources management in the Organization and its encouragement to the Secretariat in these ongoing efforts;
- (g) supported the Finance Committee's request that particular attention be given to the issue of vacancy rates and wide geographic representation;
- (h) supported the Finance Committee's reiteration of the importance of containment of staff costs of the Organization.

On oversight matters:

(i) stressed the importance, as emphasized by the Finance Committee, and conveyed in the Long Form Report of the External Auditor, to strengthen the internal control framework at headquarters and decentralized offices, and supported the recommendation of the External Auditor on the preparation of the Statement of Internal Control to be appended to the annual financial statements;

(j) encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in accelerating the implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations; and

On other matters:

(k) endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to the Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate, as well as initiatives to improve its own method of work.

2. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that meeting documents were distributed two weeks in advance of Finance Committee sessions.

That is the end of my summary notes.

We have concluded this agenda item.

Item 7. Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network

Point 7. Examen indépendant du réseau des bureaux décentralisés

Tema 7. Examen independiente de la red de oficinas descentralizadas

(CL 153/14 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now take up item 7, *Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network*.

The document before Council is CL 153/14 Rev.1, as well as the report of the Joint Meeting in document CL 153/8.

I invite Mr Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director-General (Operations), to introduce the Report.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

It is a real pleasure for me to highlight a few things in the paper before we get into the discussion as a way of introduction, but even a greater pleasure on our part to listen to your reaction to this. As you know, this is an item that we have for consideration with the decision being really to take it to the Regional Conferences. Given the fact that while we believe that changes are necessary, most of the changes, most of the options for consideration in terms of changing coverage does not, in a formal way, require approval by the Governing Bodies. Some do but most do not. But we do need to discuss these issues and to get a sense from the Membership on how countries see these issues. It is not really possible to go ahead without that. It is a topic, as all of you know, that has been difficult in the past to reach consensus. I am sure that we will have difficulty at some of these points in reaching consensus again but we do really genuinely look forward to the discussion and the reaction both here and, hopefully, in the Regional Conferences if you agree and then in the Council after that.

As you know, the Report was developed in response to the Resolution of the Conference in June that FAO Member Nations and Management should consider reviewing the types and coverage of representation in countries and the location of regional at subregional offices. If agreed to move forward, discuss a set of criteria to guide the process. As we also know, resources are scarce. They always have been. They always will be. They are becoming more difficult in light of increasing costs of staff, in particular of national staff in decentralized locations, as income levels rise and salary levels rise faster than the international salaries have risen. So the increasing cost of our decentralized, particularly country, offices that increase has been faster than at headquarters requiring a shift in resources within what has been essentially a no-growth budget also for those regions.

At the same time we know, in addition to the priorities that we would have to make in any case in prioritization, that the world has changed considerably since we began having country offices in the '70s and regional offices some time before that. But it is a much different FAO. We have much more

emphasis on partnerships, much more emphasis on South-South Cooperation, more emphasis on interaction with regional and subregional bodies, a lot more middle-income countries, more upper middle-income countries, and more high-income economies that we did not have in the past. We recognize as well that we need to make decisions for the collective good, or let us say the collective use of FAO's resources beyond what would be advantageous in one country or another, and all of that is designed to facilitate the delivery of the Programme of Work. What we need to do, what we all recognize, is to deliver results, a common results framework, what we are all contributing to. Those results are measured, on the whole, as changes at the national level. That work has to be grounded in work at the country level and with the support of country, subregional, and regional offices in addition to the work here at headquarters.

So the aim of the paper is to lay out very clearly and as transparently as possible what we have in terms of office coverage. At the moment, what those offices are like, how they differ, where they are located, how they are funded, some large, some small, how they function, to describe in general terms what we think we need in order to deliver the results that we have agreed, what we would want to do in order to deliver those results, and how to move forward. We are not, as you will have seen in the paper, making, let us say, very specific proposals for change. What we have included are options for change to be considered and to be discussed by the Members both here and in the Regional Conferences along the lines that emerge from general criteria. These emerge from data that are presented that we have not presented before I think in such detail. The data themselves I think are really quite interesting to look at, particularly with regard to the country offices as a snapshot of the variation in their size and in their activities. Important to recognize also that at the country office, regardless of the size of the programme from the assessed contribution portion of the budget, there is always one international staff member and not more. Everyone else is at the international level is funded either through project funds or through support costs from a larger portfolio.

The objective on decentralization, of course, as I mentioned, is to enhance delivery of our results. Coverage is only one part of that. The other parts relate to decentralization, empowerment, and also improving technical capacity and the way that we programme our work. That is also part of the adjustments that we discussed yesterday. Also I think important to keep in mind that the location of offices and the coverage of offices have to do with results, not with a judgment on the importance of the country or the greater or lesser attention to that country. Every country has something to contribute in terms of experience, staff, resources of various kinds, and also to benefit. What we are looking at is how to place staff in the decentralized network coverage that will allow us best to do that.

The report, as you have seen, builds on the five regional decentralization evaluations. All five have quite a few recommendations that we carry through on this, added in the data on description of the country, description of the office, and other things as you will have seen, and then an outline of general principles that we think would guide that, and then discussion of specific regional, subregional and country options that we hope will be discussed here and at the Regional Conferences. Among the data that we think are particularly important are the size of the country programme, the ratio of the country programme delivery to the cost from the assessed contribution portion of the budget, to running that office. In some cases that ratio is below one, meaning that the cost from the Regular Programme assessed contribution portion of the budget is greater than the delivery in that country.

We also have information on the countries, as I mentioned, on the income status, low, middle, higher income, on the proportion of undernourishment and other criteria around the country that would indicate how well we are doing or what would be a priority, and we also have information in the document on the cities in terms of location of other regional and subregional bodies, other headquarters of sister UN agencies that would be there perhaps, and also with the direct flights in and out of that city for the region or subregion where it is located in terms of facilitation for moving the technical staff around.

None of these criteria, none of these indicators on their own, of course, are necessary even as a composite or a formula to make decisions. They cannot be applied in a mechanical way. But we believe that they do provide information to set out the direction that we should probably be going in, looking at where we apply our scarce resources. In that section of the paper, also good to keep in

mind, all of the data are really quantitative in one way or another. What we do not have in there is any qualitative data or any qualitative indicators on, for example, the interest of the country, the commitment to prioritize food security or work on climate change or adaptation or whatever it might be that are, of course, very difficult to quantify and very difficult to compare in a paper of this nature. But, in fact, those criteria are also very important.

Consequently, in terms of general ideas, we would hope that ideally we would want regional offices to be located in cities where there are other regional bodies and where there would be a lot of discussion around the regional topics where the staff could travel easily and, of course, in all cases where we would have a sufficient level or appropriate level of skills and expertise. For subregional offices, similarly, location with subregional bodies or partner organizations, subregional offices if possible, presence of airline connections, again, for the subregional staff to move around. At country offices we would prioritize low-income food-deficit countries and low-income and lower-middle income countries more so than upper-middle and high-income countries. Not to say that we do not have activities in those higher-income, higher-economy countries. We do often very large programmes but those tend to be funded by government unilateral trust funds, and in a number of cases they are quite large. It requires a different treatment. We also recognize the need to differentiate among countries again not by formula, not in a mechanistic way, but looking at the considerations in each of those.

When you look then at what we have between the current setup and an ideal or an idealized situation, the match is, of course, not perfect by any means. So we are looking then at these options for consideration to be discussed in terms of shifting staff, shifting possibly some in the high-income countries to go from having a fully-fledged office with a resident FAO representative to coming under multiple accreditation, still with an FAO office, still with an FAO representative, but not necessarily located in that country. We may look at having in particular in the case of Santiago, for example, in Latin America, more of the regional office staff based in Panama or the subregional office in the Caribbean where more of the work takes place. That is just one example. I am sure that in your regions you have looked at all of those. I will not go through them. I only illustrate these few and I am sure these comments will come up in the discussion.

As you all have seen, we are not proposing to close any offices and we are not proposing to open any offices. It would be more a question of shifting resources and possibly the staffing levels in those offices. There are not also, in this paper at least, resource or budgetary implications. We would assume that for the moment that if you would have an economy in one country, that amount would be applied elsewhere within the overall FAO network. So I think I will close here and I would be happy, of course, and my colleagues to answer questions and more importantly to listen to your comments and feedback on the criteria and the way that we propose to go about this process in the next step at the Regional Conferences and then again coming back in June at the next Council session.

Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Realizo esta intervención a nombre del Grupo América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

El GRULAC agradece la presentación del documento C 153/14 Rev.1, al tiempo que toma conocimiento del mismo como una respuesta, una petición de la Conferencia tras la realización de las 5 evaluaciones de las oficinas regionales y subregionales realizadas durante el período 2009-2013. El GRULAC considera que el examen realizado representa una base para el análisis de las propuestas en materia de cobertura de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas.

Compartimos el criterio general de que no existe una fórmula que se pueda aplicar a todos los casos, ni indicadores que por sí mismos puedan fundamentar decisiones, tales como el del ingreso per cápita, lo cual por cierto no contempla las múltiples dimensiones y los serios desafíos que los países enfrentan en su camino hacia el desarrollo sostenible. Tomando en cuenta, por ejemplo, la incidencia de los desastres naturales recurrentes, relacionados con el cambio climático, que azotan nuestros países.

Reconocemos que las tendencias y los desafíos mundiales han evolucionado y por ende, surge la necesidad de reflexionar sobre los cambios requeridos y la cobertura descentralizada. Sin embargo, hay que considerar que las mismas tendencias muestran importantes variaciones a corto y mediano

plazo que requieren prudencia en el análisis de los datos. Cualquier modificación implicaría necesariamente un cambio con efectos directos en los países.

Por ello, el GRULAC alienta a que se realicen análisis conjuntamente con las autoridades nacionales, tomando en cuenta todas las variables. Finalmente, nuestro Grupo Regional destaca la importancia de consolidar los esfuerzos de Descentralización encaminados a generar una mayor sinergia con otras agencias y producir mayor impacto de los programas que se llevan a cabo en cada país. Por ello, hace hincapié en la importancia de que la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas cuente con los medios necesarios a fin de lograr el nivel de cualificación y la combinación de competencias de sus recursos humanos para vincular adecuadamente este proceso con las necesidades de los Países Miembros.

De acuerdo a lo dicho, es imperativo asegurar la continuidad del diálogo con los gobiernos y que los países tengan acceso a los conocimientos y a los servicios de la FAO que puedan necesitar. Recomendamos por tanto que se continúe discutiendo por conducto de las Conferencias Regionales a celebrarse en el año 2016 la cobertura de las oficinas descentralizadas en aras de perseguir eficazmente los Objetivos Estratégicos en consonancia con los Objetivos de Desarrollo nacionales.

Más allá de este punto, quiero poner énfasis en el hecho que tras de sus conclusiones, había yo solicitado la palabra, respecto al punto anterior, con todos los medios posibles, pero a lo mejor usted no se ha fijado. Por lo cual, pido disculpa para retroceder un momento, pero sí es necesario que yo sienta la posición del GRULAC respecto a la delegación de autoridad, porque queremos que quede claro nuestra posición más allá del retiro de la propuesta de parte de la Unión Europea. Queremos subrayar que de acuerdo a los Textos Fundamentales y a las explicaciones del Asesor Jurídico, la autoridad para la designación de "staff" de la Organización recae en el Director General. Por lo tanto, cualquier delegación de autoridad en esta cuestión sólo puede ser realizada por el Director General, caso por caso, ya que no puede haber en esa materia, delegación de autoridad absoluta.

Eso es el punto que queremos que quede claro, es la posición del GRULAC, lo siento mucho haber tomado la palabra de forma extemporánea pero sí lo había solicitado en su momento y Usted, Señor Presidente, no se fijó.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, GRULAC. I took attention of you by requesting that I said I assume that those who wanted to take the floor will reconsider their request as I am now ready to read my conclusions. I did pause but the screen was clear. So I took consideration and thank you for coming up with this issue. I think it is noted and I have already closed the item 6.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The Egyptian Delegation is honored to take the floor on behalf of the Near East Group. We would like to raise the following points on the Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices. Firstly, we welcome the document before us following up on the Conference decision last June and welcome the efforts made in preparing this document. We take note of the results of the analysis of this study in the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Secondly, the Group welcomes the review of the decentralized offices as well as the tools and modalities for the review of the Decentralized Offices Network with a view to achieving greater efficiency in line with the international reality and in order to improve each of the Organization's Strategic Objectives.

Thirdly, we would like to reiterate that the Review of the Decentralized Offices Network needs to be based on objective principles jointly agreed on, bearing in mind the development level of the country, food security, the capacity to state organizations, the presence of organizations, civil aviation movements as well because we need to take into account the situation of Member States in the region, those who host these countries, as they are the first beneficiaries of this work.

Fourthly, we reiterate the importance of the role of Regional Conferences. They should have the main authority in undertaking and analyzing these studies and in deciding what the best choices are for each region before putting these results to the Director-General who would then bring them to the Council

in 2016. We strongly believe that the decisions of the Director-General will be in line with those taken by Regional Conferences.

Number five, the study of the decentralized offices seeks to improve efficiency but we should not forget that these decentralized offices need to support to tackle a certain number of challenges in terms of human and other resources which is why we need to work in parallel to guarantee material resources for these offices through voluntary contributions or other means. We also need to improve the tools and means through which we conduct internal assessments of these offices which is why in the upcoming period we need to work to ensure that these offices be able to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As for our region, our group welcomes the efforts and what was said in this study, the recommendations on this region and in particular the decisions of the 31st Regional Conference and these will be analyzed in the upcoming Regional Conference which will be held in Beirut in April 2016.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Mr Chairperson, may I request that you give the floor to Samoa who is represented here today by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Agriculture Store Corporation and Chairperson of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

Mr Le Mamea ROPATI MUALIA (Observer for Samoa)

Please allow me to say a few words on the item under discussion and that is the “Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network”. For the sake of saving time, I will focus my remarks on the specific proposals and options for change in the Asia Pacific region, but specifically in the Pacific Sub-region. The evaluation of FAO’s Sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands (SAP) is outlined on page 16, section D, and the proposed “options for change” in the Pacific are outlined on page 20, section 1 of the ‘Evaluation Review’. I will not quote these again for the sake of saving time.

For the information of the Council, with FAO’s focus on decentralization over the past few years, the Sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands has been strengthened through increased availability of human resources and funds.

The size of the technical team that supports the work of the Sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands based in Apia, Samoa, has steadily grown in the past three years, from five officers to six and with an expected two more to join the team. With the expansion of the team, the technical areas covered from SAP will include: Forestry; Fisheries and Aquaculture; Marine Resources; Policy; Food Safety and Nutrition; Plant Protection and Production; and Statistics and Agri-Business.

An increase in country presence and strengthened programme delivery at the country level came in the form of established FAO country offices in Tonga and Vanuatu, and very soon Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Each of these four offices is headed by an Assistant FAO Representative for programme. Incumbents are now in place for Tonga, Fiji and the Solomon Islands and I understand a recruitment is underway for Vanuatu. We also support the recommendation that “SAP should consider locating one international staff in Fiji with a policy, coordination and resource mobilization role”.

The Director-General, cognizant of the lack of coverage for the northern Pacific, agreed to a proposal for FAO to consider the establishment of an Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) post in one of the Micronesian countries. The proposed post would provide desk support for the neighbouring Micronesian Islands.

In regards to the resources allocated to the SAP office, there has been a steady increase in the amount of funds through the Programme of Work and Budget as well as through the Technical Cooperation Programme resources.

However, despite the increase in resources channeled to SAP, recommendation 6 from the evaluation paper on decentralized offices is crucial to ensure effective servicing of countries under SAP.

Recommendation 6 in section D on page 16 of the review states: “The Evaluation strongly suggests that with the newly enhanced country coverage mechanisms and the clear need for more effective

servicing of the Members in the Sub-region, SAP should be institutionally allowed a higher level of autonomy and delegation of full authority in programming operations and administration, as well as in its access to directly draw from wider FAO knowledge and resource base, including HQ-based units”.

Currently, programming in FAO is very much driven and influenced from headquarters. I understand cases still arise whereby SAP as the focal point for the Pacific is not advised or consulted on projects or interventions that are for the Pacific. Furthermore, recent project guides and processes released from headquarters are very cumbersome and, at times, further delay project formulation and approval.

In other words, there is a great need for improvement in this area for the ideology of decentralization to be effective.

In the area of food security and nutrition, may I remind the Council to bear in mind the important challenge or invitation issued to FAO to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing Small Island Developing States. I appreciate the very active role currently played by the Director-General of FAO, and I urge all member countries of our Organization to give him our full support to fulfil this very important mandate and that is the Roadmap to implement the “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action or the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway”.

Finally, may I draw your attention to a sentence in the Executive Summary on page 2 “In terms of the impact of climate change, the Small Island Developing States and particularly those in the Pacific require special priority”.

Sra. Rebeca CUTIE CANCINO (Cuba)

Mi Delegación apoya la declaración realizada por el GRULAC y queremos hacer algunos comentarios adicionales.

En primer lugar agradecemos el informe presentando en el documento CL 153/14 Rev.1

En el fortalecimiento del proceso de descentralización la FAO debe tener presente la preservación de su mandato por lo que los cambios estructurales debiendo tener en cuenta las especificidades de cada país y región.

Los indicadores cuantitativos no son suficientes a la hora de tomar decisiones sobre la permanencia o no de una oficina de país. El monto del financiamiento a ejecutar por una oficina no es un indicador adecuado pues no depende ni de la voluntad ni de las acciones para la movilización de recursos que pueda realizar dicha oficina.

La utilización del ingreso per cápita y la clasificación de los países atendiendo a éste, así como otros indicadores de este tipo no son adecuados para definir el tipo de oficina que un país requiere. Los países de renta media necesitan del acompañamiento de la ayuda oficial al desarrollo, como consta en la resolución 67/226 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

La eficiencia de la Organización no debe medirse por la reducción de las oficinas en los países.

Las oficinas en el terreno deben contar con personal técnico capacitado que pueda asesorar a los gobiernos y a los productores para lograr el reto de eliminar el hambre lo antes posible. El equipo de la FAO en el terreno está llamado a promover las mejores prácticas, la transferencia tecnológica y los métodos más adecuados para incrementar el rendimiento de las cosechas y alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria.

Corresponde a la Secretaría de la FAO, en estrecha consulta con los Gobiernos, definir la estructura y el personal más adecuado para cada país, según las prioridades nacionales y los planes de desarrollo. Hay países que con un monto de recursos relativamente bajo pueden alcanzar la sostenibilidad de sus buenos resultados, fomentar la innovación y beneficiar a más personas.

Los impactos que tendrían las modificaciones propuestas requieren de un análisis cuidadoso y detallado en el ámbito regional y nacional por lo que las próximas Conferencias Regionales del 2016 son un ámbito adecuado para esto, igualmente el diálogo con cada Estado Miembro es imprescindible.

Es importante que la FAO nos guíe en el proceso de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo, en particular en la eliminación del hambre y la pobreza.

Hacemos un llamado a poner en práctica una política para la movilización de recursos, nos preocupa la tendencia a la disminución de la ayuda oficial al desarrollo para América Latina y el Caribe, según plantea este documento en la página 90, párrafo 12; actualmente la ayuda oficial al desarrollo es menos del 7 por ciento de la ayuda oficial global, cuando se requiere en América Latina y el Caribe.

Nuestro país apoya el fortalecimiento del proceso de descentralización y esperamos que sea un proceso inclusivo, participativo y marcado en el contexto regional, nacional y local. Cuba está en disposición de cooperar en este empeño.

Mme Clémentine ANANGA MESSINA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun a l'honneur de prendre la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la présentation de ce document qui s'appuie directement sur les cinq évaluations régionales indépendantes qui ont porté sur la décentralisation de la FAO. De même qu'il apprécie les commentaires de la Direction y relatifs.

Le Groupe Afrique a examiné rigoureusement le document ainsi que les propositions et les options de modification ou de changement proposées en vue de la rationalisation de la couverture des bureaux décentralisés. Ces propositions et options de la Direction tiennent compte de plusieurs éléments et critères comprenant entre autres, la nature et la localisation ainsi que le type de bureau décentralisé adapté à chaque contexte.

Par ailleurs, le Groupe Afrique a pris bonne note de l'examen de la question par la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et prend acte des conclusions de leurs délibérations telles que consignées dans le rapport CL 153/8.

Au regard du caractère hautement sensible de la question de rationalisation de la distribution géographique des bureaux décentralisés de la FAO, plusieurs fois discutée dans le passé au niveau des instances de gouvernance de la FAO sans conclusion, il nous a semblé judicieux de faire nôtre la proposition de la Réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, à savoir que « le Conseil transmette le document pour examen aux conférences régionales qui se tiendront en 2016, et se penche de nouveau sur la couverture géographique des bureaux décentralisés de la FAO à sa session de juin 2016 ». Nous ajoutons que le document devrait être transmis en son état actuel à la Conférence régionale africaine qui se tiendra en Côte d'Ivoire au début d'avril 2016. La Conférence régionale, qui comporte un segment ministériel, est suffisamment outillée pour connaître et discuter des questions de cette nature.

Nous encourageons néanmoins le Directeur général à poursuivre les efforts de décentralisation à la lumière des orientations données par les sessions de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique de 2012 et 2014, et des nouveaux enjeux mondiaux liés au Cadre stratégique de la FAO et aux Objectifs de développement durable.

Maintenant permettez-moi en tant que représentant de mon pays, le Cameroun, d'informer le Conseil de l'aboutissement heureux des négociations pour la création d'un bureau de liaison et de partenariat de la FAO au Cameroun. Pour ce faire, un accord de siège a été signé en septembre 2015 à Yaoundé. Le financement des programmes y afférents sera en partie assuré par un fonds fiduciaire unilatéral. Par ailleurs, j'ai l'honneur d'informer le Conseil que, dans la foulée, le Cameroun a également signé avec la FAO un accord de partenariat. La mise en œuvre de ces accords a commencé.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is making this intervention but before that, we wish to say that our statement complements that of Egypt made on behalf of the Near East Group. Paragraph 67 of the Conference Report calls for an Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network and Management Response.

The Joint Meeting treated document CL 153/14 Rev.1 simply as a Review of the Decentralized Offices Network. We support the position taken by the Joint Meeting.

No doubt decentralization is essential to bring FAO closer to the realities on the ground, but it has a price tag. Based on Annex 3 of the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, a sum of USD 291.4 million or 29 percent of the total net appropriations of USD 1 billion 5.6 million is allocated to decentralized offices. This excludes allocation to the six liaison and information offices.

From this amount, the share of 86 country offices is 43.9 percent and of the nine sub-regional offices, 17.6 percent. The remaining 38.5 percent is allocated to regional offices.

Whether the present strength of decentralized offices is fit for purpose is difficult to answer. However, evaluation after evaluation and particularly the completed final evaluation of regional and sub-regional offices has come to the same conclusion, which is that the FAO country offices are underfunded to be able to perform their mandates effectively and efficiently.

With these general comments, now we wish to respond to the three bullets mentioned on page three of the document. Bullet one, we appreciate the direct information presented on the current coverage of FAO's decentralized offices, paragraphs 18 to 22, and the characterization of country offices, paragraphs 23 to 32. However, we feel that information on the technical profile of staff funded from assessed budget in the regional, sub-regional and country offices and of extrabudgetary-funded Professional posts supporting the work of decentralized offices would have been a useful addition.

Bullet two, we agree with the four bullet points of paragraph 45 as drivers in considering options for any change. Missing from this list are two additional drivers. One is the scope of the country's national priorities and commitment and the other one is the strength of the national institution engaged in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security and nutrition. Mr Gustafson referred to these as qualitative indicators.

While recognizing that many factors must be considered in the choice of criteria including political consideration, we feel the overarching factor should be the country's level of development. This implies that low-income and lower middle-income countries should receive priority in the selection of country offices.

The next important factor should be the level of FAO delivery. From Annex 2, one notes that in 12 out of 38 developing countries classified as LIFDCs, LDCs, and NFIDCs, FAO's average annual delivery in 2013-14 exceeded USD 8 million. Ten countries were in Africa and two were in Asia.

We feel strongly that there should be some special measures introduced to strengthen FAO's collaboration with upper middle-income and high-income countries. And bullet three, the proposal on region by region as stated in paragraphs 55 to 86 are very specific and the Council cannot come to a decision without receiving guidance from other Governing Bodies. We therefore support the point that the Director-General obtain the views of the Regional Conferences before finalizing his proposal for any adjustment in the country coverage and only then seek the approval of the 154th Session of the Council.

From document CL 153/14 Rev.1, it becomes clear that the two regions in need of additional assistance are Africa and the Pacific Region. Both regions require additional resources to strengthen their decentralized offices. The sub-regional office in Ankara also needs strengthening to enable it to better service the countries of Central Asia.

Each coming Regional Conference should receive a document that is specific to the region but with a preamble that would explain the principles and the criteria in selecting country and sub-regional offices in the region and the expected outcome of the changes that may be introduced. The lack of resources for decentralized offices is a major concern and we hope that in his proposal, the Director-General will suggest venues for extrabudgetary resources, primarily aimed to strengthen the country and sub-regional offices in lower-income and middle-income countries.

In this connection, the evaluation of the Regional Offices for the Near East and Latin America and the Caribbean did recommend the use of extrabudgetary resources for strengthening decentralized offices. Our colleague from Cameroon just mentioned the partnership with FAO with her Government. For the Near East region, a trust was established and the Government of Iraq announced a contribution of USD 2 million to that trust fund.

Finally Chairperson, we note that CL 153/14 Rev.1 is for consideration and not for approval and definitely not for decision.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe joins other speakers in commending the work that has gone into the preparation of the document before us (CL 153/14 Rev.1). While the distinguished delegate of Cameroon has already spoken on behalf of the Africa Group, Zimbabwe is taking the floor to brief Council on the case highlighted in the document in which FAO was sued by a former employee in our national courts. I will also comment on the proposed criteria for the establishment of Regional and Subregional offices after which I will ask one or two legal and procedural questions, and I am happy that the Legal Counsel is present. Finally, I will hand over the floor to Ghana.

The case in which Zimbabwe is cited in the document involves one Michael Jenrich, a German national, who was fired by FAO in 2012. For reasons best known to himself, Jenrich did not exhaust the internal procedures which were available to him but decided to take FAO to the Labour Court in Zimbabwe. FAO was summoned to appear in court but refused, rightly believing that to do so would inadvertently place it under the jurisdiction of the Court. As a result, the Court returned a default judgement in favour of Jenrich and awarded him the compensation he had sought in the amount of USD 623,400. In line with its obligations under customary international law, the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, notified the Court of FAO's immunity from legal process in Zimbabwe. When Jenrich approached the High Court to register the Labour Court judgement, the Minister not only informed the Court of FAO's immunity but went further to litigate on behalf of FAO.

The Minister sought to have the immunity of FAO upheld by the court. However, using an earlier Supreme Court judgement in a similar case involving the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the High Court ruled that FAO had restrictive immunity and did not have immunity in cases of a labour nature. The Minister has since appealed to the Supreme Court asking it to overturn the High Court ruling and uphold FAO's immunity. The appeal was set for hearing in the Supreme Court on 13 November 2015 and a three member panel of judges had been appointed to hear the case. However, given the gravity of the matter, both parties agreed that the matter be heard by the full bench of the Supreme Court. The hearing was therefore postponed to a date still to be advised. To underscore its determination to ensure that FAO's absolute immunity is recognised and upheld, the Government has gone outside its own ranks and hired a private sector lawyer to represent it in the Supreme Court.

I want to assure the Council and the entire membership of FAO that the government of Zimbabwe is committed to ensuring that the immunity of FAO is respected and upheld in Zimbabwe. Accordingly, it has spared no efforts or expense in pursuit of this objective. I must also say that we have worked very well with the Secretariat on this case. We have kept them fully briefed at every stage. And we sought their advice when we were preparing the heads of argument for the Government's appeal in the Supreme Court. They gave us some very useful insights which we believe have strengthened our case. The information they gave us indicates that they have been sued in other countries and money taken from their accounts as happened in Zimbabwe. However, in all these cases, this was reversed following Government intervention as we are doing in the present case in Zimbabwe.

This is why we are surprised that the matter has been brought before Council in this context. We have been asking ourselves whether there is a procedure for FAO to brief the Membership when matters of this nature arise and whether this is the procedure. Did FAO follow the same procedure in all the cases where it was sued and money taken from its accounts? We are not asking for answers here. We will leave it to those responsible for bringing this matter before Council in this way to reflect on their actions and their motives for doing so.

I will now look at the criteria for adjusting coverage and will confine myself to the criteria outlined in the summary in Section V of the document. These include the presence of regional institutional partners, cities that bring people together, good airline connections, well defined subregions and of course, history.

I should like to say, at the outset, that as a country we do not agree with the notion of setting criteria for the location of UN offices. All UN Member Nations should have an equal opportunity to host a UN office if they so wish and have the resources. All they have to do is offer to host and sign a host country agreement or headquarters agreement. The adoption of criteria will negate this as it will divide members into two categories – those that can host UN offices because they have big airports and those that cannot host because they are too poor to build a big airport. I do not think this is the UN we want.

I will now look at the criteria individually.

(1) Cities that bring people together.

I am really at a loss as to the meaning of this. Is there an internationally agreed definition of what sort of city this might be? To the best of my knowledge no city brings people together. Take us for example, the people that are here: ministers and officials have travelled long distances to be here. But we are not here because Rome brought us. We are here because that is where the meeting is being held. If you say the next Council meeting will be held somewhere else we will go there. So it is never about the city, but the commitment we have to the Organization and the work it does.

(2) Good airline connectivity.

This might appear to be a good point. But who is the complainant here? It cannot be the Member Nations, because they go wherever a meeting is being held. In SADC and the AU, summits are held in a different country every year, except on those occasions when we have to meet at the headquarters in Addis Ababa in the case of AU Summits. At times we have to come to Europe to catch connecting flights to our African destinations, but we go. So if the complaint is not coming from the Member Nations, who is it coming from? The Secretariat? Consultants? May I say here that Regional and Subregional Offices were not set up for the convenience of UN staffers and consultants but to serve the Member Nations.

(3) Well-defined subregions

When I looked at this I had the vision of someone sitting in an office in Europe saying “I do not like what I see on the ground in Africa. This country should not be where it is and that one should move over there. I could not help thinking about the Berlin Conference of 1884-85 on the colonisation of Africa”. Of course, one can argue that this is not a political organization. I know that. But can anyone blame me for thinking like this? That is what happens when terms are not clearly defined. The consultants or independent experts or whoever wrote the document should have been more clear and defined their terms to avoid being misunderstood. And for people who claim to be paying a lot of attention to history, they should have been more sensitive. In any case, we are very happy with our regions in Africa; we see nothing wrong with them. And we would like our Regional and Subregional Offices to remain where they are. If one has to temper with them at all, it should be for purposes of strengthening them.

(4) History

One of the key reasons cited for wanting to move the Sub-regional Office in Harare is that it is there by default because of apartheid. The same apartheid argument is presented in relation to Lesotho. The insinuation being made here is that were it not for apartheid, FAO would never have looked at these other countries. I do not think this is the correct view to take towards Member Nations. Each member country should be respected no matter how small or poor it might be. In any case, the establishment of the Subregional Office in Harare had nothing to do with apartheid, as the Headquarters Agreement establishing the office was signed on 17 August 1995, one year after apartheid formally came to an end. I should also like to point out at this stage that when the Sub-regional Office was established it covered Southern and Eastern Africa. Legally it is still called the FAO Sub-regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa. Had the intention been to avoid apartheid, which, as I have already indicated, had formally ceased to exist by the time the Subregional Office was established, the Office would have been located as far away from Southern Africa as possible. A number of questions come to mind. Were the consultants or independent experts or whoever wrote the document not aware of this since the Headquarters Agreement is readily available here at FAO? Were the references to

apartheid innocent or they were meant to dramatise and sensationalise to strengthen the case for moving the office from Zimbabwe?

The same approach of distorting history is taken with respect to the Regional Office in Accra. We are told that it was put there because Ghana was the first African country to be independent. However, this is not true. I was looking at the list of countries that are eligible for original membership of FAO that is in Annex 1 to the Constitution. You will find the list on page 16 of the Basic Texts. Ghana is not on that list. The African countries that are listed there are Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia and the Republic of South Africa. So it is not true that the Regional Office was located in Accra merely because Ghana was the first African country to be independent as there were other options. The Regional Office went to Accra because Ghana offered to host it. To say otherwise is to trivialise the generosity and hospitality of the Government and people of Ghana.

(5) Presence of Headquarters of Subregional bodies or Subregional offices of partner agencies.

The offices referred to are where they are today because those countries offered these organizations a home at a time when no one else was able to do so because of the initial costs associated with hosting the regional or subregional offices of intergovernmental organizations. In our case, for example we were asked to provide a building, parking and so on, and all these things have a cost. Now we are being asked to anoint these countries as the natural and preferred locations for UN offices. Yes, it is true that the early bird catches the fat worm. But should they do so in perpetuity even when other countries are now also able to wake up early and catch that coveted fat worm? I think the UN should spread its presence to as many countries as possible to give it global visibility. It is after all our UN. Grouping UN offices in a few countries will not achieve that objective. In the case of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, the proposal is to move it so that it is closer to the NEPAD office in Midrand. This does not make sense since NEPAD is a continental programme with its headquarters in Addis Ababa. The NEPAD office in Midrand has absolutely nothing to do with our programmes in the SADC region. Relocating the Subregional Office to bring it closer to the NEPAD office in Midrand will therefore not add any value to the work of the office.

I have noticed that there is a revision to the document published a few days ago proposing to move the office to Gaborone in Botswana so that it is closer to the SADC Secretariat. Of course this reflects a mindset that says “we do not want it to be in Zimbabwe, it has to move at all cost”.

You may have noticed that I have repeatedly made reference to ‘independent experts, consultants or whoever wrote the document’ in relation to the document before us. This is because I do not know who wrote the document. The 39th Session of the Conference was very clear, a fact acknowledged by the authors of the document under discussion in paragraph 7. To recap, the Conference requested that an independent review be undertaken and its findings be submitted, along with views of Management. Conference, which was attended by a number of heads of state and ministers, adopted this resolution after deliberating on the synthesis evaluations of FAO regional and subregional offices, the same content that we have been told was used to generate the document that we are looking at.

Two points come to mind: (a) Conference wanted a review. This was a new mandate that Conference gave. Since Conference had looked at the synthesis of earlier evaluations it is inconceivable that Conference was looking for a rehash of the same material validated by the team leaders of previous reviews, as happened in this case; (b) the evaluation had to be independent, with Management's role restricted to giving its views on the independent review.

I therefore have a number of questions. First, who wrote the document? Was it written by a panel of experts or consultants? And who are they? Why are they not here to present their report, as I have seen happening in other meetings here in FAO, where an independent panel of experts prepare a document and they come here to present it?

Second, if the document was written by someone other than a panel of experts or consultants, on what basis was this done? Would the work still qualify to be called an independent review? And would it not be misleading to call such an exercise an independent review?

Third, if, as I suspect, the report was not written by a panel of experts or consultants, then it is not consistent with the mandate from Conference. I have looked at the roles of Conference, Council and

the Director-General, and have not seen anything giving Management or Council itself the mandate to vary or overturn a Conference decision. While Council and its Committees can suspend their own rules of procedure, there is no provision whatsoever in the Basic Texts for Council and Management to alter Conference resolutions. In light of the above, should we be discussing this paper at all since it is clearly not the Independent Review that Conference asked for? I think not. We therefore do not support the recommendations to: (a) Agree to the principles and criteria proposed for adjusting coverage; (b) Encourage the Director-General to make adjustments on a region-specific basis in consultation with Regional Conferences.

There is simply nothing for the Director-General to work with here.

I will ask more legal questions after hearing the responses of the Legal Counsel on the questions I have already asked.

Mr Chairperson, may I ask you to give the floor to Ghana?

Mr Nii QUAYE KUMAH (Observer for Ghana)

Thank you for the efficient manner in which you have conducted the session so far. Our appreciation goes to Deputy Director-General Operations also for the presentation. And very warm thanks to the Ambassador of Zimbabwe for eloquently outlining the key issues. That leaves me with very little to say.

Ghana Delegation supports Zimbabwe on the issues that have been raised, especially in relation to the decentralized offices. For lack of time, we will just touch on two issues. We have listened carefully to most of the interventions that have come up so far and what has been said over and over again is for the FAO to look at the possibility of strengthening what exists. I think that is very important. There is so much that is happening and there are so many changes now. What we need is to strengthen the structures that we have but not weaken them. So I think that is one of the first issues put out there. The other one is in relation to the criteria for core location. We are just wondering because in a digital age that argument of core location is not a very strong one because we are all just a phone call or another communication platform away. Meetings are held using various communication platforms and they have served us all well and we know that.

In conclusion, we believe that the important issues that have been raised by the Ambassador of Zimbabwe need to be reflected on very carefully as we proceed with this.

M. Bah KONIPA (Mali)

Permettez-moi, s'il vous plaît, de passer la parole à la République soeur de la Côte d'Ivoire.

M. Coulibay Siaka MINAYAHA (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire)

Je prends la parole au nom de la Côte d'Ivoire et soutiens pleinement la déclaration du Cameroun faite au nom du Groupe Afrique sur ce point de l'ordre du jour concernant l'Examen indépendant du réseau des bureaux décentralisés.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la proposition de la FAO de renforcer les bureaux régionaux, sous-régionaux, de liaison, de partenariats et les bureaux de pays.

Le document CL 153/14 Rev.1, proposé par le Conseil, concernant l'Examen indépendant du réseau des bureaux décentralisés, est une bonne démarche puisqu'elle permet de rapprocher les experts de l'Organisation des États Membres.

La Côte d'Ivoire se réjouit de la proposition du Secrétariat au paragraphe 81, alinéa 2 du document CL 153/14 Rev.1, qui recommande d'établir les locaux du Bureau sous-régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest à Abidjan auprès des partenaires du développement comme la Banque africaine de développement, Africa Rice et d'autres organisations internationales revenues dans notre pays après la période de longue crise que le pays a connue.

La Côte d'Ivoire se félicite de cette proposition et appuie le Groupe Afrique qui a pris acte des conclusions de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sur la question des bureaux décentralisés.

Je voudrais au nom du Gouvernement féliciter et encourager le Directeur général pour ses actions en matière de décentralisation.

En effet, le document de base CL 153/14 Rev.1, nous permet de constater que notre continent a un besoin croissant d'expertise de la FAO. Ce besoin doit se concrétiser à travers la présence d'experts dans nos pays en vue d'intensifier les différents programmes pour le développement des filières liées à l'atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition.

La réorganisation des bureaux de pays, sous-régionaux et régionaux est pertinente. Elle permettra de combler les insuffisances que nous constatons au niveau de l'assistance technique de l'Organisation. Nous savons que le continent héberge un nombre élevé de Représentations de la FAO, il est souhaitable que cela soit accompagné par la présence réelle des experts dont nous avons besoin.

La Côte d'Ivoire vous invite à prendre part à la 29^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui aura lieu du 4 au 8 avril 2016 à Abidjan.

Cette Conférence sera l'occasion pour les Ministres de débattre et d'approfondir cette question en vue d'harmoniser les positions de l'Afrique.

Enfin, la Côte d'Ivoire prend acte de la proposition de la FAO qui consiste à rapprocher ses experts auprès de nos États pour plus d'efficacité d'action.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos la preparación de este examen sobre la Red de las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

Ante todo nos sumamos a la declaración realizada por Nicaragua en representación del GRULAC y queremos realizar los siguientes comentarios. Las discusiones en el Consejo sobre este examen las consideramos como solo el primer paso en el proceso de revisión de las propuestas para la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas, ya que las mismas están siendo analizadas todavía en las capitales y, sobre todo, porque son las Conferencias Regionales los foros pertinentes para analizar políticamente y pronunciarse sobre las propuestas respecto a cada región.

Los criterios generales que se presentan en este documento no deberían ser de aplicación rígida sino que deberán tener cierta flexibilidad a fin de poder ponderarse esos criterios con las realidades y características propias de cada región y situación, a fin de garantizar un trabajo eficaz y relevante para las regiones y los países. En ese sentido, no se puede dejar de tomar en cuenta que si bien los países de ingresos medianos han experimentado un crecimiento económico y se han logrado avances en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo, aún enfrentan grandes retos respecto a la pobreza en sus múltiples dimensiones y tienen necesidades específicas de desarrollo, en las que la cooperación internacional y la labor de la FAO juegan un papel muy importante y necesario. En ese sentido no nos parece adecuado el solo uso de los parámetros del Banco Mundial para la clasificación de los países, ya que no toma en cuenta las múltiples dimensiones del concepto integral de desarrollo, ni la heterogeneidad social y territorial que caracteriza a este grupo de países.

Otros criterios que se presentan como referido a los países que "más contribuyen" a los resultados de la FAO o de que se tomen en cuenta la existencia de programas de envergadura, son criterios relativos, ya que puede haber países con programas menos grandes pero con un fuerte impacto y resultados importantes a nivel nacional; o puede haber países que sin ser de bajos ingresos ni tampoco tener déficit de alimentos pero que tienen necesidades muy grandes de apoyo en temas como los forestales, pesqueros, etc., más aun teniendo en cuenta que la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible establece desafíos para los países en los diferentes ámbitos del desarrollo.

Es decir, los criterios generales planteados podrían ser útiles siempre y cuando no sean rígidos, sino que se apliquen caso por caso. En este contexto, queremos resaltar que los marcos de programación por países son instrumentos valiosos que deberán tomarse en cuenta, ya que ayudarán a entender y determinar esas características y necesidades.

Los cambios que se realicen deberán ser objeto de seguimiento periódico en estos criterios más aún en los casos donde se pase a acreditación múltiple donde estos cambios deberían ir acompañados de medidas que refuercen la capacidad de esas oficinas y que concedan mayor autonomía en la gestión, a

fin de garantizar una rápida respuesta a las necesidades y requerimientos de los países bajo la jurisdicción de la representación con acreditación múltiple.

Finalmente, concluimos reiterando el rol que tienen las Conferencias Regionales al momento de pronunciarse sobre estas propuestas y recordando que la consolidación de la descentralización es un tema que lo consideramos fundamental para garantizar la eficacia de la labor de la FAO y para alcanzar sus objetivos.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

México apoya lo expresado por Nicaragua a nombre del GRULAC bajo este tema y nos permitimos agregar algunas consideraciones.

El establecimiento de una Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas de la FAO en el exterior debe ser sostenible y del tamaño adecuado, que pueda aportar un claro valor añadido, eficiencia y eficacia en la ejecución de los programas de una manera coordinada y complementaria con la sede de la Organización.

La capacidad de mantener la sostenibilidad financiera y presupuestaria de la Red de Oficinas dependerá de si dicha red contribuye a la consecución de los resultados programáticos, la eficacia de su funcionamiento en relación con los costos y la situación financiera imperante en la Organización, por lo que la Secretaría de la FAO deberá mantener informados a los Estados miembros al respecto.

Por otra parte, creemos que todas las oficinas deberán formar parte integral de un marco de gestión por resultados y del marco reglamentario de la FAO, por lo que su funcionamiento como sus actividades deberán monitorearse, supervisarse y evaluarse a partir de indicadores de rendimiento y objetivos establecidos.

Apreciamos el hecho de que el documento que estamos analizando contiene propuestas detalladas para las regiones, incluyendo la de América Latina y el Caribe, mismas que ameritan un debate informado. Éstas deberían discutirse en las Conferencias Regionales durante el primer semestre del año próximo y ser retomadas por la Conferencia en su período de junio próximo.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would also like to thank Mr Gustafson for the introduction to this document. We have taken note of the findings of the Independent Evaluation of the FAO's decentralized units and that works especially with respect to our region, the Europe region. We can agree with a whole array of these findings. I would like to single out two points.

Firstly, we agree with the conclusion to the fact that, as of today, the optimal place for locating the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is Budapest. In this regard we are grateful to Hungary for supporting the region-wide office as well as the hospitality that it has repeatedly extended to our delegates.

The second point which we would like to highlight is the fact that we support the proposal to strengthen the FAO Moscow office in light of the functions in the fields of competence of FAO, especially with the Eurasian Economic Commission.

In conclusion, we agree with the proposal to transfer the consideration of this issue to the Regional Conference taking place in 2016.

Ms Ágnes DÜS (Hungary)

May I kindly ask that you pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country, Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We follow the Management's efforts in consolidating FAO's decentralization process, as part of the larger reforms of the Organization, with great interest and attention. We note with appreciation the review of the Decentralized Offices Network, and we will support efforts of the Management team to

update the historic legacy of the network of decentralized offices in order to meet shifting global needs. In particular, overall, we are satisfied with the good results concerning the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. We appreciate that the Liaison Office in Brussels is scheduled to play a more active role. Nevertheless, reference to the European Union is missing in Annex 10, about location of institutions in selected cities. As regards country offices, we recall the conclusions of the 2014 European Regional Conference, especially the focus on agreed priority countries. We would like more information on the new office in Moscow.

The EU and its Member States welcome the proposed principles and criteria contained in the document. We agree with reviewing the Decentralized Offices Network through a tailored approach and on a regular basis, including through a 'One UN' lens.

We encourage the Director-General to streamline and bring up to date FAO's office coverage, focusing on where FAO can deliver maximum impact in the most effective way, taking into account emerging situations, by making adjustments on a region-specific basis, building on feedback and consultation with the Governing Bodies, particularly the Regional Conferences.

We support the proposal of the Secretariat on the decentralization process and we underline that it should be budget-neutral. At the same time, this decentralization process should by no means undermine the technical capacity at FAO headquarters.

Furthermore, we think that time has come to develop and adopt a strategy and rules on the funding of decentralized offices. We therefore ask the Secretariat to develop respective proposals to be submitted to the Finance Committee at its next session.

We re-emphasize our support to Management's efforts in delivering the Programme of Work and Strategic Framework results in the most effective and cost-efficient manner.

Finally, we look forward to the review by the 2016 Regional Conferences and for re-examination at the 154th Session of the FAO Council in 2016, as well as for the analysis of skills gaps at headquarters and in decentralized locations.

Ms Azulita SALIM (Malaysia)

Malaysia is delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The 39th Session of the FAO Conference requested that an independent review be undertaken and its findings be submitted, along with views of Management, to this 153rd Session of the FAO Council, through the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee. We welcome this document in response to the request of the Conference and note that though the review process was not entirely independent in the 'classical' sense as is normally understood, it was based on the five individual evaluations of FAO's regional and sub regional offices and upon independent validation of the document carried out in each region. It thus satisfies our membership with its independent and unbiased consideration of the issue.

We acknowledge that the regional and sub-regional offices should be located where regional institution partners reside, and in cities that bring people together on relevant topic to that region. If FAO offices are located in the same cities as other relevant agencies, it will be much easier to collaborate and work in tandem. However, cost-effectiveness should be taken into consideration. We must take note that establishing an office is not an easy task, more so in ensuring the efficiency and the effectiveness of having it. The challenge is to bring together shared knowledge and experiences, policies, institutions and resources to collaborate in producing impact and outcome in a holistic manner at the country, regional and global levels.

We acknowledge the importance for FAO to integrate its levels of action to become closer to member countries. Country presence is critical for FAO to maintain and strengthen its dialogue and communication with Members. The Asia Group supports the idea that low-income and lower middle-income economies are higher priorities for country offices. The main purpose of the reform is to enhance the impact of FAO's work through results frame-work over shared outputs and outcomes. Therefore we are of the opinion that it is important to recall that having a Country Programme Framework (CPF) at country level is pertinent and the follow-through analysis must be established and

revealed as an indicator to measure the achievement of the reforms. We would welcome a detailed, precise and structured assessment, as it is essential for the Members to form an opinion on the overall reform and most importantly for programme sustainability and way forward.

Adding to the points mentioned above, our opinions are also in line with the Joint Meeting recommendations as follows:

First, encouraged the Secretariat to continue consolidation of decentralization efforts, and enhancing capacity and internal control at decentralized locations, while maintaining the technical capacity at headquarters to achieve the programme of work; and

Second, looked forward to the outcome of analysis of skills gaps at headquarters and in decentralized locations for enhanced programme delivery.

Finally, we look forward to the results from the discussion on the *“Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network”* paper during the Regional FAO Conference which then be presented in June 2016 at the Council meeting.

Mr Sackchai SRIBOONSUE (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the Asia Group. We fully support the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of the Group. We would like to make a short intervention.

We very much welcome the analysis and options for FAO’s decentralized office coverage, with the view to enhance the Organization’s performance in delivering results. We agree in principle the general criteria for regional offices and sub-regional offices. As a host country of the FAO Regional offices for Asia and Pacific Region, we are happy to know that Bangkok has enabling factors to host the Regional Office.

We recognize different characterization of countries and FAO country offices. Therefore, there is no one size fits all. However, we agree with general recommendation that Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries are the priority for country presence and Regular Programme support. We would like to emphasize the role of regional conferences in discussing the matter.

Thailand welcomes the new Assistant Director-General for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan. We look forward to work closely with her.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La delegación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela se suma a la intervención realizada por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, GRULAC. Agradecemos la presentación del documento CL153/14 Rev.1 sobre el Examen Independiente de las Oficinas Descentralizadas. Si bien el documento presenta un análisis exhaustivo sobre las características de las oficinas en los países, el mismo ha sido orientado por un aspecto cuantitativo en los recursos disponibles, sin tomar en cuenta otras variables. Los criterios e indicadores presentados en el examen tienen un análisis limitado, aun cuando sea urgente la necesidad de reflexionar respecto a los cambios necesarios en la cobertura de las oficinas descentralizadas de la FAO a nivel mundial. El documento no incluye un análisis profundo en relación al cambio o la incorporación de nuevos elementos que influyen directamente en la disponibilidad de recursos de las oficinas.

Apreciamos el criterio expresado por el equipo de evaluación, que señala que un solo indicador no basta para fundamentar decisiones, y que no es posible crear una fórmula sencilla que se aplique para evaluar el rendimiento de las oficinas descentralizadas en todos los casos. Nos parece que este planteamiento de los evaluadores es una aproximación al reconocimiento en las particularidades del trabajo de la FAO en los diferentes contextos nacionales y regionales. Compartimos la idea de las opciones futuras de cambio de la cobertura en las oficinas descentralizadas de la FAO. Deben ser medidas destinadas a mejorar la capacidad de la Organización para ejecutar su Programa de trabajo y lograr los resultados previstos en el Marco Estratégico en la forma más eficiente posible.

Respecto a la visión de la evaluación sobre el trabajo de las oficinas de la FAO en países de mediano y alto ingreso, nos parece que el enfoque utilizado es parcial, ya que utiliza como único parámetro la clasificación de las economías del Banco Mundial. Los Jefes de Estado de las Comunidades de

Estados de la América Latina y el Caribe, CELAC, en la declaración de Belén, Costa Rica, suscrito en enero 2015, han destacado que los criterios actuales sobre la renta media, basados únicamente en el ingreso per cápita, no reflejan las realidades complejas y diversificadas de cada país. Por lo que han pedido una revisión de metodologías para medir el progreso en términos de desarrollo, como medición de pobreza multi-dimensional por necesidades básicas insatisfechas, el enfoque de brechas estructurales, o la evaluación del índice de desarrollo humano, metodologías complementarias entre sí.

En el caso de la Oficina de Representación de la FAO en Venezuela, a partir del año 2013, con la llegada del nuevo Representante, se ha revertido la tendencia indicada en el informe, ya que se han entablado nuevas estrategias y alianzas entre la FAO y el Gobierno Bolivariano que ha aportado importantes recursos al país para beneficio de los proyectos nacionales y de los países de América Latina y África, a través de la Cooperación Sur-Sur, implementando iniciativas como el programa Hugo Chávez para la Erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, concebido para los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Este examen deja fuera perspectivas que dan cuenta de cómo el trabajo de algunas Representaciones, en el caso de Venezuela, contribuyen en gran medida a cumplir con los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO, yendo más allá del indicador de ejecución presupuestaria nacional. Por tanto, respaldamos plenamente las conclusiones de la Reunión Conjunta, cuando subrayó la necesidad de aplicar un enfoque específico según cada caso, al examinar las conclusiones y recomendaciones formuladas en el documento. Igualmente apoyamos que el Consejo transmita este documento para análisis en las próximas Conferencias Regionales con miras a examinar la cobertura de las oficinas descentralizadas de la FAO en junio 2016, y además mantener una relación estrecha con los Gobiernos nacionales, de tal manera que podamos alcanzar conclusiones que permitan proporcionar asesoramiento y consejo en este tema desde la perspectiva nacional y regional.

Ms Natalie BROWN (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat for the *Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network* which we regard as an important beginning to what we expect will be an inclusive and transparent process.

We agree with the concept of the latest review and also agree on the need to control overall costs by seeking efficiencies where possible and improving the effectiveness of the Decentralized Offices Network while at the same time delivering results in the field. We look forward to working with the Secretariat on this important process.

Sr. Crisantos Obama ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

También voy a proponer ser breve, intentando primero agradecer al Señor Gustafson por su presentación importante, ya lo hizo también en el Comité de Finanzas y fue muy interesante. Yo creo que efectivamente quiero aprovechar el tiempo para agradecer la Dirección por los esfuerzos de aumentar la eficacia de la Organización, a través de estos movimientos.

Pero quiero manifestar mi preocupación, ya lo dije antes. Habría que tener cuidado a ciertos movimientos, habría que tener en cuenta como lo han dicho muchos países de América Latina y el Caribe, la necesidad de específica de cada región.

Efectivamente, me he dado cuenta de que a nivel de África, las declaraciones no son del todo o no van del todo por la misma línea. Por lo tanto, a nivel de criterios, ya lo manifestamos en su momento, habrá que efectivamente tener en cuenta, la FAO debería tener en cuenta, primero, su objetivo - ¿Cuál es el objetivo realmente de la FAO? - y trabajar sobre base de su objetivo.

Hemos verificado en los últimos años que efectivamente la renta per cápita no es un factor, no es una variable que realmente refleja la realidad de las sociedades. Mi País, por ejemplo, se coloca aquí como un país de ingresos altos, pero el país sigue padeciendo de déficit alimentario. Por lo tanto, no podría ser un factor, una cualidad, una variable que pueda explicar efectivamente la orientación de la FAO.

Y la FAO efectivamente debería preocuparse para que su trabajo pueda lograr superar los problemas del hambre y malnutrición de los países. Por lo tanto, estamos pidiendo reforzamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas, reforzándolas en personal y en recursos para que efectivamente se tenga en cuenta, se tenga la realidad de los terrenos, y no dedicarse simplemente a manejar los índices publicados o las

variables publicadas por el Banco Mundial, porque efectivamente no reflejan la realidad de los terrenos. Como decía, mi País, por ejemplo, lleva 20 años teniendo petróleo como el recurso que aporta el 12 por ciento de su PIB. Y efectivamente ese PIB no repercute directamente en el desarrollo de la agricultura, y queremos solicitarle a la FAO para que refuerce su oficina en el país, para que apoye al Gobierno, para que adopte el mecanismo suficiente para que se pueda combatir al hambre.

Por lo tanto aquí, con los índices del Banco Mundial, habrá que tener cuidado en la FAO, habrá que trabajar con sus propios índices para tocar los problemas de los países de manera clara, con lo que todos los países lo han dicho aquí con palabras más exactas. Apoyamos la declaración hecha por Camerún, en nombre del Grupo de África, y sobre todo reconociendo que ese tema pueda ser tratado en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África, para que efectivamente, teniendo en cuenta las peculiaridades, sobre todo las sensibilidades políticas que conlleva este tema, para analizarlo y traer, en el próximo Consejo, una visión mucho más clara.

Permíteme terminar brevemente sobre el tema del día, tema que ya concluimos antes, pero, Guinea Ecuatorial quiere expresar un poco su punto de vista reconociendo la necesidad de respetar las facultades, las prerrogativas que definen la Constitución y los Reglamentos de la FAO con respecto a la facultad del Director General con respecto a la delegación de poderes.

Ms Jiani TIAN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I thank the Secretariat for the provision of this document. We completely agree with the data provided in the document and the basis. The FAO should further strengthen the development of decentralized offices. We thank Malaysia for its statement on behalf of the Asia Group. We completely agree.

With regard to national offices, we would like to express our following views. We should not just judge according to the deliberate and the caseload indicators to show the effectiveness of the offices. We have to take into every consideration of the status, for instance if it is policy advice to other countries, technical support and exchanges, and their significance and also the new development areas like the role in promoting South-South Cooperation. These facts should be taken into consideration. Decentralized offices deal with comprehensive engineering projects. We have to have planning and it should be in alignment with the Organization's setup and there should be a clear delineation of the terms of reference of the headquarters, regional and national offices with regard to the adjustment of the criteria for terms of reference.

We believe that consideration should be given to the countries that have made most contribution to the results of the FAO. They should be a priority and they also have a ripple effect on FAO and other countries.

With regard to the adjustment programme, we should follow the principle of respecting each national interest, including the improvement of the Strategic Framework of FAO, the realization of Sustainable Development Goals, and South-South Cooperation and its increased role in promoting technical cooperation.

We support the strengthening of the ability of the decentralized offices and regional offices and the capacity building of its staff and the localization of the staff. We also hope that the Organization can increase its advocacy and display its exemplarity in this regard.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer la presentación de este documento y nos sumamos a la declaración realizada por Nicaragua en nombre de GRULAC.

Este documento se refiere a un proceso que debe ser seguido por los inputs que nos darán las Conferencias Regionales durante todo el año 2016. Una vez que estas Conferencias Regionales se pronuncian, este tema volverá a ser abordado por esta sede. Como señalamos, consideramos que la Descentralización es un proceso por el cual se acercará la sede central al terreno, se acercarán los contenidos a los usuarios, se creará una nueva sinergia entre esta sede central y las oficinas descentralizadas.

La Argentina reitera que considera muy importante el análisis y la profundización sobre las características de cada tipo de oficinas, así como de los diferentes vínculos jurídicos existentes entre esas oficinas, los países que las hospedan y la sede central de la FAO. Al respecto, consideramos fundamental que se brinde ulteriores informaciones como ya lo mencionáramos sobre los nuevos modelos jurídicos que está analizando la FAO, como el de oficinas de enlace y partenariado.

Mr Jòn Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We take note of the document *Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network* and the principles and criteria note contained therein. Many of the options proposed in the recommendations of the regional independent reviews are straightforward and within the responsibility of the Management to implement.

We encourage the Management to implement them without delay and not wait for those adjustments that need necessary feedback and further consultations through the Governing Bodies. We agree with the recommendations made by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee to transmit the document for review to the 2016 regional conferences and thereafter re-examine the issue in the next meeting of the Council.

Having said that, we would like to give the following comment.

We can only go along with these adjustments if, at the same time, Management does not lose sight of maintaining the technical capacity at headquarters. It must be recognized that not all technical staff at headquarters and decentralized offices perform similar functions.

Having headquarters in Rome, with two other UN agencies, while Members increasingly demanding FAO to be a global leader in its core mandate, and not the least with all the new demands from Agenda 2030, it is hard to see that the skills combination requirements should be the same.

While we welcome the decentralization process, it is important to ensure that special attention should be given to the central analytical and normative work that needs to take place in FAO headquarters.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

L'Algérie, en sa qualité de Président du Groupe Afrique, souhaite porter à l'attention de cette noble Assemblée que, contrairement à ce que certains semblent avoir noté à travers les multiples interventions du Groupe Afrique, il n'y a pas de dissonance dans la position du Groupe sur cette question, qui ressort parfaitement dans la déclaration faite par le Cameroun.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia can fully align itself with the statement made by the Nordic countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any other delegate wanting to take the floor. I can say now that the Council has considered document CL 153/14 Rev.1 which is written in the report and CL 153/8 which was taken up by the Joint Meeting.

Mr Gustafson will introduce the report. But before I give him the floor to respond on the issues raised by the Members, may I also ask Ambassador Tomasi to speak on this item, in particular on the deliberations made by the Joint Meeting.

Besides, Ambassador Tomasi, you may wish to reflect on some issues which have been raised.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Je vais vous présenter, effectivement, les conclusions de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, qui sont inscrites dans le document CL 153/8, au paragraphe 5, et qui, en effet, répondent à certaines des questions qui ont été soulevées pendant cette réunion.

Pour résumer ces conclusions: en premier lieu, la Réunion conjointe a recommandé au Conseil de considérer que ce document que nous étudions, le document CL 153/14 Rev.1, répondait à la demande de la Conférence de mise en œuvre d'une revue indépendante du réseau des bureaux décentralisés.

La deuxième conclusion, c'est que les participants ont salué le document en notant qu'il présentait une analyse exhaustive de ce réseau, fondée sur des données objectives et pertinentes. Des données qui concernent les bureaux mêmes (les effectifs, le volume et la nature des activités) ou les pays, avec des informations touchant certes aux revenus par habitant, mais aussi à leur situation en matière de taux de malnutrition, de déficit alimentaire ou de volume d'aide publique reçue pour le développement.

Troisièmement, dans le fond, les participants à la Réunion conjointe ont aussi reconnu la nécessité d'adapter la couverture des bureaux décentralisés, hérités de l'histoire, aux réalités du monde contemporain et aux nouveaux défis, dans le souci de renforcer la capacité de l'Organisation de délivrer ces objectifs stratégiques. Ils ont cependant souligné l'importance de la proposition du Secrétariat, rappelée par M. Dan Gustafson, visant à conduire cette réforme sans coût budgétaire additionnel.

Quatrièmement, s'agissant des critères et des principes proposés dans le document, les participants ont accueilli favorablement ces principes et ces critères, tout en soulignant la nécessité d'une certaine flexibilité dans leur application pour prendre en compte les spécificités propres à chaque situation. S'agissant particulièrement des Bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux. Les participants ont exprimé leur soutien aux critères proposés dans le rapport et ont insisté sur la nécessité de les prendre en compte dans la suite des travaux.

Cinquièmement, en conclusion sur ce point, les participants ont recommandé au Conseil de soutenir la proposition du Secrétariat de transmettre ce document pour consultation des Conférences régionales, programmées sur le premier semestre 2016, et ont invité le Conseil à se pencher de nouveau sur cette question pour prendre les décisions nécessaires lors de sa session de juin 2016.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Just a couple of general comments and some specific ones.

Firstly, remember that what we have been asked to do is to, if agreed to move forward, discuss a set of criteria to guide the process. So - it is all important I am sure, but a key aspect of this issue in the paper is the highlighting on the criteria.

Secondly, I think, main point that I should have stressed in the presentation, Section 6 is an option for change, the considerations of the options for change.

Certainly there is always an option to not change. I think all of us recognize that it is a huge advantage to presently host a UN agency.

It is an advantage for Rome, it is an advantage for New York, as it is for Santiago or Harare in that sense. So let us say the legacy of having that office is a big consideration. There is no question.

In addition, I am sure that not only the options for change will be discussed, but also the possibilities in some cases not to change, particularly with regard to the subregional and regional offices will undoubtedly be in the discussion in the Regional Conferences.

Most specifically on the Moscow Office since that is probably the easiest one. It is a liaison office with the same function as the others, particularly Japan and Washington. Geneva and New York offices are somewhat different because of the UN liaison function, but it is a liaison to the Russian Federation along with the same terms of reference as Washington and Japan.

Then finally, let me just say one other thing. As many of you have pointed out, we surely have to look at this as a much bigger picture. This coverage aspect is only one piece.

The decentralization, the balance between headquarters and offices outside of Rome where the nature of the technical work at headquarters, nature of the technical work in the regions, the level of staffing, the level of funding, the funding for the different types of Offices, as Argentina mentioned, for

different arrangements with a partnership at Liaison Offices as others of you have mentioned: all of that needs to be considered within this bigger picture.

With regard to Zimbabwe's comments: first, very clearly and definitely, the Government of Zimbabwe has been enormously helpful in resolving this issue.

We look forward to a resolution and certainly hope that it will be resolved. I think Zimbabwe also raised a number of very good points and other ways of presenting the criteria. For example, as he mentioned that there could be a way to emphasize the spread of UN offices in countries where there are no other offices. That certainly would be a help to the countries where they are located, particularly with regard to the presence of more technical staff.

It is undubitably another way of looking at it. Or as regards to countries that have offered or would offer the future conditions for us to be located there, which is one of the issues.

In fact, the other country situation that was raised in Gabon where we hope we have also resolved, or are in the process of resolving that issue. Yet, the offer that had been made when we opened the office in terms of space allocation appeared to and still may change given the agreement that is UN-wide that would reduce drastically our office space. So, most assuredly, what countries offer is a main consideration as well. What we have in the paper in terms of the criteria are the ones that we think certainly could be used given the importance of the presence of partners, of the regional and sub-regional offices. That aspect is quite a high priority for us, as well as the other matters that we have mentioned.

Likewise, just to reiterate the value or the specific indicators can never be used in a mechanistic way, including income level or size of the programme and so on.

In a number of cases, we may want to invest in countries with a small programme rather than otherwise if it looks like those are countries where the need is greatest.

However, we hope and we are sure that the discussion like we have had here today will carry on in the regional conferences much along the same lines. Then, we hope that after that we will be able to distil that and come up with something that may look like this, or it may not look like this by the time we meet again after the regional conferences.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I wish to briefly take the floor after the statement made by Ambassador Magwenzi of Zimbabwe. I have been enough years in FAO to know that this topic is extremely sensitive. In fact, yesterday, I was discussing with a Representative who happens to be here, but I will not tell you who this representative is. So we have been talking about how long we have been both now in FAO, so I am aware that this topic is a very sensitive one and one which raised discussions in the past. I certainly do not wish to overstate this issue.

The facts of the case were presented by Ambassador Magwenzi. They involved a situation of non-renewal of the appointment of a staff member. And this staff member, instead of resorting to internal means of settlement of disputes, filed a complaint before local courts. Let me also state at the outset that the Government of Zimbabwe is now intervening actively in support of the position of FAO.

As it was explained, there is an appeal before the Supreme Court, which was instituted by the Attorney-General at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we have been cooperating with the Government, either through our Sub-Regional Office, or through the Permanent Representation to FAO.

Still at this point, since the matter was presented to the Council, I wish to stress a few points.

The first point is that Zimbabwe, as a number of other countries, is bound by several international instruments, including the agreement related to the Sub-Regional Office, that provide that FAO enjoys immunity from every form of jurisdiction. Furthermore, all these agreements provide for absolute immunity from any measure of execution. A government cannot invoke its legal system and, in particular, the independence of the judiciary power as justification not to comply with its international obligations.

Secondly, since the beginning of this claim, and it goes back to 2012, FAO has submitted a very large number of communications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs drawing its attention to the immunity of the Organization and asking it to assert the immunity of the Organization before courts. The number of such communication is very important. Indeed, it is impressive. These official communications were supplemented by other interventions, such as extensive contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with various officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The third point is that, despite this, a very substantial amount of funds in the bank account of the Organization were garnished, were attached. These funds are in the bank account of a lawyer, of the lawyer of the claimant, and are no longer in the bank account of FAO. An overall sum of USD 654,000 was seized. These are funds which belong to the Organization and to its Members and this is something that FAO has difficulties to accept.

Let me say that this is unprecedented in the case of FAO. We have had limited situations where governments intervened, where governments reimbursed the Organization, where governments prevented matters from reaching a stage of this nature, but we have never had this situation of seizure of such a large amount of money. Then if, of course, the immunity of the Organization is not recognized in a situation where such large amounts of money are at stake, it is obvious that FAO has difficulties to continue its operations. Therefore, this is a serious issue. Certainly, we always try, in presence of these situations, which have so far remained very limited, to deal with the matter with the governments. But none of them is similar to this one. Surely, we always try to intervene and a very substantial part of our work sometimes is devoted to dealing with these issues.

I am very pleased to be able to state before the Council, and this was already said by Mr Gustafson, and it has already been fully explained by the distinguished Ambassador of Zimbabwe, that steps are being very actively taken now to find a solution to this problem. I trust that a solution will indeed be found in the very near future.

Now very briefly I turn to the second point of the procedure followed for the preparation of the review, even though I do not think that we should be discussing this point.

I note that both Dan Gustafson, the Ambassador of France, Chairman of the Programme Committee, have provided information on this matter. This matter was extensively discussed in the Joint Meeting. It is true and I answer very openly the question that was asked by the distinguished Ambassador of Zimbabwe. Indeed, the approach that was followed by FAO for the preparation of this review was not exactly what was written in the Conference Report.

That said, this matter was discussed at the Joint Meeting. This review was based on individual original reviews. Those individual reviews were independent. Had FAO wished to change one word of those reviews, it would not have had the possibility of making those changes. The Joint Meeting discussed this matter extensively. The issue was raised. Despite that, the Joint Meeting decided to accept the report. The Joint Meeting considered that the review should provide a basis for further discussion.

More than that, the Joint Meeting, or a number of Members, went as far as stressing that maybe the fact of having an internal review of the previous evaluations that had been carried out even added value to the review that was made. I note that the Members continue to refer to the Independent Review.

I think this report is before the Council on the basis of a recommendation of the Joint Meeting and I would invite the Council to consider the document, which is before the Council, for discussion and to transmit it to the forthcoming regional conferences.

I believe that the Council may wish to endorse these recommendations. Nonetheless, as I have said once again, the procedure followed did not correspond exactly to what was anticipated by the Conference. Yet, the Joint Meeting recommended that it be accepted and that it should provide a basis for further discussion. Then, whether or not this should be done is of course a matter for the Council.

Turning back to the first point, I want to reiterate the fact that the Government of Zimbabwe is very actively supporting and asserting now the immunity of FAO and we trust that a satisfactory solution to this situation will be found very quickly.

Sr. Oscar PINERO (Uruguay)

Con relación a este último punto que se ha referido el Sr. Antonio Tavares con relación a lo que ha decidido la Conferencia y lo que ha decidido la Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanzas, con relación a la solicitud de un Examen Independiente y lo que nos presenta el Informe Conjunto. En este sentido, realmente me importa destacar que lo que ha salido de la Reunión Conjunta se refiere en el punto 5a, que recomendó al Consejo que considerase el documento de examen como una respuesta a una petición de la Conferencia.

Ese lenguaje es un tanto ambiguo; a veces la ambigüedad es constructiva. Digo esto porque la decisión de la Conferencia acordó que se realizara un Examen Independiente de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas, y que las conclusiones del mismo se presentaran junto con las opiniones de la administración al Consejo en su 153º período de sesiones. Esta redacción podría significar que nosotros estamos considerando esto como la opinión de la administración, que hay muchas delegaciones que podrían considerarlo como el documento base sobre la cual trabajar, pero no se pronuncia con relación a la cuestión del examen independiente que ha pedido la Conferencia. Y este es otro tema que, en su caso, luego de la consideración que surja de las Conferencias Regionales, de todo este asunto, se podría llegar a considerar nuevamente en el Consejo.

Yo lo que pediría es que no hubiera ningún tipo de cambios sobre la redacción que no viene de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programas y el Comité de Finanzas, con relación a que este tema se considere en su totalidad en las Conferencias Regionales, y no se introduzcan cambios como han pedido otras delegaciones más allá de las dudas planteadas con relación al Examen Independiente; no se introduzcan cambios por este Consejo antes de que las Conferencias Regionales consideren este asunto.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I asked legal questions and it is unfortunate that Legal Counsel in his wisdom says that he does not think we should be discussing this even as he acknowledges that the process that was followed was not the process that was mandated by Conference.

I asked a legal question. Does Management or Counsel have a mandate to overturn, vary, or alter a Conference Resolution? This is the question that I asked. I would prefer an answer, Legal Counsel, that comes from the Basic Texts. I have been studying this for the last two weeks to try to understand this. This is why I was telling you that I have looked here, I have looked there, and I have not seen anything that mandates, even this meeting. This meeting is not authorized to change a Conference Resolution.

Conference can review a Council Decision, but the reverse is not possible at all. So can we please have a legal answer? I know the need to rush this document and send it to regional conferences. The centre of the problem: regional conferences. The core of the issue is: do we have a mandate to accept a document that violates a resolution of Conference? This question goes to the heart of governance and we are always talking about governance issues here. So let us talk about governance.

We have to be an Organization that adheres to the rules of the Organization. Otherwise we should throw away the Constitution. So I am still waiting for an answer that is based on the Basic Texts.

LEGAL COUNSEL

There is not much I can say in addition to what I have already said.

The Conference prescribed that the review should be done in a particular manner. In carrying out this review, the Secretariat – and we take responsibility for this – drew upon a number of inputs, a number of individual reviews that had been made by various teams of consultants. Management responses were also prepared in relation to those reviews. We, Management, prepared the review that we have maybe improperly designated as Independent Review, which has now been widely accepted.

This review was referred to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This precise topic that we have – and that you have raised now - was not considered of such an importance

as to invalidate the review that was referred to the Joint Meeting and which the Joint Meeting decided to recommend to the Council.

In fact a number of African countries and countries from many other regions were fully aware of this. The Joint Meeting decided to accept the report and the review. The review is before the Council now. Whether or not this should be accepted is a matter now for the Council and the Council has authority to discuss the review.

We have had situations indeed in FAO, I cannot mention them off the top of my head, where a particular resolution or decision was not complied with strictly and nevertheless, a specific action was taken.

So whether or not the Council would consider this to be a very substantial deviation from the decision is a matter for the Council. I do not think that the Council should consider this a deviation from the instructions of sufficient importance as to invalidate the review, but that is a matter for the Council. This is what I can say at this point. I do not believe that I have additional elements to add on this issue.

Perhaps if we were aware of this debate, maybe the procedure would have been different. Yet, still the findings are substantially those which were in the individual regional evaluations and which are in the document that the Joint Meeting accepted to consider and, up to now, the Council has accepted to consider this report.

It is of course open to the Council to take a different view. This is what I can answer to this question. I do not consider that we are in the presence of a blatant violation of the terms of the decision of the Conference. This is clearly not the case and I would consider that the Council has flexibility and authority to consider the matter.

So this is what I can say on this matter and I trust that the Representative and Ambassador of Zimbabwe will show the same spirit of cooperation as he has shown in intervening with his Government to sort out our problems within the country in connection with the immunity.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

This is quite interesting. The Legal Counsel is now accusing me of failing to understand the need to break the law. I am asking a simple question and the Legal Counsel should answer from the position of law, from a point of law, not to rely on instinct and gut feeling.

Please, what does the law say? Is there provision for Council or Management to change a Conference Resolution? This is the question. It is very simple. If we were in a court of law, I would say please answer yes or no. This is the question. If you are failing to miss it, if we were in the court of law, I would ask the clerks to read the record back to you.

The question is simple. Does Council or Management have a mandate to alter a decision of Conference as you are now recommending that Council should do? Is there provision for this in the Basic Texts? I am holding my copy here. Is there provision for this in the law? That is what I want to know.

If there is, show me and then we will move forward. You cannot argue to me about illegalities, saying this is just grey or not so drastic. Oh come on. You are a lawyer. You are our lawyer and we are asking a simple question. Is this correct or not? Period.

M. Bah KONIPO (Mali)

Je voudrais intervenir sur cette question, car j'avoue que les réponses du Conseiller juridique m'ont aussi rendu un peu confus. Puisque la question du Zimbabwe est vraiment simple, il devrait vraiment y répondre d'une manière juridique très simple, mais s'il se met à interpréter d'une autre manière, cela prête à confusion.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we need to look at this issue from a different angle. I know where we are now at this point having the Legal Counsel responding and then getting questions which maybe are not getting answers. I do not know where we are heading. But I note that there are people who want to speak, Ethiopia and

Poland. But I think we should take this from a different perspective, that this issue of the resolution which was made by a recommendation which was made by the Conference really was also looked at by the Joint Meeting. I hope the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting will have something to say on this issue. That is the first point.

Secondly, I had consultations with the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the regional groups whereby through our informal consultations, this issue was also brought up when they were getting some briefing on this Independent Evaluation. Then, it was through explanation and seeing what should have been done better apart from the evaluations which were there. The issues were raised regarding the costs and so forth.

There was a general agreement that this formed the basis for discussion. So if we go into the legality of issues which we are seeing by Members and advice and agreed to go in this direction, it will be difficult to conclude on this issue.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

I think what Zimbabwe is asking is a legal question and that legal question should be responded to legally.

Mr Andrzej HALASIEWICZ (Observer for Poland)

I understand fully the position of Ambassador of Zimbabwe because I asked quite similar questions during the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, but the answer is that the document that is presented to the Council is not fulfilling the request of the Conference from the legal point of view.

Nonetheless, after careful consideration of the content and of the situation, I think that in fact we received a document which describes the situation very well and it defined the needed actions from the point of view of the decentralization of FAO activities.

Then, to ask the question if it is legal or not, the answer will be no. Surely, the legal point is not satisfactory, but the merit it is very well fulfilling. So from my point of view, having these doubts and taking lessons that decisions of the Conference should be treated more carefully by me, Poland as an observer. Therefore, the Council should accept this document despite this lack of legal accomplishment.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Entendemos las preocupaciones del Embajador de Zimbabwe. No consideramos que debamos ir a una interpelación aquí al Asesor Jurídico. Nos parece que este es un tema si bien parte de una base jurídica, es un tema de discusión y de decisión de los Estados, más allá del criterio del Asesor Jurídico sobre este tema. A nuestro criterio, la Conferencia sobre la base de las 5 delegaciones a las oficinas regionales, pidió una evaluación.

Esta evaluación ha sido realizada y ha sido presentada a la Reunión Conjunta. El tema del hecho de que haya sido independiente o no, es un tema que nosotros y como lo señala el Presidente, tiene que haberse mirado con otras perspectivas también. Y en nuestro criterio, lo principal como digo ha sido que se haga una evaluación, y para nosotros el que se haya hecho esta evaluación desde el punto de vista de la administración, es positivo porque es la administración la que conoce el funcionamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas. Además, obviamente, de dejar de incurrir en gastos para la contratación de la evaluación independiente.

Como digo, la evaluación ha sido realizada y ahora depende de los Estados considerar o no si este documento sirve de base para las posteriores discusiones que habrán, sobre todo en las Conferencias Regionales. A nuestro criterio este documento ofrece la base para esas discusiones. Se ha cumplido con la evaluación que se ha solicitado y corresponderá a las Conferencias Regionales pronunciarse sobre las propuestas. Pero es un documento de base de discusión, que es ya más de competencia ahora decir a los Estados fue largamente discutida en la Reunión Conjunta, y haya respaldo de los dos Comités sobre este tema. Y creo que no debemos insistir en el tema de jurídico al respecto, sin dejar de reconocer la importancia, pero con la visión política sobre el tema que deberíamos avanzar.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I would have further questions. Is there a provision in the Basic Texts for Legal Counsel to refuse to answer questions? You know why I am so concerned about this, every time the Director-General or Management addresses Members and also even some Members, whenever they speak they are urging Members to respect the mandate of the Director-General. This we hear so often. Respect the mandate. Respect the mandate. Respect the mandate. Even in the presentation that we were given by Mr Gustafson, it was again asserted that a lot of things that we are presenting to you fall under the Director-General's mandate. And this idea comes up a lot of times, right?

Now the same importance that they attach to their mandates should be accorded to the other bodies and those that insist on respecting the rules should be the first to respect the rules.

So, I really want an answer from the Legal Counsel unless there is something in the Basic Texts that says he can refuse to answer questions asked by Members. Then Members might not have understood my question fully. The question I am asking is, there are two.

Can Management overturn a Conference Resolution? Can the Council itself overturn the Conference Resolution as people are recommending to do?

I have looked at the role of Council. Council has no powers to overturn a Conference decision. Only Conference can overturn a Council decision and not the other way around.

So on what basis are the Members here who are representing the Council recommending that this should be acceptable or legal? Mind you, as I pointed out in my statement, we already had those states in that room. We had ministers in that room. Yes, we have some ministers here but the majority of us here are officials and we are trying to take a decision to say we can overturn a decision made by heads of state and ministers. Please provide the basis for that in the Basic Texts and then we can move forward.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

First of all, I would like to say that I fully understand the comments that the Ambassador of Zimbabwe has raised. These are very important questions, but we also believe that the situation we are facing now goes beyond legal questions. We acknowledge that this study, no matter what it is called, is based on five independent reviews, but it also includes the views of the Management. It was discussed in the Joint Meeting and was sent to the Council for consideration.

Besides, we believe that the involvement of the Management was necessary at this stage to provide this review with sound and specific information, which may not have been available to any independent evaluator. The challenge now is how to proceed and we think that the way out of this challenge could be to give the whole authority for decision-making to the regional conferences.

Management was involved in the study and if they are involved in the study and they are the decision-making actors, if they are the decision takers, I think this will not be the right approach.

If we give the whole authority to the regional conferences to reach consensus on a case-by-case basis, it could be a solution. This is reflected also in your summary that the regional conference will not only give guidance or recommendations for the Director-General, but will get specific decisions in the case of the regional conference failing to reach consensus. In that respect, then there will not be any change in the regional context. This might be helpful at this stage.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Yo veo que aquí hay un problema de fondo y un problema de forma. En primer lugar, hay una legítima pregunta de otro Miembro del Consejo, y por lo que ha transcurrido aquí, tengo la impresión de que efectivamente el Consejo no tiene la potestad de cambiar un mandato a la Conferencia.

Por otra parte, es que hay un problema, por decir de alguna manera, político; hemos estado ahora analizado un documento, dicho documento ya fue analizado por los Comités respectivos, se evita el Consejo, y la idea puede seguir adelante. Yo propongo en primer lugar, que el Consejo tome nota de que no se cumplió con lo requerido por la Conferencia, pero que no obstante si se elaboró un

documento que fue sometido al Consejo, y el Consejo respecto al cual tomó determinadas decisiones, y esto pase posteriormente a las Conferencias Regionales. Si no, aquí vamos a estar entrampados en una discusión que no tiene fin, porque efectivamente hasta donde yo entiendo, no se cumplió con el mandato de la Conferencia como lo señala el distinguido Delegado de Zimbabwe.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

I think we need to find a way out from here, because taking the politics out of the whole equation, I would say first and foremost is the admission of the error that was made. The joint committees failed and they should have referred this matter that was before them that had to do with legal issues to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to give the appropriate advice because in that Committee then, it would have been able to evaluate and make a recommendation. This is because the Council cannot overrule the Conference Decision.

So, unless the matter was referred from there here and then to Conference to be able to overturn their own decision that was made because here is the impasse. Then, I believe in all fairness, let us just admit where the errors came from and then move forward because then Zimbabwe would have been vindicated in some way to say okay, you have erred. You have admitted your error. So now we can move forward. In that way I think there will be a way to move forward. Zimbabwe is saying the answer must be given and on the other hand admission of error is not being seen somewhere that there was an error committed. Some oversight or maybe probably something went unnoticed. Something may not have been intentional, but maybe something might have gone wrong. So in all fairness, let us have the spirit of trying to find a common ground to move forward, to get over this impasse and move on.

Therefore, my advice would be for Legal Counsel to be able to give some of those means of escape where things happen. Of course, under normal circumstances, this should not be done this way. It should have been done that way. It should have been done this way and then we can move forward because maybe that is the answer maybe Zimbabwe is looking for, some answer, and Zimbabwe is right to get an answer to something that has been done to the country without any justifiable reasons. So he wanted to get some justification and I think we should be able to take notice of that and respond and move forward.

If this body, having listened to all of the arguments, I am sure has come to realize that indeed errors were made, but how can we as they say in Italy “latte versato”. So it is milk on the ground now. It is on the ground. We cannot bring it back. We cannot recollect it so we just have to move forward. So how can we move forward from where we are? So please let us find a common ground and move forward and solve this impasse.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

I have one suggestion, the only suggestion to solve the problem. We are in a difficult situation. I would suggest that you postpone your summary on this item until tomorrow and give time for the delegates to consult with each other. Hopefully they would resolve this problem by tomorrow morning.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

Very briefly, first to support what Chile said. I think the Delegate made a very valid point. The issue here is that we are not overruling the Conference. We are going ahead knowing very well that this is not independent in the classical sense of the term independent review. But as mentioned in the Joint Committee and in the Council, it is independent enough because it is based on independent studies and has been validated later. The only thing in my mind which we need to do is to go ahead, complete the process and convince the Conference that this was your direction, we deviated knowingly. After having debated it, we deviated from your direction. And there are other reasons for the deviation and it was considered necessary to go ahead. I do not think in any way the Council is prohibited from deviating knowingly after debating why it has deviated from a Conference resolution. It is not a question of overruling. Nobody is saying that we are overruling the Conference mandate. We have considered the Conference, what they have guided us with, and we have knowingly deviated from what the Conference has asked us to do, and we will explain to the Conference why we are knowingly

deviating. To this question, obviously the answer is no, we cannot overrule. There are not two ways about it. And Poland is right there. This is a step beyond just a matter of yes or no.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

El debate es muy arduo y muy interesante y nosotros coincidimos en parte con lo que ha dicho recientemente el distinguido Delegado de la India. Nosotros hemos discutido durante muchas horas un documento que entendemos que es un aporte válido y que responde a un pedido de la Conferencia. El output de este documento será revisado por cada una de las Conferencias Regionales durante el año 2016.

La discusión que ha habido aquí sobre el documento se ha dado y hemos llegado a determinadas conclusiones sobre este documento. Entiendo que esto se ha transformado un poco más allá de la importancia de los elementos jurídicos que, como Usted sabe, Señor Presidente, son siempre, a mí, caros. Se ha transformado en un asunto de carácter más político. Y, teniendo en cuenta que este tema para la República Argentina es un tema de fundamental importancia, entendemos que con nuestro debate, hemos validado de alguna forma este documento que hemos tenido aquí y que hemos discutido, y por ende creo oportuno que podamos, como dijo el distinguido Delegado de la India, seguir adelante sin perjuicio del análisis jurídico que en algún momento se haga, sobre el tenor de esta evaluación.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Observer for Bulgaria)

I want to start by saying that I agree with what was said by our Indian colleague. There is no overtaking or overruling of the decision of the Conference because simply there was not such a decision along exactly the same lines. It is another point that there could be a pre-emption and I would say that we have had such situations in practice in the very near past. I would remind you that, strictly speaking, such of key importance issue like the budget was not only approved or adopted as the rule is by the Conference before that, it was approved by the Council, which, strictly speaking from a legal point of view, was not a perfect solution from the legal point of view. Everybody knew that it is going to be a positive move, it was admired by the Member States and everybody was aware that the formal right to adopt the budget is only for the Conference, not for the Council. But at that time there was absolutely no legal criticism about that. The fact that now we have an omission, I would say, at an earlier stage, which can have very undesirable negative consequences in terms of a long delay of the review of the decentralized offices, I think it is sufficient to convince us that the preferable, strongly preferable option, is to act in a flexible way and make a compromise in a way with the law this time with our legal rules. I think that it will not be a kind of precedent of a unique nature.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Je voudrais expliquer effectivement la teneur des discussions lors de notre Réunion conjointe, sous le contrôle des 24 membres des deux Comités qui y ont participé et dont certains se sont exprimés.

La question que pose le Zimbabwe a été exactement posée par certains collègues, et notamment le collègue polonais qui s'est exprimé, de savoir si le document présenté répondait à la demande de la Conférence. Et la proposition, la recommandation de la Réunion conjointe au Conseil, c'est de dire "oui, ce document correspond à la demande de la Conférence". Le Comité ne fait que des recommandations au Conseil, ensuite le Conseil décide. Mais les Comités, comme le Conseil, ne sont pas des comités d'audit chargés de vérifier la régularité juridique des décisions. Nous sommes des organes subsidiaires de gouvernance qui sont là, effectivement, pour mettre en œuvre les décisions de la Conférence. Et pourquoi avons-nous estimé que ce document correspondait à la demande de la Conférence? C'est d'abord parce qu'il est constitué de trois éléments.

Le premier élément, l'ossature du document: c'est le produit de cinq revues indépendantes des bureaux décentralisés faites dans les cinq grandes régions de concentration du réseau de la FAO. Donc, l'ossature, ce sont cinq revues indépendantes. Ensuite, cela a été complété par des informations additionnelles que le Secrétariat a collectées, notamment sur la situation des pays, et enfin par des orientations, des propositions d'orientation, ce sont les propositions qui concernent les principes et les critères issus d'une lecture transversale des cinq revues indépendantes, qui ont été revues, d'ailleurs, par les cinq chefs des équipes de revue indépendante.

Deuxièmement, nous avons considéré que ce document correspondait à la demande de la Conférence parce que nous ne voyons pas non plus la valeur ajoutée d'une revue indépendante des cinq revues indépendantes. Je sais qu'à la FAO, j'ai compris cette semaine, qu'on aime beaucoup les revues indépendantes. Mais on a considéré que faire à ce stade une nouvelle revue indépendante, cela avait deux conséquences: une conséquence en terme de ressources – on allait gaspiller des ressources parce qu'on ne voyait pas la valeur ajoutée d'une revue indépendante des revues indépendantes – et on allait avoir un problème de délai grave qui nous empêcherait de consulter les Conférences régionales – et cela a été un élément important parce que vous savez que les Conférences régionales ne se tiennent qu'une fois tous les deux ans. Elles sont programmées au premier semestre 2016. Si nous ne sommes pas en mesure de consulter les Conférences régionales au premier semestre 2016, cela veut dire que soit on ne les consulte pas, soit on attend le premier semestre 2018, c'est-à-dire après la prochaine Conférence.

Enfin, dernier élément, je crois qu'il ne faut quand même pas exagérer sur les relations de la Conférence et le Conseil. Nous, le Conseil, sommes un organe qui doit mettre en œuvre un certain nombre de décisions de la Conférence. Et nous savons tous parfaitement que les résolutions de la Conférence sont largement préparées par les délégués qui siègent ici. Donc par définition, j'espère que personne ici ne veut violer les résolutions de la Conférence que nous avons nous-mêmes largement préparées. Mais la question était "est-ce que ce document correspond à la demande de la Conférence et nous permet d'avancer?", nous avons effectivement recommandé au Conseil d'apporter une réponse positive.

Ensuite, je voudrais dire un mot du fond; pourquoi avons-nous aussi pensé qu'il fallait avancer? Parce que le monde a changé et il faut que le réseau de bureaux décentralisés de la FAO soit adapté. Le Ministre du Cameroun a très bien souligné qu'il y a eu plusieurs tentatives qui ont toujours échoué pour des raisons variées sur lesquelles je ne reviendrai pas. Le réseau, comme l'a dit Dan Gustafson, a été élaboré en 1970, au début des années 70. Je rappelle juste qu'en 1970, il y avait 3 milliards d'habitants sur cette Terre. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes 7 milliards. En 2050, nous serons 10 milliards. Donc, le monde a changé. Depuis 1990, plus de 40 pays sont passés du statut de pays à faibles revenus au statut de pays à revenus intermédiaires, et la sous-nutrition a reculé dans ces pays—il faut s'en féliciter—mais ils font face aujourd'hui à de nouveaux défis: celui de la malnutrition, celui du changement climatique, celui des catastrophes naturelles et de la question de renforcement de la résilience des systèmes agricoles. Donc il nous faut adapter notre outil. Et ce qui est proposé dans ce document, est aussi une évolution assez mesurée avec une série de critères et de principes qui sont, quand même, des critères, me semble-t-il, de bon sens.

Pour les bureaux nationaux, il est avant tout proposé que les ressources du budget ordinaire soient concentrées dans les pays qui ont le plus besoin d'un appui extérieur. C'est-à-dire effectivement les pays à faibles revenus, mais en utilisant aussi, comme je le disais, d'autres critères qui tiennent au taux de sous-nutrition dans ces pays. Et la question qu'il faudra que l'on voie en juin sera, me semble-t-il, comment pondérer ces différents critères. Mais dire qu'il faut concentrer les ressources de notre budget ordinaire d'abord sur les pays qui ont le plus besoin d'aide me semble une idée quand même assez basique sur laquelle on devrait se rassembler.

S'agissant des bureaux régionaux et des bureaux sous-régionaux, là aussi, il est proposé deux séries de critères. La première est de prendre en compte l'existence dans les lieux de localisation de ces bureaux d'organisations internationales, régionales ou d'équipes de partenaires techniques et financiers qui permettront de lever des ressources, de favoriser des synergies, de mobiliser des partenariats. Et le deuxième, c'est bien sûr que ces régions ou ces villes soient connectées dans tous les pays de la sous-région pour permettre aux experts de la FAO de se projeter facilement en appui aux bureaux nationaux parce qu'on ne peut pas avoir tous les experts dans tous les bureaux nationaux. Ce sont des critères assez simples qui, me semble-t-il, permettraient de renforcer l'efficacité de notre dispositif. J'invite donc vraiment le Conseil à répondre oui, que le document répond à la commande de la Conférence et oui au fait qu'il faut que les consultations régionales s'inspirent de ces principes et de ces critères, proposés par la Direction, pour nous permettre en juin de prendre les décisions nécessaires et de commencer vers la fin 2016 à mettre en œuvre ces décisions. Cela veut dire que le nouveau réseau se

mettra en place seulement en 2017. Vous imaginez l'impact d'une décision où l'on reporterait nos débats d'aujourd'hui pour mener une revue indépendante qui prendrait encore 12 mois!

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

The point I am raising goes beyond the content of the document, it is a matter of principle that I am raising here. I am not discussing the content, I have already commented on the content and then I asked a legal question, so this is a matter of principle.

I am very surprised that Members are advocating the breaking of rules. I am sitting here and wondering when we collected the documents, we were given the rules on the conduct of the meetings. If we start breaking rules willy-nilly, where are we going to stop? And how are you going to run this meeting, Mr Chairperson, after this if we agree that we can break the rules, can you really honestly look at me in the eyes and say: "Zimbabwe, you must observe the rules", if you are advocating for the breaking of the rules. We cannot do that.

What binds us together is the document that we have, the Constitution that we agreed to. This is why we are sitting so orderly in this room. If you throw it out, you throw the rules as some are advocating, how are you going to conduct our business? We cannot. So I am saying that this is a matter of principle and let us observe the principles, please. There is no rush. Let us do the thing correctly. If people were aware of the timetable and the deadlines, they should have followed the correct procedure in the first place. This is a matter of principle.

CHAIRPERSON

Of course I cannot advocate breaking the rules. Nevertheless, I listen to the Members. What I listened to and what I can say now is that there is a core from Members to move forward with the report and the discussion to the regional conference. Members are aware that the decision of the Conference has not been fulfilled.

Nevertheless, the report came to the Joint Meeting, the Members of the discussion for the independence of the report. They agreed that the report had some features of independence as explained by Ambassador Tomasi. Now, the Council is noting and agreeing with the discussions which took place in the Joint Meeting and agreeing that this report could be sent to the regional conference.

I know that the issue which Zimbabwe has raised is very pertinent regarding that the Conference resolution was not fulfilled. And if you look at the conclusions on this summary of the Joint Meeting, I think it is outright in the first paragraph where this is reflected and Members may wish that I reflect it in my notes. I would request the consideration of Zimbabwe of the core from the Members that they have agreed. Nobody says that what you are asking is not genuine, it is genuine. But given the circumstances and resources being given, I hope you will be able to join the others in agreeing that this report be taken forward.

That said, I would like to stop the discussion on this item at this moment and then we will come back to it. I would say now we move on to another new agenda item if Members agree. I note there is an agreement.

Item 9. Report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-22 October 2015)

Point 9. Rapport de la cent unième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-22 octobre 2015)

Tema 9. Informe del 101.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-22 de octubre de 2015)

(CL 153/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Agenda Item 9, *Report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*. The document before Council is CL 153/2.

I would like to invite His Excellency Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, to present this report.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Chairperson, Committee Constitutional and Legal Matters)

It is really a pleasure, Chairman and colleagues, to be able to present the *Report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters* which was held from 21 to 23 October this year. The agenda included seven items. At the beginning of the session, the CCLM examined the 2015 Annual Report of the Ethics Committee summarizing the outcome of the two meetings held by the Committee this year. The CCLM recalled that the Ethics Committee had been established on a trial basis in 2011 and started functioning as of the beginning of 2012 for a period of four years and at the end of that period, relevant FAO Governing Bodies would have to make a determination as to its future.

On that, the Council is invited to note that a submission on the matter will be made to the CCLM and the Finance Committee in the spring of 2016. It is therefore proposed not to consider this matter at this juncture now.

Next on the further agenda of the CCLM, it included three items relating to statutory bodies established within the framework of the FAO. One item concerns the proposal to abolish the FAO ECE/CES study group on food and agriculture statistics in Europe, a statutory body established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution in 1959 and inactive since 2005.

The abolition is in line with Conference Resolutions 13/97 and 11/2015 which called for enhanced efficiency of statutory bodies as well as for the elimination of obsolete or inactive statutory bodies. So the Council is invited to adopt the draft Council Resolution entitled abolition of the FAO ECE/CES study group on food and agriculture statistics in Europe set out in Appendix 1 to its report for adoption by the Council.

A second item of this type concerns the proposal to amend the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-mouth Disease, EuFMD abbreviated, a statutory body established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. The CCLM confirmed that the proposed amendments did not involve new obligations for EuFMD members and agreed to forward the amended Constitution to the Council for approval. The amendments would take effect on the dates of the Council's decision based on the recommendation I just mentioned. The Council is invited to approve the amended Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-mouth Disease set out in Appendix 2 to the CCLM Report.

The third and last item of this type is a proposal to amend statutes of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa, CIFAA, a statutory body established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution. The CCLM welcomed the amendments to better address specific technical and scientific matters. On this, the Council is invited to approve the amended statutes set out in Appendix 2 to the CCLM Report.

The next two items on the CCLM agenda concern on the one hand the Independent Chairperson of the Council and his/her qualifications and, on the other hand, the role of the bureau of the technical committees. On the first item, the Council is invited to endorse the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix 4 to the CCLM Report amending paragraph 2 of Resolution 9/2009 on the Independent Chairperson of the Council and to agree to transmit it to the Conference for approval.

Second, the Council is invited to take note on the second item, to take note of the CCLM's considerations on the role of the bureau and to concur with the CCLM's recommendation that the issue of the mandate of technical committees during the intersessional period and, in particular the role of their bureau, be referred to the technical committees for advice. In doing so, the prevailing position throughout the United Nations system should be taken into account.

The Council is invited to note that the CCLM would re-examine the matter in light of the outcome of the review of the technical committees.

The last item on the agenda related to the progress report on the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the CCLM and, in this connection, the Council is invited to take note as usual of the progress report of

the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the CCLM and in this connection acknowledge the distinctive features of its *modus operandi* in light of its nature and institutional mandate.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

The Liberian Delegation thanks you for the manner and style in which you are handling this Council. We sincerely appreciate it. Liberia intervenes on document CL 153/2 on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group thanks the Chairperson of the Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov, for his excellent presentation. We also acknowledge the good work of the Committee and the Secretariat and express gratitude to Mr Antonio Tavares for his hard-working team.

The African Group takes note of the Annual Report 2015 of the Ethics Committee and welcomes the resumption of the financial disclosure programme. We also acknowledge that the Ethics Committee was established on a trial basis and that determination regarding the future of this Committee will depend on the outcome of the performance report to be given in 2016.

Item 5, paragraphs 20-21 on the inland fisheries, the Africa Group is very keen to note the achievements of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA). The African Group supports the decision of CIFAA members to maintain the current institutional structure as a statutory body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution in order to carry out comprehensive review of its terms of reference to better address specific pertinent technical and scientific issues in the continent.

The African Group appreciates the extension of the scope of CIFAA to include aquaculture as well as trust fund for the voluntary contributions to finance CIFAA's activities.

The Africa Group is very much satisfied with CIFAA and therefore recommends to Council the approval of the amended statutes of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture as set forward in Appendix 3 of the report.

Further to this, the African Group approves the adoption of the draft Council Resolution entitled abolition of the FAO ECE/CES study group on food and agriculture statistics in Europe set forward in the Appendix as was stated.

The Africa Group also approves the amended Constitution of the European Commission for the EuFMD in the draft Council Resolution which should take effect upon the adoption by this Council.

The Africa Group endorses the draft Conference Resolution in Appendix 6 and Appendix 4 of the report and in paragraph 2 of Conference Resolution 9/2009 on the Independent Chairperson of the Council and therefore recommends sending to Conference for approval.

The African Group concurs with the CCLM's recommendation that an issue of the mandate of technical committees during the intersessional period, in particular the role of the bureaus, be referred to their technical committees for advice as reported in the presentation that was just made. The CCLM is also asked to reexamine the matter in the near future as deemed necessary.

Lastly, the Africa Group notes the progress report on the MYPOW of the CCLM and acknowledges the distinctive features of its *modus operandi*.

With those comments the Africa Group endorses the report.

Sr. Nelson David TROYA ESQUIVEL (Ecuador)

Ecuador interviene en esta ocasión en representación del Grupo de países latinoamericanos y del Caribe (GRULAC). Acogemos con satisfacción el documento CL 153/2, el cual contiene el reporte del 101º período de sesiones del Comité, celebrado en esta sede los días 21 y 22 de octubre del presente año.

Valoramos el contenido del documento CL 153/2 en línea con la vigencia de las diversas disposiciones, cuya aplicación se exhortaba. El GRULAC igualmente favorece las iniciativas y medidas que agilicen la realización de la eficiencia de los diversos segmentos de la Organización

como consta en las Resoluciones 13/97 y 11/2015, evaluadas por la Conferencia en relación a la supresión de órganos inactivos o en desuso.

Con respecto al mandato de los Comités Técnicos durante el intervalo entre períodos de sesiones, será importante que antes de remitir el asunto nuevamente al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, se examine el papel de las mesas o buró. En consecuencia, será oportuno que en los foros de dichos comités, se celebren y tengan lugar debates y discusiones sobre la armonización y definición de las competencias y los límites de atribuciones de sus respectivas mesas.

Cabe recordar que siempre tomando en cuenta las experiencias multilaterales que observamos en la estructura global del sistema internacional, la reforma de la Gobernanza de la Organización ha exhortado a las mesas a desempeñar un papel cada vez más destacado. La práctica de los Comités Técnicos de la FAO muestra que los Órganos Rectores pueden y deben estudiar y decidir, a la luz de sus mejores intereses, la modalidad y el alcance de las contribuciones de sus mesas. Este proceder potenciará y acelerará el espíritu y la aplicación de la Reforma de la Gobernanza de la Organización. Saludamos así mismo el Informe sobre la marcha de los trabajos del Comité y valoramos su interés en renovar y confirmar una vez más las características distintivas de sus *modus operandi* como fórmula válida de servicio a los mejores propósitos de la Organización.

Finalmente, reiteramos nuestra disposición a continuar colaborando con entusiasmo para realizar y acompañar las tareas y trabajos del Comité, apegados a los mejores criterios e ideas que inspiran los Textos Fundamentales y los Reglamentos de la Organización.

Mr Gardijita BUDI (Indonesia)

Indonesia has the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We very much welcome the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters presented by Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

We would also like to thank all the members of the CCLM for the hard work and togetherness in addressing various legal and constitutional issues within and related to the work of the Council in a cordial manner as well as to commend the work of the Secretariat in preparing the document.

The Asia Regional Group took note of the 101st Session of the CCLM which took place on 21 and 22 October 2015 and the recommendation presented within the report that shall be taken into consideration during this Council meeting.

The CCLM along with the Programme and Finance Committees shall assist and report to the Council in the performance of its functions as stipulated in paragraph 6 of Article V of the Constitution.

This function is obligatory for the Council to exercise its powers delegated by the Conference to carry out the functions of the Organization in achieving its goals and objectives.

In relation to the CCLM report on Ethics Committee, Annual Report 2015, we concur with the assessment of the CCLM that the Ombudsman function should be reinforced in order to address more efficiently both ethics and workplace conflicts related issues and avoid recourse to formal dispute settlement procedures.

We also support the proposal of the draft Council Resolution on the Abolition of the FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe which had already been approved by the Bureau and Conference of the CES as it is in line with Conference Resolutions 13/97 and 11/2015 which called for enhanced efficiency of statutory bodies.

On the proposal to amend the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), we thank the Members of the CCLM for providing an inclusive analysis that no new obligations for EuFMD members are involved. We also welcome CCLM's recommendation to consider the issue of participation of observers in meetings of the Executive Committee.

On the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), we are in accordance with CCLM's view of taking into account the achievements of CIFAA, and the decision to maintain the current institutional structure of CIFAA as a statutory body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution.

In addition to the above agenda, we also see that the agenda on the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms on the sub-agenda of the implementation of Recommendation 6 on the qualifications for the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the sub-agenda of the implementation of Recommendation 10 on the mandate of Technical Committees during the inter-sessional period should be prudently addressed by the Council concurring to CCLM recommendation.

Last but not least, we would like to also kindly remind the Council the need to further discuss on the issue of the participation of Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) within the meetings of FAO.

We believe that the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the meetings of FAO is very important that will provide positive perspective and bring huge impact to all stakeholders during the policy making process within the Organization.

We encourage all Members to continue interacting with each other, under the leadership of the ICC, in considering the issue of rules and procedure for the participation of PSM and CSOs in FAO meetings. Yet, we are of the view that such deliberation should bear in mind, and should not undermine, the inter-governmental nature of the UN bodies including FAO.

With this, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Ms Ágnes DÛS (Hungary)

May I kindly ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country to the EU, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate the work done at the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, support its recommendations and proposals to the Council, and take note of the information provided in the Report of the Session.

The European Union and its Member States underline the importance of the Financial Disclosure Programme and welcome its resumption. We support the recommendation to reinforce the Ombudsman function and encourage the Secretariat, the CCLM and the Finance Committee to proceed in a timely manner with the issue of determining by the relevant Governing Bodies of the future of the Ethics Committee after the expiration of its trial period.

We consider that this Council should concur with the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease as set out in Appendix II to the CCLM Report. We share the assessment that the proposed amendments do not involve new obligations for the EuFMD Members and therefore the amended Constitution should take effect on the date of this Council's decision.

The EU and its Member States reiterate the high importance of the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the Independent Review of the FAO Governance Reforms. With regard to the recommendations of the 101st Session of the CCLM we would like to stress in particular the need to take forward the process of addressing the issue of the mandate of the technical committees in the inter-sessional period. The further work should be based on the decision of the FAO Conference that bureaus of technical committees should assume a better-defined and more proactive role during the inter-sessional period

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Chairperson, Committee Constitutional and Legal Matters)

Frankly I think that differently from some other items on our agenda, this one is going to be easier in terms of time. I want to thank everybody who spoke for the comments. We are taking careful note of all the considerations. I cannot miss the opportunity to also inform you that Ambassador Sheriff was quite logically and unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the CCLM which was not a surprise at all knowing his capacity and experience.

I want to touch upon two things. The first one with regard to the quite complex issue of the inter-sessional functioning of the bureaux, the technical committees of course, in accordance with the mandate of the Conference, need to make deep analysis I think of the situation and produce sufficient information and ideas for taking this process forward because you know that the technical committees are of a very different nature and even practices and sometimes rules according to which they act.

So we also very much hope that with the influence of all of the Membership, this task will be taken with due attention so that we can go further in the process of harmonization which in such a complex organization as the FAO and other UN organizations, of course, is not an easy one and it takes time. So this is more of kind of an appeal to all of you than something more in substance that we have said.

The second point, I cannot also not react to what was said by the Indonesian representative on the private sector and the civil society which is a very important aspect of the FAO work. The CCLM invested a lot of efforts in the past two years and within our powers we did our best. You know why we had to transfer the matter for further consideration of political aspects which is now in the able hands of our Independent Chairperson of the Council and we can only rely on his ability for consensus building so that we can move on with this issue after all the complications are ironed out and I hope that we will be able to come back to that as a CCLM quite soon.

Of course the CCLM, it was already said and I just want to repeat it, cannot perform its functions without the Legal Office and of course the Legal Counsel for which we can only once again thank them.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I want to read out my conclusions for item 9, *Report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (21-22 October 2015)*:

1. The Council approved the report of the 101st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and:

a) adopted the draft Council Resolution entitled “Abolition of the FAO/ECE/CES Study Group on Food and Agriculture Statistics in Europe”, set forth in Appendix I to the CCLM Report;

b) approved the amended Constitution of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, set forth in the draft Council Resolution in Appendix II to the CCLM Report, which would take effect on the date of the decision of the Council;

c) approved the amended Statutes of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), set forth in Appendix III to the Report;

d) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution, set out in Appendix IV to the CCLM Report, amending paragraph 2 of Conference Resolution 9/2009 on the Independent Chairperson of the Council, to be forwarded to the Conference for approval;

e) concurred with the CCLM recommendation that the issue of the mandate of technical committees during the inter-sessional period and, in particular, the role of their bureaux, be referred to the technical committees for advice, taking into account the prevailing position throughout the United Nations system, as described in the CCLM Report, and noted that the CCLM would re-examine the matter in light of the outcome of the review of the technical committees.

That is the end of my conclusions. I think it is accepted.

Item 8. Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (12-15 October 2015)

Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-deuxième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (12-15 octobre 2015)

Tema 8. Informe del 42.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (12-15 de octubre de 2015)

(C 2017/19)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with item 8 of the agenda, *Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, which was held in Rome from 12 to 17 October 2015.

Please ensure you have document C 2017/19 before you.

I now invite Her Excellency Ambassador Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, to introduce this item.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

This year the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was held during the week of October 12 to 15. It included the highest number of delegates and broadest participation across the stakeholder group since the Committee was reformed, with over 1 000 delegates from 129 countries, 96 civil society organization, 68 private sector organizations, and for the first time many youths. The session began with high-level opening statements and a discussion of the role of CFS in engaging with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including statements from the heads of FAO, WFP and IFAD, and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), and the former CFS Chair. The resulting discussion concluded with a decision to put the implementation of the SDGs at the centre of the Committee's work through 2030.

Following this discussion, the presentation of the 2015 State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) report by the three Rome-based agencies (RBAs), further contributed to the recognition of the importance of focusing on the implementation and monitoring of progress on the SDGs. The Committee noted the potential role that the SOFI Report could play to this end in the coming years.

Policy Convergence. The week marked the conclusion of the Committee's work on a number of important topics for policy convergence. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), co-chaired by the United States of America and Kenya, was endorsed unanimously. With up to half a billion people affected by or at risk of protracted crisis, the guidance could not come at a better time. All stakeholders are encouraged to support its implementation.

Policy Recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, chaired by Mr Nicola Lamaddalena, were negotiated and endorsed, which all stakeholders are encouraged to implement to maximize the benefits on food security and nutrition of access to water.

On Coordination and Linkages and Workstream Updates. The 42nd Session of CFS also marked the beginning of work in a number of new topical areas to take over for 2016 and 2017.

Nutrition. The Committee discussed important nutrition-related themes at the global, regional and national levels in order to identify areas where CFS could add value. Some of the key messages coming out of these discussions included paying attention to the inter-sectoral nature of nutrition and ensuring that actions addressing education, health, water, agriculture and many others are integrated and coordinated. Other key messages focused on the need for greater partnerships and the relevance of building on each other's strength if we are serious about ending malnutrition.

Concerning Smallholders' Access to Markets. Following the High-Level Forum held last June, a follow-up workstream will draw out lessons and best practices that can help overcome barriers and maximize opportunities in value chains.

Monitoring, chaired by Uganda. The CFS Effectiveness Survey was presented and recognized as an important first step in providing an initial snapshot of the current status of CFS effectiveness. An

external evaluation to assess CFS effectiveness requested to be completed over the course of 2016 will contribute to identifying improvements. In addition, the Committee highlighted the importance of continuing to share best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of CFS policy guidance through the organization of multi-stakeholder events. In this regard, the Committee agreed to hold a global thematic event during CFS 43 on the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestries.

MYPOW chaired by Italy. The Committee adopted the Programme of Work for 2016-17 which includes these thematic areas I mentioned in addition to agreeing to hold forums on urbanization and rural transformation; and women's empowerment; and two HLPE reports covering sustainable agricultural development, including livestock (2016) and sustainable forestry 2017. The Programme of Work also includes further guidance on the ongoing work of CFS related to the Global Strategic Framework (GSF), monitoring, rules of procedure, and communications and outreach. It is important to note that the FAO regional conferences represent a key opportunity for identifying actions at the regional and national level that are being taken in the areas of CFS work, and how we can build greater linkages between the national, regional and global initiatives.

The Global Strategic Framework, chaired by Brazil, was updated to include the results of the work carried out since CFS 40.

Special events on World Food Day

Youth. CFS 42 marked the first time that the role of youth in achieving food security and nutrition was explored in an innovative format. They included a Youth for Food Security and Nutrition Idea Incubator where ten youths from around the world were invited to pitch their ideas live to a panel of experts for feedback at a special event on developing the knowledge skills and talent of youth discussing key lessons learned in engaging youth. CFS will explore how to continue engaging youth.

Resilience. A special event on resilience concluded on the importance of incorporating climate change adaptation into resilience building; introducing and expanding credit markets, using existing resilience tools of the Rome-based agencies, among others.

World Food Day at Expo Milano. CFS stakeholders travelled to Expo Milan to participate in the World Food Day celebrations and the 70th Anniversary of FAO.

A number of side events were held during the week on a wide array of topics addressed by previous, current and upcoming CFS work or on new issues. These provided the opportunity for enhanced interaction, exchange of knowledge and networking between multi-stakeholders. Reports of these will be available on the CFS website.

Lastly, this 42nd Session was organized for the first time with the objective of greening CFS in collaboration with the FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility team through the use of more eco-friendly paper with the aim to shift to papersmart CFS Plenaries and by offsetting the emissions from the air travel and local commuting produced during CFS 42.

This session was described by many as the most successful so far and its discussions highlighted this biennium is a turning point for CFS. Its Programme of Work for 2016-17 is highly ambitious; implementing it will require the commitment of all, including mobilizing sufficient resources from all of you that are CFS members. I count on all of you to support CFS in meeting the new expectations, challenges and opportunities arising with the new global context, and ensuring it delivers on the vision behind its reform, as well as the vision of a world with zero hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Ecuador realiza esta intervención en representación de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, en su calidad de Vice-Presidencia Pro-Témpore del GRULAC.

Queremos agradecer a la Embajadora Amira Gornass por la presentación del Informe del 42° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, así como reiterarle nuestra felicitación por su elección como Presidenta de este Comité. El GRULAC se congratula por la elección nuevamente de una mujer al frente de la plataforma internacional más importante en materia de seguridad

alimentaria y nutrición, y quiere expresar a la Embajadora Gornass el pleno respaldo y colaboración del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe a su gestión. Igualmente, nuestro Grupo Regional quiere agradecer y felicitar a la Embajadora Gerda Verburg por el trabajo y logros alcanzados en los últimos dos años.

El 42° período de sesiones del CSA se realizó en un contexto internacional marcado por el cumplimiento del plazo de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y la adopción de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Se han realizado importantes avances en cuanto a la reducción del hambre y América Latina y el Caribe es una de las regiones que más ha avanzado. Sin embargo, los retos que aún tiene el mundo para lograr la erradicación de ese flagelo son muy grandes y esto requiere un fuerte compromiso político de todos los actores. En ese sentido, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, dada su naturaleza inclusiva y participativa, puede desempeñar un papel muy importante en la convergencia de ideas y acciones en el marco de dicho compromiso.

El GRULAC acoge con satisfacción los resultados del 42° período de sesiones del CSA, entre ellos la adopción del “Marco de Acción para la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición durante crisis prolongadas”, instrumento voluntario que, sobre la base de los derechos humanos, ofrece orientaciones y principios para enfrentar la inseguridad alimentaria en esas crisis, elemento a su vez importante para la consolidación de la paz.

Igualmente, el GRULAC se complace por los resultados de la mesa redonda sobre “La contribución del agua a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición”, tema que no había sido abordado anteriormente en el CSA y que viene a complementar a las “Directrices Voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, pesca y bosques” y los “Principios para la Inversiones responsables en agricultura y sistemas alimentarios”.

Queremos resaltar la adopción del Programa de Trabajo Plurianual 2016-2017 del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el cual contiene la realización de importantes actividades como las discusiones que se llevarán a cabo para la determinación de la contribución del Comité tanto en los ODS como en el tema de la nutrición; igualmente, el “Seguimiento del foro de alto nivel sobre la vinculación de los pequeños productores con los mercados”, tema que consideramos central para el CSA y del cual esperamos que se aprueben medidas y recomendaciones concretas, entre otras importantes actividades que contemple el Programa de Trabajo.

Sin embargo, preocupa el hecho de que el Programa de Trabajo tenga todavía un déficit financiero importante que podría poner en riesgo la realización de algunas actividades. Al respecto, el GRULAC quiere enfatizar en la necesidad de proteger la totalidad del Programa de Trabajo y la importancia de que las contribuciones sean al presupuesto general del CSA y no a determinadas actividades. Consideramos muy positivos los resultados del 42° período de sesiones del CSA, lo que demuestra que el Comité se ha ido consolidando, aunque hay lugar para realizar mejoras. La característica fundamental del CSA es el ser una plataforma para el debate y la discusión. Por lo tanto, se debería procurar más tiempo en la plenaria para los debates, a fin de que los Estados y otras partes interesadas puedan participar de mejor manera en las discusiones, incluida la posibilidad de compartir sus experiencias nacionales. Este es uno de los aspectos que requiere mejoramiento y en el que se debería trabajar con miras al próximo período de sesiones.

Con estos comentarios, el GRULAC toma nota del informe del 42° período de sesiones del CSA y reitera su compromiso con los objetivos del CSA y su respaldo a la gestión de su Presidenta.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan kindly requests you to give the floor to Sudan for a statement on behalf of the Near East Group on Agenda Item 8. His Excellency Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan, will deliver the statement.

Mr Ibrahim Mahmoud HAMID (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to start with my intervention to commend the outstanding results resulting from the 42nd Session of the CFS.

First, we would like to commend the pivoted role of CFS trying to tackle the food security and nutrition. We need to consolidate ties at all levels and coordinate its efforts with the specialized agencies in this area and support its work with the *ad hoc* system for information. We commend the outcomes of the work of the Committee during 2014. In addition to the studies and documents that were produced like: the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in addition to the contribution of water and food security and nutrition.

The activities of the CFS are related to the needs of countries and water is the main focus of the Near East Group which suffers from water scarcity and this led in turn to food insecurity and nutrition. Water scarcity is the main obstacle in achieving food security in the region and the Near East Group will be facing very hard challenges in the coming decades as 10 percent of water is unfortunately needed in this region and the decline of the resources in addition to the climate change impacts led to the decline of rainwater. Ninety percent of our lands are deteriorating, many of these lands cannot be used for agriculture purposes due to the bad practices in the use of lands. So in this vein, we would like to follow up the assistance provided to stakeholders in order to implement the results of the working group on water, food security, and nutrition.

We would like to stress the important role of the CFS in the nutrition field by raising awareness in addition to helping developing countries by focusing on nutrition and under-nutrition in order to try to fill the gaps.

Nutrition is one of the most important health challenges the world is facing today and unfortunately no efforts are made in order to face this challenge. I would like to thank everyone for supporting Madame Gornass' candidacy to the chairmanship of this Committee. That should make the difference in the field of food security and nutrition.

We confirm that the Government of Sudan will support the Ambassador in order to reach the objectives and implement the goals. Sudan participates in all activities in order to reach the outcomes set in the recommendations of the CFS. Sudan gives high priority and importance to the activities of the CFS and is making great efforts in order to achieve food security and nutrition for neighbouring countries and for the regional countries as well. This is a main key for Sudan and we need to contribute to food security and nutrition through supporting the decision-making process in the field of food systems.

Therefore, we formed the Supreme Council for Food Security chaired by the Vice-President of Sudan and the membership of many specialized ministers in addition to the Technical Committee of Food Security. This body has many activities across the countries. It was formed in 2009 and has many competencies, particularly devising policies, programmes, and production related ventures and projects in order to reach the objectives related to food security. It supported this through legislations that facilitate the implementation of these projects in order to reach the expected outcomes of comprehensive food security at the federal level and across the provinces of our country.

Our competencies were also related to the development of many policies in this field and we developed a national food security plan along with many programmes and projects based on comprehensive food security policies in addition to investment policies in the field of food security. The technical committee of this body implemented many activities like capacity building, collecting and gathering information on food security, also trying to link all Government authorities and entities in addition to NGOs in the field of food security.

Sudan gives high priority to tackling food insecurity. It is focused particularly on nutrition in the President's initiative when it comes to the Arab national initiatives. This was adopted by the Arab League and many donors and associations in the Arab world monitored that 20 percent of the amount was delivered and channeled to this initiative.

In the end we would like to confirm our support to the outcome of the 42nd Session of the CFS.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of G77 and China with 84 Rome-based countries.

G77 welcomes the *Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security*. We note with satisfaction CFS key achievements.

Since its reform in 2009, the Committee has consolidated itself as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to promote food security and nutrition for all human beings, leaving no one behind. It has proven its ability to tackle pressing and sometimes controversial issues, building consensus among governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, research institutions and academia.

This multi-stakeholder model is what makes CFS unique, and it is a model that is ever more regarded as a successful experience in the United Nations system.

Through sharing the CFS strategy, G77 and China and the member countries believe that only by listening to the voices of the most vulnerable people, we can adequately address their needs; and only by bringing different partners together we can effectively coordinate our actions and to make changes.

Change is what we need to gear up for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that we have set for ourselves.

CFS 42 not only promoted open debates on important issues, it has also borne concrete results, such as the “Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises”.

As stated by the report on the State of Food Insecurity 2015 “food insecurity can be both a cause and effect of protracted crises”.

Several countries failed to reach the international hunger targets because they face a situation of protracted crisis. We therefore encourage all actors, including FAO, to make use of the Framework for Action in their programmes.

We also welcome the policy recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, the endorsement of the fourth version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF 2015), the adoption of the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-17 and the report of the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets, among others.

However, despite these significant achievements, CFS faces challenges which demands continued support from Member States and the Rome-based agencies.

CFS needs to increase its visibility for better coordination with the other international and regional organisations, as food security and nutrition can only be addressed through integrated approaches, as set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CFS contribution on addressing nutrition and its triple burdens, as recognized by the Second International Conference on Nutrition, will play an essential role in consolidating its respected voice in supporting countries to achieve the SDGs.

The Committee considered the document CFS 2015/42/10, “Towards a Framework for Monitoring CFS Decisions and Recommendations: Report on the Findings of the CFS Effectiveness Survey”.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Monitoring.

Acknowledged the document CFS 2015/42/10 on the findings of the CFS Effectiveness Survey and recognizing that the Survey provided an initial snapshot.

Requested an external evaluation to assess the efficiency of CFS since its reform in 2009 be completed by 2016, subject to availability of resources.

Reflecting decisions on CFS monitoring taken at CFS 41 to continue developing an innovative mechanism built on existing structures and, subject to availability of resources, invited volunteer member countries to pilot the implementation of voluntary in-depth country-level assessments of CFS effectiveness.

Concurred, as endorsed at CFS 41, and encouraged CFS stakeholders to continue to share their experiences and best practices, and requested the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with the OEWG on Monitoring, to explore and promote ways to achieve this.

Agreed that the OEWG on Monitoring should, as part of its work, take into consideration the implementation of the CFS work streams as outlined in CFS MYPOWs for future monitoring activities.

Agreed that the Open-Ended Working Group shall develop basic terms of reference in 2016, facilitating participation of all relevant stakeholders in these events.

In this sense, we look forward to contribute to the future of CFS work streams on the SDGs. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action which resulted from ICN2 provides the basis for further work on concrete initiatives for the implementation of these commitments and for strengthening its role within the UN System.

G77 and China wish to seize this opportunity to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Gerda Verburg for her outstanding performance as the former Chairperson of the CFS. We would also like to congratulate Her Excellency Ambassador Amira Gornass on her election as the new CFS Chairperson for this biennium, extending our full support to her.

Finally, G77 and China note that implementation of the CFS programme of work will demand substantial efforts, especially regarding budgetary constraints.

These efforts are necessary to further strengthen this innovative platform, which we all proudly have contributed to build in FAO. We therefore count on FAO's continued and valuable support.

M. Bah KONIPA (Mali)

Le Mali a l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des 54 pays de l'Afrique. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier Madame la Présidente du CSA pour son brillant exposé. Les membres du Groupe sont très fiers de l'élection de la Représentante permanente du Soudan. Nous sommes et serons disponibles pour l'aider dans ses tâches, l'encourageant dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Nous félicitons aussi la très dynamique Présidente sortante pour tout le travail accompli lors du précédent mandat, sans oublier les nouveaux membres et suppléants du bureau, élus pour le prochain exercice biennal. L'occasion est opportune pour moi d'adresser aussi au nom du Groupe Afrique notre profonde gratitude aux autorités italiennes et au peuple italien pour leur hospitalité à accueillir au Conseil.

Le Groupe régional Afrique a pris acte des résultats de la 42^{ème} session du CSA. Par conséquent, le Groupe a pris note des conclusions du rapport sur «L'état d'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde en 2015»; a approuvé les huit recommandations émanant de la table ronde sur les politiques ayant pour thème contribution de l'eau à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition, ainsi que le «Cadre d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition lors des crises prolongées» à caractère volontaire, et a encouragé l'ensemble des parties prenantes, en particulier les membres du Groupe, à diffuser, promouvoir et utiliser ce Cadre d'action et en favoriser l'application.

Nous avons approuvé aussi la quatrième version du cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, qui comprend la recommandation générale adoptée par le CSA à sa 41^{ème} session en 2014.

Le Groupe est d'accord pour une évaluation externe de l'efficacité du CSA depuis sa réforme, évaluation qui serait conduite en 2016 sous réserve des ressources disponibles, et est aussi favorable à ce que le groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur le suivi mette au point en 2016 un mandat de base, afin d'assurer que les activités relatives au suivi attirent de nombreux participants, qu'elles soit ouvertes à tous les intervenants et que toutes les régions y soient représentées.

La région Afrique considère que l'organisation d'une manifestation thématique mondiale, pendant la 43^{ème} session du CSA, afin de permettre aux participants de partager l'expérience acquise et de faire le point sur l'utilisation et l'application des «Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale», est une bonne initiative et nous appuyons cette proposition.

Le Groupe a pris en outre acte de l'adoption du programme de travail pluriannuel pour l'exercice 2016-2017, y compris les activités que doit mener le Comité et les thèmes des rapports du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau, ainsi que la note d'orientation révisée sur la sélection des activités du CSA;

salue le rôle important que doit jouer dorénavant le CSA dans la promotion de la nutrition dans le cadre de son mandat en créant des synergies et en veillant à ajouter de la valeur aux activités en cours, notamment à celles qui concernent les systèmes alimentaires durables et l'agriculture prenant en compte la nutrition.

En résumé, les membres du Groupe Afrique approuvent les conclusions et recommandations du rapport de la 42^{ème} session du CSA. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Ms Padmaja SINGH (India)

Aligning itself with the G77 and China's statement on the agenda item, India makes this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We thank the CFS Chairperson for her introduction to the agenda item and congratulate her on this position. We also thank Ambassador Gerda Verburg for her stellar role as CFS Chair over the last two years.

Already nearly a billion of us go to bed hungry every night not because there is not enough food but because of the deep injustice in the way the food system works. It is this sense of deep injustice which needs to be addressed urgently as its severest impact is felt by those on the margins, especially the rural poor, women and children.

We think CFS as a multi-stakeholder body is best placed amongst all other agencies to help stakeholders, especially national governments, address this. Our comments today are not so much on the 42nd Session of CFS as they have been comprehensively covered by the G77 and China statement and we align ourselves fully with the observations made.

Our comments are more on CFS's role over the coming years to ensure adequate food to those going to bed hungry every night. The wish list is long but in the interest of time, we highlight just two points of importance.

Our first point is regarding the use of CFS products by various stakeholders and most importantly the governments. What CFS produces is indeed commendable, be it guidelines, principles or recommendations. While we really appreciate the hard work and dedication going into preparation of these CFS products, what concerns us is how extensively and effectively do CFS products, principles, guidelines or recommendations, all voluntary in nature, get assimilated and translated into government policies.

We feel the time has come for CFS to take stock of this and attempt to bridge the gap between productive of normative goods and their translation into policies through some aggressive advocacy from the CFS platform and all other available platforms.

Second, apart from the advocacy role, the decade ahead brings great responsibilities upon CFS to bring science and evidence into policy debates in order to inform decisions and promote policy convergence for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Country-initiated national planning efforts to implement the SDGs can best work when supported by regional and global mechanisms as we feel that CFS's support to the national planning processes through evidence-based knowledge and policy analysis and assessments will prove crucial in fostering coherence and ensuring that national plans target the most vulnerable populations.

We look forward to CFS taking a very proactive role in this.

Ms Ágnes DÛS (Hungary)

Could you please give the floor to the Netherlands?

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country to the EU, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States highly value the proceedings of the 42nd CFS Plenary Session, held in FAO from 12 to 15 October 2015. The remarkable attendance, more than 1 000 representatives of the

various CFS stakeholder groups, is further proof of the relevance that CFS is gaining on the global scene in food security and nutrition matters.

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 (SOFI) presentation highlighted the successful achievement of the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goals by 73 developing countries. We understand the SOFI will be reshaped to monitor SDG2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. In this context it is important that the CFS will be closely involved and that RBAs enhance their mutual collaboration also with a view to assuring an effective contribution towards the achievement of SDG2 and of the other food security-related goals.

We consider the endorsement of the “Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises” to be the major achievement of this CFS, as globally protracted crises and food security are increasingly intertwined. All stakeholders should now disseminate the FFA messages at local, national and regional levels and use it to formulate related strategies, policies and programmes. From the EU and Member States perspective, it is important to reach the widest possible awareness raising on this document, including within the whole UN System.

Another main achievement of CFS 42 is the consensus reached on the policy recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, based on the report prepared by the HLPE. We thank the Rapporteur of the Policy Round Table, Mr Nicola Lamaddalena, who conducted the challenging negotiations. We stress that water is a key element to guarantee food security for all and we particularly appreciate the focus on access to water, efficiency of use, the empowerment of women, human rights, resilience, climate change adaptation and mitigation and the international dimension of water governance.

All CFS constituencies have confirmed their support for the important role that the Committee can play in advancing nutrition, which appears as an emerging priority in the CFS programme of work. In light of the outcomes of ICN2 and in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CFS should add value to ongoing work and foster synergies to address this multidimensional challenge. We thank WHO for accepting the invitation to participate in the Advisory Group on an *ad hoc* basis throughout 2016 and we support the possibility of involving more organisations with a specific mandate on nutrition in the CFS Advisory Group.

We strongly believe in the necessity of conducting an external evaluation in 2016. Seven years after the reform of the CFS, it is time to take stock of the achievements and to have a sound basis for decisions on a number of next steps. Moreover, an external evaluation is essential to mobilise financial support for the CFS.

The EU and its Member States are in favor of a sound monitoring of CFS effectiveness, including at country level. We look forward to the piloting of in-depth country level assessments in volunteer countries, and we support the establishment of a global thematic monitoring event during CFS43 to share experiences in this field. This event will be an excellent opportunity to assess the progress made and to reaffirm our commitment towards the implementation of the VGGT on the ground; we therefore encourage all members to participate actively in it.

In adopting the MYPOW for 2016-17, the CFS underlined the relevance of the ambitious workstreams proposed. We insist on the need to make significant progress in 2016 and we encourage donors to financially support the MYPOW: all its workstreams are particularly important for CFS efficiency and credibility. In order to ensure continued quality and added value, we also encourage the CFS not to overload its agenda.

Lastly, we welcome the election of Ambassador Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass of Sudan as the Chairperson of CFS, of the new Bureau members and of the new Vice-Chairperson, Luca Fratini of Italy. We trust in their continuous commitment and look forward to engaging actively with all CFS actors in the future.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

La Argentina posa la declaración efectuada por el grupo de los 77 más China y por nuestro Grupo Regional, el GRULAC.

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer a la Embajadora Gornass por la presentación del informe del 42° periodo de sesiones del CSA y felicitarla nuevamente por su elección como Presidenta del Comité. Estamos convencidos que bajo su liderazgo el CSA podrá llevar a cabo de manera satisfactoria el ambicioso plan de trabajo para el bienio 2016-2017. Asimismo, reconocemos y agradecemos la labor de la Presidenta saliente, Embajadora Verburg, durante el pasado bienio.

La Argentina da la bienvenida al informe del 42° período de sesiones del CSA y desea destacar la existencia de elementos de crucial relevancia en dicho informe, en particular:

- a) La aprobación del “Marco de Acción para la inseguridad alimentaria en situaciones de crisis prolongadas” que constituye un producto de gran valor para la Argentina, dado que procura conciliar los enfoques de ayuda humanitaria y desarrollo, desde una perspectiva del respeto a los derechos humanos;
- b) Las recomendaciones de la Mesa Redonda sobre Agua para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición. Al respecto, dada la importancia de estas mesas redondas, creemos que será sumamente importante explorar mejoras al proceso de elaboración de recomendaciones de política de modo tal que la intensidad de dichas negociaciones – recordemos que la última duró toda la noche - no altere la calidad del resultado de dicho trabajo, ni el potencial impacto de este producto.
- c) El programa de trabajo y prioridades para 2016-2017, que presenta importantes desafíos para la labor del CSA, en particular respecto del rol del Comité en materia de Nutrición y en relación con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Asimismo, destacamos la importancia de temas como la conexión de los pequeños agricultores a los mercados y los temas relacionados con género. Destacamos la integralidad del programa de trabajo y la necesidad de brindar apoyo financiero suficiente para poder llevarlo a cabo de manera completa.

Con estos comentarios tomamos nota del informe del 42° período de sesiones del CSA y alentamos a la Presidenta del Comité y a todos sus Miembros a continuar difundiendo las labores de esta plataforma y sus productos, fortaleciendo su carácter inclusivo y participativo, pues esta es la mejor forma de hacer frente a los desafíos relacionados con la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to welcome Madame Gornass to her position of the Chairperson of the Committee and we thank her for her presentation. We would also like to commend the active work of her predecessor, Ambassador Gerda Verburg. We strongly welcome the outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We also welcome and note SOFI 2015 and the report on Water Resources for Food Security and Nutrition which was prepared by the High-Level Panel of Experts. We welcome the adoption by the Committee of the Framework of Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. We value the comprehensive nature of this document and the attention paid to the fight against malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies.

We would like to underscore the relevance of nutrition for the work of the CFS and the importance of this theme in the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals. We are satisfied by the fact that both these major themes are duly reflected in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee for 2016-17 and we support this Multi-Year Programme of Work. In the future, it would be very desirable, though, if the ambitious tasks set forth in the Programme of Work were in line with the financial resources available to the Secretariat. Also, in the context of paying greater attention to nutrition by the CFS and on recommendation of the FAO's Conference on Nutrition and ICN2, we are in favour of further including and involving the World Health Organization in this work.

Finally, as regards the outcomes of the 42nd Session, our Delegation has made a number of comments to the Drafting Committee and its work. We hope that the recommendations we made then will be taken into account for the next session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Sr. Crisantos Obama ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial interviene suscribiendo la declaración hecha por el G77 más China y la relación hecha por nuestro distinguido amigo de Mali. Brevemente la Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial quiere reconocer efectivamente, manifestar los resultados exitosos de la 42º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, constituyen la clara manifestación de los avances que cada vez más adquiere esta institución tras su reforma del año 2009.

Efectivamente es una institución con un objetivo ambicioso de revisar y dar seguimiento a las políticas relativas a la seguridad alimentaria del mundo. Unos objetivos efectivamente ambiciosos para la Organización. Pero como he dicho antes, apreciamos que la Organización esté ya yendo en su camino adecuado según las esperanzas de los Estados Miembros. Los temas discutidos en la sesión anterior reflejan esta importancia al igual que la adopción de la Nota Informativa N° 4 son una manifestación clara de los avances positivos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria está reconociendo.

Sabemos que el objetivo es ambicioso, pero que requiere esfuerzos de todos los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría de la Organización para dispensar todos los recursos necesarios para que este Comité pueda cumplir con su mandato. Pero queremos efectivamente también comentar brevemente señalando que reconocer esos desafíos financieros que sucesivamente a la institución, el Comité podrá afrontarse en el futuro. Alentamos al Comité a adoptar estrategias novedosas para promover financiación extra, para promover más financiación que pueda ayudar a avanzar esta institución.

Y una de las estrategias, efectivamente ya lo discutimos en el 42º período de sesiones del Comité, es reforzar la coordinación en todos los planes; reforzar la coordinación a nivel mundial; reforzar la coordinación, el apoyo y asesoramiento a los países y a las regiones. Rendir más visibilidad a todas las acciones, a todos los resultados del Comité; rendir visibilidad para que todos los socios e implicados puedan reconocer efectivamente la labor importante que despliega este Comité. La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial termina felicitando en primer lugar a la Presidenta saliente, la Embajadora de Holanda por su excelente trabajo; al Presidente encabezando a este importante Comité. Y a la nueva Presidenta, la distinguida Embajadora de Sudán, le expresamos felicitaciones y la animamos a proseguir con sus esfuerzos.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I would like to begin by thanking all of those who took the floor and assure them that their comments are going to be taken into consideration. I would like to encourage all the country members of CFS to make use of the policy recommendations of CFS. I would like you to use these recommendations and try to integrate these policy recommendations at country level and come to us in the next plenary on what you think about your application of these after you integrate it into your national policies. I would like to receive feedback from you. Also, I would like to request you all, Members, all stakeholders and all members of CFS, to contribute generously to the general budget of CFS. We need to close the funding gap which we have so as to be able to implement the programme for 2016 and 2017. An earmarked contribution will also be welcomed but we prefer to have contribution to the general budget of the Committee.

Ms Deborah FULTON (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

Just a few of the comments that a number of you made was that the Secretariat reflect on looking for more time for debating in the Plenary, how we can improve the processes around the policy roundtables and the importance of the attention to the outreach strategy. We will discuss that with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group as we prepare for the next session in the coming year. A number of you did also comment on the financing gap which I think has made an eloquent plea.

If there are any of you who are interested in knowing more about the financing gap or the budget, those of you who are members of CFS and able to consider a contribution, it would really not be a large contribution from any of you, if there was a broad range of input. There have been discussions in the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group catalyzed by the Chair, about a longer-term funding strategy for CFS. That will be something that we take up in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

I also want to join the others to congratulate you for being elected to lead the CFS for the coming two years and also I want to recognize the contribution which was made by Ambassador Gerda Verburg for her able leadership during the past two years.

I can say now we have come to the end of this agenda item. I would like to make my conclusions as follows.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and the recommendations contained in the *Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, and in particular:

- (a) welcomed the endorsement of the voluntary Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises by the CFS and encouraged FAO and all stakeholders to disseminate, promote, make use of, and support its implementation;
- (b) welcomed the recommendations resulting from the policy roundtable on “Water for Food Security and Nutrition” and encouraged FAO and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations arising from the policy roundtable;
- (c) noting that all CFS constituencies had confirmed their support for the CFS to play an important role in advancing nutrition within its mandate, appreciated the decision of CFS to promote this through the creation of an Open-Ended Working Group on nutrition;
- (d) further welcomed the decision of CFS to place the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition, at the center of its work to 2030;
- (e) appreciated the report of the High Level Panel of Experts on “Water for Food Security and Nutrition”;
- (f) recognized the importance of the planned external evaluation to assess CFS effectiveness since its reform, to be carried out in 2016 subject to available resources;
- (g) endorsed the fourth version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, incorporating policy recommendations adopted at the 41st Session of the CFS in 2014;
- (h) welcomed the decision of CFS to hold an event during the CFS 43 to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security”; and
- (i) endorsed the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-17, noting that all its work streams were important for CFS efficiency and credibility in the promotion of food security and nutrition.

That is the end of my summary on this agenda item.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I would like to know if it could be taken into the report the necessary call for resources. The Chairperson called out to the Members, and I wonder whether many Members realize that the Programme of Work will not be done without voluntary resources. Could this be somehow added to your summary?

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Under point (c) we would like to suggest adding “including the Open-Ended Working Group”.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

En general estamos de acuerdo con sus conclusiones, solamente queremos referirnos al tema de la evaluación. Que si bien la consideramos importante, pero no creemos necesario tener que resaltar esa actividad del resto de actividades que están en el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual. Si se va a resaltar una de ellas, nosotros quisiéramos que también se resalten otras. Por ejemplo, el GRULAC mencionó el Foro de Pequeños Agricultores y el acceso a los mercados, y del cual queremos medidas y recomendaciones concretas. Es decir, no creemos conveniente resaltar una actividad en particular

cuando hay otras actividades que igual consideramos importantes del Programa de Trabajo Plurianual. Por lo cual quisiéramos que se elimine esa mención o que se agregue, como he dicho, otras actividades también importantes.

CHAIRPERSON

Are you referring to point ‘f’? Let me read it again: “recognized the importance of the planned external evaluation to assess CFS effectiveness since its reform, to be carried out in 2016 subject to available resources”. Is that the paragraph you are referring to?

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Sí, y consideramos que es una actividad importante, pero es una más de las otras actividades que están incluidas en el Plan de Trabajo Plurianual. Y hay otras que igualmente las consideramos importantes y no vemos necesario el resaltar una en particular en este momento en detrimento de las otras. Quizá una referencia en general cómo está al plan plurianual, pero sin mencionar una de ellas en particular.

Simplemente diríamos que hay que detallar otras que también creemos importante.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not have a problem with this. I know it will be when you refer to the MYPOW. MYPOW contains a lot of work issues. But maybe mentioning it, because when Iran was speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, it did call for resources for this work. I think that is the uniqueness of it being reiterated so that it draws attention to the Members and those who are ready to give resources. That is why I just put it in my conclusion.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

The point that we wanted to raise was already mentioned by the esteemed Delegate of Iceland which is the financial resources for implementing the Multi-Year Programme of Work. We would suggest to add it under bullet (i) to highlight the importance of providing the financial resources to the general budget of the CFS.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I am just raising this question on behalf of my country, Iran. One of the issues related to food safety which is important, to all countries, is that should we recommend it if it is not in the document to be included in the future programme of CFS. Pesticide residues, colleagues are working on that one. So how we can collaborate between WHO and CFS. If we can include it in the report today it would be perfect. If not, how can we ask CFS to focus on the issues because of the importance?

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the CFS Secretariat to respond to this as well as respond to the issue of the evaluation because the question has been put forward by Ecuador. I tried to give an explanation. Maybe I gave my explanation on the basis of what I heard from the Members.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

A very minor editorial change if I may. In point ‘e’ of your summary, could we use the first words “acknowledged with appreciation” instead of “appreciated”? It is a minor editorial change but it was discussed during the drafting of the policy roundtable decision box and there was some minor discussion behind this as well. If we could stick with the wording of the decision box, then that would be good.

I would like to mention that several countries, I recall at least two delegations, ours included, noted that it would be good if the Programme of Work in future in its scope corresponded to the existing financial resources. I would like to underline the importance of that but I would not insist on including it in the report.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I kindly ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

First of all, I would like to explain to the Representative of Ecuador that the external evaluation that is foreseen for 2016 is not part of the MYPOW, it is apart from the normal workstreams that CFS has to conduct and to carry out. It is not a danger for the effectiveness and the achievements of the normal workstreams that CFS is having to do in the MYPOW. Perhaps that could also clear some misunderstanding.

We would also like to concur with the request of Iceland. We would like to also have in your summary an encouragement to all stakeholders for financial contributions to the financing gap of the CFS.

Lastly, we support the suggestion of Russia, although in other wordings to meet the financial needs for the CFS, but also that the financial means of the CFS meet with the work they have to do. Perhaps we could add a sentence in order to ensure continued quality and added value: "we encourage the CFS not to overload the agenda". Maybe this phrase is acceptable for everyone.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Hemos escuchado el comentario que ha hecho Holanda. Nosotros nos dimos conocimiento de esta evaluación externa. Conocemos de esa evaluación que se va a llevar a cabo dentro del MYPOW y pedimos más información al respecto pero de todas maneras no vemos la necesidad de resaltar ese tema en el Informe del Consejo, más aun cuando puede generar justamente esa confusión con la que, al parecer, otra evaluación que va a haber dentro del MYPOW. Por eso, no vemos la necesidad que se resalte en el Informe del Consejo esa evaluación. Y estaríamos más conforme, sí se lo podría dejar de mencionar, retirar de las conclusiones.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We think your original summary reflected the gist of the debate. We do not think any changes are required to your original text.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Just to echo the point that was just made by India as well as the Netherlands. We feel that it is a very important issue to highlight and believe that what you have proposed as language was a reasonable way forward.

CHAIRPERSON

I saw Brazil's flag but I have already made corrections to what you said. I will read it out. Secretariat wants to say something. I tried to explain why I put it in point (f).

Ms Deborah FULTON (Secretary, Committee on the World Food Security)

Let me go briefly on the evaluation. It is slightly separate from the rest of the work in the MYPOW. It is carried forward from the previous MYPOW that was originally in the 2014-15 MYPOW and it is an outstanding piece of work waiting to be done. And secondly, this is an external evaluation so it is not work that the Committee itself is undertaking together. It is something that will be commissioned and then reported back to the Committee. It is a little separate from the other workstreams in that sense.

Just to comment briefly on the question about how to encourage CFS to do some work on food safety. The room may have a view on commenting on that in the conclusions but the Multi-Year Programme of Work has an Open-ended Working Group within CFS that will start its work early next year and is open to all members and participants of CFS. They collectively come up with the future priorities for the work. They will be working on the MYPOW for 2018-19. So that would be a place to encourage CFS to pick up that work while participating in the Open-Ended Working Group.

CHAIRPERSON

I think the assurance that this external evaluation is separate from other work streams, we agreed to that.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Hasta nosotros conocemos esta evaluación externa fue aprobada dentro del MYPOW. Es una actividad que está contenida justamente en el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual. Y cuando mencionamos que no vemos la necesidad de resaltar, por más importante que sea la actividad, así como otras, pero una en particular en el Informe del Consejo, es porque hemos mencionado anteriormente la necesidad de proteger la integridad de las actividades en el MYPOW. Es decir, las contribuciones que se tengan para las actividades no vayan dirigidas enteramente a una actividad si no que vaya hacia la integridad del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto.

Tenemos que cuando se hizo la declaración del G77 apuntaba justamente a obtener esos recursos, a esa y otras actividades. Diciendo que no queremos llamar la atención de que vayan esos recursos a una actividad específica dejando de lado otras. Y como digo, no vemos la necesidad de que el Consejo resalte un tema, por más importante que sea. Y si lo va a hacer, quisiéramos que se resalte otros. El caso que GRULAC mencionó el Foro de los Pequeños Agricultores y el acceso a los mercados. Quisiéramos en todo caso que se agregue también por ejemplo esa actividad, pero como digo la intención es de que haya recursos para totalidad de MYPOW y no resaltar una sola actividad cuyos recursos vayan solamente a esa esa actividad.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am taking the floor as a representative of a Member State of the EU and of course I align with everything that the EU Presidency has said. But also in my former capacity as the Chair of the MYPOW Open-Ended Working Group, the evaluation is a crucial element of the CFS for the next biennium and as the EU statement clearly said, number one, we would like to see the MYPOW considered in its entirety and I think everybody here agrees on this.

The second point I would like to make is that it is very important for various reasons that this evaluation be carried out during 2016 as it is written in the MYPOW. I am saying this because after being part of a couple of Bureau meetings in the CFS, we have noted that there are sometimes attempts to either take one piece out of the MYPOW or postpone this or that activity.

Well I think the Membership has clearly stated during this evening that this should not happen and of course it will be our task altogether to make sure that more resources come into the CFS so that we can carry out the entire Programme of Work. But we really do believe that the evaluation is crucial first of all because it has already been postponed once and secondly because some Members have indicated that the external evaluation is necessary for them to make additional financial contributions to the CFS. Please take this into account and, having said this, I really hope that your conclusions will be kept.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions will be kept if there is a consensus. I need consensus on this. That is what is very important and I hope with this explanation which has been given, Ecuador will go for the consensus on this issue.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Creemos que los argumentos emitidos por nuestro distinguido colega de Ecuador son válidos en el sentido en que nos encontramos en un contexto complejo. Es verdad que la evaluación es un tema sumamente importante para el CSA, pero también es verdad que hay muchas líneas de trabajo que son importantes para diversos Grupos Regionales, y en un contexto de recursos escasos, tendríamos que evitar enviar una señal equivocada por parte de este Consejo.

En este sentido nuestro propuesto sería que si vamos a hacer referencia a la evaluación, también hagamos referencia a otras actividades. Pongamos “and other activities”, o de alguna forma capturemos las otras actividades para que cuando se lee el informe de Consejo, quien decida aporta fondos pueda tener el mensaje correcto y esos fondos deben ser tanto para la evolución como para las otras actividades que son sumamente importantes para los distintos grupos regionales. Entonces de alguna forma me parece que la salida para esto debería ser capturar la idea de

Continues in English

Other activities that are really important for many regional groups, as in the case of GRULAC with the work stream related to smallholders' connection to markets.

CHAIRPERSON

Ecuador. Is there a consensus? Any formulation that you would go into this to keep it?

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

No nos parece que la propuesta de Argentina de incluir otras actividades es justamente la que teníamos. Por lo tanto si Usted recoge la propuesta de Argentina con un lenguaje apropiado, nosotros la apoyaremos.

CHAIRPERSON

Now let me go through the changes I have made on point (c): “noting that all CFS constituencies and confirmed their support for the CFS to play an important role in advancing nutrition within its mandate, appreciated the decision of CFS to promote this, including through the creation of an Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition.”

I have also made changes on point ‘e’ in accordance with what was suggested: “acknowledged with appreciation the report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Water for Food Security and Nutrition.”

The reformulated point (f) now reads as follows: “recognized the importance of the planned external evaluation to assess CFS effectiveness since its reform to be carried out in 2016 as well as follow-up to the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets and the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation, and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition, subject to available resources.”

Then changes made to point (i): “endorsed the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-17, noting that all its work streams were important for CFS efficiency and credibility in the promotion of food security and nutrition and encouraged donors to financially support the Programme of Work of CFS, which should be commensurate with its financial means.”

I see there is a consensus for my conclusion so I conclude on this agenda item.

Item 14. Outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, South Africa, 7-11 September 2015)**Point 14. Résultats du quatorzième Congrès forestier mondial (Durban, Afrique du Sud, 7-11 septembre 2015)****Tema14. Resultados del 14.º Congreso Forestal Mundial (Durban [Sudáfrica], 7-11 de septiembre de 2015)**

(CL 153/13)

CHAIRPERSON

We have two items to conclude.

We now turn to item 14, *Outcome of the XIV World Forestry Congress*. The document before Council is CL 153/13.

I invite Ms Tiina Vähänen, Associate Secretary-General of the World Forestry Congress to introduce the report.

Ms Tiina Vähänen (Associate Secretary-General, World Forestry Congress)

It is not a very pleasant situation to be here at the last agenda item probably tonight but I will be brief in my presentation and I hope to give, through this PowerPoint Presentation, a little bit of colour and flavour to this dark night tonight and hopefully also some African flavor because, after all, the XIV World Forestry Congress was held for the first time ever in the African region in September earlier this year.

So the thematic focus of the XIV World Forestry Congress was forests and people, investing in a sustainable future. This cross-sectoral topic was addressed throughout the week in Durban in every single sub-theme of the Congress so the focus was really not about trees and forests. It was how to invest into people that work and live out of the forests and how to bring the forestry agenda closer to the sustainable development agenda.

So in summary, it was quite a record-breaking participation in the Congress. There were nearly 4 000 participants coming from one 138 countries, representing governments, stakeholders, academia, universities, civil society and all other stakeholder groups.

It had also a record high participation by ministers. Never before this Congress in the past has there been so many ministers or deputy ministers attending the World Forestry Congress and this I believe can be taken as a sign of a great interest in the agenda and a concern about the world's forestry and forests in the future.

There was also, as our focus was from the beginning as agreed with the host country, the government of the Republic of South Africa that one of the focus groups is youth, young professionals, and young students, and they indeed participated quite significantly. There were 350 young professionals and students and we were able to also, with some generous contributions from some donor countries, actually contribute to their travel support.

The Durban outcome is the Durban Declaration. It sets a new vision for forests and forestry in 2050 in the context of the overall sustainable development agenda. This Declaration and other outcome documents of the Congress reflect a diverse set of viewpoints of the participants. There were not negotiated documents as this was a technical congress but yet the outcome is fairly focused and gives a new era for forests and forestry in the future.

Also quite significant, we received feedback for this that it was a Congress with an unusual way of making people participate very widely. There were some modern techniques that were used to enhance very interactive participation.

About the technical content, there were a number of events. It was a very rich week of several different events. There was a high-level dialogue where almost 20 Ministers participated and also the FAO Director-General participated in that. There were several plenary sessions and sub-theme sessions. There were 800 voluntary papers and a majority of those papers were presented one way or another during the Congress.

There were also a number of posters, videos, and there were almost 200 side events during the Congress. Some said it was too much but others felt it was very rich with programmes that they could participate in. And quite a large number of these side events were actually organized by non-state and civil society and non-governmental organizations.

So as I mentioned, the World Forestry Congress, its most significant outcome was the new vision for forests and forestry in the context of sustainable development. It also produced a robust set of action points how to achieve this vision and then there were two other outcome documents that were specifically geared toward the Sustainable Development Goals, the role of forests in Sustainable Development Goals, and how that can be implemented.

The other outcome document was focusing on the role of forests in climate change, how forests can provide a solution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

So the new vision for forests and forestry 2050 helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the world forest contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. The vision calls for mainstreaming forests and forestry in the strategies for sustainable development. The implementation of the vision will require enabling cross-cutting policies, improved governance across sectors including gender equality and tenure arrangements and investments.

On the forest and food security, the new vision for forests recognizes forests' fundamental role for food security and improved livelihoods. As regards climate change, the new vision for forests positions forests as essential solutions to climate change. Sustainably managed forests will increase the

resilience of ecosystems and societies and optimize the role of forests and trees in absorbing and storing carbon while providing other environmental services.

And one of the key outcomes that is reflected in this vision is the more integrated approaches to land use. The vision outlines how economic development will help reduce deforestation, notably through integrated approaches to land use by addressing conflicts over land use. The vision also underlines the importance of capitalizing the full range of economic, social, and environmental benefits of integrating forests with agriculture and maintaining multiple forest services in the landscape context.

The vision calls for new partnerships among different sectors and different disciplines and FAO intends to address this vision through its cross-cutting strategic framework that supports a world that is free from hunger and poverty and where natural resources, including forests, are sustainably managed. All stakeholders are invited to use this new vision for forests and forestry 2050 for improving future work on forestry.

As I mentioned in the beginning, one of the focus groups of the Congress was getting young people at the Congress to experience the Congress but also to get their input to this vision for the future. The contribution of youth was really significant. They were really committed throughout the work and they actually made their own declaration. At the end of presenting this declaration to I would say the adult audience, they say what are you committed to? We as young people are committed to a vision for the future and what are you committed to? So it was a very significant contribution from them.

So in their view, in the future the forests are managed based on multi-stakeholder engagement and acceptance. They serve people, provision of food, water, shelter, energy, and employment, and the forests are maintained as a spring for inspiration, spirituality and culture. They also protect nature, the climate, and ultimately sustain life.

Also at this time the Congress has quite massive worldwide media coverage. The outcome of the Congress including the launch of the Global Forestry Resources Assessment 2015 was really broadcasted very widely around the world including by very well-known broadcast companies that you can see here in the slide.

Then as regards the dissemination of the outcome of the Congress, FAO made a very bold statement at the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee highlighting the outcome of the Congress. We also have submitted a written submission to the UNFCCC, COP21 in Paris highlighting in particular this new vision for forests and forestry but also the specific contributions that forests can make to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Now we here at the FAO Council, we are reporting on the results of the Congress and we also intend and are actually doing already so to represent the outcome at the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions and last but not least at the FAO African Regional Conference next year in April.

I would like to conclude my presentation here by really thanking the Government of the Republic of South Africa for their generously and very graciously hosting the XIV World Forestry Congress. Their contribution was significant and from the FAO Secretariat's side, I just wish to thank you, my counterparts and our counterparts in South Africa, and the excellent collaboration that we had with them.

Mr N.K. Martin SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa Group is proud in that, once again, the continent has shown exceptional capacity to successfully host conferences of this magnitude. The Durban conference in this regard was indeed a milestone event as it was hosted for the first time on the African Continent since its inception in 1926.

South Africa appreciates the contribution by her own Government, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Director General, Dr. Graziano da Silva, partners and stakeholders and hope that the outcome documents of the Congress, in particular the Durban Declaration, will become a key pillar in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Africa Group welcomes the outcomes of the XIV World Forestry Congress, and we note with appreciation the declaration relevant to FAO that, amongst others, “forests are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods and will increase the resilience of communities by providing food, as well as wood energy; sustainable forest management requires integrated approaches to land use in addressing the drivers of deforestation and conflicts over land use; forests are an essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and that greater attention to gender equality and the enthusiasm of the youth as a source of inspiration and stimulus for innovation are required for realizing the vision of forests”.

With regard to the *Durban Declaration, 2050 vision for forests and forestry*, whilst mainstreaming gender, the Declaration offers an opportunity for new partnerships in the forestry, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors, and engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities. We are supremely confident that the outcomes of the XIV World Forestry Congress will find meaning and expression in us as a global collective.

The Africa Group proposes to Council that the FAO Director-General be requested to submit proposals as necessary on how FAO could further disseminate the outcome of the Congress and implementation relevant recommendations included in the outcome documents, within available resources.

Finally, we wish to reiterate the statement by the Deputy State President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, in his opening address at the XIV World Forestry Congress, who indicated that it was an honour and a privilege for South Africa to host the Congress in Durban and that we are confident this Congress will help map the future of the forestry sector as a critical pillar of the sustainable development of our planet.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I wish to express our appreciation for the excellent presentation of this event. And you will not be surprised that I am going to ask for the floor for the Netherlands.

Mr Hans BRAND (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

We welcome the outcome documents of the XIV World Forestry Congress. The organization of this major event in Durban, South Africa is recognition of the importance of Africa in global efforts to preserve forests and promote their sustainable development. The conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests will play a central role in the global efforts to tackle climate change. We look forward to the conclusion of an ambitious agreement at the COP21 in Paris.

The FAO has a unique role to play in supporting global efforts on forests, in particular as regards transparency and comparability of global forest data, integrated approaches to land management and addressing the drivers of deforestation. In this regard, we believe that FAO can gain a lot from enhanced dialogue with other sectors. The FAO also plays a crucial role in the implementation of the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Action Plan. We encourage FAO to reinforce its work when it comes to strengthening the roles and rights of women and youth in the forestry sector. EU is one of the main contributors to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), both for financial and technical support. FAO's leading role in providing global statistics in the field of forestry is a key element for the implementation of the SDGs.

We welcome the FRA initiative as an important tool in this process and will closely follow its progress. Further efforts are needed to ensure that all dimensions of sustainable forest management are adequately covered by the FRA. Integration of satellite-based information into the FRA should also be explored. We encourage the FAO to maintain forests high on the agenda of the Organization and to continue allocating adequate human resources and expertise to forest activities. We also support FAO's ongoing efforts to improve and further streamline existing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, especially in the context of the Agenda 2013 review process.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

Japan welcomes the adoption of the outcome documents of the World Forestry Congress, the Durban Declaration, which illustrates a long-term vision of forests and forestry, as well as two messages; one related to SDGs and the other on climate change. In this connection, we would like to emphasize a few points which we think are necessary for moving forward.

Firstly, we think it is important that multiple functions of forests need to be recognized not only within the forest sector but also in the context of the whole development agenda. As highlighted in the Council document, the areas where forests can play a significant role are not limited to SDG 6, water-related ecosystems, and Goal 15, sustainable forest management, as well as other SDGs including those related to ending poverty, sustainable energy for all and combating climate change, but also broader socioeconomic development through their functions such as resilience building, product innovation, economic growth and disaster risk reduction.

Secondly, it should be noted that in addition to those outcome documents, “action points for forests and forestry” was compiled and released as the result of the World Forestry Congress. For the effective implementation of the recommendations included in the outcome documents, these action points should be also better redirected in the FAO strategy and programmes.

Thirdly, we consider that FAO should take a leadership in tackling deforestation caused by conversion of forest land into agricultural land, a main driver of deforestation. This is one of the most important issues in view of achieving SDGs as well as global objectives on forests defined in the United Nations Forest Instrument. The importance of close collaboration between the forest sector and agriculture sector has been reiterated in many fora to overcome deforestation. Therefore, such close coordination between the two sectors should be well taken into account in the new planning process in line with the Strategic Objectives under the proposed organizational structure.

Lastly, we would like to ask the Secretariat to provide us with further explanation on paragraph 10 of the Council document, indicating that “FAO will set up a process to determine how forests could be better described including its various functions”.

Sr. Crisantos Obama ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Felicidades a la Sra. Tiina Vähänen por la excelente presentación. Mi declaración es de la Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial y se suscribe a la realizada por Sudáfrica a nombre del Grupo Africano. Brevemente aquí queremos reconocer la importancia de los bosques, como bien dijo la Sra. Tiina Vähänen. Los bosques para los países como el mío, que son países forestales, son esenciales para la vida de la población. Los bosques son el recurso más importante para la economía, para la agricultura, para la medicina, para regular el clima, para la nutrición, para cultura, para el turismo.

Por lo tanto, efectivamente, creo que los bosques deben estar al centro de la actividad de la FAO, incluso pidiendo apoyo a otros asociados para elaborar programas corrientes, que pueden ayudar a los países a gestionar mejor los bosques que es lo más importante. Garantizar una gestión social con los bosques, porque sin los bosques muchos de estos pueblos forestales efectivamente verían su vida en peligro. Por lo tanto, suscribo la declaración los importantes resultados que han salido de esta conferencia de Durban y quiero concentrarme en el párrafo 3 que recuerda las principales importancias de las nuevas alianzas y alentando efectivamente que esas nuevas alianzas son importantes y la cuestión es alentar a la FAO para que dé mayores esfuerzos para concretar esas alianzas.

Garantizar mejor la utilización de estos instrumentos importantes que han sido el resultado de este Congreso y buscar mecanismos concretos para producir estos importantes documentos en plan de acción concretos para efectivamente poder avanzar en el sector. Termino felicitando a la Delegación de Sudáfrica por la excelente organización de este congreso.

Ms Elle O'FLAHERTY (United States of America)

The United States supports the key messages of the Durban Declaration, especially as they relate to FAO's Strategic Objectives including the contribution of forests to food security and livelihoods,

the value of the integrated approaches to land use and the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The United States supports the commitment of FAO to actively support strengthening the contributions of forests to the SDGs by making available data and information, providing technical support, and promoting best practices and dialogue.

Ms Tiina Vähänen (Associate Secretary-General, World Forestry Congress)

Indeed there were many comments related to FAO's work on forestry that may be better answered by the Director of FOM but maybe I will just address the one direct question that was addressed to this document of the Council, paragraph 10 regarding the potential reflection on the forest definition.

This indeed stemmed from a very rich dialogue in different sessions in the World Forestry Congress including a parallel full week event organized by civil society which were particularly concerned how FAO is defining planted forests and forest plantations. There were absolutely no conclusions during the World Forestry Congress but it inspired us to consider whether there might be a need to consider and define forests better than it has been defined so far because COP – now it has only been defined based on the biophysical parameters. So it might be worthwhile to consider adding the functions of forests and then make a distinction between different types of forests including planted forests and industrial landscape plantations.

So there would be a process to that and we will make a proposal for COFO to actually look into how that process could be organized for this wide stakeholder process to consider whether there is a need to change the definition and, if so, how. And perhaps, if you wish, the Director could address some of the other points.

Mr Eduardo MANSUR (Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division)

Thank you very much for the important information provided to us and the FAO Secretariat to take very good care of the recommendations, especially on this question of the definition. As the Associate Secretary-General of the Congress and Deputy Director explained, it will be a set of actions that we are going to carry out and discuss in COFO regarding the functions of forests to better understand and support the countries in the definitions.

We had this rich debate during the Congress. The civil society organizations were mostly interested in the definition of planted forests and how it reflects on the data set that FAO presented. And FRA, the need to have better definitions to better segregate the information and allow for further understanding of the data we provide. And the partners both in the CPF and the collaborative partnership on forests and outside the CPF that are interested in bringing new vision in terms of the functionality and the functions that forests provide for societies.

So I think these are the points that have been raised and we look very much forward to having further discussions on this item during COFO.

CHAIRPERSON

Noting that the outcome of the Conference will go to COFO and they will consider the recommendations therein according to the programming and planning for the 2017-18 Programme of Work and Budget of FAO.

Let me make some brief conclusions on item 14.

1. The Council welcomed the outcome documents of the XIV World Forestry Congress which took place in Durban, South Africa from 7 to 11 September 2015, and:

(a) welcomed the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry as a milestone to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the sustainable future to 2050 and beyond;

(b) noted the key findings of the FAO Global Forestry Resources Assessment 2015 on the status of the world forest resources and their sustainable management; and

(c) recommended that FAO actively support strengthening the contributions of its work on forests to the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the Organization's Strategic Framework, including by means of technical support and promoting best practices and dialogue.

That is the end of my conclusion on this Agenda Item 14.

I want to thank you, Director-General and Secretary-General. I know you were involved in the preparation for this Congress and which was very successful. So we hope this will go to COFO and it will be taken up. I thank you very much.

We have now come to the end of the long day and we hope tomorrow we will be able to continue and try as much as we can to finish the work so that you can leave in good time to the Drafting Committee to start their work.

And I want to thank the interpreters who have really given us a favour because otherwise by this time they should have been out of this room but they have been able to give us some more time to continue with our business. Thank you very much, interpreters.

I will adjourn the meeting until tomorrow morning at 9:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 20:53 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 53

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.53

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

2 December 2015

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.46 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 46
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.46
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I hope you had a good rest after yesterday's long day. I hope today we can have a short day if we keep all of our interventions short and conclude on all agenda items as quickly as possible. I am not saying that we should rush but we should be brief and focused.

I now call the Fifth Meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council to order. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General who has joined us on his return to Rome from COP21.

Director-General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Members of the Council, Ladies and gentlemen, Mesdames et messieurs,

Suite en français

Permettez-moi de commencer par féliciter et remercier le Gouvernement de la France, en la personne de Son Excellence Monsieur Serge Tomasi, pour la participation record et le succès jusqu'à présent de la Conférence sur le climat à Paris, la COP21.

Ainsi qu'environ 150 dirigeants de la planète, j'ai eu l'occasion de souligner la nécessité urgente de lutter contre les impacts du changement climatique et de nous engager encore plus sur le chemin du développement durable.

Lundi, j'ai pris part au Dialogue de haut niveau sur la résilience face au changement climatique, en présence du Président Hollande et d'autres leaders.

Et hier, j'ai participé à la Journée d'action consacrée à l'agriculture, et au lancement de l'Initiative française 4 pour mille. Je félicite la France, encore une fois, pour son rôle dans ce moment historique.

Continues in English

Allow me now to continue in English. We hope that the Paris Conference will be crowned by the adoption of a new robust, binding global agreement on climate change.

Without combating climate change, we will miss the path towards sustainable development. And we will not succeed in eliminating extreme poverty and hunger.

At the COP, I held a number of bilateral meetings, and signed a promising Memorandum of Understanding with Google on monitoring of natural resources, especially forests.

I was happy to receive, from the hands of the President of Palau, his country's document of ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

We are one more step closer to have the Agreement come into force, hopefully, by the next year, as we agreed in the meeting in Chile. So we still need 15 countries to ratify. FAO is ready to support its Members to take the steps needed for this.

FAO has a small but very active delegation in Paris. In their various activities there, as in my statements, we are highlighting the important work we do in climate change.

We have taken to Paris strong messages, such as:

First, that climate change threatens to hinder our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2030;

Second, that the world's poorest and hungry people are the most affected;

Third, that climate change and hunger must be addressed together, and that sustainable agriculture and rural development are central to both;

Fourth, that actions to promote resilience in the agricultural sectors cut across the usual distinction between adaptation and mitigation. The best and most sound approaches to adaptation will bring mitigation co-benefits.

As one participant put it in very simple terms: "climate change, poverty, hunger: it's all the same fight."

At COP21, it became evident that agriculture is already a top priority for most countries, and in particular to developing countries. Most of them considered agriculture within their strategies for both mitigation and adaptation.

An initial analysis of the national targets submitted by countries, or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), shows that 84 percent of the Parties to the UNFCCC included agriculture in their mitigation plans.

And 64 percent have noted agriculture's importance in adaptation strategies to cope with the impacts of climate change.

One message was also evident from the INDCs: for countries to meet their targets, climate finance will need to address agriculture.

In short, there was a loud and clear international call for the agricultural sectors to be adequately considered within the climate change debate. And FAO stands ready to support our Members. We have the experience and the tools to help countries to implement the actions and strategies reported in their national commitments.

With that in mind, I have met in Paris with the Moroccan Minister for Energy, Mining, Water and the Environment, His Excellency Minister Amara. As you may know, Morocco will take over from France the presidency of the Conference of the Parties, and will host COP22 in Marrakech next year. The Moroccan government has requested FAO's support to organize the COP22.

I was happy to confirm to him FAO's readiness to assist.

The Minister announced he will send a technical delegation to Rome to identify partnership possibilities, and discuss how we can work on that.

One possibility under consideration is a regional cooperation programme to offer adequate training and capacity building for African decision-makers, in preparation for COP22.

Developing countries, and particularly LDCs and SIDS, will need assistance moving to the next stage. FAO may help them, for example, to identify opportunities and negotiate on climate finance.

Excellencies, regarding this Session of the Council, I would like to thank all of you for endorsing the adjustments to the PWB 2016-17. And most important: endorsing them by consensus.

I was sure that with transparency and frank dialogue we would continue overcoming differences and move forward together. I am glad that this spirit of dialogue and mutual respect has been present during the deliberations this week.

Management is committed to continue transforming FAO for the better. We will keep working to earn and keep your trust and your support. I am confident that the adjustments will contribute to make this Organization even more prepared to deliver our programme of work and achieve our Strategic Objectives.

They will also pave the way for the Organization to assist members meet the challenge of achieving the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030.

Let me make some comments on the issue of vacancies. You may note that, while we aim to keep a 10 to 15 percent vacancy rate, I have appointed several professionals over the last months.

Just to give you a number, 72 Professionals have been appointed, and you can see that the vacancy rates for some specific divisions that you were expressing concern, like OED, has fallen sharply. The vacancy rate for OED, for instance, has fallen below 5 percent in a few months.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am aware that the debates in this session have been intense, and I know you still have some issues to discuss and take decisions on. I will not take too much of your time today. I wish you success in your deliberations, and I will be back on Friday for the closure of this Session of the Council.

Continúa en Español

Señoras y Señores, Permítanme, antes de concluir, decirles que tome conocimiento de las discusiones que han tenido lugar en estos dos días.

Y quería decirles, antes de cerrar, que la base de la confianza mutua que alcanzamos, fue tener respeto por nuestra constitución.

Y nuestra constitución delimita muy claramente las funciones distintas, igualmente importantes, que tienen los Miembros y que tiene el Secretariado.

Yo reporté eso en el mensaje grabado el lunes. Quería volver a insistir sobre ese punto. Si nosotros no hacemos lo que nos compete, no vamos a conseguir mantener el consenso que nos costó tanto alcanzar.

Quiero recordar que el consenso es importante, porque permite movernos más rápido adelante. Y más que nunca, con los desafíos que tenemos por delante en nuestra agenda, de implementar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Eso es lo que necesitamos hacer, avanzar juntos y más rápido.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General. The Council is always open to welcome you any time.

Item 13. World Food Programme**Point 13. Programme alimentaire mondial****Tema 13. Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

Item 13.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

Point 13.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM

Tema 13.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

(CL 153/11; CL 153/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, the first item on the Agenda this morning is Item 13, which concerns the World Food Programme matters.

Under sub-item 13.1 the Council is requested to elect *Six Members to the WFP Executive Board*. The documents before Council are CL 153/11 and CL 153/LIM/3 Rev.1.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members: Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary of the Executive Board and Mr Chad Martino, Programme Adviser.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 153/LIM/3 Rev.1.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For List A there is one candidate for one seat: Mauritania. For List B, there are three candidates for two seats: Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Kuwait. For List C, there is one candidate for one seat: Mexico. For List D there are two candidates for two seats: Sweden and the United States of America.

CHAIRPERSON

As there are three candidates for two List B seats, I wish to ask the candidates whether any of them wishes to withdraw.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I am sorry to say that I am not taking the floor to withdraw. Before that, I would like to seek your permission to say something, and I would like to clarify if I have the permission to talk as a candidate, and not an observer.

CHAIRPERSON

You are talking as a country. As Bangladesh.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

Mr Chairperson, you have asked if any of the candidate countries wishes to withdraw.

Before that, I have three points and then I have a proposal. I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that there is a defective system of democracy. A country has the right to be elected but has no right to vote for him. This is the first point. I am not the Council Member but I can be elected by the other Members without having the right to vote myself. So this is the defective mess of the democracy. You know because the election may be decided by one vote. But here is the possibility of having at least two votes less than any other Members in the election. So this is the consideration of the Council for the next time.

My second point regards the regional distribution of the seats in the WFP Executive Board. I would like to draw your attention to the Members lists grouping system in the WFP Executive Board out of the whole WFP Memberships and that is, as it was said by Mr Gagnon, List A, B, C, D, and so on. There is a unique situation in the list B that we have two sub-groups. That is Group I constituting all deliberating countries and group II with 36 countries.

So far we have understood from the document that the vacant seat is from the list B, group II, seat vacated by Philippines at the end of this month. And another seat from group I, that is Afghanistan, going to finish at the end of this month. From that understanding, it is clear that Bangladesh could be elected from the group II of list B if we follow the List system in FAO, IFAD and WFP.

In FAO we have regional group distribution. We then have the WFP, IFAD list A, B, C and we did see we had some missed C1, C2, C3. Do you want for that one? If not in that case why will it be overthrown of this grouping system? In that case will we throw this paper or those that developed this paper? That is the question to my fellow colleagues of the Council.

What I actually understand is if there is any voting that should be in between the group one countries, those who are contesting. Yesterday night I talked to Mr Tavares but he said that this is for the understanding of the grouping but he did not have any specific recommendations why it has been reported. It was not any of the rules. Then why not to considered the two groups in List B?

Further we are not following in the system in others. Definitely we are following the FAO regional distribution system. We are following the IFAD and also, if we look at the document that was mentioned, CL 153/11, it is clear, we see that the end of the December 2015 to end of December 2017 including December 2018, if now, that is because I am not a member of Council I have a huge possibility of being defeated by one or two votes, then what will happen? I would like to see the figure.

At the end of the whole three years from January 2016 to end of 2018, from FAO's side there will be no country represented in the WFP Executive Board from List B group II. There will be only countries from List B Group I that is, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran. So that means that for the next three years there is no member in the WFP Executive Board from group II of List B.

I would re-tally our generosity of Bangladesh. In 2030 there was once implicated from Group 1 Saudi Arabia which have also submitted a nomination. We withdrew our candidature considering that this is Group 1 under List B.

Again last year a seat was vacated. That is a rotating seat for the List B that could go for group II. But as the group who has 36 members, it was the List B right over the Group I to have that seat in Group II. But even then considering our brotherly relation with them, we again withdrew in favour of Iran. That also goes to Group 1.

Can I ask any of my colleagues, any Council members or any other Members can have the moral honest right to request Bangladesh to endure this hard time. Even then some of our colleagues requested me to withdraw and take the ECOSOC seat. I would like to ask to all of you if any Member, after my statement now, if you think it would have been an honest suggestion from you to me. I would

salute you and I would go. But before that, you think to yourself whether that would be an honest opinion. Probably not.

Finally I would like to say that even on this occasion I have shown my highest generosity as a candidate of Bangladesh. I have proposed to share the seat with other candidates. We have two seats to be elected by FAO and one seat by ECOSOC; let us share the seats altogether so that all three can be taken to board. But unfortunately I did not get very positive responses so they would like to go to election.

I have a request. Can you please postpone this item for two hours so I can discuss with my other colleagues, particularly with the List B panel, and it can come up at a later stage with a good result?

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Kuwait)

I thank the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh for his comments. I just wanted to clarify a couple of things if you allow me. Let us be clear. This is not a winning or losing situation. We are not here competing to win a seat just for the glamour of it. We are all looking at this Organization as a critical organization to assist and help our people with whatever they need both if you are a receiving country or a donor country. In our case we are a donor country so it is very important to us to participate in the Executive Board to be able to assist the Organization and its humanitarian work, whatever is required.

I am not sure about the proposal that is given by our dear colleague from Bangladesh to postpone the election. As my friend from Afghanistan said, it is a healthy process so let us do the voting if we come to it that and if anyone gets that seat, I will be congratulating him first and if we do not get the seat then it is their duty to participate as it is required in this Organization to help and assess the need in ours and other countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I have noted the intervention made by Bangladesh and we have had this issue for almost two months and I have always been pleading for an understanding within the List. Until now there has not been any consensus. I do not think that postponing this item for another occasion will be of interest to the Members of the Council.

I think the Members of the Council are here to see this thing move forward. Issues which have been raised can be looked into in the future but you cannot address them adequately in such a setting.

I pass the floor to Mr Tavares for a brief clarification and then we shall continue with our business.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I will be very brief. Maybe also our colleagues from WFP may in due course wish to add information on this issue.

The Council is required to elect members from List B, which is what is called the Asian Pacific Group in the United Nations and within List B there are two groups, Group I which corresponds let us say to Near East countries and Group II which corresponds to Asia and Pacific Small Island Developing States.

The representative of Bangladesh asked me yesterday if I was aware of the reason for which there are two groups within list List B and I tried to do some research into this matter. I consulted my colleague of WFP and I also called our colleagues in the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, who were not aware of the reason for which there are these two groups. Presumably, this is to allow consultation between these sub-regions within a larger group.

But this negotiation of the allocation of seats goes back to some 22 years ago. We can still continue our research; maybe the reason for which we have these two groups has to do with the fact that WFP is based in Rome and the regional groups in FAO are different from regional groups at the United Nations. Whatever the position, the general regulations of WFP are extremely clear in the sense that they require the election to be made from members of List B, irrespective of the group to which the countries belong.

So the division in two groups may be useful to the region for their internal consultations. But from the legal point of view, and from the point of view of the Council, this distinction between Group I and Group II for the purpose of this election is irrelevant. The Council is required to elect members from states included in List B, without specific reference to Group I or Group II.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

Yesterday the same view was stated by Mr Tavares but again the question comes to my mind why there is a division in two groups only in List B? Definitely there is a reason behind it, maybe because List B has a large number of countries, 54 altogether. So to have some kind of irrationality, so far I understand this has been done. Otherwise it could be removed. So it is open to other people. Thus I would like to request my colleagues to remind this one.

Mr Chairperson, you have every right to proceed but I made my proposal. Now it is up to the Council what you will do.

CHAIRPERSON

That is why I said seeing that the Council is silent on this issue so they want me to proceed.

Therefore, for List B, as no candidate wishes to withdraw we will proceed to a secret ballot to fill two seats. I will now pass the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Council members will be called one at a time to go to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidate countries.

Electors, unless they wish to abstain, shall cast two votes by marking a cross "X" in the box beside the two candidates they wish to elect.

Each elector must cast two votes on each ballot paper. I repeat, no more and no less than two votes. Ballot papers which bear more or less than two crosses will be considered invalid.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4(b) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(c) of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

As already mentioned, any ballot paper carrying votes for more or fewer candidates than the posts to be filled shall be declared defective.

In accordance with paragraph 10(f) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper, may request a clean ballot paper from the Elections Officer, who will be in the voting area. The clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Gagnon. I am assured that there is a quorum so voting may commence.

I now invite the delegates of Canada and Ecuador to act as tellers and to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII, which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting process. Secretary-General, you may proceed.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, Voting has ended. The tellers will now leave the room with the ballot boxes to count the votes.

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for Lists A, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the List Coordinators for List A and List C regarding agreements that have been reached in those lists on the sharing of terms of office.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix 3, the Council is requested to note the decision by Brazil to stand down from the List C seat it currently occupies and to elect Guatemala to this seat as of 1 January 2016.

Can I take it that Council agrees to this?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided; Guatemala is elected to the aforementioned List C seat as of 1 January 2016.

The Council is requested to note the correspondence contained in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 concerning agreements reached respectively in List A and List C for terms of office which begin in January 2016.

Item 13.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2014
Point 13.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2014
Tema 13.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2014
(CL 153/12)

CHAIRPERSON

While the ballot is being counted I should like to suggest we move on to sub-item 13.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2014*. Please ensure that you have document CL 153/12 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary of the World Food Programme Executive Board to introduce this item.

Ms Harriet SPANOS (Secretary, Executive Board of the World Food Programme)

I would like to pass the floor to my colleague, Mr Chad Martino, who is with our Resource Management and Performance Office, and he will make the presentation.

Mr Chad MARTINO (Programme Adviser, World Food Programme)

I am pleased to introduce the main elements of WFP's Annual Performance Report for 2014. The Report was approved by WFP's Executive Board at its Annual Session in May of this year and was also referenced in the FAO Conference in June although not formally submitted. As you are aware, based on guidance of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, WFP has mainstreamed reporting on the implementation of QCPR into its Annual Performance Report beginning 2013. Our Annual Performance Reports therefore now integrate the reporting streams previously presented separately to FAO and to ECOSOC.

2014 reflected a significant and continued period of transition for WFP - a transition from the former to current strategic plan; a plan which charted the transition of WFP's mission from food aid to food assistance. The period has been tumultuous also in terms of the demand for our services.

The Annual Performance Report 2014 provides analysis of our work in response to what must count as the most challenging in our history. The evidence we present in the document demonstrates that we were able to rise to that challenge and show good progress against our intended results. We believe that this would not have been possible without the support provided by our Executive Board and by our donors for the span of initiatives designed to strengthen the organisation over the past years. Organizational strengthening has enabled WFP to face the global context with a wider set of programmatic and financial tools.

Key highlights of WFP's work in 2014 as presented in the report include:

- (i) The unprecedented needs of six Level 3 emergencies in 2014 – in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Central African Republic and countries affected by the Ebola crisis. This on top of a further six Level 2 emergencies.
- (ii) The delivery of direct food support to approximately 80 million beneficiaries, assisted through the provision of food commodities and cash-based transfers. It is important to note however that our assistance goes beyond these 80 million or so directly assisted, as an increasing amount of our work provides benefit to those beyond those directly receiving food transfers, in addition to the vital and growing work we do to support the humanitarian community more broadly with our logistics and emergency telecommunication support which we also refer to as our 'common services'.
- (iii) As one might expect our results have demonstrated our success in addressing the life-saving needs of those caught up in emergencies as well as to prepare communities for disasters, and to restore livelihoods in post-crisis environments. 80 percent of our funding has been spent on addressing the needs of people caught up in humanitarian crisis.

However, we have also been able to demonstrate the value of our work in other areas beyond emergencies, notably as a result of enhanced partnerships with national governments. This has enabled us to enhance capacities for emergency preparedness, nutrition support, school feeding and community based food security. WFP also advanced in areas related to all of the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge, including nutrition, safety nets, smallholder farmer support, and disaster risk reduction. This approach now finds its focus in the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2, namely to end hunger worldwide, achieve food security, improve nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture.

Our Annual Performance Report embodies WFP's growing culture of, and commitment to, meaningful performance management. The report for 2013 provides a summary of WFP's contributions to the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system and bolstering sustainable food security through interagency, multi-lateral, and NGO partnership.

We strive to provide detailed analysis supporting the measurement of performance against our Strategic Objective. In recent years we have made significant steps to strengthen analysis at the regional and global levels to more clearly assess performance at the outcome-level for the various Strategic Objectives. This enhanced analysis provides insights about how progress was achieved and how to enable it further. The report has further linked output to outcome reporting to present a more complete theory of change and WFP's contribution there too.

Specific focus is also given in the report to the collaborative work with the Rome-based Agencies including greater alignment of policies and plans with the Zero-Hunger Challenge; an increased number of operational partnerships with FAO and IFAD; and WFP's commitment to supporting the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) with regard to the post-2015 development agenda and to dialogue and advocacy with NGO and private-sector partners.

The work with RBAs forms part of a broader approach to partnership and coordination efforts by WFP to be the partner of choice in programmes addressing hunger. This is framed by our Corporate Partnership Strategy which guides the development of partnerships at all levels. In addition to the mentioned partnerships WFP also partners with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on

implementation of the Transformative Agenda as well as preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

The report also covers updates and progress in our continuing organizational strengthening efforts. Performance has been enhanced by variety of initiatives originating from the commitment to make WFP truly ‘Fit for Purpose’ and the commitment to enable our country offices to deliver to people in need of food assistance. This is reflected in the shift of focus to field operations and to support functions such as people management and business systems and processes.

Through these efforts, WFP reached key objectives in organizational design, executive management and strategic planning. As this Council will acknowledge, the global humanitarian situation over the past two years has tested the full range of WFP capacities. Indeed, the organisation was fully stretched. However we have shown that through efforts taken to strengthen the organisation over the past couple of years we were able to respond effectively in the context of this organizational restructuring.

Key to our success has been:

- (i) Increasing use of the cash and vouchers. The use of cash and vouchers has provided flexibility and access not imaginable with traditional food aid. An example of this was the facilitation of rapid large-scale access to food in the Syrian emergency, where markets were functioning. Some 9 million people were provided with cash/voucher transfers in 2014.
- (ii) Improved emergency preparedness measures introduced since 2011 have enhanced WFP’s preparedness for emergency responses. An example of this is the emergency-response roster developed in 2014, which includes provision for training for staff being deployed as first-wave or second-wave responders within three days of the declaration of a Level 3 emergency.
- (iii) The development of a corridor-based supply chain and use of the Global Commodity Management Facility (formerly the forward purchasing facility) gives WFP greater flexibility in matching changing demands for food with supplies available.
- (iv) WFP’s leadership of the logistics and emergency telecommunications clusters and its co leadership of the food security cluster with FAO helped to provide significant support for the humanitarian actors responding to crises in 2014. In the Ebola crisis, for example, WFP provided general support for the United Nations system in what is essentially a health emergency.
- (v) Finally, WFP’s vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) capability has been augmented by a new mobile system using mobile telephones and other remote data-collection approaches. This was used to collect data where access was otherwise limited, for example in the DRC and Somalia, and in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone where Ebola infection risks were high.

Finally, it is worth noting the report’s alignment with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review as I referenced in the outset. In the narrative we have documented progress in key areas of the QCPR ranging from ‘Delivering as One’ to gender to South-South Cooperation.

I will end my introduction here and would be happy to respond to any questions members may have.

Mr Abreha Gebrai ASSEFA (Ethiopia)

Ethiopia is making this statement relating to CL 153/12 on behalf of the Africa Group.

At the outset, the Africa group would like to appreciate the efforts made by WFP to end hunger. In 2014, WFP faced unprecedented humanitarian crises and its work was dominated by providing responses to eleven L-2 and L-3 emergencies at the same time.

Among the largest emergencies were related to conflicts in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The fighting and the displacement of millions of people made it difficult to reach populations in need; it raised serious protection concerns and destabilized food systems. The Ebola virus disease caused the deaths of thousands of people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone during 2014 and posed additional challenges for the humanitarian community. These

stretched WFP's emergency response capacity well beyond its expected limits and challenged the entire humanitarian community.

The work of WFP is set out in the Strategic Plan (2014-17) and operationalized through the Strategic Results Framework and the Management Results Framework. WFP's work is aligned with the Zero Hunger Challenge to address hunger and the report is also in accordance with the United Nations principles for harmonized results reporting. WFP received its highest-ever level of voluntary contributions in 2014, totaling USD 5.38 billion. This enabled greater flexibility and permitted more country teams than ever to deploy cash-based assistance. WFP's emergency operations, protracted relief and recovery operations, and development activities provided direct food assistance to some 80 million of the world's most vulnerable people in 82 countries.

WFP has made an important shift towards performance-based budgeting with the introduction of a new Management Results Framework for the Strategic Plan (2014-17). WFP used for the first time Management Result Dimensions in preparing the Programme Support and Administrative budget for 2014. It thus began measuring performance against the management result dimensions starting with the Strategic Plan (2014-17).

Analysis of projects reporting on key outcome indicators has shown that strong progress was made in Strategic Objectives 1 and 2. Some progress was also reported in Strategic Objective 4. However, sufficient data was not available to assess progress towards Strategic Objective 3. On the other hand, analysis of performance was found to be strong in the Management Result Dimensions for Partnerships, Programmes and Processes and Systems. Some progress is also made in relation to Accountability and Funding. However, sufficient information is lacking to assess progress in the People Management Result Dimensions, which is awaiting results of the global staff survey in mid-2015.

The remarkable achievements made by WFP in responding to the crisis was possible owing to several factors among which are: increasing use of the cash and voucher transfer modality; improved emergency preparedness measures; the development of corridor-based supply chains and use of the Global Commodity Management Facility; WFP's leadership of the logistics and emergency telecommunications clusters and its co-leadership of the food security cluster; maturing performance and risk-management systems; the introduction of the Strategic Results Framework and Management Results Framework; and the commitment of the staff and management.

With these remarks the Africa Group recommends that the report be endorsed by the Council.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Before presenting our statement on behalf of G77 and China, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to you, Mr Gagnon, Secretary-General, and your colleagues for running such an important Council meeting and to our guests today.

As mentioned before as G77, we are all here to fight hunger as to have a new peaceful and beautiful world without hunger.

G77 first of all would like to congratulate the recently elected members of the WFP Executive Board and wish them a positive, interactive and productive mandate.

Presently, humanity is facing a complex juncture of conflicts, catastrophes and displacements, in which WFP has to act in the best of its capacities.

We understand that the increase in need for humanitarian assistance has not been met with proportionate increase in funds, a situation that poses an enormous challenge for WFP and all Humanitarian actors.

In that sense, we congratulate WFP, the Executive Director Ertharin Cousin, and all of her team, for their efforts on making the Programme more cost efficient and effective. We encourage WFP to continue its determination to reduce its costs without compromising the quality of its service, and also to search for alternative sources of financing.

We do believe South-South Cooperation has a strong potential in the humanitarian assistance field. The WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil, for instance, has assisted 75 nations on school feeding and local purchases from family farmers, helping governments enhance food security and nutrition and build sustainable, inclusive and productive food systems one for the other. We believe there are more areas in which South-South Cooperation could act as an alternative modality for boosting capacity for humanitarian assistance.

We appreciate efforts to turn WFP more in tune with the development agenda. Humanitarian assistance needs to be connected to development policies and countries' priorities. Also, collaboration with FAO and other UN Agencies is of utmost importance.

We take note of the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities for 2014 presented to this Council.

We acknowledge the challenges faced by WFP in 2014, when complex emergencies occurred in the Central African Republic, Ebola-affected West Africa, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Mali, Ukraine, Yemen and Central America. For two years in a row, from Guatemala to the North Pacific region of Costa Rica, the Central American Dry Corridor has suffered extreme weather events that have put enormous pressure on its food security and nutrition and resilience capabilities. Of course, along with emergencies, protracted crises need to be addressed with long-term solutions.

We note with satisfaction that contributions last year have reached record levels, which has allowed WFP to act when and where needed. We encourage donors to continue believing in and lending support to the work of WFP. However, an enhanced financial framework is necessary, one which would allow WFP to react more rapidly and effectively to emergencies. There is also need for more focus at the country level, training local staff and building national capacities.

We commend WFP for increasing the use of cash-based transfers, whenever possible. We believe that such a modality has broader and better impact on providing food and nutrition assistance, with positive results regarding local markets, economies and resilience.

Finally, the G77 and China wishes to express our appreciation for the preparation of this Annual Report and encourage the Programme to continue its efforts to align itself with priorities set out in Agenda 2030. We look forward to helping design the Strategic Plan 2017-2021, taking into account the new humanitarian and development challenges and the outcomes of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

In our opinion the Annual Report of WFP for 2014 has fully reflected the work of WFP for the whole year. We endorsed the work made by WFP and we commend the leadership role played by WFP in humanitarian assistance and the constructive role it played.

Secondly, China endorses and supports statements by Iran; particularly we agree with Iran that South-South Cooperation should be strengthened and cooperation among international agencies should be strengthened here.

We agree with Iran that we should not only strengthen South-South Cooperation in WFP. We should also strengthen cooperation directly with FAO and IFAD in the view of South-South cooperation. We can even consider that within the US system we can comprehensively promote South-South Cooperation in the field of agriculture. For instance the three agriculture related UN agencies can conduct South-South Cooperation with UNIDO.

This is because in terms of agriculture mechanization and agriculture product processing, UNIDO has some technical advantages. Strengthening cooperation between the two can facilitate sustainable agricultural development.

Now I would like to make a few statements with regard to the Annual Report itself. Firstly, we hope that the WFP Report will strengthen or focus more on South-South Cooperation. There should be

partitions of sections within the Report recording this field, the importance of South-South Cooperation.

We suggest that the role of South-South Cooperation must be made very clear in the report and in the work of WFP. In our opinion, the role played by South-South Cooperation can help achieve SO2 and address the challenge of Zero Hunger.

Now we see that the coverage of South-South Cooperation has been expanding and increasing. In the report of WFP, reference has been made that more than 50 WFP offices support the South-South Cooperation mechanism.

We also suggest that if WFP can report in regard to its work, WFP should strengthen the work to adapt to new situations. For instance, with regard to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, WFP has played enormous and unique roles. However, how can capacity of the beneficiary countries be increased as well as their resilience and which steps to take to consider strengthening this kind of work? We suggest that while providing assistance, we should also consider how to increase the food productivity and capacity building. We think that to increase productivity is very important. It is complementary with the assistance. There is an old Chinese saying: teaching people to fish is better than to give him a fish.

My last point is a suggestion. We suggest that WFP pay further attention to the country's role in addressing under-nutrition. The Report has mentioned this issue but has not indicated how to address this problem and what kind of action should be taken to address it and to bring into play the role of mid-income countries.

China hopes that WFP can now pay attention to our views and further reflect them in the Report.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would like to thank WFP for your presentation on the 2014 Annual Performance Report. We appreciate the level of detail and transparency with which WFP reports on its results. We are pleased with the continued commitment to measure results at the outcome level and we would encourage WFP to continue to improve in this area.

WFP's presence physically and programmatically is significant. It, therefore, has the potential to provide extensive evidence to inform and improve its own response but also that of the broader community around growing areas of interest such as the use of cash and vouchers.

We note WFP's success in integrating the IASC gender marker into its programming and meeting 12 of the 15 UN-SWAP system-wide action plan indicators. We encourage WFP to build on the strong performance and see that new gender policy as a critical document for positioning WFP to meet its goal of ensuring that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are met.

Canada commends WFP for its overall performance in 2014 marked by successfully responding to numerous crises including eleven concurrent L-2 and L-3 emergencies. We welcome the importance questions WFP is raising around the sustainability of its emergency response including from a financial perspective and a staff wellness perspective. Solutions to these questions are essential in order for WFP to continue to be able to deliver on its commitment to reach those most vulnerable.

Finally, we welcome the management plan that was approved at the last WFP Executive Board in November and look forward to seeing how, combined with the findings from this Annual Report, you will take it forward to the forthcoming strategic plan. These are essential pieces for WFP in order to be able to tackle the challenges and opportunities ahead such as El Niño, the implementation of Agenda 2030, and the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Equatorial)

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial quiere intervenir suscribiendo ante todo la declaración hecha por Etiopía en nombre del Grupo Africano y la relación hecha por Irán en nombre del G77 más China. Felicitamos al Sr. Chad Martino por la excelente presentación y la Sra. Harriet Spanos por el excelente trabajo como Secretaria del Consejo de Administración del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial interviene para apreciar efectivamente los logros logrados por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos durante el ejercicio 2014 que refleja en este informe que presenta al Consejo. Nos damos cuenta efectivamente que los resultados han proveído un cambio real sobre la actividad de PMA sobre el campo, destacando actividades precisas como el aumento de las transferencias de efectivo y cupones, la mejora del marco de financiación, los esfuerzos por mejorar la eficacia en la ejecución de los programas, la gestión del personal y los procesos operativos.

Apreciamos igualmente las intervenciones, las mejoras en las intervenciones, concretamente valorando el trabajo excelente hecho durante este año 2014-2015 por el PMA en África. En el continente africano, el trabajo efectivo realizado en las crisis de nivel 3 y 4 en África, concretamente apoyando los países afectados por la crisis del ébola, como son Guinea, Liberia y Sierra Leona, igual que otros países africanos, como la República de Sudáfrica y Sudán. Los colegas han puesto en marcha, han puesto de manifiesto el trabajo efectivo que realiza el PMA sobre el campo. Queremos expresarle tal valoración igualmente por los éxitos conseguidos en este año 2015, sobre todo tocando los problemas, como el aumento del apoyo del acceso a los alimentos, la capacitación del personal en materia de la nutrición.

Alentamos que este programa nutritivo, pues, toque programas para muchos países subdesarrollados, como tal los problemas ligados cercanos a la alimentación escolar, huertos escolares, que son esenciales para muchos países. Alentamos que PMA llega dando esfuerzos en este campo.

También apreciamos el apoyo del PMA a los pequeños agricultores, así como las cuestiones transversales, como el género y las asociaciones. Como Miembro del Consejo de administración del PMA, he sido testigo este año 2015 del trabajo que PMA realiza sobre el campo, sobre todo visitando Pakistán donde puede verse el trabajo de PMA en las cuestiones ligadas al género y asociaciones.

Coincido con China, con Irán y con Etiopía en alentar al PMA a reforzar la Cooperación Sur-sur.

Pedimos a PMA de tener presente las cuestiones que han salido como problemáticas en el 2014 y tenerlas presente para el futuro.

Valoramos las realizaciones de PMA en los 4 Objetivos Estratégicos, por esferas intersectoriales y en función de los resultados por estar a la gestión.

Alentamos, finalmente, de cara al futuro, desplegar mayores esfuerzos tendentes al erradicar el hambre en el mundo. Y parece que los Objetivos Estratégicos de Desarrollo reflejan con claridad esta meta hacia el logro del Objetivo de Hambre Cero, alineando esta meta con una mayor cooperación con las Organizaciones con sede en Roma para conseguir con más facilidad, mayor efectividad en gestión del campo; sobre todo ayudando, reforzando, capacitando a los países menos desarrollados.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation to the work of the World Food Programme 2014 and its responses to crises in different areas of the world and especially in the Near East Region and Africa where, unfortunately, the majority of Level 3 and Level 2 crises exist and continue to deteriorate, creating what is called now the new normal.

In this regard, we highlight the great work of the World Food Programme in fighting Ebola and its programmes in Yemen, South Sudan, Sudan, and the whole of Africa.

The programme of the World Food Programme in Syria is of particular significance as it deals with humanitarian catastrophe unprecedented in history. We call upon the World Food Programme to continue to strengthen its response to this crisis inside Syria and also in neighboring countries. We appreciate the increase in voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme to reach USD 5.4 billion in 2014 and we stress the importance of consolidating more resources in this, especially in emergency countries and we call on all donors to increase and stabilize their financial contributions to support the work of the World Food Programme.

We encourage the World Food Programme to enhance its programmes on nutrition. As shown by the Global Nutrition Report 2015, any investment in nutrition now can have very significant, positive

multiplied effects on decreasing the rates of malnutrition in the future and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Again, as was highlighted by the esteemed delegates of Iran, China, Equatorial Guinea, we underline the importance of strengthening the initiatives for South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a context for the World Food Programme as a main driver for the achievement of the common objectives and we call on the World Food Programme to take concrete measures in this regard.

Finally, we want to stress the importance of consolidating cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies to create synergies in addressing hunger and malnutrition in the world and we encourage the three organizations to closely work together, building on their mandates and comparative advantages.

Mr Muhsin AL-SAMARAE (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to join our voices to those of the previous speakers in thanking WFP for the humanitarian efforts undertaken to assist those countries suffering from crises. Iraq is one of these countries. We would like to mention paragraph 51 of the Report. In this paragraph the Islamic State in Iraq is mentioned. Instead of using that term, you should refer to Daesh and not the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Sra. Alba Beatriz SOTO PIMENTEL (Cuba)

Mi Delegación desea felicitar al PMA por su trabajo en 2014. El PMA es una agencia que se destaca no solo por ayudar a los países en casos de emergencias, sino también en las acciones en busca del desarrollo y la instalación de capacidades.

Ratificamos la necesidad de abordar las cuestiones de mayor financiamiento hacia los países de renta media, y en este caso, sería oportuno proponer al PMA desarrollar una política de movilización de recursos para estos países.

Las acciones de Cooperación Sur-sur también son muy importantes.

Y quisiéramos preguntar al PMA cómo se está preparando para la participación en la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial, y también para la reunión conjunta de las juntas que tendrá lugar en la sede de Naciones Unidas en Nueva York en 2016. Si fuera posible conocer los temas a tratar.

Alentamos al PMA a continuar sus programas para promover la seguridad alimentaria y la fortificación de alimentos con micronutrientes.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer el documento que se nos presenta y la participación de los funcionarios del PMA en esta sesión. La República Argentina desea destacar la labor del PMA en materia de operaciones de emergencia y socorro. Así mismo, nos parece fundamental el enfoque de género que está realizando el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Por otro lado, y como lo ha dicho la antecesora Delegación, estamos de acuerdo en la importancia de que los países de renta media sean no solamente analizados en los programas del PMA, sino que también sean incluidos en sus operaciones y proyectos.

Por último, y como lo manifestó la distinguida Delegación de China, entendemos que sería fundamental y valioso analizar la eventual participación del unido, junto con los tres Organismos con sede Roma en la lucha contra el hambre.

Mr Chad MARTINO (Programme Adviser, World Food Programme)

Let me begin by thanking this Council for its words of support to WFP and the interventions made. These will certainly be carried back to our Organization. Perhaps I can address a few of the common issues that were raised on perhaps the more technical aspects of the report and then ask Harriet if there are any overarching issues that she may want to address.

It was mentioned in a number of contexts on strengthening partnerships and WFP's partnering as appropriate in the context of South-South Cooperation and collaboration with Rome-based Agencies as well as collaboration with the broader United Nations family.

I believe it was the Representatives from China and Argentina who specifically mentioned UNIDO and I am happy to say that in certain countries, we are engaged with UNIDO and Guinea, Bolivia, and certainly the success of that engagement is one we recognize as worth replicating.

The representative from Iran referred to, among other things, enhancing our financial framework and as many of you may know, especially Council Members who also sit on WFP's Executive Board, we have embarked this year on a focused and considerate review of our financial framework specifically to make it more realistic and representative of our work on the ground to enable more effective implementation.

In fact, I believe there is an informal consultation which will discuss among other subjects, the status of that review on 7 December.

The Representative from Ethiopia raised the point of our reporting on our people dimension under our Management Results Framework and the limited reporting that we were able to do in 2014 as we were awaiting the outcomes of our General staff survey. Those results have now been collected and analyzed and will certainly provide a more robust accounting of our people dimension in the 2015 Annual Performance Report.

There was an issue raised again by the Representative from China on capacity building and not only by China but by other Representatives, especially at the local level. This is certainly on the minds of WFP and if we can just step outside that. I want to acknowledge that this report is a report for 2014 and you may be aware that a lot has happened both within WFP and around WFP since then, namely the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our decision to accordingly reconsider how we are going to frame our forthcoming Strategic Plan, and redevelop a Strategic Plan consistent with the SDGs.

In that regard, we are also able to bring in our change or our transition role of implementer. What you will note from the APR 2014 which is the first report to reflect our current strategic plan, there is no longer a dedicated or specific Strategic Objective related to capacity building. Recognizing the importance and significance of capacity building, that has been mainstreamed into our other Strategic Objectives is an essential component of every objective we are wanting to achieve.

So this is just to provide some reflection on that comment raised. The Representative from Canada also mentioned the recent adoption of WFP's management plan as well as our new Strategic Plan and what will also be our new Corporate Results Framework. The most appropriate is to reflect that those are certainly in the works of WFP and I do not want to preempt the consultations and the decisions that our executives will make in terms of the details on any of those aspects.

Finally, the question raised by the Representative of Iraq on appropriate wording to respect to entities with regard to the crisis in Syria, we will certainly take that into consideration and reflect appropriate wording for future reporting.

Ms Harriet SPANOS (Secretary, Executive Board of the World Food Programme)

Just to respond to Cuba and others that were asking for additional updates on what WFP is doing to prepare for the World Humanitarian Summit. We did have a briefing by our Deputy Executive Director Amir Abdulla in October and he is the lead on that. We will plan to schedule another briefing and we do have it as a standing agenda item with the Executive Board Bureau to provide these updates. We will share with you any additional information that we can through the web page.

I also want to mention that we just finished and translated in all language a guide for staff on the sustainable development goals. We are going to be sharing that with the membership as well as what we see as our role in going forward and working with countries and national actors and local actors as well. So that should also help answer some questions that were raised here today.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Martino and Ms Spanos, for being with us and presenting this agenda item.

I would like to conclude on this item 13.2, *Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2014* as follows:

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2014;

2. In particular, the Council:

(a) acknowledged the commitment of WFP staff in the field working in challenging circumstances, particularly in partnership with other actors to address the Ebola crisis and also acknowledged the challenges confronted in addressing concurrent Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies in addition to protracted crises;

(b) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, its engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge and for the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its active participation in preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit;

(c) welcomed efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies, in particular with regard to the continued support provided to the Committee on World Food Security in the policy areas;

(d) noted WFP's implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review reporting into its Annual Performance Report with a particular focus on gender, capacity development, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, 'Delivering as One', alignment with the United Nations Development Group, results-based management and harmonization and simplification of business practices.

That is my conclusion.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Mr Chairperson, in your conclusion I have not heard anything about a proposal of extending the collaboration between Rome-based Agencies and UNIDO which has been raised by China and supported by others.

Also, could you kindly mention that they are already working with UNIDO and if they are going to continue? It is very important as UNIDO is one of the UN agencies involved in agriculture and they have a huge potential to support these three Agencies. I am sure they will add value and support with their resources to fight hunger. So if that one was not in your conclusion, please add it in.

CHAIRPERSON

Since I want an agreement within this room so that we do not start debating on issues in the Drafting Committee, let me read again point 'c': "welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies, in particular with regard to the continued support provided to the Committee on World Food Security in the policy areas, and other UN agencies such as UNIDO."

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the end of Item 13.2. I wish to thank once again Ms Spanos and Mr Martino for having joined us for this item.

I now ask the Secretary-General to read us the results of the secret ballot for two list B seats.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the report of the ballot for the election to the WFP Executive Board for the period 2016-18 in List B. Ballot papers deposited: 48. Defective ballots: 0. Abstentions: 1. Seats to be filled: 2. Votes cast: 47. The required majority was 24.

Countries elected are Afghanistan with 35 votes, Kuwait with 36 votes. The country not elected is Bangladesh with 23 votes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. I wish to congratulate Afghanistan and Kuwait on their election to the WFP Executive Board.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD (Period 2016-2018) List B CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DU PAM (Période 2016-2018) Liste B JUNTA EJECUTIVA DEL PMA (Período 2016-2018) Lista B
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	48
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
5. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	47

6. Majority Majorité Mayoría	24
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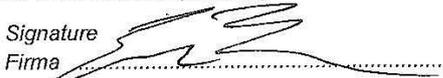
Majority: more than one half of the **number of Members** casting valid votes.

Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
Afghanistan	35	Bangladesh	23
Kuwait	36		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

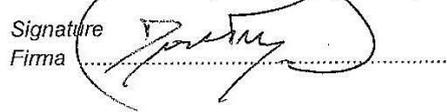
Mr Eric Robinson (Canada)

Signature
Firma



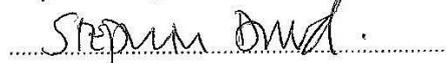
Mr Nelson David Troya Esquivel (Ecuador)

Signature
Firma



2 December 2015
Date
Fecha

Stephen Dowd, CPAC



Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Item 15. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2015-17**Point 15. Calendrier 2015-2017 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales****Tema 15. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2015-17**

(CL 153/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 15, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2015-17*. The document before Council is CL 153/LIM/1.

To avoid meetings overlapping, FAO draws up this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP and through the web-based *Common Calendar*, which may be consulted by Members at any time through the FAO Members Gateway on the FAO Home Page.

The schedule of meetings for 2016 is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for information, are indicated with an asterisk. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2016.

Are there any queries/comments on the proposed calendar?

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Kuwait)

I just wanted to show our appreciation on behalf of my country. I would like to thank all Member States who voted for Kuwait and we assure you that we will work closely with all WFP Members to achieve its noble goals.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je veux en profiter pour féliciter le Koweït et l'Afghanistan et demander à notre collègue du Bangladesh de continuer à collaborer avec nous parce que c'est une élection et tous les pays gagnent en fait. Merci.

En ce qui concerne l'action du calendrier, je prends la parole parce que je remercie les Secrétariats de la FAO, du PAM et du FIDA pour la préparation de ce document. Mais j'ai soulevé la question au dernier Conseil, il faut éviter le chevauchement non seulement entre les réunions des organes principaux, mais également avec quelques organes subsidiaires. Je pense à quelques comités, sous-comités, qui sont importants, et quelquefois nous avons des difficultés à suivre. J'espère, dans le cadre de cette collaboration, que le prochain calendrier tiendra compte non seulement des organes principaux, mais aussi des organes subsidiaires.

M. Dominique AWONO ESSAMA (Cameroun)

La délégation du Cameroun intervient sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Cameroun apprécie le document soumis au Conseil portant sur le calendrier 2015-2017 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales, et n'a aucun commentaire particulier à ce sujet; il demande simplement son approbation par le Conseil.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I just had one question with respect to the calendar given this morning's remarks by the Director-General: the request that FAO be more involved in the preparation for COP22 in Marrakesh.

I was just wondering because looking at the dates of COP22, it is 7 to 18 November 2016, and part of it coincides with the Finance and Programme Committee, and their Joint Meeting. I was not sure how it would affect the ability of Senior Management or the Director-General to be present in the meetings of these Governing Bodies as well as participation from Delegations here as well. I wanted to note that.

CHAIRPERSON

I may try to answer this question. Sometimes you find some timetables of meetings from other very important organizations being drawn when we already have set our calendar.

This is what has happened for example for COP21 which is taking place when we are having our important Council session but all the senior staff are here. It is only the Director-General and Ms Maria Semedo who went to the Conference. I think they will make their own arrangements so that they can be answerable or support the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Let me now conclude on this item. The Council approved the proposed calendar for 2016 and took note of the draft calendar for 2017, which is being appended to this report.

Let me remind you that by approving the calendar for 2016, Council has decided that its next session will take place from 30 May to 3 June 2016.

Item 11. Progress Report on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Council and other Governing Bodies**Point 11. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement des programmes de travail pluriannuels du Conseil et d'autres organes directeurs****Tema 11. Informe sobre los progresos relativos a los programas de trabajo plurianuales (PTPA) del Consejo y otros órganos rectores**

(CL 153/9)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the Agenda is item 11, *Progress Report on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Council and other Governing Bodies*. The document before Council is CL 153/9.

The Council, Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, regional conferences and technical committees prepare a Multi-year Programme of Work of at least four years duration once in the biennium, and a report of progress made compared to the programme of work is submitted every two years for review by the Council.

The document you have before you comprises progress reports on the MYPOWs of FAO Governing Bodies prepared by their respective secretariats and is now submitted to the Council for discussion.

As Council is aware, this planning tool is reviewed by Council at the end of each biennium. This is the second review since the inception of MYPOWs, and we have the benefit of comments made earlier this year by the Independent Review of Governance Reforms and a decision made by the last session of Conference that the MYPOW mechanism has the potential to enable continuity, longer-term planning and accountability.

As living documents, the MYPOWs we have before us can be considered as work in progress with room for improvement. Indeed, this item gives Council an excellent opportunity to provide inputs on how this planning tool can be put to optimal use and applied effectively in the future by the Governing Bodies.

I now open the floor for discussion on this matter.

Mr Joon-seog KANG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea is delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Group. We would like to thank the respective Secretariats of the Council and other Governing Bodies for their efforts in preparing the documents.

We note that under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, MYPOWs of Governing Bodies have been developed in line with the results based management approach as a useful planning tool to examine their respective works in a structured manner. MYPOWs have guided each Governing Body to function in accordance with its overall objective, expected results, working methods and work plan.

We recall that two recommendations on MYPOW made by the Evaluation Team of FAO Governance Reforms were discussed at the 39th Conference last June under the item on Independent Review of

FAO Governance Reforms. As the Conference accepted Recommendation 13, we look forward to improvements in the results section of the subsequent MYPOWs of the Council and its Committees. With regard to adding a section on 'Outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time', we agree that identifying such issues would enhance the effectiveness of each Governing Body's activities. Hence, we encourage the Independent Chairperson of the Council to facilitate the process through regular informal meetings with Regional Group Chairs and Vice Chairs.

As per the decision of the Conference on Recommendation 14, we expect that the MYPOWs for the technical committees and regional conferences would be further developed to enhance its usefulness through discussions at forthcoming sessions of each Governing Body.

Lastly, we note that recent developments of MYPOWs for some Governing Bodies such as the Programme and Finance Committee are not fully addressed in the Progress report. We hope to receive more updated information of all Governing Bodies in the next report. Having said this, Asia Group endorses the two documents under this item.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Group welcomes the report on the MYPOW prepared by the respective Secretariats of the Council and other Governing Bodies.

The Group notes the progress made to date by all respective Governing Bodies and especially the role that MYPOW has played in the operations of these Bodies. The report clearly shows the function the MYPOW has had to forecast the work of the various Governing Bodies, especially in the area of priority setting.

Accordingly, the Group supports the continuation of MYPOW as a useful planning tool and urges the Governing Bodies to further elaborate their respective MYPOW in order to increase their effectiveness and relevance, as maybe necessary.

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Kuwait is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

First of all, the Near East Group wishes to express its appreciation to the Council on its latest progress report on the Multi-Year Programme of Work for its last term and other Governing Bodies. We are grateful for the contributions from the Secretariat of the different Governing Bodies as well as the revised version of the MYPOWs for the next period.

Our Group also welcomes this revised version of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and adjustments in the current Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2016-19 including the deletion of procedures ending by the year 2015.

The Near East Group underscores recommendation 13 of the Independent Review of Governance Reforms, which required the modification of the format of the MYPOW by reviewing the results and adding outstanding and strategic issues. This revision process should be followed up in the course of time whenever arising from the Governing Bodies.

This should enhance consistency in the Multi-Year Programme and in the Council's Committees in order to make the results more focused and specific. So, that can be done through informal meetings between the Committees on Constitutional and Legal Matters as well as the Programme and Finance Committees and other technical committees under the supervision of the Independent Chair of the Council.

Besides, the fact of making further efforts towards a better and more effective coordination among these Committees, it will eventually contribute to avoid duplication of work as well as saving resources.

We would like to add a further note on the revised Council's Programme of Work for the next period. Our Group stresses the need to make decisions or recommendations that are clear and precise to the FAO Conference.

These endorsements should reflect the priorities of Member Nations based on the Regional Conferences and technical commissions in the context of the Organization's strategy as well as the recommendations made in line with the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development towards the year 2030.

The Near East Group requests that the Council regularly follow up its sessions – closely observing the main issues that are raised in its sessions. In particular the Council should monitor the issues of decentralization, strategic assessment and resource mobilization including the voluntary contributions to the countries of the region, particularly those suffering from protracted crises.

In conclusion, the Near East Group emphasizes that the Council's Governing Bodies would be in line with the decisions taken regarding FAO's strategy, Priorities, Programmes, and Budget as stated in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I wish to ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands to deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Mr Weirish RAMSOEKH (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States on the Progress Report on the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Council and other Governing Bodies. San Marino and the candidate countries to the EU, Albania, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate the Progress Report on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Council and other Governing Bodies. We welcome and appreciate the inputs made by the Secretariats of the Council, the Governing Bodies and the CFS on their individual MYPOWs.

As the Council MYPOW is considered as a living document and an effective planning tool, the Progress Report provides a good overview of the results achieved. We note however that the presented inputs show different ways and levels of detail in reporting on the results achieved.

Recognizing the overall objectives and the distinctive features of the MYPOWs, and allowing for a degree of flexibility, we would nevertheless welcome that for future sessions results by the Secretariats are reported in a more structured and formatted manner and as much as possible against the pre-defined indicators and targets.

Ms Daleya UDDIN SYEDA (United States of America)

The United States thanks the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the Multi-Year Programme of Works. We thank the Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat for considering revisions previously proposed by the US.

We believe those changes have improved the functionality of the MYPOW by providing clearer and better focused outputs and indicators. We therefore welcome the additional details.

The United States encourages the Secretariat to use the preparation of the MYPOWs as an opportunity to examine its work plan in a structured manner, keeping with a results based management approach as well as a chance to review working methods and practices at regular intervals.

We look forward to working with Member States and FAO Management in the future to further refine the Council MYPOW. We also hope that the ICC will use regular informal meetings with the Regional Group Chairs and Vice Chairs to further discuss suggested refinements.

The MYPOW remains a useful instrument to track issues over time and we look forward to receiving future reviews.

CHAIRPERSON

I noted that in the discussion some comments were more on the Council MYPOW so when we come to it, you do not have to repeat what you have already said about this.

Now let me conclude on Item 11, *Progress Report on the Multi-Year Programme of Work on the Council and other Governing Bodies*.

1. The Council took note of the progress report on the Multi-Year Programmes of Work of the Council, the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters, the Programme and Finance Committees, FAO Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees.
2. The Council recalled the recommendation of the 39th Session of Conference which took place in June 2015, as contained in the Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms, that the MYPOWs for regional conferences and technical committees could enable continuity and longer-term planning and accountability if their potential was fully realized.
3. The Council noted the overall objectives and distinctive features of the MYPOWs which allowed for a degree of flexibility and looked forward that future reports be structured against pre-defined indicators and targets as far as possible.

That is the end of my conclusions.

Item 11.1 Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-19
Point 11.1 Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2016-2019
Tema 11.1 Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2016-19
 (CL 153/10 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move onto sub-item 11.1, *Council Multi-Year Programme of Work*. As I said, some have already intervened on this. Please ensure that you have document CL 153/10 Rev.1 before you.

As Members are aware, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's agenda. Due to the rolling nature of the MYPOW, it should be considered as a 'living document' and, as such, is subject to constant improvement and fine-tuning, also as a result of consultations on this matter which take place during the regular informal meetings I hold with Regional Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

I wish to draw attention in particular to the recommendation endorsed by the 39th Session of Conference in June this year that a section on 'outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time' be added to the MYPOW.

In this regard, should delegates wish to propose further amendments to the text you have before you, I suggest that we maintain the practice of circulating the proposed changes to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups for discussion within the Regional Groups before incorporating them into the MYPOW to be submitted to the next session of Council.

Are there any members wishing to take the floor on the update of the Council MYPOW?

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe takes the floor on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group welcomes the report Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-19 and commends the Secretariat for a very concise report.

The Group appreciates the excellent work being done by Council and the Independent Chairperson of Council in guiding the work of FAO so that the Organisation achieves its objectives.

The Africa Group therefore notes the changes to the MYPOW approved by the 151st Session of the Council in March 2015 and supports the deletion of actions terminated in 2015 and addition of the programme of work for 2019.

However, given the multiplicity and scope of the issues the Organisation handles, there is potential for issues with a longer gestation period to slip off the radar. In that context, the Africa Group fully supports the recommendation to insert a section on 'Outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time' in the Council MYPOW.

In furtherance of this objective therefore, the Group endorses and supports the proposal to task the ICC to take the actions outlined in recommendation 2(i) and (ii) with respect to the issues to be tracked over time and submit specific proposals to Council at its 154th Session in May-June 2016.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I have more or less the same statement like my friend from Zimbabwe so he said it and I share his views.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

We have a statement on this item so could you please pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Mr Weirish RAMSOEKH (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate countries to the EU, Albania, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-19 and take note of the changes compared to the version submitted to the 151th Council session. We see the MYPOW as an excellent example of an effective management tool. It reflects the overall objective of the Council as well as the expected results of actions including the strategy and priority setting and budget planning as well as the monitoring of governance decisions.

We consider the MYPOW to be a living document and we expect the value to be repeatedly demonstrated and improved in the future. In order to further enhance its usefulness and quality, we reiterate our request to the Independent Chairperson of the Council to continuously evaluate the MYPOW and adapt it where considered necessary.

We consider the informal meetings initiated by the Independent Chairperson of Council as a useful platform for building a good dialogue within the membership, promoting mutual understanding and trust. We would strongly like to encourage continuing this way.

We believe these meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the scope and purpose of the MYPOW, and to fine-tune it. We would like to request the Independent Chair to discuss in these meetings, as a follow up of Recommendation 13 which was supported by the 39th Session of the Conference, which outstanding issues and new emerging issues of strategic nature need to be tracked over time.

In addition, we would like to request him also to discuss ways of making the results section (Chapter II), more focused and specific. In particular, we see potential for refinement of indicators and targets in section D of Chapter II and would welcome an improvement.

Finally, we endorse the MYPOW for 2016-19.

CHAIRPERSON

I think all of the contributions which have been made are very important and very valid and I am happy to continue taking this responsibility for calling meetings for consultations which have helped us pass a lot in sorting out some issues and so I respect your call. I will be on duty 24 hours to serve you.

Now let me conclude on Item 11.1, *Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-19*.

1. The Council reviewed and approved its Multi-Year Programme of Work 2016-19 and supported the informal meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups as a forum for further discussion.

2. The Council agreed that a section on outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time be added to the MYPOW and that the format of the document be improved by making each section more focused and specific.

Thank you. We have come to the end of the agenda item. Before I close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to inform Members that the inauguration of a maxi plasma screen on the Aventino side of Building A will take place today at 12:30.

Furthermore if we do not meet tomorrow morning, I wish to mention the side events which will be held on Thursday 3 December and Friday 4 December.

On Thursday 3 December a side event on *ICN2 follow-up: Overcoming Malnutrition in Agenda 2030* will be held from 12:30 to 14:30 in the Sheikh Zayed Center.

On Friday 4 December, a side event for the *Closure of the International Year of Soils* will take place at 12:00 in the Sheikh Zayed Center and a side event on the *Launch of Technical Platform on Food Waste and loss* will take place from 14:00 to 15:30 in the Iran Room. May I also remind you that additional information on side events is available on the Order of the Day, as well as the FAO Council webpage and the Member's Gateway.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. I will adjourn the meeting and we will meet at 14:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

2 December 2015

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.42 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 18. Working Methods of the Council
Point 18. Méthodes de travail du Conseil
Tema 18. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo
(CL 153/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The last item on the agenda this afternoon is *Working Methods of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 153/INF/5.

I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of improvements in our working methods. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

To further improve services to Members, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- Data on the Membership and Bureau of Governing Bodies in all FAO languages on the Governing and Statutory Bodies website has been enhanced to enable Members to search for details of any bureau position held in the past.
- In addition, the effective use of the FAO Members Gateway has streamlined communication between the Secretariat and Members, and also between the Members themselves. In this regard, and in line with the “PaperSmart” measures presently being introduced throughout the United Nations system, the Organization intends to move away from dispatching paper-based correspondence and to increasingly rely on sending messages through the FAO Members Gateway as the prime channel of correspondence with both Permanent Representatives and government officials based in the capital.
- The restricted area of the Members Gateway offers access to a list of Internal Audit Reports eligible for disclosure from 2011 to 2015.
- A web page regarding Field Visits by Permanent Representatives, including any available reports and other data on these activities is now on line and includes an archive of past Field Visits.
- Regional Chairs and Vice-Chairs attending the ICC’s regular informal meetings submitted proposals for the agenda item on *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO* scheduled for Friday morning.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I take it that the Council accepts the report to which has been made by Mr Gagnon. Therefore, I can conclude that the Council welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to improve the Methods of Work of the Council and encourage further improvements.

Item 12. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 151st Session of the Council
Point 12. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent cinquante et unième session
Tema 12. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 151.º período de sesiones
(CL 153/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 12, *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 151st Session of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 153/LIM/4.

As foreseen in the Multi-year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note information on the implementation of decisions taken at its last five-day session in March this year. In addition, document CL 153/LIM/4 also contains an update on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 150th Session of the Council held in December 2014, for which actions had not been completed at the time of the 151st Session.

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We really welcome this document as it is very useful to track Council decisions and we believe that practice should be continued. So that is very much appreciated. We had two comments on this document.

The first is with respect to the report on the status of FAO's work with partners that was presented at the November Joint Meeting. We all know how partnerships will be important for the achievement of the SDGs and appreciate updates on the progress that FAO is making in this area. However, this Council's request was that continued annual progress reports be provided to Members. And, therefore, this particular Council request should be shown as ongoing instead of completed. I think it is in the report of the Joint Meeting: decision one should be shown as ongoing instead of completed.

My second comment is regarding paragraph 7 of the 151st Session of the Council. The report says that Council supported the proposed Programme of Work and noted that further clarifications would be provided by the Secretariat for consideration by Members, including further information on how gender as a cross-cutting issue was reflected throughout the Programme of Work and Budget. This decision is not reflected in the Status of Implementation and we would like to add it under the section Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and show it as ongoing. Or, actually, not yet started or ongoing. Thank you.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In the context of the reviewed *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 151st Session of Council*, we would like to draw Council's attention to paragraph 9 of the final report from that session in which the Council stressed the importance of continuing efforts to guarantee language balance, especially for languages for which progress remained insufficient.

We would like once again to draw attention to the importance of linguistic balance in FAO; the last example of this being the parallel activities at this Council. We are not absolutely certain that language coverage for those events corresponds to the spirit and letter of the decision of the 151st Session of Council and all the many other sessions held in the past. In this regard, we would be grateful if once again you could stress the importance of guaranteeing language balance in the work of FAO, including on the languages for which progress so far has remained insufficient.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

Les Représentations permanentes du Royaume du Maroc et de Madagascar font cette déclaration au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Notre Groupe a pris note des informations communiquées dans le document CL 153/LIM/4 et saisit cette opportunité pour exprimer à M. Gagnon et au Secrétariat du Conseil ses remerciements pour la qualité et la clarté du document qui nous a été fourni. Le Groupe exprime également sa satisfaction pour le niveau d'exécution des décisions prises par la 151^{ème} session de notre Conseil. En effet, sur les dix thèmes listés dans le document, huit ont été totalement achevés à ce jour.

Parmi tous les thèmes mentionnés dans ce document, la question relative à la synthèse des évaluations indépendantes des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux de la FAO, thème qui, comme vous le savez, a été achevé, a retenu tout particulièrement l'attention de notre Groupe vu les propositions qu'elle contient, et notamment en ce qui concerne l'ajustement de la couverture géographique du continent africain.

En effet, le document CL 153/14 Rev.1 a mis en exergue le fait que le continent africain est celui qui compte le plus grand nombre de représentations ou de représentants de la FAO et recommande, entre autres, un changement qui permettrait aux coordonnateurs sous-régionaux d'être chargés de la supervision des représentations de la FAO, donc, dans l'aire géographique qu'ils couvrent. Cette possibilité qui, selon le document, avait été étudiée de façon plus informelle pour l'Afrique, n'avait jamais été officialisée. Le Groupe Afrique demande donc que cette approche et cette méthode soient officialisées.

De même que la synthèse des évaluations des bureaux régionaux en Afrique, qui se veut pragmatique, doit tenir compte dans ces propositions d'ajustements de la couverture géographique, de la nécessité d'optimiser la capacité de l'Organisation à fournir des services de la manière la plus compétitive possible et d'obtenir les résultats définis dans le Cadre stratégique et surtout reconnaître le droit d'accès de tout pays africain aux services de la FAO.

Comme cela est proposé dans l'annexe 11 du document CL 153/14 Rev.1, j'implique ici la page 85, le Groupe Afrique souhaite être consulté par le comité de gestion, proposé initialement dans le cadre de l'évaluation, pour tous les nouveaux arrangements et accords de modifications afin que les pays soient intégrés à juste titre dans le processus décisionnel relatif au continent.

Concernant le thème qui est en cours d'exécution et relatif au Programme, budget, aux finances et à l'administration, et notamment le Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017, tel que révisé, le Programme de travail et budget 2016-2017, et en particulier la recommandation du Conseil demandant au Secrétariat de ne pas relâcher ses efforts dans la limitation du coût du plan d'assurance maladie, le Groupe Afrique est amplement conscient de la complexité de cette thématique qui ne concerne pas uniquement notre chapitre, celui de Rome, mais encourage aussi le Secrétariat à redoubler d'efforts dans la quête d'une solution juste et urgente.

Pour le second thème, très complexe, et également en cours d'exécution, qui a trait à la mission confiée par le Conseil à son Président indépendant d'organiser des consultations auprès des groupes régionaux pour parvenir à un accord quant aux règles relatives à la participation de représentants d'organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé aux réunions de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique voudrait ici réitérer sa disponibilité à collaborer avec notre Président indépendant pour dégager un consensus acceptable par tous et juridiquement gérable.

Voilà les remarques du Groupe Afrique. Et je ne peux qu'inviter les collègues Membres du Conseil à se joindre à notre Groupe pour son adoption.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to thank the Members for their positive comments on the content of this document. Obviously it is a living document which is always subject to comments and improvements suggested by Members. So, I would suggest that the best methodology is to take note of all the comments that were made by Members that have intervened under this item and use the verbatim records of our deliberations and the document will be improved accordingly.

CHAIRPERSON

So I can conclude on item 12, *Status of Implementation of the Decisions Taken at the 151st Session of the Council* as follows.

1. The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 150th Session of December 2014 and the 151st Session of March 2015, and requested that a number of adjustments be made to the document;
2. The Council requested that item 1 in the document regarding partnerships with non-state actors be indicated as 'ongoing'.

Item 16. Provisional Agenda for the 154th Session of the Council (May-June 2016)

Point 16. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent cinquante-deuxième session du Conseil (mai-juin 2016)

Tema 16. Programa provisional del 152.º período de sesiones del Consejo (mayo-junio de 2016)
(CL 153/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to item 16, *Provisional Agenda for the 154th Session of the Council (May-June 2016)*. The relevant document is CL 153/INF/2.

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

My comments address the last agenda item, namely Agenda Item 12. In our intervention, we invited the Council to note, according with the decision of the 151st Session of the Council which we discussed, the importance of continuing efforts with regards to the improvement of the language balance, particularly for those languages for which progress lagged behind. Since I have not heard it in your excellent summary, I was just wondering, was it just missing or it is not possible to include such a deliberation in the report? Your kind advice on this would be very welcome.

CHAIRPERSON

As this has been reflected also elsewhere, we can maybe say that we need it to be reported in the Progress Report. I do not need to reflect it in my summary, if you agree.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you very much, Chair, for the clarification. We fully agree.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Based on the discussions that were held under Agenda Item 3, including the cross-regional statement on gender as well as the Council Decision at its 151st Session to have more information on gender mainstreaming throughout the Programme of Work 2016-17, we would like the next agenda of the Council to provide this opportunity to get that information, whether it is a separate agenda item or as part of an agenda item. It is fine as long as it is noted that this will occur because we do not have the language yet that is proposed under Agenda Item 3.

I think I heard that something would be provided for spring 2016. But when I look now at the agenda of the Council for the Programme Implementation Report, it is 2014-15, so it will be in the past. We want it to have information on how it would be mainstreamed through the Programme of Work in the future as well. I would suggest that your conclusions note this request that the next Council be able to have information on these issues.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Canada, as you correctly mentioned, this was addressed in the discussion under Agenda Item 3. If you allow me, I will read the draft conclusions delivered by the Chairperson on this item. I think it will address your point. I am not reading the opening sentence, “We look forward to continued attention to mainstreaming of gender across FAO’s activities as well as the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, including consideration of UN/SWAP and reporting thereof through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms.”

I think this is relevant here. There is a corporate framework in place for reporting on results achieved within the Strategic Framework.

Now I continue to read the draft conclusions: “Notably, the Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015”, which obviously will follow up on decisions made in the past on these subjects, in the spring of 2016. This is what you see now in this Draft Council Agenda. “The Mid-Term Review in the spring of 2017 and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be considered at the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017.”

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I guess this would not cover then the requests of the Council at its 151st Session about gender mainstreaming in the next biennium. If it is reporting on past achievements, it will not provide us the information on how it intends to capture gender in the next. So my question is whether this will be addressed at some point in the Council meeting because this decision is not completed.

CHAIRPERSON

The Secretary-General has read what will go in the adjustments but now you are insisting you want it to appear separately. But it is already taken care of. I hope you agree.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We concede because I am not aware so far the information that has been provided through this Corporate Accountability Mechanism is quite limited because it covers a broad range of issues. We can see how it is going to be reflected in this Programme Implementation Report for this Council but reserve the right to see if we need additional information on this issue because I think at this point, if we compare with the kind of information that has been requested by the Conference in 2013, it is still information that is not available to us yet. And I am not sure that this framework provides the right space to have this information so it is just to enable us to get the information. It does not really matter which framework but we can give it a look for the next Council and then see if we need something additional.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

My friend from Canada raised this point but not only gender but all cross-cutting issues are supposed to be reported and the progress of cross-cutting issues are supposed to be submitted to the Council, to the Programme and Finance Committee through the PIR. The PIR is included in the next agenda of the Council so that should satisfy what Canada is asking for. If Canada wants more, they can raise that issue when the PIR is discussed.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Si bien entendemos las preocupaciones de la Delegación de Canadá, nos parece que este tema ya fue tratado, como bien se ha dicho en el tema 3, por lo cual no vemos conveniente reabrir nuevamente la discusión sobre este tema. Entendemos que como lo ha leído la Secretaría, los informes con respecto al tema se presentarán a través de los mecanismos adecuados que ya se han leído. Con lo cual, no vemos necesario reabrir el tema nuevamente aquí presente, considerando que ya se trató y hubo conclusiones al respecto.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the explanation given by the Secretariat which also some Members had provided. And I hope you will agree that this issue is already taken up under item 3 and it is contained there.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I am willing to move forward on this, but I just wanted to recall that there was a decision of the Council that has not been implemented yet. That is why I want to make sure that as we move forward, any decisions that are taken, can be implemented in a timely manner.

So, I just want to say that at this point we are going to move forward. Yet, we need to remember that it is not as if pasts decisions have been fully implemented.

Plus, I am not sure that the one that has been asked last time is going to be covered by this item. It was about mainstreaming gender in the Programme of Work in the next biennium, not about results achieved in the past.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Canada, for understanding. Let me conclude now on item 16: The Council endorsed the Provisional Agenda of its 154st Session which will take place in May-June 2016.

Item 7. Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network (continued)**Point 7. Examen indépendant du réseau des bureaux décentralisés (suite)****Tema 7. Examen independiente de la red de oficinas descentralizadas (continuación)**

(CL 153/14 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We will turn to Item 7, *Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network*. I do not have to present the document because it was thoroughly discussed, we had exchange of views, a good understanding on the positions, and with wisdom directing us that there is a missing point of consensus and I did not want to conclude the discussion on this agenda item during the day it was

tabled because I found that I had to give it time for consultations, for continuing the discussion within Regional Groups, bilateral discussions, so that when I make my conclusions, then they will be accepted by consensus.

I have tried to accommodate what really transpired in this meeting, taking into consideration all the issues which you have raised and trying to put it in a summary which will not satisfy everybody but I think we can go along with that.

I would like to make my conclusions and I do not see any Member who wants to take the floor to speak on this agenda item because you have exhausted all of your points on this. The obligation to make the conclusions is now on me.

Item 7, Independent Review of Decentralized Offices Network:

1. The Council welcomed the review paper as the response to the Conference requests following the five individual evaluations of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices, and appreciated the independent validation on the document carried out in each región;

2. The Council:

(a) appreciated the comprehensive and sound technical analysis and data presented on FAO's decentralized offices;

(b) supported the principles and criteria identified for adjusting coverage subjects to future refinement as a result of upcoming regional consultations in the regional conferences;

(c) agreed to a budget neutral approach to any potential adjustments to decentralized office coverage;

(d) stressed the need to make any potential adjustments on a región-specific basis and with a tailored approach;

(e) requested the document be transmitted for review by the 2016 Regional Conferences; and

(f) agreed to re-examine the coverage of FAO's decentralized offices at its next session in June 2016.

That is my conclusion.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Ringson CHITSIKO (Zimbabwe)

While Zimbabwe respects the common positions of the Africa Region and that of the Council on the Independent Review of the Decentralized Offices Network, however Zimbabwe would reserve its position on the process followed to conduct this Review and the resulting document.

CHAIRPERSON

Your reservations will be highlighted as a footnote to my draft conclusions. I thank you for your understanding and I thank the other Members for their understanding. With this I close this Agenda Item 7.

Item 19. Any Other Matters

Point 19. Autres questions

Tema 19. Asuntos varios

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to the last item on the agenda, *Any Other Matters*.

Members are reminded that four sub-items were included under this item when the timetable was adopted on Monday morning: sub-item 19.1: *Proposed FAO World Fisheries University*; sub-item 19.2: *Sustainable Management of Soils*; sub-item 19.3: *Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies* and sub-item 19.4: *Appointment of a representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*.

Item 19.1 Proposed FAO World Fisheries University

Point 19.1 Proposition relative à la création de l'Université mondiale des pêches de la FAO

Tema 19.1 Propuesta de Universidad Pesquera Mundial de la FAO

We will start with 19.1, *Proposed FAO World Fisheries University*. I shall give the floor to Republic of Korea. The Council Member requested that this matter be taken under this item.

Mr Joon-seog KANG (Republic of Korea)

It is my great honour and privilege to address you, Excellencies, about Korea's proposal to establish the FAO World Fisheries University.

First of all, let me express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr Chairperson, Honourable Member Nations, and the Secretariat for attending lunch and reception yesterday and for expressing attention and encouragement.

I would like to remind you that Korea could have risen from the ashes of the Korean War in 1950 thanks to the huge investment in education based on the generous assistance from nations and international organizations around the world.

Most of all, Korean people cannot forget FAO's kind support in establishing the the Korea Fishing Training Center, a centre for introducing advanced fisheries technology and providing technical training. Since the centre opened in Busan on 1 July 1965, 82 000 people have been trained as crews. And those trainees who went on board fishing vessels laid a firm foundation for today's Distant Water Fisheries in Korea.

Such experience taught Korea a valuable lesson: "Education can cure hunger". Now Korea stands ready to return the support and encouragement from the international community and share its experience and know-now with FAO Members through the establishment of the FAO World Fisheries University (WFU).

Through consultation with Member Nations, there were some questions and comments over the WFU. Such questions can be summarized in four areas. First, why Korea wants to establish the World Fisheries University in accordance with Article XV of the FAO Constitution? Second, will Korea's financial contributions be made only for ten years? Third, would there not be any duplication within the WFU and other existing programmes? Lastly, how to operate the WFU?

Taking this opportunity, I would like to clarify those four questions one by one.

Firstly, why an Article XV institution? We think that there are two important considerations to make in support of the establishment of the WFU as a centre of excellence. First, the WFU should not place an additional burden on Member Nations. Second, the WFU should contribute to FAO's mission. To this end, Korea hereby proposes to establish the FAO World Fisheries University as an independent institution established under Article XV of the FAO Constitution.

Secondly, Korea will make financial contributions worth about USD 100 million for the first ten years for the University including land, buildings, operational costs and so on. Then, countries might be concerned about whether Korea's contribution will be limited in the first ten-year period.

Now, I would like to assure you that Korea will continue to make financial support for its sound and sustainable operation, even after the first ten years. The ten-year period was stated in order to comply with the relevant provisions of the FAO Constitution that encourages the host country involved to write down a certain amount of contribution for a certain amount of period. It does not mean that Korea's contribution will be stopped after ten years. Korea will take responsibility and make continuous support for the sound operation of the University.

Thirdly, concerning the relationship with the other programmes. The WFU will have a complementary relationship with other educational institutions and FAO on existing education and the training programmes. Through cooperation, the WFU is expected to be more effective in producing future fisheries experts.

For example, those who took FAO's regional training programmes can enter the WFU for their further studies and earn Master or PhD degrees. Meanwhile, the WFU can teach the teachers, graduates of the WFU can work as researchers or professors across the world, contributing to capacity building of their research centres or educational institutions.

I would like to point out that fostering fisheries and aquaculture-related professionals cannot be achieved only through the WFU. Rather, the key for success is to cooperate with the existing educational institutions and the programmes.

Lastly, how to operate the World Fisheries University. Let me explain about Korea's basic position on the WFU. We think that the FAO World Fisheries University is not a Korean University but a university for all FAO Member Nations. In this context, we will benchmark similar cases like the World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization, the UN University for Peace and others so that the WFU will fully meet international standards and live up to Member Nations' expectations in terms of the operation of the University.

At the same time, Korea will closely work with the FAO Secretariat to establish the WFU while attentively listening to the voices and advice of the Member Nations.

In this context, Korea submitted the full proposal to the FAO Secretariat in October. The proposal is a simple blueprint for the WFU, so we would like to flesh out the skeleton with your input and participation down the road.

So we hope this proposal can be well-reviewed at the FAO Governing Bodies with your interest and can obtain final approval at the Conference in 2017.

I would like to kindly ask distinguished Member Nations to give careful and positive consideration to this proposal and I hope I can count on your support.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

First of all we thank the Minister for introducing Agenda Item 19.1. Afghanistan is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group on this agenda item.

The Near East Group welcomes the proposal of the Republic of Korea in establishing the FAO World Fisheries University (WFU) as they provide the funding for this important initiative.

The FAO World Fisheries University will become a centre of excellence in fisheries sectors with its networks as well as a think-tank for research in fisheries. The feasibility study of the proposal has already been completed.

In the past 40 years, the per capita availability of fish and fish products has doubled and has outpaced population growth. It is estimated that 17 percent of the animal protein consumed worldwide comes from fish and in low income food deficit countries, the share is close to 20 percent.

Sustainable management of fisheries is dependent on many factors. However, one key factor is the availability of adequate, highly-trained fisheries professionals to plan the road map for sustainable capture and culture fisheries to guide its implementation and to monitor its progress.

In the developing countries, such needed expertise is in short supply and must be beefed up. The proposed FAO World Fisheries University will be a step forward in meeting this skilled manpower gap in developing countries.

In Afghanistan, the development of Aquaculture and the improvement of our inland capture Fisheries is constrained by the lack of skilled professional people in Aquaculture and inland Fisheries. The proposal will also be a major boost to South-South Cooperation.

The agreement between the Republic of Korea and FAO on this important initiative falls under Article XV of the Basic Texts.

To bring the mentioned matter to the approval of the FAO Conference in 2017, the the proposal full text needs to be considered and endorsed by 2016 by COFI 32 in July and by the 103rd Session of the CCLM in October and by the 155th Session of the Council in November.

The Near East Group supports this important initiative and, expresses its gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its offer and generous funding of USD 100 million over ten years.

The Near East Group also hopes the process of agreement of FAO and the Republic of Korea will be completed next year by final approval during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017.

Likewise, we wish that other stakeholders too will make further financial contributions to WFU.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

Pakistan would like to express its deep appreciation to the Delegation of Korea for presenting the proposal to establish the FAO World Fisheries University in the Republic of Korea as well as their willingness to make a generous contribution to this initiative.

The following Member Nations are aligning with this statement: Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam.

Fish and fishery products play an important role in contributing to food security and nutrition. They are a major source of proteins.

However, fishery resources are under great pressure due to overexploitation and the scourge of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. As a result, those who are highly dependent on fish for protein are more likely to suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Therefore, it is imperative that these states build their capacity through well-designed education and training programmes to ensure stable supply of food through sustainable fisheries.

There are training programmes to build the capacity of developing states. However, such programmes often provide short-term training courses, which is not enough to foster highly skilled fisheries-related professionals such as policy makers, researchers and scholars.

It is, therefore, urgent for the international community to establish a mechanism to foster highly skilled and educated professionals from these countries who can lead and sustain fisheries development and to ensure food and nutrition security. The establishment of the FAO World Fisheries University can fill this vacuum.

In conclusion, we are of the view that Korea's initiative is fully in line with the FAO's mandate. We look forward to the processing of this proposal in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Organization.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I would like to join in other Members and thank the Minister for a very informative introduction of the matter.

Iceland has for almost 20 years run the United Nations University Fishery Training Programme in Iceland. So, we realize the great need for capacity building in this area.

It is also clear to us that if the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is to be achieved, better management of the oceans' living resources is imperative.

We, therefore, welcome this timely action taken by Republic of Korea to establish the FAO World Fisheries University and look forward to having a close cooperation in the years to come.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La República Argentina acoge con beneplácito la iniciativa de Corea del Sur sobre establecer la Universidad Pesquera Mundial de la FAO. Desde el punto de vista sustantivo, acompañamos esta propuesta y analizaremos los detalles con detenimiento.

Respecto del procedimiento, y teniendo en cuenta los Textos Fundamentales, entendemos que el proyecto que nos atañe en este momento debería ser sometido a la aprobación de COFI, del Comité del Programa y eventualmente también del CCLM para luego ser presentado nuevamente a este Consejo para su aprobación. Queremos, sin embargo, reafirmar nuestro fuerte apoyo a esta importante iniciativa.

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

First of all, I would like to thank the Delegation of the Republic of Korea for the excellent presentation given yesterday and point out that the Russian Federation considers this proposal of our neighbour deserves full support.

We would also like to call your attention that in the Far East, in Vladivostok, there is a State Technical Fisheries University. Then, we could cooperate closely with the World University, especially in training experts on Fisheries.

Moreover, our University has a major floating vessel which is called Plata and maritime practice could be carried out on it with people attending the university from the FAO.

We believe that this sort of cooperation could be discussed at the sessions of the joint Russia-Korean Intergovernmental Commission on Fisheries.

Mr Robert MEARKLE (United States of America)

The United States welcomes the proposal by the Republic of Korea to establish a World Fisheries University in Korea. We support the goals of the effort in particular to provide programmes of advanced study to develop fisheries professionals in FAO Member States and to build capacity for the sustainable conservation and management of fishery resources worldwide, while also promoting FAO's major goals of ending hunger and poverty and promoting food security.

We applaud the Government of Korea's firm commitment to this initiative as evidenced by the full support to be provided by Korea for at least the first ten years of the project which will make the WFU completely budget neutral for FAO and for its Members. On this basis, the United States would like to express its full support for the WFU and urges its positive consideration by the FAO Governing Bodies.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

Hungary is looking with great sympathy at this presentation by the Republic of Korea. As you know, Hungary is not a superpower in fisheries, but some colleagues might remember that with the assistance of the FAO Research Centre, the hatchery of Aquaculture Freshwater Fisheries was established in the '70s and '80s and later on were used for many years as a knowledge transfer base in favour of experts and students from developing countries.

I have asked for the floor not only for saying this but I wanted to ask you to pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Netherlands)

Thank you, Republic of Korea, for the information on this very interesting proposal. We do not already have a decision but it is not necessary because I presume, and this is a question, that a proposal will be sent and dealt with in the Committee on Fisheries and then be brought to the Council for final decision. Am I right? That is my question.

My second question is as follows: we have heard the proposal of the Republic of Korea, we have heard a lot of positive reactions already but what is the position of FAO on this proposal?

M. Mongui MEDI (Cameroun)

Nous voulons joindre la voix du Cameroun à celles des autres pays qui nous ont précédé dans la discussion sur cette question, en félicitant vivement la République de Corée pour cette initiative, mais également pour le processus engagé jusqu'à maintenant, parce que derrière la scène, Monsieur le Président, vous savez très bien qu'il y a beaucoup d'actions bilatérales qui ont été entreprises et beaucoup de lobbying pour faire comprendre l'importance d'une telle initiative. Nous voulons donc féliciter la Corée aussi parce qu'il y a suffisamment d'informations à la disposition des États Membres pour pouvoir supporter l'initiative en connaissance de cause.

Nous voulons encourager le processus de négociation parce que nous savons qu'il peut prendre du temps s'il ne commence pas suffisamment tôt, et peut-être souhaiter que la Conférence de 2017 puisse

effectivement décider sur la signature d'un accord si les négociations aboutissent. Mais avant que les négociations ne démarrent, je pense que la FAO et la République de Corée devraient s'entendre sur un document de base qui pourrait être présenté d'abord au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier à leur session du printemps 2016 et ensuite au Conseil qui suit immédiatement après. Nous savons que ceci se fait conformément à l'article XV de la Constitution... donc, que ces procédures soient suivies.

Aujourd'hui, nous avons juste une proposition, mais je pense que pour que les organes directeurs puissent s'y pencher, il faudrait qu'il y ait un document qui traite de la question. Pour cela nous souhaiterions donc que ce document soit présenté aux prochaines sessions des Comités et du Conseil pour que la Conférence de 2017 puisse effectivement prendre une décision sur la suite à donner. Cela nous permettra de gagner du temps au lieu d'attendre que la Conférence de 2017 donne d'abord l'autorisation de commencer les négociations; je pense que, si on ajuste bien le timing, la Conférence de 2017 peut se pencher sur un texte négocié et donner l'aval pour pouvoir signer l'accord.

Nous voulons en même temps relever, autant que faire se peut, Monsieur le Président, si cet accord est signé entre la FAO et la République de Corée, l'importance d'une coopération avec d'autres universités ou écoles similaires qui se trouveraient dans d'autres pays; notamment, je pense à notre école aquacole au Cameroun, qui pourrait peut-être bénéficier d'une coopération avec une université comme celle-là, internationale, si elle est créée.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer por la presencia y la presentación que ha hecho el Ministro de Corea con respecto a la propuesta de la Universidad Pesquera Mundial. Queremos señalar que hemos conocido con satisfacción de esta propuesta. El sector pesquero tiene mucha importancia, así como la formación de las capacidades también.

Los detalles de esta propuesta están siendo analizados en la capital y la respuesta la transmitiremos a través de los Órganos Rectores respectivos. No obstante, queríamos señalar que Ecuador ha recibido con agrado esta propuesta y está analizando con mucho interés la misma.

Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Queríamos simplemente agradecer, como GRULAC, la información brindada por la Delegación de Corea del Sur. Queríamos también apoyar esta iniciativa ya que creemos que la Universidad Pesquera Mundial representa un valor añadido al trabajo que realiza la FAO en materia de pesca.

Esta propuesta merece nuestra detenida atención, por lo cual estaremos atentos y comprometidos para que se puedan llevar a cabo todos los pasos necesarios aptos a su realización.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

We align ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan; even so I have requested the floor to give a special thanks to give the Republic of Korea for coming up with this very nice proposal. And we are also aligning with the detailed statement that was given by Afghanistan.

But we have only one appeal to the Republic of Korea that special consideration should be given to the developing country Members so that the fishing sector for the developing countries could have a special benefit of this University.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

We believe that this is an extremely worthwhile and generous proposal that the Republic of Korea has put forward. There is no question that there is a need for training, education and academic work in this field. We are only just starting to learn how to utilize the resources of the oceans. And the emphasis on the developing of sustainable fisheries is I think very welcome in this proposal.

The process that we foresee is that we would finish our in-house appraisal of the proposal in the middle of January next year. The FAO Legal Counsel will then draft an Article XV agreement and a host country agreement to be sent to the Government of Korea for review and consideration. The Republic will then draft a World Fisheries University draft. In March, the CCLM would then be informed of the Korean proposal and it would then decide to include that in its proposal for its agenda

for the next session in autumn. The review of the proposal and the preparatory documents will then be shared with the Programme Committee and Finance Committee in May and then, if deemed appropriate, and shared with the Council for endorsement.

It will then go to COFI in July and the COFI Bureau already has in its deliberations on the agenda, prepared the agenda in a way that that would be possible for COFI to consider in particular the technical aspects of the proposal. And if so decided, endorse it. It will then be up for review and further deliberation by the CCLM in October and then the reviewed and endorsed drafts for Conference Resolution for the Draft Charter and the host country agreement would be put to the Council in December next year.

And then finally, if everybody is in agreement, it would be adopted by resolution and the World Fisheries University established by Conference in July 2017. I think this would be particularly welcome in the light of the emphasis that the Organization has been putting on fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in light of the Blue Growth Initiative over the past years and it would be a very important and positive input and further development of these ideas and concepts and would help those that we are particularly looking to support.

Mr Joon-seog KANG (Republic of Korea)

Let me express my deepest gratitude to all the Council Members for your comments, advice and interest. As for the question from the EU, the proposal will be considered in the upcoming Committee of Fisheries, it is included as an agenda item. Also, Programme Committee, Finance Committee, CCLM and the Council will review the proposal with the ultimate goal of obtaining approval from the 2017 Conference.

As for the question from Cameroon, the World Fisheries University will establish cooperative relationships with other fisheries education institutions. In order to live up to your expectations, Korea will make our preparations so that the World Fisheries University proposal can be reviewed at the Governing Bodies. Of course your participation, advice, and input will be highly appreciated. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Minister, for introducing and informing the Members of the proposal for the establishment of FAO World Fisheries University. I think this Session of the Council has given you an opportunity to continue to work on this. You are already working with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. I hope this will be a success.

I will make brief conclusions as follows: the Council noted and welcomed the proposal for an FAO World Fisheries University to be established in the Republic of Korea and noted that the proposal would be further discussed at relevant Governing Body sessions in 2016.

Item 19.2 Sustainable Management of Soils

Point 19.2 Gestion durable des sols

Tema 19.2 Gestión sostenible de los suelos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to sub-item 19.2, *Sustainable Management of Soils*. I shall give the floor to the Russian Federation, the Council Member which requested that this matter be taken under this item.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

At the Second Plenary assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) in July 2014 the Russian Delegation presented an initiative aimed at the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines on sustainable management of soil resources under the aegis of the GSP.

The proposed document could develop in more detail the key provisions of the World Soil Charter and complement it with operational technical recommendations. We suggested that the guidelines should have a voluntary, non-legally-binding, technical and framework nature. They also could focus on positive messages and good practices that everybody could agree upon.

Such Voluntary Guidelines would represent a tangible product of the GSP taking into account, as relevant, the findings of the State of the World Soil Resources Report through the lens of the World Soil Charter. That would allow to apply in practice the potential of the GSP multi-stakeholder mechanism involving academia and research institutions. Moreover, such document could become one of the major practical outcomes and an important part of the legacy of the International Year of Soils 2015.

That initiative was brought to the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture in October 2014 and the Third GSP Plenary assembly in June 2015. The latter meeting considered a related concept note prepared by the GSP Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS). The Assembly welcomed the note and tasked the GSP Secretariat and the ITPS to improve it for the submission to the FAO Council in December 2015.

The said note has gone through the process of the e-consultation and is now available at the Council web page, and we thank the Secretariat for that. It outlines the objectives, provisional scope and structure of the VGs, as well as the proposed timeline and modalities of the preparation process. We specifically welcome the provision allowing to consider and review the zero draft of the VGs within a special OEWG involving FAO Members. My delegation is generally satisfied with that concept note, apart from minor issues, such as the overly extensive length of the guidelines. Nonetheless, we recognize that specific modalities and details of the elaboration process could be refined, if needed, as it moves on.

Russia stands ready to collaborate with all interested FAO Members in order to ensure that our proposal, further developed by the ITPS and supported by the GSP Plenary assembly, be realized in the most effective way. In order to facilitate this process, we are also willing to contribute to its financial support.

Given the unique momentum created by the International Year of Soils 2015, that will see its official closing the day after tomorrow, we call on the Council to encourage the GSP to pursue these activities aimed at the elaboration of the VGs on sustainable management of soil resources.

I would like to draw attention to the document distributed through the Members Gateway last week.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina recibe con beneplácito la propuesta de la Federación Rusa relativa a Directrices Voluntarias sobre la Gestión Sostenible de los Suelos. En su carácter también de integrante del comité directivo del Año Internacional de los Suelos, que está por terminar, consideramos, como se ha dicho, que el trabajar en este tipo de directrices voluntarias puede constituir un excelente legado para el Año Internacional que está finalizando.

Entendemos que la nota conceptual deberá ser estudiada y analizada por los órganos competentes de la FAO y por los países que estén obviamente más interesados en este asunto, por lo cual bregamos y solicitamos a la Organización que se continúen con los trabajos tendientes a tener un texto sobre estas directivas.

Mr Abreha Gebrai ASSEFA (Ethiopia)

The Africa Group welcomes the proposal made by the Russian Federation. The Africa Group recommends that Council accept the recommendation for the Voluntary Guidelines submitted for the Sustainable Management of Soils.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India welcomes the proposal and looks forward to development of these guidelines.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

Mr Chairperson, could you please pass the floor to the Netherlands?

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union, its 28 Member States, with the alignment of San Marino and of the candidate countries to the EU, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The EU and its Member States recognize the economic, social and environmental significance of sustainable land and soil management, particularly its contribution to biodiversity, sustainable food production, nutrition, combating and adapting to climate change, and water availability. We support the initiative presented at the second General Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership to develop Voluntary Guidelines on the sustainable management of soil resources with support from the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, the ITPS, for submission to the GSP, the Global Soil Partnership, Plenary Assembly and FAO Council.

We commend the ITPS for elaborating a concept note for the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management which was welcomed by the Third General Assembly of the GSP in June 2015.

The Third General Assembly of the GSP asked the Secretariat and the ITSP to improve this concept note by incorporating the comments provided by partners and to submit it for an email consultation prior to its submission to the FAO Council December 2015 which is this Council Session as originally planned.

So the ITPS has reviewed and revised the concept note in its September session and it has been circulated by the Secretariat for an email consultation with Members in November and I could say only in November. So we seek further clarification on the status of the concept note and we look forward to engaging in the process of the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management.

Mr Sompong NIMCHUAR (Thailand)

Thailand wishes to express its gratitude to the Russian Federation for the positive and persistent efforts and contributions to raise the awareness on the importance of soils for food security and to bring soils in the international agenda.

Thailand welcomes the initiative launched by the Russian Federation to develop Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management in line with the revised concept note lately submitted to this Council for information.

Thailand looks forward to the elaboration of such voluntary guidelines.

As a Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Soils 2015, Thailand would like to express its thanks to all steering committee members and to the IYS Secretariat for their effective collaboration and participation to the Committee meetings.

Since the International Year of Soils is now coming to end, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to World Soil Day Celebration and Closure of International Year of Soils 2015. The event will be held this Friday, 4 December, in the Sheikh Zayed Centre, at 12:30. I hope to see you all there.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

Very briefly, this is just to express our support to the important proposal coming from the Russian Federation to develop Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Management of Soils.

Mr Antonio Otavio Sá Ricarte (Brazil)

My delegation would like to join others in welcoming this initiative to discuss this matter at this session. We also would like to congratulate the members of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils on the concept notes that have been now included among the documentation for this session of the Council.

My delegation is ready to prove a mandate for the ITPS to advance on the development of the voluntary guidelines for submission to the next GSP Plenary Assembly and COAG session in 2016. We believe that if we give a clear mandate, the process would greatly benefit from the momentum created by the International Year of Soils and the opportunity we have now just before the closing of this year and the celebration of the World Soil Day next Saturday is very timely.

We also recognize and thank the financial support that has been given to advance this process and it would be regretful if we would lose this opportunity to give the go-ahead with this process. So Brazil is very much aligned with those who have expressed support for the elaboration of these guidelines.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to thank the Russian Federation for the introduction regarding this item. We would also like to echo the comment made by Netherlands on behalf of the EU Member States and countries as to what is the status of the concept note and clarification about the process. We certainly look forward to engaging in this process. We would not want the process to be on the basis of the concept note as it stands in the sense that it would be the final concept note. We were not fully apprised of the status of the email consultation process and we would welcome the opportunity to provide further comments.

That does not mean that the process should not go ahead towards the objectives that were mentioned by many delegations and we do not consider the concept note on the website of the Council actually a formal Council document being presented for any endorsement. But I will wait for the response from the Secretariat before further commenting.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Iceland would like to align itself with the statement made by Netherlands on behalf of EU and others.

Ms Elle O'FLAHERTY (United States of America)

We would like to echo what Canada said regarding the need for further consultation and perhaps fleshing out some questions that remain regarding this proposal and we would be interested also to hear your thoughts on that.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I would like first to welcome this proposal which is coming to support the approved World Soil Charter in June 2015. It will provide a platform for implementation and maybe take the momentum which had been created by the International Year of Soils beyond 2015.

Coming back to the timelines of the concept note where we are, as mentioned by many, this was already endorsed as an idea in June 2015 by the third Global Soil Plenary Assembly. That said, the General Assembly made some comments which have been taken into account, reviewed by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soil, ITPS, and this same document has been reviewed again and finalized in September 2015 with the ITPS support.

This concept note which has been circulated is the final after discussion. I should mention that it was circulated among many stakeholders. The International Year of Soils members and others were provided with the note.

Now when it comes to the timelines and process, of course subject to maybe the endorsement or further review of the concept note, the idea is really that this will be revised, completed, through as suggested by member countries, maybe by the end of 2015 as we have the concept note. The idea will be that the Secretariat will establish an open ended working group via an open call by December 2015 and we, with your endorsement, will be proposing that the ITPS meet December-January 2016 and develop a zero draft completed hopefully by January 2016. The idea is also to make sure that this zero draft document will be developed also through a consultation process and by February 2016 the ITPS will produce the first draft of the guidelines based on inputs received from the May consultation and be completed by March 2016.

And there will be a meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to review and finalize the voluntary guidelines by April 2016 to be ready for submission to the Fourth Global Soil Partnership General Assembly which will meet from 23 to 25 May 2016 for consideration and eventual endorsement.

If endorsed, the submission of the voluntary guidelines will go to the 25th Session of COAG in 2016 and then to the 155th Session of the FAO Council in December 2016. This is the proposed timeline for the development of the voluntary guidelines. I should highlight again subject to the endorsement of the concept note that is being circulated and it can be further reviewed and revised based on comments received from Member Nations.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

First of all we would like to sincerely thank all of the Members who voiced their support to our proposal that was further elaborated by the ITPS and supported by the GSP Plenary Assembly this June. We also would like to thank all of the Members who made constructive comments on the process and the substance and I would like to assure you that the Russian Delegation is looking forward to being fully engaged in the collaboration with all of you while participating in the elaboration of those voluntary guidelines.

There is not much remaining to be said after what was said by Mr Achouri from the GSP Secretariat. I think that he outlined the process and outlined all of the possibilities for further comments to the proposal to be sent and fully taken on board and I would like again, in line with what I said in my previous statement, to underline the really crucial momentum that we have now being the International Year of Soils 2015 at its closing point. And once again I call on the Council to encourage the GSP Secretariat and the ITPS to pursue the work already ongoing to aim at the elaboration of this important document. Again, we are very willing to cooperate with everyone on the finalization of this proposal.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Just to clarify that, based on the explanation, comments can still be provided on the draft concept note as that is built within the process. Otherwise I would like to make some adjustments to the language around the process. I think there were some questions asked about the process and now the language says “we would take note with satisfaction the process”.

So I just want to make sure that the door is not closed to more comments on the concept note and I think the Secretariat said that until the end of 2015 comments would be still welcome.

CHAIRPERSON

You were satisfied with my conclusion notes?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

It depends on the answer, the confirmation I will have from the Secretariat.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

There will be still an open door for comments by the end of December for the concept note which has been already circulated and then I mentioned the timelines from December 2015 until December 2016 for the drafting and eventual endorsement of the voluntary guidelines.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I hope it is understood now.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

Perhaps I missed it but did your conclusion mention voluntary guidelines or just guidelines? I thought the voluntary word got missed out so, if it did, we would request that the word voluntary guidelines be included.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. You are always right. The voluntary guidelines.

- Item 19.3** *Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*
Point 19.3 *Collaboration entre les organisations dont le siège est à Rome*
Tema 19.3 *Colaboración entre los organismos con sede en Roma*

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with sub-item 19.3: *Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies*. I shall now give the floor to the Netherlands which requested that this matter be taken under this item.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

I am still honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, San Marino and the candidate countries to the EU, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

For a long time we have been talking in the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP, and IFAD about more cooperation between the Rome-based Agencies. Certainly good work has been done on this field, for example the work on resilience and the preparatory work on the Sustainable Development Goals. However, there is a widely shared feeling that more can be done to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and added value. More can be done both at headquarters and in the field.

At the last Board meeting, the president of IFAD promised to work with principles and senior RBA collaborators to present a baseline paper including a forward-looking perspective on RBA cooperation. During a subsequent discussion in the last WFP Board meeting, the Executive Director promised to contribute to the drafting of the paper and to table this report at the next WFP board.

In view of these developments, we would like to request FAO Management to give us its assurance that FAO too will engage in the momentum of drafting a joint paper on RbA cooperation and put this paper on the agenda of the next Council session.

We have to move forward towards a more strategic and structured cooperation in order to achieve added value for better results and impacts. Can you agree for the coming years on five or six action areas where more is possible and agree on a joint action and concrete objectives, in particular on the 2030 Agenda also on resilience?

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Our Delegation listened to the proposal voiced by the European Union and agrees to that proposal.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. We do agree with what has been said by the European Union that cooperation will increase between the three Rome-based Agencies.

The Near East Group welcomes this extremely important cooperation because it will give additional tasks to these three agencies and this, of course, will help us in achieving food security and also agricultural development. As for the proposed fields of cooperation, two important matters for the developing countries having to do with the three Rome-based Agencies should be included in the Agenda 2030.

Firstly, nutrition through the follow-up for the ICN2; and secondly, dealing with the crises and emergencies, and recall that this is extremely important for cooperation between WFP and FAO.

Also, the Near East Group would like to add that the cooperation between the three Rome-based Agencies will benefit working with other UN agencies like UNIDO, and this of course will give further assistance for the industrial development which is linked with agriculture in developing countries.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India is making this statement on behalf of Asia Group countries. Asia Group thanks the EU for its proposal. The spirit behind which is further strengthening all the collaborative work among the Rome-based Agencies. To our minds, such collaboration will multiply successes in our twin goal of food and

nutrition security and poverty eradication. We would like to see the three organizations understand and use each other's respective comparative advantages through strategic collaboration on the broad areas of: policy advice, knowledge generation, management operations, advocacy, communication and perhaps a few others. We refrain from listing out any specific areas and would like to comment on those as and when we get to study the paper.

In order that our collaboration be effective, there must be a congruence of views not only on areas of collaboration but also on methods of collaboration. We expect the paper EU is requesting for and will elaborate on these issues. This paper will help formalize the collaborative efforts between the agencies and also help clarify for the Members the way ahead on RBAs collaboration. We look forward to the presentation of this strategic paper prepared collaboratively by the three agencies in the next FAO Council for information and discussion.

Ms Elle O'FLAHERTY (United States of America)

We appreciate the comments made throughout this Council Session on the importance of collaboration. By some estimates, we will need USD 83 billion in additional agricultural investment each year to meet the projected food demand in the year 2050. To achieve this, it is clear that closer, better coordinated collaboration is needed, not just among the Rome-based Agencies but also with civil society and the private sector.

We have already seen the benefits of Rome-based Agencies coordinating, for example, on some human resources issues and every March when the three Rome-based Agencies work together to celebrate International Women's Day. But this coordination, when appropriate, must be thoughtful, transparent, and add clear value to the work of all of the agencies. We look to the Rome-based Agencies to advise the Members of the opportunities available to them in advance of our shared goals. We support the EU's proposed paper and look forward to receiving it.

Sr. Benito Santiago JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Hemos escuchado con interés la propuesta presentada por los Países Bajos en nombre de la Unión Europea y la apoyamos. Aquí en la FAO, en el FIDA y en el PMA hemos pedido constantemente que estas tres agencias colaboren en todo lo que puedan, compartiendo sus conocimientos, recursos y capacidades. Esperamos con mucho interés este documento de estrategia para revisarlos, hacernos las aportaciones y buscar el mejoramiento de los tres organismos aquí en Roma.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Delegación Argentina quiere agradecer el documento de la Unión Europea presentado por la Embajadora de los Países Bajos. Creemos que es necesario evitar las superposiciones, único camino para poder tener éxito en una agenda tan ambiciosa como la de 2030.

No indicaremos, como mencionó el distinguido Delegado de la India, temas particulares porque consideramos que la Agenda 2030 es lo suficientemente vasta y extensa como para que las tres Agencias con sede en Roma puedan trabajar juntas y focalizarse en algunos argumentos particulares.

Como dijimos en su momento en la última reunión del FIDA, la República Argentina no desea solamente la producción de un documento, sino que el documento se plasme en acciones concretas por parte de los tres Organismos con sede en Roma.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to start by stating that we encourage RBA collaboration ultimately as a means to achieve better results on the ground. We recognize that RBA collaboration must be viewed within a broader approach to partnerships, including FAO's, and that each RBA will continue to work closely with a diverse area of actors across the spectrum to fulfil their respective mandates.

Given the significant global commitments made this year, it is timely to reflect on future directions for RBA collaboration, building on lessons learned to identify where partnership efforts make most sense and can have most impact. In this context, we look forward to the jointly developed paper to inform discussions in this regard, including at the next Council Session.

Mr Antonio Otavio SA RICARTE (Brazil)

Of course Brazil welcomes this opportunity to further discuss potential collaboration among the three RBAs. We thank the European Union for bringing this to the attention of this Council Session. I believe that substantial contribution was made to this debate by the intervention from India on behalf of the Asia Group. I also take into account what has just been stated by my colleague from Canada that a joint document should be developed, not only a document from FAO. I understand that IFAD has already produced one document that was submitted to the Board a few months ago, and I heard from the President of IFAD that that document was already the basis for a dialogue with the Director-General of FAO. I would like that to be confirmed.

My Delegation believes that further work on this proposal would, as stated by Canada, advance on a results-oriented approach as well as avoid instances of overlapping. It would be very opportune that this discussion be held not only at the next FAO Council but also at the February IFAD Council and at the WFP Governing Bodies. So by the time FAO Council meets in June, I believe a preliminary discussion will have already taken place at IFAD. It would be important if FAO Secretariat would contribute to the advancement of this debate at the other forum as well.

Mr Avi GRANOT (Observer for Israel)

Let me take this opportunity to commend you, the Secretary-General, and your teams, on the way you are handling this Council.

As Israel values very much the needed cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies, an issue which the RBAs already declared in the joint statement on 2 April 2013 highlighting the desire to capture the collective commitment to systematically strengthen cooperation in the evaluation. We very strongly believe in the need to strengthen the collaboration in a whole variety of fields as would be agreed. Thus, Israel would like to align itself with the statement made by the EU on collaboration among the RBAs and would like to state its support to that statement.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial suscribe la excelente declaración hecha por Holanda en nombre de los Países de la Unión Europea.

Creemos que la necesidad de estrechar mayor colaboración y cooperación entre las tres agencias basadas en Roma ha sido siempre un deseo inminente de los Miembros de estas organizaciones. Pero también reconocemos los esfuerzos desplegados por esas tres agencias en esta materia, pero le alentamos más cooperación, alentamos más colaboración entre las tres agencias para evitar duplicidades, sobre todo para garantizar la colaboración, aprovechando las ventajas comparativas de cada agencia.

Por lo tanto la propuesta de la Unión Europea es una excelente estrategia, teniendo en cuenta que las tres agencias llevan trabajando, llevan dando esfuerzos en esta materia. Pero quizás focalizando, teniendo en cuenta la agenda 2030, focalizando en 5 o 6 Objetivos Estratégicos, esa colaboración podría ser más visible, podría ser más, podría ayudar a concretar resultados más óptimos.

Se habló de 5 o 6 propuestas de Objetivos Estratégicos de la Agenda 2030. También se puede ocurrir otro dominio, se puede haber la idea de colaborar en otros dominios importantes, como la Cooperación Sur-sur, que también puede significar una idea excelente a aportar mayores resultados positivos, para los países sobre todo, para alcanzar los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

Referring to a report that I read based on the 2009 document entitled Directions for Collaboration Among the Rome-based Agencies, I would like to state that my Delegation supports the document presented by the Netherlands on behalf of the EU. Liberia aligns itself. As stated by Argentina, we need some specific projects that would indicate or show the effective collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. As I said, according to the report in 2009, the global challenges such as climate change and the food security crisis provide a new impetus for enhancing cooperation among the Rome-based Agencies by drawing on their respective comparative advantages.

FAO, IFAD, and WFP can collectively continue to assist in the global efforts to eradicate chronic hunger and poverty and improve food access for poor and vulnerable people. A few examples of the three Rome-based Agencies should be mentioned like the joint country case study, such as the ones in Guatemala, Kenya and Nigeria, exploring the ongoing efforts and future opportunities for greater collaboration among them. Those are areas where we can compare the analysis and try to strengthen and foster more collaboration among the three RBAs.

M. Francois PYTHOUD (Observer for Switzerland)

We fully support the proposal made by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union since it reflects the outcomes of the IFAD and WFP Boards' discussion on this issue. However, we see the drafting of the joint baseline paper as a timely opportunity to also address collaboration with other relevant UN agencies and partners, especially when it comes to cooperation on the ground on programmes and activities relevant to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Of course these two support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the Agenda 2030.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Just briefly to say that Australia thanks the European Union for its proposal and supports it. Like others, we would reinforce the point that we support collaboration where it makes sense to collaborate and where its results are entitled.

Mr Fabian Sumba MUYA (Observer for Kenya)

My Delegation supports the document presented by EU. As Liberia has said, this is already being practiced in Kenya where the three Rome-based Agencies are in partnership in developing and undertaking a programme on Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme and Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme that is going to ensure food security and nutrition for the people of Kenya.

In this respect, if you look at this document, it will exploit and promote synergies between the three Rome-based Agencies. It will also be good for the comparative advantages they have, especially in the six areas or objectives that have been earmarked in the document and it also will be addressing the areas that will be involved with the Rome-based Agencies when it comes to the Agenda 2030.

M. Mongui MEDI (Cameroun)

Bien sûr, le Cameroun a toujours supporté cette idée de collaboration entre les trois organisations basées à Rome. Je voudrais dire ici, pour que tout le Conseil le sache, en 2005, le Cameroun faisait partie des cinq pays, avec l'Allemagne, l'Italie et deux autres que j'ai oubliés, à engager la discussion sur cette initiative. Cela veut dire que le Cameroun a toujours supporté cette idée de collaboration entre les trois agences des Nations Unies. Celle-ci a persisté jusqu'à aujourd'hui et nous continuons à la soutenir. Comme nous soutenons également la proposition faite par l'Union européenne d'accroître cette collaboration dans le contexte nouveau, qui est le nôtre, de l'agenda 2030.

Maintenant, nous savons qu'il y a des prérequis pour pouvoir engager une telle collaboration, et ces prérequis, ce sont les documents de planification stratégique. Nous avons le document de planification stratégique de la FAO, qui est déjà aligné sur les objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Nous sommes en train d'ébaucher le plan stratégique du PAM, donc il sera certainement arrimé sur les ODD, ainsi que le document de planification stratégique du FIDA, qui va certainement appeler une nouvelle orientation. C'est-à-dire que nous devons avoir des faits concrets pour pouvoir avoir un document qui se base sur les orientations stratégiques de chacune des organisations.

Or, nous ne sommes pas en quelque sorte dans une situation de parité en termes de planification stratégique à ce niveau. Alors, est-ce que nous pourrions respecter nos calendriers comme nous l'exigeons? Nous avons certainement eu l'occasion de savoir que le FIDA est prêt ou va être prêt, mais sera-t-il arrimé sur l'agenda 2030? Peut-être qu'à ce niveau on veut aller un peu vite et je veux bien comprendre qu'on veut aller vite, mais il faut être réaliste. C'est le point de vue du Cameroun, il faut que s'il y a quelque chose à faire, ce doit être basé sur une documentation bien connue. Mais nous supportons l'idée, globalement.

Je tiens à le redire ici, le Cameroun a été à l'origine de cette idée. Personne ne peut le créer pour nous. Nous étions, on se le redisait, au Ministère des affaires étrangères, en 2005, l'Ambassadeur de France de l'époque peut en témoigner, nous étions quatre et l'on nous appelait les «Quatre Mousquetaires». Mais nous continuons à soutenir cette idée et nous disons, Monsieur le Président, qu'il faut la mûrir davantage.

DIRECTEUR-DE-CABINET

Thank you, Chairperson. Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, it is my pleasure to present to you today the status of collaboration among the three Rome-based agencies - FAO, IFAD, and WFP – and to share with you our vision and thoughts on further enhancement of said collaboration in the future.

Positive experience was gained in the recent past by agreeing on focused areas for the collaboration among the three Rome-based agencies (RBA). The priority themes that we identified for RBA collaboration in 2015 were resilience, food loss and waste, outcome on future activities of the CFS, as well as the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

The three Rome-based Agencies agreed to continue this approach in 2016 and we just met a few weeks ago. They will find a number of elements of priorities including implementation of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, statistics, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition and resilience.

Allow me to briefly mention some important milestones of the collaboration among the Rome-based agencies in the last month. In May, our three agencies presented the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015, called SOFI. In July we made global headlines when we presented the international community with the cost of sustainably eradicating world hunger by 2030. Our joint report came ahead of the Third International Conference on Financial Development in Addis Ababa and set the tone for the subsequent deliberation.

At the same time, a side event was organized by FAO, IFAD and WFP. The event called Achieving Zero Hunger: The Critical Role of Investment in Social Protection in Agriculture was shared by the three heads of agencies and attracted more than 120 participants.

In September in the General Assembly, a side event under the title 'Delivering Zero Hunger: Demonstrating Impact' was organized by FAO, IFAD and WFP and co-hosted by the government of the Netherlands, Ireland and Mexico.

In October, the Expo Milano 2015 was an outstanding example of our fruitful cooperation among our agencies. The three Rome-based agencies were the face of the United Nations system throughout this extraordinary event that was attended by more than 20 million visitors. The celebration of the World Food Day 2015 came as a logical combination of all of our joint efforts to put agriculture, nutrition and food security at the centre of the public's attention.

I would also like to highlight the high-level panel discussion on the themes of finance and food, investing in agriculture for a sustainable future that IFAD organized at Expo Milano on World Food Day 2015.

As you can see, our collaboration and flourishing and concrete steps to enhance it are being taken. We also heard from the Director-General this morning that the RBAs spoke with one voice on the ongoing Climate Conference in Paris yesterday.

Also numerous future activities are under joint preparation by the three RBAs for the next year. The Heads of the three RBAs will meet on 14 December to discuss this and other issues. Allow me now to turn to our mission and our thoughts on the collaboration among the three Rome-based agencies.

We are confident that the collaboration among our three Rome-based agencies needs to be increased and we absolutely agree with the requests that we received today. A thorough review of our activities, taking the mandates of the three agencies as a basis and identifying areas where increased coordination is required in order to avoid duplication and overlap, and we fully agree with these requests.

In that respect, we are delighted to receive the support from the Members like we listened to today. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once more that strong belief of FAO that the collaboration among our three Rome-based agencies is essential and mutually beneficial. This collaboration is today more important than ever as the world looks to the Rome-based agencies for answers concerning the pressing issue of food safety and security.

The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals are an initial clear sign of the importance of our mandate and should enhance RBA collaboration here in Rome and across the world like the delegate of Kenya explained before.

FAO is of course willing and interested in working jointly with IFAD and WFP on a document that outlines our fruitful collaboration. Like the representative of Australia says, not only to right issues but to create a road map to work in a concrete way.

We are confident that working even closer together will allow the Rome-based agencies to identify synergies and thereby increase efficiency and to demonstrate it to an international community, our resolve to join hands in order to reach our common goal of freeing the world of hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Just a few words to compliment the very comprehensive reply from Mario Lubetkin. I had the occasion to speak on behalf of FAO at the occasion of the presentation of IFAD and the WFP board of their papers showing – indicating the perspective of this Rome-based Agencies partnership. So I want from the onset to respond to the question from Brazil.

Yes indeed, these papers were presenting the prospective of our sister agencies but with a strong contribution from FAO. We had the occasion to contribute to several draft iterations and we supported these papers.

I have the impression that there was a consensus on this item today or if it is not consensus, I do not know what you call consensus and I can confirm to you that we are convinced that we need to do more and better in terms of our Rome-based partnership.

As Mario Lubetkin mentioned to you, 2015 was a good vintage in terms of Rome-based Agency partnership at the strategic level, mentioned the SDGs of course. SDGs, work on the CFS, work on the high level task force, as well as the technical level, at the country level very importantly, and this was highlighted in the paper that was prepared by WFP and presented to the board. So we believe that it was a good year.

We believe definitely in the Rome-based partnership and to use the words that some of you used in your intervention, we also indeed believe in a partnership for results, not a partnership just for the sake of partnership, partnership which had value as the US said, partnership building on comparative advantages as India said, partnership that avoid overlaps as Argentina mentioned, and the partnership as part of global partnerships, beyond the partnership of Rome-based Agencies but with a larger number of organizations that are ready to contribute to our results framework and for which we are ready to contribute to their own results framework.

So we also believe in a partnership where we could have all more impact towards some of our capacities, more than the individual result of each agency. And as Australia mentioned where it makes sense and it is results oriented. So that is very clear.

The priorities for 2016 are definitely the agenda to the 2030, post COP 21 and in preparation of COP 22 and the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action will represent an important umbrella framework to frame our partnership.

We believe that indeed the Agenda 2030 will be the big umbrella and it will be priority among us for discussion in 2016, particularly behind the Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the eradication of hunger and sustainable production but also beyond.

We look forward, with this regard, to contribute to the preparation of WFP and IFAD revised Strategic Framework.

I would like to stress two points. Cameroon highlighted this and also Switzerland, the importance of the Strategic Framework. This is the starting point we agreed. It is because we have a very clear Strategic Framework that it will be easier to build partnerships because everything that can contribute to achieving results under the Strategic Framework is welcome. We have a well-defined policy for partnership with the private sector, with civil society organizations, and also UN partners.

The last point was raised at board of IFAD, WFP, and again today by the Near East Group. Speaking of partnership beyond the Rome-based Agencies and partnership for example with UNIDO. I want to reassure the Near East Group that we have a strong and solid partnership with UNIDO. In fact, the first memorandum of understanding with UNIDO was signed in 1990. The Director-General of FAO and the Director-General of UNIDO have regular conversations and we are sure that we will have a new memorandum of understanding reflecting the new priorities of FAO under UNIDO ready for signature early next year.

There are so many domains in which we believe we could partner more and build on what we are already doing with UNIDO such as agro-based industrial processing and value adding activities such as biofuels based on agriculture and forest products and byproducts, all with regards to human security in countries in post-crisis situations, food safety and quality, fisheries and aquaculture, use issues, agriculture mechanization, name it. So many domains for which we believe we are doing some work in partnership with UNIDO and others and we hope to do more and better in the coming years.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I think the EU proposal is quite clear and specific. It does not talk about collaboration in general, it actually asks the three Rome-based Agencies to investigate among themselves the possibilities of expanding and deepening their cooperation and collaboration. I think from their proposal, four areas come out.

They ask the three agencies first, examine the key areas where collaboration will produce the maximum impact. Two, define matters of collaboration that India emphasized. Three, examine possibilities of pooling resources for collaboration. And four, agree on how collaboration would be monitored and reported to the Governing Bodies of all three agencies.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

First of all thank you to all of the regions and Member Nations who have supported the idea and the proposal. Thank you to Afghanistan for already giving clear examples. But I think that the Management has embraced the proposal and we count on them that they will together with IFAD and WFP be able to identify the areas of working together and among them the Agenda 2030 but also others for clear objectives of joint cooperation and collaboration, joint action and concrete results whereby the impact of the collaboration is more and better for people out there than each of the organizations on its own can reach.

So as I sometimes used to say one and one and one should be five in these kinds of fields. Thank you very much for the positive embracement and, Mr Chairperson I am looking forward to hear your summary and how this proposal will be reflected in the final report.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I wanted to also thank the Senior Management for all of the information they provided and also to note that for us, it we would hope as well that the joint paper that is developed build on lessons learned. I think that this RBA collaboration is an evolving issue if I may say and you have highlighted that 2015 was a good vintage. I am sure that you have had some lessons that came out of that and we would hope that any future thinking as well would reflect on those.

CHAIRPERSON

I can make conclusions on this Item 19.3.

(1) The Council welcomed the continued efforts of FAO to enhance collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies and noted that the collaboration needed to be undertaken with the aim of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the key action areas. (2) The Council stressed the importance of

referring to the respective mandates of the RBAs when coordinating their future collaboration in order to avoid duplication of work. (3) The Council encouraged FAO to join IFAD and WFP in producing a joint paper that outlined the elements of future RBA collaboration.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I am not sure if that was reflected in your proposal but we would propose as well that this be submitted for consideration by Council at a future session, the joint paper.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

On the presentation of the paper, we expect IFAD, WFP and FAO to present it at the next IFAD Board meeting that will take place next week where it will not be presented as it is too short term. But in spring 2016 in their respective Governing Bodies, the paper has to be presented so please indeed add that the paper has to be presented to the next Council.

My second request is not only to avoid duplication, it is also to create added value and concrete impact by working together starting from each respective mandate. So please add it in the second point.

CHAIRPERSON

I will read them out with the new formulation: 2. The Council stressed the importance of referring to the respective mandates of the RBAs when coordinating their future collaboration in order to avoid duplication of work and in favour of concrete impact. 3. The Council encouraged the FAO to join IFAD and WFP in producing a joint paper that outlined the elements of future RBA collaboration, to be reviewed by FAO Governing Bodies in 2016.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

May I make a proposal on number 2 as it is not only to avoid duplication, probably we could make it “coordinate in order to avoid duplication and create optimal impact”.

Mr Mongui MEDI (Cameroon)

I think what I wanted to say has been more or less changed by the Ambassador of Netherlands because I was thinking of avoiding duplication and working for impact, something like that. Because to avoid duplication is like, while avoiding duplication probably might make some sense. But you said you are calling FAO to join IFAD and WFP meaning that they will just be there like FAO.

I think that considering the status of FAO, they should play the leadership role. If we put it just to join, then they are not playing the leadership role. I think it may be much more adequate to put it that the Council probably urged FAO to join the leadership role in working in staffing the collaboration with the other two agencies. That is my submission at this point. I hope it might pass to the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Maybe a leadership role may complicate the working relationship. I think we should keep it as it is. Will the Executive Board seats in WFP start telling WFP to give a leadership role. Will the Executive Board of IFAD maybe talking of giving IFAD a leadership role. So in order to avoid that, I think let us maintain the formulation in my conclusion as it is. I think you understand what I mean.

Mr Antonio Otavio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I can perfectly accept your proposal. It is just that there is one question in my mind that by producing a joint document to be reviewed by the Council of FAO, we might actually be giving a mandate to the Council to interfere with actions to be undertaken by the other two organizations. So there might be a conflict of competencies there.

Perhaps it would be more appropriate to make a general reference like for revision by the Governing Bodies of the three agencies or something like that so that we would not put this Council has been the only Governing Body responsible for reviewing the collaboration of the three agencies.

CHAIRPERSON

I very much agree with you, if it is a joint paper then it has to be reviewed by the respective Governing Bodies. Maybe let me put it like that. I will read it again if others agree.

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

I think the three RBAs have, as we know, their respective mandates. In our mind, they are all supposed to be equals among equals, so it will not be appropriate for us to consider one bigger brother and the other smaller sister or brother. So I think all of them should have that concept as delegates to know that the three RBAs are on equal footing giving that we will suggest that you say the three RBAs should be encouraged. That is, we are not telling one to take this lead or to do this or to do that but we are encouraging.

Council will encourage the three RBAs to be able to carry out what Council expects to see. And also we align ourselves with the statement, how the Netherlands put it, we support that and also some of your suggestions. Maybe probably when you clean up and you come up with what the Netherlands has said and what we have said, maybe probably we could come up with a clear cut idea of what we want.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for the Netherlands)

Mr Chairperson, I thought you said yes to my suggestion to put “to avoid duplication and to create optimal impacts”, but I am not quite sure whether it is still in your summary.

I would also like a clear mention for the Drafting Committee to have the mentioning of the next Council also in your conclusions. I do not know whether it is there. So, please, could you read out exactly what the summary is right now?

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions after hearing your changes are: “2. The Council stressed the importance of referring to the respective mandates of the RBAs when coordinating their future collaboration in order to avoid duplication of work and create optimal impact.”

Sra. Alba Beatriz SOTO PIMENTEL (Cuba)

Mi Delegación desea apoyar el planteamiento realizado por Brasil y queríamos enfatizar la idea de que cada una de las agencias tiene su misión y su mandato, lo cual debe estar reflejado, igualmente que todo el sistema en Naciones Unidas está trabajando, en base a resultados. Entonces también sería importante decir impactos y resultados.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me repeat point 2: “The Council stressed the importance of referring to the respective mandates of the RBAs when coordinating their future collaboration in order to avoid duplication of work and create optimal impact.” This is what was said, to respect mandates, that is what you were asking.

“3. The Council encouraged FAO to join IFAD and WFP in producing a joint paper that outlined the elements of future RBA collaboration, to be reviewed by the respective Governing Bodies in 2016.”

Item 19.4 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

Point 19.4 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel

Tema 19.4 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(CL 153/LIM/5 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 19.4, *Appointment of the Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*.

Given that Mr Vladimir Navara has resigned from the Staff Pension Committee, the Council is invited to consider the candidature of Mr Anton Minaev as Alternate member of the FAO Conference to the Committee, to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Navara which ends on 31 December 2016. Can I take it that the Council has no objection to this proposed nomination?

Ladies and gentlemen, we have completed Item 19 with the Sub-item 19.4.

I would like to make an announcement that I have been informed by the Secretariat that the representative of the FAO Staff Bodies has requested to address this session of Council. Should the Council be in agreement, this statement will be made at the end of the morning meeting on Friday 4 December. May I take it that the Council is in agreement with this proposal? Thank you. It is agreeable.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Mohammed SHERIFF (Liberia)

There are many delegates and many ambassadors and permanent representatives. If you were to let my brother from Russia Minaev to stand up so that people can see him that would be something I wanted to suggest, if there is no problem with that.

CHAIRPERSON

Please note that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place at 18:00 in the Lebanon Room today. The second meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place starting at 9:30 tomorrow.

I will adjourn this meeting and we shall meet again on Friday morning at 9:30 sharp for Agenda Item 17, *Developments in Fora of importance for the mandate of FAO* which is presented to Council for information.

Before I close this afternoon's plenary meeting, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to announce a presentation by the South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division of the new *FAO South-South Cooperation Gateway*. This is an online platform for South-South Cooperation networking and it can be visited at any time on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2015 in the Flag Room, Ground floor, Building B. Light refreshments will also be offered at noon.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank you for your cooperation during the three days we have worked and for your endurance. I wish you a good evening and I will see you on Friday morning at 9:30.

The meeting rose at 17:44 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.44

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 December 2015

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.43 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.43
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the seventh meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council to order.

Item 19. Any Other Matters**Point 19. Autres questions****Tema 19. Asuntos varios**

Item 19.5 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Point 19.5 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Tema 19.5 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, as announced on Wednesday, a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies will now be made. I now invite Mr Roberto Bonafede, President of the Association of Professional Staff in FAO (AP-in-FAO) to deliver the statement.

FAO Staff Representative

Allow me first of all to express the appreciation of the Staff Representative Bodies for having been granted the opportunity to address you today.

We regret to have to say that on the internal level the changes taking place do not seem to go in the best direction. Since we last addressed the Council, in March this year, dialogue between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies has formally resumed, but the results have been very scarce.

In our view Management continues to behave in a way that undermines the significance and effectiveness of this relationship. Today we would like to highlight just a few which we consider to be the fundamental obstacles hindering real progress in our collaboration and which are a reflection of the managerial style that has become prevalent in our, your, Organization. These issues are three: lack of delegation of authority; lack of transparency; and last but not least, lack of recognition of the statutory role of the Staff Representative Bodies.

Lack of delegation of authority is the first obstacle to a productive dialogue between Management and the staff representatives. The problem afflicts even the higher ranks of the Organization. We have heard time and again the representatives of Management declare that they did not have the authority to take decisions on matters which were directly under their purview.

Even worse, on several occasions, decisions taken have been reversed, thus robbing the Staff-Management Consultative Committee of its rightful role.

The second obstacle to dialogue is lack of transparency. Management systematically refuses to provide the Staff Representative Bodies with detailed, accurate information about the issues under discussion. No meaningful debate on the relevant matters can take place if the exact situation and Management's intentions are not disclosed.

The third, and possibly most important, obstacle to fruitful staff-Management relations is the unwillingness on the part of Management to acknowledge and respect the legitimate role of the Staff Representative Bodies. Under the Recognition Agreement the Organization "confirms the right of the Association to consult, be consulted and to negotiate with it on all aspects of the terms and conditions of employment".

Regretfully, Management is applying an increasingly restrictive interpretation of the Agreement. Consistent with the mantra "no room for co-management", there is a drive to diminish or ignore the role and scope of action of the Staff Representative Bodies and to limit it to welfare-related matters.

The Staff Representative Bodies have no interest in co-managing FAO. We recognize the authority conferred to the Director-General by the General Rules of the Organization. Conversely, we would expect the Organization to recognize and truly respect our rightful role as established by FAO

Regulations and the International Civil Service Commission's Framework for Human Resources Management.

We fear that unless there is a clear, fundamental change in Management's attitude towards the staff and their legitimate representatives, the status of staff-Management relations will continue to deteriorate and possibly result in permanent, irreparable damage to the very fabric of our Organization, which in turn could negatively affect the quality of the outputs and services that it is supposed to provide to you, its Members.

We are confident we can speak for all staff in saying that there is nothing we wish for more than to be able to work in a harmonious environment, where we can carry out our duties in a fruitful manner in order to advance FAO's goals in the interest of its Member States and of the underprivileged populations of the world that depend on our help.

This overriding aim, however, should not be to the detriment of the fair treatment of staff. We are hopeful that such a balance can be found, to the advantage of all stakeholders, and we will continue to strive to achieve it.

Let me turn to the UGSS statement.

Last March, during the 151st Session of the FAO Council, the General Service staff resorted to a four-day work stoppage, supported by the Association of Professional staff, whose members eventually joined the protest. Those demonstrations were calling your attention on the dire status of staff management relations in FAO.

Please do not take the absence of whistles, trumpets and loud slogans under the windows of this Council as a sign of positive progress since then. Indeed, the reality is quite the opposite.

The Extraordinary Assembly of the Union of General Service Staff adopted last week its Resolution 7/2015 – which you will find in annex to the unabridged version of this statement – recognizing the failure of all attempts made to date to build meaningful staff/Management relations.

In the light of the oversight mandate conferred to the Council by the Conference, our Extraordinary Assembly instructed us to bring this issue to the attention of the Independent Chairperson with a view to identifying a third, independent party to mediate a suitable solution.

Mr Chairperson, our plea to you and the representatives of the Member Nations, owners of the FAO Constitution, monitors of the financial and human resources of the Organization, is to help us out of this impasse.

The lack of transparency is adversely affecting the management of human resources and the organizational climate: the list of GS posts is secret. Also secret are the lists of vacant posts in the next biennium.

Cost containment actions during the last two decades have largely been paid off by reduction in posts and staff costs. The trend is not over. For example, during the next biennium a further saving of USD 2.7 million will be achieved reducing the Organization's share of the medical insurance costs. Who will pay for this reduction? Staff and retirees.

The General Service category at headquarters has paid the highest toll in the name of cost cuts. Salaries and allowances have been frozen since November 2010, a lower salary scale was enforced in 2012. Distribution of work in most departments is inequitable, as we see an inordinate amount of non-staff replacements – volunteers, interns, and contractors including personal service agreements, consultants, retirees – covering core GS duties, although the practice is not allowed by the rules.

Please let me refer to some key findings of a recent Joint Inspection Unit report on The Use of Non-Staff Personnel: "Organizations are affected by the misuse of non-staff personnel as they face increasing risks, high turnover, the lack of a stable and motivated workforce and a potential increase in legal challenges."

The same study shows how FAO already in 2013 ranked as the fifth largest user of non-staff personnel, out of 21 organizations surveyed.

Certainly, this is not something to be proud of, as the JIU goes on to clarify that “[...] the existence of such [financial/budgetary] limitations does not justify the misuse of non-staff personnel and is against the principles and values inherent in the United Nations system and in contradiction with generally accepted labour principles”.

These fundamental legal and ethical principles are not taken into consideration by Senior Management that openly declares, in CL 153/3 Information Note 5: “[...] employees on short-term staff and non-staff contracts are engaged to carry out the programmed tasks and functions”.

Hundreds of GS posts have been abolished and shall continue to be abolished. Let me quote from CL 153/3 Information Note 2: “These changes are in line with the general policy of absorbing cost increases through a reduction in General Service posts [...] Over this period the General Service post count in headquarters declined steadily, from 989 to 606”.

Even considering the last two biennia, GS posts at headquarters have declined from 776 to 606, a net loss of 170 units, or 22 percent. Should this trend continue, the GS category in Rome will disappear in 15 years’ time. Is this the final objective of the FAO human resources strategy?

The General Service category is, by International Civil Service definition, locally recruited. Its reference is – and should remain – the Rome labour market. Figures demonstrate a geographically diverse FAO, as almost half of GS staff already employed with the Organization are from nationalities other than the host country – all were recruited locally.

The way rosters are managed is obscure. GS vacancy announcements disappeared.

Legal actions will most probably increase and we believe that most of them could be avoided if trustworthy dialogue prevailed.

In this connection, there are issues with the FAO/WFP Appeals Committee, which is comprised of Conference-appointed Chair and Vice-Chairs that need to be addressed urgently.

General Rule XL.7 spells out the responsibilities of the Director-General concerning the settlement of disputes and to ensure a functioning internal justice system. It is our hope that in the restructuring, the next biennium will see a fully staffed and efficient Appeals Committee.

Thank you for your attentions.

Item 17. Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Point 17. Évolution des débats au sein d’autres instances intéressant la FAO

Tema 17. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO

(CL 153/INF/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now take up item 17, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 153/INF/4.

The Council will be given presentations on issues taking place in other international fora which are of relevance to FAO’s mandate. I should like to ask the Secretary-General to read the list of presentations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council will be given presentations on:

- Outcomes of the Third Meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, focusing on the proposal for the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, held in Rome from 22 to 24 June 2015;
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Sustainable Development Goals;
- Outcomes of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, held in Vigo, Spain, from 7 to 8 October 2015;
- International Years: International Year of Soils 2015 and International Year of Pulses 2016;

- Outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held on the margins of Milan EXPO from 14 to 16 October 2015; and
- Outcomes of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in Rome from 5 to 9 October 2015.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. I would like to inform Members that following the completion of all the presentations I will open the floor for questions.

I will now ask Mr Rob Vos, Director of the Agricultural Development Economics Division, to present the first topic: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Sustainable Development Goals”.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

As you know, the 2030 Agenda was approved at the UN Summit in September of this year. It is to succeed the Land Development Goals as the main framework for sustainable development, it is to guide the international community over the next 15 years and it is to capitalize on lessons learned from the past agenda on the Millennium Development Goals, including the new challenges that have emerged over the past 15 years.

Further guidance was provided for the 2030 Agenda by the International Conference on Financing for Development held in July in Addis Ababa and which culminated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. I believe all of that is well known to you, so for the sake of brevity let me just focus on two aspects relevant to FAO's follow-up: the monitoring and the contributions to the new Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Before getting to those two aspects, let me emphasize first that the Sustainable Development Goals are expected to be game-changers. They are part of an unprecedented, ambitious global Agenda. It is ambitious not so much because of the large number of goals, 17, and 169 targets, but because it lays out an agenda of transformative changes to sustainable development for all.

It stands out from the MDGs because the agenda was negotiated by governments with strong ownership for the implementation. Countries have to set priorities and all actors have to step to the plate and provide coordinated support. The Agenda applies to all countries with shared responsibility in its implementation. The SDGs are very ambitious, aiming at eradicating hunger and poverty while sustainably managing natural resources and empowering the most vulnerable to contribute to inclusive social and economic growth.

The Agenda is transformative and integrates all dimensions of sustainable development. It is thus multidimensional and, hence, complex. SDG-2, for instance, addresses at once food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and to support needs of small-scale food producers, as well as the need for the conservation and restorations in ethic resources. SDG-2 is closely linked to SDG-12 addressing food consumption and production patterns; SDG-3 is on health; SDG-6 on water and sanitation; and SDG-8 on inclusive growth and employment, among others. So they are closely interwoven and the implementation requires integrated and coordinated approaches. This need for concerted efforts will also require renewed and strengthened Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

One piece of the agenda-setting process still needs to be concluded, and the final leg of this Post-2015 process is to conclude the format and content of the monitoring architecture of the Agenda, including the definition of a set of Global Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The UN Statistical Commission has mandated an interagency and expert group on SDG indicators and that will determine and define those indicators. The group comprises experts from 28 countries and is supported by UN statistical experts and coordinated by FAO's Chief Statistician. The working group has identified 230 SDG indicators. We have now reached consensus on 165 of these; at the moment, 65 require further discussion. That has to come to a conclusion when the UN Statistical Commission meets in March of next year when it reviews and approves the list of suggested indicators as well as the structure for collecting data and monitoring of the trends.

FAO is expected to monitor about 21 SDG indicators. On SDG-2, FAO is expected to take the lead in monitoring eight key indicators which have been identified and proposed in collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies. FAO is also expected to monitor indicators under goals 1 and 5, particularly on land tenure, goals 6 on water resources, goal 12 on food losses, goal 14 on marine resources, and goal 15 on forest land degradation, mountains, and genetic resources.

Regarding the Global Partnership, let me focus on a few aspects of how we try to contribute as FAO. First, FAO's Strategic Framework is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation with partners is now the device. The implications of the new Global Development Goals at the country level redefining country development objectives, the country programming frameworks, and the United Nations Development Actions Frameworks, have been understood by our country offices and together with the partners we will ensure consistence and coherence of support at all levels on the ground.

Second, at the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, together with the other Rome-based Agencies, FAO presented a cost estimate for the investments needed to end hunger. We will continue this work and raise awareness to ensure financing priorities at national and international levels are such that enough means are secured to meet the targets of ending hunger and securing sustainable food security.

Third, an important outcome of the Financing for Development Conference was the agreement to establish the Technology-Facilitating Mechanism (TFM), which should serve also to enhance development of sustainable agriculture technologies and practices and to sharing the related knowledge in affordable ways. FAO will practically engage and ensure a high priority for agriculture given in the implementation of the TFM.

Finally, the dialogue on how to implement the Agenda 2030 among FAO Members will continue throughout the year 2016 with technical committees and regional conferences considering how to integrate the SDGs and use them as a guide for their policy discussions. I will report to you on the outcomes regularly as customary.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Moujahed Achouri, Director of the Land and Water Division, who will deliver a presentation on “Outcome of the Third Meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, focusing on the proposal for the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, held in Rome from 22 to 24 June 2015”.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I will speak on the process and timelines of the Voluntary Guidelines and of the concept note that has been prepared up to now and which came as an outcome of the 3rd Meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly that took place in June 2015.

The main objective that is expected from the Voluntary Guidelines is how to promote sustainable soil management. As mentioned yesterday, we do believe that there is a *momentum* which has been created by the International Year of Soils and should be used to promote and to bring back soils on the Agenda.

Also, we do believe that the endorsement of the World Soil Charter by the FAO Conference in 2015 comes together with the proposal of developing Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and should be used for this.

I will give you some background information on this. The 24th Session of COAG in October 2014 requested the development of a concept note on sustainable soil management. As it was mentioned, the third Global Soil Plenary Assembly in 2015 considered a draft concept note and endorsed the process for developing voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of soil resources. After various interactions and consultation, a final concept note for developing these voluntary guidelines has been presented to this Council session.

The primary aim of the voluntary guidelines is to complement and facilitate the implementation of the updated World Soil Charter that was approved in June 2015. It is also able to monitor the successful precedent of other voluntary guidelines in FAO. The expected guidelines should constitute an action oriented framework that will guide and support sustainable soil management by all interested stakeholders.

The steps of a fully inclusive consultation process involving all stakeholders would be organized for the development of the voluntary guidelines and, as I mentioned yesterday, the concept note is there for comments and finalization up to the end of this year.

The development of draft guidelines will be starting as of December, once the concept note is endorsed and will take place between December 2015 and May 2016, when the Fourth Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership is expected to take place. It will then be submitted to the 25th Session of COAG in September 2016 and after that the draft will be presented to the Council in December 2016. These are the main steps that are being proposed to prepare the proposed voluntary guidelines based on the concept note that has been put in front of all stakeholders for comments and input.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, who will speak on the “Outcomes of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, held in Vigo, Spain, from 7 to 8 October 2015”.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Twenty years after its approval, the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries remains more relevant than ever. Back in the 1990s, high product levels in the fishery sector coupled with increasing concerns about the risk of overfishing shifted the debate from greater production to more sustainable production.

In 1991, FAO Committee on Fisheries first called on FAO for the development of new concepts for responsible and sustainable fisheries. The International Conference on Responsible Fishing held in Cancun, Mexico, in 1992 followed up on this work. The process was further boosted by the Earth Summit later that year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, positioning sustainable development high on the international agenda and paving the way for negotiations and adoption of the code.

The outcome in 1995 was the emergence of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries. Through its 20 year history, its principles have given rise to various instruments that seek to improve the conservation, management and development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. These include technical guidelines and plans of action, the voluntary guidelines for small-scale fisheries and the Blue Growth Initiative.

Throughout the year, we mark the Code’s anniversary at various events including the North Atlantic Seafood Forum in Bergen, Norway, the World Seafood Congress in Grimsby, United Kingdom, at the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in Brazil, and at various fisheries events at *Expo Milano*, as well as at the *Foro Económico de Pesca y Acuicultura* in Mexico City last week.

We were then very pleased to officially celebrate this important anniversary at the First International Fisheries Stakeholder Forum on 8 and 9 October in Vigo, Spain. The successful event in Vigo, co-organized with the government of Spain, the regional government of Galicia, and Conxemar, the Spanish seafood industry, attracted over 600 participants in the Galician port city.

Seventy delegations from five continents attended the two-day event. This included ten Ministers, twelve Vice-Ministers, ten Directors-General of Fisheries, as well as the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Policy-makers, seafood-industry representatives, fisheries experts, trade experts, retailers, civil society organizations, seafood journalists, and representatives of small-scale fishery associations were also among the participants.

A full two-day schedule included sessions focused on a continued relevance and importance of the Code of Conduct, the Blue Growth Initiative, trends in industry and trade, aquaculture development, fisheries management and fishing rights, IUU fishing, livelihood sustainability and certification.

Participants called on FAO to continue and strengthen its role to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, urging countries to ratify the Port State Measures Agreement. While the CODE was praised for its efforts to strengthen environmental issues, many believed a great socio-economic emphasis was needed, particularly in light of growing concerns of slave labour, child labour and poor working conditions in the sector.

The voluntary guidelines for small scale fisheries and the Blue Growth Initiative were indicated as positive steps forward. Seafood certification was another area of interest and lively debate at the Vigo event, where the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative, benchmarking certification schemes against the Code was also launched.

The Vigo event and other events throughout the year also called for additional outcomes, exploring the development of a Blue Growth Initiative forum along the model of the present Banana Forum that cooperates with FAO, strengthening dialogue and cooperation between FAO and the private sector through the Blue Growth Initiative and GloFish, increasing awareness of the role of social issues, and better mainstreaming sustainable livelihoods for fish workers in developing countries and to all of FAO's work programmes.

This past year has provided reflection about the achievements and the Code's first two decades and guidance about next steps for achieving sustainable fisheries and food security during the Code's next 20 years.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, who will speak on the: "International Year of Soils 2015 and the International Year of Pulses 2016".

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

It is a pleasure to be with you this morning to talk about two International Years, one that is ending today, the International Year of Soils, and the other one that is just starting, the International Year of Pulses.

The International Year of Soils was proposed by the Royal Kingdom of Thailand and after discussion and adoption by the FAO Conference, it was endorsed by the UN General Assembly at its 68th Session and FAO was asked to implement this international year in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership with the support of Member Nations and with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Now the Year ending today has been rich in numerous activities. We started out with a number of consultative workshops with dialogue and listening. We have had activities in every single region of the world. There have been capacity development programmes that have covered all regions or will cover them very shortly. There is a huge amount of different activities, we have recorded more than 600 events. These are only the ones that we know of, but of course there are many events that happen in different countries that we hear about only later. So we believe there is even more than that.

So up until now we had 600 events in 70 countries, and they are very varied: they go from discussions to capacity-building events, from policy dialogues to art exhibitions, high-level meetings, symposia, research activities, and so on.

There has also been a wide range of communication material produced: the logo has been translated into 35 different languages; there have been infographics, posters, fact sheets in all FAO languages and also in many more. It has been very rich from the point of view of communication material and also from the point of view of contribution to knowledge, which is an important part of these international years.

Today we will be launching the World Soil Resources Report and the World Soil Charter. These are main pieces of advancement in knowledge of soils that will be launched today at the closure of the year at 12:30 in the Sheikh Zayed Center and you are all very warmly invited to be there.

There have been many other important publications from FAO and of course from the partners of the year. We believe that this has done a real important contribution to knowledge around soils and around why it is so important to contribute to sustainable soil management.

This years of course are advocacy years. Through the international years what we want is to raise awareness, to have people understand, to raise knowledge, and so on. But in the end, the legacy of the year has to be something around policy. If throughout the years we contribute to having better policy, this of course will take the legacy of a year for a long time in the future and it is going to have an impact.

And we are already registering some of the impacts of the year in terms of policy. We have national soil information systems in different countries; national legal frameworks have been adopted and some others are being discussed in some countries; restoration programmes and, as you heard already from Mr Achouri, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management are under process.

We have been fortunate to have two global special ambassadors, two professors who are very well-known soil experts and advocates for soils issues and sustainable soil management, Professor Claire Chenu and Professor Tekalign Mamo. They have been participating in a wide range of activities in all the regions of the world, taking to different events and different audiences the messages around soils.

And naturally, if we are going to ensure that countries are addressing soils in the future, the best way to do it is to inscribe soils in the development agenda that everybody is going to be following, country by country, and we are delighted that soil is strongly embedded in the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and soils are present in four of the different goals, which is extremely encouraging.

I would like to thank you for all of the contribution that Member Nations have done through yourselves, through your regional groups, activities in your own countries promoted many times by you or by your representatives who have made this year a real success.

And I would like to recognize here the Chairperson of the International Steering Committee of the Year of Soils, Ambassador Sompong Nimchuar from Thailand, who is here and will be also present at the closure of the Year.

Let us now go to the Year that has been recently launched, the International Year of Pulses. The Year of Pulses was also adopted by the General Assembly after a resolution by FAO Conference and FAO was requested by the General Assembly to implement the year.

Why are we embarking in the International Year of Pulses? Here are some of the reasons. Pulses have a huge, impressive nutritional value, they are very rich in amino acids and proteins, vitamins and minerals, and they are also affordable.

If combined with cereals, they give more or less the same amount of protein that animal protein provides, but in a more affordable way and therefore much more reachable by the poorer parts of the population in the world. Therefore, pulses have a huge role to play in world food security in all regions.

Aside from that, they have very important health benefits and many times we do not know the extent of these health benefits. Of course there is some research going on and will be carried on more strongly throughout the year, but some of the health benefits are related to the fibre that the pulses have. They are very rich in fibre and they help control levels of cholesterol in the body as well to regulate sugars. So they have important implications for cardiovascular diseases and for diabetes, and these are only some of the health benefits that they have.

They are also very important in terms of soil. This is a very nice link between soils, the Year of Soils and the Year of Pulses, because actually they have very strong nitrogen fixing features and therefore they contribute to sustainable soil management and to healthy soils, which of course are important also

for food security and for health. They also have an impact in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation from this point of view.

Finally, they promote biodiversity. There is a huge biodiversity in pulses, some of it to be still explored, and that is the kind of thing that we want to do throughout the year.

Of course, the objective of the Year will be to raise awareness, to promote utilization of pulses, to promote better nutrition through increased consumption of pulses, to promote production, and to look at the whole food chain, to look at research, increase the knowledge that we have about pulses and around all of their good benefits and also to look at the trade issues around pulses and address issues that are there.

The governance of the Year is going to be similar to the governance that we proposed for the international years the first time for International Year of Family Farming. I recognize here the Chairperson of the International Year of Family Farming. It is a pleasure to have you here in the audience today. And the same was done also with soils. The governance which we believe has been key to enhance the result of the years and instrumental to achieving the good results that we have been achieving with the International Years is through a combination of the Member Nations represented through the Regional Groups, farmers' organizations, private sector, civil society, research organizations, including the CGIAR. For the Year of Pulses we have ICARDA who is leading the pulse agenda within the CGIAR system and we also have Biodiversity International for the aspects of biodiversity.

Then of course our sister agencies, our day-to-day partners, the Rome-based Agencies. So all these members together contribute to the thinking of what the year is going to be, contribute to activities, to events, to bringing in their own efforts as well as their own ideas and therefore make the year a success.

The Secretariat is led by my office and very importantly we have the technical support of all the technical divisions related to the issue of pulses including nutrition, trade and markets, and plant production and protection and also the very obvious implication of the Office for Communication.

The Year has been recently launched by the Director-General of FAO here in Rome and there was also another activity of a launch in UN headquarters and one of our main partners for the year, the Global Pulse Confederation from the private sector also had a major event in New York to promote the launch of the Year of Pulses, including a very high level nutrition symposium today that contributed to the issues of knowledge of pulses.

Now we have an action plan which is actually a living document. In the action plan we set the objectives, what we want to reach, and it is continuously updated with this numerous and very diverse kinds of events and activities that are being carried out in the regions, in the countries, and also at global level including the policy dialogues, the scientific papers, the studies that are carried out. Very importantly also, this year we believe that one big contribution we are going to make and is going to be part of the legacy of the Year is the Food Composition Database on Pulses which is missing and will be one of the major products of the Year.

Of course the more budget we count with, the more activities we will be able to carry out, the bigger impact we will have and as you know, we have a mandate not to use resources from our regular budget so all of the resources for these international years come from extra-budgetary contributions. We have set up a trust fund. We have already received a contribution from the Global Pulse Confederation which we are grateful but of course we hope to be able to receive contributions from all of you and make also the Year of Pulses a success as the recent years have been.

Finally, let me just direct you to the website where you will find communication material, the action plan and all the information continuously updated. Please send us any information that you have, that you are aware of in your countries so that we can upload it in the website.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, who will deliver a presentation on the "Outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting on Food

Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held on the margins of Milan EXPO from 14 to 16 October 2015”.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The SAMOA Pathway is the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Conference, held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Samoa.

Paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway calls for FAO to facilitate a process to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges in SIDS. To meet this mandate, FAO has worked in consultation with DESA and the OHRLLS at the Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation which was organized jointly by the Government of Italy, UN-DESA and FAO.

The Ministerial Meeting was attended by over 25 Ministers and provided an opportunity to exchange experiences in the areas of food security and nutrition, particularly in light of the challenges facing SIDS with the adverse impacts of climate change. His Excellency Paolo Gentiloni, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, can now announce the USD 2 million as voluntary contribution to the recently launched FAO's Climate Change Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States.

The meeting's declaration recognized the importance of FAO for filling the mandate given in paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway related to an action programme to address the challenges of food security and nutrition. The action programme will include sustainability, promoting open and efficient markets, international cooperation, increasing rural income and jobs with a focus on family farmers and women, ending malnutrition in all its forms, enhancing resilience of agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, and maintaining natural ecological processes. Following the meeting, a roadmap was prepared towards fulfilling paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway.

The roadmap builds on existing processes, including the consultation meetings such as the FAO Regional Conferences and the UN Regional Economic Forum on Sustainable Development. It recognizes existing food and nutrition security policies and action plans. It calls for a close collaboration and consultation with SIDS Member States, the UN System, regional intergovernmental parties, development partners and non-state actors, including non-governmental and civil society institutions and the private sector.

The roadmap is divided into three phases: firstly, the preparatory meetings; secondly, development under review which widens participation of multi-stakeholders through regional consultation meetings, e-consultations and a questionnaire to be sent out to SIDS Governments and other partners throughout the development of the action programme; and the third approval phase where the revised action programme will be presented at an inter-regional forum that could take place either at the AOSIS Ministerial Meeting to be held in the region, or in New York during the General Assembly, depending on the interest of Member Nations. Both of these events will be held in September 2016.

To conclude, the idea is to present the final version of the action programme to address food and nutrition challenges in SIDS in 2017 at the Biennial SIDS Forum. FAO has proposed that this could be done either at the FAO Conference in Rome or at the High Level Political Forum in New York, both in July 2017. The roadmap seeks support of all SIDS Members to prepare the action programme and seeks as well support of all our Members and contributions to the Climate Change Trust Fund created by FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker today is Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, who will deliver a presentation on the “Outcomes of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in Rome from 5 to 9 October 2015”. Mr Wang, you have the floor.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I take the honour to present you with a short briefing on the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which was held in Rome from 5 to 9 October 2015.

The GB-6 adopted a work programme for the 2016-17 biennium to further improve the implementation and the development of the Treaty. The newly adopted Programme of Work put emphasis on the improvement of the implementation of the Treaty in harmony and close collaboration with other relevant instruments and bodies, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Global Forum for Agriculture Research.

In the area of access and benefit-sharing, the Governing Body decided to extend the mandate of the *ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to enhance the functioning of the multilateral system. This Working Group has been mandated to develop a range of measures to secure increased user-based payments and income to the benefit-sharing fund of the Treaty. In view of the Governing Body, that income should be sustainable and predictable in a long-term manner. The mandate of the Working Group also includes the development of additional measures to enhance the functioning of the multilateral system, including a draft proposal of a legal instrument.

In the same area of work, the Governing Body also decided to reconvene the *ad hoc* Advisory Committee on a funding strategy which will explore proposals to develop a mechanism of contributions by contracting parties in accordance with Article 18.4 of the Treaty. Such a mechanism should complement the resources derived from the use of the germplasm material being exchanged within the multilateral system.

In the area of information, the Governing Body adopted the vision and the first Programme of Work for the development of the Global Information System foreseen in Article 17 of the Treaty. This system will facilitate the documentation and dissemination of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, particularly but not only those available in the multilateral system. It will further increase the value of the germplasm for researchers and the plant breeders in all countries by making available other associated non-confidential information of a technical and scientific nature.

At the launch of the system, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) included 3,000 high-density rice genome maps in the system. This represents 120 terabytes of genome sequence data and it is the first time that plant genome big data have been placed in the custodianship of FAO for future food security.

At this session, the Governing Body also adopted a reviewed Programme of Work on sustainable use for the period 2016-19 and, after a long discussion, a resolution to facilitate the elaboration and consideration of a technical policy and legal options for the implementation of farmers' rights.

Furthermore, it did invite contracting parties to make efforts to undertake various measures to advance in the implementation of farmers' rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty and it requested the Secretary to facilitate such initiatives subject to the availability of financial resources.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, we highly appreciate the brief statement regarding the SIDS. I have only two comments to make.

On the pulses, we have to say that pulses have been really a neglected crop. Most of the attention of the world has been given to wheat, rice, maize and soybean. Pulses are relatively ignored and their yields are very low compared with the potential. So we would appreciate if FAO can in the next Programme of Work and Budget pay more attention to pulses in its programme, maybe a special programme. Two CGIAR institutions work on pulses – ICARDA and ICRISAT. ICARDA mostly on semi-arid zones, whereas ICRISAT in semi-tropical areas, and most of the pulses in developing countries are produced on semi-tropics. So any cooperation with ICARDA and ICRISAT would be highly useful.

My second comment is on SDGs. Mr Vos suggested that the number of indicators is now 165. And out of this 165, 21 indicators will be of interest to FAO, of which eight will be directly monitored by FAO, and the remaining 13, I presume, by FAO in cooperation with other UN Agencies, most likely WHO and UNOG.

Now, out of the eight indicators directly followed by FAO, and other 13 indirectly followed by FAO, how many of these are already covered by the 17 outcome indicators of the five Strategic Objectives?

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je voulais joindre également ma voix à l'Afghanistan pour féliciter le Secrétariat et le remercier pour la clarté des six présentations qui ont été faites ce matin. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais intervenir sur deux points, notamment sur les résultats des célébrations du vingtième anniversaire du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Je me félicite des résultats qui ont été atteints, mais souhaite demander à Monsieur Árni Mathiesen, Sous-Directeur general du Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture, si des insuffisances ont été constatées dans la mise en application du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable? S'il y en a, quelles sont les mesures que vous envisagez de mettre en place pour les corriger?

La deuxième question s'adresse à Madame Marcela Villarreal, qui a parlé des légumineuses. Comme l'a fait le Dr Ayazi, je voudrais souligner l'importance des légumineuses telles que vous en avez vanté les caractéristiques, mais nous savons qu'il y a deux catégories de légumineuses, celles que nous appelons annuelles, qui vont dans le sens de l'alimentation humaine avec les valeurs que vous avez énumérées, et les légumineuses que nous appelons arbustives, c'est-à-dire dans le sens du changement climatique, de la restauration des sols.

Cependant quand je lis la note, vous avez mis davantage l'accent sur les légumineuses annuelles, celles qui sont adressées à la consommation humaine. Voilà pourquoi je voulais joindre ma voix à celle du Dr Ayazi. Compte tenu de leur importance, il serait préférable de mettre en place, peut-être après l'Année internationale, un vaste programme sur les légumineuses. Elles sont importantes, notamment parce que la FAO a pris le changement climatique comme un thème transversal pour l'Objectif stratégique numéro 6. Les légumineuses seront extrêmement importantes, surtout les arbustives, dans le cadre des activités de restauration des sols dans le contexte du changement climatique. Je voudrais également savoir à quel moment le plan d'action que vous avez mentionné sera disponible.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je m'associe aux intervenants précédents pour remercier des présentations. Ma première question porte sur le Code de conduite et je félicite le Département des pêches pour l'anniversaire de ce code. C'est un instrument très important et actuel, mais je voudrais avoir plus de détails au sujet du forum sur l'Initiative en faveur de la croissance bleue, qui a été créé lors de la réunion de Vigo. Je félicite également le Gouvernement d'Espagne pour l'organisation de cette réunion. Quels sont les objectifs de ce forum? La FAO va soutenir et va appuyer le forum. Qui sera le coordinateur de cette initiative?

La deuxième question concerne le Traité sur les ressources phylogénétiques. Je remercie la FAO pour sa contribution au budget de ce Traité, qui a de temps en temps des difficultés financières, mais c'est peut-être un des traités les plus importants approuvé au niveau de la FAO. Nous savons qu'il y a un problème, un déséquilibre entre le système multilatéral d'accès et de partage des avantages. Un groupe de travail a été créé et nous en attendons des résultats positifs. Mais de toute façon, nous savons qu'il y a le «Global Crop Trust Fund» et qu'il a une grande capacité pour mobiliser des fonds. Ma question est la suivante: que peut faire le Secrétariat pour créer des synergies avec ce «Global Crop Trust Fund» et obtenir également des fonds pour le Traité?

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Moi aussi je voudrais vraiment féliciter tous les directeurs pour leurs présentations parce que c'est très utile pour nous d'avoir un point de situation sur différents programmes de travail en cours. J'aurais une question pour Monsieur Achouri et une remarque sur la présentation du Sous-directeur général pour les pêches et l'aquaculture.

Pour Monsieur Achouri, sur cette question des Directives volontaires concernant la gestion durable des sols, je voudrais être sûr d'avoir bien saisi le processus concernant la note conceptuelle parce que j'ai cru comprendre dans les discussions d'hier ou avant-hier que nous pouvions encore jusqu'à la fin de ce mois faire des commentaires et des propositions d'ajustement de la note conceptuelle. En lisant le document CL 153/INF/4 préparé pour cette réunion dans sa version française, la note est présentée comme définitive et il est dit que la version définitive a été publiée en ligne. Par conséquent, pouvons-nous faire encore des commentaires d'ici à la fin de l'année et quel sera le processus de validation de cette note? Est-ce le Secrétariat avec le groupe technique qui vont la finaliser parce que bien sûr cette note est assez centrale pour que les pays se déterminent par rapport au processus de préparation de ces directives volontaires?

Ma deuxième remarque concerne davantage l'intervention sur la situation du Programme d'action sur les petits États insulaires en développement. Il est clair que cela va être une priorité, j'espère, de la communauté internationale, compte tenu de l'impact particulier du changement climatique sur ces pays. Nous avons, dans le cadre de la préparation du budget, décidé la création d'un fonds fiduciaire à hauteur de six millions de dollars sur le biennium pour aider au financement de l'action de la FAO en appui à ces petits États insulaires. Il faut certes se féliciter qu'on ait déjà mobilisé deux millions de dollars et je remercie le pays qui a apporté cette contribution.

Nous ne sommes qu'à un quart de l'exécution de notre programme en termes de durée, et grâce à lui, nous avons déjà mobilisé un tiers des financements. Cela étant dit, c'est un sujet où il devrait être possible de mobiliser des fonds aussi à travers le fonds verts. Je comprends que la FAO est toujours dans le processus d'agrément pour être une des agences d'exécution de son fonds vert, alors que le FIDA, lui, a déjà obtenu son agrément. Je vous invite donc à être très vigilant sur ce point, parce que beaucoup de financements devraient passer par le fonds vert qui pourrait être très utile pour ce type d'action en direction des petits États insulaires.

Et comme ce Conseil a aussi invité le Secrétariat à préparer une stratégie climat, il me semble qu'il serait vraiment important qu'à travers la préparation de cette stratégie climat, il soit vraiment fait un effort sur la coordination et la complémentarité des agences romaines sur la question des petits États insulaires en développement, notamment sur la coordination et la complémentarité entre la FAO et le FIDA. Le FIDA aussi a un programme important de travail sur l'aide à l'adaptation des pays en développement et je crois qu'il y a là des synergies à trouver, donc, j'aimerais vraiment vous inviter à utiliser cette stratégie climat pour expliciter le type de coordination et de complémentarité que vous pouvez trouver entre les agences romaines sur cette question spécifique de l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank all the presenters on the podium for their very interesting presentations. We have a number of comments to make.

The first concerns the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Russia welcomes the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Amongst its provisions, we would like to underscore the fundamental goal of eradicating poverty which is very closely linked to the fight against hunger and to food security throughout the world. In this context, we commend the coordinated work carried out by the United Nations Rome-based Agencies in preparing quality expert inputs for this thematic block of the SDGs. We do urge them to keep up the good work as we strive to attain the goals that have been set.

The FAO's Director-General noted that at least 14 out of the 17 SDGs fall within the FAO's remit. In connection with this, we welcome the close alignment between the FAO's Strategic Framework and the SDGs that are relevant to its mandate. We hope that when monitoring the implementation of those parts of the Agenda that are linked to fighting against hunger at the global level, the potential of the Committee on World Food Security will be fully brought to bear. We are prepared to actively contribute to the work of the Open-Ended Group on determining the role of the CFS on this particular matter.

In the Secretariat's document that was presented on this topic, it is mentioned also that four of the Sustainable Development Goals refer to soils. Therefore, the work of the Global Soil Partnership of

the FAO does appear to be very relevant indeed. We support this unique mechanism as a means of drawing in to the Organization's work profile, academic and research institutions. We welcome the outcomes of the Third Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership, especially the first report on the status of the world's soil resources which was drawn up by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. We also welcome the endorsement of all the action plans which cover five of the Partnership's pillars. We do note, however, that according to the Rules of Procedure of the Global Soil Partnership, its Plenary Assembly is supposed to translate into all six FAO languages the outcomes. We are determined to continue actively participating in the Global Soil Partnership, including through in the European Regional and Eurasian Subregional Soil Partnerships.

It is actually hard to overestimate the role of soils. Let me give you just one example. Soils fix up to 80 percent of all carbon that is contained in terrestrial ecosystems. Over the last 200 years, soils under cultivation have lost between 50 and 70 percent of the carbon they had accumulated. Soil degradation and carbon loss carry risks for food security, for the sustainable development of agriculture, and for adaptation to climate change. Against this backdrop, the proclamation by the United Nations of an International Year of Soils was more than timely.

In Russia, the International Year of Soils coincided with the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the academic Vasily Dokuchaev who was the father of a theory on plant nutrition and the rational use of fertilizers. As part of the International Year of Soils, Russia carried out a number of academic and hands-on conferences and educational events. We also have issued a commemorative envelope. We express our sincere gratitude to the Secretariat of the International Year of Soils, its Chairperson, the Ambassador of Thailand and the Members of the Steering Committee of the Year.

As the torch is passed on to the International Year of Pulses in 2016, we hope that in the framework of this new year the theme of soils will continue to receive due attention.

We would also like to thank Mr Achouri for the presentation on the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management. We have already voiced our views on this on Wednesday. We discussed this topic. We hope and are prepared to cooperate with all FAO Members and all Members of the Global Soil Partnership and to work constructively with them to ensure that this document becomes a concrete outcome and contribution to the further work on the International Year of Soils.

Mr Sackchai SRIBOONSUE (Thailand)

First of all I would like to congratulate the six directors who presented very crucial topics to the meeting. As Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Soils 2015, Thailand would like to thank Director Villarreal and her team, as well as Director Achouri and his team. We cannot thank you enough for putting this together.

Again we would like to thank all Steering Committee Members for their cooperation and Member Nations for contribution for the success of the International Year of Soils 2015, which ends today. However, we will continue to work on soils to improve agriculture, food security, and nutrition and the livelihood of farmers.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

First of all. I would like to thank the directors for their very good presentations.

On behalf of my country, Iran, I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Treaty and commend their very great job.

According to the mandate, the exchange of germplasm and the genetic material need to be resulted in different varieties which should be used for production of more food based on quality and quantity. Iran is recommending for the next Council a report by the Treaty on the number of varieties and cultures being developed from those changes, which I think is so many millions genetic material exchanged, we think by countries and private sector companies. So it would be nice if they prepare and present a paper on the number of these cultures and how these culture varieties could help the fight with hunger.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Italy)

We would like to congratulate the Management on the very clear presentations. We have only a short comment and a question on the SDGs. We have noted with great interest that FAO will be in charge of following 21 indicators. We would like to understand how this extremely important task will fit in the new management structure of FAO that will be approved by this Council.

Sr. Antonio BAYAS (Chile)

Aprovechando la presentación del Informe de la Sexta Reunión del Órgano Rector del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, tengo el agrado de informar que el Gobierno de Chile ya realizó todos los procedimientos internos para ser parte del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos. Y en fecha próxima, procederemos a depositar los instrumentos ratificatorios del mismo en la FAO, para, de este modo, ser miembro pleno de este Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Mr Lupino LAZARO (Observer for the Philippines)

We appreciate the six presentations and we will be focusing our intervention on three items, the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, the International Year of Soils and International Year of Pulses.

On the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, we wish to commend the organizers, including FAO, for the successful conduct of the 20th Anniversary of the Code held in Vigo, Spain. It was a privilege to have joined government officials, experts, and representatives both from the civil society and private sector, to reaffirm the Code's key role it has been serving for the past two decades as a guide and set of standards in ensuring fisheries management and conservation in a sustainable manner and in discussing the trends and future of global fisheries.

On the International Year of Soils, we wish to congratulate the Government of Thailand for its leadership, together with the members of the Steering Committee, of the International Year of Soils 2015 which was ably supported by the FAO Secretariat headed by Director Villarreal. The Philippines also formally launched the International Year back home and conducted various activities to raise awareness on the importance of soils to food security and nutrition, among other activities or objectives of the IY. We will join everyone to attend the IY closure event scheduled today.

On the International Year of Pulses, we look forward to its successful conduct as well and we are glad to see that in the master plan, there is a linkage being proposed on the International Year of Pulses with the previous celebrations of the International Year of Family Farming and the International Year of Soils and would encourage the strengthening of such linkages.

We emphasize that if the IYFF 2014 demonstrated FAO's effective partnership with civil society, the International Year of Pulses 2016, as I think was also mentioned earlier by Australia, will exemplify FAO's partnership with the private sector.

Finally we would like to highlight and appreciate the outputs of these International Years as they are lasting legacies.

Sr. Santiago MENENDEZ DE LUARCA (Spain)

Mis comentarios son simplemente igual que el resto de los colegas para agradecer las presentaciones realizadas, y muy especialmente en el caso de España, los resultados de las celebraciones del 20 Aniversario del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable celebrado en nuestra ciudad importante pesquera de Vigo.

Agradecemos muy sinceramente al Departamento de pescas y agricultura por la colaboración y a FAO en su conjunto por la colaboración mostrada desde el principio para que este evento pudiera ser desarrollado. Ha sido un ejemplo de colaboración entre el propio sistema de Naciones Unidas y la FAO, la industria y los gobiernos; en ese caso el nuestro, el Gobierno de España con el Gobierno Regional de Galicia, así como con la industria pesquera y la sociedad civil.

Y encomiamos a que efectivamente un tema que es de vital importancia para todos aquellos países que tienen costas y pesquerías, que se pueda profundizar y que dentro de otros—en el establecimiento del

Código de Pesca Responsable. Y que efectivamente en los próximos 20 años, podamos acordar que han sido 20 años de pesca responsable.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Observer for Nigeria)

Allow me, Independent Chairperson, to congratulate you on the effective way that you have conducted the business of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council.

The Nigerian Delegation appreciates very much the six presenters and the depth of what they have discussed with us and it is our hope that more efforts will be put into all that has been presented, particularly working together with the other Rome-based Agencies and other agencies that are entrusted and working also in nutrition, forestry and health.

My Delegation agrees with Professor Ayazi of Afghanistan and other colleagues that have spoken earlier, especially on the issue of pulses, and I would just want to include the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture as also participating in research work on pulses that he mentioned.

I want to appreciate Ms Villarreal for her solicitation on pulses and beans and highlighting the tremendous values in enhancing human nutrition, food security, healthy living, the aspects of plant/soil relationship, and animal relationships for the improvement of the environment and also the ability of pulses towards sustainable, healthy, organic agriculture, especially in the area of nitrogen fixation, saving farmers a lot of money spent in organic fertilizer.

However, I want to plead that we do not link pulses and beans to poverty, as it is not necessarily the food of the poor people. It is good food that everyone should be able to take advantage of and I am saying this because of personal experience. I am a specimen of a human being brought up from childhood on beans with cassava every morning for breakfast. And at lunch time in primary school, I normally bought cooked sweet potato or cassava with ground nuts or beans for my lunch. I am sure it has done me a world of good.

My delegation would therefore strongly suggest the removal of the word poverty from the literature of pulses and beans, especially from next year 2016.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Thank you to the presenters for their presentations. I would like to focus briefly on the success of the Governing Body on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which I had the privilege of chairing in Rome from 5 to 9 October this year.

Through this Treaty 136 contracting parties shared their plant genetic resources as well as sharing benefits arising from their utilization. The Treaty's global pool of plant genetic resources underpins the capacity of plant breeders worldwide to develop new and climate adapted crops with novel traits to help address food security in the changing climate.

As the outgoing Chairperson, I am delighted to be able to report to you today that the Governing Body's Sixth Session was a successful meeting, including for its achievements outlined in the document that you have before you. This includes the Governing Body's agreement to continue the development of a global information system on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and to continue its work on measures to enhance the functioning of the multilateral system of sharing plant genetic resources and benefits from their utilization.

The global information system is expected to make it easier and quicker for plant breeders and researchers to identify germplasm in seed banks around the world with the desired traits and characteristics so that they can develop new crop varieties with higher yields that are better adapted to local conditions. It will also help open new opportunities related to the fields of genomics, phenomics, and other omics that will help us to improve the quality of the data and services available to plant breeders, farmers and the entire community.

These practical outcomes will contribute to achieving FAO's Strategic Objectives including to help eliminate hunger and to create productive and sustainable agriculture sectors. That is why Australia strongly supports the Treaty, an Article XIV Body of FAO, and the autonomy afforded to it under the FAO Constitution to deliver practical outcomes for its contracting parties and the global community.

Personally it was a pleasure and a privilege being part of this Treaty and chairing its Governing Body meeting.

In relation to some of the other statements that have been made this morning, I would also like to say that we fully support the statements made in relation to the importance of FAO working with the Small Island Developing States and greatly appreciate the update on activities in that regard. I would like to thank the Government of Italy for their generous contribution to the SIDS Climate Change Trust Fund.

In terms of soils, just to take up France's question as well about the concept note and to confirm our understanding that the ITPS would also have an opportunity to further develop the concept note.

Lastly, on the importance of pulses, we fully support the comments that have been made here today. I thank Marcela for her brief on the preparations to the International Year of Pulses and Australia looks forward to being quite involved in that initiative.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

First of all I would like to thank you, Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen, for your support and interest. I would focus my response briefly on the questions and comments raised about the International Treaty. I am very pleased and appreciative to Mr Matthew Worrell of Australia who has served as an excellent Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Treaty.

Let me briefly respond to the question by Angola on the resource mobilization issues. I will just briefly comment that first of all, as you know, FAO has set aside what we call the ring-fenced fund or resources to support the Secretariat's work. But we do rely also on voluntary contributions to support other activities. As to how we might increase resources to support the Treaty, especially the benefit sharing fund, I would say including both monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing aspects, first of all strengthening communication is most important and also to link to other development programmes such as South-South Cooperation and also other activities of the institutions and partners participating in the benefit sharing.

For instance, I know that the Secretariat was recently working on enhancing the crop breeding for under-utilized crops. That includes pulses as we have been touching upon today. Through the exchange of genetic materials, one example is not pulses but millet. The Secretariat and pulses are working on that. So through that we can demonstrate the usefulness and effectiveness of the mechanisms so to attract more voluntary contributions. We would also need to strengthen and explore effective mechanisms of working with the private sector to attract their contributions toward the fund.

In response to the question and suggestion by Iran, we very much appreciate this suggestion for a paper reporting on the number of exchanged crop varieties and also how these varieties are being used and how useful they are. And I would advise the Secretariat to be prepared for such a paper in response to a possible request from the Council to do that.

Finally, I would like to thank very much the statement made by Chile and look forward to Chile becoming a fully-fledged member of the Treaty.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Thank you very much for the many positive comments both on the Code and the Conference. I registered some questions from Congo and Angola on the Code that are actually quite relevant. It probably does not come as a surprise to you that the problems that we are dealing with are many and different and many are quite complex. There are different levels. They are in different regions and some of them express themselves differently depending on the region they are.

They require different solutions, political, technical solutions, and solutions that require quite substantial resources. And as we approach them, the solutions proceed at different speeds. And this therefore requires quite a number of different approaches.

If we take for instance the Port State Measures Agreement ten years after we decided, and at that time I was sitting on the other side, we decided to negotiate this agreement. We still have not ratified it. Ten years after we decided it, six years after we finished the negotiations, it is still not ratified and

acted and this is affecting how we proceed, for instance, on IUU issues. It limits the ways we can approach the IUU problem.

This is why this comes up repeatedly again and again and I would like to encourage you to ratify this agreement but it is not that we have been meanwhile idle and have done nothing on the issue. We are on full throttle as we possibly can under the circumstances.

This however shows you that a problem we started to tackle years ago, we cannot stop working on it. We have to carry on, pushing it forward until we get the final solution. But we need to take on board new problems as well.

I get to the answer to the Representative of Congo. Now we are trying to gather this into a holistic approach which we call the Blue Growth Initiative so that we are all on the same page, but crystalizing out of that are two big problems and they are also represented in the issues that the Governing Bodies have been working on inside FAO and that is the small-scale fisheries and the small-scale fisheries guidelines which is the latest coming out of COFI.

We are emphasizing this quite a lot these days and getting very good response from the Membership. But we are trying to do this in a holistic way where we are working on the basis of a community and of the value chain and integrating it into the trade perspective, both the access to trade and to include in the community more the value chain income.

As well, you need to create alternative employment because almost inevitably when you improve the fisheries management, you reduce the effort with consequences so you need to create alternative employment. The biggest opportunity is in aquaculture which as you know is the fastest growing food sector over the past ten to fifteen years.

So the emphasis is shifting onto this in a way that we are using the tools that we have been working on over the years and supporting implementation at the country level through the Blue Growth in a holistic community and value chain perspective. We base this approach and this view also on the analysis that we have been doing on the future demand and supply for fish which basically tells us that if we do not produce more fish to the tune of 100 million tons a year by 2030, those that are most vulnerable will suffer from not having the needed supply of fish.

So this is the emphasis that we are taking. You can see it in the PWB. There it is clearly stated that we are emphasizing support to implementing the tools that are in existence and moving in this direction at the same time as not neglecting the issues that we have already started and not finished.

The questions that Angola put forward are basically the questions that I am asking myself on this issue. During the Vigo Conference, we got the message that there is an interest from stakeholders in setting up a forum like this. Having got that answer to the question, both literally and also in the terms of how good the participation was in the first stakeholder forum and how well it was received in practical terms, we will proceed and we will try and find out what would be the most effective way and the way that those that should participate in the forum would like and be most conducive to getting good results.

And possibly the good results from this would be that we could, together, anticipate problems before they arise and do something to prevent them coming up and secondly, jointly without having to resort to complicated processes, find common solutions at the ground level to the simple problems before they become too complicated.

This is best done by talking together and exchanging information and experiences and building understanding with regards to each other's positions on the issues. How it will be organized, whether FAO will coordinate it, whether FAO will support it, I do not know that at this moment but you are all welcome to help us find the solutions to these questions.

If I am not mistaken, France did not pose a question on the comments on the states but they are however very substantive and I would like to respond to them because those issues are exactly the issues that the Secretariat is working on quite intensively. The Green Fund is an issue that we are working on quite extensively and we are in very close contact with them in preparing both our endorsement there and actually the projects that they would be proposing in cooperation with the

Member Nations that would benefit from them. And the Rome-based Agencies' cooperation on the SIDS and on climate change is an ongoing thing and I believe it is working very well.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

Thank you very much for all the insightful comments that were provided on the International Years of Pulses and on Soils.

I would like to refer to the comment by Afghanistan that pulses are a neglected crop. We fully agree that we should give much more attention to neglected crops; all the more so because, in conditions of climate change, they may be the ones that give the solutions. Some of the neglected crops are more drought-resistant, some of them are more flood-resistant, and this is of course an area where we need to focus much more attention in terms of changing conditions and changing climates, including pulses.

I am happy to announce that we are increasing our technical capacity on pulses. We have just received a technical officer at headquarters who will be of course very involved in these issues. So in terms of increasing the programme that FAO has in terms of pulses, as Afghanistan and Congo referred to, we are happy to say that we are increasing our technical capacity, of course working together with the other technical areas of the house that relate to pulses like nutrition, tracking markets, protection, and so on. That is quite important.

Suite en français

En ce qui concerne les deux catégories de légumineuses, bien sûr on mettra l'accent autant sur la catégorie annuelle que sur la catégorie des arbustifs, et comme il est déjà prévu dans le plan d'action pour l'Année internationale, il y a un objectif sur la contribution des légumineuses, sur le rapport entre légumineuses et changement climatique. Ainsi, je suis heureuse d'annoncer que nous avons déjà un plan d'action et qu'il est disponible en ligne, où vous pouvez le trouver, ainsi que d'autres documents relatifs à l'Année internationale.

Continues in English

Referring back to the comment from Afghanistan, you will see that one of the activities that is already foreseen in the action plan is, FAO together with ICARDA will be holding an International Conference on Pulses in Dry Land Areas from 13 to 15 April 2015 in Rabat, Morocco. Everybody, of course, is invited to attend. And we take the comment from Nigeria that asks us to look at ICARDA but also the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture. We are taking note of that, as well as having more linkages with ICRISAT as suggested by Afghanistan. The International Years bring together different constituencies, different networks, and the idea is by bringing more of them together, we will have better results for the year.

In terms of the links between the Years, this is something that we have very high up in our agenda. Those of you who will be coming to the event at 12:30 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre will see that when we talk about the closure of the Year of Soils, there will be one intervention in terms of linking the Year of Family Farming, of Soils, and on Pulses. So we will be taking up soils very importantly in the future, including during the Year of Pulses, as we do with Family Farming. And for that, I would really like to thank once again the Chairs of IYFF, the Philippines, of IYS, Thailand, and the Co-Chairs of the International Year of Pulses, Turkey and Pakistan, because creating these links is part of the legacy. We are stronger when we link these areas together and we are able to bring them into the policy arena.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thanks, the Netherlands, for that recognition.

Now we thank also the different countries. Today we heard from the Russian Federation and from Australia, but of course there are events going on in all of the countries. We would like to thank you for those. We are looking forward to seeing this commemorative envelope from the Russian Federation. And I would just like to refer to the different stakeholders that participate in the year.

Whereas the International Year of Family Farming was very much promoted by the farmers' organizations, the World Rural Forum, the International Year of Soils is much more of a technical year, and the International Year of Pulses has a very strong promotion by the private sector. These are promoters, but the beauty of the year is that these link very well with the other stakeholders to create that enhanced knowledge and outreach to different kinds of networks.

I would like to refer to the comment from Nigeria in terms of pulses as a crop of the poor. If that impression comes from our materials, we will certainly address that. We want to promote higher consumption of pulses by everyone. Some of the messages that we are including in our communication for the Year looks at, for example, the relationship between pulses and cardiovascular diseases. This kind of disease is usually much more present in societies with higher income than with lower income. So it is not our intention to promote pulses as a crop of the poor but we do understand that pulses have a very good contribution towards food security and that links also with poverty reduction. So whereas everybody should be consuming more pulses, clearly they have a benefit for the poor as they are more affordable than animal protein. But we will go back and look at our messaging so that we ensure that your suggestion is very clearly reflected in the way in which we do the messaging.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

Thank you for the encouraging words and questions raised by several delegations. Let me first start with the question raised by Afghanistan, by clarifying the number of indicators we were talking about. The interagency and expert group on the SDG indicators has identified 230 SDG indicators and as I mentioned, on 165 of these there is an agreement on how to define them. The others are still under discussion.

Among the 165 there are 21 for which FAO is expected to take responsibility and for the work following through on that with the relevant agencies, particularly with the Rome-based Agencies.

You asked a question on how many of these we have already covered. I think in terms of types of indicators, we have covered all of them. That is not the major challenge. The major challenge is to find enough data and capacity in countries to be able to provide the information and the basics to the monitoring post. FAO would be asked at the global level and next to what countries will be asked to do to monitor that in their own contexts. That is more the challenge moving forward.

Regarding the observations made by Russia, basically I thank you for your encouraging words. We will keep up the good work and continue collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies as well as provide the technical support to the CFS to forward these discussions into their deliberations, particularly on the implementation of the relevant parts of the Agenda 2030.

On the question by Italy, how does this fit in the new management structure, first of all it does not change anything much that we have already laid out. In terms of the Strategic Framework, it is already well aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. With new management structure, what it will facilitate is looking more across the various Strategic Objectives and assure that at any invitation we seek fully integrated approaches which will be imperative to the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030.

On the issue of monitoring, likewise our Chief Statistician is the guardian for the monitoring process as much as he is also at the moment the coordinator for the UN Statistical Commission on this for the overall monitoring for the SDGs.

We have also established a new rule whereby all of the data systems that we work on across FAO need to be vetted by the Chief Statistician in terms of sharing the best standards and also harmonize across information systems and align them with the monitoring of the SDGs.

I guess that has all been in place. The challenge, and I come back to my response to Afghanistan, will in all cases be to ensure that we have enough resources to be able to follow-through; that is enough data collection, enough capacity development that we can do and support countries in order to put the informational table that would allow us for successful and effective monitoring of the SDGs moving forward.

M. Moujahed ACHOURI (Directeur de la Division des terres et des eaux)

Pour la question de la France et de l'Australie, qui est essentiellement sur les Directives volontaires pour la gestion durable des ressources en sols, et plus particulièrement sur la note conceptuelle qui a été préparée pour la préparation de ce document, je dois peut-être vous informer qu'un premier document a été préparé par notre Groupe technique intergouvernemental sur les sols (ITPS) et que ce même document a été revu et discuté par l'Assemblée plénière du Partenariat mondial sur les sols au mois de juin 2015.

Entre juin 2015 et septembre 2015, ce même document a été présenté pour commentaires et révisions, et les commentaires ont été pris en considération par notre ITPS au cours d'une réunion au mois de septembre 2015. C'était la quatrième session de ce Groupe technique. Je confirme, comme je l'ai dit hier, qu'il y a encore bien sûr espace pour des commentaires et nous espérons avoir notre ITPS d'ici décembre afin de pouvoir discuter ce même document et, comme convenu hier, lancer la préparation des directives volontaires.

Continues in English

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to the Global Soil Partnership. They provided us with encouragement, with direct input and financial contribution. I would like to add my voice to that of Marcela that what has been achieved is due to your support and a lot has been achieved during 2015. But we can see that the voluntary guidelines are a little bit to take on this momentum of the International Year of Soils to go beyond and to start thinking a little bit how to implement what has been discussed.

The Global Soil Partnership, it is a symbol. All of you have an action or a plan of action to implement activities and all Member Nations and partners are contributing already to the five pillars of the Global Soil Partnership which have been endorsed. I thank you for all of your support and for your assistance and look forward to working with you.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes item 17 of the Agenda, which was presented to Council for information only. The list of presentations has been included in the draft Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be uploaded to the FAO Members' Gateway.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chairperson of the G77 and China, Ambassador Majid Dehgan-Shoar of Iran, has informed me that Mr Tazwin Hanif, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Indonesia and former Chairperson of the Asia Group, is in hospital after having been involved in an accident.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Tazwin as we wish him a complete return to good health.

I will now give the floor to Mr Gagnon who will make an announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to remind you of the lunchtime events which will take place today. A Side Event for the *Closure of the International Year of Soils* will take place at 12.30 in the Sheik Zayed Centre. A second event on the *Launch of the G20 Technical Platform on the Measurement of Food Loss and Waste* will take place from 14.00 to 15.30 in the Iran Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the work of the Council for this morning. We shall resume our work at 16.00 hours today to adopt the report of the session.

The meeting rose at 11:56 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 56

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.56

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-third Session
Cent cinquante-troisième session
153.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 30 November-4 December 2015
Rome, 30 novembre-4 décembre 2015
Roma, 30 de noviembre-4 de diciembre de 2015**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 December 2015

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.14 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 14
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 16.14
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the eighth and final meeting of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council.

We will now proceed with the Adoption of the Report. Please ensure that you have the relevant document before you: CL 153/Draft Report.

I now invite Mr Matthew Worrell, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the report.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Firstly, I want to thank Council for putting its trust in me and providing this development opportunity to chair the Drafting Committee for this session. I would like to thank my fellow Members of the Drafting Committee – Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Iceland, Iraq, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Spain, Thailand, and Zimbabwe – for their dedication and efforts.

The Committee met on two occasions, on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. We finished our work at approximately 12:40 yesterday afternoon. The work of the Committee was relatively smooth sailing. There were a couple of minor bumps on the road and one sensitive issue that required discussion. But after compromises being made by all, we were able to successfully resolve this matter. So the Draft Report is presented for Council's approval.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Matthew. I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the members of the Drafting Committee for the good work done.

It appears that the Report of this Session may be approved *en bloc*.

Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Final Report.

Does the Council wish to adopt the Report *en bloc*?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Report of the 153rd Session of the FAO Council is adopted.

I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mister Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Members of the Council, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, your endorsement to the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 will enable the Organization to be more focused on pursuing its strategic objectives and delivering its programme of work.

Once more, I would like to thank all of you for trusting that these measures will make FAO even more efficient and effective. Our adjustments include climate change as a new cross-cutting theme in our Programme of Work. All of you have highlighted the importance of this measure.

Climate change is a fundamental issue, but it is also just one among the Sustainable Development Goals. And FAO is linked to 14 of the 17 SDGs.

In this context, the 2030 Agenda, FAO will move forward on many work fronts, which must be clearly interconnected, as the SDGs are. The adjustments you have approved today will help us to reinforce interconnectivity among different areas of work inside FAO.

Looking ahead, later next year we will engage in the preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. This provides the opportunity to bring even more coordination between FAO's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs, and to learn from experience.

I am also pleased to acknowledge your agreement on taking the discussion forward on the Decentralized Offices Network coverage. We look forward to the discussions in the regional conferences and in the Council next year.

Now we need to put in place the changes needed to maintain and strengthen the capacity of the Organization, at headquarters and in our decentralized offices, to support countries in meeting our common goals, as agreed.

Let me tell you that to respond to the demand of Members for the establishment, or reinforcement, of FAO's presence in their countries, some Partnership and Liaison Offices have been established. This year, FAO has signed four Partnership and Liaison Offices with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. The additional funds mobilized for a partnership programme with these four countries amount to nearly USD 100 million.

I am also pleased to inform you that I have just appointed Mr Rene Castro, a national from Costa Rica and the United States of America, former Minister of Environment and Energy and of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, for the position of Assistant Director-General for Forestry. Mr Castro has been recognized as the candidate that combines solid technical background and a relevant political experience, as he was Minister for several years, in different areas, in the Government of Costa Rica.

The adjustments to the PWB are also part of the exercise of finding how to do more with less, something that you always push me to do. But let me warn you again: it has been more and more difficult to keep on this path.

We have just been able to identify the USD 2.7 million in savings requested by the Conference, by changing the staff cost-sharing of medical insurance premiums. It has not been an easy process and involved months of discussion with the Staff Representative Bodies and other parties.

By the way, this was the result of a fruitful discussion in the Consultative Committee. Management's proposal was to avoid an average per capita distribution of the increased costs. Through the new formula, those who earn more will pay a little more. Others, like the GS staff, will continue to pay almost the same.

Let me stress again that our regular budget is already very tight, and we have found these savings without cutting posts, as you have certainly noted, and, therefore, without weakening the technical capacity of our Organization.

But I have to take this opportunity to make an appeal: we strongly need to keep the level of extra-budgetary contributions to continue delivering our Programme of Work without further difficulties. FAO has designed a strategic framework to be financed through an integrated budget. Thanks to the generosity of Members, FAO's voluntary contributions had been increasing since 2012. But since the beginning of 2015, a slowdown has been noted.

As the Chairperson of the Finance Committee has repeated many times, an elastic band can only be stretched so far before it breaks. I think we have reached, or at least are very close to, that point. So please do not continue asking us to do more with less. For each new action or item that you ask to incorporate in the PWB, something will need to be removed. It is no longer possible to add new priorities without also identifying what should be discontinued.

Fortunately, this is not the case of Antimicrobial Resistance, which has already been part of our priorities under the 'One Health' Approach initiative. Let me repeat, once more, what my team and I have mentioned many times: we are in the process of reviewing the terms of reference for the vacant

posts, and I reassure you that we will be able to reinforce our work on AMR under this ‘One Health’ initiative.

Of course, more extra-budgetary funds are expected to implement concrete actions at country level. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the United States for the support already provided, and the Russian Federation for the commitment made during this Session of the Council.

On the collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies, we fully recognize its importance. We have taken many steps in this direction. But as I have said several times, the Members should push for this integration to be successful. And also pay attention to the growing overlapping of mandates among the agencies in the UN System, especially now in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Before concluding, I need to say that I have noticed in this session of the Council, for whatever reason, some movements that challenge our good working atmosphere, our fruitful dialogue, our mutual respect and, ultimately, our consensus. Keeping trust between ourselves is fundamental.

Membership has recently given me strong evidences that I am leading FAO on the right track. The PWB 2016-17 was approved before Conference for the first time, and the Conference re-elected me for a second term, with expressive support, to continue managing this Organization.

Despite all that political support, it is very clear to me that I do not have a kind of “Carte Blanche” from Members to act as I wish. I will continue taking decisions under my authority and adopting measures based on your guidance, with the responsibility of showing results and enabling FAO to help achieve our common goals.

I have done my best, over the last days, to explain to you all the aspects involved in these adjustments that you have endorsed today. I spent an entire morning giving explanations to the Members of the Joint Committee, I asked my senior management to elaborate five informative notes, and I organized an additional informative briefing. We also held many bilateral meetings.

Despite all of this, the fact that an almost finalized proposal had been presented to the Finance and the Programme Committees may have given Membership the impression that I did not want to listen to you and exchange views with you beforehand. I apologize for this misunderstanding. As part of the lessons learned, we agree to have better preparations for the next meetings, including direct consultations with Member Nations for clarification.

And we will continue working with transparency. This is part of the game. The Secretariat must be accountable to Membership. This is very clear to me. Still, I have, at times, a sense of excessive interaction with Members on matters that are essentially under managerial authority, especially human resources issues, which distracts the Secretariat from its day-to-day work, and the Members from their duties on substantive aspects. This time, I will have to ask you not only to respect the red line that separates guidance from management, but also to respect the FAO Constitution, as we move forward together.

In the spirit of trust and mutual respect, I ask you to continue supporting me to carry out the work in the next years, and to hold me accountable on the results that I deliver in our shared ambition for improved food security and nutrition.

I thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General Mr Graziano da Silva for having addressed the Council three times during this 153rd Session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before closing this session of Council, I should like to thank all those who worked behind the scenes to service this meeting: the translators and interpreters; the verbatim team and reports office; the conference facilities staff, Security Service and the messengers; and the

Secretary-General Louis Gagnon and Assistant Secretary-General Gaby Piacentini, and Mr Stephen Dowd and his team. They all collaborated as a team to ensure everything ran smoothly.

I should also like to say a word of thanks to the FAO Secretariat members who introduced items or responded to the issues raised.

I congratulate and thank Mr Matthew Worrell for his able leadership during the discussions in the Drafting Committee. I also appreciate the constructive engagement and contributions made by Members of the Committee.

I also want to recognize the enormous contributions made to our work by the Chairpersons of the Council Committees. They provide a basis for our discussion.

This was an important session of Council. Each session of Council has its unique character. During this session, among other matters, the approval of “Adjustments to the PWB 2016-17” was crucial. The Council held its deliberations on this agenda item with full respect for the Programme of Work, as approved by the 39th Session of the Conference.

The debate during this session centred on how FAO has prepared to efficiently and effectively deliver the PWB 2016-17, for which the Secretariat provided explanations.

The Council will see at a future session how implementation is progressing and how results are being achieved, with particular focus on the Medium Term Review 2016-17.

FAO now has an approved PWB for 2016-17, and implementation will begin next month, January 2016. It is my expectation that the issues raised during this session of Council will be taken up.

Ladies and Gentleman, we have reached the end of what I would call a dynamic session of Council. We have covered a lot of ground in a constructive and lively manner. Although some of our meetings were long, and sometimes marked by vigorous exchanges of opinion, I believe we all come away from this session feeling that we used our time productively, and that the report we have just adopted captures the positive spirit that characterized our work this week, as well as reflecting an overriding desire to reach a consensus position that recognizes the range of views expressed, is meaningful and assists the Organization to move ahead.

I would also add that many of us who were involved in the reform of FAO governance in recent years are encouraged to note that we continue to consolidate and improve our working methods. This means that informal pre-session meetings; secretariat briefings; regional and cross-regional statements rather than repetitive interventions by individual countries; and inclusive summing up after each item, all contributed to enabling us to work more efficiently. The result is a final report with a sharp focus on decisions and actions that all Council members can recognize as a faithful reflection of our collective decision-making.

Of course, our wide-ranging discussions; our way of interacting and engaging with each other and the Secretariat; our mutual respect; and indeed our effectiveness as a Governing Body, all depend on each of us being firmly committed to respecting the Council’s unwritten ground rules.

It took a lengthy reform process, and many sessions of Council, to develop this equitable way of working and recording our decisions. Let us all endeavour not only to maintain this efficient way of going about our business, but also to consolidate and build on these good practices.

One measure of effectiveness of a strong Governing Body that is fit for purpose is how we deal with dissent. I believe this session has shown that the Council is a forum where lively and respectful debate can take place, and the ensuing report can faithfully respect our final decisions on each agenda item. I wish to thank you for your contribution to making this a successful session of Council.

Let us continue to work even more tirelessly and in greater harmony and trust to ensure FAO performs efficiently and effectively in the search to improve the lives of all.

May I wish you and your families seasonal greetings. I look forward to working with you all in 2016 with renewed energy and commitment to fulfilling FAO’s strategic objectives.

With this, unless any Member wishes to take the floor, I will declare the 153rd Session of Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I would kindly ask you to pass the floor to the Delegation of the Netherlands, please.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for Netherlands)

It is an honour for me to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We underscore what you have said about the excellent work of the Drafting Committee under the able leadership of Mr Matthew Worrell. We thank them all for their approach and the good work.

Nevertheless, we have, as EU and its 28 Member States, the feeling that there is room for improvement in the processes between Council and Drafting Committee but we will find a right moment to table our proposals for this.

That brings me to thanking all the colleagues and all the other regions and countries and Member Nations and indeed underscore our huge thanks to everybody who has made this Council possible in the way it was held, conducted and concluded.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Je prends la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique pour dire l'appréciation de notre Groupe quant à la manière avec laquelle Monsieur Wilfred Ngirwa, Président indépendant du Conseil, a su conduire les travaux de cette 153^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO, avec sérénité et détermination. Nous saluons sa tempérance, son sens poussé de l'analyse et sa capacité de synthèse sur des questions parfois complexes. Je voudrais également saisir cette opportunité pour exprimer à Monsieur Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général du Conseil, et son équipe toute notre satisfaction pour le professionnalisme dans la préparation pratique de nos travaux. Que l'ensemble du Secrétariat, sous l'impulsion du Directeur général, trouve ici l'expression de notre satisfaction pour la préparation et la production des documents mis à notre disposition et les précieuses informations fournies tout au long de cette session, ce qui a grandement facilité nos délibérations.

Le Groupe Afrique note avec satisfaction l'ambiance sereine qui a régné, comme à l'accoutumée, tout au long nos travaux, ambiance empreinte de respect mutuel, d'esprit constructif, de dialogue et de concertation continue, qui a permis d'aboutir à des résultats positifs. Le Groupe Afrique note avec satisfaction l'esprit de consensus qui a animé nos travaux dans le cas de la prise de décision pour l'adoption de points aussi importants inscrits à l'ordre du jour de cette session, notamment les ajustements à apporter au Programme de travail et budget 2016-2017, les capacités techniques de l'Organisation, l'examen indépendant des bureaux décentralisés, la question de planification des effectifs des taux de vacances de poste, les activités de la FAO dans le domaine de la résistance aux antimicrobiens, les activités de l'Organisation dans le domaine normatif et des liens entre elles, et l'exécution du Programme et le rapport sur la sécurité alimentaire, pour ne citer que ceux-là.

D'autre part, le Groupe régional Afrique encourage davantage la collaboration entre les organisations onusiennes basées à Rome en liaison avec l'ONUDI, ainsi que d'autre organisations internationales pertinentes, et accueille favorablement la proposition de traiter la question du changement climatique en tant que thème transversal, à l'instar de la nutrition et de la parité homme-femme, au titre de l'objectif six. Le Groupe Afrique saisit par ailleurs cette occasion pour féliciter l'ensemble des six pays qui ont été élus au Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial et leur souhaite plein de succès dans leur mission.

Monsieur le Président, comme vous le savez, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a adopté les objectifs du développement durable en septembre dernier. L'Afrique se réjouit de ce que l'agenda de 2030 soit en harmonie avec l'agenda de 2063 de l'Union africaine dans une déclinaison majeure et la vision continue de la déclaration de Malabo sur la mise en œuvre du Programme détaillé pour le

développement de l'agriculture africaine. La Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui se tiendra en avril 2016 à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire, sera une opportunité supplémentaire pour se pencher et débattre de l'ensemble de questions d'intérêt commun qui touchent le continent africain.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique tient à vous assurer de son entier soutien dans votre action, présente et à venir, pour contribuer en commun à la solution des enjeux et défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés, notamment l'éradication de la faim et de la pauvreté, et la malnutrition. Monsieur le Président, au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, je tiens à féliciter le Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva, pour sa transparence et sa visibilité, et à lui réitérer toute notre confiance et notre soutien pour son travail persévérant et son dévouement envers l'Organisation avec pour objectif essentiel d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire pour tous. Je ne saurais terminer mon intervention sans souhaiter à toutes et à tous mes meilleurs vœux de bonheur, de santé et sérénité pour la nouvelle année.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Tomo la palabra en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Deseamos felicitar en primer lugar al Señor Presidente Independiente del Consejo, al Secretario General y a todos los responsables de los distintos argumentos de la FAO por su tarea en este Consejo.

Deseamos subrayar, ya aprobado el Informe, el espíritu de consenso que permitió superar diferencias y entender la propuesta del Secretariado a través de las diversas notas informativas que se nos proveyeron antes de este Consejo. Esta confianza mutua, en realidad entendemos que se verificó a lo largo de todo este año 2015, desde la decisión inédita del Consejo del marzo pasado de acordar el nivel de presupuesto hasta la Conferencia de la FAO del junio pasado, donde acordamos por consenso el Programa de Trabajo, el monto del presupuesto y la reelección del Director General. En este contexto, llegamos a la aprobación en este Consejo de los Ajustes al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2016-17.

A partir de este momento, entendemos que es el Director General y el Secretariado quienes ejecutarán estas decisiones que hemos adoptado, los Países Miembros, y contamos con la revisión de Medio Término de 2017 para hacer un balance. Hacemos votos por ende para que el Director General y el Secretariado sigan adelante con el trabajo que están realizando, con el apoyo de los Estados Miembros para poder cumplir con la idea y el objetivo que nos debe guiar: no solamente producir excelentes normas en las materias que nos atañen, sino también terminar con el hambre del mundo. Hacemos votos en este sentido, reafirmando la confianza en el Director General.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Islamic Republic of Iran)

As the Chairperson of G77 and China, I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Independent Chairperson, the Secretary-General Mr Gagnon, his colleagues, Management led by our Director-General Graziano da Silva and all Deputy and Assistant Directors-General. We had a good meeting. Thank you very much to you all.

As G77 mentioned so many times, we are here to work all together, G77, Europe and others, thinking together, working together and planning together, because so many millions of farmers are looking at what we are doing here.

In our debates, there were some issues, which being talk was not in the report because being so lengthy, some issues raised have not been included but thanking the Draft Committee Report. There is a space of working together informally with the Management, with the help of the Independent Chair about some issues. There are so many issues which farmers are actually dealing with, as I mentioned particularly in their respective areas.

Access of farmers to high-quality, drought-tolerant cultivar is the key which reduce significantly the food which we are working on about seed availability. High-quality seed and high-germinating seed is the other thing. If you ask anybody from a farmer's point of view, they will say we have this problem. We have low water-use efficiency. So we should increase our capacity and what I am talking about "our" is it means we are all FAO member families. We are not separate entities. We are all together.

About food safety, we are facing so many thousands of cancer cases and disease so we should work together. My recommendation is that as a Chair, as Iran, is that for having a better Council next year, we should have an informal meeting before then. We should work together and find out what was our deficiency, what was our strength, and working with the Independent Chair and finding out what is the way forward, the way to have better progress in our meeting next year.

One of the issues which I will raise and I think I am sure it is interesting to all Members, we are talking about the Treaty. Millions of germplasm are distributed every year with the hard working of the Treaty. So how have we been able to develop a new high-yielding cultivar for varieties for farmers? This year is fine but why not have a report on the issues to next Council and tell them we have done that one. So let us advise, let us work to have a better future. *Inshallah*, God willing, working together we will help to have a peaceful world without hunger.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

If you allow me, I wish to make some short remarks. First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, on the excellent way you have guided our work throughout the week. Your consensus-seeking approach has proved once again to be very helpful. Your initiative to have a dialogue and the series of informal consultations in smaller and bigger groups is highly appreciated.

I am happy to note that the FAO Secretariat and Management, as confirmed right now by the Director-General himself, is also ready to engage in a similar process of organizing informal exchange of views and we strongly encourage management and Secretariat to continue to do so for the benefit of all.

I wish to thank my fellow Council Members for their friendly attitude and for the constructive spirit in our discussions that has made it possible for the Council to conclude its work with positive results.

Mr Chairperson, I thank you, all of you, for your support and for your friendship and I wish to assure that Hungary is committed to continue to be actively engaged in all activities of FAO Council and I am looking forward to collaborating with all of you to contribute to reach our common objectives and support the Director-General and the management in their effort to fight poverty, hunger, and malnutrition and reach zero hunger in our lifetime.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I align myself with the statement that was made earlier by Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group. If Cameroon is taking the floor at this point in time, it is because we could not miss this opportunity first of all to recognize that we were represented in this Council at a very high level by a Minister and she should have loved to express what I want to say now ourselves.

We wish to come back to two issues that were brought up in Algeria's statement, in the Director-General's statement, in your statement, Mr Chairperson. These two issues are consensus and trust building. In terms of consensus, I think we have worked hard in this Council to achieve consensus at all levels. We have done everything to overcome our differences and kept aside our particularities to build up that consensus which is something which is very noticeable.

This spirit of consensus and trust-building toward 2015, we can face a milestone. If we started in spring with the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees and the meetings of the Council where we achieved for the first time what is a historical situation where we could recommend a budget level unanimously to the Conference. Again, when we arrived to the Conference in June, we reached again consensus and we agreed on the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17. We agreed on the budget level and we gave the Director-General a tremendous election by 99.999999. It was a clear mandate which we gave the Director-General and this was done with this testimony of the consensus.

Now again during this Council we are reaching the same consensus and we should all be proud of that. The planning cycle for 2016-17 has also some milestones and all of these milestones were achieved by consensus. I want to recall February 2015, when the first staff or the first PWB was published and since then we have had a number of meetings and so on and we agreed together as a consensus on the PWB.

Today, by consensus, we agreed on the report, especially on the element of the adjustment of the PWB, which is I think under your guidance, well performed, and we want to thank you, Mr Chairperson, for that.

Now and from now on, we stopped discussing among ourselves and give the mandate now to the Director-General and his staff. We should give him the trust that he needs and to allow him to do the job. I think we will just follow when he is doing the job, how we certainly account later on. And we will wait for that and the next milestone for that is the Mid-Term Review in 2017.

We support you, Director-General, we support your vision of FAO and are looking forward to deliver together to achieve our shared goals.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Je voudrais, à l'instar du Cameroun, m'associer à la déclaration faite par l'Algérie au nom du Groupe Afrique, et je souhaiterais saluer l'adresse et la sagesse avec lesquelles vous avez mené cette session du Conseil à bon port. Je souhaite également au passage remercier le Secrétariat, Monsieur Gagnon et son équipe, pour l'excellente préparation de cette session.

Également, je remercie le Comité de rédaction qui a fait un travail excellent malgré l'étroitesse du temps. Mes remerciements également vont à la Direction, notamment Monsieur Gustafson et Monsieur Tavares, notre Conseiller juridique. Et je voudrais m'adresser à vous, Monsieur le Directeur général, pour vous remercier de nous avoir informés sur la prise de contact que vous avez eue avec les autorités marocaines à Paris en marge de la COP21. La COP21 est toujours en cours, mais nous préparons déjà la COP22; cette COP aura lieu sur le continent africain, et je prends la parole ici, Monsieur le Directeur général, pour vous assurer de la disponibilité des autorités marocaines à travailler main dans la main avec la FAO pour la réussite de ce grand sommet sur les changements climatiques.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you all. I now declare the 153rd Session of Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 17:04 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 04

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.04



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