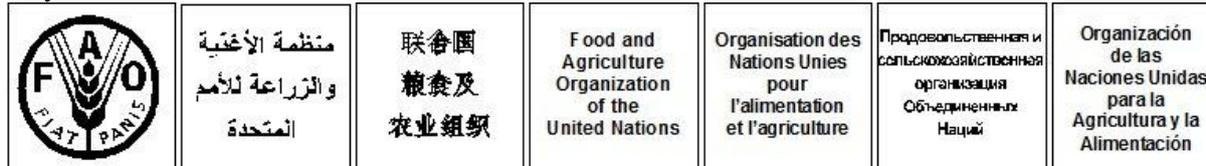


July 2011



CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-seventh Session • Trente-septième session • 37.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 25 de junio - 2 de julio de 2011
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

**CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE
CONFERENCIA**

Thirty-seventh Session • Trente-septième session • 37.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 25 de junio - 2 de julio de 2011
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

Table of Contents - Table des matières - Índice

First Meeting of Commission I Première réunion de la Commission I Primera Reunión de la Comisión I (27 June 2011)

Substantive and Policy Matters	
Questions de fond et de politique générale	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política	2
Regional Conferences	
Conférences régionales	
Conferencias regionales	2
11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:	
11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:	
11. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de:	2
11.1 Report of the 31 st Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (26-30 April 2010) (C 2011/21)	
11.1 Rapport de la 31 ^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (26-30 avril 2010) (C 2011/21)	
11.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (26-30 de abril de 2010) (C 2011/21)	2
11.2 Report of the 26 th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (3-7 May 2010) (C 2011/22 Rev.1)	
11.2 Rapport de la 26 ^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (3-7 mai 2010) (C 2011/22 Rev.1)	
11.2 Informe del 26.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (3-7 de mayo de 2010) (C 2011/22 Rev.1)	5
11.3 Report of the 27 th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (13-14 May 2010) (C 2011/23)	
11.3 Rapport de la 27 ^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (13-14 mai 2010) (C 2011/23)	
11.3 Informe del 27.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (13-14 de mayo de 2010) (C 2011/23)	8
11.4. Report of the 30 th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (27 September - 1 October 2010) (C 2011/24)	
11.4. Rapport de la 30 ^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (27 septembre – 1 ^{er} octobre 2010) (C 2011/24)	
11.4. Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (27 de septiembre-1.º de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/24)	13
11.5. Report of the 30 th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (4-8 December 2010) (C 2011/25)	
11.5. Rapport de la 30 ^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (4-8 décembre 2010) (C 2011/25)	
11.5. Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (4-8 de diciembre de 2010) (C 2011/25)	17

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	21
Other Substantive and Policy Matters	
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale	
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política	21
13. The State of Land and Water (C 2011/32)	
13. État des ressources en terres et en eau dans le monde (C 2011/32)	
13. El estado de las tierras y las aguas (SOLAW) (C 2011/32)	21

Second Meeting of Commission I
Deuxième réunion de la Commission I
Segunda Reunión de la Comisión I
(28 June 2011)

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	28
Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	28
14. Déclaration sur l'éradication de la peste bovine (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)	
14. Declaration on Rinderpest Eradication (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)	
14. Declaración de erradicación de la peste bovina (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)	28
Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	35
Technical Committees	
Comités techniques	
Comités técnicos	35
12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:	
12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:	
12. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de:	35
12.1 Report of the 68 th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (14-16 June 2010) (C 2011/16; C 2011/INF/12)	
12.1 Rapport de la 68 ^{ème} session du Comité des produits (14-16 juin 2010) (C 2011/16; C 2011/INF/12)	
12.1 Informe del 68.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (14-16 de junio de 2010) (C 2011/16; C 2011/INF/12)	35

12.2 Report of the 22 nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (16-19 June 2010) (C 2011/17)	
12.2 Rapport de la 22 ^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture (16-19 juin 2010) (C 2011/17)	
12.2 Informe del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (16-19 de junio de 2010) (C 2011/17)	39
12.3 Report of the 20 th Session of the Committee on Forestry (4-8 October 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)	
12.3 Rapport de la 20 ^{ème} session du Comité des forêts (4-8 octobre 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)	
12.3 Informe del 20.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (4-8 de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)	48
Third Meeting of Commission I	
Troisième réunion de la Commission I	
Tercera Reunión de la Comisión I	
(28 June 2011)	
Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	58
Technical Committees (continued)	
Comités techniques (suite)	
Comités técnicos (continuación)	58
12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from: (continued)	
12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants: (suite)	
12. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de: (continuación)	58
12.4 Report of the 36 th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (11-14 and 16 October 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)	
12.4 Rapport de la 36 ^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (11-14 et 16 octobre 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)	
12.4 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (11-14 y 16 de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)	58
12.5 Report of the 29 th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (31 January - 4 February 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)	
12.5 Rapport de la 29 ^{ème} session du Comité des pêches (31 janvier - 4 février 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)	
12.5 Informe del 29.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (31 de enero - 4 de febrero de 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)	69
Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (suite)	77

15. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen triennal complet des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies (C2011/26)	
15. Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C2011/26)	
15. Informe provisional sobre la revisión trienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo (C2011/26)	77
16. Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (C2011/27)	
16. État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques (C2011/27)	
16. Estado de aplicación del Plan de acción mundial sobre los recursos zoogenéticos (C2011/27)	81
Other Matters	
Questions diverses	
Otros asuntos	86
Any Other Matters	
Autres questions	
Asuntos varios	86
35.8 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bioversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES) (Draft Resolution) (C 2011/LIM/19)	
35.8 Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (Projet de résolution) (C 2011/LIM/19)	
35.8 Plataforma intergubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicios de los ecosistemas (proyecto de resolución) (C 2011/LIM/19)	86
Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	89
Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	89
19. Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics (C 2011/31)	
19. Plan de mise en œuvre de la stratégie mondiale pour l'amélioration des statistiques agricoles (C 2011/31)	
19. Plan de aplicación de la Estrategia global para mejorar las estadísticas agrícolas (C 2011/31)	89
Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)	
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)	
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	96

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued) Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite) Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	96
20. FAO Gender Audit 2010 (C 2011/INF/16) 20. Évaluation de la parité hommes-femmes au sein de la FAO (2010) (C 2011/INF/16) 20. Auditoría de las cuestiones de género en la FAO de 2010 (C 2011/INF/16)	96
Fourth Meeting of Commission I Quatrième réunion de la Commission I Cuarta Tercera Reunión de la Comisión I (29 June 2011)	
Governance, Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters Questions relatives à la gouvernance et questions juridiques, administratives et financières Cuestiones de gobernanza y de índole jurídica, administrativa y financiera	104
Constitutional and Legal Matters Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques Cuestiones constitucionales y jurídicas	104
27. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme 27. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO 27. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO	104
27.1 Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10) 27.1 Amendements au Statut et au Règlement général du PAM (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10) 27.1 Enmiendas al Estatuto y al Reglamento General del PMA (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10)	104
Substantive and Policy Matters (continued) Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite) Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	113
Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued) Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite) Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)	113
17. Evaluation of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 (C 2011/INF/15) 17. Évaluation de l'Année internationale des fibres naturelles - 2009 (C 2011/INF/15) 17. Evaluación del Año Internacional de las Fibras Naturales (2009) (C 2011/INF/15)	113
18. International Year of Forests (C 2011/30) 18. Année internationale des forêts (C 2011/30) 18. Año Internacional de los Bosques (C 2011/30)	115

Other Matters (continued)	
Questions diverses (suite)	
Otros asuntos (continuación)	123

Any Other Matters (continued)	
Autres questions (suite)	
Asuntos varios (continuación)	123

35.9 International Year of Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	
35.9 Année internationale du quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	
35.9 Año Internacional de la Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	123

Fifth Meeting of Commission I
Cinquième réunion de la Commission I
Quinta Reunión de la Comisión I
(29 June 2011)

Other Matters (continued)	
Questions diverses (suite)	
Otros asuntos (continuación)	136

Any Other Matters (continued)	
Autres questions (suite)	
Asuntos varios (continuación)	136

35.9 International Year of Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	
35.9 Année internationale du quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	
35.9 Año Internacional de la Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)	136

Sixth Meeting of Commission I
Sixième réunion de la Commission I
Sexta Reunión de la Comisión I
(30 June 2011)

Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe (C 2011/I/REP/11; C 2011/I/REP/12.1; C 2011/I/REP/12.2; C 2011/I/REP/12.3; C 2011/I/REP/12.4; C 2011/I/REP/12.5; C 2011/I/REP/13; C 2011/I/REP/14; C 2011/I/REP/15; C 2011/I/REP/16; C 2011/I/REP/17; C 2011/I/REP/18; C 2011/I/REP/19; C 2011/I/REP/20; C 2011/I/REP/35.8; C 2011/I/REP/35.9)	140
--	-----

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 june - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
27 June 2011

The First Meeting was opened at 14:52 hours

Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer

Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 14 h 52
sous la présidence de Mme. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 14:52 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon. We want to commence our work today, in the afternoon. It is again, a great honour for me to be elected as Chairperson of Commission I, which I had the pleasure to Chair for my first time in 2003.

As Commission I is dealing with the core matters of FAO, Agriculture, Forestry, Water Management and Fisheries, I would like to thank you for the trust you have again given me. Now for the organization of our work. We start with our work now and go through the Agenda of today, hopefully finishing at 5:30. If this is not the case, we will go on working this afternoon until we have finished the agenda of today.

Concerning the Bureau of Commission I, as you can find in the Report of the General Committee from yesterday, you will find that for Commission I the Chair is from Austria and it is me, accompanied by two Vice Chairpersons, the first Vice Chairperson is Mr Sur Juan from Indonesia and the second Vice Chairperson is Ms Astrid Yacobs from Germany.

What I have announced also is that, after the meetings of Commission I, there will be a Drafting Committee with the following members: Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines and Turkey. The meetings of the Drafting Committee will be announced later on.

So, there is also the need to have one person chairing the Drafting Committee, so I would like to ask the different groups to let us know, by the end of today's meeting, who will be the country chairing this Drafting Committee of Commission I.

With this, I would like to conclude with my introductory remarks and turn to the first item of today's Agenda, which is a very new item to Commission I.

Substantive and Policy Matters

Questions de fond et de politique générale

Cuestiones de fondo y de política

Regional Conferences

Conférences régionales

Conferencias regionales

11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:

11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:

11. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de:

11.1 Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (26-30 April 2010) (C 2011/21)

11.1 Rapport de la 31^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (26-30 avril 2010) (C 2011/21)

11.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (26-30 de abril de 2010) (C 2011/21)

CHAIRPERSON

As you all know, the Regional Conferences now have the status of Governing Bodies and, therefore, we have the discussion of the Reports of the Regional Conferences here in the FAO Conference.

The FAO Council last April was dealing with the financial matters of the Regional Conferences. We are now dealing with the policy matters and I want to immediately go into the first Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place from 26-30 April 2010. It will be a pleasure for me to ask his Excellency Emilio Kieswetter, Minister for Agricultural Development of Panama, to join me here at the podium and present his report.

Sr. Emilio José KIESWETTER (Panamá)

En nombre de los países de América Latina y del Caribe es un honor y un placer para mí estar aquí en esta oportunidad para presentar ante la Conferencia de la FAO los resultados de la Trigésima Primera Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC/31, por sus siglas en inglés).

Dicha Conferencia fue realizada en la ciudad de Panamá, República de Panamá, del 26 al 30 de abril de 2010, con la presencia de 28 delegaciones y 20 observadores. El Informe Final incluye un resumen de las principales conclusiones y recomendaciones para la atención de esta Conferencia, para la atención del Consejo y para los Países Miembros de la región. Igualmente incluye un informe detallado de la Conferencia, un Informe del Comité Técnico y 11 anexos.

En referencia al tema de la Agenda denominado “Asuntos Planteados en la Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria” y en el Trigésimo Sexto Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción (PIA), con inclusión de la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas, la Conferencia Regional señaló que antes de tomar decisiones sobre el proceso de descentralización basadas exclusivamente en criterios de reducción de costos y logro de economías, debía evaluarse el desempeño de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y enfatizó la importancia de mantener la presencia de la FAO en todos los países de la región y reforzar los grupos de profesionales y las capacidades técnicas en la Oficina Regional y en las Oficinas Sub-regionales.

En lo que respecta al tema de la Agenda sobre el establecimiento de un solo Centro de Servicios Compartidos para todo el mundo, la Conferencia Regional estimó que el proceso de evaluación sobre los cambios en los Centros de Servicios Compartidos (CSC) requería ulteriores reflexiones y la incorporación de criterios adicionales a los aspectos de costos.

En el tema de la Agenda sobre Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSAM), la Conferencia Regional sugirió que la iniciativa “América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre 2025”, podría apoyar la comunicación de la región con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en los períodos entre sesiones, ofreciendo la base para un proceso participativo de distintos actores de la región. Esto sería en el seno del Comité reformado el cual tiene también un carácter multi-sectorial y con pluralidad de agentes. Sería así mismo, un importante canal de comunicación para lograr la participación de los países más vulnerables y con mayores problemas de inseguridad alimentaria, especialmente los pequeños países insulares del Caribe.

En relación al tema del seguimiento a la iniciativa “América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre 2025”, la Conferencia Regional reiteró su apoyo a esta, destacando su papel potencial para la movilización internacional de recursos para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. Se recomendó que esta iniciativa constituyera un vínculo preferente entre el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y la Conferencia Regional.

En cuanto a la presentación de informes y propuestas para las Sub-regiones del Caribe, América Central y América del Sur, la Conferencia Regional indicó que la Sub-región de Centro-américa, México y República Dominicana solicitó la incorporación de México a la Sub-región, y que la misma pasaría a denominarse Sub-región Meso-americana.

Solicitó que la sede de la FAO en Guatemala tuviera el nivel de Representación Permanente. Y señaló que en la región, en la Oficina Regional de Santiago de Chile hubiera un solo equipo multi-disciplinario que incorporaría el equipo multi-disciplinario de América del Sur. Las funciones de Representante Regional Adjunto serían revisadas y solamente acumularía las de Representantes de la FAO en Chile.

Después de las discusiones sobre la organización de la Conferencia y la composición de las delegaciones, la Conferencia Regional recomendó que las delegaciones que se acrediten para las futuras conferencias bienales incorporen a los distintos Ministerios y organismos relacionados con las diversas competencias del mandato de la FAO incluyendo agricultura, ganadería, pesca, bosques, agua y medio ambiente, desarrollo rural y desarrollo social, así como también al menos un representante de la sociedad civil de alguno de estos sectores. También recomendó que en adelante pudieran realizarse reuniones sub-regionales del Comité Técnico con mayor antelación a la Conferencia Regional.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr. Minister for your very comprehensive and good presentation. I would like to turn now to the floor, and draw up a Speakers List. I see Argentina, so may I give the floor to Argentina, please.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

En primer lugar, la delegación Argentina agradece y felicita a Panamá por haber hospedado el 31.º Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que fue muy importante para nuestra región.

En segundo lugar, la delegación Argentina desea reiterar su satisfacción por ser el país anfitrión del 32.º Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que se realizará en Buenos Aires del 26 al 30 Marzo de 2012.

Asumimos esa responsabilidad conscientes del rol que les cabe a las Conferencias Regionales como Órganos Rectores de la FAO, y comprometemos nuestros esfuerzos para que la próxima reunión sea un éxito. Esta conferencia se realizará bajo condiciones particularmente alentadoras para América Latina y el Caribe, ya que por primera vez la FAO será conducida por un Director General originario de nuestra región.

Hacemos propicia esta oportunidad para reiterar al Doctor José Graziano da Silva nuestras felicitaciones por su exitosa elección.

Finalmente, comprometemos nuestra disposición para continuar trabajando con la FAO a fin de asegurar que la Conferencia Regional de 2012 resulte en aportes y decisiones sustantivas que contribuyan a la erradicación del hambre.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brazil)

Quiero agradecer a nuestro Presidente, y a la amabilísima acogida que nos dio el pueblo de Panamá durante la Conferencia Regional. Quisiera también agradecer a la distinguida Representante de Argentina por las amables palabras acerca de la elección del Doctor José Graziano da Silva. Además deseo recordar que hemos discutido sobre algo muy importante desde un punto de vista simbólico durante esa Conferencia. Yo tuve el placer de ser el relator y de trabajar junto con el Ministro sobre el tema de adecuar, después de 66 años, el nombre de la Organización en español a los nombres en los otros idiomas. Este tema está en la pauta de esta Conferencia. No es un tema menor y es un tema simbólico importante, ya que en primer lugar viene la alimentación y después la agricultura como es reconocido en todos los otros idiomas.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any further requests for the floor? Since there are none, I would like to conclude this agenda item, saying that the Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the particular recommendations made in the report and also expressed in the presentation by the Minister of Panama.

With this I would like, if there are no further requests for the floor, to conclude the item on the Regional Conference.

I see Argentina again.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Nos gustaría que en el Comité de Redacción dentro de sus conclusiones se hiciera alguna referencia sobre Conferencia Regional que tendrá lugar en Argentina en el año 2012.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Argentina, I had forgotten to date it because you made the intervention in your presentation. Thank you very much. It will be noted and it will be taken on board in the Drafting Committee.

With this, I would like to conclude the Item of the Regional Conference of Latin America.

11.2 Report of the 26th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (3-7 May 2010)
(C 2011/22 Rev.1)**11.2 Rapport de la 26^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (3-7 mai 2010)** (C 2011/22 Rev.1)**11.2 Informe del 26.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (3-7 de mayo de 2010)** (C 2011/22 Rev.1)**CHAIRPERSON**

Now I would like to turn to the next Report, which is the Report of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa. May I ask His Excellency Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Angola to join me at the podium.

M. Alfonso Pedro CANGA (Angola)

Madame la Présidente, Illustres Membres, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un grand honneur et un réel plaisir pour moi de présenter au nom de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique les résultats issus des travaux de la Vingt-sixième Conférence régionale qui s'est tenue à Luanda, République de l'Angola, du 3 au 7 mai 2010.

La Conférence a enregistré la participation de 125 délégués de 35 pays de la région Afrique dont 17 ont été représentés au niveau ministériel. Il y avait aussi la présence de 13 Observateurs internationaux. Le Rapport final préparé à la suite de la Conférence comprend un Résumé des conclusions et recommandations de la Conférence, ainsi que d'un Rapport détaillé des 10 Appendices.

En ce qui concerne le Point de l'ordre du jour sur les questions découlant du Sommet mondial de la Sécurité alimentaire et de la Trente-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO, notamment la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) y compris le Réseau des bureaux décentralisés, la Conférence régionale a:

approuvé la vision proposée pour la structure et le fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés;

exprimé son point de vue sur les critères de couverture de pays formulés dans le PAI qui étaient théoriquement acceptables mais peu pratiques, particulièrement dans le cas de l'Afrique. Les mesures introduites par la Direction générale de la FAO étaient considérées comme une démarche efficace pour résoudre le déficit structurel dans le budget du Réseau des représentations de la FAO.

Elle a recommandé que:

les besoins spéciaux de l'Afrique soient pris en compte et qu'un fort réseau des Bureaux nationaux soit renforcé. Ce qui est essentiel pour faire face aux besoins des pays;

l'accréditation multiple pour les Bureaux nationaux de la FAO ne serait pas convenable pour les pays africains qui avaient des besoins urgents et pressants d'aide et d'appui ciblés;

la FAO devrait maintenir, et possiblement augmenter, le nombre de Bureaux nationaux dans la région;

les Bureaux décentralisés soient renforcés à travers des ressources financières ainsi que techniques et qu'il y ait une meilleure formation pour le personnel travaillant dans ces Bureaux;

les critères pour la sélection et désignation pour les postes de Représentants de la FAO soient revus périodiquement sur base de l'évolution des besoins des pays, et que

des dispositions soient prises lors des futures Conférences régionales pour donner plus d'espace aux présentations des pays et aux échanges d'informations.

Sur la Réforme du Comité pour la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), la Conférence a :

appuyé la proposition pour la création d'un Groupe *ad hoc* de pilotage régional en appui à la Réforme du CSA à être dirigé par la présidence permanente de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, qui travaillerait en collaboration avec des membres volontaires; et a

exprimé sa préoccupation quant au besoin d'améliorer la coordination entre les groupes nationaux, sous-régionaux et régionaux et a recommandé que le Groupe de pilotage traite de cette question.

À la suite de plusieurs délibérations sur l'appui de la FAO à la mise en œuvre accélérée du PDDAA, la Conférence régionale a :

recommandé que la FAO continue et intensifie son appui à la Commission de l'Union africaine, à l'Agence de planification et de coordination du NEPAD et aux Communautés économiques régionales;

Elle a recommandé que la FAO :

renforce la capacitation institutionnelle et humaine, et spécialement dans le développement des programmes d'investissements post-compact et les politiques sectorielles;

plaide en faveur de la mobilisation des ressources et du suivi pour assurer que les engagements déjà pris sont honorés;

dissémine des nouvelles technologies, des politiques et des stratégies adéquates pour assurer que les objectifs du PDDAA ne soient pas compromis;

intègre le PDDAA dans le processus de planification nationale et renforce les préoccupations liées aux questions du genre dans les processus Compact et post-Compact du PDDAA;

suive et évalue l'atteinte des objectifs du PDDAA de Maputo, y compris l'allocation budgétaire de dix pour cent à l'agriculture et au développement rural, et qu'elle

facilite la Coopération Sud-Sud pour améliorer les interventions post-Compact.

A la suite des délibérations sur les implications des changements climatiques sur la sécurité alimentaire et la gestion des ressources naturelles en Afrique, la Conférence régionale a recommandé que la FAO :

collabore avec les Gouvernements des Pays membres dans le développement des programmes de renforcement institutionnel et dans la sensibilisation, incluant l'intégration de connaissances indigènes pour aider les communautés rurales à comprendre et à faire face aux changements climatiques et sa relation avec la sécurité alimentaire;

développe des modèles de prévision, des politiques et stratégies nationales et régionales pour la mitigation du changement climatique;

fournisse l'accès aux facilités disponibles telles que le crédit-carbone;

établisse des systèmes de suivi des données;

examine la possibilité de fournir un appui technique et un renforcement des capacités dans le transfert et la diffusion des technologies ainsi que la prise en compte des questions liées aux genres, et qu'elle

facilite la convocation d'une réunion ministérielle spécifique pour discuter de l'impact des changements climatiques et leur mitigation.

Sur d'autres questions, la Conférence a :

approuvé la Déclaration de Luanda où il a été décidé d'honorer l'engagement de la Déclaration de Maputo, les décisions sur la sécurité alimentaire et l'agriculture des Sommets de l'Union africaine sur l'eau et l'agriculture en 2004 et 2005, l'agriculture pour le développement économique en 2009, et sur la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique en décembre 2006;

reconnu les activités remarquables réalisées par la FAO en Afrique, l'engagement et les efforts personnels du Directeur général de la FAO, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, pour améliorer le niveau

nutritionnel et la production agricole en Afrique et pour lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté afin d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, et elle a

décidé d'honorer le Directeur général de la FAO, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, et a recommandé la soumission d'une proposition à la Conférence de la FAO pour créer un Prix de la sécurité alimentaire en son nom.

Finalement, je voudrais vous informer que le Gouvernement de la République du Congo a bien voulu accueillir la Vingt-septième session de la Conférence régionale pour la FAO en 2012.

Je vous remercie Madame, merci.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Minister Canga for your presentation. I would like now to turn to the floor and ask who would like to take the floor on the report of the Regional Conference for Africa. Ghana, please.

Ms Evelyn Anita STOKES HAYFORD (Ghana)

I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for his Report, and also, through him, to extend to his Government thanks for their hospitality and the very professional way in which this meeting was held in Angola. Every attendee has so far commended the Angolan Government for their hospitality, and for their help in the organization of this Conference. I want him to understand that it is very much appreciated and to thank his Government.

Also, for this Report that has been prepared, we thank the organizers and we are very grateful.

M. Laurent dit Diandioua COULIDIATI (Burkina Faso)

Merci, Madame la Présidente. La délégation du Burkina Faso remercie l'Angola pour l'accueil de la Vingt-sixième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique du 3 au 7 mai 2010. Cette Conférence a connu un grand succès, comme l'ont relaté les Ministres africains de l'Afrique de l'agriculture qui ont participé à cette Conférence.

Aussi, un grand merci pour Monsieur le Ministre de l'Agriculture qui a été un des acteurs principaux pour la préparation de cette Conférence. Aussi, nous apprécions positivement la qualité du Rapport et, plus précisément, nous voulons soutenir la recommandation relative à l'institution par la FAO d'un Prix Jacques Diouf sur la sécurité alimentaire, en reconnaissance du bilan de son passage à la tête de cette grande institution. Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente.

Ms Brave Rona NDISALE (Malawi)

I also want to join my colleagues in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Angola, for this wonderful Report. Malawi would want to associate itself with the outcome of this Report. In particular, that the Report actually has highlighted very critical issues in agriculture and food security that are focusing on which priority areas, vis-à-vis the African Union and regional economic communities, and hence adding value to critical issues addressing food and security issues in our Member Nations. So we would want to associate ourselves to this very very important Report and its recommendations.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Malawi. Are there any further requests from the floor?

If not, I would like to thank the Minister for this precise Report. The Conference endorses this Report and we also take note of its quality, and the fact that it deals with the priorities of the region and addresses the food security issues. We also take note of the appreciation expressed for the hospitality offered.

With this I would like to conclude this item.

I would kindly ask delegates if they have written statements, to give them to the Secretariat for the benefit of the interpreters.

With this Minister, I would like to thank you very much for your presentation and would like to conclude the item.

11.3 Report of the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (13-14 May 2010)
(C 2011/23)

11.3 Rapport de la 27^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (13-14 mai 2010) (C 2011/23)

11.3 Informe del 27.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (13-14 de mayo de 2010) (C 2011/23)

CHAIRPERSON

Now I would like to move further on, to the third item under agenda item 11, which is the report of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe, which took place in Armenia from the 13-14 May 2010. As the Agricultural Minister of Armenia could not take part in this meeting, I would like to ask Mr. Hans-Jörg Lehmann, Minister, Permanent Representation of Switzerland, one of the Vice-Chairs of the meeting to come to the podium and present the report.

Mr Hans-Jörg LEHMANN (Switzerland)

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour for me to present the salient points of the Report of 27th FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in Yerevan, Armenia on 13 and 14 of May 2010.

I will limit myself to the conclusions of the Regional Conference, that relate to its new role with our Governing Bodies, in ensuring synergy between the FAO programme in priority areas at regional level and global strategic objectives.

The final Report includes a Summary of the Main Recommendations, as well as eight Appendices.

With reference to the agenda item on “Matters arising from the World Food Summit on Food Security and the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action”, including Decentralized Office Network, the Regional Conference:

first requested that serious consideration be given to FAO’s fully-fledged presence in some of the countries in the region. This would include Kyrgyzstan and an Assistant FAOR position in the Republic of Moldova.

expressed its full satisfaction with the efficient work of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, which are both in Budapest. It also suggested giving due consideration to the idea that the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe should merge, in order to enhance efficiency and savings.

During the debate on the agenda item “The Role of FAO Regional Conference in the reformed committee on World Food Security”, the Regional Conference first welcomed the new opportunities for regional level consultations, but stressed that there was no need to create new or parallel structures to facilitate this dialogue

took note of the proposal of the Chair of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development to serve as a focal point between the Regional Conference and CFS.

Regarding the “Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-2011 and areas of priority action for the European Region for the following biennium” the Member Nations at the ERC suggested that a more detailed breakdown of the proposed priority activity for each Strategic Objective be given and further dialogue be carried out between the Secretariat and the Executive

Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), and that the ECA serves as the formal inter-session forum.

The Regional Conference debated the “Summary Report of the Recommendation of FAO Regional Bodies” and the “Main Conclusions and Recommendation of the 36th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture” and urged the specialized regional commission to convene their future sessions in line with the Regional Conference for Europe in order to allow for priority actions to be identified and submitted to FAO Governing Bodies in a timely manner.

encouraged all countries in the European and Central Asia Region to join the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EUFGMD).

endorsed the proposal of the European Commission on Agriculture that the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture liaise with the Chair of the ERC and the Regional FAO Representative for Europe and Central Asia during the inter-session period

During the Ministerial Round table on “Policy Response to Challenge in Agriculture and Rural Development in the European and Central Asia Region”, the Regional Conference underlined that short-term policy measures to tackle the global financial and economic crisis should not displace reform policies for increasing the market orientation and mechanisms of agricultural policy.

recognized the importance of regional cooperation and exchange of experience, and recommended that FAO support efforts to share experiences of both positive and negative policy outcomes and measures that have been put in place to alleviate the impacts of the financial and economic crisis.

urged Governments to continue reforms aimed at improving farmers’ access to markets, including credits. It also recognised that good governance is another factor in improving enabling environments. This includes the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure.

We are also looking forward to preparing the next European Regional Conference, together with the Government of Azerbaijan, which has graciously offered to host the 28th Session of the European Research Commission.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to our Regional ADG, Fernanda Guerrieri, for their support of our group and also to their staff. We do really appreciate their work. I would also like to thank the Chair of the European Regional Conference, who is not able to be with us today.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Lehmann, I would like to thank you for your report.

I would like to draw also to the attention of all of the participants that within the Regional Conference, where I could take part luckily, there was also a request to merge the two offices, the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and also the Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe for a more effective management. This would also help medium-term financial savings. I would like to ask the floor to also give attention to that while making their statements.

I see the European Union, Distinguished delegate of Hungary, please.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The Regional Conference is a unique opportunity to discuss priorities and challenges from a regional perspective. The excellent organization of the Regional Conference for Europe by the Armenian Government, for which we would like to thank the Armenian Government, as well as the preparatory meeting in Budapest on 23–24 March 2010 made it possible for us to focus on the substantive issues of our region. Unfortunately, the much-appreciated results of the preparatory meeting in Budapest had not been incorporated into the documents in preparation. It is of importance that the meetings of

specialized regional commissions are scheduled so as to provide input for the Regional Conferences. Timely documents are vital for an efficient and well-informed debate. It is important that for the forthcoming meeting in Baku in 2012, documents are diffused well in advance. This will enrich the final policy recommendations.

The successful implementation of the ongoing FAO Reform is essential for good regional results. We note an improvement in efficiency at the Regional Conference, for example, the main recommendations of the Conference are summarized and addressed to Governments and the FAO, respectively. However, much remains to be done to further increase and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Decentralised Offices Network. We expect the Regional Conference to have a full discussion of the FAO network based on detailed inventory of the present structure, staffing, funding and reporting. Culture Change is essential. An effective rotation of staff between FAO Headquarters and FAO Decentralised Offices is also important to reinforce technical cooperation assistance provided by Decentralised Offices.

The Regional Conference endorsed the creation of the one Global Shared Services Centre (SSC) in Budapest. The financial details and explanations provided by the Secretariat at the Hundred and Forty-first Session of the Council are completely in line with that decision.

To ensure global food security and nutrition, regional activity must be flexible and follow developments in the reformed Committee on World Food Security.

The present FAO activities in the region are relevant for Member States' food security and economic development. However, today there is a different lack of prioritisation. For example, it is impossible to ascertain that resources have been used in the most possible efficient way. As Member States, we need to work together to give the Organization clear indications for priorities for the coming biennium, keeping in mind that what has been prioritised in one biennium may come lower on the list next time around. The Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) should maintain a dialogue on this.

We support the merger of the two offices you mentioned, Madame Chair.

Regarding the priority-setting within FAO, in general the EU considers that priority should be given to activities involving advocacy, policy support, capacity-building, knowledge management and the provision of neutral fora for discussion. Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

Ms Karabaeva MADINA (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

On behalf of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, I would just like to underline the interest of Kyrgyzstan in opening an office with full representation of FAO there. We have a Sub-regional office in Ankara, but I think that having this office opened in our Republic would make FAO much more felt in our country. We hope that this Kyrgyzstan office will be a fully-mandated office of the FAO.

Among the UN Organizations, it is the only one that does not have an office in our country that is fully-mandated. We would like to have a fully-represented mandated office and we would like to have a decision from FAO on this issue.

Mr Zohrab V. MALEK (Armenia)

My answer is going to be impromptu to all those who spoke before me.

First, I would like to thank FAO, its Budapest office and I'll speak about three of those individuals who made it possible for the successful Regional Conference for Europe in Armenia. I'll name them by their first names Fernanda, the spokesperson for the Conference on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Armenia who could not be here, Hans Jörg, and also today's chair, Hedwig. They are all good friends of mine, and I hope they all enjoyed the Armenian conference and I wish the next conference to be as successful as this one was.

I also would like to comment on what the European Union representative Balázs from Hungary said as to what there was that was positive, and also those deficiencies and weaknesses which the Executive

Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture is already addressing to make the next European Regional Conference a better one.

I also would like to thank Kyrgyzstan for its contribution. My final thank you will be to all those Directors from Headquarters and all the staff, the Secretariat, the helpers who made that a very successful Conference. The reports will be better next time, I hope, in the next conference and I wish you luck.

Mr Bogdan BAZGA (Romania)

Thank you, Madame Chair. I speak on behalf of the Romanian delegation and would like to thank for the excellent and brief report regarding the Twenty-seventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe in Armenia.

The Romanian delegation would like to express their congratulations for the Government of Armenia for the excellent organization of this Regional Conference, but also underline and thank the excellent team of the Regional Office and the two Sub-regional offices of Europe and Central Asia of FAO.

Speaking on the Regional Conference, as already the Armenian delegation mentioned at Yerevan, we would like to offer to host the next Twenty-ninth Regional Conference for Europe in Romania in 2014, and we would like to thank you for all the best collaboration, especially to Madame Fernanda Guerrieri.

Ms Deniz BERBER (Turkey)

Thank you, Madame Chair. As indicated by the Hungarian delegation, we associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU. Here we just want to make some further remarks.

First of all, I would like to start by thanking Armenia for hosting this Regional Conference, and to the Office in Budapest for their support in this endeavour.

We would like to emphasize that our region has diverse geographical, cultural and agricultural characteristics, and differentiated but integrated approaches are required to meet the challenges related to food security and agricultural development. We see this diversity as richness and strength, which provides excellent opportunities to contribute to its agricultural development and global food security. The agriculture sector in this region must be supported in an integrated manner so that it adapts to climate change.

Regarding livestock issues, we need to focus on rangeland management, feed and fodder production and animal genetic resources in an integrated manner. Other areas that need more attention include promotion of sustainable crop production, water resource use efficiency, no-till systems, extension and consultation services.

In the future, the Regional Conference must increase its emphasis on issues related to fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, including the work of its related subsidiary bodies.

We all believe in the importance of the strengthened inter-sessional work and, in this regard, we value very much the role of informed consultations prior to the Regional Conference, especially as regards priority-setting processes.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our belief that a strengthened decentralized structure and field work is crucial to addressing the challenges of agricultural development in the region.

In this respect, I would like to mention that we shall continue supporting the Sub-regional office for Central Asia, which is based in Ankara, in its work on behalf of the region. In this regard, we are pleased to inform you that the first phase of the FDPP FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme is now about to be completed. This programme has enabled the creation of 27 projects of a national/multinational/regional nature for this region. They all contribute to the enhancement of field work in the region. We would like to reiterate our commitments to further strengthen this Programme in its new phase. Moreover, I am pleased to indicate that similar initiatives are now under discussion to support the activities in the field of forestry as well. We expect that these initiatives will encourage

and support cooperation among the countries of the region in ensuring sustainable agricultural and rural development for food security.

We believe that ownership and strong engagement of the countries are essential for the success, and we encourage collaboration efforts in this regard. Thank you.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russia) (Original language Russian)

Thank you Madame, Chairman. The Russian Federation would like to express its gratitude to the Representative of Switzerland for presenting the results of the European Conference, and also to express its gratitude and thanks for the great organization of the European Regional Conference in Armenia. We would also like to thank the Government of Armenia for that, and to the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for the great support offered in preparation for this Conference.

As was correctly stated by Turkey, the Regional Office has a great contribution and this can be seen in much of the work in the region. It is very active in carrying out pre-session consultations which enable all Members to better determine their priorities, to decide the aims and goals for their programmes and also to better use the existing resources.

Russia has fairly recently joined and began working with FAO. We are very pleased with the results that are being achieved by the Member Nations of the region in their regional fora. A great help in the work of the Regional Conference came from the European Commission on Agriculture. The European Region is the only region to have this kind of additional committee which is very good at working out strategy and tactics in agriculture to provide food security in the region. Our participation in this Commission enables us to widen the basis of cooperation with Europe and the Central Asian countries and I think that this should bring its fruit and its results. The issues of principal importance for the region have been very well developed for the future, which should enable us within the framework of this organization in the region to use the best possible technology, the best possible methods for agriculture and use the very best practices in the area of trade in agricultural products.

In this important period of Reform of the Organization, there are some positive examples that can be taken from the work of the European Regional Conference. We hope that in the future the link between Headquarters and the Regional Office will be ever-strengthened, and that it will provide two-way exchanges that will result in mutual enrichment stemming from best practices and best methods. Sharing between Headquarters and our region to receive useful information will definitely assist countries of the European region to improve their production.

Ms Fernanda GUERRIERI (Assistant Director-General, Regional Office for Europe)

Thank you, Madame Chairperson, and thank you to all of you. I have to say that for a Regional Office it is impossible to be successful without your cooperation. So thank you to the Government of Armenia and the European Union and all the partners that have helped us to organise this Regional Conference and not only that but they are active during the consultation process. We believe that there are two major changes in relation to the Regional Conference. First of all, the Regional Conference is now part of the Governing Bodies and your active participation at the appropriate level is crucial in order to give to the Regional Conference the decisional authority that it should have. Participation should be at the highest possible level in order to have the decisional capacity.

Second, now times are different, and the Regional Conference is just the final act of the process of consultation among Member Nations. We thank our constituency for appreciating the work of the informal consultation that we organized and the role of the European Commission for Agriculture as a sort of advisory body for the discussion of technical issues at Regional Conference. We plan to continue this mechanism of continuous consultation during the biennium before the next Regional Conference.

I would like to reply to our work colleagues from the delegation of Kyrgyzstan. In all the Regional Conferences next year we will have the team of Decentralization. We will present the division of the office and, together with the Member Nations. We will debate this vision, so it is difficult now to take a decision on the establishment of the Representation because it is a corporate issue.

We promise that we will debate this, and will analyse this issue seriously during the Conference and during the Decentralisation exercise.

Let me conclude. Thank you very much to this audience, and I would to pass the floor again to the Chairperson. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Fernanda. If there is no further request for the floor, I would like to sum up very briefly that the Conference endorses the Report of the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia, and took note of the various particular recommendations, including that of the Government of Romania to have the next Regional Conference in 2014, in Romania. The Conference also took note of the first positive phase of the Regional Office in Turkey, and the Partnerships Programme where the first phase has been finalised.

The Conference also noted all the comments concerning the future work of the Regional Conference for Europe and the European Commission on Agriculture functioning further as a technical cooperative body prior to the next Regional Conference. Note was also take of the plea for the active participation in the next Regional Conference at the highest possible level.

With this, I would like to conclude the item. Thank Mr Lehmann for his presentation.

Before coming to the next agenda item which is the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, I would like to say the following words. Mr. Luc Guyau, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, is unfortunately not able to be present here at this meeting but he has asked me to send his warmest regards to all the Chairs of the Regional Conferences.

11.4. Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (27 September - 1 October 2010) (C 2011/24)

11.4. Rapport de la 30^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (27 septembre – 1^{er} octobre 2010) (C 2011/24)

11.4. Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (27 de septiembre-1.º de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/24)

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to go to the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and ask Mr Jongjin Kim, Deputy Minister for Trade, Ministry for Food Agriculture, Forestries and Fisheries of Korea to come to the podium.

I would like to give the floor now to Mr Kim to present the Report of the Regional Conference for and the Pacific Asia.

Mr Jongjin KIM (Republic of Korea)

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Conference regarding the outcome of the Thirtieth Regional Conference which was held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September 1 October 2010.

The Regional Conference was attended by 28 delegations and 19 observers. The Final Report includes a Summary of the Main Recommendations, as well as a detailed Report and ten Appendices.

In reference to the agenda item on matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network, the Regional Conference welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), particularly those having an impact on Decentralization.

The Regional Conference recommended additional measures to further increase efficiency and productivity.

First, it requested further strengthening of the technical capacity of the Decentralized Offices to particularly ensure provision of adequate technical support to Country Offices. Second, it requested enhancing the capacity of the Decentralized Offices to provide timely responses to emergencies and disasters, and address investment issues. Third, it requested implementation of staff mobility and rotation policies, and fourth the development of a Decentralized Offices Network with effective linkages within the Organization, as well as with the concerned Governments, other UN System Organizations and development partners. The Conference requested FAO to take into account the above-mentioned recommendations in further elaborating the vision for the future.

With regards to the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Regional Conference encouraged effective involvement from civil society, as well as trade and industry. The Regional Conference welcomed efforts to establish closer linkages between the CFS and the Regional Conference. The Conference noted existing food security fora in the region and its preference that these be used to better connect CFS and the regional activities. Alternative options would require full resource implication analyses.

On other matters, the Regional Conference encouraged the Secretariat to seek feedback from Member Nations on its conduct, with a view to enhancing the organization and efficiency of future sessions, maximizing opportunities for exchange among Ministers and other delegates, and striking a balance between discussion of technical issues and programme and policy matters. The Regional Conference requested that additional human and financial resources be provided to Asia and the Pacific Region, in accordance with the magnitude of the challenges for achieving food security for the two-thirds of the world's hungry who live in the region, and that progress in this matter be reported at the 37th Session of the Conference.

After discussions on experiences on policy lessons from the region in dealing with the global food and financial crisis, the Regional Conference suggested that this matter be referred to the Committee on World Food Security for further high-level discussions.

On strengthening the linkages between technical commissions and the APRC, the Regional Conference agreed that the recommendations off the Regional Technical Commissions (RTCS) could be considered the regional priorities for the sub-sectors in which they were competent and the Regional Conference recommended that summary reports of the outcomes and recommendation of the sessions of the RTCs be made available to Member Nations prior to the FAO Regional Conference. The Conference also recommended that the schedules of RTC sessions should be adjusted to precede the FAO Regional Conference.

Considering the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 and the areas of priority actions for Asia and the Pacific Region for the following biennium, the Regional Conference recommended that a review of scheduling for future Regional Conference sessions, to ensure that adequate discussions and considerations could be made prior to the final deliberations and approval of the Programme of Work and Budget by the FAO Conference.

Finally, with respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Viet Nam has graciously offered to host the Thirty-first Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2012.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

Let me start by complementing the Secretariat for an excellent paper. Let me then congratulate the Republic of Korea for its generous hosting of the Conference last September 2010.

You will notice that in the Report of the Thirtieth APRC, we were talking about the implementation of the PWB 2010-2011, as the Chair has reported earlier. Obviously, that is now moot and academic because what we will be approving now is the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013.

While the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference has developed a regional priority framework, we were not able to discuss this fully during the Conference due to the limited time.

This leads me to my point which is, how can the Regional Conference become an effective FAO Governing Body if the process of discussing the regional PWB is disjointed? There is certainly a very large disconnect here, complicated by the fact that we only meet once in two years. The next APRC will be in 2012, hopefully in March.

At this Conference, we feel we should not be discussing PWB for 2012-2013 because we will have already approved it this week. We strongly feel that what we should be discussing at that time will be the next PWB, which will be in 2014-2015, because that will be approved at the 2013 FAO Conference.

If the Secretariat is serious about Decentralization and delegation of authority, the programming and budgeting process should be bottom-up rather than top-down.

We also believe that the process of preparing the Programme of Work should be country-driven rather than Headquarters-driven.

Since the Regional Conference will now be reporting to FAO Council through the Finance and Programme Committees, we will have to realign some items.

Allow me to illustrate one disparity here. The Committee on World Food Security, for example, recommended linkage between the CFS and the regions in 2010. However, no budgetary provision has been made for this in the 2011-2013 budget. If there is, I certainly cannot find it.

Finally, I would like to underline the Regional Conference decision on the Shared Services Centre.

At any rate we endorse the entire Report.

Thank you very much for your indulgence.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

Thank you, Madame Chair and, thank you Mr Kim, for your summary of the Report. Australia welcomes the increased profile of Regional Conferences in the decision-making processes of the FAO. Australia considers the Regional Conferences have a vital role to play in priority-setting and ensuring that regional concerns are reflected in the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. Australia emphasises the need to find increased efficiencies in the governance and work of the FAO, including in the Regional Offices and Decentralised Office Network. Identifying and addressing inefficiencies is critical to achieving enhanced effectiveness of the Organization, as prioritized in the Reform Process.

Australia supports the recommendation of the APRC that future budget and programme reports include indications of budget allocation and expenditure by regional result, and the progress on the utilisation of country programming frameworks regarding FAOs work at country level. Finally, Australia recognises the special needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, in light of their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Mr Dr. HERMANTO (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to congratulate the team for delivering a very comprehensive Report.

In particular, Indonesia supports the proposal to maintain the existence of the global Shared Services Centre in the Asia and Pacific Regional Office, in Bangkok, to help FAO field operations and emergency food programmes in Member Nations in need.

The Indonesian Delegation considers that the establishment of an SSC outside the Asia and Pacific region is not in line with the spirit of Decentralization of FAO. This position is supported by most Asian countries, and has been brought for consideration at this FAO Conference in Rome.

The Indonesian Delegation played a major role in improving the variety of strategic issues, that is FAO's focus on climate change adaptation, activity to reduce agricultural risks, priority in mitigation efforts, etc. FAO supports research and development to produce varieties that are more resistant and tolerant, and high productivity is essential.

FAO should mobilize funding from developed countries and the private sector to develop adaption, and request the Consultative Group of Agriculture Research International (CGIAR) to focus on producing break-through adaptation technologies levelling the production of rice.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russia Federation) (Original language Russian)

Madame Chair, as you know, as everyone knows, most of the Russian Federation is in Asia. Now Russia feels that it is essential to become a member of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, and that is the reason why we were present at the last session of that Regional Conference. This, I must say, made it possible to improve our integration in all of the working activities of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and the activities underway in that region at large. That also enabled us, as we see it, to provide some complementary additional information regarding the situation in the Asia Region at large.

Madame Chair, we are prepared to participate actively in the works of the Asia and Pacific Region. We applaud the results achieved at the last Regional Conference, and support the activities that are taken in the region. As such, we feel that at the next session of the APRC we can contribute in an even more substantial and important manner, especially with respect to the Presidency of the Russian Federation and the community.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Near East Region.

I would like to thank those who have prepared the Report and the summary thereof. Second of all, I would like to support this Report and all the recommendations and resolutions we find therein, I would also voice my full support to the statement made by the representative of the Philippines, in particular with respect to the Shared Services Centre in Bangkok.

Mr Hiroyuki KONUMA (Assistant Director-General, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)

Thank you, Madame Chair, and Mr Hyok Jin Kim, Deputy Minister and Chair of the APRC. Thank you for your very informative and summarized Report.

First of all, I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Member Nations in the region for their continued support of the FAO programme in Asia and the Pacific. We have been honoured to have a very important Regional Conference in the Republic of Korea last year. It was a very important Regional Conference, and it was, in fact the first time that a Regional Conference has played a role in an important Governing Body exercise and decision-making forum.

Due to some unfamiliarity with the proceedings, the programme was not well-balanced, and that actually created some imbalance in the discussions. We have been carefully preparing our new programme for the next Regional Conference, and we will certainly resolve the shortfalls. We will consult on the next Regional Conference programme with each of the Member Nations so that your comments will be reflected to make sure that our agenda items are well-balanced.

The Asia and Pacific Region, as you are all aware, holds two thirds of the world's hungry and the region is most affected by the negative consequences of climate change. The region is also very much affected by globalization and trade liberalization and day to day is facing the need for changes. They have opportunities and they have also negative consequences, so the support from FAO is becoming more and more important in many areas especially as regards increasing food prices.

Our PWB 2013-2014 will be presented at the next Regional Conference, as the Philippine delegation has indicated. Certainly this will maximise the forum to consult with Member Nations on resource allocations for the next biennium.

Also, the next biennium 2012-2013, even though we would have already started the next biennium at the time of the next Regional Conference, we still have room to make adjustments based on the comments from Member Nations. So next March, the Regional Conference will be able to you're your opinions and suggestions for adjustments to the biennium 2012-2013 PWB, as well as be in a position to establish our new priorities for resource allocation for the 2014-2015 PWB.

Regarding country priority-setting, as you know we have been working on how we can best identify setting up country priorities in each country. The country programme framework exercise has started and also we are now in the first country connecting priority with the PWB exercise, global corporate organization result, regional result and country result. We are in a process, and this matter will be further discussed in a different forum during this Conference.

As regards connecting CFS with Regional Office activities, as you know the Regional Office has been playing a very important role in three different fora. One is that FAO is chairing a regional Working Group on Poverty and Hunger in which more than ten UN Agencies and donor communities and NGOs are participating. Nearly 30 Agencies are members, and that is the forum where we are maximising our consultative and collaboration efforts.

We also recently established between FAO, the Asian Development Bank and IFAD, a regional partnership framework which the World Bank, WFP, and ICARDA have joined and we are now seeking further membership from different donors, partners and NGOs. So this will be another forum where we are expanding and in which FAO will play a facilitating role through the Bangkok Regional Office in its future promotion. We are also promoting collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and other regional organizations. So we are on track as regards collaboration with the CGIAR, agricultural research is very important, particularly now that rice and wheat growth have stagnated. We have established very close linkages with APARI, the Asian Pacific Agriculture Research Institution, through which we are promoting further collaboration endeavours and ICARDA are also very close partners.

So I will stop here, but again, we are very much committed to perform our services to meet the needs of our Member Nations. As you know, the Decentralization is being carried out without resource increases, but our staff are very much committed to increment our duties and also our services.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your explanations. If there are no further comments, I would like to draw the following summary.

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of all pertinent comments and recommendations. If there are no further interventions, I can conclude with this agenda item.

11.5. Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (4-8 December 2010) (C 2011/25)

11.5. Rapport de la 30^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (4-8 décembre 2010) (C 2011/25)

11.5. Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (4-8 de diciembre de 2010) (C 2011/25)

CHAIRPERSON

I now turn the next Item, Item 11.5 which is the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East, from 4-8 December 2010. I would like to ask Dr Ali Elhag Ali Alloba, the Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of the Sudan, to join me at the podium.

Mr Mohammed Ali ELHAG M ALI ALLOBA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Regional Conference for the Near East it is an honour and pleasure for me to be here today and to have the opportunity to address the Conference regarding the outcomes of the Thirtieth Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East which was held in Khartoum from 4 to 8 December 2010.

The Regional Conference was attended by 17 delegations and 13 observers. The Final Report includes a Summary of the Main Recommendations, as well as a detailed Report and several Appendixes.

In reference to the agenda item on matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security, and implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, including the Decentralised Offices network, the Regional Conference urged FAO for efforts to further strengthen the Decentralised Offices network.

The Regional Conference also endorsed the overall vision for the Decentralisation. After discussing the Role of the FAO Regional Conference in the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Regional Conference urged the CFS Secretariat in close collaboration with the FAO Regional Offices and other relevant United Nations Agencies to organise a Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition for the Near East, to be held prior to the 37th Session of the CFS.

After the discussion on the implementation of initiatives to offset soaring food prices and global financial and economic crises in the Near East, the Regional Conference requested FAO to provide technical assistance to Member Nations in updating their agricultural and food security and nutrition policies, including the creation of a food security monitoring system for soaring food prices, as well as for the establishment of regional forum on Food Security.

There were calls for a preparatory meeting for Near East countries to convene prior to the CFS session in order to reach a common consensus on regional food security issues, as well as request to support Member Nations capacity on agriculture water management and enhance cooperation on issues of regional dimensions. The Regional Conference also requested that FAO assist in developing guidelines on international land acquisition and foreign direct investment in agri-business, providing technical assistance to Member Nations in preparing strategies and action plans to address future upsurges of food prices, and in establishing a regional forum to continue the discussion of various issues related to investment in agriculture in the Near East Region, including information-sharing and building of a repository of best practices.

After discussing Transboundary Plant Pest and Diseases in the Near East with emphasis on Wheat Black Stem Rust, the Regional Conference requested FAO to continue providing technical assistance for developing national and regional interventions to monitor and control transboundary pest outbreaks, particularly the witch-broom disease which broke out recently in the southern part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also requested assistance in strengthening national human and institutional capacities in applying phytosanitary measures, and as well as in establishing an Early Warning System for the Near East on outbreaks of plant, pests and diseases, particularly the Wheat Black Stem Rust.

The Regional Conference reviewed the outcome of the recent sessions of the Agricultural and Land and Water Commission for the Near East, and requested FAO to provide technical assistance to Member Nations for sustainable water resources management. The Regional Conference received the outcome of the present session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, and requested FAO to continue providing technical support to enhance cooperation among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Kuwait by applying the Eco-system Approach to Fisheries. It also requested that FAO continue providing technical assistance to enable Member Nations to abide with international fish trade, stand against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and give due support to the establishment of a regional fisheries and management organisation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, as well as to the implementation of the regional project on Marine Resources Assessment Programme without further delay.

The Regional Conference received the outcome of the recent session of the Desert Locust Commission in the Central Region, and requested FAO to continue to support capacity-building at national and regional levels in the field on Desert Locust control activities.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your comprehensive report.

I would like to give the floor now to first Egypt, Syria and then Oman.

So first I would like to give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Egypt.

Mr Magdi Anwar HASSANEIN (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

With regard to the Khartoum Conference, I would like to welcome the Report that was made and make the following comments.

The region has been going through historic changes, particularly in certain countries, among which Egypt is featured. We would have liked the Secretariat of FAO, particularly Headquarters, to take into

consideration these changes as well as the progress achieved along with other institutions and agencies at the international level. However that has not been done, at least not in a satisfactory manner.

We have to review the priorities of development and growth in a certain number of countries in the Middle and Near East, and these countries have moved to a re-establishment of their priorities by putting food security at the head of those priorities. This is particularly the case in Egypt.

Secondly, in its conclusion the Regional Conference decided to hold a Regional Conference on agricultural development and agricultural investment in order to ensure food security. This issue was raised at the last meeting of the Council by our group, and we were promised by the Secretariat of the Council at that time this action would be implemented and the Conference would take place last May. However that conference was not held on the promised date, and afterwards we found out that it may be held at the beginning of September.

So we called on the Secretariat to give us precise information on the date of that meeting, that regional meeting. We would also like the conclusions of the current commission to specify this in its Report. We hope that FAO will have managed to resolve the issue of financing that meeting by then.

Thirdly, we would like the Secretariat of the Organization to exert the necessary efforts to advise on the evolution of the Regional Offices. In its report, it says that FAO may lose its comparative advantage in countries in the region, which would enable other organizations of the region to take on activities which are under the competence of FAO. Obviously, the main issue that we are talking about here is food security.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the countries of the Near East. The Egyptian delegate mentioned certain points that I also wanted to mention.

I should first like to welcome the Report that was given to us with regard to the Regional Conference, and to thank our brother country Sudan for hosting the Regional Conference. I want to make a few comments on different points, particularly decentralization and priorities in strengthening the Regional Offices in order to enable countries to deal with the challenges with which they are confronted. This should not only be done on the basis of financing.

A recommendation addressed to FAO for presenting technical assistance to countries has come through, and I would like to recall the holding of the meeting that was promised by Egypt. We were supposed to be having a regional meeting before the Committee on Food Security to talk about agricultural investments, and that meeting has not yet taken place. We still do not even know when or where this meeting might be held.

With regard to technical assistance on the sustainable use of land and water, this is a very important issue. I would like to echo Egypt in saying that the recent changes in the region should be taken into account by FAO when it establishes its programme for the next period.

Mr Saoud AL-HABSI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Madame Chair, for giving me the floor. The Sultanate of Oman should like to thank the Republic of Sudan and the Minister of Agriculture particularly, for holding this Regional Conference.

The Sultanate of Oman supports the conclusions and the recommendations in the Report, particularly the need to provide technical assistance to countries in the region, to establish policies regarding food security, and to establish national and regional strategies to enable FAO to achieve its objectives, which are overcoming poverty and hunger in the world.

Mr Saad AL-OTAIBI (Regional Representative for Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa) (Original language Arabic)

Firstly, I should like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Government of Sudan for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference and for the hospitality we received. The next Regional Conference will be held in Iraq at the beginning of the next year. The last Regional Conference was held in December and the next one, as I said, we hope is going to be in Iraq in February of next year.

So the period between the two Regional Conferences will be quite short, but we do have numerous recommendations and conclusions with regard to the Regional Conference and that will feature in the next Report. We are in agreement that there have been changes and developments in the region. Certain meetings have already been held with the Ministers of those countries, and we have already determined some dates, for instance the 25th of July there will be a meeting to discuss the recent changes in development in order to see what FAO can do through the Regional Office.

With regard to priorities, you all know that this year, on the basis of the last Regional Conference, we adopted regional priorities which will be reviewed at the next Regional Conference to ascertain what progress has been made.

I am very pleased to announce that we have documents available in Arabic, French and English, and these documents will be available to you at the entry of this room. With regard to agricultural investment and the seminar which is supposed to be held in conformity with the recommendations, we are planning this seminar despite the financial difficulties that we are facing. We have not given up on the idea of holding this seminar. So the seminar on agricultural investment in the region will be held soon. We are aware of the importance of that recommendation, and we are working to implement it and to organize a regional seminar on that topic.

Regarding the Evaluation of the Regional Office for the Near East, as you know there was a lot of discussion on that in a closed meeting with the Member Nations of the previous Regional Office. An in camera discussion of the Evaluation was put forward to the Finance Committee. The Report was reviewed and certain recommendations for follow-up work were adopted, including the establishment of a follow-up committee to implement the recommendations of the Evaluation. This committee will be putting forward a plan for implementation of the recommendations, and an evaluation of that will be presented at the next Regional Conference.

Regarding the regional workshop or seminar which should have preceded the meeting of the Committee on Food Security, we are working together with the members of that Committee. There was an official request by Egypt presented to the Committee on Food Security to emphasize that this regional meeting should be held. We certainly will be proceeding with arrangements to convene that meeting. We will soon be providing information about that, in the next regional meeting, and we hope that it will be a very useful seminar with useful results. Thank you.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

The North America region can accept the Reports of the Regional Conferences. We have seen some progress on behalf of the groups in prioritizing regional needs, and encourage further work along these lines. As finances become tighter, better prioritization of FAO's work by its Members is an imperative to the success of this Organization.

As many of you know, there is no North America Regional Conference. However we, like all the Member Nations of this Organization, recognize the importance of formally providing input regarding the Organization's programmatic priorities. To meet this objective, representatives of the North American region met in Washington, D.C. last November to agree on a common set of programmatic and technical priorities. As we have done before, we would like to share these priorities which are:

adopting innovative practices such as zero tillage, improvements to food safety throughout the value chain, and wildfire management;

understanding and implementing the science-based standards and guidelines developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which govern international trade in food, fisheries and aquaculture;

adapting the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors to climate change, and mitigating their climate change impacts;

developing and adopting improved agricultural products that increase agricultural production, including those derived from biotechnology, and implementing science-based regulatory systems that facilitate the safe development and propagation of these products;

improving the quality of statistics, data, information and information-sharing systems concerning agriculture, fisheries, forests, food security, and nutrition;

adopting practices that reduce post-harvest losses and improve post-harvest utilization for agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture; and last

developing trade, investment, extension and land tenure policies that support farmers, forest communities, and fishers, and that integrate food security considerations.

North America's priorities were contained in a letter signed by the Permanent Representatives of Canada and the United States, and delivered to the Hundred and Fortieth Session of the Council last November. However, they did not receive the level of consideration we had expected.

Therefore, we request that FAO and all the representative Member Nations accord these priorities your full consideration. We also note that the North America Regional Group will propose a process that would allow us to provide our input on FAO priorities within the context of the Programme of Work and Budget.

As noted above, we understand the existence of financial constraints. Therefore, at this time we are not proposing an official North American Regional Conference.

We are willing to work with other Member Nations, the Bureau, and the Secretariat as we develop a process in which North America can provide such input. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States. I think the Conference noted very well your comments concerning the seven priority areas you have given, and the further actions requested. With this, I would like to conclude the item, if there are no other comments. This is not the case, so I would like to thank the Minister of the Sudan very much.

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Other Substantive and Policy Matters

Autres questions de fond et de politique générale

Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política

13. The State of Land and Water (C 2011/32)

13. État des ressources en terres et en eau dans le monde (C 2011/32)

13. El estado de las tierras y las aguas (SOLAW) (C 2011/32)

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the last item of our today's work which is the Agenda Item on the State of Land and Water which is Document C 2011/32 and I would kindly ask the Assistant Director-General, Mr Müller to introduce the item.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management And Environment Department)

Good afternoon. Thank you very much Chair, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my pleasure to introduce The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture.

This report is based on 17 technical papers, and don't worry, I don't want to present all of these technical papers, which were prepared under Strategic Objective F using our new Strategic Framework in FAO. This Report will be released at the end of 2011 and it will report on the availability and the state of land and water resources for food and agriculture at global and at regional level. The objective of this Report is to provide greater knowledge and awareness on the global status of land and water resources for agriculture, and related policy implications.

The output will be the Report “State of Land and Water,” but also a Website with national, regional and global databases, maps and graphs, so that you can have access from all over the world to much more information on the global status of land and water resources.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Muller for highlighting the Report of the State of the World’s Land and Water Resources. I would like now to turn to the floor to ask for interventions.

I see the European Union, so I would like to give the floor now to the European Union.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The background document to this Agenda Item, C 2011/32 on the State of Food, Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture, gives a very good overview of this issue. We thank the FAO for this document. It is a good example of how different departments and experts can work together. The status and trends of land and water resources for food and agriculture described in SOLAW provide a basis for designing and prioritizing regional programmes and financing to enhance sustainable management of land and water where it is most needed. In many areas, poor land and water management has contributed to loss of biodiversity, carbon storage and soil nutrition that result in water shortage and supply; the incidence of surface and ground water pollution due to pesticide use, nutrients access; and in irrigated dry lands, to salinisation of soils and ground water.

We need to pay attention to production systems facing water and land scarcity and related sustainability constraints, as well as national and global monitoring of such systems. Although large-scale land acquisitions, affect a small portion of arable land in any one country, most of the remaining arable land is often already used or claimed by local people and communities. While they may offer opportunities for investment and development, there is a risk that the rural poor could be evicted or lose access to land, water and other related resources.

We fully support the vertical global and national policy changes for improved land and water governance, favouring the adaption of more integrated sustainable land and water management. We are convinced that the Voluntary Guidelines under Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests will largely contribute to the solutions. At the end, we are looking forward to the fourth quarter of 2011 when, as it was stated by Mr Muller, the full Report will be available in all FAO official languages.

Thank you very much, Madame Chairperson.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

The United States welcomes the SOLAW analysis, and believes that countries should consider its findings and recommendations among the many factors informing their national water and land use policies.

We need integrated solutions to ensure the holistic management of land resources and fresh water as finite and vulnerable resources. The US Feed the Future initiative, through which the Obama administration has pledged 3.5 billion USD over three years to reduce global hunger and improve food security, is an important example of our commitment to address many of the issues highlighted in the report. It includes an emphasis on the cross-cutting issues of natural resources management and climate change.

In our work to improve global food security, the United States applies the principles of sustainable intensification, understanding the need to increase agriculture production while conserving the vital natural resources and eco-systems upon which so many livelihoods depend.

We look forward to receiving the full Report and considering the feasibility of the findings within the context of our ongoing efforts to promote sustainable natural resource management that includes water, land and food. Thank you.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia fully supports the appropriation of the Report and the Voluntary Guidelines for Land Use and also for the use of water resources. Moreover we consider that these problems of water are vitally important and should be among the issues of priority, second only to climate for agriculture to flourish. There must also be a rational use of water resources around the world.

Now this is one of the priority tasks facing all those in agriculture, and also facing many countries of the world.

But we have quite a complicated situation with regard to these Voluntary Guidelines on Land Use as we only have the English version to date. While many suggestions were made on changing it, it was very difficult to follow the issues to understand the final meaning of the recommendations contained therein.

I hope that very soon we will be able to better analyse that document and understand that, although the first project of the document certainly looks like it is going in the right direction, it should certainly ensure that we can have the most effective use of land resources currently available, and that access to them is provided for those who are carrying out agricultural production. That is why the Russian Federation considers this work very important. It supports its work, and intends to assist in developing this work on Voluntary, and perhaps even in the future, legally-binding, provisions within this area. Thank you.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Para nosotros es muy importante este tema. Está justo aquí mi amigo a la par Luiz Sérgio Oliveira, Ministro de Pesca y Acuicultura, que recordará muy bien la importancia que dimos al mismo tema, durante la Conferencia Internacional de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en el 2006, que se realizó en Porto Alegre. Ya desde ese momento teníamos muy claro que estas Directrices eran muy importante. Estamos muy contentos que hayan discusiones sobre las Directrices Voluntarias para el derecho a la tierra en los ámbitos nacionales. Creo que es muy importante mantener esto, así como lo tenemos en las Directrices Voluntarias para la Alimentación.

Apoyo lo que dijo el distinguido Representante de Rusia sobre el tema del agua que es fundamental y que no podemos tratar separadamente del tema de la tierra, porque los dos van juntos. Para la alimentación el agua es el primer alimento, y lo es también para la producción agrícola.

Sr. José Antónío CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Muy brevemente, siguiendo la línea mencionada por Brasil, quisiera recordar una de las sugerencias del Informe de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe en el sentido de que, al tiempo que se reconocen las acciones de la FAO para proveer el derecho a la alimentación, sugiere a la Conferencia la necesidad de impulsar el derecho a la tierra para favorecer una mayor equidad en su distribución.

Recordamos y consideramos que las Directrices Voluntarias para una Gobernanza Responsable de la Tierra irán en esa línea. Lo importante es lo que sugiere la Conferencia, es decir, impulsar el derecho a la tierra.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to add my congratulations to the authors of the SOLAW Report and to the various technical papers that underpin it. We consider this is a piece of work that demonstrates the value of inter-disciplinary teams who were involved in working together, and we look forward to the release of the final Report in the final quarter of 2011.

For us, the Report clearly outlines the challenges ahead to produce more food and improve rural livelihoods, while we maintain eco-system services and reconcile the use of land and water resources among the many, many competing uses.

We agree with the recommendation suggesting closer integration of policies, combined with strategic investment in sustainable land and water resources. New Zealand has been working in our own country, domestically, to address some of these challenges ourselves, so any work that comes from the FAO that can help us with that is greatly appreciated.

Sr. Ernesto António NOSTHAS (El Salvador)

Felicito y me uno a los comentarios positivos que se han dado para la elaboración del Informe SOLAW, y endoso y respaldo lo dicho por mis colegas de Brasil y Ecuador respecto al tema de la tierra.

Referente al tema, sin entrar en muchos detalles técnicos, si pudiese ser posible conocer si el Informe SOLAW, adscribe o recomienda algunas recomendaciones puntuales para mejorar el tema de productividad con menos recursos, específicamente el tema de producción agrícola en ambiente controlado, donde puede sí hacerse alguna gran inversión en infraestructura, pero se puede minimizar el impacto en agua y en uso del suelo.

Quisiera saber si hay recomendaciones puntuales en el Informe por una parte y agradecería, si fuera posible, contar con la presentación y no solamente con el documento por el impacto que causó en la mayoría de nosotros en el auditorio, ya que he constatado que en el sitio de la Conferencia no está disponible la presentación, solamente se encuentra publicado el documento en texto. Muchas gracias, y felicitaciones nuevamente por la calidad del Informe.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management And Environment Department)

I would like to address my reply on three points.

First of all, I would like to thank all the countries for the support expressed. This is a clear recognition that with this Report and the integration of land and water, we are going in the right direction and this is very, very useful guidance for us.

Second item, I was really happy to hear the word "priority" several times because, as we know, under the new Strategic Framework and Planning for FAO, we have to identify priority areas. If the integration of land and water and what we have presented is a priority, this is really very, very important because then we can better support the countries.

Item three is related to the Voluntary Guidelines. Again, thank you for having expressed support. These will be complex and challenging negotiations. However, based on what you have expressed, I think we can really together move forward. From my perspective, these Voluntary Guidelines are a contribution to the implementation of the "Right to Food." It is very clearly linked to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. There is a chapter on land in the guidelines on the Right to Food, and we really would like that these Voluntary guidelines, and even maybe later on legally-binding, but you have to decide, really fill a gap which is absolutely important in achieving food security. So, there is a clear link to the Right to Food, and for me this report on land and water is also a contribution. We will not achieve the Right to Food if we do not address land and water issues in an appropriate way.

There was a question expressed by El Salvador, and I would like to ask Mr Parviz Koohafkan, the Director of the Land and Water Division, who is fully versed on this matter.

Mr Parviz KOOHAFKAN (Director, Land and Water Division)

Of course, if you go into the details of the Report for which a major part is already available on the internet and on the SOLAW Website, you can see the regions and areas where investment for agriculture to boost agriculture production in a sustainable manner is already indicated. Where are the areas of scarcity, where are the areas of say, economic scarcity, physical scarcity, for example? Two years ago, we organized a conference in Libya for Africa. We identified a world of potential

investment in water, and discussed what we could do to combine, for example, energy provision, agriculture and food security with climate change. So, we began to have some idea as to the level of investment that was required, as well as the timeframe in which this investment could be put to effective use. These indications could obviously assist countries in decision-making.

Yes, the presentation is also available, and we could provide you with a copy.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for all these clarifications.

If there are no further comments from the floor, I would like to try to make my short summary on this item.

I have heard that this Report was supported by the Conference. There was also acknowledgement of the priority of integration of land and water. The third point is the importance of the work related to Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure comes, and their complementarity to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. This is my summary.

If you can agree, we can finish this Agenda item. This brings me to the end of today's work. I would like to tell you that we resume our work tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. sharp, here in this room, dealing with the methods which are in the agenda starting with the diverse reports of the Technical Committees, of which the first one will be the Committee on Commodity Problems and the second one will be the Committee on Agriculture and on SOFA.

I would like to remind you that at the beginning of the meeting, I had asked the delegates to advise me who would Chair the Drafting Committee because I have read out the members who will be represented in the Drafting Committee. I would like to ask you if you could give me the solution now. Who will be the Chair? I can read out again the members of the Drafting Committee which are the following: Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines and Turkey.

So could I kindly ask these delegations to consult on this matter, and if there is not a solution now, kindly present me a solution tomorrow morning at the beginning of our meeting at 9:30 a.m., if possible, if you can agree to this.

So if there are no further interventions, I would like to conclude our meeting today. Have a nice rest, and we see each other tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 17:19 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 19

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:19 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin – 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio – 2 de julio de 2011
SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
28 June 2011

The Second Meeting was opened at 09:47 hours
Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 47
sous la présidence de Mme Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 09:47 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

14. Déclaration sur l'éradication de la peste bovine (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)

14. Declaration on Rinderpest Eradication (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)

14. Declaración de erradicación de la peste bovina (C 2011/15; C 2011/LIM/12)

CHAIRPERSON

Please take your seats, we will commence our work this morning starting relatively on time. We will start with the Agenda Item 14, the Declaration on Rinderpest Eradication.

You have before you documents C 2011/15 and C 2011/LIM/12 and it is a really great honour and pleasure for me to welcome the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, here in this Commission I meeting because, deep in my heart, Commission I is the most important one because it is dealing with agriculture, forestry, fisheries and also rural development.

I also have the pleasure to welcome wholeheartedly His Excellency Ferruccio Fazio, Minister of Health of Italy. It is also a great pleasure for me to welcome the Nobel Laureate for Medicine, Professor Peter Doherty, and I also would like to welcome Ann Tutwiler, the Deputy Director-General and also the ADG, Modibo Traoré and the DDG, OIE, Kazuaki Miyagishima.

Mr Director-General, I would like to give the floor to you to introduce this item.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Monsieur le Vice-Président des Comores, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et Représentants permanents, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Depuis sa fondation en 1945, la FAO porte une attention particulière aux zones rurales des pays en développement où vivent actuellement 70 pour cent des hommes, des femmes et des enfants victimes de la pauvreté et de la faim dans le monde. Dans ce contexte, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE), l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, l'Union africaine et d'autres acteurs s'emploient, en étroite collaboration avec la FAO à protéger la santé animale et à favoriser l'élaboration de stratégies de lutte contre les maladies animales qui ont un fort impact.

La peste bovine a été, depuis la fondation de notre Organisation, au cœur de nos préoccupations, compte tenu des pertes importantes qu'elle a engendrées dans l'agriculture mondiale. La maladie a sévi pendant des millénaires en Asie et en Europe et a fait ensuite son apparition sur le continent africain. Les pertes massives qu'ont subies les élevages et les animaux sauvages ont compromis les approvisionnements en lait et en viande, et ont eu des retombées catastrophiques sur les moyens d'existence et sur la sécurité alimentaire des populations. La FAO a collaboré, avec d'autres organisations et les pays touchés ou menacés par la maladie, à la mise en œuvre d'une série de programmes régionaux coordonnés. Le Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste bovine, que la FAO a lancé en 1994, a permis de pérenniser les acquis des projets antérieurs et de renforcer l'efficacité des programmes internationaux d'éradication en rassemblant des pays, des bailleurs de fonds, des institutions et des personnalités scientifiques autour d'un même objectif. Le 25 mai 2011, au siège de l'OIE à Paris, les derniers États et territoires du monde ont été officiellement déclarés exempts de la maladie. Ce même jour, la Comité conjoint FAO/OIE pour l'éradication de la peste bovine, créé en juin 2009, a soumis aux deux organisations un rapport concluant que, premièrement: le virus de la peste bovine ne circulait plus chez les animaux et avait été éliminé de la surface de la terre. Deuxièmement, que les souches virulentes ou atténuées du virus de la peste bovine, conservées dans les laboratoires, constituent une menace potentielle susceptible de remettre en question le statut de la maladie. Le Comité a, par ailleurs, préparé des lignes directrices sur le confinement des échantillons

de laboratoires, axés sur la séquestration de virus et la sécurité biologique. A l'issue des travaux du Comité, une Résolution a été élaborée et présentée aux Délégués de vos pays respectifs à l'OIE. Elle a été adoptée techniquement dans son intégralité, et la FAO vous la soumet pour une approbation politique.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, selon une étude récente de la FAO, le coût total des activités d'éradication, menées depuis les années 50, aurait été inférieur à 5 milliards de dollars. Dans le même temps, nos estimations indiquent qu'en 1965 et 1998, la lutte contre cette maladie a conduit à une augmentation de la production animale mondiale de 289 milliards de dollars. Cette expérience a donc montré l'importance du soutien politique et financier pour la réussite de ce genre d'entreprise. L'Union européenne a investi plus de 250 millions d'Euros en plus des contributions des pays infectés et à risques. Les responsables réunis ici, aujourd'hui, savent que les services vétérinaires constituent un bien public qu'il convient de doter de financements et de moyens adéquats et qu'il convient de gérer en toute transparence.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous ne devons pas laisser s'essouffler la dynamique née de la résolution intitulée et je cite: «Déclaration d'éradication mondiale de la peste bovine et de mise en œuvre des mesures de suivi nécessaires au maintien de l'éradication dans le monde», fin de citation, qui est soumise à votre approbation. Elle porte, en effet, sur la première maladie animale à être éradiquée par l'homme et la deuxième maladie, en général, après la variole. Nous devons aussi porter notre attention sur les mesures à prendre pour que ce résultat soit durable et bénéficie aux générations futures. Pour cela, il faudra mettre en œuvre une stratégie post-éradication pour prévenir toute réapparition de la maladie. De plus, nous espérons pouvoir mettre à profit les avancées scientifiques et les partenariats établis pour attaquer d'autres maladies animales, notamment la peste des petits ruminants, la fièvre aphteuse et les zoonoses, telle que la brucellose et la rage.

Alors que nous célébrons l'un des plus grands succès de la FAO et de ses partenaires, je dois rappeler que la réussite extraordinaire de ce programme aurait été inconcevable sans les efforts concertés et l'engagement résolu des gouvernements et des principales organisations d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Europe et sans le soutien constant des bailleurs de fonds et des institutions internationales.

Enfin, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui ont consacré leur carrière et leur vie à cette noble entreprise. Certains d'entre eux ont reçu hier des médailles d'honneur de la FAO, 6 bailleurs de fonds, 11 institutions et 51 personnes dont 11 à titre posthume.

La FAO rend hommage à tous ceux, professionnels, organismes techniques, institutions financières, États membres qui par leurs efforts ont contribué à l'éradication de la peste bovine. Grâce à leur dévouement et à leur esprit de collaboration, une maladie qui détruisait une grande partie de l'alimentation du monde a été éliminée pour la première fois dans l'histoire. L'humanité vient ainsi de faire un pas de géant vers un monde libéré de la faim.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Director-General for your statement. I would like now to give the floor to His Excellency Ferruccio Fazio, the Minister of Health of Italy.

Mr Ferruccio FAZIO (Italy)

Today is indeed a memorable day for the people of all the world. We witness a historical event and we are here to celebrate the global eradication of Rinderpest, a devastating cattle disease, viciously contagious and often fatal, that has been a curse for farmers through the ages, often contributing to famines that, in turn, have fuelled turbulence and war.

Recurrent Rinderpest outbreaks in some parts of Africa and Europe led, in 1924, to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), by 28 founding Member Nations, among which Italy.

Rinderpest has also been a significant catalyst for the birth and development of modern veterinary science, and its eradication is a monumental victory for the discipline.

It is a great honour for me and my country, where Lancisi, born in Rome, began fighting against Rinderpest in the early 18th century, to host in Rome the 192 Member Nations of FAO who adopted a Resolution to formally recognize the outstanding global achievement, made possible under FAO's Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme.

Responding to a request of the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, Italy contributed financially to cover part of the cost of the three activities envisaged by this celebration of the Global Rinderpest Eradication, namely the international symposium held yesterday, dedicated to the accomplishment of Rinderpest eradication, the reprinting of the book “De Bovilla Peste” of Lancisi and the realization of a monument dedicated to the eradication of Rinderpest, to be unveiled in Rome on October 2011.

I believe that the celebration of Global Rinderpest Eradication, the first animal disease, as mentioned by the Director-General, and the second disease in the history of humankind after smallpox to be eradicated in the world, will also be a move forward to eradicate other diseases, starting from “Peste des petits ruminants” that is causing significant economic impact on Africa’s people who rely on small ruminants for food and income.

My country, Italy, is committed to give a technical contribution in this fight.

Together we have defeated Rinderpest. Together we can defeat other diseases. Together we can beat hunger and poverty.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to give the floor now to Professor Peter Doherty, the Nobel Prize Laureate for Medicine of 1996.

You have the floor, Sir.

Mr Peter DOHERTY (Nobel Laureate for Medicine)

Your Excellencies, Friends and Colleagues, my role in this assembly is I believe to speak as a scientist and to convey the congratulations of the broader scientific community.

Congratulations to the key policy-makers and facilitators of the FAO and the OIE. Congratulations to the political leaders and the administrators and the various Member Nations, and above all congratulations to the people on the ground: the veterinary scientists, the laboratory workers, the field offices, the communicators, the farmers and the cattle herders who brought the scourge of Rinderpest to an end.

Then, as a research scientist who has spent a long career working on animal virus infections and immunity, it may be appropriate for me to say a little about the other issues that remain as we seek to deal with other problematic virus diseases.

Modern molecular science is immensely powerful, though to tell the truth it played little part in the Eradication of Rinderpest. I started as a veterinary scientist, but I have spent most of my career in basic biomedical research and nowhere is the one-world concept of veterinary and human medicine more relevant than in the area of microbial disease. That’s true of trypanosomiasis like, for example, Ebola, rabies, SARS, or bat-borne infections that transmit to us, often via a domestic animal amplifier. Then there is the issue of nutritional deficit, a world that FAO has estimated to have in excess of a billion people in hunger. When it comes to countering inadequate micronutrient calorie and high-value protein intake, elevating the toll of infectious disease in both animals and people has to be a major priority.

They are not a zoonosis in the conventional sense. Contemporary molecular genetics approaches tell us that the Rinderpest virus and the measles virus of humans came from the same common progenitor about 10 to 12 centuries back.

We got rid of Rinderpest and that's what we celebrating today, but its offspring, the measles virus, is still with us. As a one-host pathogen of humans, it should also be possible to eliminate the measles virus from the planet. The problem is the anti-vaccination movements in the developed countries. Many young parents in Europe, the USA and so forth, have never seen the common diseases of childhood and though they may be well-educated in the liberal arts sense, they know little of pathology and do not accept that vaccination is a collective responsibility, and that's what this Organization is about of course, the FAO, collective responsibility.

We should also say a little of the scientific background to the Eradication of Rinderpest. The vaccine used was developed by World Food Prize Laureate, the late Walter Ploughwright, who built on earlier experiments of scientists like J.T Edwards at what is now the Indian Veterinarian Research Institute. In fact, the history of trying to deal with Rinderpest by some form of control infection goes back to times before Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch established the germ theory of infectious disease in the mid to late 19th century. They were doing this before we even understood what infection was, or how it worked.

The same is true for smallpox, the only other virus that has ever been eliminated. Way back in 1796, Edward Jenner took his original vaccine virus from the teeth of an infected cow. He noticed that milkmaids weren't pock-marked and reasoned from there. Meeting in Rome we recall, that "vacca" is the Latin word for cow. So vaccination itself has a bovine origin. By the 1920s, following the broad principal of attenuation discovered for fowl cholera, the second ever vaccine by Louis Pasteur, Edwards used something like 600 serial passages through goats to establish a less virulent strain of the Rinderpest virus. Then a safer and cheaper Ploughwright vaccine was developed much later by passage through tissue culture. Scientifically at least, the eradication of Rinderpest reflects approaches based in long-established quarantine and tests and slaughter policies, and what might broadly be described as steam virology. Given the resources in the political world, it is clearly feasible to think in terms of controlling some other major and infectious diseases of domestic animals in this way. Obvious candidates are the Rinderpest-like PPR, and perhaps the Newcastle disease virus and Foot-and-Mouth disease. Other infections like African swine fever look almost as difficult as human HIV/AIDS. Despite spending hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of dollars and applying every relevant advance in technology, AIDS remains refractory when it comes to vaccine development. Though the chemists and the pharmacologists have done well with drug therapy, this has little relevance to the situation for infections of domestic animals.

We can't give up on AIDS vaccines, but it is important to ask the question whether vaccination is the way to go when it comes to all veterinary infectious diseases. Some infections like Avian Influenza will always be with us. A broad spectrum of the Influenza A virus is maintained in nature by a diversity of wild waterfowl. There is thus no obvious way that these viruses could ever be eliminated from the planet. Vaccination has only been partially effective in controlling the continuing high-path H5N1 Influenza pandemic which has to date led to the loss of some 500 million to a billion domestic chickens. That represents an enormous economic loss, and a loss of high value protein in poor communities. What may well be feasible for rapidly-reproducing species like the domestic chicken is to use contemporary molecular science to establish genetically-modified birds that resist infection with all Influenza A viruses. Apart from the benefits to producers and consumers, removing the mutant virus incubators that large chicken houses represent may well serve to minimize the emergence of novo-pandemic influenza viruses that infect humans and or other domestic animal species. Early experiments look encouraging, but a major difficulty here is the acceptability of genetically-modified birds for human consumption. Social attitudes would have to change.

Science thus continues to offer extraordinary possibilities for the control of animal disease. There is no lack of talent in the veterinary research community which functions as part of the one world of modern molecular technology in medicine. What is essential is to maintain the necessary funding and, when

innovative solutions are reached, to ensure that novel strategies for disease control are disseminated and are socially acceptable.

Clearly, we need continued leadership and coordination from the FAO and the OIE working in concert with other international agencies like WHO and also working with the various Member Nations. International agencies sustaining animal agriculture and strong veterinary science must continue to be a major global priority as we seek to feed all the human family.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Doherty for your statement. I would like to give the floor now to the Deputy Director-General of the International Organization for Epizootics, Mr Kazuaki Miyagishima. You have the floor, please.

M. Kazuaki MIYAGISHIMA (Directeur général adjoint, Organisation mondiale de la santé animale)

Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est avec un grand plaisir et un grand honneur que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) participe à cette Conférence et s'associe à la FAO à l'occasion de la conclusion d'un long processus d'éradication de la Peste bovine, une longue marche que nous avons entamée il y a fort longtemps.

Au nom du Directeur général de l'OIE, Monsieur Bernard Valat, je salue cordialement la FAO, l'AIEA, tous les bailleurs de fonds, les organisations régionales, les gouvernements de toute la communauté internationale pour avoir contribué à éradiquer la peste bovine et à libérer l'humanité de ce fléau qui a ruiné, pendant des siècles, des économies rurales dans une bonne partie du globe. Durant cette dernière décennie d'efforts pour l'éradication de cette maladie, l'OIE et la FAO ont joué des rôles complémentaires et synergétiques. Tandis que la FAO a piloté nombre de projets de vaccinations et de surveillance sur le terrain, l'OIE a mis en place un système de reconnaissance du statut sanitaire des pays en vérifiant et en certifiant l'élimination de l'infection pays par pays. Ce tandem OIE/FAO s'est avéré très fonctionnel et efficace et peut-être cité parmi les meilleurs exemples de collaboration entre agences. Ce modèle de coopération mutuelle pourra être appliqué dans la lutte contre d'autres maladies animales, dans le futur en se basant sur des expériences du passé comme nous ont encouragés à le faire les ministres de l'agriculture lors de leur réunion récente au G20 à Paris sur les questions agricoles et la sécurité alimentaire.

Ceci dit, nous ne sommes pas tout à fait arrivés au bout de notre chemin. Il y a de nombreuses activités que nous devons entreprendre aux niveaux national, régional et international pour assurer que le monde reste indemne de la peste bovine en réduisant le risque de réémergence de la maladie, quelque soit sa cause. Dans certains domaines, l'investissement international et national devrait être renforcé au lieu d'être réduit, c'est un travail de longue haleine comme le témoigne le débat continu, même aujourd'hui, au sein de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé plus de 30 ans après l'éradication de la variole. Devant ce défi majeur, l'OIE souhaite exprimer sa disponibilité et son engagement de continuer à travailler avec la FAO et de fournir un cadre international nécessaire dans la période post-éradication au service de nos États Membres et de leurs services vétérinaires.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Miyagishima for your words. I would like to give the floor to Mr Modibo Traoré, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department in FAO.

Mr Modibo Tiémoko TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

As already stated, FAO has been engaged in fighting Rinderpest and other devastating transboundary animal diseases since 1946, just a year from its establishment.

Major campaigns in Asia through the 1950s and 1960s and in Africa, from 1960 through 1976, brought the disease largely under control. However, because of weaknesses in operational and structural follow-up, Rinderpest resurged in the 1980s and spread widely in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South Asia.

The FAO Council at its 83rd Session, in June 1983, endorsed a recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture regarding the need to formulate and implement national and international strategies for animal health, including the action to control Rinderpest. Particular concern was expressed on the resurgence of this disease in Africa, Near East and Asia. The Council also requested FAO to provide assistance to countries to control the disease and to mobilize support for the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC), the South Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (SAREC), the West Asia Rinderpest Eradication Campaign (WAREC) and subsequent programmes.

The Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) was established in 1994 as a global coordinating and partnership arrangement. GREP, as part of EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases), introduced a framework for the progressive, sequenced, and time-bound eradication of Rinderpest worldwide. GREP considered the year 2010 as the projected deadline for global Rinderpest eradication. The FAO-IAEA Joint Division on Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture has been instrumental in introducing new diagnostic tools and building laboratory capacities and capabilities in developing countries. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) developed guidelines with inputs from FAO experts, several other institutions and reference laboratories.

The last reported outbreak of Rinderpest was in 2001 (in Kenyan wildlife) and the last known use of vaccine was in 2006 in Central Asia.

At its Hundred and Seventh Session, in November 1994, the Council noted the ongoing activities to strengthen FAO support to global Rinderpest eradication, and expressed its appreciation for the emergency assistance provided to several countries linked to risks of serious epidemics of Rinderpest.

An independent review process was required to unequivocally establish that Rinderpest eradication has been achieved, in a manner akin to the process adopted to declare smallpox eradication by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 1980. FAO and OIE agreed to establish the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication in June 2009. The main function of the Joint FAO/OIE Committee was to provide advice on the evidence available to the Directors-General of FAO and OIE, and review and monitor the process of declaring the eradication of Rinderpest.

The Joint FAO/OIE Committee came to two major conclusions.

First, that Rinderpest as a freely circulating viral disease had been eliminated from the world.

Second, that the presence of virulent or attenuated Rinderpest virus in laboratories constitutes a potential threat to the global disease status.

The Joint FAO/OIE Committee proposed several recommendations that include safeguarding or destroying existing Rinderpest virus strains and the safekeeping of vaccines. In addition, the Joint FAO/OIE Committee formulated guidelines for Rinderpest virus sequestration or safe custodianship.

The World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE, held from 22 to 27 May 2011, recognized 198 countries and territories of the world as free from Rinderpest.

Based on this internationally and scientifically-certified body of evidence, the Conference is invited to: (a) adopt the Resolution containing the Declaration on Global Freedom from Rinderpest and on the Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest; (b) request FAO to implement follow-up measures to maintain worldwide freedom from Rinderpest; (c) urge the

Membership to assume its duties and responsibilities to safeguard world freedom from Rinderpest, as recommended by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Traoré. Before going into deep discussion of this agenda item you have proposed, I would like to give the Minister and also the Director-General of FAO the chance to leave and to re-arrange the podium.

So now we can proceed with the discussion of this agenda item. I would like to draw your attention to what was said by the Assistant Director-General. The three points suggested in document C 2011/15 which are of the adopted resolution containing the Declaration on Global Freedom from Rinderpest and on the Implementation of Follow-up Measures to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest. The second one requests FAO to implement follow-up measures to maintain worldwide freedom from Rinderpest, and the third point urges the Membership to assume its duties and responsibilities to safeguard worldwide freedom from Rinderpest.

I would like now to give the floor to delegates who wish to make statements on this agenda item, respecting all of three points mentioned in this document. Could I ask delegations who want to speak on this agenda item. I see the European Union. European Union, please.

Ms Florence MORIN (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EU congratulates all nations and territories that have, under the guidance of FAO and OIE, made important efforts and joined forces on this achievement.

The EU welcomes the resolution 18/2011 of the Seventy-ninth Session of the World Assembly of Delegates for Animal Health (OIE) on the Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest.

The EU has been from the outset, that is Joint Programme 15 (JP15- 1961-1976), a main partner and donor to the Global Rinderpest Eradication Campaign and is now contributing also to the very last phase, the post-eradication. The Union contributed approximately 390 million Euro to Rinderpest control and subsequent eradication over the last 50 years, helping to build sustainable capacity on animal health, for livestock and wildlife of partner countries.

Rinderpest eradication, starting from Giovanni Maria Lancisi's recommendations, has been not only about fighting the disease but has provided donors, development practitioners and veterinarians with new experiences and new tools to improve animal health service, including for marginalised communities, disease surveillance and control technique at national and regional levels. It has also been an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation and regional institutions, such as the African Union and the International Bureau for Animal Resources in Africa (AU-IBAR).

Focusing constantly on long-term capacity-building, on a broad institutional reinforcement of services, on multisectoral and comprehensive approach, on the sub-regional and regional convergence of standards, the EU has been a driving force towards achieving an international common socle in animal diseases control.

This great achievement shows that disease control needs cross-border coordination and cooperation and that disease eradication is possible at a global level and, moreover, that it can be used to aggregate energies and resources on structural improvements.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Nosotros queremos también unir nuestra voz a esta celebración. En 1921 la enfermedad fue erradicada en Brasil. Ya no tenemos más testigos oculares, pero hacemos un homenaje a todos los hombres que participaron en estas acciones. Todos los países contribuyeron en este proceso. Hasta aquellos que no tuvieron casos ya que, con medidas de control de tránsito, pudieron evitar la diseminación.

Ayer debatimos acerca de la erradicación de la enfermedad y dijimos que no puede ser tomada como algo definitivo, ya que podría reaparecer por medio del bioterrorismo o causada por origen química. Por lo tanto, tenemos que mantenernos vigilantes en relación a la Peste Bovina, por que el trabajo realizado por la OIE y la FAO tiene que continuar para seguir garantizando que en el futuro no tengamos nuevamente esta enfermedad.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Brazil. Is there any other country that wants to take the floor?

Seeing none, this brings me to the end of the discussion of this agenda item. I would like to sum up that the Conference endorsed the adoption of the resolution concerning the Declaration on Global Freedom from Rinderpest. It also took note of the statements made by the Director-General, the Italian Minister, the Nobel Prize winner, the Deputy Director-General of OIE (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale) and also the ADG, AG of FAO, and the statements made by the European Union and Brazil.

With this, I would like to conclude the agenda item if there are no further requests for the floor. Since there are none, the resolution on Rinderpest is endorsed.

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)**Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)****Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)****Technical Committees****Comités techniques****Comités técnicos****12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:****12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:****12. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de:****12.1 Report of the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems**

(14-16 June 2010) (C 2011/16; C 2011/INF/12)

12.1 Rapport de la 68^{ème} session du Comité des produits (14-16 juin 2010) (C 2011/16;

C 2011/INF/12)

12.1 Informe del 68.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos

(14-16 de junio de 2010) (C 2011/16; C 2011/INF/12)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to commence now with the Agenda 12, the Sub item 12.1 , Report of the Sixty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. You have before you the document C 2011/6 and C 2011/INF/12. So I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat of the CCP because, unfortunately, the Chairman of the CCP could not be with us today.

May I now give the floor now to the Secretariat of the CCP, please?

Mr David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

In the absence of the Chair of the CCP, I have been asked to make a few introductory remarks. You have the reports before you, and I would draw your attention to the box on page iii: "Matters Requiring the Attention of Conference". What I would like to do is just to make a few comments on some of the key issues that were addressed by the CCP and which are highlighted here, and to update you on some of the developments since the last session of the CCP. The last CCP highlighted and, in

fact, gave priority to work in a number of areas. These were in particular small holders and the integration into value chains and investment for this purpose. The questions of price volatility on international markets, and foreign direct investment and the role of the principles for responsible agriculture investment that have been developed by the FAO together with the World Bank, IFAD and UNCTAD were also raised.

Of course, as you know, the work on foreign direct investment, on price volatility and on investment in agriculture in general has been given a great impetus by the various processes attached to the G20, and the various ministerial meetings which have been taking place in the last few months. There is, in fact, substantial overlap and substantial agreement between the conclusions and the priorities of the CCP and the G20 agenda in relation to price volatility and foreign direct investment.

Just to pick up on a couple of the issues. Even the CCP highlighted, in relation to volatility, the importance of improving market transparency through enhancing the quality and quantity of market information. You may know that the G20 process led to the initiative to establish a new Agricultural Market Information System, building on our existing information, that will be housed here in FAO with inputs and collaboration from the various other international organizations that have joined us in the G20 work.

On the foreign direct investment and the principles for responsible agricultural investment, again you will probably be aware that since the last session of the CCP a programme for an extensive and comprehensive consultation on the principles has been designed within the ambit of the Committee on World Food Security. So that work is also progressing.

I am available for any questions that you may have and I will stop there, Madame Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for this introduction, may I now ask delegates to give their statements on this agenda item. Who wants to take the floor? I see the European Union, please.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent quality of documents provided, and notably document C 2011/16, which offers a valuable summary of the Sixty-eighth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

The above Report provides information on a broad range of issues which is timely for a comprehensive discussion due to the still persistent economic and financial crisis affecting the markets of commodities, and therefore having a negative effect on the livelihoods of the populations involved, notably the poorest who are the most vulnerable. Moreover, since the last meeting of the CCP one year ago, food security and price volatility have become priority issues on the G20 agenda. FAO is playing a key role in this process.

On the current situation, the European Union shares the view that an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round would further entitle the agricultural sector to better resist crises. In addition, major coordinated action in favour of investment towards smallholder producers would certainly help the most dependent commodity-producing countries. As already stated, the European Union has shown its long-standing commitment in the Doha Development Agenda, engaging pro-actively with all parties, including developing countries, in order to reach acceptable compromises. The results are still uncertain. The European Union still hopes that a balanced conclusion of the Round is still possible, and remains a priority for all of us.

Regarding the agricultural commodity markets, the European Union is seriously concerned about the persistent trend of fluctuations on prices and appreciates the continuous monitoring by FAO of markets. The European Union also wants to thank the international organizations, including FAO, for the report "Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses", which will

contribute to an informed discussion on this subject. The European Union supports the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture that was adopted by the G20 Agricultural Ministers on 23 June and is keen to cooperate with FAO regarding actions proposed therein. The Action Plan reaffirms the G20 Members' commitment to improve agricultural production and productivity, to increase market information and transparency, to strengthen international policy coordination and to improve and develop risk management tools in order to build capacity to manage and mitigate food price volatility.

Transparency in both commodity and commodity derivatives markets needs to be enhanced. An adequate supervisory framework needs to be in place in order to control the risk of market abuse and excessive price volatility in these markets. Better transparency of financial activities, as well as physical trading conditions should allow regulators and market participants to better understand the interaction between financial and physical commodity markets, to mitigate abusive practices, and to ensure that financial commodity markets continue to serve the real economy, and continue to efficiently serve as instruments that help price formation and allow the hedging of market risk.

The Committee recognises in its Report that problems are associated with direct interventions in cash or future markets as a way to alleviate food price peaks. The costs of such interventions can be significant. However, the European Union supports measures to improve the effectiveness and transparency of both cash and future markets.

Regarding the proposed Food Import Financing Facility, the European Union believes that it could provide an adequate tool to address short-term difficulties faced by low incomes in high-dependent commodity countries. Therefore, further analysis on the establishment and potential effect of such an instrument should be useful, in particular regarding the potential donors.

The CCP Report highlights the work priorities under the specific area of commodities. The EU agrees that a prioritisation, as requested, is important notably in the light of resource constraints. The European Union appreciates the efforts made by the FAO Secretariat to rationalise and assess the future role of its action in the field of commodities. In a moment when some institutions are rethinking a number of aspects of their work, it is important to know how to deal with the future of some international commodity bodies. The European Union appreciates the new approach announced by FAO, aiming at focussing the action for commodities more on horizontal issues than on single products, confirming then the CCP as an important forum for global discussion of commodity market issues. The ongoing reform of the CCP, and the adoption of a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) should lead to a more efficient body. In this context, the European Union is therefore ready to work closely with FAO in order to find adequate solutions for those products needing a specific forum for strengthening the international cooperation beyond their current form. This does not exclude, *a priori*, a possible merging between those groups dealing with products having the same nature.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Canada)

My delegation can endorse the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems. With respect to those matters that the Secretariat has identified as requiring the attention of the Conference, we would emphasize two points.

Point 1 makes reference to the positive relationship between open international trade, the removal of trade barriers and distortions, and the resilience of the agricultural sector to crises. This conclusion reinforces the critical need for allocating more financial resources to the science-based standards-setting work of both Codex and the IPPC.

With respect to Point 4, the CCP concluded that direct intervention in spot or futures markets to alleviate price volatility was problematic and costly. This view was shared by the Ministers of Agriculture of the G20 countries at their recent meeting in Paris.

I wish only to say that the emergence of this consensus is extremely encouraging to us.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

Given the focus on food price volatility among the international community in 2011, Australia supports the role of the FAO in relation to providing commodity market information and analysis. Through the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting process, the FAO has demonstrated its expertise and has strengthened its reputation in this area among the international organizations. Australia encourages Members to engage constructively through the Committee on Commodity Problems to enhance this capacity and improve the effectiveness of the Committee.

Australia commends the Committee for reviewing its role and working arrangements and that of intergovernmental groups, and we support the view that the Committee on Commodity Problems' terms of reference remain valid. We welcome the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group to consider various administrative and working arrangements of the CCP, particularly to review the role and working arrangements of international governmental groups. In particular, Australia notes and supports the view of the CCP that IGG should not report a consensus view when participation is limited and adequate and extensive discussion has not taken place.

Australia urges for an increased participation in IGG to ensure that the views of the FAO Membership are adequately reflected, and to ensure transparency in governance. Australia further supports the flexible logistical arrangements and increased interaction of the next meeting.

Australia welcomes the efforts of the CCP to prioritize its work programme and urges that such prioritization be made with due consideration to the FAO's comparative advantages and results-based approach to evaluating previous work.

Finally, we note that the CCP was requested to undertake further research into price volatility, the effects of policies, and variations in the costs of production and the linkages between world and domestic markets. We urge the CCP to work with the Committee on Food Security to avoid duplication in this regard. Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much distinguished delegate of Australia.

Is there anybody else who wants to take the floor?

If this is not the case I would like to turn to the Secretariat, if there is a need to put some further words on it.

Mr David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I did not note any specific questions to respond to. I would just like to thank the various speakers for their support for our work and assure them that our work programmes, especially on volatility and so on, will continue in greater detail, as of course will this new impetus for the provision of better and more information through the Agricultural Market Information System.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the end and I would like to sum up that the Conference endorsed the report and took note of the particular comments made during this agenda item.

If there are no particular request, I would like to conclude this agenda item.

Yesterday, I asked that there should be a consultation concerning the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I. I would like to ask delegates if there is an improvement of the situation.

If there is none, I would like to propose that all members of the Drafting Committee, which are Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines and Turkey meet immediately after. I see Canada taking the floor, yes, Canada please.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Canada)

If you are looking for a chairperson of the Drafting Committee, I can volunteer.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Canada, we are always looking for volunteers so I read out that Canada will be the Chair of the Drafting Committee and then we have Argentina, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines and Turkey.

If this is agreeable, we can further proceed with the next Agenda Item.

I would to remind everyone from the Drafting Committee that they will meet at six o'clock in the evening in the Mexico Room.

12.2 Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (16-19 June 2010) (C 2011/17)

12.2 Rapport de la 22^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture (16-19 juin 2010) (C 2011/17)

12.2 Informe del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (16-19 de junio de 2010) (C 2011/17)

CHAIRPERSON

I now turn to the next agenda item which is the Report of the Twenty-second Session of the Committee on Agriculture which took place in June 2011. The documents referred to are C 2011/17 and also C 2011/INF/12. So I would like to give the floor now to the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture to introduce this item.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

It is my privilege to be here today to present the Report of the Twenty-second Session of the Committee on Agriculture, held from 16 to 19 June 2010 here at FAO Headquarters. Of the 133 Member Nations of the Committee, 111 were present at the session. Four Member Nations of the Organization, the Holy See, four UN organizations, four intergovernmental organizations and 16 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated as Observers.

In view of global emerging challenges, the Committee held substantive discussions on matters related to: priorities and results under the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013; sustainable crop production intensification through an eco-system approach and an enabling environment; guidance of the livestock sector – issues and options; soil for food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation; and policies and institutions to support small-holder agriculture.

The Committee's recommendations on strategic priorities and programmatic and budgetary issues for the Organization have been already reported to the FAO Council.

The other matters requiring the attention of the Conference are, as follows:

recognizing the critical role of soils for their productive capacity, and their eco-system services function and their potential to address emerging issues and opportunities related to climate change, the Committee endorsed FAO's plan to support and contribute to the Rio+20 process, and requested the Secretariat to inform the Member Nations on the preparatory process; and

reaffirming the crucial role of livestock in food security and livelihoods, both at global and national level, especially for pastoralists and small-scale farmers, the Committee agreed that FAO engage in consultations to establish a global dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to sharpen the definition of the livestock sector's objectives and to identify issues that could require intergovernmental action.

These are the main matters which require the attention of the FAO Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture.

I would like to turn now to the delegations, for requests for the floor. Who wants to speak first? Canada, please.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Canada)

We can, in general, endorse the Report of the Committee on Agriculture. We note that the Reform Process has assisted the Committee on Agriculture in contributing to the results-based management process now installed at the FAO. While we are still in the infancy stages of an effective FAO prioritization process, COAG will have to take on a leadership role as nine of the eleven Strategic Objectives fall wholly or partly within its mandate. Canada looks forward to COAG 2012 as an opportunity to focus on results and manage COAG commitments within FAO's areas of comparative advantage.

I have two questions for the Secretariat. First, with respect to paragraph 13 of the COAG Report, although I was a member of the COAG Drafting Committee, I confess I do not quite understand what is meant by the first sentence of paragraph 13, when it directs FAO to engage in consultations to sharpen the definition of the livestock sector's objectives. So I would ask the Secretariat to indicate how it is interpreting this direction.

Second, paragraph 43 makes reference to the Technical Conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Mexico, March 2010. I would ask the Secretariat to indicate what follow-up work it is doing with respect to this Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Canada. I would like to give the floor now to the United States of America.

Mr Andrew BURST (United States of America)

I will be relatively brief this morning. We would like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work in producing the Report and we can, in general, endorse the Report.

The United States remains committed to active cooperation with FAO, in particular at the technical level. We believe that as the foremost technical organisation in agriculture, it is important that FAO leverage the Organization's resources to maximize the impact of all its activities.

We are pleased and agree with the Committee that future documentation on priorities should more clearly identify the proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within each Strategic Objective. Many of us are operating under significant budget constraints that need to be addressed when planning for future work.

We believe that the FAO has a comparative advantage to help countries increase their technical ability to be able to produce enough food globally to feed the world in the future. Some of the tools available for this task include transfer and management of production practices, as well as the transfer of technologies. Therefore, emphasis for 2012-2013 should be given in the areas of building frameworks for technology transfers and managing plant genetic resources, including seed systems, through the work in the IPPC and the International Treaty for Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, among other bodies. However, Madame Chair, we are deeply concerned that insufficient financial and human resources are being used to support the IPPC. Thus, we would like to see the budgetary support to the IPPC restored to a more appropriate level.

In closing, we are pleased that FAO continues to give more visibility and effort to partnerships with other UN Agencies, international organisations, national institutions, and the private sector. We believe that the FAO and the COAG should increase emphasis on the importance of creating enabling environments for the private sector and the importance of public-private partnerships.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided, C 2011/17, which offers a valuable summary of the Twenty-second Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

The European Union welcomes FAO efforts to support the Rio+20 process and confirms its commitment to contribute to making Rio+20 a success in order to advance globally on the objectives of sustainable development and growth. In February this year, the European Commission has launched a public consultation on the position to be taken by the European Union at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, which will feed into a communication on the EU position to be published in late summer this year.

The European Union would like to underline that agriculture, including livestock, plays an important role in delivering environmental public goods and services and fighting climate change, mainly through sustainable land management and biodiversity protection. Further efforts are necessary in order to enhance investment in the sustainable management of key resources, such as land, soil and water, to be able to ensure food security and mitigate climate change. Also, geo-referenced qualitative and quantitative data can be useful to enhance sustainable investment. Sustainable agriculture, including livestock, can substantially increase yields, especially in the small-scale agricultural sector.

The European Union affirms the importance of the livestock sector as a contributor to economic development and food security, and therefore emphasizes the importance of strengthening dialogue on the governance of the livestock sector and of developing and enacting appropriate national policies in ensuring that its development is sustainable and that it adapts and contributes to mitigating climate change.

The European Union also welcomes the recommendations of the Committee regarding the FAO strategy for sustainable crop production intensification through an eco-system approach and an enabling environment.

The Committee highlights in its Report the need to help small-holders to get organised in farmers' organizations and cooperatives. The EU would like to add that their participation in policy- and decision-making needs to be enhanced in order to transmit their interests into policy processes. The European Union supports platforms of regional and national farmers' organizations in Africa, as well as the establishment of the Pan-African Farmers Forum (PAFFO) who together represent tens of millions of smallholder farmers. In the European Union, our rural development policy provides a range of measures that supports small-scale farmers and meets their needs regarding restructuring, modernization, development of local markets and human capital and the growth of entrepreneurial culture. Furthermore, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2013 considers simple and accessible mechanisms to support small-scale farms in order to keep jobs in rural areas and to allow them to continue to provide public goods that citizens demand.

The European Union agrees that business-oriented activities by farmers' organizations, as well as their integration into market organizational structures, need to be enhanced and that further promotion to develop value chains that are inclusive of smallholders is needed. The Report notes that analysis is required on the implications of private standards on small-holder market participation. The European Union would like to inform the Secretariat and the FAO Member Nations that the Commission adopted in December 2010 guidelines on best practices on the operation of voluntary certification schemes. The guidelines acknowledge the needs of producers in developing countries seeking to export agricultural products to the European Union, and encourage specific measures to facilitate the involvement of small-scale producers in developing countries in certification schemes. As many international organizations are working on this topic, such as the World Bank, the Codex Alimentarius, the OIE and WTO in its SPS committees, the European Union wants to stress the necessity for the Secretariat of FAO to liaise with other international organizations and bodies that have done work in this sector.

The Report notes that Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant Ministries should further develop their capacity to support improved market access by small-holders, including capacity to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards. As you are aware, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), established by FAO and WHO, develops international food standards to protect consumers' health and to facilitate food trade. The European Union welcomes such collaboration between Ministries and encourages them to participate in Codex meetings. The EU is fully committed to the work of Codex and supports the participation of developing countries at Codex meetings through contributions to the

Codex Trust Fund. The European Union, together with individual Member States, are major contributors - 63.8 percent of the total contributions received in the period 2003-09.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the delegate of the European Union. I would like to give the floor now to Malaysia followed by Bangladesh. Malaysia, please.

Mr Dato' SULAIMAN MD. ZAIN (Malaysia)

Malaysia supports the FAO's strategy for sustainable crop production intensification through the consistent approach. Malaysia's sustainable crop production intensification policy aims at ensuring that all people at all times have access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Our new agricultural policy focuses on ways of increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing sustainable crop production, managing biodiversity and eco-system services, and safeguarding the livelihoods of our population.

To achieve the aspirations of the new agricultural policy, Malaysia has also embarked on a programme to ensure that the agricultural production system in the country is in line with the concept of sustainable agriculture. Certification schemes are audited to make sure good agricultural practice standards are introduced.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to give the floor now to Bangladesh, followed by Tanzania. Bangladesh, please.

Mr Musaddique HOSSAIN (Bangladesh)

The Committee on Agriculture had discussed issues such as the eco-system, climate change and the information on food security and global dialogue with stakeholders.

I should like to make a point here that is very important regarding food security and food safety. Is it only for human beings or also for animals? But in the case of food security for animal health and animal development, we are not giving priority. So regarding food security in the Committee on Agriculture discussion we should also include food security for animals. So you see, in the field we are analysing some residual effects of microbes, as well as some antibiotics residues and some insecticides. What is the structure of the soil? We use regular fertilizers, organic or inorganic, and insecticides which cause devastating effects to animals and human beings alike.

So I call for this, that we go for some harmonized availability of foodstuffs and other things and for quality control of food for the animals, as well as for humans. We must also safeguard the eco-system for wildlife.

Mr Benedict NGALAMA OLENANGARO (United Republic of Tanzania)

Tanzania welcomes the Report, and we very much support the idea of FAO sharpening the areas of support to national governments in the livestock sector. I would suggest that FAO help the national governments in identifying the critical role livestock plays in household food security. There are three main areas where I feel FAO could actually use its wealth of experience to strengthen different national livestock programmes.

One would be the area of disease control so that livestock keepers could actually access markets better than they did in the past.

The second area as grazing lands actually are reduced in size, there is a need for livestock keepers to improve the quality of their livestock so their productivity is improved. This is an area in which I feel FAO could use its experience to try to support national programmes to enhance livestock upgrading in the respective countries.

The third area, again because of the reduction in land size there have been a number of conflicts, land use conflicts, emerging mainly between pastoralists or livestock keepers and users, different other land users, especially as regards the use of other different other forms of agricultural land. So I would suggest that one of the other areas that could be sharpened could actually be that of developing a

model of land-use planning which would emphasize complementarities between livestock keeping and other forms of agriculture. I feel that FAO could actually play a critical and leading role in enhancing various forms of land use between different agricultural users.

Sr. Gabriel TABOADA (Argentina)

Gracias, Señora Presidenta. Queríamos destacar nuestro apoyo al Informe presentado y solamente comentar algunos de sus aspectos en cuanto a las medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias. Queremos recordar nuestra preocupación sobre los estándares privados que entendemos pueden transformarse en barreras al acceso al mercado de un área, que ya es de por sí bastante complicada.

En cuanto al sector ganadero, solo quiero recordar el mandato de la Convención de Cambio Climático de las Naciones Unidas por lo que se refiere a lo que los países en desarrollo deben hacer en esta materia, y expresar que la prioridad debe estar puesta en la seguridad alimentaria.

M. Francois PYTHOUD (Suisse)

La délégation suisse prend note avec satisfaction des progrès réalisés par la FAO dans le suivi et la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Comité de l'agriculture dans les différents secteurs concernés. Aujourd'hui, nous souhaiterions simplement ajouter quelques mots concernant la thématique de la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies qui aura lieu l'année prochaine à Rio, connue sous le thème Rio+20. Pour la Suisse, l'agriculture est un élément central de l'économie verte et comme cette Conférence est la dernière opportunité pour la FAO de donner un input dans la préparation de Rio+20, cela me semble un thème extrêmement important et d'actualité.

Comme je l'ai dit, pour nous l'agriculture est un élément important de l'économie verte, notamment pour faciliter le développement des zones rurales pour lutter, à la fois contre la pauvreté et garantir la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pour cela qu'il est important pour nous, et nous nous félicitons des travaux qui ont été déjà réalisés par la FAO, et que celle-ci ait les ressources nécessaires pour assurer une bonne préparation de cette Conférence pour s'assurer que l'agriculture soit vraiment prise en considération dans les résultats de cette Conférence.

Une invitation a été distribuée pour un événement parallèle organisé à 13h dans la salle de l'Iran. Nous vous invitons tous à y participer pour, d'une part, avoir des informations sur la préparation de la Conférence Rio+20 par Madame Thompson, mais également une présentation détaillée par la FAO des travaux qui ont été réalisés à l'heure actuelle, dans le cadre du Programme «développer l'économie verte avec l'agriculture». Je pense que c'est un événement important et je vous invite tous à y participer.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Switzerland. Thank you also very much for the additional information concerning Side Events. Are there further requests for the floor? Australia, you have the floor.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

Australia would like to lend its support to the adoption of the report of the Committee on Agriculture.

We acknowledge the critical nature of COAG's mandate and support efforts to enhance its effectiveness. Australia looks forward to developing a focused agenda for the next session of the Committee on Agriculture to address issues of highest priority consistent with the core mandate and comparative advantages of FAO.

Australia reiterates the importance of FAO's work in the normative areas of global standard-setting, policy guidelines, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and a compilation of global information and data relevant to food and agriculture. Australia welcomes COAG's exhibits to prioritise its work programming in these areas, and urges Conference to accept guidance on priority areas from COAG.

We particularly support prioritisation of the International Plant Protection Convention, CODEX and CGRFA and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, recognising the important roles these bodies have in addressing the challenges of food security and food safety.

In supporting the prioritisation of these standard-setting bodies, in particular CODEX, the FAO must continue to ensure adequate resources are provided for the provision of scientific advice which the supports the normative work of CODEX as well as respond to requests for scientific advice from Member Nations. Australia has recently committed to providing extra-budgetary contributions to both FAO and WHO in support of the work of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. Australia welcomes the FAO plan to support and contribute to the Rio+20 process. However, we caution that the FAO's contribution should be limited to its areas of comparative advantage in food and agriculture and should not draw resources away from high-priority areas.

Australia supports the initiative to consult widely to identify the important issues within the livestock sector, and we support the Committee's decision to defer further discussions on establishing a subsidiary body on livestock. While not ruling out the need for new systems to deal with new more complex challenges, FAO should provide better analysis of the issues that need to be addressed, the desired outcomes and outputs to identify potential mechanisms for achieving them and provide more compelling justification for the suggested approach.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Muchas gracias, Señora Presidenta. Brasil como País Huésped de la Reunión Rio+20 desea antes de todo darles a todos la bienvenida a Río de Janeiro. Quisiera también reflejar, como lo hicieron otros delegados, la importancia de prepararnos para esta Conferencia para que como FAO podamos estar representando los intereses de la agricultura sostenible, social, económica y ambiental.

Tenemos que recordarnos también de los principios de la Agenda 21, incluso el de la precaución. Creemos que el documento lo refleja, y en este sentido estamos muy contentos con su redacción, con su preparación, y con las prioridades que da a la agricultura sostenible y a la agricultura familiar. Queremos colocarnos, como país que va a recibir la Conferencia, a disposición de ustedes, para facilitar todo lo que sea necesario.

Por último por lo que se refiere al Codex Alimentarius, así como lo hicieron otras delegaciones queremos juntarnos a la propuesta de pensar el modo de poder ampliar la participación de otros países a este, nos parece una cosa esencial, porque sabemos que hoy esto es una limitante, incluso para la legitimidad de lo que decidimos porque la participación es todavía muy limitada. Tenemos que ponernos el reto de ampliar la participación para que el Codex sea apropiado para todos los países, porque todos los países tienen el derecho a una alimentación sana y segura. Muchísimas gracias.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any further requests for the floor? If this is not the case I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat to answer the questions which came up from Canada especially. Secretariat, please. Mr Traoré, you have the floor.

Mr Modibo Tiémoko TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I want to thank the different speakers for constructive contributions. I think they will reach the way we are trying to implement the recommendations from the last COAG Session. We recorded several types of questions. We'll try to put them together, and with my colleagues here, we'll see how to address some of them.

Regarding, the issue of livestock, I think this has come up several times from Canada, Australia and other representatives. What we are trying to do is to try to get a better balance between the different objectives of the livestock sector. As you know, we had several meetings and several discussions about how to consolidate the role of livestock in poverty alleviation and in income generation on one hand, as well as its role in food security, its role in public health issues, and also the interaction between livestock and the environment.

I think these are the big questions we are trying to address through all the different mechanisms that have been cited here. We, as FAO, are just facilitating the discussions, but the decisions should be made by the Member Nations. That's why we have created a kind of forum where different

stakeholders can meet and discuss. The last one we had was held in Brazil, I think two months ago, in May, to try to get a kind of consensus about the different balances between these different perspectives.

I think, as explained by the delegate of Australia, that it is up to the membership to decide what kind of intergovernmental mechanism should be put in place to ensure this more responsible livestock sector, and to make sure that the needs and the objectives of the society coincide with the private objectives of livestock keepers. In other terms, how to make the global public goods and from the livestock sector compatible with the private sector and private goods in the same sector. I think this is an important issue. We had lengthy discussions about it, and I hope that the different ongoing consultations will help us to find our way through.

I also want to comment on the issue of standard-setting bodies hosted by FAO, the Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Commission and also the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The priority given to the work of these bodies is obvious. The only problem is that we have a structure of our budget. When we discuss with some of the Member Nations they expect that, because of the priority to be given to these bodies, we should allocate more resources to them. Of course, more resources can be allocated if the total resources allocated to FAO increase. We have discussed the problem of emphasis and de-emphasis several times, and the problem is that the priority for one region, the priority for one country is not necessarily the same for another country. So, I think you should be the ones to help FAO to really come up with acceptable solutions regarding this matter. We are implementing your instructions, we are implementing your priorities but I think it is your responsibility. We can provide the information and the data to make sure that you will be making informed decisions, but the final decision about priorities lies with countries, lies with the membership. I think this is very important.

So, we do everything possible to strengthen the standard-setting activities of FAO. We understand that this normative work is important, and I hope that in the coming years we will get your support, not only through the regular budget but also through extra-budgetary resources. We thank Canada and Australia for the support we get from them through extra-budgetary resources for the standard-setting activities.

Regarding the Rio+20 process, I think my colleague Alexander Müller is here, he will take this issue. If you allow, I will pass the floor to Alexander.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resource Management and Environment)

Five brief comments.

Several delegations mentioned the important role of genetic resources. I only would like to draw your attention to two important items on the Agenda of this Commission. The status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources where Modibo and myself participate. We have also tabled a document on the intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, where we are seeking your guidance on how to best involve genetic resources for food and agriculture in this important and newly-established science policy interface.

So this will be discussed this afternoon and I do not want spend more time on this but this is of utmost importance for the whole food and agriculture system.

My second comment regards the delegates who mentioned the importance of sustainable land management, land use change, and especially soils. I am happy to inform you that at the beginning of September, FAO is going to launch the Global Soil Partnership, which was also introduced during the last COAG meeting. We have invited informally the countries and several institutions. The Director-General has now signed the official invitation letters and at the beginning of September, we will launch the Global Soil Partnership where we want to bring together all key players in the area of soil management.

Regarding item number three, it was mentioned by delegations that FAO, when it comes to climate change should stick to its core mandate. We always address climate change under the umbrella of food security; how to best adapt to a changing climate in order to best ensure food security. The contribution of the agricultural sector and the whole food chain to mitigation is very important for many developing countries, as is linking disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. But this is always under the umbrella of food security, and this is what we are bringing also to the negotiations. FAO is not part of the negotiations, we can only support countries, but we are informing on the importance of taking into account global food security in the climate change negotiations so that we can adhere to our mandate.

Item number four. You have decided in COAG that we should speed up the process of developing the Water Platform in FAO. I am happy to announce that we now have been approached by the World Water Council. They are going to organize in March 2012 the first Global Conference on Water and Food Security. The World Water Council is a global partnership including private sector and they have asked for our water platform. That is the link to prepare, together with the World Water Council, this important event. This is the first time that the World Water Council takes food security into account, so this can be seen as a success of your decision to establish the Water Platform in FAO.

Last but not least, I am thankful for all the support received for Rio+20 and I would like to join Switzerland in inviting all of you to the Iran Room at 1:00p.m. to get more information on Rio+20. I am also pleased to announce that Brazil, as the Host Country, will also introduce this item. So this is an opportunity where we can discuss substantive items related to Rio+20.

It was also mentioned that we should not use money of our regular budget, I am happy to announce that thanks to the contribution of Switzerland, we have established a multi-donor Trust Fund. I would like to say your contribution to this multi-donor trust fund is highly welcome so we can do better work and we can better support countries. If we have more countries willing to provide support, and I have already received the indication upon Germany that they would be happy to join this multi-donor Trust Fund you would be most welcome because there is enough space also for other countries.

Mr Robert Gouantoueu GUEI (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

I would like to give some brief information about the Technical Conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies that was held in Mexico in March 2010 and the recommendation that was made by COAG. That was one of the questions raised by Canada.

Following that Technical Conference and through the Inter-departmental Working Group of FAO, the proceedings of the Conference are actually being published and will be out by the end of July. These proceedings will actually also have all the background information that exists at FAO concerning biotechnology, which we all know is very important in agricultural development and particularly in the developing countries in the area of crops, forestries, livestock, fisheries and safe processing and so on and so forth. So this document is going to be out very soon, targeting biotechnology for the poor.

FAO also has a number of contributions and activities already in the field in this area of biotechnology, and working with CGIAR centres and national programmes, and research programmes. We developed about a year ago for Africa, for instance, the Seed and Biotechnology programme where the use of biotechnology was highlighted.

We are also going to give to the Commission on Genetic Resources this document to see how biotechnology can be actually used in the management of Genetic Resources. Unfortunately, we have not been very successful in raising funds, as was recommended by this meeting to increase capacity-building, and hence our collaboration with partners. The need for extra-budgetary funding was actually recognised by the Inter-Departmental Committee and a number of donors have been approached including the World Bank, IFAD and the African Development Bank to support the South-South Cooperation Platform on Agriculture Biotechnology. We have also approached the European Commission. It's basically work in progress and we hope that if we could secure funding for this very important area of biotechnology in agricultural development then this recommendation would be accepted fully and partially implemented.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

I take this opportunity to thank all the esteemed Members for their valuable support and the general endorsement. We have taken due note of the suggestions made by a number of our Member Nations, and I hope the clarifications given by the Secretariat satisfy you.

I just would like to point out that the priority-setting exercise is an ongoing process and it mostly falls under in the domain of the Programme Committee, and that continues to be so. We are aware of a number of suggestions just made now about inadequate budget allocation for certain areas like the IPPC, Plant Genetic Resources and technology transfers, and this has been duly noted. I am certain that it will be taken care of. The same thing holds true for private sector participation.

It is encouraging to note that a number of countries, though concerned about private standards, have gone ahead on their own regarding certification, as for the agriculture best practices mentioned by Malaysia. We also have taken note of the suggestion of Bangladesh to flag the issue of residues in fodder, which is automatically consumed by the livestock.

Regarding the suggestion of Tanzania to have a comprehensive policy on land use so that the grazing land is used equally or equitably by farmers, by livestock by people who own livestock and by pastoralists, I am certain this will be taken note of by the Committee on Food Security which is developing the guidelines on land tenure. We will anyway transmit these concerns to the concerned bodies in the future.

And we are very happy to note that Switzerland is hosting the Greening the Economy Initiative, which is taking place at 13:00. I'm certain that those who cannot go to Rio, attend this presentation here. Thanks to Brazil for welcoming all of us to Rio in 2012.

Regarding the suggestion that we must be flagging the issue of agenda-setting for the next COAG, I am certain that Brussels is on and definitely all the Member Nations will be on board on this, especially the Regional Representatives and Australia is one of them. So they will be fully aware of what is happening.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any further requests for the floor? I see South Africa, please.

Ms M. Emily MOGAJANE (South Africa)

Mine is just a small intervention and I recognize the fact that later on we will be discussing the Report of the Committee on Food Security. I have noted that both the COAG and the Committee on Food Security have not discussed an important factor which impacts mostly in African countries: the issue around the interface between livestock and wildlife. You know very well that wildlife plays an important role in tourism and you will find that wildlife, for instance buffaloes, become reservoirs of disease. I think it is an important factor which FAO should pay special attention to in the future as it impacts negatively both on agricultural production and food security.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no further requests I would like to sum up and I would like to say that the Conference reviewed the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, endorsed it, and also took note of the particular recommendations made during this meeting. If we can go along with this summary, I would like to conclude on this item, and thank you all very much for your contributions.

12.3 Report of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (4-8 October 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)

12.3 Rapport de la 20^{ème} session du Comité des forêts (4-8 octobre 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)

12.3 Informe del 20.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (4-8 de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/18; C 2011/INF/12)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to pass on to the next item on the agenda which is the Report of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry which was held on 4-8 October 2010 and the relevant documents are C 2011/18 and C 2011/INF/12.

I would like now to ask the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry to introduce this agenda item.

Mr Anders LÖNNBLAD (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

COFO had its most recent session on 4-8 October last year.

The event was organized in conjunction with the second World Forest Week, an innovative mechanism to combine policy and technical discussions in a time- and cost-efficient way. COFO had, as its overarching subject, the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development

The agenda of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry was built from the deliberations of the six Regional Forestry Commissions held prior to COFO, and included the review of implications of decisions taken by other FAO bodies.

As presented in document C 2011/18, COFO carefully examined the full breadth of FAO's work in forestry. It recommended that the next Forest Resources Assessment be prepared by 2015, and that FAO develop a long-term strategy for the FRA process. It further recommended that FAO continue to take the lead on streamlining and coordinating reporting.

The Committee recommended that FAO continue the elaboration of the report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and its important work on guidance for implementing phytosanitary measures, promoting regional cooperation on vegetation fires, and reviewing critical issues and knowledge gaps on forests, water and soils.

The Committee requested FAO to continue working with CPF members on forest financing and support the work of the *ad hoc* expert group of the UNFF, and requested the elaboration of an analytical framework for the assessment and monitoring of socio-economic and institutional indicators at country level, as well as a report on this work at its next session.

FAO was requested to continue promoting SFM, including through developing tools to quantify and value the full range of goods and services thereby documenting forests' contribution to major social and economic objectives. Enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation and policy and programme coordination through efficient and proactive communication was underscored.

The Committee identified priority areas for Strategic Objective E for 2012-2013, based on the recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions.

COFO decided to develop a Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2013-2015 to be considered at its next session in 2012, and reviewed its Rules of Procedure which are now fully in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

The FAO Council endorsed the COFO report at its Hundred-and-fortieth Session.

COFO recommended that FAO build capacities in countries in the use of remote sensing data and tools for their interpretation, facilitate transboundary and regional exchange of information on forest health, fire and water issues, support national efforts in strengthening public and private sector finance for forests, as well as improve domestic forest law enforcement and governance.

The Committee requested FAO to assist countries in their efforts to value and utilize the potential contributions of forests and trees outside forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including

in REDD-plus. COFO requested FAO to assist countries in integrating forests in national climate change strategies; support forest and climate change-related monitoring and information exchanges, help implement best practices in forest management and overcome root causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

Besides giving guidance to FAO, COFO addressed its recommendations to multiple actors, including Member Nations and other intergovernmental fora, which are of particular interest to the Conference.

The Committee stressed the need to enhance fire management in broader land use policies and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation. COFO invited countries to cooperate in wildfire prevention and suppression, and develop mutual-aid agreements.

COFO underlined the role of law enforcement and good governance in promoting sustainable forest management, saw these as prerequisites of any successful REDD-mechanism and substantive resource allocation to forestry and invited strengthened efforts and cooperation with other sectors.

COFO recommended that countries and FAO use the various opportunities, including by UNFF and the Rio+20 Summit, to highlight the role of forests in sustainable development and integrate sustainable forest management into the broader developmental strategies. I am happy to note that the Ministerial Declaration adopted by UNFF9 resonates perfectly with this recommendation.

The Committee invited countries and FAO to actively participate in the International Year of Forests 2011, recommended to consider strengthening the idea and profile of the observation of an International Day of Forests and invited other organizations to do so. I understand that the Conference will pay special attention to these recommendations when discussing Agenda Item 18 of this Session.

With this I conclude my brief summary of the outcome of the Twentieth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry. I would like now to turn to the delegations and draw up my Speakers' List. I see the European Union and the Philippines. So I will start with the European Union.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for document C 2011/18 which offers a valuable summary of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

The EU and its Member States welcome that FAO presented at the COFO meeting forests as a key to sustainable development. We share this view and stress the need to highlight the relevance of sustainable forest management. Forests touch upon a variety of topics and therefore play a key role in addressing the multiple and interrelated challenges the world is facing today in terms of degradation of eco-systems, food insecurity, climate change and economic recession. Success in meeting these challenges will require a comprehensive approach of technical, institutional and financial innovations, so that both adaptation and mitigation strategies are consistent with efforts to safeguard food security, maintain fibre and timber supply and eco-system services, provide carbon sequestration and reduce emissions. Strengthening the cross-sectoral linkages, promoting more efficient coordination, and participation in forest policy are important for the forest sector to be fully connected with and supported by society.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is the most comprehensive assessment of the world's forests. We congratulate FAO for the preparation of FRA 2010, which is not only useful at global level, but also for the countries themselves, as it sets parameters and definitions that increase comparability of the data. The EU and its Member States are in favour of launching the next FRA in 2015 which is also in line with climate discussions, REDD+. Priority should be given to improving the

quality of the information and data provided rather than further expanding the already extensive set of indicators and variables. To this end, more efforts are needed in capacity-building and in using new technologies, like remote sensing.

The EU and its Member States welcome that FAO will strengthen its capacity to assist Member Nations in effectively integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in their forest policy and the management of forests. We also welcome the development of the 'Guide to Implementation of Phytosanitary Standards in Forestry' presented at the COFO and the supporting training material as a commendable step, providing for better understanding and implementation of International Standards For Phytosanitary Measures in the forestry sector. The EU and its Member States recall their support for FAO activities that promote regional and international cooperation on forest fire management and that promote the exchange of experiences between countries on all aspects of fires from prevention to suppression. Concerning forests and water, we also appreciate FAO's work on these matters and welcome the synthesis work being done in order to streamline and focus policy development to this end. The EU and its Member States strongly believe in an integrated approach, which is the basis for the EU Water Framework directive and note that more emphasis is needed to be given to the promotion of integrated land use planning and practices.

We also highlight the unique role and the importance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), chaired by FAO, and invites FAO to further coordinate the activities of the CPF especially in streamlining national reporting among the various international processes and in implementing the UNFF9 resolution, with special attention to forest financing. We also see as priority that FAO further support the work of the AHEG on Forest Finance of the UNFF and the CPF Advisory Group on Forest Finance.

The EU and its Member States support the invitation of countries to strengthen their efforts to address the challenges of forest governance. We also support the idea that forest governance is placed into a broad cross-sectoral perspective, and should be seen as part of the essential functioning of governments and public institutions. For these reasons, we agree with the recommendation that FAO supports countries to achieve their goals in strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, and stress the importance of NFPs for other means equivalent with them linked to this.

We are pleased to see that the forestry strategy for FAO is now being implemented. We see concrete changes in the planning and programming cycle, and welcome the use of performance-based indicators brought to the attention of the Committee. The EU and its Member States also welcome the agreed programme priorities for FAO in forestry, but feel that there is still some progress possible in terms of prioritisation. Therefore it will be important to sharpen FAO's profile also in the forestry by putting more emphasis on those areas where FAO has a clear comparative advantage.

Madame Chairperson, let me ensure you that the EU and its Member States will contribute constructively to the implementation of the outcomes of the Twentieth Session of the COFO.

Mr Samir AK HABASHNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you for this scientific report on the global state of forests. I thought that this report would look at the regions, with a certification, the areas where forests are predominant such as Jordan and other countries in the region such as Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, as well as the means with which the international community can halt the process the desertification which jeopardizes our vegetation cover.

I would propose that the Rio+20 Summit prepare an analysis of the means with which to address susceptible vulnerable regions, such as Jordan since there is a great difference between areas which are lacking in irrigation and other factors, and it would be good if these countries could join the green regions of the world. In fact, I would like to let you know that in Jordan we have a very promising programme which seeks to plant forests in a very large region in the north of the country and rainfed areas. I think this project, as well as others in several regions across the world, would enable an improvement in the climate change situation, would draw halt to desertification and would change the living conditions of many people in the framework of the importance of trees and forests, importance in the existence of humanity.

Therefore, I would like to say that Rio+20 should address the importance of redressing certain balances, especially in regions in which the soil quality and land quality should be improved in order to make progress within this field.

Mr LUO Ming (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Committee on Forestry for the Report on its Twentieth Session.

Forests are one of the world's most important eco-systems, with economic, social and other values in which to raise awareness within the public. As to the importance of this resource, the international community has launched a whole set of days such as International Days on Oceans, the Prevention of Desertification, and the World Day on biodiversity, and so forth. Despite awareness-raising campaigns in many countries, there still is no International Day of Forests recognized around the world. This is why the Chinese delegation believes it to be necessary for us to create an International Day for Forests in order to raise awareness in the public-at-large of forests' value and in so doing stress the value of forests in sustainable development. In conclusion, the Chinese delegation would like to support the initiative of the creation of an International Day of Forests.

Ms Makbule KOCAK (Turkey)

As indicated before, we associate ourselves with the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the EU. In addition, we would like to highlight the issue of the International Day of Forests as already raised by some other delegates.

As we see in the Report, the Committee reflects on the importance of the International Day of Forests in promoting forestry issues in the global agenda, and is proposing recognition of an International Day of Forests. We understand that there are many countries already devoting a day in their calendars for forest or trees in one form or another. In fact, these include some 49 countries from all the regions. In most cases, it is 21 March for the celebrations which allow publicity of forestry issues, including tree planting events.

We are planning a more detailed statement on this issue under Agenda Item 18. However, at this point, I can indicate that, as Turkey also celebrates Forestry Day on 21 March with different activities, we strongly support the ideal declaration of 21 March as International Day of Forests. We request FAO to take the necessary actions in this regard. We propose that this be reflected in the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Turkey, and be sure that your statement will be reflected in the Report. I now would like to turn to the distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea, followed by South Africa.

Mr Jongchul KIM (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea endorses this Report. And I would like just to share some information with delegations.

In order to address challenges such as Climate Change, Desertification and Degradation of Biodiversity, I would like to emphasise that collaboration is essential from Members and the relevant international organisations. Korea has valuable policy experience of successfully restoring totally-degraded forests in the aftermath of war in a very short period of time.

Against this background, in October this year, my country is hosting the Tenth Conference of Contracting Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

I kindly ask Members who are interested in this topic to consider participation in the Conference.

Ms Motseki HLATSHWAYO (South Africa)

South Africa welcomes the decision of the COFO to recall the decision of the Twenty-second Session of the Committee on Agriculture which called for closer cooperation in order to enhance a more cross-sectoral approach in all relevant areas including agro-forestry, soil and water.

South Africa endorses the Report by the Committee of COFO. We also recognize that forestry plays a role in sustaining livelihoods for rural communities, domestic energy, biodiversity, conservation and climate change mitigation. South Africa also acknowledges that reducing deforestation offers more opportunity, particularly with regard to access to financial resources and ensuring sustainable development as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. South Africa also believes that provisions be explored through the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, a mechanism which stems from the Bali Action Plan in 2008.

South Africa also noted that while forest fire remains one of the main factors affecting forest management, particularly in the SADCC region, recently wild forest fires are recognized as one of the main contributors to greenhouse emissions in developing countries. Deforestation, which is generally caused by forest fires, contributes to about 18 percent of global greenhouse emissions, or more than what the transport sector contributes. South Africa therefore recommends that more work has to be done to reduce forest fires.

Mr Nehad Abd AL MADHDY ABBAS (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Forestry Committee for this excellent report. With regard to forest degradation and deforestation, due to the wars in Iraq since 1990 the Ministry for Agriculture has undertaken between 2004 and 2010 the reforestation of several dozens of hectares, equivalent to a total of over 13 000 hectares. We plan to continue planting over 7 million trees, and continue this reforestation process.

In fact, the Committee on Forestry of FAO should take advantage of the expertise and experience of the experts within the Organization in implementing strategic plans to improve the forest situation in Iraq, including the implementation of such measures as creation of pine fields and new categories and tree species in Iraq. We also believe that FAO should adopt broad global projects for the reforestation of degraded areas in Iraq, and the Organization should foster an awareness-raising process for the cooperation of the community in this regard. They should also set up a database for forests and take advantage of the experts and specialists in the Organization in implementing a global programme for forests in Iraq. Finally, they should strengthen capacity for experts in Iraq through participatory fora and conferences on different subject matters such as financing techniques, parks, forest management, forest insect species and so forth.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the distinguished Delegate of Iraq. Before giving the floor to the distinguished Delegate of Finland, there is only one further speaker on my list which is Argentina. Is there anyone else wanting to take the floor? I also see New Zealand. So I give the floor now to the distinguished Delegate of Finland.

Mr Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Forestry for presentation of an excellent Report. Going to the specifics, Finland wholeheartedly supports the Declaration for the International Day of Forests. You all know that Finland is a forest country, since more than 75 percent of its geographic area is covered with forests. This being the case, we consider in Finland that every day is a forest day. Having said this, we are aware that 21 March has become a traditional date in the calendar of many countries to grant special attention to the situation of forests and to improve the general knowledge and the importance of forests for our globe. Thus the statement of Turkey has our full support, and we ask for it to be included in the Report of this Session.

Mr Augustin ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Muchas gracias, Presidenta, y muchas gracias al Presidente del COFO por la excelente presentación del Informe. Nuestra delegación puede endosar el Informe de la Vigésima Sesión del COFO y en particular el programa de prioridades acordados para el Bienio 2012-2013.

Así mismo, queríamos destacar la importancia de dos puntos contenidos en dicho Informe. El primer punto es la solicitud que el COFO hiciera a la Secretaría de la FAO relativo al desarrollo de

capacidades nacionales en el sector forestal. El segundo punto, destacamos también la importancia de los trabajos en el fortalecimiento de la gobernanza forestal con el fin de lograr una integración plena de los bosques en las estrategias nacionales sobre el Cambio Climático.

Finalmente Presidenta, también felicitamos a la Secretaría por la elaboración de la Evaluación de los Recursos Forestales Mundiales FRA 2010, y manifestamos todo nuestro apoyo a las prioridades que ya han sido acordadas y están incluidas en el Informe del COFO para la elaboración del FRA 2015.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Gracias al Presidente del COFO por un documento tan importante.

Queremos agradecer por la mención a la reunión Río+20 y la importancia de su preparación, pues es un tema central para la Conferencia. Queremos también llamar la atención al tema de los pueblos que viven en los bosques, que tienen formas de vida muy características y que tendrían que ser tomadas en cuenta.

Creemos que el tema de los bosques es fundamental para la reunión Río+20 debido al aspecto social, importancia económica y la importancia del mantenimiento de los bosques. Debido a la forma como trabajan los bosques, son responsables por mantenerlos. Aquí quisiera hacer una analogía con lo que dijo el distinguido representante de Finlandia: que en el futuro todos los días sean los días de los pueblos de los bosques.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

New Zealand can endorse the outcomes of the Committee of Forestry and, in particular, we strongly support efforts towards approved forest governance and the need for both institutional and land tenure reform, noting of course that some of those issues of land tenure reform are not necessarily specific to forestry.

Just in terms of work programme priorities, New Zealand acknowledges that there are a range of organizations involved with the various aspects of forestry. We want to ensure that the FAO work programme focuses on what the FAO is mandated to do and the areas where the FAO can add value, specifically on collecting and disseminating statistics, capacity-building for sustainable forest management, developing and implementing voluntary technical and policy guidelines and facilitating information-sharing, particularly at a regional level.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the distinguished delegate of New Zealand.

Are there any further requests for the floor?

I would like to give the floor to the ADG of Forestry to comment on the discussions we've had.

Mr EDUARDO ROJAS-BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

I thank you very much for the high appreciation that was expressed for the work of the Committee on Forestry last year in October.

Regarding the International Year of the Forest, we very much appreciate the contributions from several countries, but we would like to postpone that debate for Item 18 of the Agenda, which is specially focusing on this very important issue.

Trying to answer your several questions and appreciating the different contributions that we are all streamlined in our work in forestry in FAO, I would like to highlight the fact that cross-sectorality as identified by many of the Permanent Representatives can be tackled through partnership. I think we are moving strongly towards the partnership logic. I will highlight the concern expressed in several interventions on collaborative partnership on forests, where 14 UN and other international organizations including research organizations, are involved. These 14 organizations are working closely. The Chair is FAO and specifically after UNFF9 in January this year, the demand on the collaborative partnership on forests contribution to forest finance was great. We tried to reach a compromise in the international community regarding this very delicate and very complex issue as

REDD is coming up as an important finance instrument. Last week we had a CPF retreat here near Rome, and concluded that the CPF is just a collaborative structure without a budget. We appreciate that several countries have expressed a willingness to support additional costs for several of the organizations, and I will look forward to this cooperation in order to overcome the financial restrictions.

I would also like to recall that since 2008 the UN REDD has been working with UNEP, UNDP and FAO to deliver as one, a process that is highly appreciated. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, is citing this always as an example of joint delivery in the UN System. We also have an original situation since the early days of the COFO where the EC and FAO have been working in the European, North American and Central Asiatic region in forestry, and we are now going to sign an MoU to strengthen and to frame this cooperation.

I would also like to highlight the partnership and the need to strengthen forest governance, as well as the social comment by Brazil. In that sense, the national forest programme facility there has been working in 75 countries with the support of 12 Members through the European Union. It is going to enter a second phase in a year, and we are very advanced in negotiations with the World Bank in order to broaden the scope and integrate the programme called the Growing Forest Partnership where we have indigenous people, local communities, smallholders and also small and medium enterprises. This new phase of the facility, I think, can made an even stronger contribution than it has in the past.

Regarding information, and moving forward to FRA 2015, we are working on strengthening the quality of the information. We are working together with important donors that are supporting us in creating capacity and sustaining capacity in the countries, and we will start the process of FRA 2015 with a strategy meeting hosted by Finland. We very much appreciate the contribution of the Finnish Government regarding this. Regarding remote sensing, there is a remote sensing survey which will allow us to receive quality information on the progress of forest cover from 1990 to 2005, and it will be released at the end of the year, mostly likely during in a ceremony to close the International Year of the Forest here at FAO.

The issue of forest fires, a rising issue, also came up especially in countries which have seasonal droughts. We are working with several countries, and would invite those interested to join in setting up a multi-donor Trust Fund on Forest Fires to tackle all the different issues of fires from statistics, capacity-building, exchanges of indices for recruitment, and staff.

Regarding land management, we note the need to strengthen the capacity of FAO in integrating land management from the forest perspective. We are very interested in this issue, but this can only be assured in an integrated way with other partners in the AGNRR. We look forward to cooperating with them on this issue.

Finally, there were several Permanent Representatives who commented on the issue of dryland forestry. We share this view totally. Unfortunately during past decades we have been focusing on the forests of the temperate and boreal countries which have strong governance. Normally they are capitalized and they have risks but they are in a rare difficult condition. On the other hand, we have focussed on tropical rainforests where problems of deforestation, loss of biodiversity and other social problems are encountered. There was very little focus on the third part of the forests, which are forests in dry countries that are not so impressive in size, and so on. Loss of forests, is very difficult to recover, but in wetter conditions the forest expands by itself much more. So we are working very closely with the Convention on Desertification. We hope to have the cooperation of both donor and affected countries with FAO having a lead role. And I recall our presence during the African Dryland Forest Week, from 10-17 June in Senegal, with discussion on several projects currently underway in several countries on this issue. And, of course, this is linked to the framework of REDD along with forestation and assisted natural regeneration matters. We are also working in the expansion of forests where agriculture is no longer so important, so the degraded land is a very important issue that is gaining prominence. We look forward to working with you and other organizations on these issues.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to give the floor to say only some words at the end of this meeting to the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry.

Mr Anders LÖNNBLAD (Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

I just want to thank you all distinguished delegates for all the comments made and the support given. I conclude by assuring you that we are taking note of all comments and suggestions that would be helpful for the coming work.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me now to my conclusions. The Conference reviewed the Report of COFO, endorsed it and took note of particular recommendations with a special reflection on the International Day of Forests. If we can agree on this, we can conclude on this Item.

Seeing no requests for the floor, this brings me to the end of the meeting of the morning.

We will break now for lunch and return in the afternoon.

The next item will be Item 12.4, the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. So have a nice lunch. We will meet at 14:30p.m. sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:41 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:41 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin – 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio – 2 de julio de 2011
THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
28 June 2011

The Third Meeting was opened at 14:40 hours
Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de Mme Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 14:40 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Technical Committees (continued)
Comités techniques (suite)
Comités técnicos (continuación)

12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from: (continued)
12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:
 (suite)
12. Cuestiones de política y regulatorias globales derivadas de: (continuación)

12.4 Report of the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security
(11-14 and 16 October 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)

12.4 Rapport de la 36^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale
(11-14 et 16 octobre 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)

12.4 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(11-14 y 16 de octubre de 2010) (C 2011/19; C2011/INF/12)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to start right away. As you know, we have two agenda points late so we have to speed up the process a little bit in order not to have an evening meeting today.

So, I immediately would like to start with the Report of the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. You have the documents before you. These are C 2011/19 and C2011/INF/12.

I would like to ask Mr de Luna, the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security to start his presentation.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I have the privilege of presenting to you the Report of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. After the conclusion of the reforming 2009, the reinvigorated CFS held its first meeting in October 2010. CFS has a new way of doing business. It has more participants than before: NGO's, CSO's, intergovernmental organizations, private philanthropic foundations, and the private sector now sit side by side with Member Governments, and are given equal speaking time.

Preparations for the Plenary Sessions are now the responsibility of the expanded CFS Bureau, with support coming from the Joint Secretariat of the three Rome-based Agencies - the FAO, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development - an Advisory Group and a High-Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition. Sessions now include interactive policy Round Tables, and updates on country and regional developments. This new approach facilitates more robust decision-making and concrete recommendations. Since October 2010, there have been nine Bureau Meetings and seven Joint Meetings of the Bureau and Advisory Group. It is my pleasure to update you on some of the recommendations from the Thirty-sixth CFS and other CFS activities.

The submission of the first draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of the Tenure of land and other natural resources, to a CFS Open-Ended Working Group will be followed by CFS-led negotiations in FAO from 12-15 July.

I am encouraging all Governments and Member Nations and other participants to join that negotiation session. Following the negotiations of the first draft, the text will be submitted for the consideration of the Thirty-seventh CFS. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Switzerland and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development for providing extra-budgetary funding for this exercise. Meanwhile, an inclusive process for consideration of the Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investments within CFS has started. The first step involves mapping existing developments processes and initiatives. An Open-Ended Working Group will be set up in July to keep track of the ongoing CFS and non-CFS developments, which will save us input for the broad consultation which is the second step in this process. This is planned to

take place in the latter part of September. The High-Level Panel of Experts was requested to undertake studies on price volatility, social protection, climate change and land tenure. A seminar was organized on 27 May to inform the Permanent Representations in Rome and other stakeholders on actions and tools that are recommended by different international organizations. Food price volatility remains a standing item at all meetings of the Bureau and Advisory Group, during which experts and analysts provide updates.

The Bureau, with support from the Advisory Group and the Secretariat, has started formulating specific recommendations to be considered by the CFS in October based on the High-Level Panel of Experts' Report on Price Volatility and on the outcomes of other related processes, such as the G20 and the FAO sub-regional seminars on price volatility directed at policy-makers.

A policy Round Table on Food Price Volatility will be held during the Thirty-seventh CFS. A consultative and inclusive process was also launched to develop the first version of the Global and Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition by October 2012. An annotated outline has been prepared by a task team composed of the CFS Secretariat and members of the Advisory Group representing all the stakeholder groups.

The Secretariat was also requested to facilitate a process to share experience and views on existing systems, rules and practices related to mapping food security and nutrition actions at country level. For this a Technical Consultative workshop was held from 23-25 May, and the Secretariat assisted by the Task Team will now prepare a document for the Thirty-seventh CFS outlining the main findings and conclusions, as well as recommendations, for the way forward. Four to six national governments are expected to present their experiences during this CFS Session.

A recommendation was also made to look into organizing a High-Level Expert Forum on Protracted Crisis no later than 2012, with a view to discussing the new agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crisis, in collaboration with other Specialized Agencies and humanitarian partners.

The Secretariat is also organizing a Round Table at FAO in September 2011 to review different methods of hunger measurement.

As well as the Policy Round Table on food price volatility, there will be two other Policy Round Tables in the October CFS session. One will be on how to increase food security and smallholder investment in agriculture, and the third will be on gender, food security and nutrition. We are already looking forward to some very lively debates on these important topics. In order to expand its outreach, the CFS is currently actively pursuing enhanced private sector participation in the CFS. The overall target for the Thirty-seventh session of the CFS is to ensure the participation of at least 20-25 high-level representatives of the private sector.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Government of the United Kingdom for providing extra-budgetary resources to facilitate this process.

Finally, the CFS continues to deepen its coordination with other institutions and fora, such as the G20, as it reaches out to other intergovernmental organizations, governments and international NGOs.

This has been a brief overview of the activities since the Thirty-sixth CFS. As you can see, all the stakeholders involved are committed to ensuring that the CFS meets the high expectations set by the Reform. We look forward to your active participation in the Thirty-seventh session of the CFS this October.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security. I would now like to draw up my List of Speakers. I would like to start with the distinguished delegate of Egypt please.

Mr Essam Osman FAYED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt would, at this point, like to express our thanks to the Committee on Food Security.

Yesterday, during our discussions concerning the Khartoum meeting last year, we paid tribute to the excellent work that has been done so far by the CFS, and we are looking forward to another meeting next September in the lead up to the October CFS. That will give the Member Nations of our region the opportunity to better set out our needs in terms of food security.

We hope to be able to really focus on the main issues and work together to strengthen the activities of food security. We also hope that this meeting will be financed, because food security is any issue that needs to be considered very effectively. It is a pressing, extremely important issue and definitely is a major priority for the countries of our region, in particular for Egypt.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EU considers the 36th Session of the CFS, the first session under the Reform, a success and a big step in the right direction in terms of participation, ownership, timelines and global relevance of the discussions. A significant number of tasks have been given to the Bureau, Advisory Group, Secretariat and the High-Level Panel of Experts by the 36th Session. We commend the intensive inter-sessional work of the Bureau under the wise leadership of the Chair. The EU applauds the good spirit of cooperation between Bureau and Secretariat, and between the three Rome-based Agencies within the Secretariat, as well as the commitment of the entire staff of the CFS-Secretariat. We welcome, in particular, the organisation of two seminars on the current situation on commodity prices.

In the light of the increasing amount of actions and recommendations arising from the 36th Session, the EU would like to highlight the importance of the need for increased focus, prioritisation and follow-up during the inter-sessional period as well as the need for full involvement and cooperation with the members of the Advisory Group, including with and with a particular emphasis on the civil society, the private sector and the development banks. The spirit of collaboration with all stakeholders involved needs to be maintained and reinforced during the preparation of the 37th Session of the CFS. In that respect and to ensure CFS's continued relevance, it is crucial that the 37th Session moves forward the several processes started up at the 36th Session, resulting in very concrete deliverables. The EU is also concerned by the low level of funding provided to the CFS so far, in particular to the Trust Funds established by the HLPE and to the civil society participation mechanism, and it encourages all Members to contribute more in light of their strategic roles.

The EU highlights the importance of having an independent High-Level Panel of Experts, welcomes the timely contribution that the HLPE is providing on price volatility, land issues, social protection and climate change and compliments the speed with which the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts has taken up formation of task teams responsible for the reports and distributed the first drafts of their reports for external review. The EU looks forward to the future CFS Plenary sessions being increasingly informed by the recommendations arising from the High-Level Panel of Experts' Reports. The EU strongly encourages increased transparency of the CFS expert-led processes, especially concerning the selection of the Steering Committee members and project teams.

The EU welcomes the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. We consider the need to route the guidelines in the other binding treaty obligations and principles of international human rights, good governance and other public law, as fundamental for the goal of policy coherence. The elaboration of the guidelines is a result of a long, participatory, consultative process which has involved all FAO regions and all key stakeholders. The successful negotiation of the guidelines in July, followed by a swift adoption at the CFS 37th Session is fundamental. It will also show the efficacy of the reformed CFS. It should be capable of giving concrete policy recommendations on improvement of management

of natural resources so as to assure increased food security and the right to food for all. In addition, implementation of the Guidelines by all the stakeholders in their respective responsibilities should be effectively supported. National governments, local authorities and civil society should provide the links to local level communities where the implementation of the Guidelines can be piloted.

The EU encourages the CFS Secretariat to assure that all Regional Groups and Permanent Representatives are debriefed about the Voluntary Guidelines' process, including the outcome of the first session of the Open-Ended Working Group in June and the way forward. Furthermore, we request the CFS Secretariat and the CFS Chair to approach all Regional Chairs to encourage them to actively participate in the Voluntary Guidelines' process. We also ask the CFS Secretariat to assure provision of definitions, including harmonisation of the human rights-referenced legal language with the support by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in advance of the upcoming meeting in July.

In addition, we urge the CFS Secretariat to ensure that agreed timelines for provision of documents – including by the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group – are being observed.

The EU welcomes the adoption by the CFS Bureau of the roadmap on consultation on principles for responsible agricultural investment within the CFS, as mandated by the 36th Session. The EU in principle welcomes responsible investment in agriculture, but looks with concern at the escalating negative evidence with regard to the impact of large-scale land acquisitions on local livelihoods and on host countries' food security. Furthermore, it is essential that any principles should be grounded in the obligations of States under international human rights law. In addition, the EU suggests including the principle of free, prior and informed consent. Therefore, we encourage the swift set-up of the Open-Ended Working Group to facilitate the Consultative Process on Responsible Agricultural Investment and its Principles, with the view to deliver its end product to the 38th Session of the CFS. The EU expects the RAI principles to be coherent with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Tenure, and the implementation of the two processes to be clearly interlinked. The EU also expects the High-Level Panel of Experts' Report on Land Tenure and International Investments in agriculture to feed the Policy Round Table on these issues.

The EU encourages a good preparation of the Policy Round Table on Food Price Volatility. The last months have proven once again that excessive price instability can destabilize agricultural economies and have severe consequences on food security by reducing access to food for consumers, as well as by discouraging producers to invest and increase production. Policies should be supported at local, regional and international level to mitigate the impact of food market volatility on the poor, and to encourage the development of measures to manage excessive price volatility. Both the CFS and the G20 have placed the Food Price Volatility on the top of their agendas. The work of the CFS will benefit from the Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Price Volatility underway, the Report for the G20 of the ten organizations of the UN and Bretton Woods, co-led by FAO and OECD, and the Reports of the FAO Sub-regional Seminars on Food Prices. The coherence and complementarity between the processes is crucial. In this context, the EU considers it of paramount importance that CFS, as the major body and central platform that gathers all relevant stakeholders with respect to food security, delivers coherent policy advice at its October session based on the recommendations in the above mentioned Reports and the G20 agricultural meeting outcomes.

The EU also welcomes the inclusion of the Policy Round Table on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition in the 37th Session. As illustrated in the 2011 SOFA, the EU emphasises the importance of specific investment for women in rural areas, both due to the investment's high yield potential and human rights aspects. Furthermore, it urges CFS to ensure that women's leadership and expertise feed into all thematic areas of work, such as guidelines and initiatives related to land, investment, and food security. The CFS should strive to assure that gender mainstreaming will become a key priority of its work, for example, by increasing the emphasis on the need to produce gender-disaggregated data on food security (SOFI) and access to natural resources. Moreover, nutrition is a very important issue where women have a crucial role to play, and we look forward to discussing it in the CFS.

The EU also acknowledges the work done by the Secretariat, and the value of the input provided by the Advisory Group in preparation of the Consultative Workshop on Mapping Food Security and

Nutrition Actions at Country Level, held from 23-25 May. We look forward to the document outlining the main findings and conclusions, supplemented by the appropriate country experiences to be presented at the 37th Session. We acknowledge the importance of this exercise to increase coordination among all actors so as to achieve a comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition at country level.

The EU hopes that the 37th Session of the CFS will strike the perfect balance between ambition and means, with a clear prioritisation of subjects to be dealt with during the following inter-sessional period, including regarding the High-Level Panel of Experts' mandates. This should go hand in hand with a more effective communication as well as resource mobilisation strategy.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

Ms Dounghatai DANVIVATGHANA (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee on World Food Security for their untiring efforts made on these very important issues, and generally endorse the Report.

We also would like to share our views that the issue of tenure of land and other natural resources and international agriculture investment are inter-related. More importantly, both issues are cross-cutting, and involve several stakeholders regarding law and administration. Therefore, we recommend that development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and other natural resources as well as the development of the principle of responsible agricultural investment. These issues need to be carefully discussed among all stakeholders with adequate data, information and time before finalizing and detailing them.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

We would like to support the Report of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of the Committee Policy Recommendation in managing risk and vulnerability to promote food security and better nutrition.

There are two key approaches in risk management, namely reducing risk to minimize the occurrence of shocks on food supply and secondly to cope with food security shocks. We would like to share our experiences in these issues. In the reducing risk on food supply approach, Indonesia is managing national and local rice reserves to stabilize food supply and rice prices at the consumer level. Indonesia has also identified risk-prone areas by providing food security and vulnerability data as a result of collaborative work with the World Food Programme (WFP). In mitigation of shocks in food security Indonesia has implemented community and parliament programmes namely the "Village Food Resiliency" programme which is empowering food security at the household level. Indonesia has also carried out the food aid system under emergency situation.

Ms M Emily MOGAJANE (South Africa)

South Africa supports the adoption of the CFS Report, noting specifically the points raised linking food security and nutrition and the importance of the first thousand days in a child's life. We are also urging FAO to put more efforts into capacity-development of women, especially in rural areas on nutrition -- thus recognizing that increasing food production does not necessarily lead to improved nutrition unless production efforts are supplemented by essential improvement in access. We therefore endorse the Report.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Muchas gracias a Noel de Luna por el excelente documento que nos trajo. Tenemos una coincidencia muy interesante ya que Noel presidió uno de los Comités de las Directrices Voluntarias para el Derecho a la Alimentación, y los dos temas tienen mucho que ver. Si no conseguimos el apoyo de los habitantes de las ciudades para el tema de la democratización de los campos, difícilmente lo podemos realizar. Vamos a ubicar este tema muy alto en la agenda política de nuestros países. Es muy importante tener presente como los dos temas están estrechamente unidos.

La otra cuestión que me parece muy importante, y que espero que la prensa internacional pueda reflejar oportunamente, es que el documento deja claro que la inflación en los precios de los alimentos no se debe a la demanda, como mucho se dijo. No es así. No es que los precios subieron porque los pobres están comiendo más. Esto se encuentra muy bien aclarado en el documento. En cambio, sí se trata porque tenemos disfunciones en la producción, que se extienden desde la concentración de semillas certificadas en manos de pocas empresas hasta la distribución.

Otro tema que es muy importante y que el documento deja claro es que América Latina, una región que distribuyó mucho en rentas durante los últimos ocho años, fue la región donde la producción agrícola aumentó más y es también donde los precios de los alimentos son más bajos. Al menos esto es lo que sucede en el caso de Brasil, que es de todas maneras un buen ejemplo, tomando en cuenta nuestra población. Esto significa que se puede tener un círculo virtuoso de distribución de renta con mayor consumo, mayor producción y bajos precios.

El tema de las directrices es fundamental, y vuelvo nuevamente a Noel que estaba presidiendo el Comité de Redacción de la CIRADR, la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural: nosotros tenemos muy presente que el suceso de las Directrices para el Derecho a la Alimentación podría ser reproducido en el tema del Acceso a la Tierra. Aquí creo que es importante lo que dijo el Representante de la Unión Europea, en el sentido de que tenemos que tener un intercambio estrecho con el Consejo de los Derechos Humanos porque, si estamos hablando sobre un derecho humano, estamos tratando de un derecho humano a realizarse en los ámbitos nacionales. Yo creo que esto debe estar muy presente en el título como lo estaba en el título de las Directrices Voluntarias para el Derecho a la Alimentación. Al contrario del Derecho a la Alimentación, estamos tratando de un bien inmueble. Los derechos humanos son responsabilidades de los Estados: proteger, promover y proveer -- proveer, en este caso, en los ámbitos nacionales. Y aquí deseo agregar lo que dije antes: el tema del agua es fundamental, es el primer alimento. No podemos tratar un tema sin tratar el otro.

Estoy muy contento al ver que también vamos a discutir el tema de las crisis prolongadas. Es un tema fundamental porque quisiera saber, como miembro consultivo del CFS, ¿cuántas veces nos preguntamos si las crisis no se prolongan también por la forma en que nosotros, la comunidad de países, las tratamos? Yo creo que es fundamental que podamos discutir este tema. Los otros temas son igualmente fundamentales.

Discutimos mucho sobre productividad y la necesidad de aumentar la productividad, pero las discusiones durante la presentación en la apertura de ayer con debate general sobre el rol de la mujer fue muy interesante cuánto puede aumentar PIL mundial agrícola por el apoyo que se le brinde a la mujer en la producción: el aumento puede ser de hasta 4 o 5 %. Eso es fundamental. Los países de la comunidad internacional tenemos una visión científica del aumento de la productividad. Tenemos que tener en cuenta las tecnologías sociales y de apoyo. En el caso de la mujer, por ejemplo, de apoyo a la producción que ocupa a la mujer y sabemos que allí se enlaza con el tema de la tierra. Si la mujer alcanza en promedio el 70 % ciento del total de la mano de obra agrícola, tendría que tener un porcentaje de los títulos de la tierra. Es decir que estamos muy lejos todavía de enfrentar el tema de la titulación de la tierra por parte de las mujeres.

Por último, quiero también apoyar lo que se dijo anteriormente sobre la importancia de la nutrición. Es fundamental tratar el tema del acceso y reflexiono, ya que estamos por iniciar otro período en la Dirección General de la FAO, sobre el tema de la nutrición: ¿cómo queremos ver el tema de la nutrición reflejado en la estructura de la FAO?

M. Christian ASSOGBA (Sénegal)

Nous voulons féliciter le Secrétariat pour le rapport qui nous a été soumis. Madame la Présidente, vous savez que depuis deux ans le Sénégal accueille une rencontre qui se tient en prélude du G1 et cette rencontre nous l'appelons le Dakar agricole. Nous nous félicitons aujourd'hui qu'après deux éditions, les propositions du Dakar agricole concordent avec celles du Comité pour la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi, tenant en compte de la table ronde qui sera chargée d'examiner les méthodes d'évaluation du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim, nous souhaiterions proposer au Secrétariat que cette rencontre soit vraiment documentée. Dans cette perspective, nous aurions souhaité que, si le

document de synthèse qui résume les enseignements tirés des études de cas est finalisé, que ce document soit soumis à la table ronde parce que les réalisations ou les conclusions provenant de cette table ronde pourront déterminer un peu l'état de l'ensemble des propositions qui ont été faites par le CSA. Par ailleurs, nous souhaiterions, à l'image du Président, inviter l'ensemble des pays à participer au processus de négociation des directives volontaires pour une gouvernance foncière, et le Sénégal voudrait particulièrement inviter les pays africains à prendre part à ce processus.

Mr Ming LUO (China) (Original language Chinese)

The delegation of China welcomes the Report of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and the results obtained. We believe that the Report laid a very sound basis for the upcoming WFS Reform. We agree that the current Conference approve the CFS Report of its Twenty-sixth Session.

Regarding paragraph 26 of this Report, dealing with Voluntary Guidelines and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments, this delegation would like to reiterate, regarding the drafting of these two documents that the Open-Ended Working Group's working procedures and the entire negotiation process should be fair and transparent to ensure the broadest participation and the fullest consultation among Member Nations.

The Chinese delegation does not agree that the two above-mentioned documents be adopted or have a deadline without being fully negotiated or discussed.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, the Bureau and the Advisory Group, and the Committee for a successful Thirty-sixth Session, the first session held following our decision to significantly reform the body. The US endorses the Report of the Chair of the CFS for approval of the Conference, and thanks the Secretariat for their hard work over the past year.

We have covered a lot of ground since 2008, and the United States believes we have achieved a good model that, working together in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, we can all continue to improve upon. The United States looks forward to continuing our work with the Committee on important issues such as land investment and tenure, vulnerability and risk, assisting countries in protracted crisis, the mapping of inputs and outcomes on food security and discussions surrounding a potential process for a global strategic framework. The United States is also pleased that Committee members have agreed to raise the profile of nutrition with regards to food security. As you know from her recent visit here at FAO, Secretary Clinton considers this an issue of urgent and utmost importance, and we would welcome the addition of a work stream in support of a concrete outcome that strengthens nutrition-smart programming in food security and agricultural development.

Though improved, the CFS is still a work in progress. The United States believes that the CFS can be improved in matters related to the preparation of draft decisions, including the decision boxes, in improving clarity in what is expected from presenters, participants and members, an improvement in more open dialogue and reporting, and greater participation by non-governmental actors, including the private sector. We are encouraged by the fact that private sector representatives have just met in Brussels a few days ago to organize their increased participation in CFS meetings.

We look forward to working with Committee members together to continue to improve the functioning and output of this important body.

Mr Benedict NGALAMA OLENANGARO (United Republic of Tanzania)

Tanzania supports the work of the group, and we would like to congratulate the Committee for having done a very good job.

I would like to draw the attention of this meeting to the fact that climate change has made a big difference in ways through which people monitor the whole concept of food security. Some of the grassroots level indicators are no longer functional because of climate change. Some of the vegetation are actually used to determine levels of food availability are no longer relevant, and I think this is a

challenge for FAO and for the other stakeholders. There is a need to try to develop a framework which will facilitate development of new indicators, especially at the grassroots level, so that the early warning system will continue to be upgraded and made relevant and so that local communities can actually determine when they should respond to food shortages and to food insecurity.

Tanzania would like to recommend that the household should still remain the unit of analyses when we are dealing with food security, and we should still focus and not lose focus on the sustainability and security of livelihoods in which food security would remain a critical unit.

Finally, I feel that FAO could do more work especially in responding to new challenges emerging from climate change, and make sure that the concept of food security will actually continue to address the whole issue, that is, that food is locally produced as much as possible and that food security should contain the entire idea of food that is nutritiously adequate, critically acceptable and ecologically- and technologically-feasible.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

First, we would like to thank Ambassador De Luna for the report of the CFS Thirty-sixth Session and for the update on progress since that time. We are impressed by the hard work of the Bureau, Secretariat, Rome-based Agencies Advisory Bureau and High-Level Panel of Experts. Canada is supportive of the ongoing CFS reform process, and will continue to work with our development partners to have the CFS contribute to the achievement of global objectives for increased food security.

We would like to signal just three cautionary notes. One is that the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure will be the first big tangible result for the reformed CFS. For this to be a success it is essential to have a very wide and deep participation of experts from Member Nations in the negotiations coming up in July, as was noted by Ambassador De Luna.

Secondly, we feel it is critical that the membership engage fully in the work of the Bureau. The Bureau needs to open to participants and observers as widely as possible, so that we are all aware of progress.

Third, and final cautionary note. We are a bit concerned about the ever-expanding workload of the CFS and its Secretariat, and we advocate for a measured and realistic approach to the CFS reform and its responsibilities.

Mr Nehad Abd AL MADHDY ABBAS (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

We are all experiencing a food crisis today. In Iraq today we are dependent on our two neighbours, Iran and Turkey, to help us with food security. We are facing several problems: lack of water resources, salinity of water and the lack of agricultural land, especially in the centre of the country. All these problems are extremely difficult to resolve because of the lack of water, and we need a lot of water if we have to irrigate arable lands. All this leads to degradation of vegetation cover of the country affects the health of Iraqis, and leads to greater worsening impact on climate change. We are trying to introduce new irrigation systems with the Ministry concerned through the exploitation of underground water resources to make better use of rainwater in order to preserve our underground water resources. Today, we are trying to adopt a concerted approach between all the sectors involved.

We know that food security depends on other sectors such as oil, education, security and so on. All this has a negative impact on agricultural production. This is being taken into account by the Ministry of Agriculture which has developed new programmes and policies and through them has tried to improve agricultural output and diversify fruit and vegetables for citizens and has also tried to diversify animal resources and livestock. So we are trying to meet people's needs in Iraq through a number of strategies aimed at the diversification of plant and animal resources provided by the agricultural sector, and we are trying to provide citizens with animal protein as well. The Ministry of Agriculture therefore approves all the CFS's initiatives and supports a strategic plan to improve production, both plant and animal. Finally, we call upon the FAO to provide us with more training resources.

Mr Mustafa IMIR (Turkey)

After listening to many delegates, many comments and the response from distinguished delegations, I will be brief.

I would also like to associate Turkey to the response of the Commission of the European Union to the Report. I am pleased to hear of the excellent work of the CFS. It was nice to observe the evaluation of the CFS in planning this indispensable body on food security. I would also like to underline the contribution of CFS to the other fora, where the issue of food security has been high on the agenda.

The participation of the private sector in the CFS has to be enhanced and an institutional way of working together should be established. This point has already been underlined in the Report. Close contact with the umbrella organizations of the private sector would be a good step forward in achieving objective-oriented results in food security.

With the interface from Iraq, I should say several words. As far as I know, Turkey has undertaken efforts to help Iraq much more than it is expected to do. I know that because of water shortage in Turkey. We have therefore and asked Syria to provide more water to Iraq. In turn we would pay Syria later on.

Mr Hossain MUSADDIQUE (Bangladesh)

What I would like to say is that the Committee did not address several matters on food security and food safety. I would like to draw attention to that.

If globally, nationally and generally people know the theme of food security and food safety and awareness is the duty of FAO as well as the FAORs to know what food security and food safety support there is. It is the challenge now for us.

In the food security context, testing and quality control should be harmonized. It has not been noted here and it should be harmonized. There should be security of the investment, as well as safety against hazards in food for human beings as well as for animals. And there is no mention of involvement of women in food safety and nutrition. I would like to add a recommendation regarding the food security and food nutrition, the Task Force's work and certification under the food commodity system. A fundamental thing is awareness regarding food security and food safety concerns.

Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)

Starting from the preparation for Thirty-sixth Session of the CFS, the reformed CFS has been actively dealing with important topics for global food security.

We thank the Secretariat for their excellent work. Among the topics, it is known that CFS plays a central role in promoting the broad consultation regarding the principles of responsible agricultural investments, and inform the international community accordingly. Now, pilot studies are ongoing in some countries to test the right principles. The pilot studies are outside of the purview of the CFS process, however. The result of the study will provide us with information and the validity of application of the right principles.

Sra. Carla CAMPOS BILBAO (Argentina)

Argentina estuvo comprometida con la Reforma del Comité y ha promovido distintas estrategias para avanzar en esta tarea. Felicitamos al Comité por los avances alcanzados y el progreso. El Comité ha dado una muestra clara que la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición debe abordarse con la participación de otras áreas y otras disciplinas.

Específicamente la felicitación o el reconocimiento por abordar o por participar y sumar lo que implica la participación de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, es importante, igual que la decisión de abordar la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria, de la estrategia del desarrollo rural territorial y desde la agricultura familiar dándole un lugar así a la mujer como actor central en la toma de decisiones. La incorporación del tema de tierras y los niveles ascendentes que se vienen identificando la extranjerización de tierras en países con mucho potencial de producción agropecuaria son iguales

importante, y como lo es coincidir y alentar la cooperación de los países con los que tenemos similares problemáticas y oportunidades en lo que implica a la oportunidad de la cooperación sur-sur.

CHAIRPERSON

So we had a very rich debate and I would like to now ask the Secretariat to comment on the comments and the contributions of the discussion.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

I read the interventions by Members as a broad endorsement of the work of the Committee, the process and its objectives and what it is trying to achieve. I will go only to a few items that concern the work of the Secretariat. I am very tempted to start from Canada's comment regarding workload, and take the opportunity to thank the units and individuals in our Organization who have done a lot of work to support the Committee in a number of technical issues that the Committee is dealing with, so in a sense, we as a Secretariat.

The Committee have acted as coordinators of the political process and the technical units. So I want to publicly thank all those that are supporting the work of the Committee.

With respect to the Regional Workshop which Egypt referred to, we have a concept note. We are trying to coordinate with the Regional Office and as pointed out, we are looking for the resources to be able to organize that very important Workshop. We also take the European Union's comment on the low level of resource mobilization for the various parts of the Committee's work with the High-Level Panel of Experts. The coordination mechanism of the civil society and the Committee work itself is something to be taken into consideration, and we will certainly do so. We are putting together a resource mobilization strategy, but all the strategies in the world will not be enough if individual resource partners are not mobilized to support it.

In terms of mapping, let me first tell you that the whole issue of mapping has been coordinated with a task team that has been working quite a long time and includes various stakeholders. They had a very successful workshop a few weeks ago. The conclusions of this workshop are soon going to be on the Website.

What we expect in the meeting in October is to present the salient points of the conclusions of the workshop, and also four to six countries will present their mapping exercises in their own national food security policies.

With respect to the protracted crisis, let me say that at this point we have finalized the note on the protracted crisis. We have identified the various actors that actually could participate in such an effort, so we are trying to make sure that we have an accurate mapping of the field, that is, who's doing what in order to be able to propose the High-Level Expert forum an agenda for action. A short concept note is about to be circulated to the members of the Advisory Group for their input, and it will be tabled at the next meeting of the Bureau on the 22 July, and then onward to the October meeting for approval.

With respect to the issues on the Voluntary Guidelines that were pointed out, let me say that we take the documentation as it comes, and it is cleared mainly by the Chair of the Committee. The documentation has been sent to the Bureau and everything should now be available through the Permanent Representative Website including the letter of the Chair.

In terms of the private sector participation, I had the pleasure to participate in a meeting of the private sector in which they were trying to put together a mechanism not unlike the mechanism put together by the civil society in order to coordinate the participation in the Committee and its various activities including, of course, the Roundtables and the discussions on the various guidelines.

As regards, the Roundtable on the Measurement of Food Security, this of course is very important. We had a briefing with the Member Nations a few weeks ago, and we requested that they identify participants who could attend this important workshop. Not all Member Nations have actually been very active in providing us names. We still have a chance to get this moving. I would ask your cooperation in indicating who from your countries should be approached for that. The Report of this

matter will be presented in the Committee on World Food Security in October. We also believe this is a very fundamental issue regarding the overall measurement of hunger.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson Committee on World Food Security)

I would like to thank all the distinguished members of this Commission for their endorsement of this Report, and for the general support that they have extended to the Committee on World Food Security. What we had really was a very rich and varied debate, and I would like to concentrate some responses on some of the issues that were raised.

Just like Kostas, I would like to start also with an observation that was raised by our distinguished colleague from Canada in that the CFS seems to be expanding its workload. I will be the first person to agree with that observation. And, in fact, in the first year that I have taken over the Chairmanship of the CFS, I seem to have worsened my eyesight. Now this is, I think, more a recommendation for Member Nations also, to help guide the CFS Bureau to reduce the workload and focus on the more important issues that affect us globally. Not that we would neglect national and regional issues, but we have to prioritize our work here.

Now let me give you an example of how the CFS Bureau works. The CFS bureau is composed of 12 Member Nations. It has about 13 Advisory Group members of various persuasions and colours and then it has a Secretariat of three Rome-based Agencies, and many experts, so that practically what we are doing on a monthly basis is like having a Plenary. Now to have a Plenary, I think we are being flooded by documents. You can just imagine the volume of work that we are doing there. But anyway, at any point in time, if these are the wishes of the Member Nations and if they so decide, the CFS Bureau and the Secretariat, the Advisory Group members and the High-Level Panel of Experts will work for the interests of all Member Nations, most especially the developing ones.

There was a point that was also raised by the EU, and this was the concern on the low-level of funding for the High-Level Panel of Experts, as well as the participation of the civil society. I will also agree with that, and I think this is a concern that is to be addressed more to Member Nations themselves so that if you want a CFS that is more inclusive, more participatory, I think there should be financial resources, they should be stabilized, they should be regular and they should be given not only to the High-Level Panel of Experts and CSOs, but for participation from members of least-developing countries. I think that is the only way to encourage least-developing countries to participate in the Plenary session, and have a broader consensus on all the issues that are affecting us.

There have been two or three specific issues that have been raised by Members, and this concerns the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. I am raising this point now because it is immediate for us to have a broader participation, especially from the developing countries, and these negotiations will not take place next year. These negotiations will take place two weeks from now. There have been pre-negotiating exercises, and personally I am very disappointed at the level of participation from developing countries. This has been amply stated by the distinguished delegate from Senegal. This was also a very serious concern that was raised by the delegate of China, because it impacts on the level of legitimacy, it impacts on the level of ownership.

Now, as Brazil has stated earlier, if there is less participation in the process for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines, it would be very difficult for us to implement them at the national level. So I would like to call on the Regional Chairs, all Permanent Representations in Rome, all the members of this Commission which have gathered here for the Conference to please send in your experts to the negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines starting on July 12-15. That is at least two weeks from now.

The other delegates have also raised the point of trying to make the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, as well as the principles of responsible agricultural investment, coherent. That is very much a work in progress, and we are trying to make them as coherent as we can.

Finally, the EU has raised a very very specific point on the documentation for the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. I am happy to inform all of you that we have issued this documentation. It is published electronically in all the Websites here, the CFS working space, the Permanent Representatives Website, as well as on the public Web site of the Voluntary Guidelines on Land

Reform. The documentation is rather thick, the number of footnotes even longer, but I trust that for the sake of national interest you will go over them and perhaps participate actively in the next round of negotiations.

I would like to end my statement there, and once again I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for your support of the CFS.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr De Luna. This brings me to my summary. My summary will be as follows. The Conference carefully reviewed, there were sixteen statements in all regarding the Report of the CFS. The Conference endorsed and took note of all particular interventions. This will be my summary and brings me to the conclusion of this Item. Thank you for all your contributions. I will close this item now and we will start now with the Item concerning the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

But in the mean time, when the people of the Fisheries Department will approach the podium, I will let you know that we are behind in our schedule of work and it is possible to have an evening session of which, go on immediately after the official conclusion of the usual afternoon meeting.

So what I would like to say is that, if we cannot finalise our work in time, we will start immediately with an evening session after the normal afternoon meeting.

I would like to ask the delegations to be precise in their statements to save a little bit of time because after the evening session, we will have the Drafting Committee for the first part of Commission I.

12.5 Report of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries

(31 January - 4 February 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)

12.5 Rapport de la 29^{ème} session du Comité des pêches

(31 janvier - 4 février 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)

12.5 Informe del 29.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca

(31 de enero - 4 de febrero de 2011) (C 2011/20; C 201/INF/12)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to come to the next Agenda Item which is the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee of Fisheries which took place from the 31 January-4 February 2010. The relevant documents are C 2011/20 and C 201/INF/12. May I ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Fisheries to introduce this Item.

Mr Johán H. WILLIAMS (First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries)

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) met in Rome from 31 January to 4 February 2011, and was chaired by Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi from the Islamic Republic of Iran and myself as the First Vice-Chairperson. This was the largest COFI meeting ever, attended by 565 participants, representing 115 Members, Specialized UN Agencies and about 70 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.

The attention given to COFI has increased considerably over the last decade, and the Committee has affirmed its position as the global forum for addressing challenges concerning fisheries and aquaculture, developing global normative guidelines, as well as agreeing on a series of adequate actions. FAO has, based on initiatives by COFI, developed several important global instruments, including legally-binding agreements such as the Compliance Agreement, the Agreement on Port State Measures, and voluntary instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, a number of international action plans and several guidelines addressing a wide range of issues in fisheries, aquaculture and on aquatic eco-systems. The Committee recognized that progress was being made to implement these instruments, but agreed that additional efforts were required to broaden and intensify implementation, including capacity-development.

At this Session, the Committee adopted Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, which complement those for marine fisheries adopted at the previous

COFI Session. With respect to proposals for the listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species put before the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Committee reiterated its view that technical aspects related to trade and management should be considered by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for Assessment of such proposals. The Committee further recommended to continue FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products, and in particular the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies.

The Committee recognized the growing importance of aquaculture for food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, the creation of employment and its overall social and economic benefits to people worldwide, and recommended that more emphasis should be given to FAO's work towards the development of aquaculture. The Committee also approved the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, and recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assist the conformity of public and private certification schemes with these guidelines. The Committee underscored the necessity for improving biosecurity in aquaculture, and strongly recommended assistance to address fast spreading diseases in freshwater fish and shrimp.

Regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Committee agreed that such practices continued to be a major global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy eco-systems. The Committee agreed that Port State Measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing, and recognized the critical role of support to capacity-development as a means of assisting developing countries to combat IUU fishing through Port State Measures. Considering that compliance by Flag States with their obligations under international law, was an essential factor in achieving sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing, the Committee welcomed the arrangements made to convene the FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance in May 2011. The Committee also noted the recommendations of the Technical Consultation on the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, and reiterated its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU fishing, although, so far, the necessary funding for the establishment and running of the Record had not been secured.

In recognizing the significant activities undertaken by FAO inter-sessionally regarding climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation, the Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that FAO should continue efforts to keep Members informed of the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture and help to raise the profile and awareness of the role of fisheries and aquaculture regarding food security and climate change.

The Committee agreed that marginalization of fisheries and aquaculture was a major problem and requested FAO to continue the effort to raise the profile of the sector, including in the preparations for the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) Conference of the Parties (COP) 17, and urged it to improve inter-agency coordination among UN organizations and agencies for stronger synergies.

The Committee noted FAO's roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change, and further noted that such work should be complementary to other core areas of work, such as the implementation of the Code of Conduct, as well as promoting the eco-system approach to fisheries (EAF) and aquaculture (EAA).

The Committee supported FAO's role and effort to improve the integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, and reaffirmed that FAO was the primary source of scientific expertise and advice regarding global issues on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee recommended that FAO continue to play a leading role in promoting and raising awareness of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the benefits and sustainability arising from responsible fisheries and aquaculture, and collaborate with relevant international organizations such as CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as well as with regional fishery bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations.

The Committee reaffirmed the relevance of eco-system approach and took note of the need to strengthen the technical capacity of developing countries in this context.

Discarding of fish had been recognised by many Members to be wasteful, as it constituted a loss of valuable food, had negative consequences for the environment and biodiversity and could be ethically-offensive. To address this, COFI adopted International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards developed by the FAO Technical Consultation. The implementation of the measures contained in these guidelines would substantially increase the contribution by the fish capture sector towards global food supply.

Concerning small-scale fisheries, the Committee welcomed the conclusions and recommendations stemming from an extensive process of consultation, including three regional workshop, with the effective participation of stakeholders. The Committee underscored the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, particularly for developing countries, and further agreed that FAO should continue to give high priority to small-scale fisheries. Consistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the regional workshops, the Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code of Conduct. The Committee agreed that the new instrument should take the form of international guidelines, which should be voluntary in nature, address both inland and marine fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries, and recommended that all stakeholders should be associated, as appropriate, with its development.

The Committee agreed on the need to strengthen the conditions of safety at sea in particular with regard to small-scale fisheries. The Committee also agreed to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme. It would be a major challenge for FAO to develop and support in the implementation of this programme. The necessary funding to embark on this most important programme would hopefully be granted.

Concerning FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture, the Committee expressed its support for the organization-wide reforms, including the new Strategic Framework and agreed with the priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis as proposed, while it took note of some conflicting views regarding the priorities.

The Committee agreed that FAO through its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and in particular the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, should play a proactive global advocacy role on fisheries and aquaculture issues, within its respective mandates, through regular high-level, direct contacts with Members and stakeholders, especially with regard to promoting implementation of the Code and its related instruments, and proposing priority areas of work. The Committee also agreed to review its practice, including its Rules of Procedure at its Thirtieth Session.

Finally, the Committee agreed that the Thirtieth Session of COFI should be held at FAO Headquarters from 9 to 13 July 2012.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations for the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI, as recorded in its Report, and provide the appropriate guidance, in particular on global policy and regulatory matters.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. Thanks to the Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries. Now the floor is open for interventions. I see Iraq first please.

Mr Nehad Abd AL MADHDY ABBAS (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

There has been an agreement between Kuwait, Iran and my country on fishing at sea and national bodies have agreed to exchange information on fish stocks, the assessment of stocks, how to combat illegal fishing and how to stop fishing out of season to prevent fishing accidents at sea. To that end, we have established up the Joint Cooperation Committee to recognize sources of pollution, exchange information on fish farming, and organize seminars to set up research projects for fishing. Iraq would like to see training seminars.

Mr Claudio POLES (Brazil)

First of all, Brazil wishes to express its appreciation for the work carried out by the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and welcomes the Report presented in document C 2011/20.

Brazil recognizes the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in achieving greater food security. The economic sustainability of the sector is of great importance to generate income and provide jobs, mainly for small-scale fisheries. Furthermore, Brazil considers that striking a balance among environmental, social and economic issues should also be a guiding principle of the work of COFI. Brazil also wishes to reaffirm its commitment to implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. At the same time, Brazil welcomes the recently-approved Port State Measures Agreement, and considers this agreement as an important complementary measure to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Mr Chairman, as with other delegations Brazil supports the work done by FAO in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and we do encourage the strengthening and expansion of capacity-building initiatives, that are much needed to ensure the sustainable development of those activities, particularly in developing countries.

Brazil also strongly supports paying special attention to the promotion of agriculture in regions such as Latin America and Africa. At the same time, we would also like to see the topic of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture given due priority.

Ms Florence MORIN (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the results of the Committee on Fisheries and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken.

The European Union is pleased to announce that the European Union Council has approved the ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures, and that the European Union Parliament has given its consent to such approval. Therefore, it is expected that the European Union will deposit its instrument of approval with the Director General of the FAO very shortly.

The European Union would like to stress once more the importance it attaches to the entrance into force of this Agreement, and invites all States to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible, as the measures provided for in the Agreement will only be truly effective in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing if and when globally-enforced in a comprehensive, uniform and transparent manner.

The European Union supports the development of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, and is committed to actively participating by feeding the Global Record with the required data. As it was noted by the Committee on Fisheries, the Global Record should be funded through the FAO Regular Budget, and the FAO Secretariat should ensure that it is developed in a cost-effective manner. Should external financing be needed, the FAO Secretariat should provide precise information on such needs, including a breakdown of costs for different project phases. In order to establish practical arrangements for the updating of the Global Record, the European Union would like to emphasize the need for technical guidelines and procedures for the transmission of data, which should be provided by the FAO Secretariat.

The European Union wishes to highlight the importance of the recommendations adopted by COFI to undertake further work on the development of Flag State Performance Criteria. They will represent a crucial step in the international efforts developed to stop IUU fishing, together with the Global Record of Vessels and the international instrument for Port State Control.

The European Union shares the view that small-scale fisheries are important for food security and poverty reduction, particularly in developing countries. We, therefore, welcome the decision that FAO will initiate the development of International Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries.

As stated at the last Council Session, the European Union again underlines the importance of a future work plan for the development of recommendations for targeted measures to restore and reverse the deterioration of the global stocks, a study requested by the 2010 UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries to establish the impact of fishing on marine species occupying low tropic levels, and an initiative to tackle the different aspects of aquaculture and its sustainability.

Finally, I would also like to express our satisfaction for the adoption of the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, the Technical Guidelines for Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries, and the Technical Guidelines on By-Catch Management and Reduction of Discards.

In this context, we emphasize the proactive advocacy role of FAO, in particular with regard to promoting implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments, proposing priority areas of work, but also by making better use of the biannual COFI gathering of the world's fishery stakeholders.

We are satisfied in general terms with the results of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, although we have to regret that, due to lack of consensus, two European Union proposals, one on a FAO study on alternative feeds in aquaculture and another on the impact of fishing on low tropic level species, were not adopted. We also believe that priority-setting could be improved in order to guide the Secretariat in its area of emphasis and de-emphasis.

We also stress the need for an increased role of the Bureau through other open-ended Bureau meetings, at least annually, to keep track of ongoing work and prepare for COFI and other meetings.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

First of all, we would like to support the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. However, allow me to raise some issues.

In the national fisheries development plan, Indonesia has a target to become one of the largest producers of marine and fisheries product in the world. In this regard, we see the importance of FAO in support in the development of aquaculture as part of food security, particularly as sources of protein.

Regarding the agenda of various programmes of work in fisheries and aquaculture, we would like the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to consider support for institutional capacity-building and to provide resources for monitoring activities, emergency responses to pests and diseases, disease management of fisheries especially for extreme diseases in Southeast Asia region, and we propose that this issue should be included in the FAO COFI programmes related to the period of 2012-2013.

Considering the impact of climate change on the level of world fishery production, we propose integrated regional cooperation to face the phenomenon of climate change in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Finally, in relation to the global registration of fishing vessels, we propose harmonisation of data collection of fishing vessels and the coordination by the FAO of global fisheries.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

Canada continues to support the ongoing Reform at FAO. We encourage FAO to continue implementing results-based management in performance reporting under the Strategic Framework.

Canada urges FAO to engage all Members in setting a focused, prioritized agenda for the Committee on Fisheries to ensure that activities respond to Members' needs and also address developments in the broader fisheries and oceans community, such as commitments within the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions and the recent Convention on Biodiversity Targets for Fisheries.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

We would like to thank the COFI Chair for the succinct and clear presentation of the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI Report. My delegation welcomes this document for bringing to the attention of the Conference the achievements, opportunities and challenges facing the fisheries sector.

We appreciate the progress made in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments. In our country, we have incorporated our domestic laws, with the salient features of this code in our campaign against IUU fishing. We have invested in recent years in monitoring, control and surveillance infrastructure and fisheries laws.

We enhance the authority of local governments and involve local communities in monitoring compliance of fishery laws. Despite progress made, as an archipelagic country with 7 000 islands, more challenges still remain for the Philippines.

We urge FAO to continue its collaboration with the World Trade Organization on fishery-related issues, particularly in the on-going negotiations on fisheries subsidies. Recognizing the importance of aquaculture to many developing countries, we support the priority given to aquaculture in this Report.

We encourage FAO to assist developing countries in developing capacities for an aqua-system approach to aquaculture to ensure sustainability. We recognize the important contribution of aquaculture to the livelihoods and food security of these small fishermen. However, we must be cognizant of the need to adapt safeguards to avoid over exploitation of the environmentally-sensitive areas for aquaculture.

We strongly support the Committee recommendation that high priority be given to a small-scale fisheries in developing countries. In connection to this issue is safety at sea for small-scale fishermen. Fishing is one of the riskiest professions, and the risks are magnified small fishermen in the developing world. They go out to sea without the benefit of safety gear, weather forecasts or radar. We support the Committee's proposal that fisheries be given the priority that it deserves in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13.

We endorse the COFI Report in its entirety.

Mr Alexander A. OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Williams for a very comprehensive Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI and we endorse the conclusions reached by that Committee. It is especially important to note the beginning of the work on the Technical Consultations on the action of Flag States which took place in May this year, thanks to the agreement reached at the Twenty-ninth Session. For us, this measure is very important and we consider that the criteria drafted on the basis of this Technical Consultation are important an element in implementing IUU fishing standards.

I would like to point out that the Russian Federation took an initiative at the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI to create a global list of illegal fishing, the so-called black list, as well as to launch for a campaign not to recruit crews for such fishing. We suggested that we continue work on these initiatives in FAO.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the day before yesterday was the World Day of Fishing so, on behalf of the Russian Federation, I would like to congratulate everyone who is involved in this demanding and arduous profession.

Sr. Augustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Agradecemos también al Presidente del COFI por la muy clara presentación que ha hecho del Informe de la 29.º Sesión del Comité de Pesca, que nuestra delegación puede endosar en su totalidad. Asimismo, deseamos destacar la importancia de lo siguientes puntos respecto al trabajo de la FAO en materia pesquera.

En primer lugar, el establecimiento de principios para la pesca responsable, teniendo en cuenta todos los aspectos, ya sean biológicos, tecnológicos, económicos, ambientales y comerciales. En este sentido

se estima que la FAO debe continuar con su labor en el ordenamiento de las pesquerías, el control de las actividades de pesca y la realización de investigaciones con un enfoque eco-sistémico.

En segundo lugar, la delegación argentina desea subrayar, como se ha acordado en la última sesión del Sub-comité del Comercio Pesquero llevada a cabo en Buenos Aires, Argentina, que la necesidad de la Secretaría de la FAO elabore un marco de evaluación para determinar la conformidad de los planes de eco-etiquetados públicos y privados con las directrices de la FAO.

En tercer lugar, en materia de acuicultura, en particular con relación a las directrices técnicas para certificación de acuicultura, nuestra delegación reitera, como lo hiciera en el marco del COFI, que dichas directrices técnicas no deberán constituir obstáculos al comercio contrarios a la regla de la OMC, especialmente a los principios, derechos y obligaciones establecidos en el Acuerdo sobre las Aplicaciones Medidas Sanitarias y el Acuerdo sobre Barreras Técnicas al Comercio.

Finalmente, Argentina apoya en su totalidad las prioridades identificadas por el COFI, en especial las áreas de mayor y menor énfasis.

Mr Godfrey V. MONOR (Kenya)

The delegation of Kenya would like to sincerely thank the Bureau and the Chair for a very detailed document which has been presented before us. It is actually better than what we discussed during the COFI meeting. The Kenya delegation also approves the support and the adoption of the guidelines on the fishery products, especially for inland capture fisheries. This has been a hindrance, especially for the East African countries where we have Lake Victoria where you could not previously certify the products.

Secondly, on the Port State Measures, the developing countries acknowledge and request more support.

Thirdly, climate change is an issue which I think is affecting most countries, and I think that we need to link this to deforestation.

Lastly, piracy is still a serious issue, and I think that many fishing vessels have virtually moved out of the area because of the piracy situation of Eastern Africa.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

FAO's mandate is to take a leadership role in ensuring global food security, by ensuring sustainable use of our fisheries. This involves setting standards for fisheries management, especially sustainability, and ensuring that developing countries are able to undertake this work.

In order to do this, the FAO needs to make sure it communicates and works with other Agencies in this area. To help organizations work towards the same goals, this provides coherence and ensures that organizations are not duplicating each other's work.

New Zealand sees that FAO is ideally situated to play a role in advocating for the sustainable use of the world's fisheries. With respect to the Port State Measures in the Flag States, performance guidelines form an important part of the toolbox required to provide global solutions to solve the problems of IUU fishing. New Zealand has signed the Port State Measures Agreement, and is currently going through our parliamentary processes. We expect to ratify it before the end of the year and, like the EU, we urge other Member Nations to sign and ratify the Agreement as soon as possible.

It is important to New Zealand that the new Flag State Performance Guidelines neither create nor erode existing obligations and rights, but are an accurate interpretation of existing rights and obligations under international law.

New Zealand remains committed to the process as we want the consultations to result in clear, practical and effective Guidelines which play an important part in the fight against IUU fishing.

Related to trade, seafood is the world's most traded foodstuff, and so the nature of this trade is very important. Given the action and number of leading fishery traders have taken in recent times in

implementing their own sourcing policies, New Zealand would be grateful for FAO taking up a stronger advocacy role and move to put in place guidelines for the setting up and implementation of such schemes.

It is not sufficient for market states to dictate what standard products should have to meet, as this can lead to messy trade-distorting outcomes. We need to ensure both sustainability and legality standards are met, and all regimes should adhere to equivalent standards.

So while New Zealand does support market measures to address IUU fishing, these must be equitably applied and non-discriminatory and, in this respect, FAO's work on eco-labelling is an excellent example of where its standard-setting work has been useful and has resulted in practical and equitable guidelines.

Finally, subsidies increase levels of fishing or maintain them at levels that would otherwise not be economically-feasible. They undermine management, and contribute to the poor state of many of the world's fisheries. In a situation where we are already fishing beyond sustainable limits, it makes no sense to subsidize on such a massive scale.

We strongly urge those countries that continue to subsidize their fleets, to look towards reforming their policies in order to curb the negative effects subsidies have on the world's economy and environment.

In this frame, we are also supportive of FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization, particularly in the ongoing negotiations on fish subsidies.

Mr Dato' SULAIMAN MD ZAIN (Malaysia)

Malaysia supports the recommendation that FAO collaborate with WTO on issues related to trade in fish and fish products, and the ongoing negotiations on fisheries subsidies.

Pursuant to that measure, we would like to support the endorsement of the Report regarding the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. Malaysia also supports the International Guidelines on By-catch Management and the Reduction of Discards. Malaysia hopes that such Guidelines will not be used as a technical barrier to trade.

We support the recommendation that FAO should give priority to small-scale fisheries and ensure adequate visibility for them, especially in the relevant international fora. We also support the establishment of a voluntary instrument for small-scale fisheries.

M Abdel Nasser ZAIR (Algérie) (Langue originale arabe)

Merci, Madame la Présidente, de m'avoir donné la parole et je souhaite féliciter, par la même occasion, le Secrétariat pour la qualité de la présentation et du document de travail qui a été soumis à notre lecture.

Madame la Présidente, ma délégation soutient les actions engagées par la FAO dans le domaine de la pêche et de l'aquaculture de manière générale, et nous l'encourageons à poursuivre les efforts déployés en la matière, particulièrement envers le développement de l'aquaculture pour les pays de l'Afrique. Nous appuyons dans ce cadre les recommandations formulées dans le rapport du Comité des Pêches (COFI) et souhaitons mettre l'accent sur la nécessité de poursuivre l'appui de la FAO pour développer les capacités nationales, particulièrement des pays en développement, dans les domaines de l'application des mesures du ressort de l'État du port, de l'adaptation aux et de l'atténuation des changements climatiques, des directives techniques d'éco-labilisation des pêches de capture et de l'aquaculture. Nous soutenons enfin la proposition de constitution du fichier mondial des navires et d'un instrument particulier sur la pêche artisanale, dont nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire d'assurer le financement sur le budget normal de la FAO.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department)

I would also like to thank the distinguished delegates who have taken the floor for their comments, for their extremely positive support to the Report, to the presentation of the Report and to the Secretariat.

I don't believe that there were any direct questions. I can state that all items that were suggested in the statements by the distinguished delegates are either in the Report or in other documents that we are using as our guidelines, or in the practical work that we are preparing these days. I would say that by the statements of the membership, there was very good conformity with our Report and our work. I am very happy to be able to state that. I would like to thank the distinguished delegates and Members for their very positive comments.

Mr Johán H WILLIAMS (First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries)

As the ADG, I am very content with the positive response we received on our Report, and especially the comment from Kenya that the Report was better than the meeting.

I have noted that most of the interventions pointed out the need for capacity-building in a number of areas where we have, since 1995, developed a number of guidelines. That is obviously the greatest challenge facing FAO fisheries and aquaculture in the years to come.

In representing all of the Members, I can only urge all members to assist the Secretariat in undertaking this necessary performance in order to establish good management, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture worldwide.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to my conclusions and my conclusion will be that the Conference reviewed the Report of COFI, endorsed it and took note of the particular comments made. With this, I would like to conclude the item on the Committee on Fisheries.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (suite)

15. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen triennal complet des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies (C2011/26)

15. Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C2011/26)

15. Informe provisional sobre la revisión trienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo (C2011/26)

CHAIRPERSON

We now start with Agenda Item 15 which is the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations Systems (TCPR), and the relevant document is C2011/26.

So we commence our work. I would like to ask the Secretariat, to introduce this Agenda Item the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Mr Masato ITO (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations)

I would like to briefly introduce the document C 2011/26 , the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (TCPR). Conference Resolutions 13/2005 and 2/2007 represent a turning point for the Organization in the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (TCPR). The TCPR Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly provides the UN System with guiding principles of functioning and coordination at a country level, including inter-agency collaboration.

Document C 2011/26 provides a progress report on FAO's implementation of the TCPR, covering the period of 2009-2011 until June this year, and it was a fundamental reform initiative in FAO, starting in this period. In response to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, the Conference has adopted the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO renewal in November 2009.

I would like to briefly touch on some of the milestones and challenges. With respect to the milestones, I would like to touch upon six points. The first is the new integrated planning approach. The Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 was the first time the Assessed and Voluntary Contributions were subject to the same planning process and oversight arrangements.

The second point is the development and implementation of the new cooperative resource mobilization and management strategy.

The third point is the FAO's success in realizing resources at a decentralized level. This is reflected by increased delivery through the Government Cooperative Programme (GCP), Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF) and United Nations joint programmes.

The fourth point regards FAO's involvement in the UN coordination at a global level. FAO held, for the first time, the Vice-chairmanship of the UNDG assigned to the Specialized Agencies in the year 2009.

The fifth point regarding milestones is FAO participation in UN country team activities. The Organization ensures that FAO country representatives and staff fully participate in UN country team activities.

The sixth point is the new approach to capacity-development and the new commitment to gender issues.

Regarding challenges the first is the predictability of funding and the need for multi-year commitments for Voluntary Contributions. Our experience shows difficulties in predicting the level of Voluntary Contributions and their alignment to the planned results framework and multi-year funding becomes a necessity.

The second point is the cost of coordination for Specialized Agencies. At the country level, there is a growing demand for financial contributions from Resident Coordinator Offices. Taking account of staff time, contributions from Specialized Agencies should be recognized as a co-financing as there is no flexibility to contribute cash.

Finally, the other challenge is attaining inclusiveness in the original UNDG teams. Since 2009, FAO has participated in regional UNDG teams on a pilot basis. The FAO contributions are mostly through staff time. It may be noted that the participation so far has been hampered by different geographical location of UN System Agencies, Regional Offices and the difficult learning process within regional UNDG teams.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

A few words to complement the introduction from my colleague, Officer-in-Charge of OCE. Regarding FAO's implementation of the TCPR, the Report before you shows very good progress, in fact, many points include the TCPR coincide with the recommendations included in the Independent Evaluation of FAO and now are being implemented in the framework of the Immediate Plan of Action.

The implementation of the TCPR collectively by the UN System allows for the UN Agencies and the Organization to be more effective and efficient in the response and to have better value for the money allocated.

There are three points I consider important information for you, in addition to what has been written in this Report.

First point, the General Assembly, this autumn will approve the large or the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Resolution. This resolution will start as of 2012, so the new cycle will

no longer be triennial but quadrennial. FAO will be participating in the discussions on this becoming "QCPR" on the occasion of the ECOSOC operational segment that will take place in Geneva next month. FAO will, however, report against the new QCPR resolution at its next Conference in 2013.

Second point, we acknowledge that the TCPR has provided us with important opportunities when we decided to participate in it. There were some challenges and that is the third point. We have to make sure that in the discussion that TCPR, and tomorrow QCPR, implementation, the UN country team and the UN partners fully appreciate the comparative advantage of the work of the Specialized Agencies.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to call upon delegations to make their interventions by requesting to be placed on my Speakers' List. I see the European Union.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the informative document C 2011/26, which gives a good overview of the actions and activities undertaken by FAO to implement the TCPR resolutions adopted in 2005 and 2007. It shows that FAO's response has been significant. We appreciate the commitment of FAO in this field, and call upon the Organization to continue the work in order to promote a more coherent and coordinated United Nations System at field level. More generally, the EU fully supports the System-wide Coherence Initiative, and therefore the efforts made to improve the cooperation between the United Nations Organizations.

We welcome the FAO's communications campaign which seeks to emphasize the Organization's comparative advantages and potential as a key partner in addressing the challenges facing agriculture and food security in the Twenty-first century.

We noted in the document, that the top 20 partners have contributed 84 percent of all voluntary-funded resources mobilized by FAO in 2010, and that 59 percent of the Voluntary Contributions in 2008-2009 came from the European Community and individual European Union countries. We welcome the fact that other countries like Brazil, China, Turkey and Venezuela are emerging as important resource partners.

We also welcome FAO's involvement in UN System coordination, and that FAO has been a proactive member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and its subsidiary working machinery.

The EU urges FAO to actively continue to take part in the overall UN Reform Process and further improve the coherence of the UN System. As the Secretariat says in the document, although it is too early for the full benefits of these extensive reforms to be realized, tangible impact is emerging in terms of improved strategic focus, efficiency, effectiveness and coordination at country level.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de remercier le Secrétariat pour l'intérêt accordé à cette question qui s'inscrit en adéquation avec l'action menée par le Système des Nations Unies et pour le document qui nous a été fourni.

Dans cet esprit, les organismes des Nations Unies devraient s'attacher à renforcer leur synergie et intégrer leurs efforts pour mieux répondre aux besoins de développement des pays par des initiatives et des programmes conjoints. Les réformes entreprises à ce jour ont permis d'avancer dans cette direction, mais ce processus appelle un élargissement et un approfondissement. Le document note le problème de la tendance croissante à un financement du développement à court terme et spécifique, ce qui porte atteinte à la masse critique des ressources et compromet une utilisation judicieuse des contributions en vue d'une approche intégrée.

Le financement des activités de terrain ou opérationnelles de développement devrait être examiné dans le contexte des problèmes de développement auxquels se heurtent actuellement les pays en développement et leur besoin croissant en matière d'assistance et d'expertise technique.

La FAO devra continuer de jouer un rôle prépondérant sur ce plan, à l'effet de fournir des services uniques en leur genre aux pays en développement eu égard à son mandat et grâce à l'expérience pratique qu'elle a acquise, aux compétences spécialisées de ses structures et de son personnel, aux caractéristiques fondamentales de ses opérations, à sa souplesse et au fait qu'elle respecte et appuie les programmes des pays.

De par ses caractéristiques, la FAO est à même de prêter assistance aux gouvernements pour qu'ils parviennent à réaliser leurs programmes et soutenir les capacités de développement national. Il est toutefois impératif de doter le programme des activités opérationnelles de ressources suffisantes pour qu'il puisse s'acquitter efficacement de ses tâches essentielles en matière de développement. Ça permettrait aux pays en développement et à la communauté internationale de tirer pleinement parti de sa contribution.

La FAO, qui participe activement aux arrangements inter-institutions pour des activités opérationnelles, est appelée à jouer un rôle plus actif dans la formulation des politiques à l'échelon du Système sur des questions opérationnelles et de renforcer sa participation au processus de programmation et de planification au niveau des pays, notamment les bilans communs des pays et le Plan cadre des Nations Unies d'aide au développement, qui sont de plus en plus retenus par les gouvernements bénéficiaires et des donateurs comme un cadre de référence pour les activités d'assistance technique dans les pays.

Cependant, il a été bien admis que le plus grand défi qu'on doit relever aujourd'hui consiste à accroître la capacité de s'adapter de manière à répondre avec agilité et souplesse à un environnement mondial en mutation rapide, et ce, grâce à un programme de terrain renforcé et décentralisé, en étroite interaction et équilibre avec les activités normatives du Programme ordinaire.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

A few words, and I am sure that my colleague from OCE may also wish to comment. First of all, I would like to comment to the very encouraging remarks from the European Union. Indeed, I can confirm that FAO will continue to participate actively as an active team player of the UN in the preparation of the future QCPR, and the implementation of this new resolution.

As I mentioned, the Organization has seen the benefit of a number of initiatives, to mention one, for example, the Delivery-as-One, whereby we have seen the improvement in terms of coherence of the response of the UN System. We have seen improvement in terms of resource mobilization, even though we always have to be careful that this new initiative does not generate high transaction costs in terms of coordination, and since improved coordination is always action-oriented.

Suite en français

En ce qui concerne les commentaires de l'Algérie, et en particulier, sur les questions de mobilisation des ressources, la FAO, comme il est mentionné dans la note que vous avez en face de vous, progresse actuellement sur une nouvelle stratégie de mobilisation des ressources, en particulier pour financer le Cadre stratégique de la FAO, les domaines d'actions prioritaires. Nous espérons que cette nouvelle stratégie de mobilisation de ressources permettra d'avoir un dialogue mieux structuré avec nos partenaires du développement, afin que nous puissions mieux transformer l'expertise de la FAO en actions concrètes sur le terrain.

Je pense qu'il est clair que la situation que nous vivons depuis 2008 avec l'instabilité des prix agricoles attire l'attention de la communauté internationale sur la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts d'investissement dans l'agriculture, et ensemble nous pouvons le faire.

Sur la question du renforcement de la participation au plan de développement des Nations Unies et des autres instruments de coordination, ici encore, des progrès substantiels ont été faits depuis deux ans, en particulier dans le cadre de la formulation de ce que nous appelons les cadres prioritaires

d'intervention aux pays, les «Country Programme Framework» (CPF), qui nous permettent dans le dialogue avec nos partenaires du gouvernement de mieux définir les avantages comparatifs de la FAO pour appuyer les priorités du gouvernement, et ainsi mieux formuler notre contribution au plan de développement cohérent des Nations Unies comme l'United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your explanation, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department Division, Service and Unit.

This brings me to sum up the discussion in the meeting.

Brazil, you have the floor.

Sr Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Quería hacer una nota muy positiva sobre la experiencia que estamos teniendo de integración entre la FAO y el PMA en el campo. Tenemos muchos proyectos de recuperación agrícola en los cuales es muy importante fortalecer la producción local, para así poder comprar los productos para los programas nacionales de alimentación escolar.

Esta integración es necesaria y estamos enormemente complacidos de ver que las dos instituciones FAO y PMA, están trabajando muy estrechamente y en grande armonía y los proyectos salen como si fueran únicos y en coordinación con los gobiernos locales.

Nada más para agradecer y pedir que continuemos con esta línea fundamental para lograr la meta del desarrollo local.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me now to my summary.

I would like to sum up the following. The Conference reviewed the Report and took note of FAO's progress in the implementation of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which will become a Quadrennial Policy Review, as we have heard, taking into account the particular comments made to this Report.

With this I would like to conclude the item. Thank you very much.

16. Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (C2011/27)

16. État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques (C2011/27)

16. Estado de aplicación del Plan de acción mundial sobre los recursos zoogenéticos (C2011/27)

CHAIRPERSON

I now would like to go to the next item of our Agenda which is the Status of the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources document C2011/27. I would like to give the floor to Mr Müller.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

It is my pleasure to briefly introduce this agenda item which deals with an important document that was negotiated by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and adopted by an International Technical Conference held in 2007 in Interlaken, Switzerland. My colleague, Modibo Traoré, will report to you the status of the implementation of Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources. I should like to briefly address the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its forthcoming meeting which will be held from 18-22 July 2011. As you all know, the Commission with its 173 members, is a permanent forum where governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture.

The Commission aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of present and future generations.

The Commission exists to protect one of the world's most important resources -- the biodiversity that the world's agriculture producers depend on. At its next meeting, the Commission will address a number of important issues, including the updated Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources and the topic of Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and it will review its multi-year programme of work.

Two years ago, in 2009, the Conference and this is the reason why I am introducing it, requested the Commission to report on its important work to future sessions of the Conference. However, this biennium, the Conference meets earlier than previous biennia which is why the Commission misses an important opportunity to report to the Conference. The Conference is, therefore, not in a position to adopt the updated Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources which the Commission has yet to, and hopefully will, finalize at its next meeting. The reason why I am reporting to you is that I would like to suggest that this Conference consider the possibility of giving a mandate to the next Council to approve at its Session in November 2011, the updated Plan of Action, as agreed upon and recommended by the Commission and to endorse and act upon any other recommendations that the Commission may wish to adopt at its forthcoming session. This recommendation was discussed during the last meeting of COAG, and Member Nations proposed it, so I am happy to present this proposal to you.

Mr Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

As the responsibility for technical support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action lies with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, it is my pleasure to introduce to you document C 2011/27 Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

The adoption of the Global Plan of Action, the first internationally-agreed framework for the management of livestock diversity, was a major achievement, as well as a milestone for the livestock sector and for the management of agricultural biodiversity. Since 2007, it has become a key instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources at global, regional and national levels and has created important momentum in many countries.

Countries are taking important steps in its implementation, at different speeds and with different priorities. While developing countries aim to strengthen linkages between genetic diversity, livelihood and food security, several developed countries highlight the links between genetic diversity and landscapes and focus their activities on development, labelling and marketing of high-value products. Several countries are currently revising their livestock or breeding policies and strategies. Regional organizations, for example in Africa, have included rules and conservation of genetic resources in their newly-developed strategic plans.

In the document, the information is presented in the order of the four strategy priority areas of the Global Plan of Action: First, characterisation, inventory and monitoring of plants and associated risks; second, sustainable use and development; third, conservation and fourth, policies institutions and capacity-building. FAO forecasts its support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on areas of strategic importance and in line with its core functions. As regards monitoring and assessment, Core Function A, FAO and partners pursue the storage of data in publically-accessible databases. The Domestic Animal Diversity Information System, DADIS, which is recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as a clearinghouse mechanism for Animal Genetic Resources has been further developed. The Global Breeds database within DADIS is crucial for monitoring the success the Global Plan of Action.

While the proportion of breeds classified as at risk has remained stable at about 21 percent of all breeds since adoption of the Global Plan of Action, the rate of breed extinction has slowed.

As regards assembly and provision of information, the State of the Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Global Plan of Action have been published in all FAO languages and in several additional languages. Numerous other communication products have been developed. Linked to the development of norms and standards, Core Function C, FAO partners have continued to pursue the standardization of methods for characterisation of Animal Genetic Resources, a prerequisite for cross-country comparisons and meta studies.

As regards technical support to promote capacity development, Core Function E, and Policy and Strategy Advice, Core Function F, we have received an increasing number of requests for technical assistance, many of them related to policy development.

FAO and its partners have contributed to operating or developing projects involving more than 100 countries, organized more than twenty regional capacity-development events, and developed seven technical guidelines.

As regards partnerships, Core Function H, FAO intensified its cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and collaborated with a wide-range of partners on cross-cutting issues such as climate change and value addition and on identifying core benefits for better Animal Genetic Resources Management. The Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference encouraged the implementation of the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and urged FAO to support its implementation as part of a consolidated and coherent programme. In the PWB, Animal Genetic Resources-related activities are covered by unit Results under Organizational results BO3, FO3 and FO5 and many regional results.

The funding strategy sets out procedures for the use of funds received through an FAO Trust Fund account. This Trust Fund has so far received donations from the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, and another important contribution from Germany is ready for signature.

The first call for proposals and of the funding strategy is expected to take place at the Thirteenth Session of the Commission this coming July. It will assure a competitive and transparent process of project development, implementation and monitoring in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Finally, I would like to thank the Governments of Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey, the global environment, the GIF and the European Commission for their financial support of this important process. Many other countries and organizations also provided substantial support in kind.

Mr Nehad Abd AL MADHDY ABBAS (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Regarding the Global Plan of Action, Iraq has undertaken a number of projects under that heading.

The General Administration of Animal Resources is directing projects that go hand in hand with the global plan to conserve genetic resources. We have a project to characterize the Iraqi camel, and there is also a national plan on animal resources in Iraq.

Resources are rare in this area, and so we request that FAO strengthen country capacities in this area by organizing conferences to raise people's awareness of the guidelines, and to enable countries to benefit from them.

In conclusion, we therefore request the Organization to give support to Iraq to increase its capacities in genetic and phenotyping of animal resources.

We are discovering the phenotype of animals and completing the forms given to us by FAO, and we require assistance to establish a database of zoological data. The Higher Division for Animal Resources is drawing up a framework plan for zoological animal resources, and help should be given to that body.

We need help to be able to implement FAO guidelines in this area.

Ms Ágnes DÚS (Hungary)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union, with reference to the document C 2011/27 on Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, welcomes the effective and progressive work done by the FAO at the international level to enhance conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

We would like to restate our commitment to the Interlaken Declaration, and stress the need for implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development, as well as to meet current and future production challenges resulting from climate change and, in particular, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

The European Union strongly advocates that a long-term and effective management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture is possible only within an international collaboration. The FAO provides a suitable framework for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, facilitating the coordination at the international level and supporting activities at the national level.

We acknowledge the importance of the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and urge FAO to continue providing regular programme funds and technical advice to support its implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to further pursue partnerships and alliances with other international mechanisms and organizations to enhance its implementation. We also appeal to all FAO Members and to relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give due priority and attention to enhance financial support for the implementation of activities within the Strategic Priority Areas of the Global Plan of Action.

The European Union thanks the FAO for the continuous efforts to improve management of animal genetic resources, especially for preparation of the set of technical guidelines and technical assistance to build capacity for implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources all over the world.

The European Union wishes to recognize the important role of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of most of the world's animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in the use, development and conservation of livestock resources. The European Union also wishes to recognize the importance of the sustainable management and use of genetic resources in large-scale production systems, especially by breeders and breeders' organizations.

Furthermore, the European Union requests that the Commission continue to oversee the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, and to report back at the Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference on the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Sra. Carla CAMPOS BILBAO (Argentina)

El documento C 2011/27 que examinamos contiene referencias al Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CBD). La delegación Argentina expresa su apoyo a la colaboración existente entre la FAO y el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica que permite la creación de sinergias, y evita la duplicación de esfuerzos y el aumento de la eficiencia y eficacia de las actividades e iniciativas que se realizan en el marco de ambas instituciones.

Así mismo, estimamos adecuado que se recomiende que los Órganos Rectores de la FAO analicen la función de la organización en el proceso de establecimiento de IPBES.

Al respecto, la delegación argentina apoya la medida propuesta a la Conferencia por la que se aliente a la FAO a colaborar con otras organizaciones e instituciones en la aplicación de las políticas destinadas

a la conservación y utilización sostenible de la biodiversidad para la alimentación e la agricultura, incluido los recursos zoogenéticos y la investigación de las posibles disposiciones institucionales para la Plataforma inter-gubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicio de los eco-sistemas (IPBES), así como las posibles implicaciones jurídicas financieras y administrativas para la FAO.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development. We thank the other donors who contribute to the Trust Fund of the funding strategy and look forward that the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will launch the first call for proposals that should facilitate and pilot animal genetic resources management at the local level. This is an important milestone in the implementation of the Interlaken Declaration.

We would also like to encourage all FAO Members and other international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the implementation of activities within the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

We also take note of the progress made in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We particularly welcome the publication of the second State of the World of Plant Genetic Resources which will allow us for the first time to make an assessment of the impact of the different policies since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action in 1996.

Switzerland encourages FAO and its Commission to continue in its activities in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action through collaboration with other organizations in the implementation of policies aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including plant and animal genetic resources.

The Thirteenth Session of the Commission will take place in July and should make a series of important decisions, including the adoption of the revised Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Therefore, we support the proposal to give the mandate to the Council to adopt the revised Global Plan of Action and to act on other recommendations that the Thirteenth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture may adopt.

Finally, we request the Commission to continue overseeing the implementation of the Global Plans of Action, and to report back at the 2013 Session of the Conference on the status of its implementation with a specific focus on the involvement of small-scale farmers and livestock keepers.

Mr Robert HANSON (United States of America)

The United States welcomes the status of the Implementation Report of the GPA and encourages the FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to continue support and take actions that lead to its widespread implementation.

Animal genetic resources underpin effective livestock production systems and therefore are key tools to be fully utilised in addressing global food security and sustainable rural development. Given the growth in the global livestock sector and the increasing demand for livestock products, it is essential that countries facilitate the effective movement and exchange of these resources. Therefore, the implementation and the utilisation of the GPA will facilitate the further development of the livestock sector around the world.

The United States is satisfied with the progress made in developing the procedures for implementing the funding strategy. Collaboration among institutions and countries has been an important component for advancing the conservation and utilisation of animal genetic resources. We encourage a continuation of such collaborations.

Mr Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I think we have not got substantial questions, and we welcome the different comments and the contributions.

I think it is true that most of the Member Nations have expressed satisfaction with the progress made. What we can say here from our perspective is that we could really make greater progress if we could count on the support from the membership, especially for the funding strategy. As you know the agreement was that we need to reach an agreed level of resources before launching the call, and we hope that with the support of Germany we will get there very soon. But really, given the importance the membership is giving to the issue of sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources, it will be important to maybe strengthen a bit the support you are already giving. We already expect that we can speed up the process with your assistance, if we could get a bit more financial support.

I don't know if Irene Hoffmann wanted to add something.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to the sum up of this agenda item and I will try, as follows.

The Conference welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, taking into account the particular comments made. Furthermore, the Conference mandates the next meeting of the FAO Council in November 2011 to approve the updated Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources, as agreed upon and recommended by the Commission, and to endorse and act upon any other recommendation that the Commission may wish to adopt at the forthcoming session in July.

If we can agree I could finalize this agenda item, and move on.

Other Matters

Questions diverses

Otros asuntos

Any Other Matters

Autres questions

Asuntos varios

35.8 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bioversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES) (Draft Resolution) (C 2011/LIM/19)

35.8 Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (Projet de résolution) (C 2011/LIM/19)

35.8 Plataforma intergubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicios de los ecosistemas (proyecto de resolución) (C 2011/LIM/19)

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to pass on now to the next agenda item which is the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-systems Services (IPBES), including a draft resolution which you can find in document C 2011/LIM/19.

I would like to give the floor immediately to Mr Müller to introduce this item.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

This time now, I would like to introduce a document which provides information on the ongoing process for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-systems Services, also call IPBES, now the abbreviation we have to get used to.

The establishment of a mechanism to improve the science and policy interface in the themes of biodiversity and eco-systems services has been discussed for a long time within the international

community, especially following the successful experience of the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change.

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly called on the United Nations Environment Programme to take the necessary steps to establish the IPBES as an intergovernmental science policy platform. The governance structure of IPBES, as well as whether it will be hosted within one or more institutions and in which country, are still under discussion. This is one of the main issues that I am going to present. We are in the middle of a process and many things are not really clear, but we would like to inform you in order to get FAO involved as best as possible.

The main milestone on the development of IPBES is the Busan Outcome resulting from the Third Inter-governmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting held in June 2010 in Busan, in the Republic of Korea. In Busan, governments, agreed among other things that the IPBES should be established to strengthen the science policy interface for biodiversity and eco-systems services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. The Busan Outcome also established that IPBES would respond to specific government requests, and would perform regular scientifically-credible independent and peer reviewed assessments of biodiversity eco-systems services, including their inter linkages. The platform would also catalyze key scientific information rather than directly undertake new research, and would provide information that is policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive, a very important decision.

Finally, IPBES would support policy formulation and implementation and would prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science policy interface at appropriate level. You see the language is very general but this is an indication that the process is still ongoing. Countries have not yet taken decisions on the institutional arrangements for IPBES or on the location of the Secretariat. The Busan Outcome encourages further consideration by the Governing Bodies of UNEP, UNESCO, and FAO of the roles of their respective organizations in this regard.

Government participation in the IPBES has resulted in the identification of FAO as an important player and possible key partner for IPBES. FAO's mandate experience and longstanding role in relation to periodic assessments on the state of the world genetic resources for food and agriculture has been especially recognized.

FAO is now working with other UN Agencies and programmes, including UNEP, UNESCO and UNDP, and in coordination with other relevant organizations to prepare for the first IPBES Plenary Meeting that will take place in Nairobi from 3 to 7 October 2011. At that Plenary, Governments will consider principles and procedures governing the work of IPBES, its governance structure, the procedures for nomination and election of officers, and the nomination and selection of host institutions or institutions that host it.

The document before you highlights the importance of the fact that whatever its structure will be and wherever it will be hosted, the future work programme of IPBES will complement and create synergies with the work of FAO rather than create overlaps. The document also proposes that IPBES and FAO coordinate and collaborate closely, especially on assessments but also on other activities.

If the Conference shares the views that it is important that FAO maintain strong links with the ongoing process for the establishment of IPBES and if the Conference also wants to respond to the encouragement that countries made in Busan to FAO, the document before you also proposes a Draft Resolution, and this resolution authorizes the Director-General to work closely with UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and other relevant international organizations in the preparation of the forthcoming Plenary Meeting of IPBES in October in Nairobi. This Draft Resolution also offers to establish and co-host or host IPBES with other relevant international organizations, provided that the arrangements are satisfactory to the Director-General and that the costs are met through extra-budgetary resources with appropriate administrative and operational support costs reimbursed and, of course, in full accordance with the prevailing FAO support cost policies.

So this proposal informs on the on-going process, and the draft of the declaration is a proposal for the Director-General of FAO to be more involved and to negotiate with others, especially in the

preparation for the meeting in Nairobi in October, so that FAO can be an important partner in this process.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to ask the floor for comments on this Report. I see Switzerland, and then Australia. Switzerland, please.

May I have the comments of Switzerland please.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Switzerland)

The establishment of the IPBES is a significant step to strengthen the science policy interface for biodiversity and eco-system services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long term human well-being and sustainable development.

Agriculture is central for biodiversity management and eco-system services. Therefore, Switzerland has always actively supported FAO participation in the establishment of the IPBES, and we will support today FAO becoming a key partner of the IPBES due to its experience and also its activities which were reported under the previous item of the agenda. This is a good presentation of the different activities which are related, crucial and central for the IPBES.

Therefore, Switzerland will fully support the Draft Resolution presented on the last page of the document on this Item of the Agenda.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

Thank you for giving me the floor. Australia has one brief comment, suggestion perhaps, on the Declaration, in light of the fact the Plenary Meeting in October will be discussing the hosting of the IPBES.

Australia would like to suggest, in the second last paragraph of the Declaration, a slight change or addition of some words so that the paragraph reads:

(iii) Authorizes the Director-General also to establish and co-host, or otherwise support, IPBES.

Australia feels this would provide more flexibility, particularly given the fact that decisions on hosting have yet to be made.

Ms Kathryn RUSSELL (United States of America)

The United States believes that biodiversity worldwide, like our colleagues from Switzerland and Australia, is under serious threat and that globally we are facing unprecedented and unacceptable losses. The United States believes that the Busan Outcome provides the foundation for a way forward, and we look forward to the Plenary Meeting in October to work out the final institutional arrangements for this based on Busan.

The critical role of biodiversity in food security issues should indeed empower FAO to develop an institutional association with IPBES and to be at the table during its creation, which is why we were pleased to see the very clear Draft Resolution provided by the Secretariat in this document. We would like to support the small change made by Australia. And because we feel that this Draft Resolution is so important we would like to suggest one additional small change in that same paragraph. We would suggest deleting the words “the arrangements are satisfactory to the Director-General and that” and that is because we feel that those words in that paragraph make it perhaps too tentative, and that this Draft Resolution is up for approval by the Conference.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

We just want to lend our support to comments made by colleagues from Australia and the United States and Switzerland in the context of FAO's role and its comparative advantage with regards to International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource and the Commission on Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture. We strongly support FAO engagement in this area.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

Thanks for the support to this document, and the Draft Resolution. Two very brief comments.

Yes, to the proposal from Australia or otherwise support, but with the clear understanding that we do not want only to channel money into this process but we want to be substantially involved. I think this is a shared understanding here, so we could agree to it.

The United States wanted to delete “arrangements are satisfactory to the Director-General”. We could delete this if we had the understanding that if some of the proposals and the decisions taken in Nairobi would absolutely not meet the standards of FAO laid down in our Basic Texts, of course, we could not do it. So I would like to agree to both interventions, and yes, we understand this gives us greater flexibility and this is overall a support for the Draft Resolution. So yes to both suggestions on the understandings I have explained.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to my smart and small summary of the Agenda Item, which I would like to read out.

The Conference welcomed the information on the establishment of the IPBES, taking into account the political comments. The Conference also welcomed the proposed Draft Resolution, with the small changes in paragraph 3 which I would like to repeat.

“Authorizes the Director-General to establish and support IPBES with other relevant international organizations, provided that costs be met through extra-budgetary resources with appropriate administrative and operational support costs reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing FAO Support Cost Policy.”

With this, I see Australia please.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

A minor clarification. I understand that paragraph should read “...authorises the Director-General to offer, to establish and co-host or otherwise support IPBES” etc.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for this clarification Australia, I had missed "co-host". Thanks a lot.

With this I would like to conclude this Agenda Item.

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

19. Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics

(C 2011/31)

19. Plan de mise en œuvre de la stratégie mondiale pour l'amélioration des statistiques agricoles (C 2011/31)

19. Plan de aplicación de la Estrategia global para mejorar las estadísticas agrícolas

(C 2011/31)

CHAIRPERSON

I want to move on to the next Agenda Item which is the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics, document C 2011/31.

I would like to give the floor to the Director of the Statistics Division of FAO, Mr. Pietro Gennari to introduce this Item.

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

I had the opportunity to present the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics at the last session of the FAO Conference in November 2009. The Conference at that time strongly supported this initiative and recognized its essential role in strengthening the capacity of a national agricultural statistical system to provide the necessary data to inform policies in support of food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Following the adoption of the Global Strategy by the Conference of FAO and the UN Statistical Commission, an inclusive process has been followed to develop its Implementation Plan, with the involvement of all key stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.

In this presentation today, I will outline the progress made in developing the global Implementation Plan and in mobilizing the required resources for its execution.

Let me remind you of the key elements of the Global Strategy. First of all it is a long-term capacity-development programme to support the national agricultural statistical systems. It is addressing declining capacity in agriculture statistics in many countries, especially in developing countries, and at the same time emerging statistical needs. If we think of the relationship between agriculture and the environment and the impact of agricultural activities on environment and on global warming, it is the basis for a renewed initiative of resource mobilization in support of the national agricultural statistical systems, and it is a partnership between international and regional organizations and developing countries.

It follows two key routes for intergovernmental processes for its adoption, verification and consultation. One is the FAO Governing Bodies which comprises the Ministers of Agriculture, and the other is the UN Statistical Commission, which comprises the national statistical offices, recognizing the role that these institutions have at a national level in producing and disseminating agricultural statistics.

The Global Strategy is based on three key pillars. The first one is to establish a minimum set of core data that all countries commit to report on a regular basis. The second point is the integration of agriculture statistics into the national statistical system through some key methodological tools, and the third point is fostering sustainable agricultural statistical systems through improved governance, hence capacity-development.

The goal of the Implementation Plan is to contribute to the design, monitoring and evaluation of evidence-based policies to address some of the key issues that are currently at the top of the international policy agenda. I have listed here some of these key policy issues, and the key feature that links all these key policy issues is the fact that data that can support policies to address this issue are not of good quality or are missing. So, the aim of the Plan is to contribute to develop evidence-based policies in support of these goals.

The Implementation Plan will also enable FAO to better monitor the progress towards two of the key Millennium Development Goals: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” and “Ensure environmental sustainability”.

In terms of expected results, the expected outcomes of the Plan are to enable countries to develop sustainable statistical systems and, at the same time, to enable decision-makers to access and use accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data, comparable over time and across countries. In particular, there is an increased number of countries with the capacity to produce a minimum set of core data, and to integrate agriculture in the national statistical system.

I have listed here some of the key technical outputs. We intend to use the new tools and technologies to:

develop the cost-effective tools and methodologies for the collection, processing and dissemination of agriculture statistics;

develop methodological guidelines where these need to be developed in the areas in which they are not sufficiently developed;

provide a knowledge-based platform to exchange good practices across countries;

provide technical assistance in order to increase institutional, organizational and technical capacity at national level;

develop training tools, material and curricula in agricultural statistics and have better trained staff in this area;

establish a network of agricultural statistics offices that can cooperate among each other and exchange good practices, and

establish advocacy materials promoting the use of statistics for effective decision and policy purposes.

This programme is in line with the FAO Results Framework. The Implementation Plan contributes substantially to the achievement of Strategic Objective H and especially Organizational Results 1, 4, and 5 - Improved Food Security and Better Nutrition. But since agricultural statistics are intended in a broad sense and also encompass forestries, fisheries, environment and natural resources, it also contributes to other important Strategic Objectives of FAO like A, B, F, G, K, L and Functional Objective X.

The Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy is also one of the key components of the Impact Focus Area – Capacity Development Information and Statistics, as statistics are one of the priorities identified by Member Nations and by FAO that require additional resources, especially in terms of support to capacity-development at country level.

The implementation strategy is based on the following basic principles: first of all, strong partnership with regional organizations that are called upon to be the coordinator at regional level of the development and then the execution of the regional implementation plan and coordination with other initiatives for statistical capacity-development undertaken by other Agencies in order to avoid duplication and identify synergies among these initiatives.

This process is led substantially by countries that are called to create national action plans for the development of their agricultural statistical systems, and these national action plans are based on a country assessment of the key data gaps that are prevalent in that country.

Another key component is institutional development. A lot of attention is given, for example, to the strengthening of regional training institutions or the identification of centres of excellence at regional levels that can provide support to countries in key technical cooperation areas and, as I mentioned, this is a long-term strategy. It is not focused on a specific survey or data collection initiatives.

The components of the Plan are provided in the document that you have received. It is a comprehensive technical assistance programme, a training programme, a research agenda, a resource mobilization strategy and a governance programme. The governance aspect delineates the responsibilities at global, regional and national levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with progress on the development of the regional programmes.

Africa is leading the way through a strong partnership that we have developed with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission. The Steering Committee that should drive the Implementation Plan in Africa has been established. The regional implementation plan is ready, and it will be endorsed at the next meeting of the Steering Committee in Tunis, 12-13 July 2011.

In other regions, the development of the regional programmes is not that advanced. This has to do with the fact that we take into account the ongoing programmes of our partner regional organizations. So, in Latin America the partnership has been sought with ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). We are in contact with them and the proposal will be presented at the Statistics Conference of the Americas, in the Dominican Republic in November 2011. It is also important to know that there is a strong opportunity to link up with an ongoing project of IFAD in that region.

For Asia, we have a strong partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. We have received a strong mandate from the Committee on Statistics to work in this area, and we are including the programme on agricultural statistics in the Regional Programme for Economic Statistics that has been already developed by ESCAP, and we are establishing a Programme Committee that will lead the implementation of this initiative.

In the Pacific, a partnership has been established with South Pacific Community and a specific programme has been developed for Small Islands that have specific needs and that can be extended also for Caribbean countries or other Small Island Developing States. We presented the programme at the Steering Committee meeting in March 2011, and there was agreement to integrate agricultural statistics into the Ten-Year Statistical Strategy that is funded by Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

In western Asia, we partner with the UN Regional Commission for Western Asia and the International Development Bank that has already supported other initiatives promoted by FAO like the ICAS. We will present this proposal to the Arab Forum for Statistical Capacity-Building in Jordan in the next two weeks.

In Central Asia and the Caucasus, CISSTAT is our counterpart, and we have spoken with the Russian Federation about the possibility of funding this programme in the former Soviet Republic and this will be part of the regional plan for Asia, and developed maybe later in 2012.

An important point is that this programme is not starting from scratch. We are implementing a series of activities that are key elements of the Implementation Plan. I don't want to get into the technical details but, for example, we are experimenting in some countries with the possibility of linking the agricultural and population census, saving a lot of resources for countries, to establish integrated services that have a food consumption module and agriculture module in their questionnaire, the use of remote sensing GPS and geo-reference data to develop area frames that, in turn, develop effective services, and so on.

This plan, as I mentioned, has been developed in close consultation with a group of countries that have been identified by the UN Statistical Commission, and this group of countries is called Friends of the Chair Group, and comprises both developed and developing countries.

We have had the opportunity to discuss the detailed plan at the last International Conference of Agricultural Statistics in Kampala in October 2010, and we are organizing consultations and including this agenda item in various meetings, either of FAO or other regional international meetings, to have an opportunity to discuss with countries the details and the contents of the Implementation Plan.

The objective is to have the Implementation Plan endorsed at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2012. The next steps are finalizing the plans, and we should have the final draft of the Global Implementation Plan ready in two weeks time.

We are developing a communications advocacy tool to mobilize the resources, and we have had bilateral contacts with the resource partners. We will also be organizing a conference of resources partners in Rome on 6 September.

At the same time we are actively working to establish an African Trust Fund and the Global Office that will steer the process of the implementation of the plan.

So the Conference is invited to comment on the progress made, provide guidance on the next steps, and provide support to the implementation of the global strategy in the different roles.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Gennari.

I would now like to draw my list. I see the European Union and then Iraq.

European Union, you have the floor, please.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

As also expressed in the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference, the European Union welcomes the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The European Union appreciates very much the leadership the FAO Statistics Department has taken in the development and implementation of this Strategy, in light of the fact that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, of 2008 also stated that FAO had to reinstate its leadership in the development and maintenance of agricultural statistics.

The European Union, through EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Union, has been one of the first to recognize the need to enhance agricultural statistics in developing countries, and was also at the launch of the initiative to develop this Strategy. EUROSTAT participated during the last two years actively in the development of the Strategy, and plans to also play a role in supporting the implementation of the Strategy. The G20 Agricultural Ministers on 23 June adopted an Action Plan that reaffirms their support to the Global Strategy, and that invites international organizations to create synergies between the Global Strategy and the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to be launched in order to improve agricultural market information and transparency.

The European Union, through EUROSTAT, participates actively in the discussion on the Global Strategy and its implementation, via bilateral contacts with the FAO and as member of the Global Project Board of the Global Strategy, as well as in several other fora like the Partnership in Statistics 21 (P21).

The commodity price surge of 2007-2008, the recent economic and financial crisis, as well as the sharp commodity price increases and enhanced price volatility in recent months have strongly emphasized the necessity to make high quality, reliable and accessible agricultural statistics available, including data on agricultural production and stocks. From the work in assisting the development of statistics and statistical infrastructures and assessing their quality in countries and regions around the world, EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Union, clearly receives the feedback that the noted improvements are required.

In the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), FAO and the so-called Friends of the Chair Group on the Global Strategy have reported on the progress in the Global Strategy and its Implementation Plan. Even though the Global Strategy has to meet the priorities accorded to statistics in the context of the financial and economic crisis, the progress made can be considered as promising.

Considering the good state of development of the regional plans of the Global Plan in, for example, Africa and South East Asia, the European Union acknowledges the enormous commitments made by countries and international organizations in preparing the Global Strategy and its Implementation.

Therefore, the European Union is confident that the way forward will be leading to improvements in the agricultural statistics around the world, as well as on the adequate capacities and expertise in developing, analysing and maintaining agricultural statistics, especially in the less developed regions of the world.

The European Union considers that the Implementation of the Global Strategy requires substantial support and financial funding. The Global Project Board and especially its Office within FAO has to be well-staffed and organized. Sufficient financial resources have to be made available to facilitate the Global Statistical System to implement the Strategy.

The Global Strategy foresees a description of required data, a new conceptual framework and several other key components. The European Union would like to point out that most, if not all, of these components are already available in the European System of Agricultural and Rural Statistics (including fishery, forestry and environment-related) as in place in the Member States of the European Union (the European Statistical System). The European Union, therefore, does not expect that the Global Strategy will have a big impact on the structure and form of the European Union's agricultural statistics. The Global Strategy will clearly focus on the enhancement and further development of

statistics in developing regions of the world and, considering their respective particular situations will have to focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

The European Union expresses its support to the Global Strategy, and wishes to be actively involved in its implementation.

Mr Nehad Adbd AL MADHDY ABBAS (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you to the Statistics Division for the support that has been provided to us up to now. Statistical information has been submitted by our Ministry, and has been followed up through a census on animal resources in 2008 through the Statistics Division in cooperation with WHO and the coordination of the Ministry in charge of statistics information.

Animal resources that suffer greatly in Iraq require a survey in order to define the various types of livestock, and in order to be aware of what resources are actually available.

We also need to modernise all the equipment on which the rearing of livestock is based. Documentation has been updated also in 2010 on the basis of these statistics. We have also done the same for production of fruit and vegetables in 2004 and 2010 in order to consolidate and update already-existing our statistical information.

We have also followed up our agricultural territories in Iraq, and we have prepared the report on the number of farmers involved and the production by agriculture product type. We have also consolidated greenhouse agriculture and poultry farming, aquaculture and territories that are in a position to be farmed after the reforms. We have also provided detailed information and statistics, and we have provided monthly reports.

In addition, we have made available an agricultural schedule which encompasses all farmers, and the Ministry provides reports that are updated on an annual basis which surveys all types in every sector of activity.

The annual report on the numbers of those who attend seminars, training courses, specialist courses, are also being carried out with the participation of all stakeholders.

The Department in charge of information on farm workers, in that Ministry carries out its functions by establishing studies in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Higher Education.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

Canada is very supportive of this initiative which will provide better data for policy-makers. Data is also important to ensure efficient operation of commodity markets. As was agreed to, and further discussed, at last week's G20 Agricultural Ministerial Meeting, market transparency and increased information are extremely important in managing price volatility. Statistics is a key requirement for this improved transparency.

Mr Andrew BURST (United States of America)

The United States would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the report. We fully support and endorse the activity of the 'Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics'.

The US Government and, specifically, the US Department of National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Resource Service has been involved in this initiative since its inception, and fully supports its successful implementation.

Improvement of the basic data on agriculture is to the benefit of individual countries, as well as the broader world community.

Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)

Japan welcomes FAO's various activities relating to its Strategy as we understand the importance of agriculture statistics. Currently, Japan actively supports Asian members in developing an Asian food security information system called AFISIS to promote the establishment of regional agriculture statistics and human resources development.

Taking advantage of such experience, Japan will actively participate in the process for developing the Implementation Plan in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Ms Emily MOGAJANE (South Africa)

South Africa knows the progress made by the Committee with regard to the implementation of the Strategy, and also note the effort made with regard to collaboration with other regional organizations like the African Development Bank, as well as ensuring that population statistics also are linked to this effort.

South Africa would like to strongly recommend that FAO also work with sub-regional organizations like SADC and ECOWAS and others to ensure that the collected information is adequate, and to avoid duplication of information to avoid resource wastage.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

Thank you to the Secretariat for your work on this.

New Zealand supports the Global Strategy and initiative to improve agricultural statistics. We highly value the statistical and data collection work undertaken by FAO, and consider statistical collection to be a useful public good fundamental to robust policy advice.

Statistics collected and coordinated by FAO are used in many contexts as sourced data for input to decision-making.

We note and support the three pillars of this initiative: the establishment of a minimum set of core data, integration of agriculture statistics into national statistics systems and the fostering of good systems through good governance. We note that these pillars provide a very useful basis for FAO's ongoing work.

We value the regional engagement, and appreciate being involved in the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Muy rápidamente, sólo para también manifestar que estamos muy complacidos con esta presentación y con la red, como dijo la distinguida Representante de Canadá, que es muy importante para tener la transparencia que queremos y poder entender mejor el tema de la volatilidad de los precios de los alimentos y de los productos básicos. Encontramos muy interesante la forma de ésta. Trabajar en red nos permitirá una mejor apropiación por parte de los países y, al mismo tiempo, un ahorro en términos financieros de toda la estrategia. Por lo tanto, nos parece muy interesante el camino que sigue esta estrategia.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation fully supports the work of FAO in implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics. We all understand very well how important this work is. Reliable information enables us to take the right decisions and also to judge on the state of development of agriculture in regions throughout the world. At the same time, it gives us some idea of exactly how and where we need to direct the resources and efforts of the Organization.

We welcome the work that is carried out by FAO in this field. Once again, we would like to stress the great importance of cooperating with our Organization and other organizations, especially the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. We would also like to stress the need to have well-defined priorities in this work in order to improve, national statistical bodies, since it is precisely they who have the methodology and full clarity as to how to gather information, how to process it and how to produce precisely reliable information.

At the same time, we feel that it is also very important to introduce up-to-date processes for collecting and processing data and gradually to introduce them to those who need these methodologies, in particular in those regions of Africa and Southeast Asia, so that we have a full picture of agriculture in

those regions. The Russian Federation is planning to support this sort of work by making every effort to provide assistance to FAO in order to ensure that this system is indeed effective and fully reliable.

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

Thank you very much for the strong support that all the delegates have provided to this global strategy and the Implementation Plan.

I fully recognize the support that was provided during the development of this Implementation Plan by many of the countries and international organizations that are present here, namely EUROSTAT, the USDA and many others that, as I mentioned, that have worked closely with FAO in developing the Global Strategy. Now they are working together to develop regional implementation plans.

I would like to confirm that there is an opportunity for all countries interested to participate in developing the regional programmes and in executing them. As I mentioned before, Steering Committees are being established in all different regions and these Steering Committees seek the participation of not only countries but also of important Sub-regional organizations. This is to respond to the request from South Africa, so SADC will certainly be invited to the meeting in Tunis on 12-13 July.

This is true also for the other regional programme. The idea is to work together with the key partners in regional and sub-regional organizations. I fully recognize the need of linking this with the programme that has been developing within the G20, to increase market transparency, and I appreciate the support that some countries are already committing to provide for the implementation.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me now to the short summary of the discussion and I would like to proceed as follows.

The Conference supports the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture Statistics, and also the progress made, taking into account the particular comments made.

This will be my summary and if we can go along with this, we can conclude this Agenda Item.

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)

Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)

Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

20. FAO Gender Audit 2010 (C 2011/INF/16)

20. Évaluation de la parité hommes-femmes au sein de la FAO (2010) (C 2011/INF/16)

20. Auditoría de las cuestiones de género en la FAO de 2010 (C 2011/INF/16)

CHAIRPERSON

There is only one agenda item left on the agenda of today. This is the agenda item of the FAO Gender Audit 2010 and the relevant document is the document C 2011/INF/16. I would like Ms Villarreal to introduce this Agenda Item.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

The new Strategic Framework of FAO has epitomized very clearly the priority that you, the Member Nations, give to the topic of gender issues, as well as the FAO Secretariat, through four Strategic Objectives on gender issues. In order to be able to fully perform on these new Strategic Objectives, we have brought together a number of initiatives.

As you have seen we have the SOFA, the topic of this conference, on gender equality and its crucial importance for food security and therefore for achieving MDG 1. The SOFA gives us the analytical underpinnings for our revitalized work on gender issues, through the new Strategic Framework, and we commissioned a Gender Audit for us to be able to operationalize these issues in a much better way

to fully implement gender issues throughout the Strategic Framework. In the same year that we have had the SOFA, we had the Audit we commissioned and we will soon also have the results of a house-wide evaluation on gender issues. These two exercises are complementary. All of the recommendations of the Gender Audit, as well as the Gender Evaluation, will be fully discussed at the next session of the Programme Committee in October.

Within the Gender Audit one of the main issues we wanted was an accountability framework for gender. We know, through lessons learned throughout all of the UN System, and through government, non-government and other organizations, that a weak accountability system is the Achilles Heel in delivering on gender mainstreaming. We wanted to strengthen the accountability system, and indeed the audit recommended that we fully use all of the reform mechanisms, in order to have a stronger implementation on gender issues.

Regarding accountability, we are happy to be able to already report the actions that we have taken. At our suggestion, the Director-General made the decision to include either an objective or an activity regarding Gender Issues in all of the Performance Evaluations of the Senior Management of this Organization. So from now on, and this is something I am saying hot off the press, we are actually starting this for the PEMS (Performance Evaluation Management System). We are now in the mid-term review, but we are opening it up and we are including a gender objective or activity for all of the Senior Managers of this Organization, and that is happening now as we speak.

We have the new terms of reference for the entire Gender Focal Point system. We are revamping entirely the Gender Focal Point system, and also having better accountability for these Gender Focal Points throughout the Organization, here and at decentralized level. So now the 20 percent of time that all of these Gender Focal Points are going to be dedicating to gender issues is going to be fully accounted for as part of their performance evaluation.

The new Terms of Reference have been fully discussed throughout the House, and have now been adopted, very recently, so again this is another of the recommendations from the Audit that we are already implementing as we speak.

You know that one of the main parts of FAO Reform is moving this Organization into results-based management, and indeed there is a lot of opportunity within results-based management to be much more performing or active on gender issues. This is exactly what we are doing, we are looking at the results that this Organization has committed to throughout our Programme of Work and Budget, both in Headquarters and at the decentralized level. We have regional results, we have unit results and we have organizational results and these are going to be fully genderized. We are doing this together with our Office of Strategic Planning and we have hired a senior consultant, who is worldwide renowned, for this purpose. So this is another of the Audit recommendations that we are also fully implementing.

Another of the recommendations had to do with capacity-development, and indeed this is an area to which we will be devoting a lot of effort. Part of it is going to be within our own staff, so that their capacities will be enhanced to deliver concrete results on gender issues, as well as in our Member Nations. We have already developed this road map, and we will start its implementation quite soon.

We are also working on new baselines that we are now developing so that we will be able to monitor all of the gender-related results of this Organization in a very systematic and strategic way. We also want to restore the positions within all of the Decentralized Offices regarding gender issues. Therefore, we want to reinforce the capacity at the decentralized level to be able to deliver results on gender issues.

Finally we are also developing a new policy on gender. Some of you who may have read the large report of the IEE may remember that one of the recommendations was to eliminate the policy we had in the past, and to fully integrate it into the new Strategic Framework. The Audit has recommended that, in spite of this old recommendation of the IEE we should in any case have a new policy, and this is what we are working on. So we will be in a position to share it with all of you as soon as it is ready.

I would like to conclude by reassuring the membership that the Audit recommendations are already, most of them, under implementation, and that they will be fully complementary with the

recommendations that we will be implementing as soon as the Evaluation of the house on Gender Issues will be discussed at the Programme Committee in October 2011.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

We applaud the FAO for carrying out a Gender Audit to assess progress and produce recommendations on gender mainstreaming focused on organisational mechanisms, systems and structural issues. FAO's parallel Gender Evaluation centred on programmes, projects and human resources is also a very positive step forward. We hope that these analyses will contribute to improving FAO's performance on gender, and having more impact on the ground.

The background document to this agenda item, C 2011/INF/6-FAO Gender Audit Status Report gives a very brief overview of the background and work done on the Gender Audit. Paragraph 10 informs us that the Audit ended in December 2010, a report has been produced and that "FAO has already started acting on some of the recommendations." It is therefore surprising to us that the Report itself is not part of the background material for this important agenda point. It would have been a very useful complement to the State of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap for Development, and would have allowed in-depth discussion on how FAO is updating itself to respond to the gender challenge at the Conference, which attracts the high-level participation this vital point deserves.

We are aware that the Gender Audit Report is regarded as one component of a larger exercise of evaluating FAO's work on gender. However, we would have appreciated the opportunity to deliberate on the Audit Report at the Conference. Work in this aspect is vital for delivering lasting development results for both men and women and FAO's track record is "slow and uneven".

Just one example: The evaluation report, Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for the Near East, document PC 106/5-FC 138/22, discussed by both Finance and Programme Committees this spring, states in paragraph 178-179 that "From 2004-09 RNE nor SNE did not have any capacity to address gender mainstreaming in the region" and that "FAO staff interpretation of gender mainstreaming at field level was generally confined to including women in projects". As a result of these and other factors, the evaluation notes that RNE and SNE have been unable to initiate dialogue with Governments on gender mainstreaming, support FAORs, or form partnerships with other development agencies.

In our view, this points to the urgent need for FAO to ensure that Decentralised Office staff are provided with the necessary skills to effectively deliver gender equity in the Region. Furthermore, the evaluation notes in paragraph 84 that the Decentralised Offices in the Region have a "very unbalanced Professional work force in terms of gender," which means that FAO is not yet fulfilling its own equity objectives with respect to staffing. It would have been interesting to see how FAO Management is addressing these important issues.

While we would have preferred to have this discussion at the Conference, we look forward to full disclosure of the Report, recommendations and measures taken by FAO well in advance of the October 2011 session of the Programme Committee. Thank you.

Ms Ingrid SPECHT (United States of America)

The United States thanks the Secretariat, and FAO's Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division for this information note. We commend ESW for taking the initiative to undertake this Gender Audit, and look forward to receiving the full Audit Report, as well as the complementary Gender Evaluation Report during the next Programme Committee session in October 2011.

In order for FAO to effectively meet UN system-wide gender objectives, fully mainstreaming gender within FAO programmatically and help Member Nations close the gender gap in agriculture, the US encourages FAO Management to increase the emphasis on gender across all Strategic Objectives,

particularly those which have received greater resources. While we commend the SOFA Report, more robust analysis of sex disaggregated data must be conducted. To facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of such data, the United States "Feed the Future" initiative invests in statistical institutes in partner countries and supports a more robust learning agenda concerning gender disparities in agriculture and development. The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, which is soon to be piloted and available to partners through USAID, in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, is a robust tool to evaluate the role and status of women in agriculture and measure the impact of investment in them relative to men, in five specific domains. We hope to share it with partners beginning in 2012.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

Canada supports FAO's efforts to better address gender mainstreaming within the Organization and its programming following the findings of the Gender Audit 2010.

In this regard, we request that FAO provide a strong Management response. The draft FAO Accountability Framework for Gender Mainstreaming is in line with the efforts of the Government of Canada, especially the Canadian International Development Agency, to mainstream equality between women and men. Canada would like to be consulted during the finalization and implementation of the elements of FAO's Accountability Framework for Gender Mainstreaming. The Accountability Framework has the potential to become a good practice for gender mainstreaming among the United Nations funds and programmes. Once again, FAO can show true leadership in this area.

In line with the joint proposal for action for gender in Rome-based agencies, Canada views the FAO Regional Conferences and Technical Committees as a means to raise the profile of gender within the Organization. As these mechanisms refine the role in priority-setting, gender must be identified as an area of priority. This effort will support current and proposed actions by the FAO to address the Gender Audit 2010, including the incorporation of gender issues in technical and regional programmes and the staffing of offices. We understand that the FAO is also finalizing a Gender Evaluation Report, and we look forward to reviewing its findings and recommendations at the next programme Committee session in October 2011.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

The FAO Report 'The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development' provides further evidence that narrowing the gap between men and women in agriculture is critical to increasing rural economic development. In light of this, we support the call to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in law and practice. New Zealand agrees on the importance of equitable and secure access to resources and inputs. Furthermore, we would emphasize that it is increased access to productive resources that is important, for example, fertile land, accessible irrigation, higher-yielding crops and transport lengths to markets.

New Zealand supports the better integration of gender efforts through FAO and, therefore, looks forward to the presentation of the recommendations of the Gender Audit Report as soon as possible.

Ms Maria Luisa GAVINO (Women's Organization for Change in Agriculture)

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I speak on behalf of civil society organizations particularly WOCAN, ACTIONAID, OXFAM, Huairou Commission, Pesticide Action Network Asia and Pacific (PANAP), and more than 54 farmers and producer groups from all over the world, the list of which I will be happy to provide.

We congratulated the new Director-General José Graziano da Silva on his election last Sunday, and we requested him and FAO to put women in the centre of FAO's activities, and give attention to gender mainstreaming.

We regret to note in the 2007 Independent External Evaluation of FAO how gender equality issues have been slow and unequal and even under-performing in the Organization. On the other hand, we welcome the FAO Gender Evaluation and Audit, and most importantly, the Strategic Objective K by

Member Nations calling for gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in rural areas.

We look forward to further discussions on this subject in the Programme Committee in October and thereafter in the FAO Council and, certainly, in the FAO Conference. In addition to procedural and budgetary matters, it is our earnest desire that FAO takes a position as leader on rural women, food security and agriculture by prioritizing concrete gender actions at all high-level events, including the next UN Commission on the Status of Women that will take place in March 2012.

FAO must act now to provide leadership and commitment to support women in agriculture and rural development.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Thank you very much to all of you who have provided very useful comments for us. I would like to thank you for the importance you provide to gender issues as clearly indicated in your statements.

Now with the new accountability framework that we are already experimenting with, using fully the mechanisms that the Reform provides us with, we expect to be back into the leadership role within all the UN as to basically we want to be when we effectively gender mainstream all of our programmes. It is an innovative practice, and we are sure that as we are implementing it, we will enhance the performance of our Organization and we will also have lessons learned for others to follow later on.

One of the aspects of this framework is that it clarifies the roles and responsibilities of every unit, every manager and every staff member regarding gender issues. It is all too frequent within organizations, and here I am speaking not only about the UN but many other organizations, that people tend to think that because there is a gender unit they don't have any responsibility to deliver on gender issues, or that because there is a strategic objective on gender, they would not have a responsibility on gender. Now this accountability framework helps us to work together with all of the units of the House to clarify their own roles and responsibilities, using concrete actions and objectives on which people will be evaluated. Then, of course, obviously we will provide the support for them so that they can well implement their own gender results.

Now the kinds of objectives we have are of two kinds. One of them is on human resources, which means gender balance regarding staffing, so people will be measured in their performance, in their PEMS, according to how well they do on HR issues, as well as on how well they implement results on gender within their own substance areas and within their own specific results. So with this, we want to address issues like the one brought up now by the European Union, where the Evaluation Report for RNE and SNE says that there is a lack of capacity at decentralized level and also under-performance with regard to delivering results on gender. So this is how we are addressing it, and we are confident that it will greatly improve what we are doing at all levels of the Organization, with a very specific emphasis on the decentralized level, I may note.

Now we can never over-emphasize the importance of data. You have in front of you the SOFA, which brings a lot of important and much needed data on gender and agriculture, but I fully agree with the United States that this does not do it all. There is a lot more that needs to be done, and we are already collaborating in the women's empowerment in agriculture index from Feed the Future USAID, done together with IFPRI and Oxford. So we want to take this index even further in our work within FAO at the country level, and we are already starting to collaborate on this.

We will be more than happy to consult with you, to keep you informed, to get your suggestions and your comments as we move down this road, because, as with our work in FAO Reform, we are often going into uncharted territory. We are learning as we do, we are learning as we go. We want to move ahead very strongly in our Reform Process and Gender within the Reform Process, and therefore, of course, we will be sharing with you what we learn, what we do well, what we do less well and receive the feedback from you that is so important.

I wish to respond to WOCAN and other members of civil society: yes, definitely FAO is leading the UN's work on rural women. I am happy to report that we will be hosting the Expert Group Meeting on Rural Women in the month of September, leading up to the Commission on the Status of Women next March whose topic is going to be on rural women. But we are not doing this alone. We are doing this in very, very close collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies. We lead the topic on rural women, very closely collaborating with IFAD and the World Food Programme. We will also be having a lead role during the Commission on the Status of Women because, of course, the topic is rural women.

I would just like to thank you once again very much for the priority that you give to this topic, and for your very important suggestions and comments.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Villarreal. This brings me to my short summary. I would like to propose the following. The Conference welcomed the work on the FAO Gender Audit Report, as well as the FAO in-house-wide Gender Evaluation, taking into account the particular comments made.

If you can agree on it we can conclude on this item.

There are two things which I wanted to bring to your attention. The first thing is for the members of the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee of Commission I will start immediately after this Session, in the Mexico Room. This is the first point.

The second point, we will be back tomorrow morning at 9.30 am to finalize our discussions in Commission I.

Thank you very much, and have a nice evening.

The meeting rose at 18:55 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 18:55 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin – 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio – 2 de julio de 2011
FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
29 June 2011

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 09:45 hours
Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de Mme Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 09:45 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Governance, Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters
Questions relatives à la gouvernance et questions juridiques, administratives et financières
Cuestiones de gobernanza y de índole jurídica, administrativa y financiera

Constitutional and Legal Matters
Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
Cuestiones constitucionales y jurídicas

27. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
27. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
27. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO

27.1 Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP
 (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10)

27.1 Amendements au Statut et au Règlement général du PAM
 (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10)

27.1 Enmiendas al Estatuto y al Reglamento General del PMA
 (C 2011/LIM/9; C 2011/LIM/10)

CHAIRPERSON

We now start immediately with Agenda Item 27.

I have the pleasure of having the WFP, the second Rome-based Agency, with me. I have been joined on the podium by colleagues from the WFP Secretariat, who are going to introduce Item 27 and Sub-item 27.1, the Amendments to the General Regulations and Rules of WFP.

I would like to give the floor first to Mr Ramiro Lópes da Silva, the Deputy Executive Director of External Relations of WFP, who is going to present the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council and its activities in 2009 and 2010, contained respectively in the documents C 2011/LIM/9 and C 2011/LIM/10.

Further to this I will then invite Mrs Gina Casar, Deputy Executive Director of Resource Management and Accountability of WFP, who is going to present a Draft Resolution regarding the Revision of the General Regulations of the WFP, specifically Article 16.6A, of the WFP General Regulations, concerning the financial reporting period.

I should like to point out that both the Draft Resolution set out in document C 2011/LIM/10 and the draft decision on the proposed change to Article 16.6A of the WFP General Regulations have been endorsed by the last FAO Council in April 2011.

I would like to give the floor first to Mr Ramiro Lópes da Silva.

Mr Ramiro LOPES DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, External Evaluation, World Food Programme)

It is always a pleasure and a privilege for the World Food Programme to be with the membership of WFP and FAO in this setting. I think I should start the WFP small, short segment with you, first by congratulating Mr José Graziano da Silva on his election as the new Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. We in WFP wish him all the success, and we do hope that we will continue with the path of strengthening our partnership with this very important organization which is the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The second item, as you know in WFP, we are very big in terms of size but we are very easy, and simple to do business with and, in that sense, we may be a little bit irreverent when we are in settings, such as the Commissions of the FAO Conference. So, if you permit me, I am going to make a slight adjustment to the agenda item because there is some business that belongs fundamentally to the Member Nations who need to take a decision in the FAO Conference setting, and that is the issue concerning the rotation of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme. Let me quickly introduce that issue for you and for the relevant Member Nations.

The current pattern of distribution of seats at the WFP Executive Board covers the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2011. In accordance with Article 3 of the General Assembly Resolution 53/223 and Article 2 of the FAO Conference Resolution 6/99 establishing this pattern, under the leadership of the World Food Programme Executive Board Bureau, the representatives of the Member Nations included in the five regional electoral lists of the WFP Executive Board undertook in 2010 a review of this distribution of seats.

The ECOSOC Bureau and the Secretariat of the FAO Council were kept informed of that process. All constituencies concerned unanimously agreed to recommend that the current distribution of seats at the WFP Executive Board be maintained, and that the rotation seat would henceforth rotate on a permanent basis among the Member Nations included in Lists A, B, N and C without the need for further review, unless such review is so requested by a majority of Board members.

The WFP-EB reviewed the recommendation at its February 2011 Session and supported it. The recommendation was thus passed on by the WFP Executive Board to the President of ECOSOC, and to the Independent Chair of the FAO Council for further action. The process in New York went on in February and March 2011. ECOSOC endorsed the recommendation in February 2011. The UN General Assembly adopted it in March 2011 Resolution 65/266.

The FAO Council, on its side, reviewed the matter at its April Session and supported the recommendation. The FAO Council, therefore, agreed to forward the recommendation to the current Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference for approval. If the recommendation is approved by FAO Conference, it will enter into force on 1 January 2011, and it will be reflected in the Appendix P of the WFP General Regulations amended accordingly. So, I wish to raise this issue because we are a little bit lost in the context of the Conference as to when it takes that decision. Because Commission I is today dealing with issues relevant to the World Food Programme, I wish to table the issue, and I leave in your able hands to take the decision at some time during the deliberations.

If you allow me then, I will move to introduce to you the Annual Reports for ECOSOC and FAO Council for 2009 and 2010. I pledge not to be very long. This Item is for information for the FAO Conference. It has been dealt with by the FAO Council and by ECOSOC in the respective years, and both Reports have been approved. So, I just wish to very quickly walk through some of the elements of both Reports.

As you are aware these reports are in line with the 2004 General Assembly Resolution 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development. 2009 was a critical year for food security. The combined effects of the economic crisis, conflicts, climatic shocks, and severe weather resulted in the number of malnourished people exceeding 1 billion for the first time.

Although the number of hungry declined slightly to 925 million people in 2010, hunger remained at unacceptable levels, and higher than before the financial and food prices crises. The year was also marked by unprecedented large humanitarian emergencies, such as the flood in Pakistan and the earthquake in Haiti.

Current events, such as the resurgence of price volatilities, are now further emphasizing the need for urgent action to mitigate the impact of high food prices and to protect the most vulnerable. WFP is playing an active part, together with other UN Agencies, in the follow-up of the G20 Summit in Seoul, particularly on the response to price volatility, and in broader discussions on food security and nutrition within the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

The 2010 Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York underscored the urgency of action to achieve the MDGs. The follow-up to the G8 L'Aquila Summit and the 2009 World Food Summit were also prominent in inter-agency and multilateral collaboration over 2010, with WFP supporting emergency food and nutrition interventions, food-based safety nets for the most vulnerable and investments in small-holder agriculture and food supply systems. Further attention was given to capacity-development and South-South Cooperation and gender, which are playing a major role in the way we do business.

In 2010, WFP consolidated its shift from food aid to food assistance, expanding partnerships and increasingly deploying new approaches and tools, such as the purchase for progress, cash and vouchers, SAFE and school meals. In addition to broader actions contributing to tackle hunger, WFP deployed further efforts to support improvements in mother-and-child health and child mortality through REACH but also through the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) and 1.000 day initiatives, the SG's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health, and HIV and AIDS activities. WFP engaged with FAO, UNICEF and WHO in reforming the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), building on lessons from our partnership in REACH, and aiming at re-engineering the Standing Committee so that it becomes a more useful and dynamic platform.

The UN High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis was also an important forum where WFP played a prominent role, including updating the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA). WFP participated in the Emergency Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the latter with WFP's key UN and NGO partners, as well as in the UN Secretary-General's Global Pulse project.

Partnerships with other UN Agencies, as well as the World Bank, were a key – Memoranda of Understandings were revised or established with a broader range of agencies such as UNDP and UNHCR reflecting deepening of relationships and a better understanding on how we can build synergies within our relevant core competencies. At the country level, WFP was directly involved in 74 UN joint programmes in 45 countries in 2010, confirming a steady intensification of such collaboration since 2007. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, some 80 percent of WFP operations now have at least one joint programme.

Partnerships were also further developed with WFP's large number of NGO partners, regional entities and the private sector. Regional collaboration with the African Union, as well as through CAADP, and bodies such as IGAD, were a particular area of focus to support effective country-led actions.

In 2010, WFP continued to work with its partners to ensure an effective humanitarian response and to leverage humanitarian assistance for prevention, transition, peace-building and longer-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition. The IASC Cluster approach to humanitarian operations enhanced coordination and brought together greater coherence to relief operations, while diminishing overlap and duplication. I must say, for the sake of transparency, that on the other hand, it brought also an overburden on coordination and a little bit less focus on the delivery of services. We, the collective, are now addressing those challenges within that architecture.

WFP's global leadership in emergency and early recovery situations was further confirmed in 2010, through its designation as the lead of the global emergency telecommunications cluster (ETC), in addition to its current role as the lead of the Logistics Cluster, and its designation as joint lead with FAO of the new Global Emergency Food Security Cluster. Not to be confused with the Committee on World Food Security, I am speaking of the humanitarian response context. An innovative Survival Strategy was adopted in Pakistan, for instance, by WFP, UNICEF and WHO to provide an integrated response to the floods and to the victims of the floods.

A common theme in WFP has been improvements in effectiveness and efficiency. The WFP-led High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), chaired by the Executive Director, undertook key reforms in security, human resources and joint projects to improve efficiency. This included identifying best practices to enhance operational effectiveness within the UN, including ICT and provision of common basic services. WFP, as you are aware, was the first UN Agency to implement the International Public Standards on Accounting (IPSAS) and it is sharing its experience in support of broader UN implementation of those standards. I must say, it is an occurrence of 2011, but we are now also supporting the UN Secretariat as it develops its own Enterprise Management System to support the implementation of IPSAS in the Secretariat, and that is built on our success of developing the information system in WFP itself.

Rome-based agency collaboration remained an important element for WFP in 2010, covering policy, operations and administration, and featuring both HQ and field-based activities. In line with the 2009 "Directions for collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies", our three Organizations moved

forward in the implementation of three Joint Pilot Action Plans: in the area of transition from relief to recovery, a joint WFP/FAO/IFAD HQs-based Task Force was formed for Haiti to follow up on short, medium and long-term responses which integrated agricultural production and social safety nets. That work is now fully mainstreamed into our country programs in Haiti.

A joint FAO/WFP Food Security and Nutrition Information Systems Strategy is being finalized between the two Organizations evolving from a joint evaluation of the respective systems, and the joint communications approach has been implemented.

Furthermore, and I think more importantly, collaboration through joint procurement actions among the Rome-based Agencies resulted in tangible savings, estimated at some 3 percent of the transacted contracts of 25 million USD out of a potential 100 million USD, and we are still pursuing that activity. Fundamental for the partnership and the collaboration among the three Rome-based Agencies is the work we do together in the field. WFP had operations, and joint programmes with FAO in 62 countries in 2010, and with 15 countries with IFAD. Collaboration extends to a range of other areas, including weather risk insurance between WFP and IFAD.

WFP is looking forward to further enhance the Rome-based Agencies' collaboration, also through the Strategic Programmatic Framework Agreement that the three Agencies signed with the European Union on Monday this week, which gives us the opportunity once again to leverage on comparative advantages and core competencies of the three Organizations as we are engaged with the broader European Union.

In 2010, WFP was an active participant in UNDG reform. In this regard, WFP continued to leverage its core competencies building partnerships and investing in country-led actions to address hunger. WFP remained a partner in the roll-out of UNDAFs in a number of countries and in the continued implementation of the Delivering as One Pilots in Mozambique, Tanzania, Cape Verde, Pakistan and Rwanda.

WFP actively engaged in the implementation of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), together with other UN Agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The upcoming 37th CFS Plenary session in October 2011 will be a milestone as the Committee will approve its new Rules of Procedure. Within the spirit of the CFS process, WFP stands ready to play a role as a full and equal member of the Secretariat, together with FAO and IFAD.

We look forward to any comments or queries the Member Nations may have, and you have today quite a high-level and diverse group of WFP to address such comments.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Lópes da Silva. For time reasons, I would like to propose to discuss both items together, the one on the Reports of 2009-2010, and also the one concerning the Resolution. May I now invite Ms Gina Casar to present to us the Draft Resolution now.

Ms Gina CASAR (Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management and Accountability, World Food Programme)

I am pleased to present a straightforward amendment to WFP General Regulations, Article 14, to change the current WFP Management plan cycle to a three-year rolling plan with annual appropriations.

The current WFP Management plan is biennial and is approved in our Board Session before the start of each new biennium. In 2010, the Financial Prime Group reviewed a process that looked with our Executive Board at many aspects of our financial governance, recommended moving to a three-year rolling management plan with yearly approval to provide greater stability and practicality to budgeting and funding processes.

This requires a one-word change to WFP General Regulation XIV.6(a). We are proposing to delete the word "biennial" and replace it with the word "annual." This one-word change will facilitate two key improvements from our current biennial process. First, the Management Plan would be presented

annually to the Executive Board for a rolling three-year period, and secondly, every year WFP would seek Executive Board approval for a one-year budget.

These changes will have a profound and long-term impact on WFP. This proposed proactive and regularized approach to budgeting will, for example, allow major changes in WFP income, which is entirely voluntary as you know, to be implemented in a paced and controlled manner.

As you are aware, changes to our General Regulations must be approved by you, the FAO Conference, after endorsement by the FAO Council and the UN General Assembly, after endorsement by ECOSOC. These suggested amendments were endorsed by the WFP Executive Board during its June annual session, and were submitted to the FAO Council and ECOSOC for approval and recommendation to FAO Conference and UN General Assembly. It is my understanding that the FAO Council recommended this amendment to be approved by the FAO Conference. ECOSOC, as you know, is scheduled to consider this amendment during its July Session on operational activities. If ultimately approved by the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly, this amendment will go into effect immediately and WFP will issue its first three-year rolling Management Plan in 2012 and all appropriations in next November's Executive Board Session.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for this introduction. May I now turn to the floor and draw up my Speakers List? I see the European Union first.

Ms Ágnes DÚS (Hungary)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The EU has taken note of the WFP Annual Reports to the ECOSOC and to the FAO Council on the World Food Programme's activities in 2009 and 2010. We commend the WFP on their efforts in both years to address the emergency food assistance needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises, such as those in Haiti, Niger, Pakistan and Somalia.

We commend the Rome-based Agencies on their efforts – including those of WFP – to further step up cooperation among them. This increased cooperation is vital if the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable populations is to be addressed in the most efficient and effective manner. In this context we welcome the reinforced cooperation between WFP and FAO on information systems and WFP's active participation in the secretariat and in the funding of the Committee on World Food Security. We strongly support a division of labour among organizations according to their core strengths and comparative advantages, notably in the field of nutrition.

We also welcome WFP's co-leadership with FAO on the recently-established Global Emergency Food Security Cluster. We consider it a welcome step to further the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian food assistance and deepen cooperation between WFP and FAO.

We note WFP's efforts to improve cost-efficiency and effectiveness, including the Executive Board's approval of reforms to WFP's financial framework which should also enhance transparency, and we encourage WFP – as with its Sister Agencies – to continue seeking further improvements.

We acknowledge WFP's continued efforts to achieve its transition to a food assistance agency and encourage WFP to make increasing use of food assistance tools at a larger scale, where this is possible. At the same time we encourage WFP – and all partners with whom it works – to increase its focus on demonstrating results and in building the evidence base on “what works best”.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the UN staff, and especially to the WFP staff as well as to the staff of the Rome-based Agencies who work in often difficult and dangerous circumstances. The EU fully supports the enhancement of safety and security for WFP and its partners.

And concerning the resolution, the EU supports the Draft Resolution set out in document C 2011/LIM/10.

Sra. Andrea Sivina REPETTI (Argentina)

En relación con la propuesta de reforma del Artículo XIV.6 del Estatuto del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, la delegación de Argentina se pronuncia a favor de la enmienda.

Creemos oportuno recordar que la Junta Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos aprobó en su Sesión de junio una decisión en tal sentido, a los efectos de contar con un Plan de Gestión Trienal de carácter renovable con un presupuesto anual.

Por otra parte, la enmienda propuesta fue aprobada por el Consejo de la FAO al que Argentina pertenece. Consideramos que con un presupuesto anual el Programa se beneficiará en términos de eficiencia y rendición de cuentas. Hacemos propicia esta oportunidad para felicitar al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por su excelente labor.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

First, we would like to welcome the WFP to the Conference. We want to thank Mr Ramiro Lopes Da Silva for the reports of 2009-2010 and the excellence of performance within WFP during those years.

We really do thank all Rome-based Agencies, and, in this case the WFP, for increasing collaboration for costs saving as a result of collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. We encourage increased collaboration as much as possible on the ground.

We approve the amendment as proposed to Article XIV.6 for the annual budget which we do believe will improve governance.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished delegate of New Zealand. If the distinguished delegate of New Zealand is not in the room, I would like to give the floor first to the distinguished delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr MUN Jong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Madam Chair, I believe that the Report submitted at this meeting by WFP concerning objectives of the past two years has offered us an excellent insight into the details of its work. In the past three years, WFP has focused on the implementing its strategic assistance plan to reduce global poverty and hunger and ensure food security, in keeping with its humanitarian mission and goals. WFP took many measures to maximize resources for this assistance. In particular, WFP put forth the policy of food assistance for development, aimed at strengthening food production capacities, from emergency food aid to securing the assistance associated by purchasing food with cash from farmers in the developing countries, and thereby helping developing countries increase their agricultural output.

WFP promptly responded to the needs of the countries hit by natural disasters, such as, earthquakes, floods, wars and conflicts. It has helped stabilize the livelihood of people, and helped them to recover from the damages. WFP afforded huge amounts of food assistance to the DPRK of the past 15 years in the wake of temporary food shortages resulting from several natural disasters.

On behalf of our delegation, I take this opportunity, to give high credit to WFP for its assistance in its efforts to resolve the global food crisis, and express my gratitude to staff of WFP, including Madame Josette Sheeran, the Executive Director, and donor governments for their sincere efforts to offer assistance to Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As in the past, we will continue to cooperate and to collaborate with WFP in our efforts to ensure food security in our country.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the distinguished delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Are there any further requests from the floor? Brazil, please.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Antes de todo queríamos manifestar el acuerdo con la propuesta de enmienda y decir que nuestro trabajo con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos es un suceso. En los últimos ocho años aumentamos enormemente esa sociedad, estamos muy felices, como dijo el Sr. Lopez Ramiro Da Silva, Vice-Director del PMA, el Programa tiene esa capacidad de ser muy sensible a las necesidades y acogerlas muy rápidamente. Ramiro mencionó el tema del seguro, de hecho fue el Programa Mundial de Alimentos que ha estado llevando a la atención casi individualmente este tema en los últimos años.

Estamos también muy contentos de comprobar la cooperación entre el PMA y el FIDA y de saber que el FIDA ha retomado este tema del seguro, esperamos que también la FAO pueda retomarlo, ya que este es fundamental. El seguro de emergencia y el seguro agrícola van de mano, y por esto esperamos mucho que la FAO pueda retomar este tema tan importante y tan moderno porque la asistencia llega más rápido por el seguro. En la situación de pobreza de nuestros campesinos, una mala cosecha los puede llevar a vender sus medios de producción, sino abandonar la tierra.

El otro tema importante que nos deja también contentos del Informe del Sr. Ramiro es la relación de emergencia estructural. Cuando volvimos a aproximarnos al Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el 2003, eso fue el centro de nuestro discurso. Decíamos que el PMA tenía que volver a esa buena relación que tenía al inicio de los años 90 y que después se cambió entre el de emergencia y el estructural. Los dos son importantes y esta relación es fundamental. En este sentido, más de una vez públicamente manifestamos nuestra satisfacción con el P4P (La Iniciativa compras en aras del progreso), que es un programa que compra de los campesinos para llevar comida a personas en situaciones de inseguridad alimentaria, más que nada a los niños en las escuelas, que lógicamente tienen el derecho a la alimentación y no pueden proveer a la propia. Este es el círculo virtuoso en el cual ganan los niños mejorando la situación nutricional, y se llevan a cabo las mejores condiciones de aprendizaje. Los padres, las familias y las comunidades pueden desarrollarse a su vez vendiendo sus propias cosechas.

Otro tema que me parece muy importante que lleva el Programa es el tema de los “Twenes”. Algunos países tenemos excedentes, porque ahora tenemos políticas de seguridad alimentaria. Por lo tanto, tenemos excedentes y poder con esos excedentes proveer al derecho a la alimentación de pueblos que no tienen ni derecho a la agricultura o tienen ese derecho muy limitado, eso es muy importante, es decir, poder encontrar con otros países la posibilidad de transportar esos alimentos a través del Programa es esencial.

Quería también expresar unas palabras sobre el personal del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Yo tuve el placer de viajar a Sudan, a Darfour, Palestina, Paquistán, Haití, y Guatemala, y es increíble la motivación tanto del personal del PMA como el personal de la FAO, y la manera como trabajan juntos. En Haití incluso me sorprendió que el PMA encargó una persona justamente para integrar sus programas con los programas de la FAO. Eso es sorprendente. También tuve otra experiencia muy interesante en Guatemala. Después de la Conferencia de Donadores, me senté con el personal de la FAO porque íbamos a hacer una donación para un programa, justamente un P4P, o sea fortalecer la producción campesina y comprar el alimento para el Programa Nacional de Alimentación Escolar. Cuando propuse al personal de la FAO que les íbamos a pasar los recursos, dijeron no a la parte de las compras al PMA. Eso es muy importante, que haya ese tipo de confianza y de integración. Eso complace enormemente y estoy seguro también a los demás países participantes.

Con esta nota, quería manifestar una vez más el enorme placer de trabajar con ustedes.

Sr. José António CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Mi comentario se refiere al Apéndice: Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia con respecto a la revisión del Estatuto del PMA. Se trata de una enmienda con respecto a la primera decisión del Proyecto donde dice que la Conferencia decide siempre que esté de acuerdo con ello la Conferencia de la FAO.

La decisión reza: “La Conferencia decide, siempre que está de acuerdo con ello la Conferencia de la FAO, que los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sean elegidos por un período de tres años”.

Entiendo que hay una contradicción porque dice que la Conferencia decide siempre que esté de acuerdo con ello la propia Conferencia. Habría que eliminar “que esté de acuerdo con ello la Conferencia”, que entiendo se refiera a la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas.

Mr Ramiro LOPES DA SILVA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I think we did not have specific questions, we had comments, and I am just going to address some of those comments.

First, I would like to thank the Member Nations, for recognizing the sacrifices, the commitment of our staff -- of our 15 000 staff around the world most of them in difficult contexts fully committed to implement our programmes and to provide short-term and long-term assistance. Such commitment and such engagement is sometimes paid with their lives, and over the last few weeks, unfortunately, we lost two additional colleagues, one in Ethiopia and one in Sudan. We have several colleagues presently held hostage, from whom we are trying to obtain their release, with the support of the entire infrastructure of the UN, and bring them back to their families and to their bigger family, which is the World Food Programme. Obviously, this level of commitment and engagement brings a very strong esprit de corps within the organization, no matter that we are a big organization, we feel this not only as managers, but also very much because we are friends, we are colleagues. Today we are in Rome, tomorrow we are on the front line. So we feel deeply and we thank you all for recognizing that and for having supported us through the years in some of these very difficult situations we have faced from time to time.

I just wanted to address a couple of issues. I think among the four key UN Agencies that work on issues related to nutrition, and I am speaking of FAO, WHO, UNICEF and us, there is an extremely good understanding on what are our core competencies, individually, and what are our comparative advantages. I tend to dislike the term “comparative advantage”. In the business world, the only real comparative advantage is “you learn faster the business than the competition.” So I don’t like the “comparative advantage” formulation. I prefer the core competencies, i.e. what you are good at doing within your mandate. The term “comparative advantage” is being used too much, and has lost a bit of sense. The four Agencies are very comfortable when we work in the context of REACH, which our partnership, responding to demands of Member Nations for support on their nutrition challenges, from supporting countries which are developing national nutrition strategies, and programmes dealing with specific elements. We have no contradictions, no frictions.

In reality, from a WFP perspective, we want to see the Standing Committee of Nutrition reflect this very strong understanding that we have at the programme level, and bring that to the policy and strategic level so that we have a flexible, dynamic, light platform where we can reconcile policies and define common global goals. We are very comfortable with this and, on that basis, we are continuing to engage with the other four organizations.

I think that WFP moving forward 2011-2012 and 2013 when we will be back before you in this setting, has a couple of main challenges and main priorities, I am at ease to go through some of them, because they are mainly in Gina Casar’s Department and not in mine, so I am OK. But I think that we recognize the present difficult environment from the resource availability front. Most of our “traditional donors” are going through processes of fiscal consolidation, and I said quote unquote “traditional donors” because these are Member Nations that have been with us since day one, not because they are not Member Nations that bring initiatives and new ideas to the fore, traditional but not conservative.

So that is a challenge. In 2009, we had 3.8 billion USD of resources provided, against a needs-based plan of 6.5/6.8 billion USD, a similar situation in 2010. So, there are couple of things that we need to do on that front. One is to continue the investment we are making to expand the utilization of the new programmatic tools, because we do believe that those programmatic tools bring efficiencies to the season, on top of being a better way to respond to the actual needs. The main focus is, obviously, the scale up of the “cash and voucher” and the implementation of our new nutrition strategy. But we need to look also on how we continue to make gains on internal efficiencies by streamlining processes and aggregating some of the activities.

The other two important elements moving forward are obviously, and it was raised in comments by several Member Nations, issues related to reporting on results. Once again, we are dealing on these on two levels. One, because there is no consensus yet in the broad international community nor within the United Nations on what we should be actually be measuring to show results, to show improvements, while simultaneously reflecting the contribution of each one of us as UN organizations, NGOs, Member Nations and as bilateral partners countries where we have activities. We need to continue working within the UN, and within the broader international community, on those issues.

The issue of relief to development is a core issue for WFP, as 60 percent of the resources, utilized are for protracted relief rehabilitation operations. The issues of addressing the linkage between the humanitarian response and the long-term solutions also pass through the need of development partners taking more risks up front because they need to front load those resources even when the context, the setting, is not the perfect one that is, where development partners are normally comfortable to invest. Related to that, of course, are all the issues associated to risk management.

I have tried to be brief, in addressing some of the comments made. I thank you for your interest, your support, your commitment on this journey we are undertaking in WFP in the transformation from a food aid to a food assistance Organization, and in our quest of continuing to seek efficiencies and effectiveness in our programmes.

Mr Bartolomeo MIGONE (General Counsel and Director, World Food Programme)

On the question of distribution of seeds, I believe there must be a problem with one of the translations of the text because the reference in the English version that I have in front of me is “subject to concurrence of the General Assembly”.

WFP is a joint-subsiary programme of the United Nations and of FAO, and under Article XV of the General Regulations of WFP, in order for an amendment to be approved the concurrence of this Body and of the General Assembly is required. So, the reference in the decision, I believe, is to “the concurrence of the General Assembly” which I am informed has already occurred in March. That is what would be required in order for the amendment to come into effect, the concurrence of both Bodies.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for the clarification. May I ask if Ecuador is content with this explanation?

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Es justamente lo que Ecuador planteaba. En la versión española se menciona que la Conferencia decide siempre que esté de acuerdo la propia Conferencia. En la versión en inglés que se encuentra en el sitio web de la FAO está lo mismo. No sé si este documento fue ya enmendado, en todo caso estamos de acuerdo con el cambio planteado.

CHAIRPERSON

Thanks a lot for your help, Ecuador. This will assist in approving also the Spanish version of the document.

If there are no further requests, I would like to draw up my short summary of the discussion of today’s meeting, which will be as follows.

The Conference endorsed the WFP’s Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO Council 2009-2010, taking into account the specific comments made, and also approved the Draft Resolution on the Revision of the General Regulations of WFP, as set out in document C 2011/LIM/ 10, Appendix E.

This will be my short and smart summary of the meeting.

Thank you very much.

Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)
Questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)
Cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

Other Substantive and Policy Matters (continued)
Autres questions de fond et de politique générale (suite)
Otras cuestiones de fondo y de política (continuación)

17. Evaluation of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 (C 2011/INF/15)
17. Évaluation de l'Année internationale des fibres naturelles - 2009 (C 2011/INF/15)
17. Evaluación del Año Internacional de las Fibras Naturales (2009) (C 2011/INF/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to the next agenda item, Item 17. C 2011/INF/15, and may I ask Mr Kaison Chang, Senior Economist of FAO, to introduce this item.

Mr Kaison CHANG (FAO Staff)

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2009 to be the International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF), as recommended by FAO Conference Resolution 3/2005. In doing so, it noted that the diverse range of natural fibres produced in many countries provided an important source of income for farmers and, hence, contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by eradicating poverty and improving food security.

As the lead agency, FAO required at least 2 million USD to effectively implement the IYNF. Unfortunately, the exceptionally-difficult economic climate in 2009 affected potential inflows of donor funds and commercial sponsorship. Nevertheless, FAO endeavoured to make progress, devoting approximately 120 000 USD from its own budget, bolstered by external donations amounting to around 57 000 USD (44 000 USD from the Common Fund for Commodities; 8 000 USD from the Government of New Zealand; and 5 000 USD from the International Jute Study Group). In spite of such small outlays, FAO's achievements were nonetheless considerable.

Key to celebrating the Year and promoting its objectives were the host of events that took place outside of Rome. Well over 150 conferences, workshops, exhibitions, seminars, fairs and festivals were organized in 50 countries. These decentralized initiatives were the key strength in raising awareness about natural fibres and the sheer number and geographical diversity of these events underlined the importance of natural fibres around the world.

Recognizing that the objectives of the Year could not be realized in the space of 12 months, FAO along with key stakeholders committed to sustaining momentum beyond 2009. The transition underway of the centralized effort to representative organizations of natural fibres will likely secure sustainable success in relation to IYNF objectives. For example, as the Organization has not been able to consistently maintain the IYNF Website, due to resource constraints, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) has agreed to host the Website in such a way that each natural fibre group can manage its own information itself. In addition, the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI) was founded in early 2010, comprising an alliance of international natural fibre associations with emphasis on textiles.

FAO, in its capacity as the lead agency in planning and coordinating activities, has endeavoured to ensure that progress in realizing the objectives of the Year continues. A major development in support of this initiative has been the design of the project funded by Germany that is currently being implemented by FAO, and whereby all of the IYNF objectives are being addressed. The project is worth 3.15 million USD and is entitled: "Unlocking Commercial Fibre Potential in Developing Countries: Strengthening Global Value Chains for Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation and the Environment".

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document C 2011/INF/15 “Evaluation of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009” which provides a balanced picture of the event.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank FAO for the activities carried out to achieve the objectives set for the International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF), despite the economic crisis which affected negatively potential inflows of donor funds and commercial sponsorship.

As the document rightly points out, the International Year coincided with the exceptionally difficult economic climate of 2009, when demand for natural fibres commodities dropped on the world market. The situation has changed since then: limited supply and robust demand were the main drivers for a surge in prices of some natural fibres, in particular cotton. In 2010, cotton prices increased by over 250 percent. High cotton prices have had upwards pressure on demand for other fibres on the world market, including flax and hemp.

The EU and its Member States support the IYNF objective of raising the profile of natural fibres, and agree with the statement that natural fibres constitute an important renewable resource that, in addition to its traditional use in the clothing and textile industry, has many other industrial uses, such as packaging, and papermaking in composite materials and in the automotive industry. In 2010, the Commission decided to support a three-year promotion programme for flax and linen on the EU market.

Several EU-funded research projects are broadening the use of natural fibres. Special emphasis should be placed on research to improve low-input and sustainable production methods through ecological intensification means as demand for organic products outstrips supply. Relevant activity at programme level is carried out by the EU in collaboration with China through a partnership initiative that will be funded with the World Programme 2012.

While European cotton production is negligible (representing 1 percent of world cotton production), although economically and socially very important for the regions where it is concentrated, the EU produces around half of the world’s flax fibre and is the largest producer of high-quality long flax fibres. The EU, and in particular France, is also an important producer of hemp grown for fibres.

The EU and its Member States share the view of FAO and the International Steering Committee that attaining the objectives of the IYNF extend well beyond the timeframe of a single year, and believe that a greater involvement of the natural fibre stakeholders will play a crucial role in meeting these objectives, in particular the promotion of efficiency and sustainability of natural fibres industries.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

We thank the Secretariat for the frank report on the difficulties faced in sourcing financial input for the International Year of Natural Fibres.

New Zealand is very supportive of the statement that natural fibres constitute an important renewable resource that can be used as raw material for clothing and other textiles for consumers. We also acknowledge the place of natural fibres as an income source for many small farmers.

It is good to know that, despite the financial constraints, there was a reasonably significant amount of activity that was able to be undertaken in the International Year of Natural Fibres. We also note with interest the ongoing work, and appreciate the efforts to adapt materials to ensure its longevity.

We also note the establishment of the “Discover Natural Fibres” initiative, and will follow with interest the activities and collaborative effects of the various stakeholders to build on the achievements of the International Year of Natural Fibres. And we appreciate the contribution of the Government of Germany to the initiative “Unlocking Natural Fibres Potential in Developing Countries,” as it looks to be an exciting future opportunity.

Ms Deniz BERBER (Turkey)

I would first like to indicate that we associate ourselves with the statement of the European Union. I would also like to add some further remarks.

Turkey is the second biggest cotton producer in the world and is the third for cotton yield, and it is also an important consumer. Cotton is an economical and social important product for Turkey. We are also an important textile producer. Turkey also plays an important role in the international area. It is a coordinator in the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the Cotton Action Plan. It also owns one of the best training centres in cotton research in its region.

Therefore, we would like to emphasize the importance of attaining the objectives of the International Year for Natural Fibres extended beyond the timeframe of only one year. We feel that the efficiency and sustainability of natural fibres industry should be further promoted.

Mr Kaison CHANG (FAO staff)

We would like to thank the delegates for their positive response to the document, and we certainly take into account the comments regarding the future work on natural fibres that will extend beyond the actual International Year itself.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings me to my short summary.

The Conference took note of the evaluation of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, taking into account the comments made.

So with this we can conclude on this agenda item.

18. International Year of Forests (C 2011/30)

18. Année internationale des forêts (C 2011/30)

18. Año Internacional de los Bosques (C 2011/30)

CHAIRPERSON

The next agenda item which is the International Year of Forests, agenda item 18. The document before you is C 2011/30 and I would like to ask the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department to introduce this item.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (Assistant Director General, Forestry Department)

It is a pleasure to be with you again this morning in order to present the contributions of FAO together with other partner organizations to the International Year of the Forest.

As you recall, the UN General Assembly in 2007 identified 2011 as the International Year of the Forest in order to highlight the relevance of forests for people in a very inclusive and broad way. You have most likely seen the banners outside of this building and those who have been in some of our offices, namely in Bangkok, will have seen the same banners.

The document mentioned by the Chair is C 2011/30 which explains our activities during the year and those we are planning for the future. There have also been lots of activities at national, regional and local levels on the International Year of the Forest. The United Nations Forum on Forests, hosted at the Headquarters of the UN, is the responsible organization for the Year and FAO is Chair of the Collaborative Partnership for Forests which was identified as a supporting institution for developing the Year. In that sense, most of our activities have been driven in order to support countries to celebrate the Year.

The launching of the Year was on 2 February. Most of you may have followed it in the news, journals, TV and other media. On 2 February, the President of the General Assembly and the Nobel Prize winner, Wangari Maathai from Kenya, who is well known for promoting forestation in Africa and in her country, attending the ceremony. On 9 February we also invited you to the Rome launching of the

Year at FAO. At both events, in both launchings, our main contribution was the State of the World Forest 2011, which compiles information on forestry resources, on stable forest industries, the social development of forests and other key issues of the moment.

A second contribution was the historical publication of *Unasylva* that has been published by the Forestry Department since the early days of FAO. The last number was dedicated to identifying crossroads among the International Days in the UN Calendar that have implications for forests and, as those who have read it will see, many International Days are related to forests.

We have developed a specific FAO Website on the International Year of Forests in order to inform all of our partners and Member Nations as well as other organizations and the general public, of all the different activities that FAO and other partners are organizing during the year. I must record that, at the moment, it is the third most-visited Website of FAO. So it has achieved a part of our objectives. But we think that our main contribution has been to support countries. That is our main mission. As I commented, FAO is not the main agency for developing the Year. We supported the initiative by providing an International Year of the Forest Toolkit for communicators that was developed at the beginning of the year, and sent a month ago to Member Nations. We regret the late delivery. It was available on the Website very early, but due to the lack of funding we could not have printed versions as early as we would have desired. We produced 450 DVD versions that were also sent to you, both through the Permanent Representatives and through our FAORs.

This Toolkit tries to support all activities the Member Nations and the partner organizations may pursue during the year, from preparing key messages to such other suggestions, as videos. The one you saw before and the one that was shown at the Saouma Award regarding a project in the Philippines come to mind. Designs for posters and banners, our Forestry photo database, FAO publications supporting countries.

Our objectives are to create in the countries, in the forest services of the countries, a long-lasting capacity for communication. So as societies become more organized, they become further removed from forests. It is very important for the reality of forests, to be properly understood in order to prevent policies that hinder forest contributions to rural livelihoods and environmental provisions.

Our idea is that this network of communicators that we have created by identifying persons in each of the countries will also be long-lasting. So in the next round of meetings of the Regional Forest Commissions, we are going to call for a meeting of these communicators to develop future activities in forest communication.

We have produced these videos. You have just seen one clip, but there is a longer version of 60 seconds and this version has been shown hundreds of times on several international TV channels like CNN International, Euro News and so on. Through calculated publicity cost of more than 3 million USD and evidently at a much lower cost from our own archives, these videos were made without cost for us.

A second video production was the Philippine video which won the Saouma Award. At the moment, we are producing videos in Ecuador, Tanzania, and Senegal to show a much more broader view of forestry projects. At the end of the year, we shall be able to produce an inclusive video that may show the activities in the different regions and in different thematic areas.

There have been, as well, the FAO Goodwill Ambassadors, who have been activated. For the moment, the singer Anggun will be performing in Indonesia at the beginning of the International Year of the Forest. Carl Lewis also very recently visited Haiti and the Dominican Republic and planted trees, speaking about forests and showing our T-shirts with the International Year of the Forest logo.

Finally, we have produced very recently with the funds of the Innovation Fund of FAO, a mobile application which is running at the moment on iPhones and iPads. The resources derived from that, not only the information but also donations, will be used for Telefood projects. The first will start in Ecuador, so that we can gain support from single persons.

Within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, we have identified about twenty thematic issues, about two per month, for which one of the partners of the Organization has provided a

press release. This allows a constant flow of information on forests, and avoids competition among the agencies over visibility. We are very satisfied about the outcome and the effect of this communication. FAO is the lead agency on most of the issues in this case. For example, we will issue another press release later in July on forests and fires, as this is the time when this risk is more prevalent. We will also issue one on food security, and one on mountains in the second half of the year.

There are several upcoming events, like the second World Landslide Forum that will meet here in Rome in early October. There will be the International Conference and Exhibition on the Art and Joy of Wood, that will be organized in conjunction with Indian Government in October in Bangalore. A conference is also being organized by the German Government in Bonn on forest contributions to a green economy, which FAO is also supporting. And there will be the first round of the next meetings of the regional forest commissions, namely the European Forestry Commission to be held in Turkey in the second week of October, the Asia and Pacific Forestry Commission in Beijing during the second week of November, as well as the Forest Day 5 within the framework of COP 17 in Durban on climate change. Finally, we are planning a closing event here in Rome just before Christmas to present the remote sensing survey that was discussed yesterday during the issue of COFO, and the publication of a work on the sustainable forest industry.

We think it is important to continue focusing attention on forests because, as I commented, society is becoming urbanized. The media is very important, and it is important to project the right image of forests.

COFO 20 recommended to strengthen the idea and profile of the observation of an International Day of the Forest. This was also suggested by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The United Nations Forum on Forests in New York in early February recommended to ECOSOC the consideration of an International Day of Forests, and through it the proposal was brought to the attention of the General Assembly this year.

If I recall correctly, an International Day of the Forest was a proposal of the FAO Conference in 1971, but unfortunately the steps were not taken to formalize it. So FAO has not been in a position to celebrate this International Day of Forests forty years ago.

At the moment, we understand from these resolutions that this has little sense. Forestry is within the technical capacity of the FAO, but many other partner organizations are working in this field and today, if the International Day of Forests is established, it should be as put on the UN System, and not only in FAO. Several countries yesterday expressed their support for this idea and we invite those 52 members of the ECOSOC who will meet next week in Geneva to take these proposals, both of FAO and of UNFF9, and include it in the agenda of the next General Assembly in September so that the International Day of Forests is formally established for 2012, on, if possible, the same day that 40 countries have been celebrating it since it was first considered by FAO in the early 1970's on 20 March.

Mr Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)

Japan highly appreciates that FAO has been making its efforts for the International Year of Forests and it is important to continue its work in collaboration with Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Members, including United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the other Member Nations.

Japan understands that it is important to foster an understanding of the importance of forests at the international level, since Japan supports the Resolution for the International Year of Forests, as well as UN Forum on Forests.

Ms Ágnes DÚS (Hungary)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for document C 2011/30 on International Year of Forests 2011.

The EU and its Member States firmly believe that the International Year of Forests 2011 initiative will raise awareness at all levels on the role of forests and strengthen their sustainable management, conservation and development, as well as their significant role in the bio-based green economy. The EU and its Member States declared their commitment to the International Year of Forests at the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum of Forests in New York, as it clearly offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness on the significant contributions of Forests around the world, but also to highlight the challenges faced by many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. In this regard, we have highlighted the need to improve coordination and collaboration with other sectors, to promote mutual benefits and to foster sustainable development.

The EU and its Member States encourage the ongoing work and the many international and national activities on the occasion of the International Year of Forests 2011. The EU has recently developed its own forest communication strategy, building largely on the expertise of the UNECE/FAO Forest Communications Network, and is working closely with the "Forest Europe" process. This is complemented by hundreds of activities at Member State level directed at broader audiences.

The EU and its Member States wish to encourage FAO Member States to promote awareness raising on the challenges and success stories related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national, regional or sub-regional levels. Closely related to this, the EU and its Member States also stress the importance of other supporting activities throughout the year, inter alia, through a lively exchange of experiences.

The EU and its Member States welcome the active contribution of FAO and CPF members in supporting and implementing various activities for the success of the International Year of Forests 2011. Preparation of the toolkit for communicators, collaborative activities, coordination within the CPF as well as its own activities underline the leading role of FAO in promoting sustainable forest management through the International Year of Forests. We strongly encourage FAO and the CPF to continue and further strengthen these activities during the year and onward.

Finally, we deem important to stress that the promotion activities of the year should not turn into isolated events, but build the basis for a continuing process and future targeted activities. In our view, the International Year of Forests gains its real importance in the long run and in light of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development scheduled in 2012. The establishment of the International Day of Forests, as recommended by the Ninth session of UNFF, could be a further step to sustain and focus the attention of the public on forest-related issues. FAO, as the initiator of this International Forest Day, could be in a position to be the host organisation of the International Forest Day in the future to coordinate the global-level activities.

Mr Boen PURNAMA (Indonesia)

First of all, my delegation would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to take the floor I would also like to say thanks for the very informative, comprehensive presentation of the report of the FAO contribution to the International Year of the Forest 2011.

In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to FAO as the Chair of Collaborative Partnership on Forests, for the efforts in celebrating the International Year of Forests (2011). As one of the countries blessed with an abundance of forests, Indonesia fully supports the International Year of the Forests (2011).

Our President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, has launched a national campaign on International Year of the Forests (2011) in March 2011. To celebrate the International Year of the Forest (2011), Indonesia launched several activities such as issuing a special postage stamp, holding national and international workshops and including celebrations of the International Year of the Forest at provincial and district levels.

Indonesia also launched a tree-planting movement by targeting to plant one million trees per year, from 2011. At national and local level, we are happy to announce that the result of this campaign is that the involvement of communities to plant trees has increased significantly.

Indonesia, also as a part of the forest planting policy, also has involved the community through the implementation of community forest, community forest plantation and village forests. As a part of the International Year of the Forest, the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia and International Tropical Timber Organization, (ITTO), the Right and Resources Initiatives (RRI) and other partners are also organizing an Indonesian Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise, and an international Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance, Experience and Opportunity for Asia in a Changing Context, which will be held in July, next month 2011 at Lombok Island. This Conference will discuss new opportunities for the community for livelihood and sustainable development with focus on the Asia-Pacific Region.

We believe that the third conference will have a strong contribution to development of sustainable forest management, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Thank you.

M. Mohamed Seghir NOUEL (Algérie)

L'Algérie à son tour remercie et félicite la FAO pour les efforts qui sont fournis et pour le rapport qui a été établi et également pour tous les efforts concernant la célébration de cette année. En Algérie, cette préoccupation est importante, d'autant plus que l'on fait partie des pays de la rive sud, donc les éco-systèmes forestiers sont constamment menacés par la dégradation notamment le fléau des incendies.

Donc, le feu qui fait des dégâts chaque année réduit la couverture forestière et risque pour les pays du sud de devenir encore plus préoccupant pour les années à venir. C'est pour toutes ces raisons qu'en Algérie, considérant que les forêts sont une composante essentielle du milieu rural dans lequel vivent des populations et que celles-ci soient étroitement liées aux forêts, le gouvernement a adopté en 2008, une nouvelle politique de renouveau rural qui met au cœur des ses préoccupations la préservation des ressources naturelles et qui vise aussi à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales et de leurs revenus. Selon cette optique, la pression sur les ressources naturelles, en particulier les forêts, diminue forcément.

Donc, dans le cas de cette politique de renouveau rural, l'Algérie a mis en place, pour l'échéance 2010-2014, quatre programmes prioritaires qui sont la lutte contre la désertification, le traitement des bassins versants, la réhabilitation des éco-systèmes forestiers et leur extension et la conservation des éco-systèmes naturels. Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de ces programmes, annuellement, près de 60 millions d'arbres sont plantés chaque année dont 80 pour cent sont des arbres forestiers et nous comptons atteindre un rythme pour les prochaines années de 100 millions d'arbres par an pour avoisiner à peu près les 90 000 à 100 000 hectares par an.

Donc, tous ces efforts qui sont soutenus par une forte mobilisation des moyens financiers de l'État devront être durant cette période nécessairement accompagnés de mesures importantes en ce qui concerne la sensibilisation, la vulgarisation et notamment l'association des populations dans toutes les actions qui sont entreprises dans ces espaces fragiles. C'est pour cette raison que l'Algérie suggère que les populations rurales soient au cœur des programmes d'action qui doivent être établis car il y a une forte liaison entre ces populations et l'espace forestier. Plus on améliore les conditions de vie des ces populations, plus on améliore leurs revenus, et moins il y aura de pression sur les forêts.

En plus de ces programmes, l'Algérie a célébré toutes les journées symboliques, la Journée mondiale de l'arbre, je sais que cela n'est pas officiel mais c'est le 21 mars de chaque année qui correspond à la fin de la campagne de plantation en Algérie et dans les pays de l'hémisphère nord. Le 21 mars symbolise également le passage de l'hiver au printemps. C'est pour cela que nous suggérons d'officialiser cette journée du 21 mars comme Journée internationale de la forêt comme proposé par d'autres pays.

Nous avons eu également à célébrer d'autres journées qui ont toute leur importance, notamment la Journée mondiale des ressources en eau, la Journée internationale de lutte contre la désertification le 17 juin, la Journée internationale de l'environnement. Toutes ces journées là ont été célébrées en

Algérie, c'était la forêt qui était considérée comme le thème principal de ces journées là, comme cela était le cas, donc au niveau international.

Nous suggérons que la journée du 21 mars soit adoptée comme Journée internationale de la forêt et que les programmes d'actions, qui devront intervenir, prennent en charge cette préoccupation des populations, que ces populations rurales soient au cœur de ces programmes et un dernier mot pour terminer concernant la boîte à outils, dont l'importance est avérée. Nous suggérons que la FAO aide les pays à développer cette boîte à outils, dans chaque pays en ce qui le concerne et selon ses spécificités au niveau national.

Ms Deniz BERBER (Turkey)

As indicated before, we associate ourselves with the statement of the European Union.

Here we would like to use this opportunity to reiterate our views on the issue of the International Day of Forests as a continuation of our remarks made during the Session of COFO.

The paper demonstrates the importance of the International Year of Forests in promoting forestry issues in the global agenda, and is proposing recognition of an International Day of Forests. We understand that around 50 countries from all the regions celebrate a Forest Day annually, and in most cases it is 21 March for such celebrations. These events receive much interest and are major tools to create public awareness, particularly among the younger generation. However, these actions are scattered and not coordinated at an international level.

Considering the challenges posed by climate change, the need for conserved natural resources, rural development and income diversification for millions of rural households, there is an obvious need to coordinate activities that take place in this area at international level. In fact, as indicated before by Mr Rojas Briales, the issue of such a day was brought to the attention of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference in 1971, but remained as a recommendation item on the agenda since then. Now that climate change is one of our main challenges and this year is the Year of Forests, we think it is the most appropriate time to act on this matter to initiate the process for including the International Day of Forests on the agenda of the UN Calendar. This will facilitate coordination of the actions and, more importantly, strengthening of the impact of international efforts to promote forestry issues at the national and global level. We are sure that this would increase public awareness and official actions for the conservation, development and utilization of forestry resources in a sustainable manner.

Excellent activities are taking place at the moment all around the world to celebrate the International Year of Forests. We, in Turkey, have celebrated this International Year of Forests through various activities including many tree planting campaigns, but this international interest in forests should not diminish at the end of this year. Since FAO now has enough technical capacity for this, we strongly support the idea of the declaration of 21 March within the UN System as the International Day of Forests in the UN Calendar and request FAO to take the necessary actions in this regard. We propose that this is reflected in the Report.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

We support the work the FAO has undertaken in marking this year, and we especially value the promotion of the various useful FAO publications, including the 201 edition of *The State of Forests*.

New Zealand has taken on board the recommendation to continue to engage actively in the celebration of the International Year of Forests, and have an International Year of Forests Coordination Committee, with representatives of governments, forest industry, conservation organizations and NGOs. A range of activities have been undertaken, including publicity and promotion campaigns, development of education material for schools, skill competitions, film festivals, photo competitions, community tree plantings, and industry conferences.

New Zealand looks forward to the future international activities for the remainder of 2011, and will consider proposals for actions beyond 2011 to continue to sustain attention to forests and sustainable forest management, as well as the contribution to sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of internationally-agreed development goals.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

Thank you to the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department and the Secretariat for the report on what is happening in this important year, the International Year of Forests, and for the activities that have been undertaken.

Canada has actively supported this Year, and has a significant number of outreach activities in the country: commemorative stamps, postcards, brochures, etc. On the international level, we have been very involved with the International Symposium on Eco-system and Landscape-Level Approaches to Sustainability, the Global Forum for International Model Forest Network and others.

We would like to just indicate that Canada will be hosting the 2011 Meeting of the Montreal Process which is the Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal of forests. This will take place on 18-22 October in Victoria, British Columbia, and the results of this forum will inform the Rio+20 discussion.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

The United States recognizes the value of promoting awareness and action in the conservation and sustainable management of forests. The International Year of Forests has been important in this regard. The United States recognizes the value and the importance of all the services that forests provide to our planet and society. The United States is actively engaged in celebrating the International Year of the Forests through activities at the national and local levels hosted by public institutions, NGOs and communities.

Annually, there are specific days such as Arbour Day and Get-Outdoors-Day, where Americans already highlight forests and their importance in our lives. Dozens of countries throughout the world have similar celebrations on Arbour Day or other special days. Just last month, we celebrated World Environment Day with a thematic focus on forests.

These events can be important in raising awareness of the importance of forests, including for communities, youth and cities, and we firmly support the continued efforts of countries, civil society and others in promoting the commemoration of forests.

Regarding the establishment of an International Day of Forests, we should be mindful of the additional financial and administrative burdens placed on UN Agencies in the celebration of International Days, especially given the significant proliferation of International Days in recent years. We are concerned that the increasing number of International Days and Years reduces both UN credibility and the impact of International Days and Years, and question if establishing an International Day of Forests is the best use of increasingly limited resources.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

La delegación de Argentina agradece y felicita a la FAO por las actividades que está realizando para celebrar el Año Internacional de los Bosques.

La República Argentina se encuentra comprometida con el manejo forestal sustentable y considera que existen importantes oportunidades de cooperación internacional en esta materia, que requieren ser desarrolladas y aprovechadas en todo su potencial.

Iniciativas tales como la Resolución 61/193 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que declaró el año 2011 como Año Internacional de los Bosques, brindan una excelente oportunidad para profundizar la concientización sobre la importancia del manejo forestal sustentable y las funciones que cumplen los bosques.

En este sentido, la delegación de Argentina considera propicio dar continuidad a dicho esfuerzo mediante el establecimiento de un Día Internacional de los Bosques, en línea con lo recomendado por el Noveno Foro de Bosques por las Naciones Unidas, y con la activa participación de la FAO.

Sr. Milton RONDÓ (Brasil)

Quisiéramos también agradecer a la FAO por las conmemoraciones del Año Internacional de los Bosques, que han realizado mediante una presentación muy buena. Como ya dije en coincidencia con el delegado de Finlandia, también sería importante que pensáramos en cómo darle secuencia. Hay algo que es muy importante y que estamos tratando de hacer, que es llevar toda la información posible a la gente que vive en los bosques. Es decir tratar de dar capilaridad a toda esa información a la gente que los mantiene y que mantuvo los bosques trabajando por milenios, como dijo la delegada de Argentina, con un manejo sostenible. La gente de los bosques siempre supo que si se tiraba abajo un bosque, solo produce é una vez. Si los bosques son bien gestionados, si los respetamos como seres humanos, o sea con todas sus características y sus debidos tiempos, son una fortuna inimaginable.

Además de apoyar el Día Mundial de Bosques como los otros delegados, creo que sería muy importante que pensáramos para el futuro en cómo permitir que los pueblos que viven ellos, que son tantos, tuvieran una manera de intercambiar informaciones entre ellos sobre cómo se vive en latitudes tan diferentes y cómo fueron mantenidos en pié durante tanto tiempo. Sobre todo, sería importante discutir como difundir conocimientos nuevos que se producen constantemente sobre el manejo sostenible de los bosques. Esto no sería realizado como una posición de enseñanza, sino como un intercambio de conocimientos ancestrales de esos organismos, que son los bosques en toda su complejidad.

Sr. Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (Subdirector General, Departamento Forestal)

En primer lugar, quisiera agradecer a todos, los países que han expresado su compromiso con la celebración del Año Internacional de los Bosques, qual que las actividades que se han desarrollado en los países y que, evidentemente, requieren todo nuestro reconocimiento.

Evidentemente con respecto a la primera intervención de Japón, reconocemos que Japón celebro también la transición entre el Año Internacional de la Biodiversidad que fue el 2010 y el Año de los Bosques, con un acto final de Diciembre en su país.

En cuanto a la intervención de la Unión Europea, quisiéramos resaltar que la experiencia que se ha acumulado con la red de comunicadores forestales a escala europea, es una experiencia que quisiéramos expandir a otras regiones. De hecho en estos momentos ya he convocado una reunión en Sudamérica, y queremos aprovechar los Comités Forestales Regionales para generar capacidades sobre la experiencia del Año y poder consolidar ese tipo de redes a más largo tiempo en las diversas regiones. Por lo tanto, esperamos también que esa experiencia europea pueda ser aprovechada. También invitaríamos al apoyo financiero para ese tipo de actividades que, no siendo muy costosas, son muy importantes. Sin una comunicación adecuada no van a haber políticas forestales adecuadas en los países.

Igualmente reconocemos la estrategia de comunicación de la Unidad Europea, y también en el paso de la FAO estamos preparando en una estrategia de comunicación para trabajar a partir del año que viene.

En cuanto a la intervención por parte de Argelia, reconocemos el compromiso de su país y también del resto de los países del Magreb que han desarrollado muchas actividades, no solo en el ámbito del Año sino también de restauración forestal en condiciones difíciles. Si se recuerda mi intervención de ayer, insistí en la importancia de poner el debate de la situación de los bosques en los países secos y las oportunidades de rehabilitación de estos bosques en la agenda internacional, especialmente en REDD donde hasta ahora hemos estado focalizados solo en los trópicos húmedos. También hay que actuar en esos países que cuentan con todo nuestro apoyo y reconocer y que en 2013 su país va alojar la Tercera Semana Forestal Mediterránea que está impulsada por Silva Mediterránea, que es un Órgano Estatutario de la FAO.

Especialmente aquellos países que están apoyando a la idea de establecimiento del Día Forestal Internacional a partir del 2012, les ruego que contacten con sus representantes en ECOSOC. Son 54 los países. Nosotros desde el Secretariado hemos enviado la información a las organizaciones forestales de esos países para que si los Gobiernos apoyan esta idea, los representantes puedan ser contactados a través de ECOSOC para que esta propuesta siga adelante.

Evidentemente la intervención de los Estados Unidos no coincide con el resto de las intervenciones. Entendemos su posición perfectamente, es totalmente legítima, pero sí que quisiéramos recordar que el ámbito forestal es el único en el cual las celebraciones de los países son de una forma descoordinada. Muchos coinciden admitiendo el 21 de marzo, otros tienen Días de los Árboles en fechas diferentes y eso reduce la capacidad de comunicación y de empoderamiento de los espacios y poblaciones locales, tal como decía el representante de Brasil. Esto es una desventaja, fruto de que FAO en el año 1971 no acabo de rematar ese acuerdo. Entonces estamos, simplemente intentando. ¿Qué escala global podemos coordinarnos puesto que Naciones Unidas, incluida la FAO, no puede actuar a partir del año que viene en ningún día concreto puesto que no existe un día oficialmente establecido? Se trata más bien legalizar y conducir a lo que existe que no establecer algo suplementario, y seguramente un espacio que cubra el 31% de la tierra en el mundo y que en muchos países presentes es más del 50%, evidentemente merece la atención mucho más que otros días que con todo el respeto existen.

Finalizo reconociendo la intervención del representante de Brasil, recordándole que ya estamos trabajando con el Banco Mundial en la “Asociación Global Forestal” y que precisamente esa actividad dirigida a las poblaciones indígenas locales y pequeños propietarios, legada siempre a la propiedad de gestión, va ser incluida en la habilidad de los programas forestales nacionales en una segunda fase mucho más reforzada y con la colaboración intensa con el Banco Mundial.

En cualquier caso, en los aspectos de Biodiversidad en el reporte de SOFO, se hablaba de lo que sería la Biodiversidad Socio-Cultural en los conocimientos locales, sea en agricultura o sea en bosques. Son fundamentales, y debemos trabajar especialmente con la Convención de la Biodiversidad y la UNESCO en estos temas para recopilar esa información que en muchos casos se está perdiendo por los cambios generacionales.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Assistant Director-General. If there are no further requests for the floor, I would like to sum up as follows. The Conference welcomes the report on the activities concerning the International Year of the Forest and the ongoing work on it and took into account the comments made to this agenda item. This brings me to the end of this item.

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

Any Other Matters (continued)

Autres questions (suite)

Asuntos varios (continuación)

35.9 International Year of Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)

35.9 Année internationale du quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)

35.9 Año Internacional de la Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)

CHAIRPERSON

The next Item will be the International Year of Quinoa, which I wanted to present to you. I would like to ask then the Agricultural Minister of Bolivia to sit with me at the podium, please.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we turn now to our last agenda item of today, which is Agenda Item 35.9, the International Year of Quinoa. You have before you the documents C 2011/INF/18 and C 2011/LIM/17, and the First Report of the Resolutions Committee was also distributed here in this room, document C 2011/LIM/20, which says under paragraph 6, that the Resolutions Committee concluded that the Resolution of Quinoa reviewed during the meeting was acceptable, and recommended that it be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Conference for appropriate action. Therefore, we have received the resolution here in this room.

First, it is a great honour and pleasure for me to introduce the Minister of Agriculture of Bolivia to this forum to introduce this item, and then afterwards I would like to give the floor to the Regional Representative.

First of all, may I give the floor to the Minister for Agriculture of Bolivia, please.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

En primer lugar, deseo hacer llegar un fraternal saludo a todas las hermanas y a todos los hermanos participantes de esta 37.º Conferencia de la FAO.

Señora Presidenta, Bolivia se encuentra profundamente preocupada por la actual crisis alimentaria que hace que alrededor de mil millones de personas padezcan de hambre y mala nutrición.

La demanda de alimentos es reciente y se requiere con urgencia producir alimentos de calidad altamente nutritivos y sanos, por lo cual el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia propone a la 37.º Conferencia de la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) declarar al año 2013 “Año Internacional de la Quinoa”, con el propósito de contribuir a la erradicación de la pobreza y del hambre y al cumplimiento de las metas del Desarrollo del Milenio y a los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

La quinoa es un cereal nativo que ha sido producido y conservado ancestralmente por los pueblos indígenas originarios de los Andes de Sudamérica. Su origen data desde el año 2005 antes de Cristo. En los últimos años, se ha despertado el gran interés por su alto valor nutritivo porque contiene los aminoácidos esenciales, elevada lisina en las semillas, un buen contenido de vitaminas, y alto contenido del calcio y el hierro. Tiene en promedio entre 14 y 20 por ciento de proteínas, proporcionando una mayor cantidad de minerales y vitaminas comparada con los cereales de trigo, maíz, arroz, avena, cebada y centeno.

Este grano es el único alimento vegetal que provee 10.000 aminoácidos esenciales, lo que hace que su valor proteico sea de excelente calidad. Sus características nutritivas hacen de que se equipare a la leche. Por todos estos atributos la quinoa es considerada por la FAO como un grano del presente y del futuro. La quinoa se utiliza principalmente como alimento humano en diferentes formas: granos, hojuelas, pipó, casarina. Es empleada también como forraje para animales y de ella también se extrae la saponina que se utiliza en las industrias cosméticas.

La quinoa es una planta resistente a las bajas temperaturas, soporta la escasez de agua y se adapta a diferentes tipos de suelo y climas, por lo cual permite hacer frente a los desafíos que presenta el cambio climático.

En Bolivia y Perú, se encuentra la mayor diversidad de las variedades de quinoa con más de tres mil muestras de ecotipos y bancos de germoplasma. Así mismo, los países de la región andina: Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, norte de Chile y Argentina, también producen algunas variedades de quinoa. Actualmente, la quinoa está cobrando gran importancia en la alimentación y existen datos de que poco a poco se está incorporando la quinoa como un alimento nutricional en los Estados Unidos, Países Bajos de Europa, Asia, China, África, así como en Centroamérica, el Caribe y la Amazonía de América del Sur. En algunos casos, es considerado como alimento de lujo privilegiado por algunos sectores. La quinoa es un alimento con increíbles valores nutritivos y su uso no debe ser sólo para los que puedan pagar sino principalmente para aquellos que padecen de hambre y de desnutrición. Nuestro deber es lograr que la quinoa sea un alimento global que establezca una estrategia para la erradicación del hambre y la desnutrición en nuestro planeta.

Por lo cual, la propuesta de realizar un “Año Internacional de la Quinoa” ha recibido apoyo en diferentes apoyos internacionales como la IV Reunión del Consejo de Jefas y Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR); la XVI Conferencia Ministerial del Movimiento de Países no Alineados realizada en Bali, Indonesia del 23 al 27 de mayo de 2011; el X Período de Sesiones del Foro Permanente para las Cuestiones Indígenas de las Naciones Unidas realizado en Nueva York, Estados Unidos, del 16 al 27 de mayo de 2011, asimismo en el 141.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO realizado en abril de 2011 como nota de la importancia de declarar el 2013 “Año Internacional de la Quinoa”.

Reafirmamos el derecho de todas las personas a tener acceso a alimentos sanos, nutritivos y no padecer de hambre, tal cual proclama la Declaración de Roma sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Por lo cual, la delegación del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia ante esta 37.º Conferencia de la FAO, con el patrocinio de los países del GRULAC y el apoyo de los países del G77, tenemos el honor de presentar la propuesta de la Declaración del año 2013 “Año Internacional de la Quinoa” con el propósito de contribuir a la erradicación de la pobreza y el hambre y al cumplimiento de las Metas del Desarrollo del Milenio y los Objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

También aprovechamos esta oportunidad, Señora Presidenta, para agradecer de antemano y por su intermedio a los amigos, hermanos y hermanas, Embajadores, Embajadoras, Ministros y Ministras por el apoyo que nos han brindado del G77, el GRULAC y los otros Países Miembros quienes están participando de este importante encuentro internacional de la FAO. Agradezco también la participación de todos aquellos organismos que no están dentro pero que sin embargo saben de la vital importancia que el “Año Internacional de la Quinoa” tendría para que es el tema de la rehabilitación que la tierra nos aporta.

Mr Alan BOJANIC (Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean)

It is a pleasure for me to introduce this proposal of the Government of Bolivia for an International Year of the Quinoa. The Conference has before it document C 2011/INF/18, which has annexed to it a proposal by the Government of Bolivia that the year 2013 be declared the International Year of Quinoa. The main objective of this initiative is to promote the benefits, characteristics and potential use of quinoa in the fight against hunger and malnutrition as a contribution to a global strategy on food security.

The Government of Bolivia is seeking endorsement by the FAO Conference of this initiative. If endorsed, the Director-General of FAO will request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite the General Assembly to declare the year 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa, considering the important role that it can play in food security strategies. The text of the proposal as presented by the Government of Bolivia sets out the benefits associated with quinoa and foresees a programme of work that would begin in the second quarter of 2012 and run through 2013. The Declaration of the International Year of Quinoa would have implications for FAO which are set out in paragraph 4 through paragraph 6 in section 2 of the Conference document.

Section 3 of the document highlights, in paragraphs 7 through 9, a number of issues that the Conference may wish to consider in its deliberations on this proposal, in particular, the level of support of the proposal of other Members of the Organization, including those in Latin America and the Caribbean. In view of the substantial efforts required to deliver a successful campaign, the Conference may wish to ensure broad support among Members and partners in the public and private sectors.

With regard to the availability of the necessary funds and the time needed to prepare such an initiative, the sponsor of the proposed activities, the Government of Belgium, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Commission are prepared to provide human and financial resources to support this initiative and the funds required to establish the administrative Secretariat needed to deliver the International Year of Quinoa, and the possible location of the Secretariat in the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which could assume a leading role in developing and delivering this event.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Agradecemos la presentación de la Señora Ministra del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia. La delegación de Argentina expresa el apoyo a la propuesta presentada para que las Naciones Unidas declare el año 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinoa.

Asimismo queremos recordar que el Consejo de la FAO tomó nota, en su sesión de abril, de la propuesta que había sido presentada por Bolivia y apoyada por el GRULAC, para declarar este Año Internacional de la Quinoa 2013.

Sr. Ernesto Ant3nio NOSTHAS (El Salvador)

Nos unimos a lo expresado por la representaci3n de Argentina. El Salvador manifiesta su total y decidido apoyo a la propuesta hecha por Su Excelencia la Se1ora Ministra de Agricultura del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y el GRULAC para declarar el A1o Internacional de la Quinoa. Nosotros mismos, en El Salvador, nos hemos declarado muy interesados en ser parte de un programa de investigaci3n conjunto que permita en llevar a nuestro pa3s los beneficios de dicho cultivo. Este tema ser1 discutido intensamente en la pr3xima reuni3n de cancilleres de nuestros pa3ses.

No puedo dejar de destacar que la quinoa es un alimento milenario que tiene un valios3simo contenido nutricional y que crece, como dijo la Se1ora Ministra, en condiciones de suelo y clima variado, muy adecuados para las condiciones que actualmente estamos viviendo en un entorno de constante cambio por el fen3meno clim1tico.

Anoche, gracias a un notable esfuerzo de Su Excelencia, la Se1ora Ministra, y su representaci3n diplom1tica, tuvimos la espectacular oportunidad de probarla y de gustarla nosotros mismos.

La FAO destac3, en un informe t3cnico publicado en la comunidad andina, que en la mayor3a de pa3ses del Altiplano la quinoa es un valioso referente nutricional. Considerando que en dichas condiciones el desarrollo de la ganader3a es muy dif3cil por las condiciones de clima y altitud, la quinoa se ha vuelto un referente valioso alternativo para la nutrici3n de estos pueblos.

La quinoa ha estado oculta de conocimiento y creemos firmemente que esta oportunidad de declarar el A1o Internacional de la Quinoa podr3a poner nuevamente en escena un cultivo que para las tradiciones milenarias de nuestros pueblos hermanos del sur ha sido un nutriente de primera clase. Fue, y sigue siendo, el grano madre de las culturas ind3genas andinas, y por ese motivo se le asoci3 con los rituales que se hac3an las poblaciones. En este sentido, se asoci3 al paganismo y por eso se elimin3 en la referencias estudiosas del tema. Ahora, ya modernos estudios lo han puesto a la luz que es un valioso nutriente y se ha vuelto quiz1s el alimento m1s conocido y el alimento m1s buscado para nutrir incluso astronautas en sus viajes espaciales.

Tal como dijo el se1or representante de la FAO, la quinoa posee un amplio espectro de amino1cidos, tiene los diez amino1cidos m1s importantes para la nutrici3n humana. Y perm3tame destacar en especial su contenido en lisina, que es clave para el desarrollo del cerebro humano. Pero adicionalmente, tiene la arginina y estilina que son claves para la nutrici3n de las primeras etapas de la vida del ser humano. Adicionalmente, la quinoa posee una composici3n proteica que ronda en el orden del 16 al casi el 23 por ciento en algunos casos, lo cual es el doble de cualquier otro cereal.

Considerando estos beneficios y los grandes valores nutritivos que tiene este cultivo, nosotros creemos que esta oportunidad ser3a clave para que el mundo conozca m1s de la quinoa. Las inversiones y los montos que destaca el informe que nos remite el se1or representante de FAO son significativos pero de ninguna manera se les puede considerar muy altos si le comparamos con los enormes beneficios que para la seguridad nutricional mundial puede tener el estudio de la quinoa.

169 humanos han viajado al espacio en el programa de la Agencia Espacial de Estados Unidos. La mayor3a de ellos han sido nutridos por quinoa y much3simos m1s de los que han viajado por otros programas. Nosotros no necesitamos viajar a la luna para darnos cuenta que, considerando el tema de la FAO de producir m1s con menos, la quinoa es el mejor s3mbolo de ello. Creo que no existe otro cultivo que pueda darnos tanto con tan poco.

Por lo tanto, y reiterando lo dicho por Su Excelencia, la Se1ora Ministra de Agricultura de Bolivia, El Salvador reitera su apoyo a la iniciativa de designar el 2013 como el A1o Internacional de la Quinoa.

Mr Essam Osman FAYED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

In view of the high nutritional value of quinoa as a grain, we are happy to announce that we support the proposal made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia declaring 2013 the International Year of Quinoa.

Mr Cláudio POLES (Brazil)

Brazil would first like to thank the delegation of Bolivia for this initiative of proposing the International Year of Quinoa in 2013.

We also thank Bolivia in the person of Doña Nemesia Tola for the rich information on quinoa supplied to this Conference, and also for the opportunity we had last night to taste quinoa dishes here at FAO, with different recipes and different flavours. It was very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, quinoa is not a crop primarily produced in Brazil, but Brazil is investing in agricultural research through our research institute EMBRAPA to adapt quinoa to local conditions. We would like to see quinoa available at low cost to large sectors of the Brazilian population since we are aware of its high nutritional value, its importance to food security and the remarkable role it can play in fighting hunger and malnutrition.

It would be a very welcome addition to the food basket of the Brazilian people, especially those who are subject to conditions of hunger and malnutrition. For these reasons, Brazil wholeheartedly supports the proposal of Bolivia and the adoption of this resolution, as we think that the International Year of Quinoa in 2013 will help make this crop known internationally. Maybe in the future, quinoa will enjoy the same importance as rice, potatoes or wheat because of all its valuable nutritional qualities.

Mr Essam AL AHAHIN (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I thank Her Excellency the Minister of Agriculture from Bolivia for her presentation. We would like to support the proposal to declare 2013, the International Year of Quinoa.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Mi delegación, en nombre del Gobierno de Nicaragua, desea manifestar el apoyo a la iniciativa presentada por la distinguida representación de la República de Bolivia, de proclamar el año 2013, Año Internacional de la Quinua.

La quinua es parte del enorme legado alimenticio que nuestra región ha dado al mundo y representa una opción real para enfrentar el flagelo de la malnutrición que aqueja nuestros pueblos. Es imperativo reconocer la contribución milenaria de la quinua y su aporte histórico a la alimentación y nutrición de los pueblos. Pero esto sería no sólo con esa declaración, además se reconocería al trabajo repetido mil veces por sucesivas generaciones de pequeños agricultores Bolivianos y Latinoamericanos quienes han permitido la conservación de este enorme patrimonio alimentario.

Con la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua, no se trata solamente de introducir nuevos hábitos de consumo, sino más bien de reintroducir, rescatar y revalorizar aquellos que desde siempre y hasta hoy día continúan a sustentar nuestra alimentación.

Sr. Néstor HERNÁNDEZ (Colombia)

Yo de manera concreta, a nombre de la delegación colombiana quiero unirme en el apoyo para declarar el año 2013 como el Año Internacional de la Quinua, y por supuesto respaldamos también todas las exaltaciones de las diferentes bondades que tiene la quinua como precioso cereal.

Sr. José Jesús Guillermo BETANCOURT (Perú)

La delegación de Perú se suma vivamente a la propuesta presentada por el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia.

Saluda vivamente la intervención de la Señora Ministra de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Estado hermano de Perú y considera su deber expresar de una manera enfática que Perú como un importante país productor de Quinua. Conoce muy bien sus altísimos valores nutricionales y su riqueza como producto ancestral de nuestra rica y antigua civilización, que comparte con el hermano país de Bolivia.

Nos sumamos a esta iniciativa presentada por Bolivia, señalando que la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua para 2013 no sólo es una oportunidad para colocar el valor y la importancia de la Quinua como alimento nutricional y ancestral de nuestros pueblos, sino también para colocar en

la arena internacional la importancia que tiene este alimento en la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria para luchar contra el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo.

Perú reitera nuevamente su apoyo firme y decidido a la propuesta presentada por el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

We would like to thank the Minister of Bolivia for her very informative presentation on the nutritional value of quinoa. The United States has enjoyed learning more regarding quinoa and its potential for combatting food insecurity. We especially enjoyed tasting quinoa during yesterday's evening event that was graciously hosted by the Bolivian delegation. The US considers commemorative resolutions, on a case by case basis, and carefully examines them based on criteria which include, among other things, their financial impacts and global applicability.

With regards to the proposal contained in C 2011/INF18-Rev. 1, we are concerned about the total extra-budgetary costs, which amount to approximately 11 million USD, over the course of three years, which include a cost to the FAO of nearly 2 million USD, as well as the addition of one full-time Professional staff position.

Additionally, whereas quinoa is no doubt an important food crop in its home region, it is a niche product with much less global utilization at present than rice, potatoes and other staple crops.

The United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 53/199 and 61/185, establishing requirements for a thematic international day, year or decade specify that the subject should be internationally-relevant and not just regionally- or geographically-interesting.

The United States understands the value of this remarkable foodstuff and its tie to regional identity. However, given its limited geographic impact, it does not meet hunger's International Year requirements.

In order to promote the potential of quinoa's food security properties, as well as provide greater visibility, while at the same time meeting United Nations General Assembly standards for International Years and maintaining a manageable budget in these difficult economic times, the United States proposes instead that the membership consider recommending a one day event on quinoa to occur some time during the UN General Assembly in 2013.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union acknowledges the importance of quinoa, and in particular its nutritional values, and thanks the Secretariat of FAO for the document C 2011/INF/18-Rev.1.

The European Union would have appreciated a better timely dissemination of this information document, however, we take note of the proposal tabled by the Government of Bolivia regarding the recognition of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa.

The European Union recalls the consecutive declaration of the World Food Security Summit of 1996, 2002 and 2009 and is expecting further information about the product and the initiative proposed by the Government of Bolivia.

Sr. Yvan GIL (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Queremos en primer lugar agradecer la presentación de la hermana Ministra de Bolivia sobre las bondades de la quinua y sobre la necesidad que tiene el mundo de conocer sobre este producto.

La Delegación de Venezuela se une al concierto de aprobaciones y respaldos de la resolución que hemos escuchado en esta sesión y quiere agregar que, además de todas las bondades de la quinua que hemos visto desde un punto de vista nutricional y de su capacidad para resolver asuntos de la

seguridad y soberanía alimentaria mundial, recordamos que el tema de la biodiversidad es también un tema sumamente importante para esta Conferencia.

Creemos que la promoción de un cultivo como la quinua es un paso más que estamos dando hacia la biodiversidad, y apoyamos que los habitantes del mundo cada vez tengan más opciones de las cuales alimentarse. Luchar contra el hambre, luchar por la soberanía y seguridad alimentaria implica también crear mayor oferta de distintos productos. Estamos seguros que la quinua podrá convertirse en los próximos años en un alimento mundial. En este sentido, Venezuela ha trabajado en conjunto con Bolivia en la creación de programas de investigación que permitan adaptar la quinua a realidades en nuestros países, incluso en condiciones tropicales. Estamos seguros de que en los próximos años vamos a estar recibiendo resultados y permitiremos ofrecer mayor cantidad de alimentos.

Adicionalmente, permítame hablar también en nombre del Grupo de los 77 que, en fecha 24 de junio, también respaldó en su totalidad la declaración del año 2013 como Año Internacional de la Quinua. Deseamos lo mejor para este año.

Vamos a trabajar de la mano con el Gobierno de Bolivia, con los hermanos latinoamericanos, de manera que el mundo conozca las bondades y, más que conozca, que el mundo tenga la posibilidad y la oportunidad de comenzar a establecer programas de adaptación, de producción y de consumo de este importante cereal.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Certainly, we would like to also thank colleagues and other delegates on the information provided today.

We are grateful to the Bolivian delegation for their efforts on increasing awareness of this crop and food implications to their region. Having said this, we are extremely concerned, especially in light of global austerity measures, on the financial implications this initiative will have on FAO.

The United Nations General Assembly has final determination on 'International Years' and has strict guidelines and procedures. A common practice prior to agreements from UNGA is the development of an in-depth study on the impact of the crop. FAO has done this before for other similar work.

Canada would like to stress that the FAO Conference can simply take note of this request, and should not prejudge deliberations of competent authority, in this case UNGA.

Finally, we would like to lend our voice and our support to the intervention made by our United States colleagues.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

I will be brief here. We just would like to express our support for the proposal presented by the Bolivian Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Dominican Republic)

Can I ask you Madam Chair to please give me the floor after the Chairman of the G77 has spoken, that is, Morocco.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ecuador no va a reiterar los valores nutricionales expresados por la Ministra, por ser suficientemente claros, sin embargo, quiere manifestar que la quinua es un producto nativo del Ecuador y que tiene incluso previsto el incremento de su producción debido a los valores nutricionales del alimento.

Ecuador considera que con la situación actual mundial del incremento de personas con hambre en el mundo, el empleo de la quinua como alimento podría ser un elemento clave para su erradicación y la malnutrición. Ecuador considera que son legítimas las preocupaciones en el tema presupuestario. Sin embargo, considerando que el objetivo fundamental de la FAO, la erradicación del hambre, y la posibilidad que tiene la quinua para contribuir a ello, la propuesta de Bolivia consideramos que es una inversión que la FAO debería apostar por ese aspecto. La idea es justamente sacarle de un impacto geográfico limitado y universalizarlo para compartir los beneficios de la quinua y, como digo, para

contribuir a la erradicación del hambre y la seguridad alimentaria. Ecuador apoya por supuesto la propuesta de Bolivia.

Sra. Maria Antónia FERNÁNDEZ (Cuba)

Yo voy a comenzar citando un dicho que decimos en Cuba, que “el amor entra por la cocina”, y creo que además de las enormes potencialidades de este cultivo, va también a incrementar la calidad nutricional de los alimentos que consumimos, se va a convertir en otro camino que abrimos para la Cooperación Sur-Sur y para incrementar el encuentro entre nuestras culturas que va más allá de solamente alimentarnos y nutrirnos, sino también enriquecernos espiritualmente. Por eso, mi delegación quiere apoyar la propuesta de que el año 2013 se dedique al conocimiento de la quinua.

Mr Mark KING (Australia)

I have two comments, the first in my capacity as Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee and that is to just ensure that everyone is referring to the correct version of the Resolution that is contained in the document C 2011/LIM/20. There are some minor but important changes to the text that were made in the Resolutions Committee in the last two paragraphs referring to informing future sessions of the FAO Council rather than Conference as, of course, Conference will be in the middle of the year 2013.

My second comment as the delegate of Australia, is that Australia does share the concerns expressed by the United States and Canada regarding austerity measures and the requirements for a thematic year and lends its support to the suggestion of a one-day Quinoa event during the United Nations General Assembly in 2103.

Sra. Lorena PATINO (Paraguay)

Agradecemos la presentación de la Ministra de Agricultura, la Sra. Nemesia, y felicitamos la brillante labor que ha hecho la delegación de Bolivia a fin de presentarnos hoy la propuesta sobre declarar el Año Internacional de la Quinoa en el año 2013.

Comprometidos en que la Quinoa resulta un alimento que contiene un valor nutritivo en la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria, en especial en la erradicación de la pobreza y, por sobre todo, en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de la Meta del Milenio, un compromiso que hemos asumido todos los Países Miembros de Naciones Unidas.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

J'interviens évidemment au nom du Groupe des 77 en ma qualité de Président pour d'abord saluer et rendre hommage à Madame la Ministre bolivienne ici présente, remercier la délégation bolivienne pour la qualité de sa participation lors de la réunion du Groupe des 77 le 24 juin dernier, et mettre en valeur la qualité des explications et des présentations qui ont été faites du quinoa.

Je suis porte-parole de l'unanimité du Groupe pour soutenir cette proposition de faire de l'année 2013 l'Année internationale du quinoa et je voudrais saisir aussi cette occasion pour remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité de la documentation qui nous a été présentée et inviter les autres groupes à se joindre à ce grand élan de soutien à quelque chose qui va au-delà de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition et qui touche aussi un aspect de civilisation et de protection d'un patrimoine que nous devons tous garder comme point de mire d'une politique de sauvegarde du patrimoine de l'humanité.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Presidenta, mi delegación se une a la delegación de Bolivia, a la delegación de Brasil que habló por el Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe y a la de Marruecos, que acaba de hablar a nombre del G-77, los 130 países en desarrollo, y también apoyamos a las demás delegaciones que han mostrado su acuerdo con la propuesta de Bolivia, articulada por la Ministra compañera Nemesia.

Hace seis meses yo no conocía la quinua. Nunca había oído hablar de ese producto hasta que mi hermana, que tiene una tienda de alimentos especializados en Santo Domingo, comenzó a importar quinua de Estados Unidos. Son productos producidos en Bolivia y Perú y empaquetados en Estados Unidos cumpliendo los requisitos fitosanitarios de los departamentos correspondientes en ese gran país.

Hoy como quinua de forma cotidiana. Conozco su valor energético, los aminoácidos, las proteínas, etc., que han sido expuesto aquí por Bolivia y por otros colegas.

Cuando uno entra en Google, Presidenta, y busca “quinua recipes”, encuentra 5.5 millones de páginas con recetas sobre la quinua. Cuando uno hace su búsqueda en diferentes idiomas, va encontrando también millones de recetas busca en español, en italiano y en francés. La quinua está siendo comida en todo el mundo, y como ya dije, son exportadores norteamericanos algunos de los principales comerciantes de este producto.

Cuando comenzó la invasión europea de las Américas, la conquista y la colonización del llamado Nuevo Mundo a finales del Siglo XV, los españoles se encontraron con que había una ceremonia que era la principal ceremonia del Imperio Incaico: el Inca, que era el Emperador, sembraba la primera semilla de quinua con un machete de oro macizo. Le llamaban chisaya mama, la madre de todos los granos. Por supuesto, los Conquistadores identificaron los principales valores culturales y religiosos de los pueblos que estaban conquistando y, en particular, identificaron a la quinua por su asociación con los poderes político, militar, religioso, económico y social de este Imperio con el cual entraron en guerra. Cuando se produjo la ocupación del Imperio Incaico, el Imperio Español prohibió el cultivo de la quinua como política de ocupación y dominio. La llamaban “comida de indios” de manera despectiva. Por la fuerza, de esta manera, el cultivo de quinua fue sustituido por el cultivo de trigo.

Presidenta: toda tradición es una innovación que se incorpora a la costumbre de una persona, de una familia, de una tribu, de un pueblo. Nada existe desde siempre. La quinua no es exclusiva de la región andina, ya que también se cultiva en Chile a nivel de la costa. Esta planta tiene tanta nobleza que se cultiva aún a 4 mil metros de altura y puede cultivarse tanto a 3°C bajo cero en el invierno como a 35°C en el verano. La quinua se da mejor en tierras de bajo contenido nutritivo. Repito: se da mejor en tierras de bajo contenido nutritivo. Todos estos son datos que yo obtengo de esta Organización.

La quinua también se da en Norteamérica, ya que la *chenopodium quinoa*, que es la planta de la hablamos, tiene una hermana que es la *chenopodium natalie*, que es un cultivo que los científicos no saben exactamente si es originario o si fue llevado, pero se da también en Norteamérica.

La quinua es tan completa, que yo voy a permitirme terminar haciendo una cita, y para esto debo pasar al inglés:

Continues in English

I would like to finish by quoting N.A.S.A. Technical Paper 3422 (N.A.S.A. is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America) . This paper 3422 is titled ‘Quinoa, a “new” crop with potential for C.E.L.S. (Controlled Ecological Live Support System). So, the scientists of N.A.S.A. have this to say about quinoa: “while no single food can supply all the essential life-sustaining nutrients, quinoa comes as close as any other in the plant or animal kingdom.” I understand from this that probably quinoa is the best single food that the world has to offer, as per the conclusions reached by the American scientists, that know so much about this.

Continúa en Español

Presidenta: es cierto que la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas deberá decidir sobre este tema. También es cierto que es esta Organización la que debe, con los conocimientos técnicos que posee, hacer una recomendación. Aquí se han planteado problemas de costos, pero hay que decir que no es un capricho. Y debo decir también que parte de esos recursos extra-presupuestarios van a salir de mi bolsillo personal. Yo ya me he comprometido con la delegación de Bolivia y ya he conversado personalmente hace dos semanas en Santo Domingo con el Representante de la FAO en ese país, y estoy movilizandoo recursos de mi bolsillo y de mis amigos y de la tienda de mi hermana para publicar un libro, un recetario en español y en inglés, con recetas de quinua, mis recetas favoritas.

Para terminar, si en los Siglos XV y XVI hubiese existido la FAO y hubiese existido la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas y hubiesen existido estos criterios que hemos escuchado, he explicado que esos criterios y esos inconvenientes que las delegaciones de Estados Unidos, de Canadá y de Australia han compartido con nosotros, realmente no habrían sido válidos. Pues si en los Siglos XV y

XVI hubiésemos tenido ese tipo de criterios, a la papa y al maíz se les hubiese acordado un solo día y terminaría nadie por conocer qué es la quinua, qué es la papa ni qué es el maíz.

Así que adelante, Presidenta, con el Año Internacional de la Quinoa para 2013.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

We thank the Minister and the Bolivian delegation for the very useful information we have received on quinoa and its role and value as a nutritional diet in some parts of the world, as well as its productive value and capacity.

We also note that at this stage it is a reasonably regionally-specific product and, as highlighted by other delegations, an International Year is specifically an expensive way of promoting a particular crop. From our perspective, we are actually not completely clear on the outcomes expected from an International Year of Quinoa, and just wondered if we could have some clarification on whether there is an expectation that, as a result of this year of quinoa, there would be increased production in other countries and in other parts of the world in order to support food security outcomes.

We think that there is a good possibility that some of the alternative approaches that have been suggested to promoting the value of quinoa could be valuable, and we support the US proposal of having an event at UNGA in 2013.

M. Christian ASSOGBA (Sénégal)

A la suite de tous les intervenants et notamment du porte-parole du Groupe des 77, je voudrais soutenir l'idée d'instaurer en tous cas une Année internationale du quinoa.

De toutes les déclarations qui ont été faites, je crois qu'il y a un aspect qui nous a échappé, qui a été souligné par la délégation vénézuélienne et qui concerne les travaux qui sont en train d'être faits entre le Venezuela et la Bolivie pour adapter le quinoa aux régionaux tropicales.

Ceci dit, nous pensons qu'aujourd'hui si la Bolivie présente ce projet de résolution, si elle présente cette demande pour instaurer une Année internationale du quinoa, ce n'est pas seulement pour booster son économie ou pour faire bénéficier les Boliviens, mais c'est également dans la perspective d'en faire bénéficier d'autres régions, notamment les régions tropicales.

C'est la raison pour laquelle que nous pensons qu'instaurer une Année internationale du quinoa permettrait aux chercheurs de se réunir et de voir dans quelle mesure on pourrait adapter la culture du quinoa dans différentes régions. Pour cette raison, la délégation sénégalaise soutient encore une fois l'idée d'une Année internationale du Quinoa.

M. Oumar Mamadou COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Nous remercions la Ministre bolivienne pour sa déclaration, pour avoir bien voulu participer aux débats, et pour nous avoir donné quelques explications sur le quinoa. Dans la lecture du document C 2011/INF/18-Rev.1, il y a deux aspects qui nous semblent assez importants. Il est demandé à ce que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies propose 2013 comme Année international du quinoa.

La résolution qui a été présentée fait état, certes, de 2013 mais précise qu'il faut que l'Assemblée générale le fasse au cours de sa prochaine session, donc c'est une session qui doit avoir lieu en 2011, notamment pour que l'on soit sur des préparatifs mis en œuvre pour l'année 2013, année du quinoa.

Deuxièmement, et étant donné la renommée des effets bénéfiques de cette plante, que j'ai eu l'occasion de déguster hier, il serait bon, vu les grandes vertus qu'elle possède, qu'elle soit diffusée, non seulement au niveau local de l'Amérique du sud mais sur une échelle mondiale et en particulier dans les régions du monde qui souffrent de problèmes de malnutrition et de famine.

Donc, il me semble que l'aspect recherche et développement doit être mis en exergue durant cette période, afin que l'on puisse diffuser davantage cette plante vu qu'elle peut s'adapter à tous les types de climat, variant de températures négatives à des températures à plus de 30 degrés. Je pense qu'il y a beaucoup de régions d'Afrique qui pourraient être concernées et abriter cette plante.

Il faut, à mon avis, que l'on songe dans le cadre de la recherche à la diffuser sur une grande échelle afin que d'autres populations, outre l'Amérique du sud, puissent éventuellement tirer profit de cette plante aux vertus particulières. A l'instar du Groupe des 77, bien sûr, nous soutenons cette proposition mais il est important que l'aspect lié à la recherche sur le développement, à la diffusion des informations par rapport à cette plante, et à la production semencière, qu'elle puisse être répandue partout, soit mis en exergue afin que les autres régions et notamment le Sahel, dont je suis originaire, puissent bénéficier des vertus de cette plante.

CHAIRPERSON

Before giving the floor to Syria and the distinguished delegation of Uruguay, I think for the moment I can draw the conclusions which I have heard here in the room, and the conclusion before giving the floor to Syria and Uruguay would be as follows, The Conference reviewed the proposal made by the Government of Bolivia to declare 2013 the International Year of Quinoa. Many delegations spoke for holding the International Year of Quinoa in 2013. However, concerns were raised due to the regional specificity of the plant and the financial implications of the International Year of Quinoa. There was also a proposal made to have an International Day of Quinoa. This is what I have got until now, and I now would like to give the floor to Syria please.

Mr Anwar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am sorry to ask to for the floor again, but I was a member of the group which was discussing resolutions and we discussed this request yesterday evening and the concerns which we had today were taken into account yesterday when we considered the Draft Resolution. We heard, for instance, concerns about the cost of this type of activity, although that was not a concern to us, because it was not in our remit to discuss the cost of the resolution. But we can have this inserted in the last paragraph of the Draft Resolution, where we request the Council to provide a recommendation and then the Programme Committee or the Finance Committee would be tasked with considering this from the point of view of the programme or implementation and financing costs as well.

Our Committee exists to provide an opinion for the Council, so we should not discuss all these other different aspects of the issue.

Following on from that, it is the General Assembly of the United Nations which is the relevant body which will decide what year should be the year of what product.

We are here to offer an opinion. A different party will be considering the implementation of this Draft Resolution, having examined all the different aspects to do with its implementation. But I would just like to add that we, too, would like to support the idea of having a year of this plant with all its many positive qualities, including its ability to combat poverty and fight for food security.

Mr Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Dominican Republic)

I am a side speaker. I am looking for more information. I would very respectfully make two comments.

Firstly, you refer to a regional specificity that has been mentioned by some countries, probably two or three countries, and to me it is a perceived specificity because, I have done the research and the FAO certifies that *Chenopodium Quinoa*, while produced mainly in three countries Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, also exists in North America as *Chenopodium Nuttallige*. So that is one thing.

The other thing is that we have heard three countries raise some concerns, and you are giving them same weight as the 130 developing countries that by themselves or represented by their Regional Representatives and so on, have argued for the full year. So I do not think that it is fair to give the same weight to an opinion voiced by three countries as that given by 130.

Mr Cláudio POLES (Brazil)

I just would like to add to what the distinguished delegate from the Dominican Republic has just mentioned. Yes, it did surprise me that in your summary, it was expressed that many delegations

favoured the initiative by Bolivia. I would say from what I heard so far, at least, the majority, but I won't go further than that.

Sr. Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)

Brevemente para agradecer a la Señora Ministra de Bolivia por la presentación que nos hizo y también a la delegación de Bolivia por el trabajo desempeñado.

Nos asociamos a lo expresado por el Señor Delegado de Brasil en nombre del GRULAC y lo mismo por el Señor Presidente del G-77.

Entendemos que la iniciativa es acogedora y hay un marco muy interesante que agregó el distinguido delegado de Siria, que nos clarificó muchísimo nuestra visión del tema.

CHAIRPERSON

We are running out of time. We will break now for lunch, and we will meet again at 14:30 here in this room, proceeding with this item on the International year of Quinoa. So please be here by 14:30 when we will continue because we still have some points to discuss, as well as the reaction of the Secretariat. See you at 14:30. Have a nice lunch.

The meeting rose at 13:00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13:00 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin – 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio – 2 de julio de 2011
FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I QUINTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
29 June 2011

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 15:19 hours

Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer

Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 19

sous la présidence de Mme Hedwig Wögerbauer,

Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 15:19 horas

bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,

Presidente de la Comisión I

Other Matters (continued)
Questions diverses (suite)
Otros asuntos (continuación)

Any Other Matters (continued)
Autres questions (suite)
Asuntos varios (continuación)

35.9 International Year of Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)
 (continued)

35.9 Année internationale du quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20) (suite)

35.9 Año Internacional de la Quinoa (C 2011/INF/18; C 2011/LIM/17; C 2011/LIM/20)
 (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

I had several consultations during the lunch time, and the outcome of my consultations will be the following summary of my concluding remarks.

The Conference reviewed the proposal made by the Government of Bolivia to declare 2013 the International Year of Quinoa.

Many delegations supported holding the International Year of Quinoa.

Questions were raised based on whether the current proposal met the agreed hunger criteria. The Conference requests that FAO transmit this proposal to the next session for consideration.

If we can go along with this, I would like also to propose some reformulation of the draft resolution. There are only two minor points in paragraph I and II. I will read slowly out now:

Paragraph 1: “Requests the Director-General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next Session the International Year of Quinoa 2013”.

Paragraph 2: “Further requests the Director-General to inform future sessions of the FAO Council as appropriate and the Secretary-General of the United Nations of arrangements made in securing extra-budgetary funding for the International Year of Quinoa”.

Could we agree with this compromised text? If this is the case, and if there are no requests from the floor, then we may proceed.

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

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to give the floor now to the Honourable Minister of Bolivia, please.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

Quiero primeramente agradecer a nuestros hermanos, hermanas, Embajadores, Embajadoras, Ministros, Ministras, Vice-Ministros quienes han hecho la amplia discusión y también refrendación a lo que es el tratado del pedido de Bolivia del Año Internacional de la Quínoa.

Quisiera también referirme, después de las intervenciones que se han hecho, como Bolivia además en contacto y consulta con nuestro Presidente, que está firme con la posición que hemos traído. Creemos, que el producto que hoy en esta asamblea, en este 37^a período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, estamos ofreciendo es un producto que brindamos además al mundo entero.

Como Ministra y agricultora, les digo, que es un producto sano. Creemos que es un producto nutritivo, y creemos que es un producto altamente resistente a estos cambios climáticos que hoy en día está sufriendo el mundo entero.

Por tanto quisiera decir, hermanas, hermanos, autoridades representantes del mundo quienes están hoy día, que nosotros como Estado Boliviano ofrecemos este producto y estamos dispuestos a someternos a cualquier estudio científico necesario, porque eso da la claridad a nosotros que el producto hoy ofrecido es un alimento que en algunos años será alimento para los hermanos y hermanas del mundo entero.

Creemos que vamos a superar con ellos lo que hoy en día se dice: que es un producto ancestral, nativo, conservado en las alturas. Si no que con el tema del proyecto y el estudio que hacen nuestros científicos y también lo que ha sido en diferentes áreas en la parte de la agricultura y la materia agraria, estamos dispuestos a brindarles por una parte la asistencia y de otra parte a hacer la comprobación de estos productos en el mundo entero.

Por mi parte, Sra. Presidenta, estoy muy agradecida por la exposición y la lectura que se está dando, pero también quisiera decir a mis hermanos representantes, las autoridades del Norte América acá presentes y a los hermanos quienes también nos han hecho las observaciones, que tienen todo el derecho de hacerlas. Yo sé que no podemos convencer a todos, pero lo importante para mi es que reciba de esta Conferencia realmente un apoyo inmenso y eso me da mucha alegría. Ya lo he transmitido a mi Gobierno y lo estamos asumiendo con mucha responsabilidad.

Si de aquí en adelante tendremos que asumir responsabilidades en la parte económica, no habrán inconvenientes porque nosotros sabemos que la producción de la quínoa hoy en día no solamente es en Bolivia: está en Chile, está en Perú, está en Ecuador, está en una parte de la Colombia, está en Canadá, y que creemos que tenemos los cambios climáticos en los cuales vemos y creemos que de aquí a las posteriores conferencias, seguramente muchos hermanos que están hoy acá van a decir que también ya han hecho el experimento a sus países.

A usted, hermana Presidenta, y todas las autoridades acá presentes, quiero que lleven este mensaje: hoy Bolivia está ofreciendo un producto andino que tiene los nutritivos al igual de los demás o mucho mas, que hay un producto resistente a la sequía, a la altura, al frio y que necesita poca agua, siendo sin embargo un alimento mucho mas nutritivo que cualquier otro producto.

Por mi parte, hermanas, hermanos, autoridades presentes en esta tarde, deseo solo agradecerles por ese gran apoyo que nos han demostrado. También quisiera agradecer aquellos hermanos cuyas decisiones respetamos, esperando que de aquí a adelante vayamos a seguir con los acercamientos necesarios que pueda brindarles, no solo como Ministra de la Agricultura pero además como agricultora en sí misma, en la tierra, porque me he criado labrando la tierra, vivo la tierra y cuando deje de ser funcionaria voy a volver otra vez a la agricultura donde he nacido, y pienso morir en la misma.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Madame Minister, for your very, very impressive words which came totally out of your heart. I thank you so much. I can conclude on this agenda item. This was the last agenda item, the most impressive of the day.

I would like to conclude this Session now and remind everyone that the Drafting Committee will start at 16:00 hours in the Mexico Room. Tomorrow morning you will find in the Journal of the Day the exact date for the meeting of Commission I, where we should adopt the Draft Report of Commission I.

So, Commission I meets tomorrow at some stage in the afternoon, you will find it in the Order of the Day tomorrow, and the Drafting Committee will start immediately.

The meeting rose at 15:30 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 15:30 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin – 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio – 2 de julio de 2011
SIXTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEXTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
30 June 2011

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 19:10 hours

Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer

Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 19 h 10
sous la présidence de Mme Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 19:10 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Hedwig Wögerbauer,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe (C 2011/I/REP/11; C 2011/I/REP/12.1; C 2011/I/REP/12.2; C 2011/I/REP/12.3; C 2011/I/REP/12.4; C 2011/I/REP/12.5; C 2011/I/REP/13; C 2011/I/REP/14; C 2011/I/REP/15; C 2011/I/REP/16; C 2011/I/REP/17; C 2011/I/REP/18; C 2011/I/REP/19; C 2011/I/REP/20; C 2011/I/REP/35.8; C 2011/I/REP/35.9)

CHAIRPERSON

We would like now to start with our duties in this evening, which is the adoption of the Draft Report of Commission I. You have before you two documents, which contain the Draft Report and it will be a pleasure for me to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee to introduce this Report.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

Can I ask that you recognize the delegate of Argentina.

Sr. Agustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Argentina participó en los trabajos del Comité de Redacción. En ese sentido, queremos que se refleje un acuerdo al que se llegó en dichos trabajos respecto al Punto 13 en el párrafo 2. En nuestros trabajos, habíamos acordado reflejar el nombre de las Directrices Voluntarias de la siguiente manera:

“The Conference reiterated its support for the efforts made by FAO to develop Voluntary Guidelines concerning the responsible governance of tenure of land and potentially other natural resources.”

Repito. Esto es un acuerdo al que llegamos en las negociaciones del Comité de Redacción durante el día de ayer. Y también con respecto a este párrafo, hemos encontrado que la mención final que se hace al “Right to Food”, la intención era mencionar las Directrices Voluntarias. En ese sentido, proponemos que en lugar de la expresión “Right to Food” se utilice el nombre completo del documento de las Directrices Voluntarias que en inglés es el siguiente: “Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security”.

Con estos cambios, Presidenta, nuestra delegación puede aprobar el Informe.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor first to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee please.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I would ask, that you allow Mr Tavares from the Legal Office to speak.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

Madam, I wanted to refer to the Item on the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme, Item 27, and I wish to submit to your consideration a few very limited editorial changes to the text before you.

This concerns the Draft Resolution that you will find on the distribution of seats, and also to paragraph three of the text of the Draft Report on this item.

WFP is a joint autonomous subsidiary programme of the United Nations and FAO, and changes to the General Regulations of WFP require approval by the Governing Bodies of FAO and United Nations and, in this particular case, approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Conference of FAO.

The manner in which we have reflected the intervention of the General Assembly of the United Nations in the approval of the General Regulations is not correct, and this is why I am submitting to you, following consultation with our colleagues from WFP, three very limited amendments to the text that you have in front of you.

In the Resolution on the revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, you have an operative paragraph one which reads, the Conference “Decides, subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations”. The proposal is to replace “subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations” with “following the concurrence of the General

Assembly of the United Nations”, because the United Nations General Assembly has already approved this amendment. So, this concerns paragraph one which would read: “Decides, following the concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations”.

Then, we move on to operative paragraph three which reads “Further decides that, subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly” and again, we will replace “subject to” by “following the concurrence of the General Assembly of the United Nations”, since, as I explained it, the General Assembly has already adopted the revised text of the General Regulations.

Then on paragraph three, last line of paragraph three, we make a reference to a parallel decision being taken by the United Nations General Assembly. Here we propose the wording “subject to the concurrence of the United Nations General Assembly”. The General Assembly has not yet intervened, has not yet approved this particular amendment.

So, these are the corrections that we propose to this text. They are, as I said, editorial corrections, they are only editorial corrections, and they reflect the fact that you have these parallel interventions of the General Assembly and of the FAO Conference.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you repeat the last point please?

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

Madame,

So you have in the text of the report paragraph 3, which reads as follows: “the Conference approved the amendment to Article 14, paragraph 6(a), of WFP General Regulations to reflect the change from biannual to annual in the submission cycle of WFP budget”. The revised text will continue as follows: “subject to concurrence of the United Nations General Assembly”. This, as I said, reflects the fact that the General Assembly has not yet approved this amendment, it will be done later this year.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee and then return to Syria.

Mr Paul MURPHY (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

So simply to note, from the perspective of the Drafting Committee, that the change proposed by Argentina reflects what was agreed to in the Drafting Committee previously this afternoon, was even inadvertently omitted from the report that we received here at 6 o'clock, and then secondly, from the perspective of the Drafting Committee, the changes proposed by the Legal Council were changes that we would have happily incorporated on their direction, and so having said that and having reflected on the work that the Drafting Committee did, the experienced negotiators in the Drafting Committee and various compromises that were made in order to ensure consensus, I would propose that this Commission adopt the report of the Drafting Committee with these changes *en bloc*.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

First of all, I would like to welcome the report and thank the Commission on their efforts. I just have a small amendment regarding the Report of the Thirtieth Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East.

I want to add to the end of the paragraph number five, I will read the paragraph: “The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the comments and recommendations contained therein”.

Allow me to add to the end: “especially regional priorities, water and land policies, food security issues”.

CHAIRPERSON

I see Algeria, please.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie appuie la proposition de la série sur cette question concernant le Rapport de la trentième Conférence Régionale pour le Proche Orient. Merci.

Ms Karabaeva MADINA (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

I have a comment on Section 11, paragraph three. We know that you looked at the Report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe, we talked of the need that Kyrgyzstan had requested that this issue should be solved quickly and this was also raised in Plenary and there were no objections from Member Nations of FAO. However, we note that this issue was not reflected in the Draft Report and we should be grateful if this could be done now.

So we are talking of the Budapest Office, with the need for opening a new office in Kyrgyzstan.

CHAIRPERSON

May I ask Kyrgyzstan to make a proposal to insert in the paragraph, please? I am asking the delegation of Kyrgyzstan to give me a wording for the sentence in this case, please.

Ms Karabaeva MADINA (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

Yes, I shall hand this in to the Secretariat.

CHAIRPERSON

While you hand this sentence over to the Secretariat. I would like to give the floor to Congo please.

M. Dieudonne MANKOUSSOU (République du Congo)

Je voudrais vous faire remarquer au point 11, notamment à la page 2, concernant la synthèse du rapport de la 26ème Session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, nous proposons qu'à la fin on ajoute la phrase «ainsi l'offre généreuse du Congo pour la tenue de la 27ème session de l'ARC à Brazzaville du 30 janvier au 3 février 2012».

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much to the Republic of Congo. If there are no further requests for the floor, I would like turn to the Secretariat concerning the Kyrgyzstan request. Did we receive a proposal? We should first receive the proposal from Kyrgyzstan.

Mr Alexander A. OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In order to fully understand, I should like to ask you if we are we going to adopt the report *en bloc*, or are we going to go through it paragraph by paragraph?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Russian Federation. My intention was, and this was proposed from the Chair of the Drafting Committee, to adopt it *en bloc*.

The Russian Federation, please.

Sr. Agustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Muy brevemente, también nosotros hemos detectado varios problemas en la traducción en español que con posterioridad a la Adopción del Informe le alcanzaremos al Secretariado para que sean tenidos en cuenta.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for your help Argentina, this will help us very much.

I have to apologize, but we have to wait a little bit solving the problem which was raised by the Kyrgyzstan. I apologize for that.

Ms Karabaeva MADINA (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

Can I read it out in Russian, or do I have to provide it to you in English?

CHAIRPERSON

Could I give the floor now to Kyrgyzstan, please?

Ms Karabaeva MADINA (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

Can I provide the wording in Russian, or do I have to provide it to you in an English version?

CHAIRPERSON

You can do it in the Russian language.

So we didn't get it. May I give the floor now to France.

Mme Isabelle OUILLO (France)

Nous sommes en train de rechercher la phrase qui figurait dans le rapport de la Conférence régionale.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, so we have to wait for some more minutes. I see that in between there is the delegation of Turkey. Distinguished delegate of Turkey, you have the floor.

Mr Fazil DUSUNCELI (Turkey)

Preference would be, in fact, to have the report adopted on bloc, but considering the sensitivities and to meet requirement of Kyrgyzstan delegation, we can perhaps try to accommodate the request by in fact taking text straight from the Report of the Regional Conference. We can continue the last sentence ending with Sub-Regional Offices in Budapest, by adding "and of request to give due consideration to fully-fledged presence in some countries of the region." This is taken from the Report. It may sound a bit too long, but this is from the Report, and I feel that it should not cause any problems. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegate of Turkey, can you repeat this addition to the last sentence of paragraph 3?

Mr Fazil DUSUNCELI (Turkey)

Certainly, "and of the request to give due consideration to fully-fledged presence in some countries of the Region."

CHAIRPERSON

May I ask Kyrgyzstan if it can go along with an addition to the last sentence of the Regional and Sub-Regional Office in Budapest saying "and of the request to give due consideration to fully-fledged presence in some countries in the Region". Does this fit the request of Kyrgyzstan?

If this is the case, we can adopt the Report *en bloc*. So the Report is adopted.

I would like to give the floor now to the distinguished delegation of New Zealand whom I missed at our last meeting. I have promised to give the floor to New Zealand.

New Zealand, you have the floor please.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

Thank you, Madame Chair. This is reference to a comment that we had, following the discussion on the Year for Quinoa and a suggestion that we had to facilitate such processes in the future. We wondered if we could request the Secretariat to consider developing and communicating a clear process for the submission of proposals for International Years and equivalent kind of activities, so that there is sufficient political and financial support for any implementation that is required for those kinds of events.

In our view, it would be useful for such proposals to go through an early intergovernmental process and as these types of projects normally require extra-budgetary funding, it would also be useful to have an indication of commitments for where funds and resources may be derived from. It is important also to ask that any such proposals include a clear summary of the outcomes that are expected from such years. I had just wanted to flag that as a possibility for consideration for the Commission, so thank you, for the opportunity to flag that today to you.

Mr Claudio POLES (Brazil)

Allow me, only on the behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as well as in the name of Brazil itself, to thank and complement the members of the Drafting Committee for their dedication and their good work, and also in the person of its Chairman.

We praise your work, Madame Chair, as head of this Commission, and thank you for the excellent results achieved in Commission I.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 19:37 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 37

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:37 horas

